**THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA**

**CLASSIS BRITISH COLUMBIA NORTH - WEST**

**AGENDA FOR SESSION 67**

Meeting D.V on Tuesday & Wednesday October 7th & 8th, 2014

STARTING AT 1:00 PM on the TUESDAY & 8:30 AM on the WEDNESDAY

Hosted by and meeting at the Maple Ridge CRC

20245 Dwedney Trunk Rd. Maple Ridge B.C. V2X 3C9

Classis Officers;

President: Rev. Joel Ringma Vice-President : Rev. Harvey Roosma

Recording secretary: Rev. Chelsey Harmon Stated Clerk: Andy de Ruyter

**Art 1. Opening and Organization**

1.1 Praise and Worship.

1.2 The president calls the meeting to order, welcomes delegates and guests.

1.3 Roll call as per credentials by Stated Clerk.

1.4 Deacon delegates to be seated by motion.

1.5 Affirmation of Reformed Doctrine and Life

1.6 First time delegates to classis, including deacon delegates, to sign Covenant of Office Bearers.

1.7 President declares this meeting of classis to be officially constituted.

1.8 Time schedule presented for approval;

Tuesday Wednesday

1:00 pm - Opening session 8:30 am - Morning session

3:15 pm - Refreshments 10:00 am - Refreshments

3:30 pm - Afternoon session 10:15 am - Morning session continued

5:30 pm - Dinner Break 12:00 pm - Lunch Break

7:00 pm - Evening session 1:00 pm – Afternoon session

9:00 pm – Adjournment (same as Tuesday until business completed)

**Art 2. Appointed Committees for pre-advice to Classis**

2.1 Overtures / Communications - Smithers CRC & Telkwa CRC

2.2 Expense Vouchers - Prince George CRC & The Tapestry

2.3 Credentials - Maple Ridge CRC & Immanuel CRC

2.4 Transcribed Minutes - Nelson Ave CC & Mundy Park CF

**Art. 3. Classical Ministries Committee**

3.1 Stated Clerk......................................pg. 33.7 Safe Church Team..........................pg. 31

3.2 Classical Ministries Committee.......pg. 7 3.8 Nominations Committee……........pg. 12

3.3 Treasurer Report3.8 Church Visiting reports

3.4 Church Counsellors 3.10 Ministry to Seafarers.....................pg. 28

3.5 CMLT / SFC.....................................pg. 24/25 3.11 Classis Renewal Team /

3.6 Synod 2014 report ad hoc committee report................pg 15

**Art 4. Church Development Team’s**

4.1 Church Development Team 4.4 *“downtown friends”*

4.2 Leadership Development Net..........pg. 29 4.5 Chr. Ref. Campus Min in B.C…...pg. 33

4.3 Sierra Leone Ad Hoc Comm. 4.6 Kwantlen Multi-Faith Center……pg. 27

4.7 Breakthrough Ministries………….pg. 26

**Art 5. Advisory Committee Reports**

5.1 Overtures Committee.......................pg. 14 5.3 Credentials Committee

5.2 Expense Vouchers Committee 5.4 Transcribed Minutes Comm.

**Art 6. Denominational Ministries**

6.1 CRC Ministries *– ¼ly reports sent to churches* 6.7 Faith Formation – Rev. Joel Ringma

6.2 World Renew - G. Horlings............pg. 35 6.8 Back to God Hour International – J.Vegt

6.3 BOT-CRCNA – Rev. T. VanderVeen 6.9 Calvin College – Ms. M. Verboon

6.4 Home Missions – Rev. Harvey Roosma  6.10 Calvin Seminary – Rev. A. VanderLeek

6.5 Home Missions – Regional Team - attachment 6.11 Diaconal Ministries, Canada...pg. 43

6.6 World Missions – Jenny de Groot 6.12 CRCNA Historical Comm.

**Art 7. Non – Denominational Ministries**

7.1 Bethesda Christian Association…..pg 45 7.3 The Kings University College..pg. 41

7.2 Cascade Christian Counseling.........pg. 44 7.4 M2 / W2....................................pg. 39

7.5 Canadian Aboriginal Min. Com.......attachment

**Art 8. Other Reports / Correspondence**

. 8.1 List of Classical Functionaries and Denominational Representatives / Acronym List.......pg. 46

8.2 letter from Rev. Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director...............pg. 34

**Art 9. Closing Exercises**

9.1 President to inquire if all appointments have been filled

9.2 Recording Secretary to read concept minutes

9.3 Stated Clerk - next meeting of classis – March 3&4, 2015 – Immanuel CRC, Richmond

- next officers of classis - President: Rev. Harvey Roosma

- Vice Pres: Rev. Jo Schouten - - announcements and reminders

9.4 Presidents closing remarks and any last minute announcements

9.5 Vice-President to thank President for conducting this session of classis and lead in closing devotions

9.6 President to declare Classis adjourned.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**For Lodging and Travel,**

**Please provide the following information to**

**the clerk of the Maple Ridge CRC, Janet Melissen,**

**No Later Than September 30th, 2014**

**email: janetmelissen@outlook.com**

1. Name and city of home church \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Name of Delegate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Billet / Lodging \_\_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_No

4. Transportation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from airport \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the airport

5. Airline & Flight # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Scheduled arrival time on October 7th \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Airline & Flight # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Scheduled departure time on October 8th \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*All expense claims need to be accompanied with receipts for travel, meals, mileage etc.*

**Stated Clerk Report**

October 7th & 8th 2014

**1]** Welcome to Session 67 of Classis British Columbia North - West.

Our thanks to the council and members of the Maple Ridge CRC for their hospitality in hosting this meeting of classis.

**2]** The agenda for this meeting will keep us busy with an two candidate examinations, reports & speakers from various classical and denominational ministries and committees, nominations and elections, ministry shares for 2015, administrative matters to hear and deal with and the all usual business of classis to take care of.

**3]** As stated clerk I have engaged in numerous emails, telephone calls, conference calls, correspondence, reports, meetings, dealing with requests and information from pastors and councils, continual updating functionaries lists, web site updates and organization, organizing marriage registrations for new pastors in our classis as well as some temporary registration numbers for visiting pastors, set the candidate examinations in place and assigned the various teams needed for these examinations, organized CMC agenda material and lead meeting, recorded executive minutes, set agendas, recorded and distributed classis minutes and regular administrative duties on behalf of classis. Other work done included spending time on forwarding announcement emails, denominational and government communications, etc. to churches, committees, and others as required.

**4]** Sent as separate attachments along with the agenda.

**Classis Credential Form. \*Note new contact information section**

Please complete and return before the meeting of classis, either scanning and sending by email or using post-mail. If you send back the credentials by email, electronic signatures are fine. You do not have to send a second copy with signatures. Please note to include delegates email addresses.

It would be helpful if delegates could be elected/appointed at least 1 month before the meeting of classis so I can better prepare them for the large amount of material that is needed to be studied and read before classis meets. In this way we make good use of our limited time together and all delegates can come properly prepared. Please send the names of delegates with email address as soon as possible.

**5]** Please do what you can to **keep travel costs down**, booking flights early using possible seat sales when coming from the north and ride / ferry sharing when coming from the Island. Also please inform the office of Maple Ridge CRC **by September 30th, 2014** on transportation and lodging requirements. (please see the form at the bottom of pg. 2)

**6]** Delegates are reminded to review the *“classical rules of procedures”* before attending classis, *(available on* *our website, www.classisbcnw.ca under documents)* and are reminded that as delegates, you are expected to attend all sessions of classis.

**7]** The Spring 2015 meeting of classis will be held on March 3 & 4, 2015 at the Immanuel CRC

in Richmond, B.C.

**8]** Reimbursement form for classical church visits

On our web page, under the tab marked “documents” you will find a short form that needs to be filled out for any reimbursements for costs associated with a classical church visit. These forms need to be printed off and sent to the stated clerk, either by scanning and emailing or snail mail.

Please do not send to the classical treasurer.

**9]** ProposedClassical and Denominational ministry shares for 2015

**Classical and Denominational Ministry Shares for 2015**

Classis BCNW Ministry Share Denominational Ministry Share

per member **$ 64.30** (2014-$62.80) per member **$ 371.11**

(3200 members – yearbook 2013)

Ministry to Seafarers $ 9.45 BTGMI $ 43.97

Leadership Development Network $ 2.00 Calvin College $ 2.86

Student Fund $ 10.00 Area colleges (Kings) $ 63.63

Chr. Ref. Campus Ministry in B.C. $ 15.00 Calvin Seminary $ 35.91

Classis Expense Fund $ 13.85 Faith Formation \* $ 81.23

The Tapestry-Kwantlen Chaplain $ 5.00 Home Missions $ 46.88

Safe Church Team $ 4.00 World Missions $ 60.56

*downtown friends* ministries $ 5.00 Syn. Admin. Services \* $ 32.38

Special Assistance Fund $ 3.69

***Please remember that 50% of your classical ministry***

***shares are due to the classical treasurer by July 1, 2015.***

\*SYNODICAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

General Administration

Synodical Services

Board of Trustees

\*FAITH FORMATION & CHURCH SUPPORT MINISTRIES

The Banner

Chaplaincy and Care Ministry

Committee for Contact with the Government

Disability Concerns

Pastor-Church Relations

Race Relations

Safe Church Ministry

ServiceLink

Social Justice and Hunger Action

Urban Aboriginal Ministries

***2014***

*Classis BCNW Ministry Share Denominational Ministry Share*

*per member* ***$ 62.80***  *per member* ***$ 367.36***

*(2800 members – yearbook 2013)*

*approx. amounts*

*requested*

*Ministry to Seafarers $ 9.45 ($26,960.00) BTGMI $ 43.97*

*Leadership Development Network $ 2.50 ($6,000.00) Calvin College $ 3.10*

*Student Fund $ 7.00 ($19,600.00) Area colleges (Kings) $ 63.07*

*Chr. Ref. Campus Ministry in B.C. $ 15.00 ($35,000.00) Calvin Seminary $ 35.91*

*Classis Expense Fund $ 13.85 ($32,000.00) Faith Formation $ 28.52*

*Richmond Tapestry-Kwantlen Chaplain $ 5.00 ($14,000.00) Home Missions $ 46.88*

*Safe Church Team $ 6.00 ($12,000.00) World Missions $ 60.56*

*downtown friends church plant $ 4.00 ($11,200.00) Denominational Services $ 37.05*

*Special Assistance Fund $ 0.36*

*Specialized Ministries $ 47.94*

**10]** Church Visitors Assignments for 2014

The following church visiting assignments were approved and assigned.

**Church being visited:** **Church doing the visit: Date Visited: 2014**

Northern Churches:

Terrace CRC - Smithers CRC April 29th

Smithers CRC - Houston CRC May 21st

Telkwa CRC - Terrace CRC May 13th

Houston CRC - Prince George CRC May 26th

Prince George CRC - Telkwa CRC June 9th

Island Churches:

Victoria CRC - Duncan CRC

Victoria CCC - Victoria CRC March 18th

Duncan CRC - Alberni Valley CRC

Nanaimo CCC - Victoria CCC July 24th

Alberni Valley CRC - Nanaimo CCC August 21st

Lower Mainland Churches

Maple Ridge CRC - Immanuel CRC

Mundy Park CF - downtown friends

New Westminster CRC - Vancouver CRC

Nelson Ave CC - New Westminster CRC

Vancouver CRC - Nelson Ave. CC

Vancouver downtown friends - Mundy Park CF

Richmond Immanuel CRC - The Tapestry

Richmond The Tapestry - Maple Ridge CRC

**11]** Remuneration for pulpit supply for visiting pastors / preachers

The following information was compiled from a request from one of the churches to provide information on the rate of remuneration paid to visiting pastors and expenses covered to serve as a guideline for all our churches and provide some consistency. This information was sent to all church councils, is on the classis website and is submitted here for review.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2014 Classis BCNW Guest / Visiting minister remuneration average | | |
|  | Amount | pay expenses |
| Church 1 | $100.00 | expenses i.e. mileage, travel |
| Church 2 | $200.00 | expenses i.e. mileage, travel |
| Church 3 | $200.00 | expenses i.e. mileage, travel |
| Church 4 | $100.00 | expenses i.e. mileage, travel |
| Church 5 | $100.00 | expenses i.e. mileage, travel |
| Church 6 | $250.00 | expenses i.e. mileage, travel |
| Church 7 | $250.00 | expenses i.e. mileage, travel |
| Church 8 | $100.00 | expenses i.e. mileage, travel |
| Church 9 | $100.00 | expenses i.e. mileage, travel |
| Church 10 | $150.00 | no - included in amount |
| Church 11 | $150.00 - $200.00 | expenses i.e. mileage, travel |
| Church 12 | $100.00 | expenses i.e. mileage, travel |
| Church 13 | $125.00 | expenses i.e. mileage, travel |
| Church 14 | $150.00 | expenses i.e. mileage, travel |
| Church 15 | $150.00 | expenses i.e. mileage, travel |
| Church 16 | $150.00 | no - included in amount |
| Church 17 | no $ paid or needed | expenses i.e. mileage, travel |
| Church 18 | no response |  |
|  |  |  |
| **average** | **$150.00** | mileage /travel expenses paid |
| Out of 18 BCNW churches, 17 responded to this survey | |  |
| Two included expenses in the amount paid, 15 added expenses such as mileage, travel costs etc. | | |
| There was generally no difference for ordained or un-ordained preachers, students, candidates etc. | | |
| This information is to be used as a guide for churches to determine if what they are | | |
| paying guest preachers is fair and in line with what their fellow CRC's are paying. | | |
| This is for information purposes only and churches may use this info as they wish. | | |
| This information was compiled in the Spring of 2014. | |  |

\*Recommendation from CMC. Those church paying below the average should consider raising their amounts to be more in line with the classical average.

