

# CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM

Minutes of April 15, 2021 ~ 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM

## Transforming Lives and Communities

Georgetown CRC - 6475 40th Ave, Hudsonville, MI 49426

4-1 Marc Nelesen reads two poems by poet, Kilian McDonnell: “*God Cheats*” and “*Rolling the Stone from the Grave*”. Marc opens with prayer.

### 4-2 Vision Team (VT):

Roll Call:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rev. Sam Krikke, Rev. Nate Meldrim, Rev. Marc Nelesen

**MEMBER ABSENT (with notice):** Rev. Matthew Slack

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mr. Jim Roskam (Classis Coordinator), Ms. Kathy Jelsema (Ass’t Treasurer), Ms. Glenda Tebben (Stated Clerk), Mr. Mel Vander Bie (Treasurer)

### 4-3 Review of Minutes of the March 18, 2021 meeting

A. Motion is MSC to approve minutes of March 18.

### 4-4 Financial Report

A. Mel reports that funds are coming in. we are grateful the monies are there to meet our needs.

B. Mel will touch base with two churches in how to handle the denominational pledge.

C. 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter grants will be sent this month

D. The Student Fund Committee will be meeting soon to determine financial needs of students for next year.

E. Mel received a report from Jeff Bolt outlining denomination giving over the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. He will share highlights at the May Classis meeting.

### 4-5 Stated Clerk’s Report:

A. Future meeting dates (12 noon at Georgetown CRC)

- June 17
- July 15
- August 19 (VT retreat) – 9:30 AM at Georgetown CRC
- September 16

B. Motion is MSC to approve the transfer of Rev. Shelby Gemmen’s credentials to Sparta CRC from Immanuel CRC in Hudsonville.

C. The Stated Clerk’s report is received as written.

### 4-6 May 20 Classis Meeting

A. Immanuel CRC is willing to host the meeting but are following the health department/CDC Covid protocols (25 persons or less in an indoor space). Because we desire an in-person meeting, and are not sure what the guidelines will be on May 20, an email is sent to Post Family Farm asking their availability. We are able to meet in their outdoor tent. The clerk will connect with Immanuel and explain this change. An email will be sent to the churches as well.

B. Four out of five ministry representatives are available for the panel discussion.

C. Jeremy Rhodes examination:

- i. Jeremy will complete the Commissioned Pastor packet by early May so that it can sent to the churches/delegates prior to the meeting.

- ii. Pastor Ed Tamminga will conduct the examination at the meeting.
- iii. Rev. Gerry Koning and Rev. John DeVries (Fairway) will serve as sermon evaluators and present their report at the meeting.
- iv. Fairway will bring a motion to classis asking for approval to make use of Church Order Article 8 (ordination transfer) rather than Church Order Article 6 (1st time ordination).
  - The full profile of Jeremy's background shows he has the equivalent of an MDiv. Degree.
  - David Koll and the Candidacy Committee endorse this change.
  - Jeremy will still have the commissioned pastor exam and ordination as an interim step.
  - When the Article 8 process is completed, classis can have a colloquium doctum (end of Article 8 process) rather than a Minister of the Word examination.

**4-7 Proposed Classical Guidelines for Article 17 separation**

- A. Marc Nelesen shares a well-written first draft of guidelines for churches in Classis Georgetown that may, in the future, need to deal with an Article 17 separation.
- B. The proposal will be fine-tuned before the next Vision Team meeting. Comments and suggestions should be forwarded to Marc Nelesen.
- C. At the May 20 Classis Meeting the proposed guidelines will be presented (with the blessing of the Vision Team) as information and as a resource for our churches. It will be noted that if an Article 17 separation potentially happens in a church and the regional pastors are engaged, this process will be used.

**4-8 Regional Pastors report**

Our regional pastors continue to offer support for pastors and congregations.

**4-9 Council of Delegates Update**

The COD will meet virtually from May 3-7.

**4-10 Connect about ourselves and our churches**

- A. Habitat will soon be closing on the Hudsonville property and will interview potential families. It will be a five-plex.
- B. Condolences are expressed to Strong Towers and Trinity CRC in the unexpected death of Rev. Ernest Umoh. This will be a trying time for Strong Towers Ministry and Trinity CRC as they meet to determine the ministry's next steps.
- C. Church counselors for vacancies:
  - Rev. Dave Jolman – Zutphen CRC
  - Rev. Gerry Koning – Fairway CRC
  - Rev. Marc Nelesen – Evergreen (also has an STM – Rev. Harold Veldman). Ridgewood has not yet asked for a counselor. Marc will be meeting with them next week.
- D. Sam shared words of thanksgiving for offerings received at Searchlight the past two months; they were over the amount that was needed!

**4-11 Kathy Jelsema closed the meeting with prayer.**

Respectfully submitted,

***Glenda Tebben***

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING MEETING DATES**

**Vision Team (meeting at Georgetown CRC):**

- Thursday, May 13 at 12 NOON  
**Nate opening; Jim closing**
- Thursday, June 17 at 12 NOON  
**Matthew opening; Mel closing**
- Thursday, July 15 at 12 NOON  
**Sam opening; Glenda closing**
- **VISION TEAM RETREAT** - Thursday, August 19 at 9:30 AM
- Thursday, September 16 at 12 NOON  
**Marc opening; Kathy closing**

**Classis Meeting:**

**May 20, 2021 – Post Family Farm**