
AGENDA CLASSIS BCNW

March 3-4, 2020



Our Mission

Classis BCNW exists to encourage, equip, and empower congregations and ministries to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and seek first God's Kingdom.

The Values that Shape our Work, Witness, and Life Together

- **Prayerful Dependence on God:** Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we trust God to lead and provide for us as we engage in ministry together.
- **Authentic Community:** Intentionally sharing life and story, we build each other up and encourage one another to live lives worthy of the calling we've received.
- **Disciples Making New Disciples:** Recognizing that the church's main calling is to make disciples of Jesus, we encourage one another, our congregations, and the ministries we represent to be faithful to God's mission and creative in living it out
- **Leadership Development:** Through funding, training and support, we develop, commission, and equip new and existing leaders.
- **Covenantal Relationships:** Committing ourselves to each other as God has committed himself to us, we support the work of classis and the ministry of the CRCNA.

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o in the <i>Meeting Documents</i> zip file, which was emailed to all churches and delegates along with this agenda and	
o online on the Classis BCNW website.	
Meeting documents are numbered according to their place in the agenda. If there are multiple documents for an agenda item, they will all share the same number and the number of reports will be shown in < >.	
11. Ministry reports can be found in the <i>Ministry Reports</i> zip file, which was emailed to all churches and delegates along with this agenda. <u>The ministry reports are sent separately to make it easier for churches to share these reports with the members of their congregations.</u>	

AGENDA Session 78

This Classis Agenda is divided into three parts:

<i>Part 1:</i>	Tuesday	1:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	FULL CLASSIS
<i>Part 2:</i>	Wednesday	8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	REGIONAL MEETINGS
<i>Part 3:</i>	Wednesday	2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	FULL CLASSIS

Tuesday, 1:00-9:00 p.m. FULL CLASSIS

Tuesday Executive:

President: Rev. David Salverda
Recording Clerk: Rev. Trevor Vanderveen

Vice-President: Rev. William Delleman
Stated Clerk: Mrs. Kathy Smith

Synodical Deputies:

Rev. Lou Korf - Columbia
Rev. Tom Oosterhuis – Alberta North
Rev. Rudy Ouwehand – BCSE

Ministry Representatives:

Mr. Andy DeRuyter – Council of Delegates
Mr. Dave Mayer – World Renew
Rev. Darren Roorda – Canadian Ministries Director
Pastor Wilma van der Leek – BC LDN

Time Schedule:

Times noted are guidelines and may be altered by the classis executive if warranted.

Tuesday

1:00 – Opening Session	6:00 – Dinner Break
3:30 – Refreshment Break	7:00 – Session
3:45 – Session	9:00 – Adjournment

Values:

- The Value of **Prayerful Dependence on God** is central to the other Values and guides everything we do at this classis meeting.
- The Value of **Disciples Making Disciples** is being highlighted at this classis meeting.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020, FULL CLASSIS	
ITEM	DESCRIPTION
1.	Prayerful Dependence on God: 1:00-1:30 p.m.
1.1	Opening Worship / Rev. William Delleman
1.2	Constitution of Classis
	1.2.1 Welcome / Rev. David Salverda
	1.2.2 Roll Call / Stated Clerk Note to all delegates: Be prepared to briefly answer the question: Who is the person who has had the most influence on me in my faith?
	1.2.3 Signing of the "Covenant for Office Bearers" by first-time delegates: <i>Meeting Documents zip file</i>
	1.2.4 Affirmation of Reformed Doctrine and Life: <i>Meeting Documents zip file</i> / Rev. David Salverda
2.	Covenantal Relationships: 1:30-1:45 p.m.
2.1	Classis Appointment of Pre-advice Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credentials: <i>Immanuel CRC</i> and Mr. Vic Chen, CMIC • Expenses: <i>The Tapestry</i> and Mrs. Kathy Smith, Stated Clerk • Overtures (2): <i>New Westminster CRC</i> and Rev. Trevor Vanderveen, CMIC <i>Terrace CRC</i> and Rev. Ken Vander Horst, CMIC • Minutes: Classis Executive, Chair of CMIC, Stated Clerk
2.2	Minutes of the classis meeting held October 1 & 2, 2019 received for information: <i>Meeting Documents, 2.2</i>
2.3	Report of the Credentials Committee / <i>Immanuel CRC</i> and Mr. Vic Chen Motion: To approve the work of the Credentials Committee.
3.	Authentic Community: 1:45-2:30 p.m.
3.1	CMIC Review of 03/17 Decision Regarding Belhar Confession: <i>Meeting Documents, 3.1 <2></i> A continuation of a discussion that began at the October 2019 classis meeting (Oct. 2019 Classis Minutes, page 7, 11.1). At that meeting the following motions were passed (a. and b.), and tabled (c.) until this meeting (11.1.4): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. That classis reviews the passing of the CB (Confession of Belhar) resolution on March 8, 2017 to ascertain whether proper procedure was followed. b. [That classis] return to recommendation C after the review is complete. (Recommendation C being: "That, where proper procedure was not followed, classis mends things by overturing synod to decategorize CB as a Contemporary Testimony.") c. That classis affirms the traditional biblical ethic on marriage and human sexuality.
4.	Reports of the Overtures Pre-advice Committees: 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
4.1	Overture from Immanuel CRC / <i>New Westminster CRC</i> and Rev. Trevor Vanderveen, CMIC: <i>Meeting Documents, 4.1 <3></i>
4.2	Communication to Classis BCNW from New Westminster CRC / <i>Terrace CRC</i> and Rev. Ken Vander Horst, CMIC: <i>Meetings Documents, 4.2 <2></i>