**12]** Correspondence received and sent.

*note; if any delegate would like to see the correspondence (mostly emails) that was received or sent, please let me know and I can provide an electronic copy of the correspondence requested.*

**13] *Motion to approve the work of the stated clerk.* ☺**

*Humbly submitted*

*Andy de Ruyter*

*Stated Clerk, Classis BCNW*

**CLASSICAL MINISTRIES COMMITEE**

**REPORT TO CLASSIS BCNW**

October 7th & 8th, 2014

The classical Ministries committee does most of its work by email conversations, phone calls and conference call meetings. We also had a sit down meeting on July 15th, where several key issues were discussed and items planned for the agenda of this classis meeting.

**1] Candidate examinations C.O. art 6**

The Tapestry in Richmond has called candidates Sam Lee as Associate Pastor (Chaplain of the Multi-Faith Centre at Kwantlen Polytechnic University) and Albert Wu as Associate Pastor ( Education & Discipleship) to full time ministries within their church.

The following arrangements have been made to facilitate the examinations:

For Candidate Sam Lee (approx 3:00 pm on October 7th)

Practica - Rev. Martin Vellekoop

Biblical and Theological Position - Rev. Ken Vander Horst

Sermon / Service evaluators;

Rev’s. Trevor and Julia Vanderveen

For Candidate Albert Wu (approx 6:30 pm on October 7th)

Practica - Rev. Curtis Korver

Biblical and Theological Position - Rev. Tim Sheridan

Sermon / Service evaluators;

Rev. David Cheung

Synodical Deputies: Rev. Rich DeRuiter (Pacific NW) Rev. Gordon Pols (Alberta North) and

Rev. Bert Slofstra (BCSE)

**2] Workshops / Speakers**

LDN has asked to delay its leading of a sharing workshop as it works out some admin issues and re-organizes its self and its mandate. S/C Andy de Ruyter and CMC secretary Jo Schouten will be attending a meeting with the LDN board and members of the executive of classis BCSE in mid-September and report at classis through the addendum report.

- Classis Review Team

- appointed ad hoc committee: Rev’s. Martin Vellekoop, Jo Schouten & David Salverda to continue with

the information gathered at our last classis meeting and to lead classis through its reports and summaries.

Committee will lead this classis through a time of planning and lead further workshops at our March 2015 meeting.

(copy of the July 9 ad hoc committee report and summaries of classis discussion groups are at the end of this report)

Further Workshops and Seminars

CMC appointed Rev’s Jo Schouten and David Salverda to explore possibilities and speakers for future classis meetings, keeping in mind the work and results of the Classis discussion group and its findings and evaluations.

**3] CMC Actions**

- reviewed and approved expenses from Classis March 2014 - $6924.20

- appointed Rev Joel Ringma to serve as the next chair of classis and Rev. Harvey Roosma as

vice-chair. Rev. Chelsey Harmon will graciously serve as recording secretary once again.

- Rev. Walt Vanderwerf will lead worship on the opening session and the Wednesday morning session .

- appointed Rev. Andrew Beunk (elected 1st alternate) to take the place of Rev. Tim Sheridan as a ministerial delegate to Synod 2014 as Rev. Sheridan had to bow out due to a scheduling conflict.

- approved a request from Rev. Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director, to address classis at its March 2015 session.

- approved a request for a “listening session” from the denominational committee to provide pastoral guidance on same sex marriage at our March 2015 session.

*Synod 2013, responding to requests by two classes, appointed a committee to provide pastoral guidance to churches, pastors, and church members to help formulate appropriate responses to the increasing legality of same-sex marriage.*

*I am writing to you as a member of the appointed Synodical committee. To fulfill our mandate and to be faithful to Synod's encouragement to follow a shepherding model, we are consulting with pastors as well as other church leaders and members from across the denomination. Our recent survey commissioned through the Calvin College Social Research Center was one part of that consultation.*

*Another important element in our consulting with church leaders is a series of focused listening sessions with CRC classes. To that end, we would be interested in sending a team of committee members to one of your classis meetings during this coming year (September 2014 through May 2015). Our preference would be an earlier classis meeting, but we know that it is important to fit within your schedule and agenda.*

*The listening session would last for no more than 90 minutes, beginning with a short introduction to our committee and its task. The remainder of the time would be spent in small group and general discussion.*

*We value input from across the denomination and trust that your classis can participate.*

*Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.*

*Our committee looks forward to hearing from you.*

*In Christ’s name, Joseph W. Bowman*

*on behalf of the Committee to Provide Pastoral Guidance on Same Sex Marriage*

\*\* note: The above two items, listening session and address from Darren Roorda may well happen in a joint session with Classis BCSE. More to come on this later.

- received correspondence and information from Home Missions on denominational funding for Breakthrough Ministries and approved classical breakdown and payout of funding approved by our classis. Rev. Andrew Turkstra will update classis on this new ministry and request continuing funding for 2015. If approve, monies to come from church plant fund and not a new ministry share.

- Appointed classical treasurer, David Pel and classis auditor, Fred Bosma to review new tax rules concerning charitable status and report back to committee. A written report will be made available in the addendum package to the delegates and to the churches following the classis meeting. It is noted that if the ministries we support as a classis are not registered charities than classis is responsible for the financial oversight and budget for these ministries.

- Overtures:

The overture submitted by the Victoria CRC and LDN on training for office bearers and classical financial support that was sent back for revision is still pending as the LDN board deals with restructuring and understanding of their own mandate before moving ahead with a new proposal.

CMC noted notification of an overture from Maple Ridge CRC to be submitted for the October session.

CMC asked Rev. Ken Vander Horst from Smithers to put together a paper on his ideas on how to help churches and individuals formulate overtures properly so that classis can deal with and clearly understand what it is exactly the overture is asking. Also to include clear instructions for the pre-advice overture committee so they can do their work properly as well.  *(report is on page 11 )*

- CMLT /Student Fund

CMC reviewed and approved the recommended grants to the students requesting funding for their studies to become ordained ministers within the CRC. CMLT / SFC will make full report to classis and seek ratification of their work and grants. (classis approved of the CMC overseeing this each year with the CMLT / SFC before the start of the school year so that students would receive their grants in time for the beginning of the school year.)

CMC did note concern on overall amount of funding granted. ($46,000.00) With approx $20,000.00 coming in per year from ministry shares, the surplus in this account will be quickly depleted. Will recommend raising the ministry share from $7.00 to $10.00 for 2015 and advise the CMLT/SFC the need to watch the total amount granted each year that it doesn’t exceed what is received from the churches.

Noted request for $500.00 to cover expenses with their work with students at Regent College.

(Classis BCSE contributes the same amount) **CMC recommends classis approves request and monies to come from classical expense fund.**

- Marriage registration numbers and licences

Temporary licenses granted to Rev’s. Walt Brouwer, Peter Meyer, John Delange and Chaplain Sam Lee.

Upon review of the criteria needed for granting of these licenses, the **CMC recommends the following to classis:**

**1] only ordained ministers and commissioned pastors be automatically granted licenses to officiate at weddings**

**2] all un-ordained ministry staff requests for licenses be reviewed by CMC and only granted with approval and supervision of local council.** The rational being the need to ensure a clear understanding of a “Christian” versus a “Civil” marriage ceremony.

- Children at the Lords Supper

Information gathered from the churches in response to a request made on how each church handles this question were sent to each church council and posted on the classis website.

- Church Visiting

noted several churches have not done their assigned visits as yet. S/C to send out reminders to all churches of the need to do their yearly visits and to submit a written report of the visit to the S/C.

Also will include a graph in the S/C report to classis showing who has and who has not done their visits.

- Ministerial Credentials

A review of credentials for Rev. Peter Vander Beek (Nanaimo CC) and Rev. Vinh Lee ( New Westminster CRC) will need to be done and reported to classis at the October meeting.

- Classical Rules of Procedures

CMC appointed S/C and Rev’s. Jo Schouten and Ken Vander Horst to review ROP and make updates and changes needed. Also to determine if a new document needs to be written to better reflect the changes made over the last several years.

- Classical Ministries Shares for 2015

The amount of $64.80 per member for 2015 was approved for presentation to the churches. S/C to present graph and breakdown in S/C report to classis. It was noted that the total amount of members in classis BCNW has increased by approx. 400 members, largely due to the organization of The Tapestry in Richmond. CMC and classis treasurer will monitor monies received in the new year to see if reductions can be made in future years of ministries shares because of this membership increase.

- Retirement of Rev. Peter Lim: CMC approved a conditional retirement under C.O. art 18 in consideration of C.O. art. 83

CMC will ask for executive session to further report on this matter.

**4] CDT Report (Classis Development Team)**

(Classis appointed discussion group)

Following conversations with Rev. Martin Contant, the following can be reported;

- discussion group has basically ended. All though there was good discussion, no set ideas came forward and no one wanted / could take leadership.

Rev’s. Martin Contant, Tim Sheridan and Albert Chu have begun discussing a new venture on church planting with some ideas coming from denominational collaboration with the Reformed Church. A written report for the agenda and a presentation of the plans at the October meeting is being planned.

Items for CMC actions due to non-functioning CDT:

Future mandate and work of a classical church development team.

- feedback from the churches needed, possible classis discussion

- the need for a clear mandate and outreach that works “with” local churches

Supervision / contact needed with the following ministries:

Breakthrough Ministries – Andrew Turkstra - 3 partnerships and our role

- budget / grant from 2015 to be paid from

church planting fund

Downtown Friends – Mary-Lee Bouma - increase ministry share for 2015 ($4.00 to $5.00)

Seafarers – Ernst DeVries - 2015 budget received, ministry share ($9.45 no increase)

UNBC – Alan VanderWoerd - continue funding request for 2015 ($15.00 no increase)

**5] Requests for reporting at this meeting of classis**

World Renew – George Horlings

Paul Vandersteen – BTGMI

Joanne Devries – LDN

Rev. Raymond Robyn – M2W2

Chaplain Ernst DeVries - Seafarers Chaplain

Se-Youn Moon – summer intern for Seafarers Ministries

Dr. John Stellingwerff – SCT (Tuesday just before or after dinner)

Rev. Andrew Turkstra – Breakthrough Ministries

Rev. Trevor Vanderveen - BOT CRCNA

Rev. Alan VanderWoerd – UNBC CRC Campus Ministry

Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma – downtown friends

Ko Spyksma - CRWM

**6] Nomination Committee Report** (report can be found on pg. 12)

Nominations will be needed for: BOT, Home Missions, CRCPD, Synod 2015 (Rev. Tim Sheridan appointed first ministerial delegate as per rotation schedule) alternate classical treasurer.

Reappointment of Mr. Vic Chen to CMLT / SFC

Re-appointments for Calvin College BOT, Mrs. Margaret Verboon and BTGMI, Mr. John Vegt

**7] Submitted Written Reports**

The following is a list of written reports submitted that are included in the agenda packet. These reports will not be accompanied by a verbal report, but still should be read and dealt with by each church council.

- Rev. Darren Roorda: Canadian Ministries Director – page 34

- Bethesda: (note request) – page 45

- Canadian Aboriginal Ministry Committee - attachment

- Cascade (note recommendations) – page 44

- Diaconal Ministries Canada – page 43

- Kings University (link to video) – page 41

**8] Request for funding a annual Prayer Summit**

- letter and request from Rev. Walt Vanderwerf, Classis BCNW Prayer coordinator.

*At the Spring classis 2014 Classis British Columbia North-West joined with the other B.C. classis for a prayer summit.  I believe that if the church of BC is to advance the gospel we must take time to pray together, and be encouraged in prayer through summits like these.  The early church was known for spending a great deal of time in prayer, and it is no coincidence that when they prayed together, things happened.  One time, after some of their leaders were called in for questioning, after they were threatened and released, they joined together to pray.  They acknowledged the threat, and then asked for MORE boldness to bring the message that comes not just with words, but also with power.* After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken.  And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly *(Acts 4:31).  When the ground shakes, it is a sure sign that the Presence of God is there.  Such is what happens when we determine to not just pray, but pray much and often, realizing more how much we need the strength of God Present among us.*

*With this in mind, and for the Spring 2015 classis prayer summit, I hereby request funds to cover costs of the summit as well as some other expenses needed to promote prayer in our classis.  Some possibilities to be explored are a web presence on prayer (connecting with our classis web site) and-or a news letter with stories of answered prayers to encourage each other in this ministry.*

***I suggest $1200, in keeping with the request the other classis asks for.***

*Thank you for your consideration. Walt Vanderwerf, Classis British Columbia North-West Prayer Co-ordinator*

... our gospel came to you not just with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit, and with deep conviction (1 Thess 1:5).

**CMC recommends approval of request and monies to come from Classical Expense Fund.**

**9] Stated Clerk / CMC Addendum Report**

Will be made available to delegates shortly before classis meets and include;

- report from combined meeting with LDN Board, and reps from classes BCNW & BCSE

- report on review of new tax rules concerning charitable status and report back to committee

- possible joint session with BCSE at the March 2015 meeting

**10] Motion to approve the work of the Classical Ministries/Interim Committee**

Mr. Andy de Ruyter - Lead / Stated Clerk Rev. Jo Schouten - Secretary / alt. Stated Clerk

Mr. David Pel - Classis Treasurer Mr. Victor Chen - CMLT/SFC rep

Rev. Henry Numan Rev. David Salverda

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**FORMATTING & PRESENTATION OF OVERTURES TO CLASSIS**

*submitted by Rev. Ken Vander Horst at the request of the CMC*

 A. Definition

1. An overture is a **request for action** made by an assembly to a higher assembly, or by an individual to their council.

2. A **council** may overture **Classis**; a classis may overture **Synod**.

3*.*Individual **members** of churches may only overture a Classis or Synod after first overturing their Council and respective Classis.  A council may only overture Synod after first overturing Classis.  Only when overtures are not acceded to, do individuals, councils, and classis appeal by overturing a higher assembly.

