

CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM RETREAT
Minutes of July 31, 2025 Retreat
Transforming Lives and Communities

Hillcrest CRC, 3617 Hillcrest Rd, Hudsonville, MI 49426

Vision Team: Gerry Koning, Sam Krikke, Marc Nelesen, Jeffery Scripps, Curt Walters
Vision Team (absent with notice): Jeremy Rhodes
Staff present: Kathy Jelsema, Glenda Tebben, Mel VanderBie

Meeting Chairperson: Rev. Gerry Koning

- I. Rev. Sam Krikke shares words from 1 Thessalonians and Ephesians 4. We are encouraged to remember our work is to equip others and build each other up until we achieve the full measure of Christ. Sam opens the meeting with prayer.
- II. The meeting agenda is reviewed.
- III. The minutes of the June 26 Vision Team meeting were reviewed. Motion is MSC to approve the minutes with the following amendment:
Under #6-10 B Regional Pastors Report -
A discussion was held on the process of choosing a new Regional Pastor. Motion is made and seconded to include Rev. Matt Palsrok on a ballot for regional pastor along with Rev. Gerry Koning. Motion is discussed. Motion is defeated. The Vision Team recommendation to Classis will be that Rev. Gerry Koning serve as Regional Pastor.
- IV. A Time of Appreciative Inquiry
Gerry leads a time of discussion focusing on three questions:
 1. What are some good things that have happened in your church over the last year? (engagement, encounter)
 2. What are some of the good things that have happened in Classis over the last few years.
 3. How can classis facilitate these things happening on a more regular basis?
- V. Regional Pastors report
 - A. The Clergy Health and Flourishing Initiative was approved at the February 2025 Classis Meeting but there was no process given for pastors to apply.
 - i. Marc review the "process" which is the Application Form
 - ii. Motion is made to approve the funding application. Motion is seconded.
 - iii. Discussion on the motion: The application will be made available on the Classis website. Is there a cap on how many times someone can ask for money? Who will review and approve? Our healthy pastor steward, Rev. Jeff Scripps, will review and bring a recommendation
 - iv. Motion approved.

- B. Marc highlights our connection with Pine Rest. We are thankful this is available for our pastors and church staff.

VI. Classis Georgetown 2026 Grants

A. Grants for 2026:

- Motion is MSC to award Strong Tower Ministries **\$14,000**
Connected churches: The Refuge, Zutphen CRC, Immanuel CRC
- Motion is MSC to award City on a Hill Ministries/Health Clinic **\$3,000**
Connected church: Jamestown CRC
- Motion is MSC to award Harmony Communities **\$12,000**
Connected churches: First CRC Hudsonville, Georgetown CRC
- Motion is MSC to award GVSU Campus Ministry **\$8,000**
Connected churches: all churches have students
- Motion is MSC to award 70 x 7 Life Recovery **\$10,000**
Connected church: Evergreen Ministries
- Motion is MSC to award Hy5 Youth Center **\$3,000** (new grant)
Connected churches: Alive, Fairway, Messiah, Ridgewood
- Motion is MSC to award Iglesia Todas Las Naciones **\$5,000** (new grant)
Connected church: Immanuel

TOTAL: \$55,000.00

- B. After the October Classis Meeting, the clerk will send an email to the grant recipients informing them of the amount they will receive. The email will include an encouragement for grant recipients to strengthen ties and increase engagement with churches.

VII. Financial Report

- A. Mel reports that the finances are in good shape, the cash balances are strong. We are thankful for our churches' giving.
- B. Motion is MSC to accept the financial report.

VIII. Preliminary Budget for 2026

- A. Mel shares the proposed 2026 budget.
- B. We hope to approve the budget at our September Vision Team meeting for presentation at our October Classis meeting.

IX. Stated Clerk Report

- A. Report is received for information

X. CMLT Report

- A. One new student, Mr. Samuel Kuipers, is receiving aid
- B. The CMLT met with Rev. Derek Noorman and Rev. Shawn Gerbers (Article 8).

XI. Church Visitors

- A. Churches are divided into two groups. We have two teams of visitors (Rev. Curt Walters/Rev. Jeremy Rhodes and Rev. Jeffery Scripps/Rev. Ron

Bouwkamp). The goal is to meet with four churches each year, but it is noted that there must be flexibility in the schedule.

Group A (9 churches)

Rev. Curt Walters/Rev. Jeremy Rhodes

Alive Ministries
Baldwin Street
Cottonwood
First Hudsonville
Hillcrest
Jamestown
The Refuge
Ridgewood
Searchlight Ministries

Group B (8 churches)

Rev. Ron Bouwkamp/Rev. Jeff Scripps

Bauer
Evergreen Ministries
Fairway
Georgetown
Hillcrest
Immanuel
Messiah
Zutphen

- B. At October Classis meeting there will be explanation of what churches should expect when Church visitors are at their church as part of our collaborative relationships This may set councils at ease if there is anxiety. One question that will be asked is: *How is the Lord working in your church?*
- XII. October 16 Classis Meeting details:
- A. Host Church: Forest Grove CRC
 - B. Chair/Vice-Chair: Rev. Curt Walters will serve as chair; Rev. Sam Krikke will serve as vice-chair.
 - C. Value: Collaborative Relationships (Rev. Sam Krikke, Value Steward)
 - D. Glenda, Curt, and Sam will meet to put together the proposed meeting agenda
- XIII. 2026 Classis Meeting Dates/Values
- February 19 – Daring Hospitality (steward: Gerry Koning)
 - May 14 – Empowering Worship (steward: Curt Walters)
Classis wide Ascension Day service
 - October 15 – Risky Compassion (steward: Jeremy Rhodes)
- XIV. We connect about ourselves and our churches
- XV. Motion is MSC to adjourn the meeting. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 25.
- XVI. Mel VanderBie closed our meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tebben

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING MEETING DATES and TIMES

Vision Team (meetings at Hillcrest CRC):

- Thursday, September 25 (noon)
Curt chair; Jeremy opening; Marc closing
- Thursday, November 6 (noon)
Jeff chair; Gerry opening; Kathy closing
- Thursday, December 4 (noon)
Sam chair; Curt opening; Glenda closing

Classis Meetings 2025:

Thursday, October 16 – Forest Grove CRC

Classis Meetings 2026:

Thursday, February 19

Thursday, May 14 (Ascension Day)

Thursday, October 15