REFRESHMENT BREAK: 3:30-3:45 P.M.	
5.	Covenantal Relationships: 3:45 – 4:50 p.m.
5.1	<p>Stated Clerk Report: <i>Meeting Documents, 5.1 and agenda p. 13</i> / Mrs. Kathy Smith, Stated Clerk</p> <p>Motion: To approve the work of the stated clerk.</p>
5.2	<p>CMIC Report: / Rev. Ken Vander Horst, CMIC Chair <i>As part of the CMIC report, the following motions will be presented. More information on each of these can be found in the CMIC report on page 15 of the agenda and in the Meeting Documents zip file, 5.2.</i></p> <p>5.2.1 Motion: That classis strike the words “full-time” in the current application and criteria documents of the Student Fund Committee.</p> <p>5.2.2 Motion: Effective January 2020, each church will pay for its own use of The Bridge App.</p> <p>5.2.3 Motion: That the October classis meeting continue to meet on a Tuesday and Wednesday, beginning on the Tuesday eight days after Thanksgiving.</p> <p>5.2.4 Motion: When classis grants a license to exhort it be granted for 3 years, and that this time limit be added to the ROP. This decision, if approved by classis, will be applied retroactively to Neil Lettinga (currently our only licensed exhorter).</p> <p>5.2.5 Motion: That we bring our mileage rate in line with CRA’s, but phase it in over three years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 2020: 50 cents/km. • October 2021: 54 cents/km. • October 2022: CRA rate <p>This would apply to any mileage paid for by classis (e.g. classis meeting attendance, classical appointments, etc.)</p> <p>5.2.6 Motion: That the pulpit supply rate be increased to \$175/service, effective immediately.</p> <p>5.2.7 Motion: That classis change the ROP to say “The Minister delegate and their alternate are appointed by way of rotation for Ministers of the Word serving the local congregation, as well as serving in specialized ministry, who have served the longest within the classis and have not been delegated to a synod meeting.</p>
5.3	<p>Treasurer report / Mr. David Pel (<i>financial statements will be sent in a separate email</i>)</p> <p>Motion: To accept the Treasurer’s Report.</p>
5.4	<p>AGM: <i>Meeting Documents, 5.4</i> / Rev. Ken Vander Horst</p> <p>Classis adjourns for the AGM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGM <p>Classis resumes</p>
5.5	<p>Ministry Funding Proposal: <i>Meeting Documents, 5.5 <2></i> / Mr. David Pel and Rev. Jesse Pals</p>

6.	Disciples Making New Disciples: 4:50-5:05 p.m.
6.1	UNBC Campus Ministry / Rev. Andrew Aukema
7.	Leadership Development: 5:05-5:40 p.m.
7.1	Equippers Proposal for a Bi-Classis Committee: <i>Meeting Documents, 7.1</i>
7.2	BC Leadership Development Network / Pastor Wilma van der Leek and Rev. Andrew Aukema
8.	Covenantal Relationships: 5:40-6:00 p.m.
8.1	Council of Delegates / Mr. Andy de Ruyter
8.2	<p>Ministry Reports with No Verbal Presentation <i>The following reports can be found in the Ministry Reports folder. Please read and pass on to your congregation and others who may be interested.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calvin Seminary • Calvin University • Canadian Ministries Director • Cascade Christian Counselling • King's University • Redeemer University College • World Renew
DINNER BREAK: 6:00 -7:00 P.M.	
9.	Covenantal Relationships: 7:00-9:00 p.m.
9.1	Church Order Article 17: Christ Community Church Nanaimo (<i>Information pertaining to this will be presented to the delegates in executive session</i>)
9.2	Re-Imagining Ministry Shares: <i>Meeting Documents, 9.2 <2></i> / Mr. Andy DeRuyter and Rev. Darren Roorda
ADJOURNMENT: 9:00 P.M.	
<p>CLASSIS RESUMES IN REGIONAL MEETINGS WEDNESDAY MORNING, 8:30 A.M.</p>	

Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. REGIONAL MEETINGS

Wednesday Regional Executives:

Presidents and Recording Clerks: Rev. William Delleman, Rev. Henry Jonker: *Vancouver Island*
 Rev. Joel Ringma, Rev. Ken Vander Horst: *Northern*
 Rev. Andrew Beunk, Rev. Trevor Vanderveen: *Lower Mainland*

Stated Clerk: Mrs. Kathy Smith

Ministry Representatives:

Mr. Vic Chen – SFC/CMLT
 Mrs. Faye Martin – B.C. Safe Church Ministries
 Pastor Dena Nicolai – Chaplain and Refugee Support Mobilizer
 Rev. Al Postma – Classis Renewal Coordinator
 Rev. Gary Roosma – Ministry to Seafarers Chaplain

Time Schedule:

Wednesday: Regional Meetings	
A.M.	P.M.
8:30 – Regional Agendas	12:00 – Lunch
10:30 – Refreshment Break	1:00 – Rotating Ministry Reports
10:50 – Video Portion	1:45 – Full Classis Meeting
11:00 – Regional Agendas	2:30 – Classis Adjourn

Values:

- The Value of **Prayerful Dependence on God** is central to the other Values and guides everything we do at this classis meeting.
- The Value of **Disciples Making Disciples** is being highlighted at these regional meetings.

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 : Regional Meetings			
Time	Vancouver Island	Northern	Lower Mainland
8:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll Call • Signing Covenant of Office Bearers • Worship • Sharing of praise and challenging items. (15 min per congregation) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening 2. Devotions (Joe Ellis) - <i>Prayerful Dependence on God</i> 3. Meeting Structure and Expectations (Ken) - <i>Covenantal Relationships</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How do we want to do these meetings? b. What should be covered? Agenda items? 	<p>Face to Face Discussion #1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask delegates from each congregation to share signs of hope/rays of light in their ministry that is reaching beyond their congregation. Might be specific outreach, involvement in neighbourhood, partnership in community. • Each congregation shares 10 minutes each.