 B. Format

The first part of the overture is a statement of three parts:

a. **who** overtures **whom -** e.g., “the Council of 1st CRC overtures Classis BCNW”

b. what specific **action** is being requested - e.g., “to instruct Classis BCNW to study…”

c. what mode of **implementation** is being requested - e.g., to report to the Spring 2015 meeting of Classis BCNW”

d. The second part of the overture is a presentation of **grounds** in support of the action being requested.   Unless such grounds are brief, they are customarily itemized.

e. If the overture affects the rate of classical assessments, include an approximation of the c**osts** involved and the impact on assessments.

f. Be as **succinct** as possible while still making the overture **definitive**.

g. If the **Bible** is quoted, the version used ***must*** be cited.

h. If other publications are quoted or referred to (e.g. book, Bible, article), they must be **referenced properly**. If the *Acts of Synod* are referred to, list the title, year, the recommendation number (if there is one) and the page number (e.g., *AOS, 2013*, R-4, p. 255).

C. Cautions

“**Careful and prayerful deliberation**” (Church Order Commentary, 2011, p. 184) ought to precede the submission of an overture.  Grounds must demonstrate that “the petitioner’s conscience is inappropriately infringed upon” (COC, 184) by the matter raised.

Overtures which deal with matters concerning the **discipline or charges** against persons must be dealt with **sensitively**.  Individuals and Councils must bear in mind Church order articles 78 ff.  In certain cases, the Council may request and/or Classis will invoke Judicial Code (C.O. Art. 30c & its supplement).

 D. Procedure

An overture being submitted should  be accompanied by a **cover letter**, stating the place and date of the meeting of the assembly at which the overture was adopted; the letter is to be signed by the council clerk and/or chair.

If **more than one** overture is being submitted, each should begin on a **separate** page.  A single cover letter will suffice.

Council overtures to classis **must be submitted** to the stated clerk **seven (7) weeks prior**

to a classis meeting in order to be on the agenda.  Overtures received late will be

deemed out of order, unless Classis rules otherwise.

 E. Sample Overture

## Canadian Coffee Crisis

The council of Java Nut CRC in Beanery, BC overtures Classis BCNW to **call on the Tim Horton’s Corporation and demand that it provide decaffeinated dark roast coffee** at each of their locations throughout Canada, and report back to the following meeting of Classis their success in this urgent matter.

Grounds:

1. The pastoral concerns associated with coffee addiction compromise the ability of councils to work effectively without excessively frequent coffee breaks.

2.  Scripture clearly speaks to this issue:  Colossians 1 teaches that we are to “reconcile … all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven.” (NIV)  Undoubtedly this includes the dual offering of caffeinated and decaffeinated coffee.

3.  The CRC Synod of 1856 mandated that churches speak clearly into the social ills of their day.  (AOS 1856, R-185, p. 1282).

4.  The needs of the CRC members in Canada require swift action.

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**Nominations Committee Report, October 2014**

**(***Pastors David Salverda and Johannes Schouten, with lots of help from our Stated Clerk—thank you!***)**

**Board Of Trustees (BOT) CRCNA, Non-ministerial Delegates, 1st Term to begin 2015 [ballot] –** approval of nominees needed for submission to denominational nominationscommittee. Synod 2015 will do the actual voting.

1. ***Aaltje van Grootheest*** has been a member of Victoria Christian Reformed Church (VCRC) for many years. Some of her happiest experiences have occurred there, including her marriage to husband Gerald, the baptism of her daughters Elizabeth and Rebecca, and more recently the addition of son-in-law Chris. She retired at the end of 2013 after practising law for over thirty years. In the past, Aaltje has served on the Boards of both Pacific Christian School and a local Christian newspaper. She is presently on the Board of Governors and the Executive of King’s University in Edmonton, as well as being Chairperson of the Student Life Committee there. She has just finished her term as an Elder and Chairperson of VCRC Council. Now that she has some more free time, she is enjoying bicycle riding (having completed the 250km two-day BC Ride to Conquer Cancer fundraising event in June), hiking (having hiked the Andes last fall), and most outdoor activities that do not require great co-ordination.
2. ***Andy de Ruyter:*** age 56, business owner, married for 33 years to Penny, two children (both now adults, one married and 1 granddaughter, with a second grandchild due in late October!). Member at 1st CRC Vancouver since 1958. Served several terms as Elder, mostly as clerk of council and on every type of committee a church can have or think of.

Classical and Synodical experience:

BOT alternate member: 2003 – 2007

Synodical delegate: 2001, 2004, 2011

Secretary of Classical Interim Committee: 2004 – 2010

Several Classical steering committees and ministry boards

Alternate Stated Clerk: 2007 – 2010

Stated Clerk of Classis BCNW: 2010—present

1. **Synod 2015 (June 2015—Dort College, Sioux Center, Iowa)**

Pastor Delegates [by ballot]

1. Tim Sheridan (Maple Ridge CRC)—by rotation

2. 2nd Pastor Delegate—free vote

3. 1st Pastor Alternate—free vote

4. 2nd Pastor Alternate—free vote

Elder Delegates—all free votes [by ballot]

1. 1st Delegate

2. 2nd Delegate

3. 1st Alternate

4. 2nd Alternate

**B. Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue (CRCPD)—by ballot**

***Dena Nicola* –**

Originally from Edmonton, Alberta, I currently reside in Vancouver, BC, where I am finishing my MA in Theological Studies (with a concentration in Church History) at Regent College. I completed my BA in Political Studies at Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, after which I moved to Cairo, Egypt. There, I spent three years as a Program Assistant and then Program Coordinator for the Middle East Studies Program, a study-abroad program for North American Christian college/university students whose studies focused on the politics, religion, history and culture of Egypt and the wider Middle East. I spent a fourth year in Cairo volunteering with two different refugee organizations as well as reporting on development projects for the Anglican Church (Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa). I also worked for a year as the Manager of Volunteer Development at The Mustard Seed in Edmonton, an inner city organization that provides basic services as well as housing and sustainable support for those in need. I currently attend First CRC in Vancouver, where I work part-time as the Community Connections Coordinator, helping to bring the church/ congregation members together with our neighbours and draw our neighbours further into the life of the church.

1. **Christian Reformed Home Missions—by ballot**

***Jean Dykshoorn—Hooge***: I served as the Pastor for Small Groups and Integration for 14 years at New Life CRC in Abbotsford. During that time I led the Alpha ministry, chaired CHMC in BCSE for 6 years, served on Martin Contant’s Missional Leadership team, and became a trained Life Coach. Denominationally I was also a Synodical delegate and the Trainer and Consultant for Coffee Break and Small Groups. I am still an active member at New Life. I stepped down from being a full time pastor when my late husband Frank passed away in 2008 and I remarried in 2010 to Allan Hooge. Our schedules didn’t match as I was working weekends and he had them off. After much prayer, we decided I would “retire” and see what God would give. He gave me a wonderful new opportunity to minister to my neighbors, and to the people who walk into the office every day, as I am the constituency assistant to MLA Simon Gibson. I look forward to serving the denomination, should God open a path for me to serve on the Board of CRHM.

1. **Alternate Classical Treasurer***—the Nominations Committee is seeking nominees for this position*

**F. Classical Ministry Leadership Team / Student Fund Committee (CMLT / SFC)**

• Reappointment of Victor Chen to second term.

1 additional member from BCNW needed

**G. Calvin College BOT**

• Reappointment of Margaret Verboon to second term.

**H. Back To God Ministry International**

• Reappointment of John Vegt to second term

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**Maple Ridge CRC**

**Overture to Classis BCNW**

The council of the Maple Ridge CRC overtures Classis BCNW to study the feasibility of establishing a joint BCSE / BCNW Safe Church Team Executive and report back to the Spring 2015 meeting of classis.

Grounds:

1. Currently there is no Safe Church Team Executive representing Classis BCNW to function as a resource for churches, pastors, staff or individuals who are dealing with circumstances which involve the ministry of BC Safe Church Team and/or the Abuse Prevention and Response Coordinator.

2. The current Safe Church team Executive has jurisdiction only within the boundaries of classis BCSE. leaving the churches of Classis BCNW without a team to provide appropriate supervision and accountability for the work of the BC Safe Church Team with Classis BCNW.

3. The BC Safe Church Team is a joint ministry between Classis BCNW and BCSE and would be served well by having a seamless ministry and oversight body for both Classes.

For the Council of the Maple Ridge CRC

Janet Melissen /Clerk of Council

***Classis BCNW Review Team Report (July 9 Edition)***

***The perspectives and suggestions made in this document are not designed to inhibit the thoughts, perceptions or ideas that God will place before others in our Classis. We simply provide these as a way to continue the conversation. At the same time it is our prayer that this document will spark interest, create an avenue for further idea sharing and catalyze a renewed approach to our meetings together.***

**Background:**

* Classis BCNW as a regional gathering of Christian Reformed believers has met together for quite a number of years. Over that time God has faithfully worked among us to facilitate the work of local congregations as well as to connect us with each other and the denomination. There is much to be thankful for as well as times and events we can grieve.

Still, the activity of Classis meeting together twice a year takes time, finances and talents. It is, therefore, wise to reflect on what it is that we are doing and to discern whether we are stewarding God’s resources in ways that are faithful in 2014+. To that end Classis BCNW CMC set aside time at the March 2014 Classis meeting to begin exploring our how we meet together.

**Process:**

* At the March 2014 Classis BCNW meeting delegates were asked to spend time praying over, thinking about and discussing Classis meetings. We were encouraged to do so by addressing 5 questions designed to focus our thinking. Initially delegates were asked to reflect on and write down their own thoughts and then to share their thoughts with a larger group. These written thoughts and discussions were then collated by team members and are attached here.

**Report:**

* There are two parts to the opportunity we have before us. First, the churches of Classis BCNW do meet together two times per year. Second, we seem to be in a season where there is desire among us to discover new ways of meeting together. We would like to thank everyone who participated by sharing their thoughts in March 2014. The guiding principle behind that time was 1 Corinthians 12:27… “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” In addition Romans 12:1,2 informs our perspective that the thoughts shared were, at the very least, a beginning of what the Spirit wanted us to grapple with. This perspective lies behind receiving participants’ comments and observations as gifts. Reading through the observations, thoughts and suggestions clearly shows we care about our times together, we appreciate what our gatherings do and we are hopeful for what they might become. There are so many wonderful thoughts and suggestions!

***Observations:***

While we make the following general observations we look forward to the observations of all the participating churches on the comments from the meeting.

**Observation # 1**

* When it comes to defining the purpose, mission and values of Classis we have a variety of perspectives. This is not necessarily bad. Variety can be an expression of the God created diversity among us. At the same time we wonder if it might also indicate that we are not all on the same page when we meet together.

***Exploratory Inquiry:***

* Would it be beneficial to clarify Classis BCNW mission/values/purpose (M/V/P)? How do our M/V/P determine the content/schedule of our times together? Do they inform which new ministries are to be funded and how we steward God’s financial resources? Which reports are important at any given time? In other words should we explore what it means to prioritize? If so, how might we start that process?

***Potential Challenge:***

* Develop/Sharpen mission/vision in a way that extends beyond words to include actions.
* Identify goals for Classis BCNW including strategies to achieve them

**Observation # 2**

* Few would disagree that classical ministries are important. However, the reporting tends to be tedious and therefore tiring (uninspiring?) Whether its’ because of sheer volume, style of presentation or frequency of ministry reporting can’t be readily determined from these discussions.

***Exploratory Inquiry:***

* Should we address this and if so, how? Are there more inspiring ways of communicating ministries? Are we spread too thin or too wide? Is it time to explore a “core” to who we are as Classis BCNW and what we do as a Classis?

***Potential Challenge:***

* Explore possibility of hosting “ministry fair” to replace many or all presentations

**Observation # 3**

* It should not come as a surprise that there was frequent comment relating to connecting with one another in other than “institutional or administrative” ways. While it is important to remember that the results of our discussions were not meant as a scientifically accurate survey, there still appears to be significant desire that Classis meetings be more relational, spiritual, discerning and equipping.

***Exploratory Inquiry:***

* Is this accurate? If so, should this be addressed? If so, how? Are Classis meetings a strategy or a goal? What about exploring the possibility that our meetings together to address the spiritual life of the church are not only deliberative and administrative but also discerning and inspirational. If Classis BCNW could be understood as a puzzle, each participant comes as one of the pieces. Are we hungering to interlock more meaningfully to more clearly be the picture of the body of Christ gathered? In other words, what if we would grow to understand our twice yearly gatherings as times for holy community?!

***Potential Challenge:***

* Explore possibility of designing an upcoming Classis gathering/meeting in the form of a retreat.
* Explore possibility of doing this once every other year

***Moving Forward—What Next?***

This is an exciting time to be part of Classis BCNW. It’s a time to discover where God might be leading and how he might be calling us forward. As we send this report to CMC and to the churches we would make the following suggestions as options to possibly ride a wave for Classis renewal here in BC.

1. Call on churches to engage in discerning prayer and thoughtful conversation regarding our Classis and our direction for the future.
2. Provide this report, including comments from March 2014, to all the churches for their consideration, discovery and discernment.
3. Begin the next Classis meeting with a time of teaching and activity around the spiritual practice of discernment. Our meetings ought to be times of “discerning deliberation” and administration. In what ways do we do that well and how might we improve? (Perhaps Wilma V can introduce this keeping in mind that discernment practice is new and a bit scary for some/many of us)
4. Provide for a 2 hour time period designed to build on March 2014, the comments/suggestions and this report. We will do it in a deliberative/discerning way.

