

CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM RETREAT
Minutes of August 19, 2021 Retreat
Transforming Lives and Communities

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

Vision Team: Sam Krikke, Nate Meldrim, Marc Nelesen, Matthew Slack

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

- I. Jim opened the meeting with prayer.
- II. The minutes of the July 15 Vision Team meeting were approved as written.
- III. Financial Report and Proposed 2022 Budget
 - A. Investments – Mel and Jim signed to have \$50,000 put away for 3-year annuity at 1.5% and \$50,000 put away for 5 years at 2.05%. Any changes are subject to Vision Team approval.
 - B. Mel reports that the finances are in good shape.
 - C. Mel shares the proposed 2022 budget. He presents a list of opportunities from the denominations for classis leaders, clergy, clergy spouses. Glenda and Mel will confer about the list and how to include the opportunities in our budget.
- IV. Stated Clerk Report
 - A. Report is received as written
- V. Classis Georgetown 2022 Grants
 - A. It is decided to award the following grants for 2022:

Strong Tower Ministries	\$12,500
GVSU Campus Ministry	\$5,000
70 x 7	\$7,000
Georgetown Harmony Homes	\$15,000
City on a Hill	\$3,000
TOTAL:	\$42,500.00
 - B. Kathy will prepare slides on PP before/during dinner highlighting grant recipients and
 - C. We will invite grant recipients to our meetings and schedule them to give a brief presentation (five minutes) about their ministry over dinner. Art Opperval (Harmony Homes) will be invited to our October meeting.
- VI. Counselor Packet update
 - A. Nate Meldrim and Marc Nelesen will continue their work on a document for classis churches on the role and function of classical counselors for churches that are vacant or are anticipating a vacancy.

VII. Church Counselors:

- A. Georgetown CRC have requested Rev. Dale Slings to serve as their church counselor. Rev. Slings will begin serving as the STM at Georgetown in September. This request is approved.
- B. Ridgewood CRC requests a church counselor. Rev. Stan Mast will begin serving as an interim pastor at Ridgewood in September. The clerk will follow-up with Rev. Cindy Holtrop at Ridgewood, asking if Rev. Mast is willing serve in this role.
- C. It is important that church counselors keep classis informed of what's happening in churches with vacancies. We will share church counselor reports at each meeting. At present:
 - Zutphen CRC – Rev. David Jolman, church counselor
 - Evergreen – Rev. Marc Nelesen, church counselor
 - Georgetown CRC – Rev. Dale Slings, church counselor
 - Ridgewood CRC – unknown at this time

VIII. Old Business

- A. Preaching License for Josh Benton: The Vision Team will recommend him to the churches. It will be up to each church's discernment to invite him to preach and the local church governing body must approve him. This will be included in the Vision Team report at our October meeting a Classis vote will be held.
- B. Bauer CRC request: Sam Krikke met with Rev. Dave TenClay. Bauer CRC is considering issuing a call to Candidate Rob Gruessing. If so, he will need to have an examination at a future Classis meeting.
- C. Nate continues to work on the Learning Plan for the Colloquium Doctum.
- D. Bryzon Masiboh will preach at Trinity on September 12. Sermon evaluators will be present.
- E. Fall Classis Meeting – October 28, 2021
 - 1. Nate Meldrim and Matt Slack will work together as co-chairs.
 - 2. Specific business will be addressed: Council of Delegates report, Vision Team report, Clerk report, 2022 Budget and grants presentation and approval, Student Fund report
 - 3. Art Opperwal from Georgetown Harmony Homes will be invited to speak during the dinner hour.
 - 4. Kathy will make a series of slides on powerpoint highlighting things our classis does (offers grants, provides student aid, etc.)
 - 5. We will have an evaluation form for delegates to complete.
 - 6. Three items on the agenda will be:
 - Request from Rev. Mark Bennink to extend ministerial credentials for one year.
 - Exam of Rev. Nate Meldrim
 - Exam of Candidate Bryzon Masiboh

- IX. New projects point person
- Jim reviewed past projects: Habitat House, Diaconates
 - Jim is on the steering committee for the fiveplex in Hudsonville. Classis Georgetown does not want to take this project on by itself. It will be a community project with local businesses and churches endorsing it.
 - New Ideas: sponsoring refugee family This is a good project for one or two churches to work together on and then ask Classis to help.
 - It may be good for us to have another year of recovery for our churches.
- X. Future Classis Meetings Ideas – Winter/Spring 2022
- A. Suggested speakers/presenters:
1. Amanda Benckhuysen, director of Safe Church Ministry, to speak about the abuse of power.
 2. Neil Carlson from the center for social research at Calvin University, to speak about trends in the CRC
 3. Quentin Shultz to speak about Grace and Virtue
 4. Reggie Smith (he was scheduled in Spring 2020)
- XI. Vision Team:
- A. We do not have a steward for Risky Compassion.
- B. Suggestions given for whom to ask (in the following order):
- Glenda will contact Rev. Cindy Holtrop (Ridgewood)
 - Jim will contact Rev. Jake Weeda (retired pastor, Hillcrest)
 - Glenda or Jim will contact Bernie VanDerKlok (church administrator, Cottonwood)
- XII. Religious Exemption to the Covid Vaccine
- A. How prevalent is it in our classis for persons to request support and/or approval in writing from one of our churches in order to exempt themselves from receiving the Covid vaccination on religious grounds? The CRC does not take the position of religious objection.
- B. It is important that we communicate this to our churches. Sam and Matt will work together on a communique to be sent to churches.
- XIII. Connecting
1. Kathy attended a meeting led by David Struck (GR South) who is a prayer warrior, praying for renewal in the CRC this year. The message needs to get out that, as we prepare for Synod 2022, we take time to pray. We commit to devoting time at our next classis meetings to pray for the CRC.
 2. Marc is nearing the end of an 8-week sabbatical. It has been good for him.
 3. Mel shares concerns and also praises related to Alive Ministries.
 4. Jamestown CRC has concluded a seven-month study of racism. If you or someone you know is interested in the study they went through, please speak to Matt. Matt is encouraged to share this at the October Classis Meeting.

5. Sam reminds us of the anxiety and toll Covid has taken on pastors, churches and our congregants.

XIV. Jim closed our meeting in prayer.

Upcoming meeting dates:

Vision Team Meetings:

- Thursday, September 16 Georgetown CRC, Marc opening; Kathy closing
- Thursday, October 7, Georgetown CRC, Nate opening; Mel closing
- Thursday, November 18, Georgetown CRC, Matthew opening, Jim closing
- Thursday, December 16, Georgetown CRC, Sam opening; Glenda, closing

Classis Meetings:

- October 28, 2021 – Messiah CRC
- February 2022
- May 2022