		<p>4. UNBC Chaplaincy (Andrew) - <i>Disciples making New Disciples</i></p> <p>5. Reconciliation – First Nations (Ken) - <i>Prayerful Dependence on God</i></p>	<p>Ideally this would have representation from all four Tapestry sites to give them each time to share. Include time for prayer.</p>
10:30 a.m.	REFRESHMENT BREAK		
10:50 a.m.	<p>Video Portion (each in your regions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Vic Chen / SFC & CMLT Motion: To receive the SFC report. Rev. Al Postma / Classis Renewal 		
11:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnering in refugee sponsorship Ministry to youth strategies for Vancouver Island Round table discussion on the study report on Human Sexuality and The Colossians Way Office Bearer Training 	<p>6. Regional Pastor (Joel) - <i>Leadership Development</i></p> <p>7. Church visitation (copies to stated clerk) - <i>Covenantal Relationships</i></p>	<p>Face to Face #2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following Face to Face #1, group discernment / discussion on what God is doing in our communities through our churches, potential common themes & passions that emerged in sharing, and what could be accented more. Work on potential next steps in collaboration around one or two themes.
12:00 p.m.	<p>LUNCH BREAK FOLLOWED BY MINISTRY REPORTS (15 MINUTES EACH)</p>		
Time	Vancouver Island	Northern	Lower Mainland
1:00 p.m.	Gary Roosma, Ministry to Seafarers	Dena Nicolai, Chaplain and Refugee Support Mobilizer	Faye Martin, Safe Church
1:15 p.m.	Faye Martin, Safe Church	Gary Roosma, Ministry to Seafarers	Dena Nicolai, Chaplain and Refugee Support Mobilizer
1:30 p.m.	Dena Nicolai, Chaplain and Refugee Support Mobilizer	Faye Martin, Safe Church	Gary Roosma, Ministry to Seafarers
1:45 p.m.	CLOSE REGIONAL SESSIONS AND MEET JOINTLY FOR THE FINAL SESSION		

Wednesday, 2:00-3:00 p.m. FULL CLASSIS

Wednesday Full Classis Executive:

President: Rev. David Salverda
Recording Clerk: Rev. Trevor Vanderveen

Vice-President: Rev. William Delleman
Stated Clerk: Mrs. Kathy Smith

Time Schedule:

Wednesday

1:45 p.m. – Meet Jointly for the Final Session

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 : Full Classis	
ITEM	DESCRIPTION
10.	Covenantal Relationships: 1:45-2:10 p.m.
10.1	Regional Meetings / Feedback and comments facilitated by Rev. Al Postma
10.2	Where do we go from here with regards to regional meetings? / Rev. Ken Vander Horst, Chair CMIC A three-step approach was recommended at the October 2019 Classis meeting. Step 1, below, was approved and has taken place at this meeting. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That classis hold its March 2020 meeting in person, and spend Wednesday with the regional meeting structure. 2. That the March 2021 meeting be held in the three regions, with a portion of the meeting conducted via video conferencing. 3. After debriefing the above two steps, that consideration be given to normally hold the March classis meetings remotely.
11.	Closing Session: 2:10-2:30 p.m.
11.1	Expenses Report: <i>The Tapestry CRC</i> and the Stated Clerk Motion: To approve the expenses of \$_____.
11.2	Announcements and Notifications / Rev. David Salverda
11.3	Thank-yous / Rev. William Delleman
11.4	Closing Devotions / Rev. William Delleman
12.	President to Declare Classis Adjourned: 2:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of Classis:
October 6 & 7, or 20 & 21, 2020
First CRC, Vancouver

Next Executive of Classis:
Rev. William Delleman, President
Rev. Jo Schouten, Vice-President
Rev. David Salverda, Recording Clerk

IMPORTANT DELEGATE INFORMATION

The following documents can be found on the “Meeting” page of the classis website (<https://www.classisbcnw.ca/meeting/>):

- **Classis Meeting Registration Form:** All delegates are required to complete this online form no later than February 4 to allow time to arrange meals, accommodation, and transportation.
- **Classical Credentials Form:** All churches must be complete this online form no later than February 4, 2020.
- **Expense Claim Form:** All expense claims need to be accompanied with receipts for travel, meals, mileage, etc. *Note: The expense claim form can also be found on page 24 of this agenda, and in the Meeting Documents zip file.*
- **A Classis Meeting Orientation Page** with information for new and returning delegates. *Note: The orientation page can also be found on page 10 of this agenda.*
- The **Classis Rules of Procedure** that govern how classis functions: matters legally before classis, the classis officers and functionaries, committees and teams, classical appointments, and rules of order (*ROP, p. 14*) that govern how classis meetings are conducted.

CLASSIS MEETING ORIENTATION

Welcome to our classis meeting! Whether you are an experienced or a first-time delegate, please familiarize yourself with this orientation page.

Be sure to check out the “Meetings” tab on the Classis BCNW website, www.classisbcnw.ca, for classis meeting resources (some of which are mentioned below).

Classis

A classis is a group of churches within a geographical area that come together to seek, discern, and submit to God's will, offer one another mutual support and accountability, find ways to live out a collective calling in the region, and allow for a healthy and sustained connection to the wider denomination. There are 49 classes in the CRC: 11 in Canada, 37 in the United States, and 1 with congregations on both sides of the border.