* Sample:
* Opening the heart to indifference to our own agendas and deep thirst for God’s plan (Martin V is totally willing to help with this)
* Guided planning/idea sharing around mission/values/purpose of Classis BCNW
* Openly Explore Dreams/Possibilities
* Openly Explore Fears
* A kind of “What if” approach to classical dreaming

Or

* Guided planning/sharing around 4 areas of Classical opportunities available when we meet together including…
* Exploring and Improving Administrative Ministry
* Exploring and Improving Inspirational Opportunties
* Exploring and Improving Equipping Opportunities
* Exploring and Improving Relational Opportunities

**Conversation around Classis—Group 1**

*We would like to provide everyone an opportunity to reflect on and discuss how we meet as Classis BCNW. To do this well, we would like you to take a couple of moments and write down some thoughts in each of the areas listed. Your observations will form the basis of our discussion. Afterwards we would appreciate it if you would hand your comments in so that the CMC can use these comments and our common discussion as a source for possible next steps.*

1. In a sentence or two how would you describe the purpose of Classis?

* A governing body to guide our discussion
* Develop a shared direction and vision and mission and strategy for moving forward together
* Expression of body of Christ
* Opportunity to work, discuss and meet together
* Further the kingdom of God
* Flow Churches↔Classis↔Synod (2x)
* Evaluate ministries
* Image of OT elders at the gate where people come for wisdom and justice
* Blue organization? Not green + red?

1. What do you appreciate most about Classis meetings? What ways could you suggest that would add value to our meetings together?

* Talking to others about concerns & issues
* Fellowship (4x)
* Networking (2x)
* Church visits
* Mutual encouragement (sharing in joy, blessings, grief etc) (3x)
* Showcasing ministries/highlighting outcomes
* Planning concrete ministry interventions would be helpful
* Unity of working in the Spirit
* Suggest a retreat setting
* Suggest equipping time
* Longer? Shorter?

1. In a sentence or two what is Classis BCNW mission? Vision?

* Help with each mission plan
* Don’t think we have a clear ministry or vision
* Help CR churches develop a common mission
* Hope/Future—Maturing current ministries, fostering new ones and equipping to go broader and deeper
* Represent plans and visions of individual churches
* Provide direction consistent with church policy

1. How do the mission and/or vision of Classis connect with your local church’s ministry?

* Help plan, dream, guide
* To know we are not in isolation but part of a larger body to promote kingdom of God
* Doesn’t have much connection
* Church visit reports
* As an equipping body, I’m torn about this…maybe done better by other groups (CRHM or LDN)
* Don’t know how it should connect

1. In what ways is the present structure of Classis helpful? Unhelpful? If you could make any changes or improvements what would they be?

* Administer a standard
* Too much business
* Not visionary
* Too big and clumsy
* How can it be a tool beyond itself?
* Eliminate non-classical/denominational reports
* A bit more weight to some presenters
* Trying to cover a large geographic area

**Conversation around Classis—Group 2**

*We would like to provide everyone an opportunity to reflect on and discuss how we meet as Classis BCNW. To do this well, we would like you to take a couple of moments and write down some thoughts in each of the areas listed. Your observations will form the basis of our discussion. Afterwards we would appreciate it if you would hand your comments in so that the CMC can use these comments and our common discussion as a source for possible next steps.*

1. In a sentence or two how would you describe the purpose of Classis?

* What?— Expression of bigger/wider church family

Gathering of leaders from congregations in region

* Why?— Encouragement (4x)

Training?

Accountability (3x)

Ministry?

* Reminder that we are a part of the bigger family
* Fellowship
* Create unity and harmony among CR churches in BC (2x)
* Communicate and compare what individual churches are dealing with…approaches to faith and organizational issues
* Minister/serve bigger body of Christ effectively
* Hold churches accountable to the body of Christ
* Support ministry of local church (3x)
* Delegated assembly that exists to oversee the joint ministries of local churches that are carried out in a particular region (5x)
* A body of local churches that meets to promote a common vision, build unity, share in and cooperate in outreach and ministry.
* Governing body of local CRCs—decisions need to be made and business needs to be done.
* Maintain identity as CRC

1. What do you appreciate most about Classis meetings? What ways could you suggest that would add value to our meetings together?

Appreciate

* I want the purpose to be more encouragement and training
* Social connection with colleagues and other leaders (6x)
* Discussions on topics, issues, ideas (5x)
* Listen/hear/support/encourage (8x)
* Learn from each other
* Support
* Meeting new candidates for ministry
* Singing and prayer times (3x)
* Hearing reports from ministries…encouraging to hear about what’s going on in ‘larger’ church (2x)
* Real unrushed deliberation over serious issues
* Coming together as a group with similar roots but as different branches and different fruit

Suggest

* More sharing (2x)
* More prayer (ie. 2 churches praying together for 20 minutes/stopping for prayer frequently in various ways)
* More continuity
* Dealing with faith issues and how we can improve communication to our secular communities (2x)
* Share best practices—learn about what works and what doesn’t (3x)
* More time taken to deepen our learning together on common issues facing our churches
* More training
* Story telling

1. In a sentence or two what is Classis BCNW mission? Vision?

* Not sure (2x)
* Maybe create consistency to the CRC doctrines and practices
* Bring churches together from “business” of the church body (2x)
* A gathering of believers of the same faith
* Don’t think we have one
* Minister more effectively to the bigger community around us
* Further the great commission through helping each other more effectively (financially)
* Support each other in our ministries (3x)
* Classis BCNW strives to offer a united expression of the kingdom of God through the combined ministries of local CRCs in our shared region
* Build unity, share concerns, encouragement and support in how to be salt and light (2x)
* Lead CR congregations esp N and W of Fraser
* Deepen kingdom impact of the way God leads His church
* To discern and move towards where God is calling specific to BCNW

1. How do the mission and/or vision of Classis connect with your local church’s ministry?

* Little connection (4x)
* Not well in terms of communication. Long term members “get it” but it seems to have no ‘visible’ impact in our local church
* Through joint ventures and sharing
* Our local church’s ministry should be an outpouring of the larger mission/vision of classis. A local encultured manifestation of classis’ core vision and purpose
* Classis needs more of a presence in the local churches with explanations and visions
* Ministry shares though there is lack of education about Classis and why we belong to it.
* Both are tangible expressions of the kingdom
* Receive info and encouragement of the broader body
* Many of the questions we face are often experienced by others in neighbouring churches so there is continuity
* Supported (financial/prayer) church plants and other ministries.
* Ideas could translate back into local church
* Common/unique struggles/issues
* Best practices (3x)
* Stories that work
* How gospel is impacting culture

1. In what ways is the present structure of Classis helpful? Unhelpful? If you could make any changes or improvements what would they be?

Helpful

* Meets regularly
* Full agenda gets done in time for reporting
* Well organized and administered
* A way for churches in a variety of geographic areas to covenant with one another.
* Getting documents ahead of time
* Reporting structure helps us to hear stories and pray
* Good way to handle exams
* Proficient admin

Unhelpful

* Time limitations and intensity of interactions are constraining
* As an elder I feel like I lack context behind many of the agenda items…therefore more hesitant to participate…discussion often dominated by ministers.
* So many reports focussed on classical and denominational ministries—not enough time for churches to share stories
* Feels tedious at times
* Are all the presentations necessary?

Suggestions

* Retreat setting
* Focus on the tri-regional reality much like the CRC is looking at Bi-nationality
* Have deacons
* Clarify mission of classis
* A time of introductions and/or social mixer to help connections…lunch before opening session?
* More Time!! We have so many discussion we could facilitate.
* More ways/opportunities to get to know one another in our region
* More time for sharing work/struggles…listening to one another (4x)
* In our sharing let’s not focus so much on how we are doing in terms of programs/numbers etc but mainly on our authentic struggles/joys we have as leaders.
* Paper reports/newsletters/digital reports enough?
* More opportunities for learning/equipping activities (3x)
* Less verbal reports/more written ones especially from non-church/para-church groups (2x)
* Have one of our annual meetings meet in the 3 regions via video conferencing
* More time for prayer/worship (2x)

**Conversation around Classis—Group 3**

*We would like to provide everyone an opportunity to reflect on and discuss how we meet as Classis BCNW. To do this well, we would like you to take a couple of moments and write down some thoughts in each of the areas listed. Your observations will form the basis of our discussion. Afterwards we would appreciate it if you would hand your comments in so that the CMC can use these comments and our common discussion as a source for possible next steps.*

1. In a sentence or two how would you describe the purpose of Classis?

* Deal with business of church for province
* Something is trying to burst through
* Accountability (2x)
* Doing stuff together…the kinds of things we can’t do alone (6x)
* See how organization is doing
* Business/admin mtg
* Examinations of people entering ministry
* Envision/plan/build possible ministries
* Support and learning (3x)
* Handle matters unable to be handled by local congregations
* Regional get together

1. What do you appreciate most about Classis meetings? What ways could you suggest that would add value to our meetings together?

Appreciate

* Eating together (2x)
* Gain new perspectives
* Fellowship (3x)
* Networking (3x)
* Hearing from people and ministries—put faces to names (3x)
* Informal aspect is important
* Time to ask questions
* Deal with church business
* Remove oneself from the busyness of church life
* Worship and prayer
* Provide avenue for pastor to be rejuvenated and feel good about caling as they meet and work with one another
* Opportunity to share blessings/concerns

Suggest

* Need to get more personal—human connection
* How do you include elders?
* Fasting/discipline/communion together
* More fellowship/encouragement
* More best practice times
* Small group including prayer helps get out of tunnel vision…scaring away holiness
* More small group interaction across congregational lines.
* Less of a rush…lay people at the table
* Equip/encourage/build up
* Bring in motivational speaker
* Extend it to 3 days
* Cut food cost by fasting

Pastors meet in groups…elders and deacons the same

1. In a sentence or two what is Classis BCNW mission? Vision?

* Receive Reports (2x)
* Our mission is to partner as Christian Reformed Churches in our region in God’s kingdom work
* To see the gospel presented in its various contexts to further God’s kingdom
* Support rooted, biblical leadership (2x)
* Classis supports pastors not churches
* Don’t know where resources are…mobilize gifts
* Serve God better
* Support ministry of local churches (3x)
* Enable churches to do things together that they can’t do alone
* Explore creative ways to do ministry together

1. How do the mission and/or vision of Classis connect with your local church’s ministry?

* Not
* Very little
* Classis and our church have same vision for kingdom ministry
* Don’t know…but it should rejuvenate our pastor/encourage/feel support/part of a team
* Helps me explain what diaconal ministry shares are used for
* Not sure
* Perception that pastors support pastors
* Reminder of resources available

1. In what ways is the present structure of Classis helpful? Unhelpful? If you could make any changes or improvements what would they be?

Helpful

* We get things done
* Time to connect during breaks
* Hearing what God is doing world wide.
* Provides for involvement of each of the churches
* Helps pastor delegate hear and see how the work of church is done in various ways in BC

Unhelpful

* No time to dream (2x)
* Seems as though we don’t know how to think or discern
* Time constraints don’t allow for thought and questions…
* Confusion about what we can or ought to be doing
* Since I had a hard time deciding on the mission/vision of Classis it doesn’t surprise me that I’m having a hard time with this question.
* Telling us to be about something in particular
* Not enough lay input
* Energy sapping

Suggestions

* Emphasize relationships
* Training (2x)
* Asking what God wants from us then discerning how to help/walk alongside
* Enhance role of lay leader
* Hear about what God is doing around the world
* Be church gathered for mutual building up
* Change format from debate to discernment
* Have been depleted…well needs to be opened
* More prayer (2x)
* How a prayer summit could fit into this…not an option
* Presence of deacons would be helpful
* When it’s time for classical/denom/non-deno
* Share concerns, best practices
* Use as a springboard into ministry
* Presenters make 5 min video clip, have all the presentations compiled and put on cd/dvd and send to churches to present to the congregations showing what is going on in BC
* More time for fellowship
* How about Classis as a weekend retreat

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**BCNW / BCSE**

**CMLT Report To Classis**

**Team Members**

Mike VanderKwaak (Chair BCSE), Dan Hoogland (Clerk BCSE), Grant VanderHoek (BCSE), Peter Stillingwerff (SFC BCSE), Mary Lee Bouma (BCNW), Henry Jonker (BCNW), Victor Chen (SFC BCNW).

The BCSE and BCNW joint CMLT committee continues to meet on a regular basis. Our main objective is to serve, guide and support students and pastors towards candidacy for minister of the word and sacraments in the Christian Reformed Church. The CMLT functions as an umbrella which includes the Student Fund Committee.

The main routes that people can follow towards candidacy are:

1. In resident MDIV Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) student; (Art. 6)
2. Non-resident MDIV CTS student; (Art 6)
3. EPMC (MDIV non-CTS) either 10 week resident or 24 month nonresident. (Art. 6)
4. Ordained Pastors from another denomination who wants to be a candidate in the CRC.(Art. 8)

The CMLT also provides support to those seeking ordination via Art. 7 (individuals with exceptional giftedness) and Art. 23 (Commissioned Pastor). We work with individuals and students from a wide range of backgrounds. Some simply want more information. Others are well on their way to candidacy.

We have worked closely with Regent College for several years and host an annual luncheon for students who are pursuing or interested in ministry in the Christian Reformed Church. We have requested a $500 budget for BCNW to help offset the costs of a luncheon we are currently planning for next January. The CMLT also hosts a similar luncheon for students at ACTS seminary in Langley, and hope that our deepening relationship at ACTS will provide other opportunities to support students who have a desire to pursue candidacy.

**We ask Classis For:**

One additional member to fill a vacancy in the CMLT.

**We ask Classis to Pray:**

1. That God would equip, develop and affirm His call on these new emerging leaders in the CRC.
2. That God would equip the CMLT in its role of providing support and encouragement to a wide range of individuals considering or seeking ordination in the CRC.
3. That God would provide the financial resources necessary (through the Classis Student Fund) to support students seeking assistance for the 2014-2015 academic year.

**We request:**

**The BCNW CMLT budget request for the new budget year is for the amount of: $500.**

This will cover our expenses associated with our work with students at Regent College in Vancouver.  The main expense will be for the annual informational/recruiting luncheon

that we host each year. The CMLT of BCSE also requesting the same amount from their classes for the same type of work with students from ACTS Seminary in Langley, BC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Hoogland

CMLT Clerk

**Classis BCNW**

**CMLT - Student Fund Committee**

Report to Classis BCNW, October 2015

Please find following a list of students that the student fund committee, has decided to support for the 2014 / 2015 school year

1] Steven Berkenpas, still at Regent M. Div to receive $4,000

2] Dave Groen of New Westminster CRC is going to Calvin for the fall EPMC and

will receive $8500.

