



THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

CLASSIS BRITISH COLUMBIA NORTH WEST

MINUTES of SESSION 60

Meeting held at the 1st CRC of Vancouver on Tuesday & Wednesday, September 20 & 21, 2011
2670 Victoria Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V5N 4L2

Classis Officers;

President; Rev. Trevor Vanderveen Vice-President; Rev. Walt Vanderwerf
Secretary; Rev. Harvey Roosma Recording Secretary; Virginia Lettinga

Tuesday, September 20th, 2011

Art 1. Opening and Organization: 1:00 pm

- 1.1 President Rev. Trevor Vanderveen calls the meeting to order and welcomes delegates and guests.
- 1.2 A time of worship focusing on Unity. Ms. Laura Smit of 1st Vancouver CRC teaches delegates a new song: "Unity." Rev. Walt Vanderwerf reads and reflects on the first verses of Ephesians.
- 1.3 Roll call as per credentials by Stated Clerk.

sc note MA = Ministry Associate

Alberni Valley CRC	Rev. Sid Ypma & Pastor Shane Rozeveld (MA)
Burnaby – NACC;	Rev. Johannes Schouten & Rev. Alan Vander Woerd
Coquitlam – Mundy Park CC	Rev. Henry Numan & Elder Pieter Stel
Duncan CRC	Rev. Walt Vanderwerf & Elder Harry de Vries
Houston CRC	Elder Henry Seinen & Elder Tom Miedema
Maple Ridge CRC	Elder Bob Smith & Elder Hedley Stel
Nanaimo CCC	Rev. Andrew Turkstra & Elder Marg Foster
New Westminster CRC	Rev. Andrew Beunk & Elder Shelly deGroot
Prince George CRC	Elder Harry Groot & Deacon Sara Nicolai
Richmond; Immanuel CRC	Rev. David Cheung & Tuesday; Elder Judy Sy Yong
	Wednesday; Deacon Chrystal Malopas
Richmond; The Tapestry	Rev. Albert Chu & Tuesday; Elder Gerben Beeksma
	Wednesday; Pastor Kathy Kiesser (MA)
Smithers CRC	Rev. Dan Hoogland & Elder Harry Kruisselbrink
Telkwa CRC	Rev. Stanley Groothof & Deacon Connie Mann
Terrace CRC	Rev. Joel Ringma & Elder John Hoorenborg
Vancouver; First CRC	Rev. Trevor VanderVeen & Elder Rich Ter Maat
	Tuesday evening; Elder Lindsay VanderHoek
Vancouver; <i>downtown friends</i> "	Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma
Vancouver; Faith in Action	Rev. Vihn Le
Victoria CCC	Rev. Harvey Roosma & Elder Ann Hietkamp
Victoria CRC	Rev. David Salverda & Elder Hans Bomhof

- 1.4 **Motion:** to seat deacon delegates.....MSC
- 1.5 First time delegates to classis, including two deacon delegates, sign the Form of Subscription.
- 1.6 The president declares this meeting of classis to be officially constituted and thanks the clerk for preparing the agenda.
- 1.7 **Motion:** to adopt the time schedule as it appears in the agenda.....MSC
- 1.8 **Motion:** to approve the Committees for pre-advice to Classis.....MSC

Art. 2 Stated Clerk’s Report: Mr. Andy De Ruyter reporting. *Agenda pages 3-5 plus addendum*

2.1 Highlighted items:

- Item # 5 regarding Ministry Associates moving within classis, this provides information that was asked at a previous classis meeting and was clarified in conversations the clerk had at Synod 2011. If a Ministry Associate moves between classes, the classis involved should consider what the previous position was and what the person did on a case by case basis. If they are parallel, less examination is appropriate.
 - Delegates were reminded to fill out classis credential forms *before* the meeting of classis.
 - Changes to the Church Visitor Teams were noted. (*page 5*)
- Warm gratitude for the new classical website. (Ministry Shares, among other pieces of information, can be found on the website.)

2.2 **Motion:** to approve the work of the stated clerk.....**MSC**

Art. 3 Classical Ministries Committee: Mr. Andy de Ruyter reporting for the committee. *Agenda p 6*

3.1 Report on the requests received from the Prince George CRC and Rev. Rick Koopmans for conditional early retirement.

3.1a The Stated Clerk reports for the CMC. The CMC wrestled with the nature and wording of the request; a “conditional” early retirement doesn’t exist within church order. Rev’s. Henry Numan, Peter Brouwer and Andrew Beunk were asked to serve as a pre-advice committee for this request.

3.1b Rev. Beunk reports that the pre-advice committee examined the correspondence regarding this pastor and his church and consulted with the Synodical Deputies, with the CMC, with the PG CRC Council and with Rev. Koopmans. “It became clear to us that Rick’s intention is for an early retirement, not a conditional retirement.” The committee feels “the way in which this was navigated was unfortunate” but recommends to classis that classis support Rev. Koopmans request for early retirement under Church Order Art. 18 (Early retirement under a reduced pension scale.) Note: It would be possible for Rev. Koopmans to return to ministry.

Motion: that Rev. Koopmans be granted early retirement from Christian Reformed Church ministry effective December 31, 2011.....**MSC**

3.1c The pre-advice committee also stated that “since what occasioned the request for retirement was not a positive experience, further support should be offered.”

