

CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM
Minutes of July 19, 2018 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM

Transforming Lives and Communities

Georgetown CRC, 6475 ~ 40th Avenue, Hudsonville, MI 49426

7-1: Dave Jolman opened our meeting by asking us to share photos of people in our lives whom we are close to (spouses, children, etc.) and he noted the joy we had in sharing these pictures as opposed to sharing pictures of ourselves. Sometimes we think God looks at us like we look at ourselves, not in the best light. Using the words from Zephaniah 3, Dave highlighted how we are all a delight to our heavenly father and we should live in that way. Dave opened our meeting with prayer.

7-2: Vision Team (VT):

Roll Call, PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Rev. Mark Bennink, Rev. Dave Jolman, Rev. Susan LaClear, Rev. Marc Nelesen,

STAFF: Mr. Jim Roskam (Classis Coordinator), Ms. Kathy Jelsema (Assistant Treasurer),

Ms. Glenda Tebben (Stated Clerk), Mr. Mel Vander Bie (Treasurer)

ABSENT with notice:

MEMBER: Rev. Josh VanDrunen

7-3: May Vision Team Meeting Minutes

Minutes are accepted as written along with the addendum:

May 31, 2018 - Addendum to the May 10 meeting minutes

Proposal: That the Vision Team begins to encourage pastors to share with each other something God is doing in their churches or, share their wisdom, insights, and learning in a setting outside their local church.

Rationale: The pastors of Classis Georgetown have a lot of wisdom, learning and experience to share and it would be good to create a forum where this could be done. This can also be an opportunity to learn about what God is doing in the local churches.

Via electronic voting this proposal passed on May 31, 2018, and we will move forth with the recommendation. This will be included as a discussion item on our July 19 meeting agenda for further review.

7-4 Financial Report from Mel:

- A. Mel reports that the finances are in good shape. There is money available to help Alive Ministries as they anticipate the launch of Alive 2.0.
- B. Mel presented the beginnings of a proposed budget for 2019. The blanks will be filled in as we move forward.

7-5: Stated Clerk's Report:

- A. Grant request for 2019 have been received and will be distributed to value stewards for their perusal. Glenda continues to work on rewriting the grant applications. She will meet with Marc N. prior to the August retreat to finalize the applications.
- B. Future Vision Team meetings:
 - Thursday, August 23, VT Retreat at OAR Center in Holland
 - Thursday, October 4, Georgetown CRC
 - Thursday, November 15, Georgetown CRC
 - Thursday, December 13, Georgetown CRC
- C. Upcoming Classis Meetings:
 - Tuesday, August 21 at Jamestown CRC to examine Candidate Matthew Slack.
 - The meeting will begin with lunch at 11:30 AM
 - Glenda will email synodical deputies and find three available
 - Glenda will email pastors to find two available to serve as sermon evaluators

- Glenda will email pastor(s) to lead practical portion of exam
 - Susan LaClear will lead the Biblical/Theological portion of the exam
 - Thursday, October 18, at Alive Ministries (time – TBD)
 - Theme of the meeting will be decided at the August retreat
- D. The Stated Clerk's report is received as written.

7-6: Regional Pastors report

- A. Reading group is planned for November 14, 2018. The book to be discussed is "Boundaries for Leaders" by Henry Cloud and John Pearson.
- B. Dave and Marc continue to serve the pastors of our classis.

7-7: May 17 Classis Meeting

On the Classical Credentials form, Forest Grove CRC addressed the following:

In what aspect of your ministry would you like the assistance of classis?

What are our options when we have fewer people willing to serve as elders/deacons?

Additional comments:

We also have a hard time getting three delegates to a classis meeting. We're not sure what it means or what to do about it.

Time is spent discussing these questions/concerns from Forest Grove CRC. We recognize that this is the hard reality of the church today. There is heightened expectations with less engagement and the church is not the central part of people lives anymore. This is all part of the bigger conversation which we will continue to have. Jim will connect with Jeff Scripps, pastor of Forest Grove and acknowledge their concern as well let Jeff know about the need we have for continued discussion.

7-8: Synod 2018 update

- A. Delegates will be invited to give a brief report at our October classis meeting
- B. Mark Bennink and Kathy Jelsema shared their thoughts and reactions to Synod 2018. Both were very positive and thankful for the opportunity to represent our classis in this way.

7-9: Habitat Project

- A. Paperwork has been submitted to Georgetown Township.
- B. After the permit has been issued a wall-raising ceremony will be scheduled.
- C. Habitat is in search of Gift-in-Kind donations for the following areas: Electric, Mechanical – HVAC, and Roofing.

7-10: CRASE Training

Zutphen CRC hosted a CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) Training event on June 4.

7-11 Clergy Mental Health

Our contract with Pine Rest has been renewed. Marc N. reports that the service is being used by pastors and their families as well as church staff.

7-12 REV Talks (see 7-3, addendum to May 2018 Vision Team minutes)

Georgetown CRC will host REV talks beginning in September and will take place most Wednesday evenings through December. Local pastors will make presentations to stir the heart, stimulate new thinking and doing, or encourage the imagination. These will be advertised to the churches of our classis. We thank Marc Nelesen and the staff of Georgetown CRC for putting these talks together and designing the brochures.

7-13: Vision Team Retreat – August 23, 2018

- A. Note: location has changed – we will meet at the OAR Center (497 Century Lane in Holland) from 9 AM – 2 PM.
- B. Agenda items include:

- Grants
- Value Areas
- Vision Team members (retiring members and replacements)
- Themes for future Classis Meetings: October 2018, February 2019, May 2019
- Education Items
- Ideas for a new Classis-wide project (following completion of Habitat project)

7-14: Time to Connect about ourselves and our churches

- A. Deacons from Fairway CRC contacted Dave Jolman with concerns about how to work together in our classis in regard to Sunday evening services. Glenda will contact Deacon Cherie Smith to let her know we received her email.
- B. Classis Webpage is in the process of being updated.
- C. Alive 2.0 – the plan has been approved by Alive Ministries' council with hopes of beginning in the Spring of 2019.
- D. There will be a team meeting next month; re: Josh Benton. The team will come with a recommendation. Prayers are asked for wisdom for all involved.
- E. 12th Avenue CRC continues to consider the future of their ministry. as they seek the Lord's leading. A decision will be made this fall regarding their future and the plans God has for them.

7-15: Marc Nelesen closed our meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tebben

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING MEETING DATES

Vision Team:

- Thursday, August 23, VT Retreat at Colonial Clock Building in Zeeland
- Thursday, October 4, Georgetown CRC, Susan, opening; Mark B., closing
- Thursday, November 15, Georgetown CRC, Josh, opening; Kathy, closing
- Thursday, December 13, Georgetown CRC, Marc N, opening; Glenda, closing

Classis Meetings:

- Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at 11:30 AM Jamestown CRC
- Thursday, October 18, 2018 – Alive Ministries; time TBD