

CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM RETREAT
Minutes of August 17, 2020 Retreat
Transforming Lives and Communities

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

Vision Team: Susan LaClear, Nate Meldrim, Marc Nelesen, Matthew Slack

Absent with notice: Len Kuyvenhoven

Staff present: Kathy Jelsema, Jim Roskam, Glenda Tebben, Mel VanderBie

I. Mel opened the meeting with prayer

I. Classis Georgetown 2021 Grants

1. Applications need:

- i. A formal, specific grant request
- ii. Connectivity to a classis church (or churches)

2. Based on above criteria, it is decided to award the following grants for 2021:

Strong Tower Ministries **\$12,500**

GVSU Campus Ministry **\$5,000**

70 x 7 **\$7,000**

This is a \$2,000 increase over last year. 70x7 is an amazing ministry tied into several churches in our classis.

Georgetown Harmony Homes **\$15,000**

This is an increase of \$5,000 over last year. GHH is a growing ministry that has established two new homes this past year.

City on a Hill **\$3,000**

TOTAL: **\$42,500.00**

3. Two additions will be made to the grant forms for 2022:

- i. Applications will be asked to list the name of the church/churches from Classis Georgetown to whom they are connected.
- ii. Applicants will be asked to include a recommendation letter from the church they are connected to.

II. Fall Classis Meeting – October 2020

1. We want this to be an in-person meeting. An outdoor venue (tent) would allow us to hold fast to our governor's executive orders.

Nate Meldrim contacted Post Family Farm in Hudsonville to ask if their property is available for evening meetings. Nate and Glenda will work with Post Farm to determine a meeting date/time.

2. Nate has agreed to chair the meeting.

3. Specific business will be addressed: Council of Delegates report, Vision Team report, Clerk report, 2021 Budget and grants presentation and approval, Student Fund report

4. Three items on the agenda will be:

- Request from Rev. Josh Benton to extend ministerial credentials for one year.
- Request from Rev. Mark Bennink to extend ministerial credentials for one year.
- Exam of Mr. Brian Boucek to serve as a commissioned pastor at Bauer CRC. Due to time restraints, we will ask Brian to complete a package of information that can be sent to all delegates ahead of time. We will ask all delegates to come prepared.

III. Future meeting dates

1. Vision Team Meetings:

Thursday, September 17; Thursday, October 8;
Thursday, November 19; Thursday, December 17

Note: We will meet at Georgetown CRC and observe social distance guidelines.

2. Classis Meetings:

October 2020; February 11, 2021; May 20, 2021

IV. Student Fund committee

1. Student Aid is normally approved at our spring Classis meeting. Because classis did not meet the Vision Team is asked to approve student aid for 2020-2021
2. **A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve \$27,854.30 for Student Aid for 2020-2021.**
3. The question is asked: Is the Student Fund comfortable with criteria the Vision Team built a few years ago? The committee appreciates the guidelines that were set. They are very clear and fair.

V. Financial Report and Proposed 2021 Budget

1. Mel reports that the finances are in good shape. Giving remains strong, despite Covid-19, for which we are grateful.
2. Mel shares the proposed 2021 budget and noted some changes. **Motion is made to accept the budget that is to be presented at our Fall Classis meeting. Motion seconded and carried.** Mel will include footnotes in the budget explaining changes that are made.

VI. Future Classis Meetings Ideas– Winter/Spring 2021

1. Roll out the new ministry shares pledge system
2. Reggie Smith is willing to speak. He was not able to come in May due to the Covid pandemic.
3. As a VT we can hold up the five values of our classis
4. Keep the Prayer Meeting at GVSU on the table.
5. Share with our churches what our classis is doing:
 - i. Explain about our leadership team retreat so that delegates know the VT is talking about future classis meetings and are aware of the thoughtfulness that goes into our planning.

- ii. Bring in a panel of representatives (Laura Koning, Fig VanderMolen, Lynrae Frens, Juliana Clink) to share how they and their work/ministry ties into our values.
- iii. Our five grant recipients could also be invited to the panel (or their won panel), so delegates will see and hear about the ministries we support.

VII. Ministry Shares/Pledges

1. The denomination is sending a letter to each church about the new pledge system that goes into effect in July 2021.
2. Churches will be asked to report their pledge to Mel this fall.
 - i. In September Mel will send a letter along with a form to the churches. Glenda, Kathy and Mel will work on the letter and the form. The current form will be reworded to include the pledge.
 - ii. Classis is not on a pledge system; our giving numbers stay the same (\$30/member).

VIII. Future ideas and projects for our Classis

1. We must explore ways in which churches of Classis Georgetown might work together in partnership for more shared ministry.
 - i. Jim would love to do something with the diaconal but isn't sure if this can be a classis-wide effort due to results of his meetings with the deacon groups.
 - ii. At this point churches and pastors are preoccupied with Covid and this has made it difficult for Jim to meet with them.
 - iii. It would be good to ask our churches "What are you doing to stay relevant as a church, so the same thing doesn't happen to you that happened to other churches?"
 - iv. We will put a pause on a classis-wide project for a while (due to Covid) and continue to look for opportunities to work on something together.
2. We are grateful for Jim's continued work with Habitat. A five-plex will be built in Hudsonville.

IX. The Council of Delegates met via ZOOM in place of Synod 2020.

1. Jim shared COD highlights.

X. Council of Delegates representative

1. Jim has asked not to be reappointed to his role as our representative. We thank Jim for his work on COD on our behalf. Glenda will contact the CRCNA for information on finding a new representative.

XI. Classis Coordinator

1. We are thankful for Jim's work in his role as our Classis Coordinator.
2. **Motion is made to up the honorarium for Mr. Jim Roskam. Motion seconded. Motion approved.**

XII. Round the table

1. We must not underestimate the toll of Covid on pastors, churches and our congregants.

XIII. Jim closed our meeting in prayer.

Upcoming meeting dates:

Vision Team Meetings:

- Thursday, September 17 Georgetown CRC, Nate opening; Marc closing
- Thursday, October 8, Georgetown CRC, Matthew opening; Kathy closing
- Thursday, November 19, Georgetown CRC, Susan opening, Jim closing
- Thursday, December 17, Georgetown CRC, Marc opening; Glenda, closing

Classis Meetings:

- October 2020 – Post Family Farm; exact date and time TBD
- February 11, 2021
- May 20, 2021