Motion: that classis extend support and care to Rev. Rick Koopmans and his family by appointing a ministerial colleague of Classis to have periodic contact with Rev. Koopmans for a period of at least one year unless it is mutually agreed by the colleague and Rev. Koopmans that contact is no longer necessary.....**MSC**

Motion: that Classis affirm the recommendations of the church visitors to work on the spiritual health of the congregation and that classis appoint a Congregational Support Transition Team of two persons who will meet with the council and/or congregation of PG CRC to assist them in transitioning toward a healthy search process and a new chapter of vibrant ministry in the PG community..... **MSC**
Prayer was offered on behalf of Rev. Koopmans, his family and the PG CRC.

Motion: to accept the work of the Pre-Advice Committee..... **MSC**

3.2 Letter from Victoria CRC regarding the examination process of candidates.

The CMC and CMLT are looking for better ways to conduct examinations in the future.

3.3 Rev. David Cheung’s mentoring relationship with Rev. Martin Vellekoop has concluded, but in his capacity as church visitor, Rev. Albert Chu will continue in an informal mentoring relationship with Rev. Cheung.

3.4 **Motion:** that Rev. Peter VanderBeek’s ministerial credentials be transferred from Mundy Park CF to Nanaimo CCC..... **MSC**
(Rev. VanderBeek is in Iowa doing ministerial transitional work on a 1-year appointment)

3.5 **Motion:** to approve preretirement in-service pension request for Rev. Dr. Frank Sawyer. Maple Ridge CRC home church requesting – a procedural item.....**MSC**

3.6 **Motion to:** extend Dr. Neil Lettinga’s license to exhort for another 2 years.....**MSC**

- 3.7 **Highlighted Items:**
Classical Appointment Schedule; *Agenda page 7*
Items for discussion: the Belhar Confession, the possibility of hosting a synod in the west, the classical task force, issues with Faith in Action CRC, and the new classical website. *Agenda page 6*
- 3.8 **Financial Matters; Agenda page 6**
Motion: that the mileage allowance for classical business be raised to \$.47 from \$.45 per kilometre effective January 2012.
Addendum to the motion to raise it to \$.50..... **MS Defeated**
Main Motion:.....**MSC**
Motion: to raise classical pulpit supply rate from \$75 to \$100 per service (reflecting what is generally the practice among the churches).....**MSC**
Motion: to raise the churches’ financial responsibility for traveling expenses for receiving classical pulpit supply from \$150 to \$200.**MSC**

Discussion creates a topic for the CMC to examine further: “When a congregation doesn’t have a salary to pay for a pastor, shouldn’t the congregation itself cover the cost for pulpit supply? In some cases congregations are covering a severance package, but not always... We wouldn’t want churches to suffer a financial burden, but would like the CMC to examine whether churches are bearing the fair share of their pulpit supply.”

- 3.9 **Proposed Classical Ministry Shares for 2012; Agenda page 7..... RFI**
- 3.10 **Items from the Supplemental Report to Classis; Addendum report from the State Clerk**
Thank You for all the good work from the members of the CMC. Small items noted included the excellent name tags, the expense forms, and the index of classical decisions and actions that will be going onto the new classical website.
Motion: to approve the transfer of ministerial credentials for Rev. Martin Vellekoop from Maple Ridge CRC to the 1st Vancouver CRC.....**MSC**
Motion: to approve the transfer of ministerial credential of Rev. Brent Vander Heide to Heritage Fellowship CRC in Brampton Ontario, Classis Toronto.....**MSC**
Motion: that Classis provide pulpit supply to Houston CRC once a month.....**MSC**

New Pastor at Maple Ridge CRC: Addendum pages 6 & 7

Candidate Tim Sheridan has accepted a call to Maple Ridge CRC. (-Tim is welcomed by Classis President).

The CMC weighed the church’s and candidate Tim Sheridan’s request to be allowed to immediately administer the official acts of ministry (including the sacraments), taking into account his previous Ministry Associate status and experience in Ontario. Receiving advice from the synodical deputies and reviewing church order and yet recognizing the challenges of arranging for a Classis Contracta, it is felt best to proceed with a contracta in late November / early December.

Motion: for a *Classis Contracta* for candidate Tim Sheridan in December.....**MSC**
Discussion: Perhaps this offers a good moment to experiment with technology and new ways to solve the time issues of classical examinations.

Youth Pastors request permission to join Classis for worship and sharing **The president so ruled**
Motion: to approve the work of the CMC.....**MSC**

Art. 4 Financial Statements: Treasurer David Pel reporting:

- 4.1 **Printed financial reports distributed. Highlights:**
 - Summary of Ministries: on 1st page and then later pages the details. (about 65% of the total amount is actually in – about 1/3 is what is reflected.)
 - In Schedule 3: 36% of budgeted total. Have historically rec’d 90-100%
 - In Schedule 5: The Classical Expense Fund is finally in the black. Therefore, we have reduced the ministry share toward this. Expect that this will be a “break even” ministry share amount.