A classis is a major assembly that has the authority to deal with matters that concern its churches in common and its decisions are binding on the churches in its region. The classis has the same authority over the council as the synod has over the classis. Classis BCNW consists of two delegates from each member congregation – normally a pastor and either an elder or a deacon. (In the CRCNA classes normally consist of three delegates from each member congregation: a pastor, an elder, and a deacon. For reasons of distance, Classis BCNW has its member churches send two delegates.)

The executive of classis consists of a president, vice-president, recording clerk, and the stated clerk. The executive rotates among the pastors of member churches and is appointed for each meeting by the Classis Ministries Interim Committee (CMIC) prior to the meeting of classis.

Duration of Classis Meetings

Classis meets twice a year: the first Tuesday and Wednesday of March, and the first Tuesday and Wednesday of October. (Tuesday: 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. to whenever we are done – usually around mid-day or early afternoon.) Ordinarily a workshop of some kind is held on the Tuesday evening.

The Classis Registration Form

All delegates are required to complete a Classis Registration form (available online on our classis website, <https://www.classisbcnw.ca/meeting/classis-registration-form.cfm>). This form will collect lodging, meal, and transportation information. If you are billeted by a member of the host church, be sure to advise your host of any food allergies you may have.

If you choose to use a hotel/motel, reimbursement is not supplied. You will have to seek reimbursement from your home church. If classis puts you in a hotel room because not enough billets were found, classis will then cover the hotel costs. In case of exceptional or reasonable circumstances a lodging expense may be approved by classis.

What to Expect at a Classis Meeting

- First time delegates are to sign the Covenant for Office Bearers.
- The Classis Agenda will, ordinarily, be in the hands of church councils one month prior to the actual meeting date of classis. It may also be found on our classis website.
- Delegates may be requested to serve in the following capacities:
 - Prayer: for the ministries of classis, or for the concerns of classis or individuals.
 - Pre-advice Committee: Pre-advice committees review expenses, overtures, and credentials and come with recommendations regarding the same to the floor of classis.
 - From time to time an overture of such significance may be forwarded to classis that it will require an advisory panel to meet ahead of the actual meeting of classis. For this and other reasons it is beneficial for the stated clerk and the CMIC to know who will be delegates well ahead of time.
- Though there is a degree of flexibility, classis abides by its own *Rules of Procedure (ROP)* and the rules of the *CRCNA Church Order* in conducting its meetings. The *Classis Rules of Procedure* can be found on our classis website. *Church Order* is determined by synod and is held in covenant by all Christian Reformed Churches.

What Classis Expects of its Delegates

- Be on time for all sessions of classis. Remain at classis until the meeting is formally adjourned. Delegates need to inform the chair or stated clerk if you must leave early, and give good reason to be excused. Dress code is business casual.
- Thoroughly familiarize yourself with the classis agenda. The assumption is that the agenda has been discussed at the delegates' local council meeting.
- Listen carefully to the discussions and deliberations and be prepared to make contribution with words of advice, encouragement and/or questions.
- Delegates are expected to share the thoughts of their council on any particular agenda item but

are not obligated to vote according to their council's wishes. Classis is a *deliberative* body and the freedom needs to remain for delegates to vote on the basis of the best information or perspective presented at classis.

- Refrain from speaking until the chair acknowledges your turn to speak. The delegates privilege of the floor is at the discretion of the chairman. A delegate may speak one to three times on any particular agenda item but no more than that. Do not repeat comments or observations that have already been shared.
- Be aware that classis is a deliberative body and may make decisions from time to time that you do not necessarily agree with. Strong objection to a decision of classis may be voiced by stating your objection. If you wish to have your objection recorded, you will have to submit a written statement (within 24 hours) indicating your objection and reason(s) why.
- Report to your church council the decisions made at classis.

What is an Overture?

- An overture is a request for action made by an assembly to a higher assembly, or by an individual to their council.
- A council may overture classis. A classis may overture synod. 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.
- Guidelines for the formatting & presentation of overtures to classis may be found in Appendix A of the Classis Rules of Procedure (<https://www.classisbcnw.ca/meeting/meeting-documents.cfm>).

Stated Clerk Report to Classis BCNW: March 2020

It has been my privilege to serve as stated clerk for one year. I am grateful to be working alongside Ken Vander Horst (chair of the CMIC), and for his willingness to give me the freedom to fulfill my role while being there to give support and answer questions. I am also grateful for the support of the CMIC and other members of classis and the denomination. Thanks to all who have helped me, and to God who continues to empower me by his Holy Spirit.

- How I Have Spent My Time:** Some of the things I have been involved in these past five months, besides emailing and making phone calls, managing the website, and setting up the many details of this classis meeting are:
 - Served as clerk or chair on four committees/teams of classis: The Classis Ministries Interim Committee (CMIC), The Going Forward Team (GFT), The Funding Team, The Board of the CRC of Richmond (the CMIC functions as this board and meets annually in March).
 - Worked with David Pel (classical treasurer) and the stated clerk of Classis BCSE to finalize the grant agreement re. BC LDN.
 - Participated in a video meeting with Canadian stated clerks, and in a number of Canadian stated clerks' email conversations.
 - Attended the bi-national Stated Clerks Gathering in Los Angeles, CA from January 8-10, 2020.
 - Applied for marriage licenses for Rev. Shaun Jung (The Tapestry CRC), Rev. Ray de Lange (New Westminster CRC), and David Leung (Commissioned Pastor, The Tapestry).
 - Attended Immanuel CRC's 40th Anniversary church service and brought a card of congratulations on behalf of classis.
 - Set up a number of Zoom video meetings for various pastors, churches, and committees in our classis.
- Evaluation Form:** With the okay of the CMIC, I would like to try using an evaluation form as part of every classis meeting. The hope is that this will give me, as the main agenda preparer, and the CMIC, feedback on every meeting. This meeting's evaluation form includes space for feedback about the regional meetings. Feel free to fill it out and email it to me, or fill in one of the paper copies you will find on your table. (See the *Meeting Documents* zip file.) Completing the evaluation form is not mandatory, but if you have some helpful comments they would be appreciated.
- Classis Minutes are Now Unsearchable:** At the stated clerks' gathering it was recommended that classis minutes be posted in a way that they are not "google" searchable. This would help protect the privacy of those going through, say, an Article 17. So, the classis minutes have been transferred to a Dropbox folder and the link can be found on the website.
- October 2019 Classis Meeting:** Expenses for the October 2019 Classis Meeting were: travel - \$5,261.10, food - \$2,434.36, lodging - \$1,773.64 for a total of \$9,469.10.
- Rules of Procedure:** At the direction of the CMIC, the words "vacant church" in the Rules of Procedure have been updated to "church without a lead pastor", "church without a preaching pastor", or "church requesting a classical appointment" depending on the context. Also, the Classis Mission and Values have been added as a cover page and a Contents page has been created. An

