

**CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM**  
**Minutes of December 13, 2018 12:30 PM to 2:45 PM**

*Transforming Lives and Communities*

**Georgetown CRC, 6475 ~ 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hudsonville, MI 49426**

**12-1:** Marc Nelesen opened our meeting by reading the delightful children's book, "Murmel, Murmel, Murmel" by Robert Munsch. The season of Advent it is a time for each of us to move past our stuff and ask the question: "Do I need a baby?" Marc opened with prayer.

**12-2:** Vision Team (VT):

Roll Call, PRESENT:

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

**STAFF:** Mr. Jim Roskam (Classis Coordinator), Ms. Kathy Jelsema (Assistant Treasurer),  
Ms. Glenda Tebben (Stated Clerk), Mr. Mel Vander Bie (Treasurer)

**GUESTS:** Rev. Bob Huisman and Rev. Jeff Scripps (Oversight Committee)

**12-3 Oversight Committee Report**

- A. We welcome Rev. Bob Huisman and Rev. Jeff Scripps. They, along with Rev. Dave Jolman, have served as the oversight committee for Rev. Josh Benton since his Article 17 separation from Friendship Chapel in May 2016.
- B. The committee shared their report. Josh has fulfilled the recommendations given to him. The committee seeks the wisdom of the Vision Team in how to proceed.
- C. Following discussion, the decision is made for the oversight committee to revisit their recommendations for Josh's readiness for ministry so that recommendations can be given without hesitation and concern.

**12-4 Meeting Time change**

Beginning in January 2019, Vision Team meetings will begin at 12 noon.

**12-5 November Vision Team Meeting Minutes**

Minutes are accepted as written.

**12-6 Financial Report from Mel:**

Mel reports that the it has been a good year financially. The ministry shares are coming in and income is ahead last year.

**12-7 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Disbursements**

- i. Mark Bennink shares a report from 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue; re: disbursements of funds following the church property sale to Zion PRC. 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue's Blessing Committee has taken time to prayerfully consider how to disburse of the monies granted to them.
- ii. The Blessing Committee will keep money in reserve in case Mark Bennink has not received a call to serve another congregation by the time his six-month severance package ends.

**12-8 Stated Clerk's Report:**

A. Synodical Deputies:

- i. Mark Bennink will continue as a deputy through July 2019.
- ii. The three-year terms of both he and Rev. Matt Palrok (alternate synodical deputy) will conclude in July. Mark is willing to continue. Matt is still considering it.

- B. Alive 2.0:
  - i. An email was received from Classis Grandville expressing their concern about the lack of communication regarding Alive Ministry's church plant in their classis. Their concern is noted, and Glenda will respond to the email.
  - ii. Glenda will communicate with the Partner's team of Alive 2.0 expressing our concerns about the lack of communication, encouraging them to reach out to Classis Grandville, so that a church plant can proceed with their full support and participation.
  - iii. There is some ambiguity surrounding our role in the oversight of a church plant not in our classis yet planted by a church in our classis. Glenda will speak with denomination leaders to determine the best way to proceed.
- C. Forest Grove CRC would like us to consider two overtures with the hopes of having them on the agenda for Synod 2019. Glenda will forward the overtures (via email) to Vision Team members for discussion at our January meeting.
- D. Future VT meeting dates:
  - January 24, 2019 at 12 noon
  - February 14, 2019 at 12 noon
  - March 21, 2019 at 12 noon
  - April 18, 2019 at 12 noon
- E. The Stated Clerk's report is received as written.

#### **12-9 Colossian Forum**

Discussion tabled until our January meeting

#### **12-10 Vision Team Executive**

- A. The team agrees to the formation of an Executive body of three to weed through material and topics before the Vision Team meetings, helping to expedite our meeting time.
- B. The Executive team members will be Marc Nelesen, Jim Roskam, and Josh VanDrunen.

#### **12-11 February Classis Meeting**

- A. The meeting will be held at Bauer CRC
- B. The meeting theme is "Congregational Leadership in Trying Times". Marc N. gave a presentation to Classis Grandville about Leadership in Anxious Times and he is willing to do something comparable at our February meeting.
- C. Josh VanDrunen and Marc N. will meet to discuss and plan the best way for Marc to give this presentation at our February meeting.

#### **12-12 Measurable Goals and Value Areas**

- A. It is good to keep our goals and value areas in the forefront as we plan our meetings. Our values impact how we structure our meetings.
- B. If possible, our place of meeting should fit the message of what our meeting value is.

#### **12-13 Canoeing the Mountains/Faith Formation**

Discussion tabled until our January meeting

#### **12-14 Disability Concerns Committee**

Susan followed up with Laura Koning and Laura is willing to come to a Classis meeting and set up a table of information. Susan will forward Laura's contact information to Glenda and Glenda will maintain contact with her.

#### **12-15 Hillcrest CRC Counselor**

Rev. Brian Bosscher will be retiring in the Spring of 2019. Marc N. has agreed to serve as the counselor at Hillcrest.

**12-16 REV Talks**

- A. Approximately 20-70 persons attended each week. There is/was an online presence as well.
- B. If this is continued, Georgetown is happy to host again.
- C. This was a good thing for our classis. Marc N. reports he had little trouble filling the spots with guest pastors/speakers.

**12-17 Regional Pastors/Church Counselors Report**

- A. No report from the regional pastors.
- B. Marc N. is the counselor for Immanuel CRC but has little contact from them.

**12-18 Time to Connect about ourselves and our churches**

- A. We continue to pray for 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue CRC as they close their church and ministry. It is good that they have ended well. Their final service will be on December 30 (at 9:30 AM) and many former members have already indicated they will attend.
- B. Dave Jolman's term on the Vision Team ends in February. We will need to find a replacement for him (Value: Daring Hospitality).

**12-19:** Glenda Tebben closed our meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Glenda Tebben*

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING MEETING DATES**

**Vision Team:**

- **Thursday, January 21, 2019, at 12 NOON - Georgetown CRC**  
**Dave J. opening; Mark B. closing**
- **Thursday, February 14, 2019, at 12 NOON - Georgetown CRC**  
**Susan L. opening; Jim closing**
- **Thursday, March 21, 2019, at 12 NOON - Georgetown CRC**  
**Josh opening; Marc N. closing**
- **Thursday, April 18, 2019, at 12 NOON - Georgetown CRC**  
**Mark B. opening; Glenda closing**

**Classis Meetings:**

- **Thursday, February 28 – Bauer CRC**
- **Thursday, May 30, 2019 – time and location TBD**