4.2 Classis is now incorporated. We are working toward receiving charitable status.
Motion: to start using the incorporation status as of October.....MSC

Art. 5 Church Development Team: *Agenda page 14-15* Rev. Martin Contant reporting.

5.1 Faith In Action Report *Agenda pages 14-15*
Classis loves the community of Faith in Action, yet feels concern about its viability in its present form. It was noted that some immigration and funding issues will reach a crisis point by the end of 2012. Sam Van Randen from Faith In Action Steering Committee spoke (*Agenda p. 16*), a letter from supporting church New Westminster CRC was read; Pastor Vinh Le spoke, expressing the vision for bringing the Reformed worldview to Vietnam. The Faith in Action Steering Committee accepts the calling church recommendation. New Westminster CRC will cease to serve as the calling church at the end of 2012.
Motion: that Faith in Action Church -- through a process of discernment, prayer and consultation -- decide on a viable option that will best ensure a new way forward for their congregation. (Examples offered on page 15 of the agenda).....MSC
Motion: that Classis continue to fund Faith in Action at the current rate of \$7 per member through Dec 31, 2012 with the understanding that direct classical financial support for this ministry be concluded by that date.....MSC
Motion: In the event that Faith in Action CRC is no longer considered to be a viable ministry as a church within Classis, that Vinh Le, together with the Steering Committee, explore other employment options.....MSC
Classis prayed for discernment and God’s leadings for Faith in Action and Pastor Vinh Le.

Art. 6 Reports from Denominational Ministries:

6.1 Report from World Missions by Ko Spyskma:
Highlighted stories from abroad and encouraged genuine missional living in the congregations.

6.2 Report from Safe Church Team by John Stellingwerff: *Agenda page 17*
J. Stellingwerff reminded the classical delegates that Safe Church policies ask each congregation to participate in at least one hour of annual training for the church council and one hour per year of abuse awareness and response training for all volunteers and staff working with children, youth and vulnerable adults.
Banner article highlighted: “What if IT happened in your church?” (July/August 2011) (thebanner.org/features/article/?id=3548).
The Chair asked that classis vote on these motions from the agenda as a block:
Motion: that Classis approve the work of the Classis Safe Church Ministry & “Coordinator.”
Motion: that classis strongly encourage member churches to engage in at least 2 hours of safe church training per year.
Motion: that this classis continue supporting this ministry by approving the Safe Church budget as presented to the stated clerk for this ministry.
Motion: that Classis encourage the churches that haven’t had a Safe Church Training Session in the last 2 years to contact John Stellingwerff to discuss training opportunities.
Motion: that Classis continue to uphold the Safe Church Ministry in prayer.....MSC

6.3 Report from Ad Hoc Committee Regarding a REGIONAL BC Safe Church Team;
Agenda pages 18 & 19
John Stellingwerff requests that a merger be considered to make the Safe Church teams from the two classes more efficient. Both synergy and efficiency could be improved with fewer meetings and less to coordinate.
Motion: to discuss the possibility of merging the Safe Church Teams of Classis BCSE and BCNW.....MSC
The president thanks John for his work.

6.4 Report from Diaconal Ministries Canada by Melissa Van Dyk, DMC representative
Ms. Van Dyke highlighted new resources for deacons – a brochure and a devotional piece. The revamp and updated website can be found at: www.diaconalministries.com

6.5 Report from The Seafarer’s Ministry; Chaplain Ernst DeVries
The President asked Classis to approve items together.

Motion: that Classis accept and approve the proposed 2012 Seafarer’s Ministry Budget

Motion: that Classis approve the work of the Ministry to Seafarers and continue to give the Ministry both its prayerful and financial support and in particular its prayer support to the chaplain.....**MSC**

Albert Chu introduced Sam Lee, new pastor at the Tapestry and Chaplain for Kwantlen University.

DINNER BREAK

The president welcomed the reassembled Classis and welcomed two additional elder delegates:
Elder Judy Syyong from Immanuel CRC and Elder Lindsay Vander Hoek from 1st Vancouver CRC.

Art. 7 Launching of the New Classis Website: by Rev. Stanley Groothof

Designed to have virtually everything you need to know about classis: www.classisbcnw.ca

The president expressed warm thanks to Rev. Groothof for all his work.

Art. 8 Non Binding Discussion on the Belhar Confession

Rev. Henry Numan introduced the discussion with a history of our churches confessions and how they have served the church for over 400 hundred years. Questions on why we have or need confessions, and their backgrounds were given.

How can the Belhar, in light of the history of our 3 current confessions, and based on its three points of unity, reconciliation and justice have the status of a confession?

The intent of the discussion is to provide for a thoughtful and open discussion about the Belhar and its three points of emphasis,

Items that were brought forward in the discussion include the more recent “Cape Town Commitment” and an earlier Christian Reformed document: *God’s Diverse and Unified Family*.

The President closed the discussion at 8:35 pm with continued reflections from Ephesians 4; “For He Himself is our peace...” and led in prayer.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

Art. 9 Opening exercises: 8:30 am

9.1 President Trevor Vanderveen opens Classis.

9.2 Classis opens session with songs of praise, prayer and devotions. Rev. Harvey Roosma reflects on a number of versus from Ephesians

9.3 The stated clerk reads the roll call

9.4 **Motion:** to seat the deacon delegates.....**MSC**

9.4 1st time delegates invited to sign the form of subscription.