updated copy of the Rules of Procedure has been included in the *Meeting document* zip file and can be found on the classis website.

6. **Church Visitation:** As the previous church visitation schedule concluded at the end of February, a new Visitation Schedule has been prepared (*Meeting documents* zip file). Visits are due by February 2022, but if you have not had a visit in the past two-year cycle it is suggested that you request one earlier rather than later. If you have done a visit in the past two years and have not submitted a copy of your report then please do so to the stated clerk. It is hoped that time will be provided during the regional meetings tomorrow for brief verbal summaries to be made of any visits that were done since the last classis meeting.
7. **Classification of Matters Legally Before Synod:** At the request of the denominational office I am including a copy of this document in the *Meeting Documents* zip file, and have posted a copy on the classis website.
8. **Zoom Video Conferencing:** Classis has an account with Zoom Video Conferencing. If a church or pastor wishes to use this account for a classis or denominational meeting, please contact me at kathy.bcnw@outlook.com. As long as that time slot is available, I will set up the meeting for you and issue an invitation you can send to your meeting participants.
9. **Classis Website:** A reminder that classis has a mobile friendly website, www.classisbcnw.ca. The website is full of resources for delegates and churches. You are encouraged to make use of this resource for needed information. If anything is missing or needs to be updated, please let me know.
10. **New Delegates:** An Orientation Page can be found on the classis website and on page 10 of this Agenda.
11. **Agenda Reports:** All ministries, classis teams, standing committee and denominational reports are sent in PDF format in two zip files: *Meeting Documents* and *Ministry Reports*. Ministry reports are listed alphabetically, and meeting documents are numbered according to their place in the agenda.
12. **Logistics:** Thank you to delegates and churches for using the online credential and delegate registration forms, and for doing your best to keep travel costs down by carpooling and booking flights as early as possible.
13. **Thank you!** Thank you to the council and members of Nelson Ave. Community Church for their hospitality in hosting us for this March 2020 session of Classis BCNW. The continual generosity of our Lower Mainland churches is part of what make these meetings so effective.

Motion: To approve the work of the Stated Clerk

Classis Ministries Interim Committee (CMIC) Report to Classis BCNW: March 2020

The mandate of the CMIC is to “act for classis between meetings in matters that require immediate action”. The CMIC has met twice since the October 2019 meeting of classis and has had a number of email conversations and votes. The following minutes of the CMIC are available from the stated clerk upon request by member churches:

- November 19, 2019
- January 14, 2020

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

1. Agenda Items:

- March 2020 Classis Meeting Format:** After receiving ideas from the Going Forward Team, the CMIC approved the agenda format for this combined full/regional classis meeting. Each regional agenda has further been developed by those appointed as president and secretary of each region.
- Rotation of Pastors for Classis Executive:** According to the ROP, “*each minister, or commissioned pastor, shall successively serve as Vice-president, President, and Recording Clerk according to the alphabetical order of the churches they serve*”. Somehow, over the past 8-9 years, we got slightly out of order—although all churches, except those with vacancies at the time of their service, have been represented during this time. As the last church in the alphabet, Victoria CCC, is just having their pastor, William, step into the rotation, we will re-start with an alphabetical order rotation in October 2020.
- The Belhar Confession and the March 2017 Classis Meeting:** At this classis meeting there will be the continuation of a discussion that began at the October 2019 classis meeting. Please read “200128 the308inc” and the “CMIC Review of 03/17 Decision Regarding Belhar Confession” (*Meeting Documents, 3.1 <2>*) and talk to your delegates from the October meeting if you require more information.
- Classis AGM:** Our yearly AGM for the corporation of classis will take place during this meeting of classis. The meeting Agenda and Minutes of last year’s AGM are included in the *Meeting Documents zip file (5.4)*.
- Al Postma, Classis Renewal Coordinator with the CRCNA:** will be joining us on Wednesday. He will be circulating among the regional sessions, and will lead us in the debriefing after the regional sessions are over.
- October 2020 Classis Meeting:** will take place at First CRC, Vancouver.

- Richmond CRC Board Meeting:** The CMIC will meet the Tuesday morning of classis, as the Board of the Richmond CRC, to continue overseeing the sale of the property to The Tapestry.