3] Jesse Pals transferred in from BCSE, now a member of First Vancouver CRC and

is studying at Regent, M. Div to receive $5,000.

4] Se Youn Moon, member of First Vancouver CRC, also at Regent M.Div. will receive $7250.

Se Youn is married with two children.

5] Shane Roseveld Calvin distant M.Div

For whatever reason the committee was under the impression that he had decided to drop out of the program and had him at nil. Just to be sure we contacted him and asked if he was still planning to pursue his studies and learnt that he was indeed going to do so. We have now received an application from him. Committee to set amount for new year but it will be approx $6,000.00

6] Jian Luo Xu, an elder of Nelson Ave. C. C.

Jian Lio, is married with two children and has been accepted at Calvin M.Div 3 year program. He plans to move to G.R. in August. He applied for $35,000 which was based on Calvin's estimate of what a married student with two kids would need. The committee agreed that we can only afford $15,000 and John is going on faith that his wife will be able to find part time work at Calvin to support the family.

As to projections for next year, Dave Groen will no longer need support but the others will all possibly be still studying. Have no idea of any new candidates but should assume we will have one new person at least. My best guess is a similar amount for next year and possibly more.

*Classis BCNW SFC: Vic Chen (chair),*

*Henry Jonker, Mary-Lee Bouma*

\***note**

CMC reviewed and approved the recommended grants to the students requesting funding .

Classis approved of the CMC overseeing this each year with the CMLT / SFC before the start of the school year so that students would receive their grants in time for the beginning of the school year.

CMC did note concern on overall amount of funding granted. ($46,000.00) With approx $20,000.00 coming in per year from ministry shares, the surplus in this account will be quickly depleted.

**The CMC is recommending raising the ministry share from $7.00 to $10.00 for 2015** and will advise the CMLT/SFC the need to watch the total amount granted each year that it doesn’t exceed what is received from the churches.

# Projected Budget for Breakthrough Ministries

*for the ministry year of March 2015—March 2016*

**Projected Income for Breakthrough Ministries: Year 2**

Home Missions: $10,000.00

**Classis BCNW: $10,000.00**

Reel Time Fishing Charters: $25,000.00

Fundraising & Donations: $5,000.00

Total Projected Income for Breakthrough Ministries Year 2: $50,000.00

**Additional Income for Year 1**

Rental and Employment Income—Trish: $20,000.00

Total Projected Income for Year 1: $70,000.00

**Projected Expenses for Breakthrough Ministries Year 2:**

Lunch/Coffee: $500.00

Office, Office Supplies & Phone: $3000.00

Resources: $500.00

Continuing Education (Seminars, Leadership Traning/Coaching): $1,000.00

Total: $5,000.00

Additional Expenses (Living): $65,000.00

Total Projected Expenses for Year 1: **$70,0000.00**

***CMC note: if funding is approved for 2015, monies to come from our church planting fund, not ministry shares.***

REPORT FOR CLASSIS BCNW FALL 2014

KWANTLEN MULTI-FAITH CENTRE

Classes are beginning once again at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and for the fourth school year the Multi-Faith centre is opening its doors for students, faculty and staff. Through the continued growth of the centre (largely thanks to the financial support of Classis BCNW and CDT) there has been a growing Christian and Reformed presence on campus.

The centre provides a pastoral presence for students, staff and faculty where we can foster faith and social responsibility. Our hope and dream for this ministry is that we would be a place of solace and sanctuary where we encourage students, staff and faculty in their spiritual journey; honor the diversity of religious and spiritual beliefs; inspire thoughtful, integrated, virtuous living; and be an open door of care and counsel. Ultimately we hope to be good sign pointers that can point to our hope in Christ through all our actions and interactions on campus.

Last year we attempted to do this through initiatives like drop in office hours, thanksgiving dinners, displays and campaigns on campus, dialogue and discussion with other faith based leaders in the community, helping to organically grow and build a student led faith presence on campus, building relationships and the favor of campus staff, and we hope to do much more of the same

Through the last year we have seen students come to know and deepen their relationship in Christ. We have also seen others consider their spirituality more deeply. We have also seen faculty, staff and students find respite from their struggles and a place to share their joys.

This year will be especially exciting because the centre has not only seen the allocation of a new office (positioned right in the centre of its Richmond campus) and a new space specifically designated for prayer and meditation, but we are anticipating the addition of another CRC Chaplain on the Surrey Campus with the help of Fleetwood CRC, who are in the process of interviewing applicants.

We want to thank Classis BCNW for your generous support of our ministry at Kwantlen. Together you are helping us provide a pastoral presence for students, staff and faculty where we can foster faith and social responsibility.

**We hope the Classis and the CDT would continue to support this exciting opportunity. For the year 2014, the classical ministry share going to the Kwantlen Chaplaincy was $5.00 per professing member. We would graciously ask that consider allocating the same amount to this ministry in 2015.**

Every Blessing,

Samuel Lee

Chaplain at Kwantlen University’s Multi-Faith Centre

Associate Pastor at the Tapestry Church



**THE MINISTRY TO SEAFARERS**

(**CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH)**

401 East Waterfront Road, Vancouver, BC V6A 4G9

Phone: 604-253-4421 Cell: 778-549-4944 e-mail: [ernstd.mission@gmail.com](mailto:ernstd.mission@gmail.com)

**Report to Classis BCNW - Fall 2014**

We thank the Lord for the our chaplain, Ernst deVries, and the work he does in the Port of Vancouver and are pleased to share some of this year’s ministry highlights.

* On average, our chaplain visits between 70 and 80 ships each month, however, during the months of February and March the numbers were significantly lower because of the crippling 28-day truckers’ strike in the Port of Vancouver.
* During the Easter weekend (Good Friday and Easter Sunday), our chaplain conducted four worship services aboard four different ships.
* In May, our chaplain and his wife Winnie were part of a Middle East study trip sponsored by the Ted & Joanne deVries Foundation - a “life changing” Biblically-themed event for which they are very thankful. Although he had hoped to be able to meet with a few captains of the ZiM container line who live in Israel, the trip’s tight schedule prevented this. (He did mention that the two weeks in the Middle East resulted in a weight loss of 15 pounds!)
* We have hired Se-Youn Moon, a Regent College student, as intern for the summer months to visit ships primarily in the downtown Port of Vancouver. Se-Youn and his family live in Vancouver and are members of Vancouver First CRC. We are pleased to have Se-Youn on board; he enjoys the work among the seafarers and has been blessed with the God-given gifts needed to listen and interact with them.
* In June and July during the World Cup of Soccer, the chaplain opened the seafarers’ center at Deltaport early so that seafarers could watch the games. To his great surprise, especially Chinese and Indian seafarers showed up in large numbers!
* This summer both Ernst and Se-Youn will be participating in a weekly two-hour teaching/training session developed by Jason Zuidema, director of North American Maritime Ministry Association (NAMMA). Topics to be covered include such things as:
* Combatting “Sea Blindness” and the Life of a Seafarer
* Ship Visiting and Communicating with Strangers
* Models of Maritime Ministry
* Communication: Meaningful Conversations
* What can Reformed Theology Bring to Seafarers’ Ministry?
* Resources for Maritime Ministry (Financial, Personal, Spiritual)  
  The training sessions are free and will be conducted via Skype. Plans are also in the works for the Seafarers’ Committee and chaplain together to have a once or twice yearly Skype session with Jason Zuidema.

Throughout the year, the Lord has blessed this ministry, and we give Him special thanks for:

* the many offerings received to support the Literature fund
* the generous gift from an anonymous BC CRC member
* the *50 Questions and Answers* we distribute to seafarers and now have available in four languages: English, Chinese, Tagalog (Philippines), and Russian (a language which can also be read by Ukrainian and Bulgarian seafarers)
* the opportunities for our chaplain to speak in churches in both Classis BCSE and BCNW
* the continued good health of both Ernst and his wife, Winnie
* the good working relationship with the Mission to Seafarers (Anglican) and the Stella Maris (Roman Catholic)
* the anticipation that another successful *Christmas at Sea* will be a blessing to thousands of seafarers during the Advent season. (Over the years our chaplain has heard that, according to seafarers, Vancouver is “known” for the great gifts the visiting seafarers receive!)

And on a more personal note, after 36 years of living in Canada as a landed immigrant, our chaplain has decided to become a Canadian citizen and hopes to be one by the time as Classis meets this fall!

**Recommendations:**

**1. That Classis grant permission to chaplain Ernst deVries and summer intern Se-Youn Moon, to briefly address the assembly.**

**2 That Classis accept and approve the attached proposed 2015 Ministry Budget.**

**3. That Classis approve the work of the Ministry to Seafarers and continue its prayer support for Chaplain Ernst de Vries as he witnesses to the Good News of our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

Hank Hamstra, Chair

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LDN Report to Classis BCNW, October 2014

With a synodically approved mandate to provide leadership training to churches in the CRC, and in partnership with classis BCNW and BCSE, the BC Leadership Development Network (LDN) exists to offer:

**Reformed theological training for the whole people of God, equipping disciples of Jesus Christ conversationally around the text of Scripture and the text of their lives.**

We accomplish this through the 3-year LDN training program, the 1-day classis’-wide Let’s Talk About events, tailored training for local churches, and website resources.

This past year we saw 19 participants from 10 churches attend the monthly training sessions, with a focus on OT scripture. Seven of these participants graduated in May:

Mike Hoyer of New West CRC,

Colleen Hoyer of New West CRC,

Shelley DeGroot of New West CRC,

Pat Storteboom of Willoughby CRC,

Jesse Lammers of Mission Hills Community Church,

Beatrice Vanderbos of Fleetwood CRC

and Justin Dudney of New Life Community Church.

We encourage the churches, especially their local congregations, to affirm the leadership of these participants by affirming their gifts and deploying them in ministry.

At the point of writing this report, there are four additional applicants for the upcoming year (for a total of 16 participants for 2014-2015).

Since the spring classis meeting, four Let’s Talk About workshops were presented – at Fleetwood CRC, Maple Ridge CRC, and Nelson Ave CRC on the topics of Discernment, Leadership and the letters to Timothy, and Leading a Small Group Discussion. These sessions are well received and provide important training for elders, deacons and others in leadership.

At the Spring Classis meeting, Victoria CRC made a motion to classis BCNW to expand our facilitator’s job description to a ¾ position so that the leadership of churches in BC would benefit from regular training. This motion was withdrawn and Classis advised that CMC work with LDN and Victoria CRC to come up with a concrete proposal at the fall meeting.

As a committee we have spent much time talking about how best to move forward so that all the churches can benefit from what LDN has to offer. The Board is committed to working with both CMC’s this coming year and putting together a visionary plan for LDN and a proposal for both classes to consider in the Fall of 2015.

This fall, we offer thanks to God for

* 16 participants who are studying NT scripture and learning ministry skills one Saturday per month and working on assignments throughout the month
* for the mentors who meet monthly with the participants to encourage them and pray for and with them.
* for the Let’s Talk About workshops that are coming up
* for the increased participation in the Let’s Talk About It workshops
* for our board members: Mike Hoyer: 1st CRC – New Westminister – Classis BCNW, Melissa Van Dyk: First Vancouver – Vancouver – Classis BCNW, Joanna DeVries: The Bridge – Langley] – Classis BCSE.
* for our facilitator’s (Wilma Vanderleek) passion for teaching, spiritual formation and church renewal
* for the leadership that our outgoing committee members, Andrew Beunk and Marion VanDriel, provided during their 3 year term on LDN.

This fall, we seek God’s face

* for churches to discover and encourage potential leaders to participate in the three year LDN program and the Let’s Talk about It workshops
* for our LDN alumni to be encouraged in their gifting and their leadership, and to be welcomed by the churches in ministry.
* for the renewal of LDN in the Interior and other parts of BC
* for wisdom for the committee as we work with the CMCs to determine how LDN can best serve the churches in the years ahead.

**Recommendations:**

1. **That Classis approve BC LDN’s 2015 Budget request of $6,000.**
2. **That Classis approve BC LDN’s recommended nominees for appointment to the Standing Committee:**

* Carolynne Tolsma, Fleetwood CRC, Surrey – Classis BCSE
* Joel DeMoor, Trinity CRC, Abbotsford – Pastor Liaison – Classis BCSE
* **Name, Church, City – Pastor Liaison – Classis BCNW**

Thanks be to God!

Joanna DeVries, Vice-All & Classis Liaison

BC Leadership Development Network

**Safe Church Team: Classis BCNW**

Presented by John Stellingwerff: Abuse Prevention and Response Coordinator

(604) 702-8478 E-mail: [jstellingwerff@shaw.ca](mailto:jstellingwerff@shaw.ca)

Visit us on-line at: [www.bcsafechurch.ca](http://www.bcsafechurch.ca)

Sustaining Healthy Congregations by:

Creating Awareness, Reducing Risk and Promoting Healing

August 26, 2014

Report to Classis BCNW Meeting in Session October 7 & 8, 2014 at Maple Ridge CRC

Dear Delegates and Visitors,

**Abuse Awareness Sunday is coming! September 28, 2014!**By the time you read this, Abuse Awareness Sunday will soon approaching, or perhaps has passed.Abuse Awareness Sunday has been designated by synod once each year, the 4th Sunday in September. This provides opportunity for CRC churches to focus on issues related to abuse, bringing it out from the secrecy and silence where it thrives, into the light of God’s truth. Abuse in church is **NOT OK**; talking about abuse in church **IS OK**, and can lead to help and healing. We encourage each church to set aside one Sunday a year to focus on Abuse Awareness. Options to consider for planning may include a service devoted to a Safe Church theme; an information table; or a public service announcement so that everyone knows who in the congregation to contact when questions or issues of abuse arise. For abuse awareness resources, check out our denominational website: [www.crcna.org/safechurch](http://www.crcna.org/safechurch) (click on the left sidebar, ‘resources for abuse awareness’).