9.5 Rev. Vanderveen welcomes the Youth Pastors from nearby CR Churches who will join classis for lunch and will be talking about intergenerational ministry during the morning.

9.6 The President asked for a sense of the floor: no need to read concept minutes at this time.

Art. 10 Church Counsellors Reports:

The Stated Clerk reminds classis that it will need to appoint church counsellors for Prince George and Houston CRC’s.

Art. 11 Church Visitor Reports:

- 11.1 Immanuel CRC: Rev. Mary Lee Bouma reporting . A visit was made with an Elder B. Vantriet of Nelson Ave. They are continuing to help Immanuel with advice and request prayers for Immanuel that God will give wisdom, that people will listen to God, listen to each other, that there will be healing.
- 11.2 Nelson Ave CC: Rev. Albert Chu reporting. Rev. Beunk and Rev. Chu visited. Nelson Ave is in the midst of renovations. Expanding daycare is an important part of the church ministries. The church is slowly becoming more like the community in which it resides, more ethnicities, etc. The pastor now feels at home in the church.
- 11.3 Prince George CRC: Mr. Curt Gesch & Rev. Brent van der Heide visited. Their report was sent to the stated clerk and considered among the paperwork that the advisory committee consulted regarding the pastor and council discussions.

President Vanderveen expresses encouragement in hearing these church visitors reports and encourages other congregations and councils to also schedule church visitors. Both Councils and Church Visitors are encouraged to initiate them.

Art. 12 Student Fund Committee: Rev. Johannes Schouten reporting *Agenda pages 12-13*

This committee is waiting for the response of Classis regarding the possible merger of the Student Fund Committee and CMLT.

Motion to approve a Classical Ministry Share of \$6 for the Student Fund Committee.....**MSC**

Motion to approve the funding (funding by way of grants) for the following 4 students for the upcoming 2011-12 academic year as described in the agenda: David Groen, Bryce Voogd,

Daniel Choi and Joe Ellis.....**MSC**

Motion to approve the work of the Student Fund Committee.....**MSC**

Art. 13 Classical Ministerial Leadership Team: (CMLT) Agenda page 20. Rev. Sid Ypma reporting.

CMLT is a bi-classis committee. Each BC classis also has a separate Student Fund Committee, but by its geographical location, BCNW is tends to receive more requests.

Motion: to amalgamate the CMLT and the Student Fund Committees of each Classis into one Classical Ministerial Leadership Committee. (Student funding would become an arm of the CMLT work as they mentor and support students.).....**MSC**

Motion: that the newly constituted CMLT would add to its mandate that of the current Student Fund Committees.....**MSC**

Motion: that the CMLT would include at least 4 members from each Classis. Officers on the CMLT would include a chairperson, vice chair, secretary and the 2 Student Fund Committees.....**MSC**

Motion: that the CMLT would work toward a unified SFC policy to be presented to the March 2012 Classis meetings. After a unified policy has been reached, the CMLT will look into the feasibility of one Student Fund for both Classes.....**MSC**

Rev. Ypma affirmed this as a joyful committee and encouraged others to consider serving on it.

Motion: that the CMLT’s recommendations be approved regarding the amalgamation of the CMLT and the Student Fund Committee.....**MSC**

Motion: that each classis approve a \$500 expenditure to support CMLT ministry leadership encouragement initiatives.....**MSC**

SC Note: this will be paid out of the classical expense fund

Art. 14 Task Force on Pastor Church Relations: Agenda pages 21-23

Rev. Walt VanderWerf presenting report:

14.1 Regarding the Role of Church Visitors:

The role of church visitors seems to be changing. The current “Guide to Church Visiting” (Art 42 of Appendix D) was endorsed and classis was reminded that it is accessible on the web.

Motion: That the churches of classis commit together to all participate in church visits in the next 2 years. (The standing policy is that church visits will happen annually.).....MSC

Motion: That classis adopt the single page handout “A Guide for Churches” and make it available to churches and councils so that councils are better resourced in challenging times.....MSC

SC note: This document is available on the classical website.

Question: Who is responsible to initiate church visitor meetings?

Answer: Either the Council or the Visitors, but the advice of the president is that the clerk of each council should build this into the church calendar.

Classis delegates welcome and thank the L’Arche members, a physically and mentally challenged support group from the community who have prepared our sandwiches that we will enjoy as part of our lunch! (*sc note; they were awesome sandwiches ☺*)

Further Discussion of the Report by the Pastor/Church Task Force:

Motion: that we set up an annual training for Church Visitors.....MSC

Sense from the floor: It would be good to invite someone from the Office of Pastor Church Relations to lead such a session at the next Tuesday evening session of Classis.

Motion: to create a short set of supplemental questions in addition to the existing “Guide for Conducting Church Visiting.” These questions would focus on pastor/council relationships and how conflicts are managed in council.....MSC

SC note; Pastor Kathy Keiser of the Tap volunteered to be a resource for this.

Motion: to nominate more retired pastors and experienced church elders to serve on Church Visitor teams. **Motion:** to encourage church visitors to communicate with both pastor and council before visiting.