3. Financial Updates:

- a. **Safe Spaces Conference:** The CMIC approved paying 50% of airfare and 50% of one night's stay in a hotel for up to two people from each of the Northern churches to attend this conference in Abbotsford in November. Three people received some level of assistance.
 - b. **Ministry to Seafarers:** Cheques made out to the "Ministry to Seafarers" can now be deposited in the classis bank account. Before this, only cheques made out to Classis BCNW could be deposited.
 - c. **Auditors Report:** for the Year Ended December 31, 2018 has been approved.
 - d. **UNBC Chaplain Travel to Classis Meetings:** It was approved, as a change in practice, to no longer pay expenses for the UNBC chaplain to travel to classis meetings, as the Christian Reformed Campus Ministry at UNBC is its own charitable organization. This would not apply if the chaplain is a member of Prince George CRC and attends as a delegate.
4. **Classis and Denominational Ministry Shares:** repeated here, for your information. Please note that 50% of classis ministry shares are due by June 30 each year.

Classis BCNW Ministry Share per Member	Approved For 2020
Classis Expense Fund (<i>Sched. 5</i>)	17.00
Ministry to Seafarers (<i>Sched. 6-9</i>)	9.45
Student Fund (<i>Sched. 11</i>)	6.00
Safe Church Team (<i>Sched. 13</i>)	5.00
C.R. Campus Ministry at UNBC (<i>Sched. 14</i>)	15.00
The Tapestry-Kwantlen Chaplain (<i>Sched. 15</i>)	1.00
Leadership Development Network (<i>Sched. 16</i>)	8.00
Chaplain and Refugee Support Mobilizer (<i>Sched. 18</i>)	5.00
	\$66.45

Denominational Ministry Share per Member	2020
BTGMI	44.41
Calvin Seminary	36.27
Resonate Global Missions	108.52
Synodical Admin. Services	39.19
Congregational Services	82.44
Special Assistance Fund	3.73
Calvin University	1.00
Area Colleges (Kings)	71.34
	\$386.90

5. **Classis BCSE:** This past year the stated clerk and treasurer have been working on finalizing a Grant Agreement with Classis BCSE, regarding the funding and oversight of BC LDN, that keeps us

compliant with the requirements of the CRA. We now have a signed agreement and are beginning to work on similar agreements regarding the Ministry to Seafarers and the Safe Church Ministry.

6. **Rev. Darren Colyn:** The stated clerk has received Rev. Colyn's renewed Covenant of Joint Supervision (with CCC Nanaimo and the Chaplaincy and Care Ministry) and renewed Letter of Endorsement from The Chaplaincy and Care Ministry for chaplain ministry as Spiritual Health Leader for Island Health. This is to be renewed in 5 years.
7. **Going Forward Team:** The GFT continues to meet one time between each classis meeting. They spent the last meeting thinking through what the one-day regional meetings might look like. At the next meeting they will debrief this meeting and plan ahead with regards to any future regional meetings and also future classis renewal efforts. If you have any comments or ideas, please talk to Andrew Beunk, Al Chu, Kathy Smith, or Trevor Vanderveen.
8. **Mentor for Shaun Jung:** Rev. Tim Sheridan, Maple Ridge CRC, has agreed to mentor Shaun.

ITEMS TO SHARE WITH YOUR COUNCIL FOR DISCUSSION

Note: Delegates are expected to share the thoughts of their council on any particular agenda item but are not obligated to vote according to their council's wishes. Classis is a *deliberative* body and the freedom is given for delegates to vote on the basis of the best information or perspective presented at classis (CO Art. 34).

1. **Overtures:** There are two overtures (communications from churches to classis) that will be discussed at this meeting. One concerns the Belhar Confession and the other concerns a letter we received from Classis BC of the RCA (Reformed Church in America). Please be sure to read all relevant documents before attending classis (*Meeting documents, 4.1 <3> and 4.2 <2>*).
2. **Funding Team Proposal:** The Funding Team has come with a report and a number of proposals to this meeting (*Meeting documents, 5.5 <2>*). Please read these ahead of time as the Funding Team is proposing the establishment of a new standing committee of classis.
3. **Nominations:** If the Funding Team's proposal passes, we will be looking for three members for this new standing committee. Please prayerfully consider whether you would be willing to serve, or whom you could approach on our behalf.
4. **Equippers:** The Standing Committee of the BC Leadership Development Network (BC LDN) is requesting the formation of a bi-classical committee tasked with coordinating the efforts of the training & equipping ministries currently serving the CRC churches of classis BCNW and classis BCSE (*Meeting Documents, 7.1*).
5. **Re-Imaging Ministry Shares:** Synod 2019 approved a new format for the way ministry shares are collected. Each church has been receiving communication about this already. A timeline and guidance about how to determine your congregation's pledge amount are included in the *Meeting Documents zip file (9.2 <2>*). Please come with your questions and/or concerns to classis.

DECISIONS FOR WHICH WE ARE ASKING CLASSIS FEEDBACK

1. **Communion:** Beginning in October 2020 the CMIC is requesting that host churches consider serving communion as part of the classis meeting, working with the vice president who normally plans worship and devotions.
Grounds:
 - Other classes do this as a regular part of their meetings.
 - Leans into the classical Values of Prayerful Dependence on God and Authentic Community, and reminds us that we are not gathering as strangers but as brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - Reminds us that this is God's meeting, it his will is that we are seeking, and the ultimate purpose of the meeting is not business but supporting each other and our churches in fulfilling the mission of Christ.
2. **Territory Acknowledgement:** Beginning in October 2020 the CMIC is requesting that host churches do a Territory Acknowledgement at each classis meeting. We are not prescribing it, but we do ask host churches to consider it. We feel that this needs to come from the host church, as it is their place we are in, not classis', and local context is unique to each congregation. This can be done via a statement, similar to those found in "The Land We Stand On: A Territory Acknowledgement Guide" published by the CRCNA (*Meeting documents zip file*), or by inviting someone in from the First Nations community.

RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIRING THE APPROVAL OF CLASSIS

1. **Student Fund & Bi-vocational Ministry:** The Student Fund Committee and the stated clerk are working on updating and revising the fifteen-year-old SFC documents. As a *first step* we would like to strike the words "full-time" in the current application and criteria documents so that we make funding available for those who are considering bi-vocational ministry. We anticipate bringing a fuller revision of the SFC documents to the October 2020 classis meeting.
Motion: That classis strike the words "full-time" in the current application and criteria documents of the SFC.
2. **The Bridge App:** After some discussion, including consideration of Darren's appeal at the October 2019 classis meeting, it was decided to stay with our original recommendation that classis will no longer pay for this as it has done the past two years. (Currently, The Bridge App is allowing BCNW churches to use the app without payment until after this classis meeting.)
Motion: Effective January 2020, each church will pay for its own use of The Bridge App.
3. **Moving the Date of the October Classis Meeting:** At the October classis meeting we received a request that classis consider moving the date of the October classis meeting either earlier or later than we have been meeting (the first Tuesday and Wednesday of October). After consideration, the CMIC is recommending that we move the date back.
Motion: That the October classis meeting continue to meet on a Tuesday and Wednesday, beginning on the Tuesday eight days after Thanksgiving. So, our next meeting would be October 20 & 21, 2020. (Note: This would align with Classis BCSE most of the time.)

4. **Licensure to Exhort:** Currently it is common practice* that a license to exhort be given for two years (*i.e. there is nothing in the Rules of Procedure to dictate length of time). Church Order Article 43 simply states: "...the classis shall examine such persons and license them as exhorters for a limited period of time."

Motion: When classis grants a license to exhort it be granted for 3 years, and that this time limit be added to the ROP. This decision, if approved by classis, will be applied retroactively to Neil Lettinga (currently our only licensed exhorter).

5. **Mileage Rate** Currently BCNW pays 45 cents/kilometer. The current CRA rate is 58 cents/kilometer. Compared to other classes in Canada, we are paying the lowest rate.

Motion: That we bring our mileage rate in line with CRA's, but phase it in over three years:

- October 2020: 50 cents/km.
- October 2021: 54 cents/km.
- October 2022: CRA rate

This would apply to any mileage paid for by classis (e.g. classis meeting attendance, classical appointments, etc.)

6. **Pulpit Supply Rate:** Currently the ROP state that churches reimburse the church of the visiting minister \$125/service for pulpit supply. It has come to the CMIC's attention that this is low compared to other classes. Our pulpit supply rate has two implications:

- The amount churches pay for classical pulpit supply.
- Churches look to classis to set their rates for guest pastors.

Motion: That the pulpit supply rate be increased to \$175/service, effective immediately.

7. **Minister Rotation to Synod:** The CMIC has become aware that our rotational appointment of ministers to synod does not reflect what the synodical office states, and what we did at the October classis meeting when we appointed Janina to attend in 2020.

Currently the Classis BCNW Rules of Procedure state:

The Minister delegate and their alternate are appointed by way of rotation as per classis rules of procedure for senior ministers who have served the longest within the classis and have not been delegated to a synod meeting.

The synodical office says:

Ministers of the Word servng the local congregation, as well as serving in specialized ministry (unless classis rules prevent it), qualify to serve as minister delegates.

Motion: That classis change the ROP to say "*The Minister delegate and their alternate are appointed by way of rotation for Ministers of the Word serving the local congregation, as well as serving in specialized ministry, who have served the longest within the classis and have not been delegated to a synod meeting.*"

(Note: this does not apply to commissioned pastors who are delegated as elders, unless they are serving as a solo pastor of an organized congregation.)

Motion: To approve the work of the CMIC.

Ken Vander Horst, Chair and Alt. Stated Clerk
Kathy Smith, Stated Clerk
David Pel, Classis Treasurer

Vic Chen, Student Fund Committee Chair
Chelsey Harmon, Island Rep
Trevor Vanderveen, Lower Mainland Rep

Classis BCNW

Classical Committees, Teams, and Denominational Representatives

Updated October 2019

CLASSIS COMMITTEES, TEAMS, AND PERSONNEL		
STATED CLERK (S/C)		
Mrs. Kathy Smith	2022(1)	kathy.bcnw@outlook.com
Alternate – Rev. Ken Vander Horst	2022(1)	kvhorst@gmail.com
CMIC - CLASSICAL MINISTRIES INTERIM COMMITTEE		
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE		
Rev. Ken Vander Horst – Chair	2022(1)	kvhorst@gmail.com
Mrs. Kathy Smith – Stated Clerk	2022(1)	kathy.bcnw@outlook.com
Mr. David Pel – Classis Treasurer	2020(8)	david@dpelcga.com
Mr. Victor Chen – CMLT/SFC chair	2020(3)	
Rev. Chelsey Harmon – Island Rep	2022(1)	
Rev. Trevor Vanderveen	2022(1)	
Ms. Faye Martin – SCT Coordinator	EX OFFICIO	
CLASSICAL TREASURER		
Mr. David Pel	2020(8)	david@dpelcga.com
Mrs. Verney Kho - alternate	2021(2)	
CLASSIS AUDITOR		
Mr. Fred Bosma	2021(9)	
SCT - SAFE CHURCH TEAM COORDINATOR		
Ms. Faye Martin		sfmartin@telus.net
SCT – SAFE CHURCH TEAM CLASSIS REPRESENTATIVE		
<i>open</i>		
REGIONAL PASTORS		
Rev. Joel Ringma		Northern Churches
Rev. Henry Jonker		Island Churches
Rev. Andrew Beunk		Lower-Mainland Churches
CHAPLAIN AND REFUGEE SUPPORT MOBLIZER		
Pastor Dena Nicolai		
CMLT - CLASSIS MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM (BI-CLASSIS COMMITTEE WITH CLASSIS BCSE)		
SFC - STUDENT FUND COMMITTEE		
BCNW Members		
Mr. Victor Chen – (Chair, SFC)	2020(3)	
Rev. David Cheung (SFC)	2021(2)	