I’m happy with how some of our churches are diligent in accessing training, implementing Safe Church Policies, and contacting our **Classis “Advocate” – Faye Martin –**, or myself for information or input into abuse situations. Furthermore, there may be a slow but steady shift in awareness taking place on issues relating to child sexual abuse, domestic violence, bullying, and use of pornography. However, there is still too little private or public discourse within our churches about abuse in the church. And, there is still too little knowledge or motivation among leaders to take wise action in situations of abuse. A significant reason for this is a continued lack of knowledge, and fear. As a result, children, adults and ministry continue to be at risk in our churches and survivors continue to be silenced through blame and false pity. When silence and blaming occurs in our churches there are grave consequences for many individuals and for the church body.

Each year I continue to field calls from church leaders inquiring if their church protection policies are sufficient. I am pleased that some of our churches are doing policy reviews; some churches are even conducting policy audits to ensure practice is following policy. I recommend each church council or church Safe Ministries Team takes a few minutes to determine whether each statement below is true for your church:

1. We screen all paid employees, including clergy, who work with children or youth.
2. We screen all volunteers who work with children or youth.
3. We do reference checks on all paid employees who work with children and youth.
4. We interview all prospective employees before they are hired.
5. We interview all volunteer workers before they begin working with children and youth.
6. We train all paid and volunteer workers who work with children and youth regarding all aspects of our Safe Church policies.
7. All staff and volunteers working with children and youth have had a Criminal Record Check.
8. We take our policies to prevent sexual abuse seriously and see that they are enforced.
9. Our workers understand provincial laws concerning child abuse reporting obligations.
10. We have a clearly defined reporting procedure for a suspected incident of abuse.
11. We have a specific response strategy to use if an allegation of sexual abuse is made at our church.
12. We have adequate insurance coverage if a claim should occur.
13. We are prepared to respond to media inquiries if an incident of abuse should occur.
14. We review our programs on a regular basis and make changes where needed.
15. We require all church staff and volunteers obtain advance approval before any activity can be sponsored in the name of the church, or take place on church property.

Report from the Safe Church Support and Advocacy Role: by Faye Martin

The Safe Church ministry of the CRC has come to recognize the importance of appropriate response to those who have experienced abuse, particularly within the context of a church setting and community. Ongoing training in this area is regularly provided by the CRC Safe Church Ministry office. Hands on experience shows that when an abuse survivor experiences a long term commitment on the part of the advocates (who in essence represent the church, faith community, etc), there is greater opportunity for some spiritual and emotional healing to take place. The classis SCT has several trained advocates available to respond to and support abuse survivors.

Please continue to pray for the Safe Church Teams, Faye Martin, and myself that we may meet the challenge of preventing abuse and responding with courage and sensitivity to abuse. To learn more about our ministry visit our web page: [www.bcsafechurch.com](http://www.bcsafechurch.com)

Recommendations to Classis BCSE:

1. That Classis approve the work of the Safe Church Ministry and the “APRC”.
2. That Classis encourage member churches to engage in at least 2 hours of safe church training per year (as per Synodical recommendations in 2007 & 2009; and as per insurance conditions for most churches). Furthermore, that Classis encourage Councils to schedule 90 minutes of council training re the Advisory Panel Process.
3. To continue upholding the Safe Church Ministry in prayer.

Sincerely,

John Stellingwerff (Abuse Prevention and Response Coordinator)

on behalf of the BCSE Safe Church Team, and Faye Martin (Support and Advocacy - 604-850-5137)

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**Report to Classis BCNW of The** **CRC Campus Ministry @ UNBC**

**Alan van der Woerd, August 29, 2014**

**This summer I preached at CRC churches** in Houston, and Terrace. This fall I plan to also visit Smithers CRC and Telkwa CRC. During these visits to churches, I stay in people’s homes, and have many wonderful conversations with supporters, parents, students, and supporters of students. Interest in the UNBC Chaplaincy and prayerful support for this ministry is evident in each of these churches and is a source of great encouragement to myself!

**Early September is a busy time!** We help new students move into the dorms. Then we participate in a parent welcome evening, and orientation activities that involve several hundred students drop by the chapel in groups of 20. I explain the purpose and activities of the UNBC Chaplaincy, hand out brochures, and meet students. In the first few weeks of September, important friendships are established. What a blessing that the CRC chaplaincy can be integrated into campus life at UNBC.

**This year we have 12 volunteer chaplains from a wide denominational and inter-faith spectrum**. I’m happy that the First Nations elders and the Catholic diocese are also part our team. This year we also have an imam joining our team. This allows me better familiarization with our fairly large group of Arabic students. Rachel Allen, who was the chaplaincy assistant last year, will again be assisting the Chaplaincy this year.

**CRC Home Missions approved our application for an Emerging Leadership Grant.** The recipient this year is Matthew Maclean from Quesnel BC. For the past two years he has been active with IVCF student leadership. I am particularly impressed with Matthew’s commitment to prayer and trust in God.

**In the Spring Semester of 2015 I am again teaching Comparative Religions.** This class facilitates more in-debt discussion and allows me to get to know students who do not visit the chapel more personally.

Over the summer I have been meeting with counselors from the Wellness Centre and First Nations. **This year we intend to plan monthly events that focus on caring for the caregiver.**

**I am also planning a monthly student worship service**. The UNBC Chaplaincy encourages students to be involved in local churches. Yet we also realize that students tend to be isolated from worship communities and that worship on campus is also valuable.

**Request of Classis BCNW:** **The CRC campus ministry at UNBC requests ministry share support of $15.00 per member for 2015.** Dr. Ted Binnema, who chairs the board of directors for the Association for Christian Reformed Campus Ministry in BC (UNBC), has decided to take a year hiatus due to a busy schedule. Dr. Sunchul Choi serves as chair in the meantime. The board has also appointed Mr. Frank Voogdt as our Terrace representative for a three year term. **The board request ratification from Classis BCNW.**

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Rev. Dr. Darren Roorda Canadian Ministries Director

Tuesday, August 19, 2014

Dear Classis,

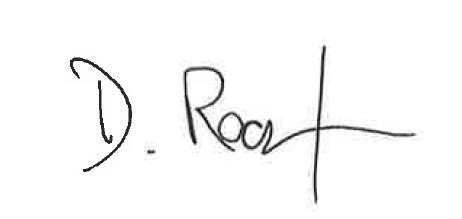
I recognize that this letter may have been sent to many of you post classis deadline, but I am confident that you could still communicate it to your classis delegates. After the deluge of information that has been levelled upon me, I wanted to make it one of my first priorities to craft a letter that expresses my intent behind how I see the work I am about to take on as the newly appointed Canadian Ministries Director [CMD].

During my interview process I think the search committee must have gotten tired of me saying “the local church”, “people in the pew” “the people on the front lines of ministry” and other similar phrases. But those phrases tell the story of how I want to work and what the Board of Trustees was seeking to find for the CRCNA. As CMD, it is my hope to connect to local churches, classes and laity in ways that leave the distinct and true impression that the administrative offices of our denomination are here to serve all of you. I wish for our offices to spur and resource you in ways that will only help your ministries. I want to align the tasks and emphases that the Canadian Board, the agency staff here in Burlington, and my position carry - all toward the church local.

And through this local emphases carry on ministry that has regional, national and global impact.

Jesus lived, ministered and died for the local church. The local church is His passion and it is mine too. As a local church pastor in my previous two stints I understand the deep joy and pain that comes with shepherding a body of believers and so I wish to support you in that work. You can expect to see me in every Canadian Classis once per year in person. But I am also desirous of being in touch with you by phone/video, in the pulpit, at various events and other functions. Already now, plans are in the works for a Canada-wide CRC summit gathering of leaders to work through issues relevant to the Canadian landscape. If God blesses our planning we are hoping for a 2016 inauguration date.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if there are challenges we might be able to help with, ministries you wish for us to become aware of, or if you want to schedule me to preach for you on a given Sunday.



Rev. Dr. Darren Roorda Canadian Ministries Director [cmd@crcna.org](mailto:cmd@crcna.org)

**World ReNew**

**Fall 2014 Report to Classis – Canada**

The fall Classis meeting is the time when classical delegates take the opportunity to both look back at what the Lord has been doing and to look ahead at what our kingdom road seems to be as we move ahead together. World Renew has been blessed with the grace to respond to disasters, to help transform communities in many regions, to help volunteers to make a difference, and to generally serve the churches in fulfilling the mandate “to act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8).

There are five parts to this report:

1. The dates of Synodically-Designated Offerings and Publications
2. Stories of Transformation
3. Refugee Settlement Activities
4. Disaster Response: North America and International
5. Opportunities for Service
6. **Dates of Synodically-Designated Offerings and Publications**

**September:**

* **Through the Dust** – Our 16-page magazine provides an overview of upcoming offerings, show how churches can get involved with World Renew, and provide stories from the field. About 20 copies will be mailed to every church for church leaders.
* **World Renew Wall map** – A new 30 x 46” map will be received by each church in every classis by the fall illustrating the countries where World Renew is involved in disaster response, rehabilitation and community development, in the name of Christ. Churches are invited to put this map up in the lobby or fellowship hall.
* **Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) Fall Newsletters** **and Annual Report** – Copies of the CFGB Fall newsletters will be sent to churches for each member mailbox as well as one copy of the CFGB Annual Report for each church.

**October:**

* **Thanksgiving Day** – Synodically-designated World Renew offering for the Free A Family® program. Bulletin inserts will automatically be mailed to all churches.

**November:**

* **World Hunger Campaign** – This year’s theme is Farm to Table and is rooted in Psalm 34:8,*"Taste and see that the Lord is good! How blessed is the one who takes shelter in Him!"* The campaign is held during the two weeks leading up to World Hunger Sunday meaning distribution of the materials on Sunday, October 19 and culmination in World Hunger Sunday on November 2 as designated by Synod. A poster, leader’s guide, bulletin inserts/covers and devotional booklets will be automatically mailed to churches. Peter Fish are also available for order. For more information, visit [www.worldrenew.net/worldhunger](http://www.worldrenew.net/worldhunger).
* **Gift Catalog Campaign** – Gift Catalogs and related campaign materials will be mailed to churches for distribution no later than Sunday, November 16. For more information, visit [www.worldrenewgifts.net](http://www.worldrenewgifts.net).
* **Typhoon Haiyan One Year Update** – An update on our response in the Phillippines will be available on our website at [www.worldrenew.net/haiyan](http://www.worldrenew.net/haiyan).

**December:**

* **Christmas Day** – Synodically-designated World Renew offering. Churches are invited to utilize the Gift Catalog campaign materials in preparation for the Christmas Day offering. A Christmas Day bulletin insert and cover will also be available for order.

1. **Stories of Transformation**

The Lord continues to do marvelous work through His church as manifested in World Renew. Here are two stories. Please also see [www.wordrenew.net](http://www.wordrenew.net) for more stories of lives being impacted.

**Uganda**

Since 2010, World Renew partner in Uganda, PAG KIDO, has been implementing a food security and livelihood project with support from FRB. The project which is now in its last year of implementation has impacted at least 1800 farmers from 12 selected communities in the two eastern Uganda districts of Katakwi and Amuria.

In 2010, one group received support of five goats, five bags of groundnuts and ten bags of cassava cuttings. The goats which were provided on a revolving basis have now multiplied, enabling all the ten group members to receive a goat and also to pass on kids to a new group that was formed. The group also planted the five bags of groundnuts and harvested ten bags. The group paid back one bag back to KIDO and shared the remaining nine bags, which enabled members to plant the improved seed variety on their own individual gardens. The same was done for the cassava cuttings which were planted on the group garden and the harvest shared amongst the group members.

One group member said "...for my case, I sold my share of cassava and groundnut, which earned me UGX 360,000. I used this money for purchasing a cow and a sheep. Being in the group has helped me and my household to improve our standard of living. My husband is a soldier and due to the nature of his work, sometimes it quite difficult to access help from him in case of some emergency situation like a child falling sick. But since I joined the group, life has turned a little easy than it used to be as I am in position to address home needs even in the absence of readily available support from my husband".

In 2013, the group received training on savings and credit and the group mobilized community members to join the VSLA group. That same member was able to save UGX 620,000 last year with the group. When the group shared their savings, the money came in handy and she was able to buy a second cow, pay school fees for the children and during the time when food supply was low due to the poor harvest of last year, she was able to buy food for her eight children.

**Guatemala**

“I am Irena\*, and I live in the community of Canguachá. I was born in 1971 in a coffee farm called Quicheja. My parents worked and lived in the coffee farm. When I was 15 years old, my parents gave me in matrimony, as was the custom of my people. My father-in-law gave my husband as part of his inheritance a small plot of land so that we could build our home and cultivate crops. But the land was very poor and we could not grow any crops there, so every year we migrated to Petén to find a temporary job that could provide enough income to live.

It was the month of May of 2013, we were getting ready to migrate again to Petén, but we had to postpone our trip because it was raining. That day I was visited by the health promoter that works for ADIP (a partner of World Renew), and during this visit, she explained to me that our money was in our own land and that there was no need to travel far to earn an income. She convinced me of participating in the trainings that were offered by the agency ADIP, specially the agricultural trainings. I was motivated by the staff of ADIP to begin working in my backyard garden, so I began implementing the agricultural practices that I saw in the trainings. The first crops I grew were cilantro, carrots, turnips and a local herb called Zamat. My first harvest was not very good, because of the soil fertility, but after a year of incorporating organic compost to the soil, this last season, I was able to harvest enough produce for my family and for the market. This last season, I earned Q600.00 (USD77.00) from my vegetable garden.

I now have the evidence that a backyard garden is something that can make a difference to a poor family. What I earned in a month working in a farm in Petén, I now generate income in my own property and without the mistreatment that I suffered in the farm. I thank the Lord for that day that the health promoter stepped into my home and convinced me that I could change my way of life. Due to the support with trainings and inputs that ADIP has provided me, I now make living off my own resources, forgetting the need to migrate. But the most important thing that I learned was that I am capable of making a difference and accomplishing my goals. This is my testimony to all the brothers and sisters that support the work of ADIP. I encourage you to keep supporting this Ministry and may God bless you.”