The Task Force **withdrew these motions:** these principles are already in place – though not always in practice.

14.2 Considering the proposal to create a position for a “Classical Pastor of Congregational Health and Wholeness.”

Motion: that a committee be struck to consider creating such a position for a “Classical Pastor of Congregational Health and Wholeness.”.....**Motion Defeated**

Motion: to invite someone from Pastor Church Relations to come for a Tuesday evening session of Classis to do training on this subject (eg. Church Visitors, conflict management, good communication practices, who supports whom in moments of conflict, better education about working together, good evaluation practices, etc.).....MSC

Motion: to formally appoint someone to serve as a “point person” to help a troubled council and pastors to access the appropriate advice and denominational resources.....**DEFEATED**

Noted: We already have an office in our denomination for this. Let us encourage our churches to use the resources of the Office of Pastor Church Relations.

The president asks for a sense from the floor:

The Chair rules that although the discussion should continue, it will be best for Classis to wait until after it has received a presentation and discussion on these matters from the Office of Pastor Church Relations. Some of the current Task Force members are unable to continue. (Rev. David Cheung expressed an interest in a broader set of evaluations that include elders and deacons as well as pastors.)

Motion: to approve the work of this task force.....MSC

Art. 15 Church Development Team:

Rev. Andrew Turkstra reporting: *Agenda page 13*

15.1 Rev. Albert Chu at the Tapestry reports that after 7 years as a church plant, this coming March 2012, The Tapestry hopes to become an official, established church. Thank you to 1st Vancouver CRC for their role in this process.

Tapestry initiatives include:

- looking for creative ways to grow, including exploring a church plant within their own building on Wednesdays.

- assuming the lead with a child care centre in their building (the one that has been there is phasing out and glad to give the Tapestry their current materials and contacts).

- hosting a new classical campus ministry at Kwantlen University in Richmond and Surrey. (¼ budget comes from classical ministry shares and ¾ comes from supporters at the Tapestry.)

Samuel Lee is coming on to the staff at the Tap to open the job as a part-time chaplain.

Motion: that the Tapestry’s \$5 ministry continue to be used for the Campus Ministry at

Kwantlen University.....MSC

15.2 Rev. Mary Lee Bouma reporting on *downtown friends*:

downtown friends is a 4.5 year-old church plan in Yaletown. The vision was/is for a network of “simple churches.” But the network of simple churches has not successfully developed. The community involved is active with good opportunities to serve and witness and be involved, but little measurable traction. 2011 has been an excellent year for outreach & evangelism (weekly Sunday gatherings are 40-60% nonbelievers), community development, discipleship and training.

Recent initiatives include:

- strong connections with internationals studying English and working part-time in Vancouver

As a result of a *downtown friends* community opportunity survey, they now share a project as

“Yaletown Neighbours”. Mary-Lee is glad to send out regular updates and prayer requests.

Financial request:

“While we think Classis BCNW would benefit from financially and prayerfully supporting our work in the future, we would like to receive the majority of our funding from our own congregation, bi-vocational work, and other sources in the future. So we suggest that the CDT recommend that Classis BCNW reduce *downtown friends*’ ministry share from \$9 to \$4 in 2012.” (From the written report)

Motion to lower *downtown friends* ministry share from \$9 to \$4 in 2011-2012.

Discussion: the stated clerk advises a less drastic reduction and for the delegates to really hear what this ministry is saying. There is some sense from the floor that it would have been better to have more time to discuss and consider the matter.....MSC

The Church Development Team:

Requests an additional member for its committee.

Motion: to support the works of the CDT.....MSC

LUNCH BREAK

Art. 16 Overture Committee Report: Rev. David Salverda reporting.

16.1 Review of the overture regarding inviting Synod to meet in B.C. (a previous overture from Nelson Ave CC re exploring the possibility of hosting a Synod in the west) in the light of some encouragement the stated clerk received at Synod 2011.

Motion from Overtures Committee to affirm the previous decision of Classis to stand; that is to *not* pursue the possibility of hosting a synod in the west at this time.....MSC

16.2 Overture from Nelson Ave CC re Belhar Confession; *Agenda pages 10 & 11*

Nelson Ave CC overtures Classis BCNW to overture Synod not to adopt the Belhar Confession as a fourth confession in the CRCNA.

Motion from the overtures committee that classis affirm the overture on the condition that Nelson Ave (or someone else) strengthen the grounds. (It could be presented at our March 2012 meeting.)

The motion was struck as out of order by the president.

Motion: that classis not accede to the overture to Synod from Nelson Ave CC.....MSC

Observation: Nelson Ave CC could resubmit the overture with stronger grounds if it wished for the March Classis meeting.

Motion: to approve the work of the overture committee.....MSC

Art. 17 Credentials Committee:

The credentials have been reviewed and are all in order and intact except Faith in Action CRC.

Three questions to note and refer to Classis or the CMC from the credentials forms:

1. New Westminster CRC asks for advice as it closes its period as the calling church of Faith in Action.
2. Victoria CRC would like to receive a church visit as there has not been one in several years.
3. 1st Vancouver notes that different pastoral care models seem to be emerging in the CRC with the overall goal of exploring ways to perform more effective and efficient family visits and would like to discuss this.