Rev. Al Wu (SFC)	2020(1)	
GFT - GOING FORWARD TEAM		
Rev. Trevor Vanderveen - Chair		
Mrs. Kathy Smith – Stated Clerk		kathy.bcnw@outlook.com
Rev. Andrew Beunk		
Rev. Albert Chu		
LDN - B.C. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (bi-classis team)		
Rev. Andrew Aukema	BCNW	chair / classis rep
Mr. Rick Garrison	BCNW	2021(1)
Mrs. Wilma van der Leek		Fraser Valley LDN Facilitator
MTS - MINISTRY TO SEAFARERS		
Chaplain, Rev. Gary Roosma		crcvanportchaplain@gmail.com
Mr. Eric Voogt, Chair		
Mr. John Bandstra, Vice Chair		
BCNW Members:		
Mr. David Pel – Treasurer BCNW	2020(9)	
Mr. Rens Slot	2022(3)	
Mr. Steve Berkenpas	2021(2)	
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CAMPUS MINISTRY AT UNBC		
Rev. Dr. Alan VanderWoerd, Chaplain		alan@alabanza.ca
CLASSICAL LICENSURE		
Dr. Neil Lettinga (250-964-7734)	9/21	
SYNODICAL DEPUTY		
Rev. Henry Jonker	2021(1)	
Rev. Andrew Beunk - alternate	2021(1)	
SIERRA LEONE BC PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE		
Mr. Dave Meyer – Chair	BCNW	
Rev. Joel Ringma – Secretary	BCNW	
DENOMINATIONAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES		
COD – Council of Delegates: CRCNA		
Mr. Andy de Ruyter	2021(2)	

CCBOT - CALVIN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES		
Mr. Richard Mast	2020(1)	
CTS - CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY		
Mr. Vic Chen	2022(2)	
CRCPD - CHRISTIAN REFORMED CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIALOGUE		
Dena Nicolai	2020 (2)	
DMC – REGIONAL DIACONAL MINISTRIES DEVELOPER		
Mrs. Rachel Vroege		
DMC - DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA BOARD OF DIRECTORS / BCNW Rep		
Mrs. Cindy Verbeek	2021(1)	
DISABILITY CONCERNS: REGIONAL DISABILITY ADVOCATE / B.C. Rep		
Mrs. Caroline Short		caroline.vanderloo@gmail.com
HISTORICAL COMMITTEE LIAISON		
Mrs. Anne Kwantes	2022(5)	
RGM – RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: Western Canada Regional Mission Leader		
Mr. Rich Braaksma		
WORLD RENEW – Classis Rep		
Dave Mayer	2022(2)	

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
BTGMI	Back to God Ministries International (now part of the COD)
CC	Candidacy Committee (formerly Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee)
CDT	Church Development Team (classical)
CMIC	Classical Ministry Interim Committee
CMLT	Classis Ministry Leadership Team (formerly Classis Ministry Candidacy Committee)
COD	Council of Delegates
CO	Church Order (also CO Art. = Church Order Article)
CPJ	Citizens for Public Justice
CRCM	Christian Reformed Campus Ministry (see also ACRCMBC)
CRCPD	Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue
CRHM	Christian Reformed Home Missions (now Resonate Global Missions)
CRWM	Christian Reformed World Missions (now Resonate Global Missions)
CTS	Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids MI
DMC	Diaconal Ministries Canada
DV	Deo Volente, Latin for “Lord Willing”
RGM	Resonate Global Missions
LDN	Leadership Development Network
M2/W2	Man-to-Man/Woman-to-Woman restorative ministry often within prisons
MSC	Moved, Seconded, Carried (shorthand in classis minutes)
OSJHA	Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action (denominational)
PCR	Pastor-Church Resources (denominational) formally: Pastor Church Relations
RMT	Regional Ministry Team
ROP	Rules of Procedure (classical)
SC	Stated Clerk (classical)
SCE	Sustaining Congregational Excellence
SCT	Safe Church Team
SFC	Student Fund Committee (classical)
SL	Sierra Leone (as in CRC in BC & SL)
SPE	Sustaining Pastoral Excellence
TKU	The King’s University, Edmonton AB
UNBC	University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George BC

EXPENSE CLAIM FORM DELEGATES TO CLASSIS BC NORTH WEST

The undersigned incurred the following expenses in attending the spring or fall classis meeting as an official delegate:

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CHURCH _____ DATE _____

AIRFARE _____ \$ _____

FERRY _____ \$ _____

Mileage _____ KM @ \$0.45 _____ \$ _____

MEALS / LODGING _____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$

APPROVED FOR PAYMENT BY _____

Notes:

- All expense claims must be accompanied with receipts for travel, meals, mileage, etc.
- Hotel costs will only be reimbursed if arranged by classis due to lack of billeting options. If you choose to stay at a hotel over a billeting option the costs will be your responsibility.
- Classical delegates will be reimbursed for travel and loss of wages up to the amount determined by classis and at their request.
 - Airline transportation should be used for long-distance travel; classis will pay the cost for seat selection.
 - If a traveler elects to drive for long-distance travel, the mileage/car rental reimbursement should not exceed the average cost of an airplane ticket to that destination. Please consider car rental and carpooling to reduce cost.
- Each delegate is asked to keep costs down and use the least expensive mode of travel. You are encouraged to travel together as much as possible.