\*Name has been changed to protect privacy.

1. **Refugee Settlement Activities**

**Program Update**

Between the period of July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, 14 sponsorship applications representing 41 people were submitted to Citizenship & Immigration Canada (CIC). The Christian Reformed Churches involved were: Calgary Emmanuel CRC, Edmonton Bethel Community CRC, Hamilton Immanuel CRC and Sarnia First CRC. Of these 14 applications, two were submitted as part of the Blended Visa Office Referred Program (BVOR). In this program, the refugees are selected for resettlement by CIC and are referred to Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) to sponsor. The government and the private sponsors share in the resettlement costs of the sponsorship and the private sponsors provide the ‘hands on’ refugee settlement work. Both BVOR families have arrived.

In the same period, 73 refugees arrived to Canada with the support of various churches including the following Christian Reformed Churches; Brampton Cross Point CRC, Cambridge Maranatha CRC, Edmonton Bethel Community CRC, Edmonton Fellowship CRC, Grimsby Mountainview CRC, Guelph New Life CRC, Kitchener Community CRC, Langley Willoughby CRC, London First CRC, St. Albert CRC and Woodbridge Maranatha CRC.

Rose Dekker retired on March 6, 2013 and Rebecca Walker assumed the role of full-time Refugee Coordinator.

**Allocation Challenges**

Each year, CIC is to provide sponsorship allocation spaces to all SAHs across Canada. However, CIC did not provide the allocation spaces for each SAH for 2014. The SAH community has sought to learn the reasons for the delay, but a clear explanation has not been forthcoming. Therefore, the executive of the SAH Association did the allocations for the community and SAHs have now received their sponsorship spaces and are submitting applications. The Executive continues to work with CIC to ensure a smoother allocation process for 2015.

**Syrian Refugee Challenges**

A further challenge with CIC has been in relation to the Syrian crisis. In July 2013, CIC announced that Canada would resettle 1,300 Syrian refugees in 2013-14, and that the majority of these refugees (1,000) would be privately sponsored. This number was set without consultation with the SAH community and was in response to active Syrian lobby groups in Canada. This came as a surprise to SAHs who expressed their concern with this large target number. This situation was exacerbated with recent media events where Minister Chris Alexander indicated that the private sponsorship community needed to do more for Syrian refugees. This comment raised concern amongst the private sponsors in part because SAHs were not consulted on the target number and would not have set such a high number and in part because the government itself is doing very little, resettling only 200 persons. The SAH community has been in contact with the Minister regarding the need for consultation, more realistic target numbers and to share innovative programming ideas to better meet the needs of Syrian refugees.

**Interim Federal Health (IFH) Challenges**

Privately sponsored refugees continue to be denied access to IFH. This puts SAHs at risk of having to cover the costs of catastrophic illness or injury of a sponsored refugee during their first year in Canada. On July 4, 2014 the Federal Court ruled that the cuts to refugee health care inflicted ‘cruel and unusual treatment’ on refugees and are contrary to the Canadian constitution. This is a positive step in getting IFH reinstated for privately sponsored refugees. Without it, some SAHs have reported that they are hesitant to take on additional sponsorships due to the potentially great financial risk.

**D. Disaster Response: North America and International**

The Lord is bringing hope where hope had been lost. The church responds in North America and overseas in times of disaster. Here are two stories. Please see [www.worldrenew.net/drs](http://www.worldrenew.net/drs) or [www.worldrenew.net/idr](http://www.worldrenew.net/idr) for more stories of lives that have been changed.

**High River: Responding to Flooding**

Linda Clarke of High River, Alberta, is a disaster survivor. Like many of her neighbors, her home suffered extensive damage in June 2013 when the river overflowed and left much of the town underwater. She was uncertain where to turn and what to do to get her life back to normal. And she wasn’t alone. “People in Alberta aren’t used to being the ones who ask for things,” said World Renew Senior Case Manager Sarah Bruinsma. “They are used to being givers; they aren’t used to receiving. We are there to help them understand that they deserve assistance and that we can be the link for them to resources they need.”

The Needs Assessment volunteers sent by World Renew found that while many people qualified for provincial assistance, insurance, or local social services, they were often unaware of what aid was available to them or how to apply for it. The case manager position was added to help address this issue.

One of Bruinsma’s main tasks is to talk to people about their financial situation, find out what they have received from the DRP and insurance, and then identify gaps. “If what they’ve received isn’t sufficient to get them back to where they were, our team will consider connecting them with assistance from our amazing teams of volunteers.”

That’s what happened with Linda Clarke. After stopping in at the High River Renewal office to ask for help, she was connected to Bruinsma, who went over Clarke’s case very carefully.

“Sarah was very good,” said Clarke. “She went with me to the office and helped me break down my letter from the DRP and understand what it was that I was able to receive. She really went the extra mile.” A few weeks later, World Renew volunteers went to Clarke’s home and put down flooring, reinforced floor joists, put up a new garage door and did some painting. “They were really just wonderful. It didn’t seem to matter what I needed, they were there,” Clarke recalled. “They were very helpful and accommodating and even thought of little things that I didn’t.”

World Renew DRS expects to continue responding in High River for the next two years. As of July, World Renew volunteers have worked there for 13,401 hours.

**Madagascar: Responding to Food Insecurity**

Madagascar was struck by successive disaster events: first a cyclone, then a resurgence of locusts which were not brought under control and finally a period of erratic weather. The locusts have been arriving in swarms and destroying the crops of entire communities. This has led to a severe reduction in the national food supply and has placed many communities at risk of hunger and malnutrition. World Renew and a partner are providing food, seeds and farming tools to 1,000 families in the Sakaraha district suffering from the effects of drought and locust infestations. Each household will provide one member to participate in food for work activities decided by the community, for 10 days per month. Child-headed households and those most vulnerable are exempt from work activities.

This program was extended for 3 months and will conclude in October rather than July 2014.

**E. Opportunities for Service**

There are many international positions available for volunteers, anywhere from two weeks to two years, in over 11 countries. The positions are looking for people with skills in such areas as construction, web design, medicine/health-related and clerical fields, to name just a few.

North American Disaster Response Services (DRS) requires volunteers or groups of volunteers in many areas across North America, including High River, AB.

Please go to [www.worldrenew.net/gvp](http://www.worldrenew.net/gvp) or [www.worldrenew.net/drs](http://www.worldrenew.net/drs) to view our current opportunities.

If you have any questions, or would like help contacting the churches in your classis, please don’t hesitate to contact either Maria Oliveira ([moliveira@worldrenew.net](mailto:moliveira@worldrenew.net) or 800-730-3490, ext. 4319), or Peter Bulthuis ([pbulthuis@worldrenew.net](mailto:pbulthuis@worldrenew.net) or ext. 4237).

In His service,



Peter Bulthuis,

Associate Director, Church Relations

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**M2W2**

SUMMARY REPORT TO

**CLASSIS B.C. NORTH-WEST OF THE CHRISTIAN**

**REFORMED CHURCHES**

**Fall, 2014/15**

Dear Classis Participants:

In this report, I will inform you of the activities of the M2/W2 Ministry for the completed fiscal year April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014, and to the present.

Currently M2/W2 Association has about 270 volunteers:

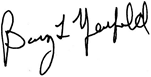
* 64 volunteers with Circles of Accountability and Support (CoSA) supporting and monitoring high risk offenders in the community
* 12 volunteers with our new program, No One Leaves Alone (NOLA),
* 6 office volunteers
* 36 volunteers (including inmate volunteers) at Hidden Treasures thrift store.

Our staff and volunteers visit inmates in 13 prisons:

* 3 provincial Institutions (Surrey Pretrial, Alouette Correctional Centre for Women, Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre)
* 10 federal Institutions.(Chilliwack Community Correctional Centre (halfway house), Mission Minimum (formerly called Ferndale), Mission Medium, Fraser Valley Institution (for women), Kent, Kwikwexwelhp Healing Village, Matsqui, Mountain, Pacific, William Head on Vancouver Island)

This past year has been a time of transition and change for the agency. We have developed NOLA to support the safe reintegration of released prisoners back to community, with funding from the Stronger Together Foundation. Ongoing funding is currently under development with the National Crime Prevention Centre, but will not be available before January 2015, creating a current funding gap. Wayne Northey, our Executive Director, retired, and much energy has been spent on the search for new leadership. We are pleased to announce that Rev. Raymond Robyn has been selected as our new leader, and commences his work with us on September 2nd, 2014. You will be interested to know that he speaks Dutch, because he is from South Africa, and has registered his children in Abbotsford Christian School. It is my hope that the Classis organizers can find some time for Rev. Robyn to address your group, as he brings tremendous experience and enthusiasm for our work.

I have also included a story to encourage you. It is a copy of a letter sent by a prison psychologist to a parole officer, recognizing the importance and relevance of our work.

Thank you for your ongoing support and investment in the gospel work of M2/W2.IN HIM

Barry Neufeld, Chairman of the Board and acting Executive Director.

Hello Natalie,

I heard yesterday that you will be contacting Mr. Cayer’s M2 sponsor and I thought I should pass along some information that Mr. Cayer shared with me that might be of comfort to him.

Mr. Cayer told me many times about his M2 sponsor and how he valued their long term relationship.  Mr. Cayer said that in many ways his M2 sponsor was “like a father” to him and he looked up to him, respected him and trusted him.  In early January of this year, not too long after Mr. Cayer went to segregation he received a card from his M2 sponsor.  Mr. Cayer was unable to read the card himself because his glasses, which went missing when he was transferred to RTC to Matsqui segregation or similar had not yet been replaced.  Mr. Cayer asked me to read him the card, which he was very grateful to have received.  The content of his M2 sponsors card was very uplifting and clarifying for him; clarifying because he thought there was an illness in his M2 sponsor’s family and he was worried it was him.  Anyway, the card was very timely, as it arrived at a time when Mr. Cayer was very low and discouraged and it really made a positive difference to him and he was grateful and happy for it.

If you have the means of passing this along it might be helpful to his M2 sponsor.   
Thank you,

Diane Sirkia, Ph.D., R. Psych.  
Psychologist | Psychologue  
Correctional Service of Canada | Service Correctional Canada  
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada  
email:  [sirkiatd@csc-scc.gc.ca](mailto:sirkiatd@csc-scc.gc.ca)

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kingsu.ca

**Report to Classis B.C. North-West of the Christian Reformed Church: Fall 2014**

Greetings from The King’s University! We’re pleased to have this opportunity to share the blessings we’ve enjoyed since our last report, and to look ahead to the exciting opportunities in the upcoming academic year.

We are extremely excited to announce that the Government of Alberta has approved a name change for King’s! Recognizing all that it has become and its valuable contribution to Campus Alberta and its learners, The King’s University College has been given permission by the Premier and Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education Dave Hancock to change its name from **university college** to **university**. “This is a significant milestone in our 35-year history,” says King’s Board of Governors Chair Bill Diepeveen. “We are delighted and thankful that the minister has recognized us for what we are, a full-fledged university with all that that means. From humble beginnings in 1979 with just six professors and a few dozen students, we have grown to a reputable liberal arts and sciences institution with almost 700 students, more than 4,500 alumni, award winning professors who conduct significant research with the support of a variety of external funding and among the highest student satisfaction marks in Canada in independent surveys.” King’s President Dr. Melanie Humphreys adds, “This really validates and legitimizes what we have already been for some time. It also removes the brand confusion created by having “college” in our name right after “university.” Further, it puts us on the same stage as the other independent universities across the country. As a community, we couldn’t be more pleased – this will serve our students well.”

As we celebrate our 35th anniversary, the King’s community is currently in the process of developing a strategic plan for the next five years. King’s is at an important place in its development as we define what our priorities will be and set the stage for our future. We give thanks to God for His blessings and look forward to continuing to pursue our mission of bringing renewal and reconciliation to every walk of life as followers of Jesus Christ, the Servant-King. Please pray for the Board of Governors, faculty, staff and students at King’s as we make decisions that will significantly impact this institution.

We are grateful for the generosity of all of our community over the past fiscal year. Together you helped us raise over $4 million in donations in 2013-2014. That’s more than we have ever had in one year, for which we are grateful to God and His people. In addition to the significant funds raised for the annual fund for the university, we received $400,000 for the creation of the Gerry Segger Heritage Collection archives, donations to renovate two floors of our residence tower and $8.5 million in pledges for the creation of a School of Business at King’s (as of the end of August, total pledges for the School of Business total more than $12 million)! The impact of the generosity of our supporters on our students is real; tuition for each would be hundreds of dollars per year higher without it. We wouldn’t have a new archives, new tower suites nor a new School of Business without it. We are truly grateful for your needed support!

The School of Business at King’s officially launched at the beginning of September. The initial gifts and pledges of support has allowed King’s to expand business course offerings to include six new accounting and finance-related courses, as well as a new course call Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Business. The accounting and finance courses allow those pursing their accounting designation to complete their studies at King’s rather than finishing their degrees elsewhere. An additional faculty member will be hired and possibilities for future expansion in the program may include programs such as Professional & Distance Education, Global Learning Experience, Student Entrepreneurship and Corporate Leader Mentorship.

Plan to attend one of our two open houses during the coming academic year. On October 18th, 2014 or March 14th, 2015, come and take a tour, ask questions, meet professors and much more. People who apply for admission at the event get the application fee waived. Attendees can also enter to win a **$1,000** tuition credit. Come and see why students thrive here. These are drop-in events so **no registration is required.**

We are truly grateful for the support of the Christian Reformed Church and in particular the members of the churches in Classis B.C. North-West. You are significantly impacting the lives of our students as they are equipped for service in all areas of life. **Please visit kingsu.ca/thank-you to see a video of King’s students, faculty and staff expressing their gratitude for your faithful gifts.** We would really appreciate it if you would share this short thank you video with the members in your church as a way to demonstrate the impact of their support! Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Christian higher education at King’s. May God bless your work on behalf of His Church.