The President asked the CMC to follow through with the above requests.

Motion: to approve the work of the committee.....MSC

Art. 18 Transcribed Minutes Committee:

Confirmed the transcribed minutes from March 2011 and thanked Virginia Lettinga and Andy de Ruyter for their work.

Motion: to approve the committee work..... MSC

Art. 19 UNBC Campus Ministry: Dr. Neil and Mrs. Virginia Lettinga reporting; *Agenda p 24 + budget*

Chaplains thank God for the welcome our campus ministry has received at UNBC and for the multiplication of ministry that we are seeing emerge from it with the nascent campus ministry at Kwantlen.

Rev. Alan van der Woerd has accepted the position as the new CRC university chaplain at UNBC and will begin by the new year.

Classis offered prayers of blessing on Alan van der Woerd as the incoming chaplain and over the Lettingas as they prepare to move on to other things.

Motion: to affirm the following board members for a second term for the Association for CR Campus Ministry in BC beginning in Fall 2011: Ms. Teresa Reitsma of Smithers, Mr. Ted Van Helden of Prince George. And for Dr. Scott Green of UNBC and Mr. Clay Harmon of Terrace for second terms beginning in 2012.....MSC

Motion: to affirm the ministry budget.....MSC

Art. 21 Leadership Development Network: Rev. Andrew Beunk reporting.

The Leadership Development Network is a dual-classis project in BC. A record 17 participants are enrolled this fall with ages between 18-71. Several are on track for Ministry Associate positions. The Board is grateful for the impact that LDN has had, for alumni who help spread the word about it and for Wilma Vander Leek's excellent work. She does far more than her official ¼ time work load and the board would like to increase her position to 1/3 and her remuneration to \$20,000/year. Thanks also to David Pel who will be taking over managing the books for the LDN.

Art. 22 Sierra Leone Ad Hoc Committee: Rev. Joel Ringma reporting.

Presented a short video about the sabbatical he and family plan to take in Sierra Leone in the first half of 2012. The committee is trying to *listen* to our African brothers who have especially asked for leadership training. The work is closely tied with CRWM and CRWRC.

Art. 23 Denominational Reports:

Deferred to the March 2012 Classis meeting for lack of time. Both the Clerk and the President encouraged delegates to review the written reports in the agenda.

Art 24 Budget for 2012:

Motion: to approve the budget and ministry shares for 2012.....MSC
sc note; copy of budget at end of these minutes

Art. 25 Nominations Committee:

- 25.1 Synod Ministerial Delegates for June 2012.
Motion: that the 1st synodical delegate according to rotation be Rev. Andrew Turkstra.....MSC
 Ballot voting results for the 2nd minister delegate to Synod and for 2 alternates:
 2nd ministerial delegate: Rev. David Cheung.
 1st Alternate: Rev. Sid Ypma, 2nd Alternate: Rev. Andrew Beunk.
Motion: to destroy the ballots.....MSC
- 25.2 Synod Elder Delegates and Elder Alternates for June 2012.
Motion: that elder Joel Pel of 1st Vancouver CRC and Elder Bill Van Delft of Prince George CRC serve as elder delegates.....MSC
Motion: that Elder Henry Seinen of Houston CRC and Elder Marg Foster of Nanaimo CCC serve as alternates.....MSC
- 25.3 The position of Classical Prayer Coordinator remains open. Please contact the Clerk if interested.
- 25.4 Church Visitor Teams
 Team 1: for the Northern Churches. **Motion:** that Elder John Buikema be added to the team to replace Rev. Brent Vander Heide who has moved to Ontario.....MSC
 Team 2: for the lower mainland. Rev. Albert Chu is currently the only regular member on this team.
 Team 3: for the lower mainland. An alternate is needed to replace Rev. Jo Schouten.
 The Nominations Committee and the president urge the churches to carefully consider possible candidates, particularly in the light of previous discussions about church visits.
- 25.5 Church Development Team
 A new member is needed to represent multi-ethnic ministries and missional community/clusters.
- 25.6 CR Home Missions Board
Motion: that Rev. Harvey Roosma be approved for a second term on the board of CR Home Missions.
MSC
 A new alternate needs to be identified to replace Rev. Rick Koopmans.
- 25.7 Christian Reformed World Missions
 Mrs. Ko Spyksma plans to retire in June 2012. Nominations of women and non-clergy people are requested for this position.
- 25.8 Board of Trustees of the CRCNA
Motion: that Rev. Trevor Vanderveen be approved for a second term on the board of the CRCNA.....MSC
- 25.10 Church Counsellors
Motion: that Rev. Stanley Groothof serve as the Church Counsellor for PG CRC.....MSC
Motion: that Rev. Dan Hoogland serve as the Church Counsellor for Houston CRC.....MSC

Art. 26 Expense Vouchers Committee:

The total expenses for this September 2012 Classis meeting is \$ 9579.43
sc note; almost \$2500 higher than normal, mostly due to higher travel and lodging costs.
Motion: to approve the work of the Expense Vouchers Committee.....MSC

Art. 27 Closing Exercises:

