

CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM RETREAT
Minutes of August 23, 2018 Retreat
Transforming Lives and Communities

Ottagon Addiction Recovery Retreat Center
497 Century Lane, Holland, MI 49423

Vision Team: Mark Bennink, Dave Jolman, Susan LaClear, Marc Nelesen,
Josh VanDrunen

Staff present: Jim Roskam, Glenda Tebben

- I. Jim opened the meeting with prayer

- II. Mentor for Matthew Slack, Jamestown CRC
 - A. Providing a mentor is a good idea; it allows Matt to hook into Classis Georgetown.
 - i. Nate Meldrim (Messiah CRC) is willing to serve as Matt's mentor. Josh will connect with Nate to discuss the mentoring process.
 - ii. Marc will talk with Matt and Hank Bosma about pairing Matt with Nate.

- III. Classis Georgetown Grants
 - A. Grant Process:
 - i. As the grant process is reviewed, there was a lengthy discussion about the grants offered from Classis Georgetown to various ministries. We deem it is necessary to have grants tie into our churches. As a classis we want to help empower local congregations to partner with local ministries.
 - ii. Proposed grants are:
 - Church grants: given to churches to help them develop and maintain programs that are consistent with the vision and five values of Classis Georgetown.
 - Partner grants: the desire is to nurture and enhance initiatives for collaborative ministry. Grant recipients should be connected to a church in the classis. These grants are potentially renewable. The classis/individual churches could propose grants to a ministry and have the ministry apply.
 - B. 2019 Grants:
 - i. A discussion is held on each of the grant requests for 2019.
 - ii. It is decided to award the following grants for 2019:

Strong Tower Ministries	\$10,000
GVSU Campus Ministry	\$5,000
70 x 7	\$7,500
Georgetown Harmony Homes	\$9,000
Celebration Church (COS)	\$2,500
Hugs Ranch	\$3,000

“New Initiatives”	\$4,000
TOTAL:	\$41,000

- IV. Classis Values and Value Stewards.
 - A. A discussion is held on the five values. We must hold the values in front of us as we go forward in ministry. One idea is to begin our classis meetings by sharing the values we hold as a classis for our shared life together.
 - B. The values must serve a purpose. It is agreed that they do but it is also important to remember to not look inwards but keep moving towards being “other” focused. The question must always be: Are lives being changed for Christ in Classis Georgetown?
 - C. The five values and their stewards are:
 - Healthy Leaders - Marc
 - Collaborative Relationships - Josh, Jim
 - Empowering Worship - Mark
 - Daring Hospitality - Dave
 - Risky Compassion - Susan

- V. Vision Team Member Terms
 - A. Terms are: Dave Jolman (2019); Marc Nelesen (2020); Mark Bennink (2021); Josh VanDrunen (2022); Susan LaClear (2022)
 - B. As one of the regional pastors, Dave Jolman is encouraged to extend his term for another year. Dave will consider this.
 - C. Mark Bennink is seeking other ministry opportunities (due to 12th Avenue CRC’s closing) and a replacement for him may need to be found.
 - D. As a team we should pray and think about whom we could ask to be a member of the Vision Team as terms of service are completed. Definitive answers will come in future discussions.

- VI. Themes for Upcoming Classis Meetings.
 - A. October 2018 – “Our Shared Life Together”
 - i. The meeting will be held at Alive Ministries.
 - ii. Specific business will be addressed: Synod 2019 reports, Council of Delegates report, Vision Team report, Clerk report, 2019 Budget and grants presentation and approval, Student Fund report
 - iii. 12th Avenue Church will be closing at the end of 2018 and a time will be given to reflect on the ministry of the church and its members. We will ratify the decision made by church members to “close and bless”.
 - iv. Habitat update will be given. We’ll try to include stories and/or videos of the project.
 - v. Where do we see God transforming our Classis? Alive’s worship team has agreed to lead a time of worship beginning at around 6:30 PM. This will be interspersed with “time around the tables” where we invite delegates to share their excitement about what God is doing in their church but also to share about struggles. We will

encourage all to see God working in our struggles and in our joys. We hope this will allow all delegates to see that we are part of something else, not just our individual churches.

- vi. We will share communion together at the close of the meeting.
- B. February 2019 – “Congregational Leadership in Trying Times”
 - i. In response to questions about the difficulty in filling elder/deacon slates in churches, finding classical delegates for our meetings, and the ongoing discussion about evening worship among the churches in our classis, we will take time during this meeting to offer suggestions and invite dialogue among delegates.
 - ii. Specific business will be addressed; ie. delegates to Synod 2019.

VII. Educational Items

- A. To build on Birkman, pastors (and other council members) could take an Enneagram test as a tool to better understand who they are as a person and their personality type as it relates to their ministry. Susan will continue to work on the best way to present this educational opportunity.
- B. Reading groups will begin in November. They'll be held over the lunch hour.
- C. Classis meetings: Delegates come to meetings from very different areas of life and learning. To promote hospitality, what can we build into the first 15 minutes of our Classis meetings, so all delegates start at the same place? The clerk and the chair of classis meetings will consider this.

VIII. Habitat for Humanity project

- A. The Habitat project was presented at our Classis Meeting in February 2017 and began in April 2018. The 'ground breaking' was held on August 21, 2018; over 50 persons were in attendance.
- B. Jim expressed his appreciation for church captains but also noted some disappointment in churches that really haven't become involved in the project. He feels the energy will now shift from the planning team to individual congregations as work begins on the house.
- C. Some discussion is held on whether to begin another Habitat project or look for something else the churches can work on together. We will watch and see how the next five months go and then decide if we want to press on and do this again. It is important to keep affordable housing projects in front of our churches.
- D. As we continue to discuss another habitat project, we will ask Mel to keep the stipend for the point person in the budget for 2019.

IX. Questions for the Vision Team from Classis Churches

- A. Churches are asking for help and suggestions regarding the difficulty they have in finding council members and delegates to classis meetings. Questions are raised by churches asking for evening worship ideas alternatives. These will hopefully be addressed at our February 2019 meeting.

- B. Josh will talk to Jeff Scripps (Forest Grove) about perhaps joining in the discussion at our February meeting.
 - C. Glenda will contact Deacon Cherie Smith (Fairway) about our plans to address Sunday evening worship at our February meeting.
 - D. Many of these questions are addressed on “The Network” on the CRCNA website and this is a good resource to point our churches towards.
- X. 12th Avenue CRC
- A. On September 10, 12th Avenue CRC will have a final vote for members as they have decided to “close and bless” at the end of December 2018. As a classis we want to walk with them through this time and we want to do this well. A time of blessing and thanks for 12th Avenue will be given at our October meeting.
 - B. As a Vision Team we recognize the effect this closing has on Pastor Mark Bennink and his family and we pray that another opportunity for ministry will soon be open for Mark.
- XI. Other Discussion Items
- A. Motion is made to formally approve Jim Roskam for one more year of service in his role as Classis Coordinator. Motion seconded. Motion approved.
- XII. Susan closed our meeting with prayer.

Upcoming meeting dates:

Vision Team:

- 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 Meeting:

- Thursday, October 18, 2018 – Alive Ministries; time TBD