Melanie Humphreys, PhD

President

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[](http://diaconalministries.com/wp)

**July 2014** [**www.diaconalministries.com**](http://www.diaconalministries.com)

**Dear Friends:**

Diaconal Ministries Canada’s (DMC) mission is *to inspire, equip and encourage deacons, churches and their partners as they join in God's transforming work in communities.*

A few highlights that we wish to share with you.

1. **DMC’s new Website and Logo:**

DMC has a redesigned website that includes a mobile-friendly design, integration of Facebook, and blogging capability. With these tools, DMC will focus on sharing stories of transformation happening within communities, neighbourhoods and in the lives of individuals.

1. **DMC’s Ministry Shares:**

What are these used for? For a quick summary for how they are used, click [here](http://diaconalministries.com/wp/e-quip-blog/about-us/diaconal-ministry-shares/). For the 2014-15 budget year, ministry shares will be calculated at $7.75 per professing member. DMC sends out invoices for these ministry shares after DMC’s Annual General Meeting on Oct 18th.

1. **Diaconal Ministry Developers (DMDs):**

In addition to our 6 staff members, there are also over 20 [DMDs](http://diaconalministries.com/wp/equipping-deacons/diaconal-ministry-developers/) that are classis-based and ready to serve your church.

1. **Resources:**

Contact us or visit the website for resources for DMC’s 3 strategy areas. These areas of ministry are 1) engaging communities, 2) equipping deacons and 3) doing justice. You can access DMC’s [Annual Report](http://diaconalministries.com/wp/e-quip-blog/about-us/annual-report-ministry-plan/) by clicking on it

1. **Deacons at Classis & Synod**:

In June 2013, a (new) group was appointed to review the relationship of elders and deacons *and* to determine what role deacons might have at Classis and Synod. A [progress report](http://www.crcna.org/sites/default/files/2014_agenda.pdf) was provided this June (Agenda 2014 – pg. 324 to 350), but the final report will be on Synod’s agenda in 2015.

**SUMMARY**

Many thanks for your Diaconal Ministry Shares, the Operation Manna offering and church offerings that makes our work possible. We are very grateful for the opportunity to motivate and mobilize deacons and churches across Canada.

Hans Kater – National Director for DMC ([hkater@crcna.org](mailto:hkater@crcna.org))

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201-14980 – 104 Avenue

Surrey, BC V3R 1M9

[www.cascadechristiancounselling.com](http://www.cascadechristiancounselling.com) Email: info@cascadechristiancounselling.com

Phone: 604-585-1411 Surrey

604-854-5413 Abbotsford

Fax: 604-585-1413

**REPORT TO CLASSIS – BCNW August, 2014**

1. YEARLY REVIEW

It has been my pleasure to be the new Director of Cascade Christian Counselling. Over the last 8 months, it has been a delight to get to know former clients and continue working with them as well as welcoming many new clients to Cascade. It has also been a privilege to connect with and in some cases re-connect with pastors and ministry leaders in the communities in which we serve. I have had the opportunity to participate in Health Check Workshops speaking on the topics of burnout and stress management at two local churches and also participated in Oasis Retreats providing teaching and support to pastors, missionaries and ministry leaders. I was able to improve my skills through training in EMDR and Level 2 Gottman Couples' therapy. Mike Ayers continues to add support to our Abbotsford location along with Jan Bryant in the Smithers area. We continue to have quite a broad base for counselling referrals including our website, church communities, health providers and by word of mouth.

B.NEW DEVELOPMENTS

It is worth noting that the transition between Directors has been smooth and successful in that we are so grateful for the work of former Director Elaine Binnema, and then grateful for the fact that former clients have felt comfortable enough to stay on board with Cascade and continue with their therapy.

C. RECOMMENDATIONS

We humbly ask for the following recommendations:

1. That Classis encourage member churches to continue to remember our ministry in their pastoral prayers on a regular basis – prayer is powerful.
2. **That Classis encourage member churches to hold two collections annually for the work of Cascade Christian Counselling.**

We pray God’s blessing on your deliberations this fall.

Penny Armstrong, MA RCC

Director/Therapist

**Bethesda Christian Association**

Classis British Columbia North-West

Dear Friends,

Bethesda continues to be called to demonstrate commitment in putting faith into action by honoring each person and family served in all that is done within the entrusted resources. This is made possible in part by the support of Classis British Columbia North-West. For many families in British Columbia seeking services, Bethesda, a Christ centered service provider, is a preferred choice. Bethesda is blessed with supportive church communities that make it possible to offer services many families desperately need.

This year we request that Classis BC North-West encourage their churches to support Bethesda's Ministry through designated offerings during the coming year. Financial Support received will enable Bethesda to provide donation based services that include:

Providing families with various resources, during the stages of their child's development, including future planning for residential and day services when their children become adults. Offering Summer Camp Programs that provide fun, recreational and faith enriching vacation times for campers while meeting the respite care needs of parents during the summer school beak.

Providing staff support for those in our Supported Independent Living Programs who are not eligible for government funding.

Supporting churches within our communities who are seeking ways to include and integrate individuals with disabilities within their congregation.

Addressing government funding shortfall in several of our programs.

Achieving major renovations and repairs to several of our homes and day services. Develop affordable housing options.

We are thankful for the continued partnership and financial support of Classis North-West . The Lord has truly blessed Bethesda and continues to provide opportunities for us to maintain and expand our services.

With gratefulness,

John Koning

Associate Director

**APPOINTEES & COMMITTEESS OF CLASSIS BCNW**

**WEB SITE: classisbcnw.ca**

**STATED CLERK (S/C)**

Mr. Andy de Ruyter 2016 (2) [classisbcnw@shaw.ca](mailto:classisbcnw@shaw.ca)

Alternate - Rev. Jo Schouten 2015(1)

**CMC - CLASSICAL MINISTRIES (INTERIM) COMMITTEE**

**& NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Andy de Ruyter – S/C - lead 2016(2) [classisbcnw@shaw.ca](mailto:classisbcnw@shaw.ca)

Rev. Jo Schouten - alt. S/C - Secretary 2015(1) [pastorjo@shaw.ca](mailto:pastorjo@shaw.ca)

Mr. Victor Chen – CMLT/SFC 2017(2)

Mr. David Pel – Classis Treasurer 2017(6)

Rev. Henry Numan 2016(1)

Rev. David Salverda 2016(1)

Mr. John Stellingwerff – SCT Coordinator EX OFFICIO

**CLASSICAL TREASURER**

Mr. David Pel 2017(8) [david@dpelcga.com](mailto:david@dpelcga.com)

Mrs. Henrietta Hamming – alt. 2016(5)

**CLASSIS AUDITOR**

Mr. Fred Bosma 2015(7)

**SCT - SAFE CHURCH TEAM COORDINATOR**

Mr. John Stellingwerff [jstellingwerff@shaw.ca](mailto:jstellingwerff@shaw.ca)

**SCT – SAFE CHURCH TEAM CLASSIS REPRESENTITIVE**

Rev. Chelsey Harmon 2015(1)

**CLASSICAL LICENSURE**

Dr. Neil Lettinga (250-964-7734) 9/13

**REGIONAL PASTORS**

Rev. Joel Ringma Northern Churches

Rev. Walt Vanderwerf Island Churches

Rev. Andrew Beunk Lower-Mainland Churches

**LDN - LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT NETWORK**

Mike Moyer (bcnw) Chair

Ms. Joanna deVries (bcse) vice-chair

Ms. Melissa Van Dyk (bcnw)

Mrs. Wilma van der Leek Fraser Valley LDN Facilitator

**CDT - CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM –** no current members assigned

Please contact stated clerk for any info needed

**CMLT/SFC - CLASSIS MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**/ STUDENT FUND COMMITTEE** (BI-CLASSIS COMMITTEE WITH CLASSIS BCSE)

BCNW Members

Mr. Victor Chen - Chair 2014(1)

Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma 2017(1)

Rev. Henry Jonker 2017(1)

**MINISTRY TO SEAFARERS**

Chaplain Ernst deVries [ernstd@flyingangel.ca](mailto:ernstd@flyingangel.ca)

Mr. Hank Hamstra – Chair BCSE 2013(2)

Mr. David Pel – Treasurer BCNW 2014(8)

Mr. Rens Slot 2016(1)

Mrs. Roelien Van Geemen – Secr. BCSE 2013(2)

Mr. Walter Griffioen – BCSE 2014(2)

Mr. Jeremy Vaandrager – BCSE 2013(2)

Mr. Ed Van der Meer– BCSE 2015(1)

**CRCM – ASSOCIATION FOR CHRISTIAN RFORMED CAMPUS MINISTRY IN B.C.**

Rev. Dr. Alan VanderWoerd – Chaplain [alan@alabanza.ca](mailto:alan@alabanza.ca)

Rev. Martin Contant – RDHM EX OFFICIO

Ms. Teresa Reitsma – Chair 2014(2)

Mr. Ted Van Helden – Treasurer 2014(2)

Mrs. Cindy VerBeek – Houston 2014(2)

Mrs. Teryl Schopfer – Telkwa 2013(1)

Mr. Clay Harmon – Terrace 2015(1)

Dr. Scott Green – UNBC Fac . 2015(2)

Mr. William Van Delft – Prince George 2015(1)

**DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADIAN BOARD MEMBER FOR B.C.**

Ms. Melissa Van Dyk

**DIACONAL MINISTRY DEVELOPERS**

Mr. Gary Veenman for BCNW

Mr. Gord Pierkik for Vancouver Island

**SIERRA LEONE BC PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Mr. Dave Meyer – Chair BCNW

Rev. Joel Ringma – Secretary BCNW

Mr. Barry Lester BCNW

Mr. Asher DeGroot BCNW

Ms. Sonya Grypma BCSE

Mr. Ted DeVries BCSE

Mr. John Richey BCSE

Mr. Dennis Degroot BCSE

Rev. Martin Contant EX OFFICIO – HOME MISSIONS

Mr. Al Karsten EX OFFICIO – WORLD MISSIONS

Ms. Henrietta Hunse EX OFFICIO – WORLD RELIEF

Mr. Martin Grypma – alt.

**REGIONAL DISABILITY ADVOCATE / B.C. Rep**

Ms. Caroline Short

**BANNER CORRESPONDENT – BCNW / BCSE**

Ms. Tracy Yan [tracey.yan@hotmail.com](mailto:tracey.yan@hotmail.com)

**DENOMINATIONAL REPRESENTITIVES**

**SYNODICAL DEPUTY**

Rev. David Cheung 2015(1)

Rev. Henry Jonker - alternate 2016(1)

**BOT - BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF CRCNA**

Rev. Trevor Vanderveen 2015(2)

**REGIONAL BOARD REPRESENTITIVES**

**CCBOT - CALVIN COLLEGE: BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Mrs. Margaret Verboon 2014(1)

**CTS - CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

Rev. Andrew Van der Leek 2013(1)

**BGMI - BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INT’L**

Mr. John Vegt 2014(1)

**HOME MISSIONS**

Rev. Harvey Roosma 2015(2)

**WORLD MISSIONS**

Mrs. Jenny Siebring-deGroot 2015(1)

**WORLD RENEW** ( Formally CRWRC )

Mr. George Horlings 2015(1)

**CRCPD - CHRISTIAN REFORMED CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIALOGUE**

Rev. Curtis Korver 2014(2)

**HISTORICAL COMMITTEE LIAISON**

Mrs. Anne Kwantes 2016(3)

note: Synod 2013 eliminated Faith Alive Board

Revised August 2014

s/c AD

# Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA)/& Classis British Columbia North-West (Classis BCNW) Acronym List

**ACRCMBC** Association for the Christian Reformed Campus Ministry in British Columbia  
 *aka* Christian Reformed Campus Ministry at UNBC

**BCSE** Classis British Columbia South-East

**BOT** Board of Trustees (usually refers to the denominational board of trustees;   
 however, the various agencies each have their own BOTs)

**BTGH** *see* BTGMI

**BTGMI** Back to God Ministries International (*sometimes* B2GMI; *formerly* The Back to God Hour)

**CC** Candidacy Committee (*formerly* Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee)

**CDT** Church Development Team (classical)

**CMC** Classical Ministries Committee

**CMCC** *see* CMLT

**CMLT** Classis Ministry Leadership Team(*formerly* Classis Ministry Candidacy Committee)

**CO** Church Order (*also* CO Art. = Church Order Article)

**CPD** *see* CRCPD

**CPJ** Citizens for Public Justice

**CRCM** Christian Reformed Campus Ministry (*see also* ACRCMBC)

**CRCPD** Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue (Canadian ministry;   
 **CRHM** Christian Reformed Home Missions

**CRWM** Christian Reformed World Missions

**CRWRC** Christian Reformed World Relief Committee

**CTS** Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids MI

**DMC** Diaconal Ministries Canada

**DV** Deo Volente, Latin for “Lord Willing”

**FOS** Form of Subscription (*may become known as* Covenant for Officebearers)

**LDN** Leadership Development Network

**M2/W2** Man-to-Man/Woman-to-Woman restorative ministry often within prisons

**MA** Ministry Associate

**MSC** Moved, Seconded, Carried (shorthand in classis minutes)

**NCD** Natural Church Development (inter-denominational ministry)

**OSJHA** Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action (denominational)

**PCR** Pastor-Church Relations (denominational)

**RMT** Regional Ministry Team

**ROP** Rules of Procedure (classical)

**SC** Stated Clerk (classical)

**SCE** Sustaining Congregational Excellence

**SCT** Safe Church Team (*formerly* Abuse Response Team)  
 (can refer to either denominational or classical ministry)

**SFC** Student Fund Committee (classical)

**SL** Sierra Leone (*as in* CRC in BC & SL)

**SMCC** *see* CC

**SPE** Sustaining Pastoral Excellence

**TKUC** The King’s University College, Edmonton AB

**UNBC** University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George BC  
 (*see also* ACRCMBC and CRCM)