- 27.1 The president confirms that all appointments have been filled as far as possible.
- 27.2 The recording secretary reads the concept minutes to the delegates.
Motion: to approve the concept minutes.....MSC
- 27.3 The next meeting of Classis will be held, D.V., at Immanuel CRC on March 6 & 7, 2012.
 New Westminster CRC is scheduled to host the September 2012 Classis.
- 27.4 Stated Clerk Reminders:

- Please be alert and watch for bulletin announcements from the stated clerk.
- Please note the “orange” printed request from Banner correspondent Jenny deGroot.
- The Denominational Historical Committee asks churches to send in records and information.
- The elected delegates to Synod should watch for forms coming by email that will need to be filled out and submitted to denominational offices.
- Stated clerk and CMC will set date and place soon for approved contracta for the purpose of examining candidate Tim Sheridan for the office of minister of the word. (Tim has accepted the call of the Maple Ridge CRC.) Will also look at possibility of setting up a video conferencing link so delegates from the Island and Northern church can participate from their own communities, saving classis traveling expenses.

- 27.5 The president thanks the stated clerk and classis for a job well done.
- 27.8 Rev. Walt Vanderwerf , Vice-President, closes with a brief meditation on the phrase “I thank God for you,” a prayer, and leads in singing the doxology.
- 27.9 The President declares the Fall 2011 meeting of Classis BCNW adjourned.

**NEXT REGULAR CLASSIS MEETING;
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6 & 7, 2012
IMMANUEL CRC, RICHMOND B.C.**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING AGENDA MATERIAL;
FRIDAY, JANUARY 20TH, 2012**

STATED CLERK; ANDY DE RUYTER

classisbcnw@shaw.ca

22591 McClinton Ave.

Richmond, B.C. V6V 2P8

604-526-1000

MINISTRY SHARES FOR 2012

Classis BCNW Ministry Share
per member **\$ 64.50**

Denominational Ministry Share
per member **\$ 348.04**

Ministry to Seafarers	\$ 9.50
Vietnamese Ministry	\$ 7.00
Student Fund	\$ 6.00
Chr. Ref. Campus Ministry in B.C.	\$ 15.00
Classis Expense Fund	\$ 8.00
Richmond Tapestry	\$ 5.00
Safe Church Team	\$ 8.00
“downtown friends” church plant	\$ 4.00
Leadership Training Network	\$ 2.00

BTGMI	\$ 43.97
Calvin College	\$ 5.50
Area colleges (Kings)	\$ 57.38
Calvin Seminary	\$ 35.91
Faith Alive	\$ 12.49
Home Missions	\$ 44.24
World Missions	\$ 59.93
Denominational Services	\$ 46.69
Special Assistance Fund	\$ 0.36
Specialized Ministries	\$ 31.01
Sustaining Cong. exc.	\$ 10.56

APPOINTEES & COMMITTEES OF CLASSIS BCNW
EMAIL; classisbcnw@shaw.ca web site; www.classisbcnw.ca

Classical Ministries (interim) Committee (CMC)

Mr. Andy de Ruyter	Stated Clerk	2013(1)	Mr. David Pel	Treasurer	2014(5)
Rev. Peter Brouwer	Secretary	2012(6)	Rev. Stanley Groothof	alt. stated clerk	2014(1)
Mr. Victor Chen	SFC	2014(1)	Mr. John Stellingwerff	SCT Coord.	Ex Officio

Church Development Team (CDT)

Rev. Andrew Turkstra	-Chair	2013(2)
Ms. Elaine Yu	-secretary	2013(1)
Rev. Harvey Roosma		2013(1)

Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma	-church planter
Rev. Martin Contant	(Ex Off. RDHM)

Leadership Development Network

Rev. Andrew Beunk	2013(1)
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Student Fund Committee (SFC)

Rev. Johannes Schouten	(Lead)	2012(1)
Rev. Dan Hoogland	(Sec'y)	2014(2)
Mr. Victor Chen		2013(1)

BCNW / BCSE: Classis Ministry Leadership Team

(bi-classis committee with Classis BCNE)
 BCNW Members;

Rev. Sid Ypma	2014(2)
Rev. Trevor Vanderveen	2014(2)
Rev. Johannes Schouten – Liaison with SFC	2012(1)

Stated Clerk (SC)

Mr. Andy de Ruyter	2013(1)
Rev. Stanley Groothof	(alt) 2013(1)

Classis Prayer Coordinator

vacant

Classical Licensure:

Mr. Curt Gesch	250-846-9511	3/13
Dr. Neil Lettinga	250-964-7734	9/13

Diaconal Ministries Can. Board Member for BCNW

Ms. Melissa Van Dyk

Diaconal Ministry Developers

Mr. Gary Veeneman for BCNW
 Mr. Gord Pierik for Vancouver Island

Ministry to Seafarers

Chaplain Ernst Devries		
Mr. Hank Hamstra	Chair	2010(1)
Mr. David Pel	Treasurer	2014(8)
Mr. Mike Blok	BCNW	2012(3)
Rev. Alan Van der Woerd	BCNW	2012(1)
Rev. Gary Roosma	BCSE	2013(1)
Mrs. Roelien Van Geemen	BCSE	2010(1)
Mr. Walter Griffioen	BCSE	2011(1)

