

# CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM

Minutes of January 14, 2021 ~ 12:00 PM to 1:10 PM

*Transforming Lives and Communities*

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

1-1 Nate Meldrim opens the meeting with prayer.

## 1-2 Vision Team (VT):

Roll Call, PRESENT:

**MEMBERS:** Rev. Susan LaClear Rev. Sam Krikke, Rev. Nate Meldrim, Rev. Marc Nelesen,  
Rev. Matthew Slack

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

## 1-3 Review of Minutes of the December 17, 2020 meeting

A. Motion is MSC to approve minutes of December 17.

## 1-4 Financial Report

A. The cash balance at the end of 2020 was above where we started in 2020.

B. There has been one change in student aid; a student transferred from CTS to Western.

C. Mel reports on Ministry Share pledges:

1. Three churches still need to send in their information.

2. Mel will remind churches that the that the first six months of 2021 are on the old ministry shares system.

## 1-5 Stated Clerk's Report:

A. The Stated Clerk's report is received as written.

## 1-6 February Classis Meeting

A. MSC to delay the February meeting. We will look towards at the end of April or early May for our next scheduled Classis meeting.

B. Synodical Delegates: Four of the seven delegates for Synod 2020 have agreed to serve this year. We need one, possibly two, pastor delegates. After the COD makes a decision regarding Synod 2021, we will proceed with finding these persons to serve.

C. Fairway CRC requested Classis to have Mr. Jeremy Rhode's commissioned pastor interview at the February meeting. Because Classis will not be meeting in February, this request will be advanced to our next scheduled meeting.

The grounds for this decision are:

- i. The Vision Team deems this important enough that we strongly desire to do this in person. It is our hope that by delaying until the spring we can socially distance but still be in person, particularly with the vaccination in greater circulation by then.
- ii. The Classis is not familiar with nor accustomed to the *bridge ordination* that Fairway is practicing in regard to Commissioned Pastors. The "default understanding" in the Vision Team and the Classis is a Commissioned Pastor process that takes years, not months. The Vision Team wants to take the necessary time to prepare the Classis so that it is not perceived as a shortcut or

doing injustice to the other commissioned pastors in the classis who have taken years to get their credentialing.

- iii. The Vision Team wants Jeremy to have a successful interview and fears that doing the interview “so quickly”, doing it remotely, having an unfamiliar process to commissioned pastor status, *and being from a non-Reformed background*, could be a set up for an unsuccessful exam. The Vision Team does not want this for Jeremy.
- iv. The Vision Team takes pride in a well-documented process and “packet” that demonstrates readiness and believes that five months is too short of a timeframe to do this well. Fairway CRC, Jeremy, and the classis should not feel rushed in this regard.
- v. The Vision Team desires a sermon evaluator who is outside of Fairway. Our sense is that it is not ideal if Rev. Ed Tamminga leads the exam and both sermon evaluators come from Fairway. Rev. Gerry Koning has agreed to be an outside sermon evaluator.
- vi. The Vision Team wants Jeremy to have a little more time to get some “street cred” with Classis Clergy. Clergy who get to know him can be his advocates when it comes time for the interview.
- vii. The Vision Team would like to hear from Jeremy’s mentor, Rev. Ed Tamminga, about his sense of Jeremy’s readiness and would like that in writing.

**1-7 Council of Delegates Update**

- A. A decision about how (of if) Synod 2021 will meet will be made at the February meeting.

**1-8 Regional Pastors report**

- A. Harold Veltman is a good asset to Evergreen Ministries where he is serving as the STM.
- B. A grant is available through the Lily Foundation for pastors who are considering a sabbatical.

**1-9 Connect about ourselves and our churches**

- A. Nate continues to meet with Josh Benton.

**1-10 Change in date for our next meeting**

- A. We will meet on Wednesday, February 24 at NOON (not on February 25)

**1-11 Kathy Jelsema closed the meeting with prayer.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Glenda Tebben*

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING MEETING DATES**

**Vision Team:**

- **Wednesday, February 24 at 12 NOON – via ZOOM**  
**Matt opening; Jim closing**

- Thursday, March 18 at 12 NOON  
Sam opening; Glenda closing
- Thursday, April 15 at 12 NOON  
Marc opening; Kathy closing
- Thursday, May 6 at 12 NOON  
Nate opening; Jim closing

Classis Meetings:

SPRING MEETING - TBD