Chr. Ref. Campus Ministry in BC

Dr. Neil Lettinga	Chaplain	
Mrs. Virginia Lettinga	Chaplain	
Rev. Martin Contant	RDHM	Ex. Off.
Ms. Teresa Reitsma	Chair	2014(2)
Mr. Ted Van Helden	Treas.	2014(2)
Mrs. Cindy VerBeek	Houston	2014(2)
Mrs. Teryl Schopfer	Telkwa	2013(1)
Mr. Clay Harmon	Terrace	2015(2)
Dr. Scott Green	UNBC Fac.	2015(2)

Nominations Committee

Mr. Andy de Ruyter	s/c	2012(2)
Rev. Stanley Groothof	cmc	2014(2)
Rev. Dick Duifhuis		2012(2)
Mr. Chris Hamming		2012(1)

Classical Treasurer

Mr. David Pel	cmc	2014(7)
Mrs. Henrietta Hamming (Alt.)		2013(4)

Auditor

Mr. Fred Bosma		2012(6)
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Sierra Leone BC Partnership Committee

Dave Mayer	Chair	BCNW
Joel Ringma	Secretary	BCNW
Barry Lester		BCNW
Asher deGroot		BCNW
Sonya Grypma		BCSE
(Martin Grtpma alt.)		BCSE
Ted DeVries		BCSE
John Richey		BCSE
Dennis de Groot		BCSE
Sid Ypma	ex officio	
Martin Contant	ex officio	Home Missions
Al Karsten	ex officio	World Missions
Henrietta Hunse	ex officio	World relief

Safe Church Team (SCT)

Vancouver Island

Duncan: Gladys Wikkerink,
Clasina Atsma, Ko Spyksma
(chairperson)
Nanaimo:
Port Alberni: Colin Banks
Victoria CCC: Mary Anne Loenen-Tolkamp
Victoria CRC: Karen Vanderwal

Lower Mainland

Burnaby: Larry Asselstine
Coquitlam: Niesje Booy
Maple Ridge: John Vroom
New Westminster:
Richmond Immanuel:
Richmond Tapestry:
Vancouver: Trevor VanderVeen
Jasper Bomhof

The North

Houston:
Prince George: Roel Bluemink, Helen Binnema
Smithers: Nancy De Vries (chairperson)
Dan Hoogland and
Teena Nicolai.
Telkwa: Betsey Gesch, Joanne Wisselink
Terrace: Sharon VanderLee,
Shirley Reimer

DENOMINATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Synodical Deputy

Rev. Dick Kwantes 2013(1)
Rev. Peter Brouwer (Alt) 2013(1)

REGIONAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Calvin College

(Region 1&2)

Mrs. Margaret Verboon 2014(1)

Calvin Theological Seminary

(Region 1)

Rev. Andrew Vander Leek 2013(1)

Back to God Ministries Int'l

(Region 1)

Mr. John Vegt 2014(1)

Faith Alive Chr. Resources

(Region 1)

Rev. Joel Ringma 2013(2)

Home Missions

(Region 1)

Rev. Harv Roosma 2012(1)
Alt. position open

Board of Trustees of CRCNA

(Classis BCNW)

Rev. Trevor VanderVeen 2012(1)

World Missions

(Region 1)

Mrs. Jacoba (Ko) Spyksma 2012(2)

Chr. Ref. World Relief Committee

(Region 1)

Mr. Gerrit Keegstra 2012(2)
Mrs. Rebecca Lindell M@L

Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue

Mr. Michael Dieleman 2014(1)

Regional Pastors

Rev. Joel Ringma Northern Churches
Rev. Andrew Turkstra Island Churches
Rev. Andrew Beunk Lower-Mainland Churches

Historical Committee Liaison

Mrs. Anne Kwantes 2013(2)

Notes: 2013(2) = second term ends in 2013
M@L = Member at Large

A. Revised: October 4, 2011

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 <i>aka</i> Christian Reformed Campus Ministry at UNBC
ART	<i>see</i> SCT
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	<i>see</i> BTGMI
BTGMI	Back to God Ministries International (<i>sometimes</i> B2GMI; <i>formerly</i> The Back to God Hour)
CC	Candidacy Committee (<i>formerly</i> Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee)
CCG	<i>see</i> CRCPD
CDT	Church Development Team (classical)
CMC	Classical Ministries Committee
CMCC	<i>see</i> CMLT
CMLT	Classis Ministry Leadership Team (<i>formerly</i> Classis Ministry Candidacy Committee)
CO	Church Order (<i>also</i> CO Art. = Church Order Article)
CPD	<i>see</i> CRCPD
CPJ	Citizens for Public Justice
CRCM	Christian Reformed Campus Ministry (<i>see also</i> ACRCMBC)
CRCPD	Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue (Canadian ministry; <i>formerly</i> Committee for Contact with the Government)
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 (<i>may become known as</i> 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 (<i>formerly</i> Abuse Response Team) (can refer to either denominational or classical ministry)
SFC	Student Fund Committee (classical)
SL	Sierra Leone (<i>as in</i> CRC in BC & SL)
SMCC	<i>see</i> CC
SPE	Sustaining Pastoral Excellence
TKUC	The King's University College, Edmonton AB
UNBC	University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George BC (<i>see also</i> ACRCMBC and CRCM)