



CLASSIS BRITISH COLUMBIA NORTH – WEST

Christian Reformed Church in North America

Classis BCNW is a community of Christian Reformed Churches from Central BC, Vancouver Island and the Metro Vancouver region that exists to encourage, empower, and support the local church in its ministry and, when prudent, come alongside the local church to support its ministry for mutual accountability and to advance and teach the religious tenets, doctrines, observances and culture associated with Christian Reformed faith and doctrine.

Minutes of Session 72

held March 7th & March 8th, 2017

@ Immanuel CRC, 7600 #4 Rd., Richmond B.C.

Classis Executive:

President - Rev. Curtis Korver Vice All - Rev. Ken Vander Horst
Stated Clerk - Mr. Andy de Ruyter Rec. Secretary - Rev. Chelsey Harmon

1. Opening Session

- Welcome by Classis president, Rev. Curtis Korver
- Praise and Worship led by Rev. Ken Vander Horst & Chaplain Ernst DeVries
- Delegates prayed for Chaplain DeVries as he retires this fall, and thanked him for his ministry and service.
- Roll call as per credentials by stated clerk:

Alberni Valley CRC	Rev. Curtis Korver & Elder Roy Kleywegt
Burnaby – NACC;	Rev. Johannes Schouten & Elder Deanne Arnott
Duncan CRC	Elder John Duifhuis & Elder Norm Brandsma
Houston CRC	Rev. Charles Van Hoffen & Elder Mark Opendries
Maple Ridge CRC	Rev. Tim Sheridan & Deacon Robin de Haan
Nanaimo CCC	Rev. Chelsey Harmon & Elder Don Campbell
New Westminster CRC	Elder Hank VanRyk & Pastor Hyung-Jun Kim
Prince George CRC	Rev. Andrew Aukema & Elder Harry Groot
Richmond Immanuel CRC	Rev. David Cheung & Elder George Tan
	Deacon Chrystal Malapas
Richmond - The Tapestry	Rev. Albert Chu & Rev. Sam Lee
	Rev. Jesse Pals
Smithers CRC	Rev. Ken Vander Horst & Elder John Bakker
Telkwa CRC	Rev. Michelle Ellis & Deacon Val Ellis
Terrace CRC	Rev. Joel Ringma & Elder Harold Braam
Vancouver - First CRC	Rev. Trevor Vanderveen & Elder Maria Kingma
	Elder Elsy Termaat
Vancouver – downtown friends	Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma & Rev. Janina Mobach
Victoria CCC	Elder W. van Wiltenburg & Elder J Hoogendoorn
Victoria CRC	Rev. David Salverda & Elder Ken Oldenburger

- Delegates recited in unison the “Affirmation of Reformed Doctrine and Life”
- First time delegates signed “Covenant of office Bearers”
- Chair thanked Immanuel CRC for hosting and their hospitality.

2. Appointment of Committees for pre-advice to Classis noted by the Chair.

- President appoints pre-advice committees as noted in agenda.
- Noted: Overture received from Victoria CCC submitted late as to the R.O.P.

Motion to accept into the agenda the overture from CCC Victoria.....MS defeated
Overture will be sent back to Victoria CCC who may resubmit for the fall classis meeting.

3. Classical Ministries / Interim Committee

Stated Clerk report: Andy de Ruyter

- highlights agenda items for delegates information
- noted Canadian stated clerks gathering held in January 2017 with Ms. Kathy Smith attending in his absence and Mr. Vic Chen attending as the classis leader.

- Kathy Smith, presented on the Stated Clerks gathering.

Interested in feedback concerning:

- (1) Does our new mission statement and our way of doing ministry (seeming to be away from regional focus) reflect the three lenses of classis?
- (2) Is there a tension in our classis between administrative and ministry focus?

- noted the separation of agenda items and ministry reports. All ministry reports for classis are sent in a separate zip file for delegates and are meant to be distributed to all council members and any interested members of each local congregation.
- noted classical credentials forms and the proper procedure for submitting
- church visitor assignments are presented and churches encouraged to complete their visits before March 2018.

Motion to approve the work of the stated clerk.....MSC

Classical Ministries / Interim Committee report: Andy de Ruyter

- reviewed expenses from October 2016 classis meeting of \$9194.21
- noted the AGM of the Corporation of Classis BCNW will need to take place at this meeting
- Dr. Steve Timmermans, E.D. of CRCNA will be present at the Wednesday morning session and for a time of Q&A.
- Rev. Cecil Van Niejenhuis will lead a workshop on church visiting during the Tuesday evening session.
- appointed two members of the CMIC to look at the overall mandate of the CMIC and how to better facilitate the work classis gives in relation to administration and ministry oversight.
- appointed a “Going Forward Team” to continue the classis renewal discussion in conjunction with the synodical committee work. Members: Revs. Andrew Beunk, Albert Chu, Trevor Vanderveen, and CMIC members Kathy Smith and Andy de Ruyter. Notes from the team’s first meeting are reviewed (addendum report, pgs. 8 &9) Classis can expect some recommendations to be proposed on ministry reporting, ordination examinations and agenda flow at the October Classis meeting.

-asked for a review committee to be struck for the Ministry to Seafarers. The committee to review future ministry work in light of classis' new mission statement and the retirement of the current chaplain in the Fall of 2017. Also to look at objectives, relevance, staffing, budgets, projections etc. Pg. 15 of the addendum report lists review committee members and mandate. S/C to meet with review committee to detail classis concerns.

- CMIC has initiated a review of how the pre-advice committees do their work for classis meetings and will report to future classis meetings with possible changes.

- in response to classis' request to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, CMIC proposes a joint session with Classis BCSE for the Tuesday evening session of the October meeting with a time of fellowship and dinner to be followed by a worship service with a guest speaker. New Westminster CRC will host the event. In order to facilitate this, CMIC requests that the dates for the Fall meeting of classis be moved from October 3rd & 4th, to October 17th & 18th. These new dates will coincide with BCSE meeting dates and make this event possible.

A committee from both classes will be struck to make plans and organize the event.

Motion to move the dates for the Fall 2017 meeting of classis to October 17th & 18thMSC

- CMIC has asked The Tapestry to do a presentation at this meeting of their ministry with their church plant in Marpole and merger with Mundy Park and the organization of the 3 campuses and how that all relates to each other.

- noted the review conducted for the Campus ministry at UNBC and have asked the boards chair, Rev. Andrew Aukema to present the review to this classis meeting.

- Classis Regional Disability Advocate, Mrs. Caroline Short, will present on the Mental Health Taskforce and make available workshops for individual councils and pastors.

- the synodical delegates that were elected for Synod 2017 are noted.

-highlighted survey results of our fall classis meeting, indicating that we will continue to do surveys of each fall meeting. Survey results were also shared with the Going Forward team.

-reminds churches that they received a template for getting into conformity with BC Society laws that came into effect in November 2016. Churches that have not done so as yet are reminded of the importance of getting this done as not doing it will compromise their charitable status with the government. Contact the stated clerk if you need to receive it again.

Ministerial Items and Actions

- ministerial credentials for Rev. Michael Goheen (retired) transferred to Hope Community in Langley B.C. from New Westminster CRC and for Rev. John Koster (retired) from Agassiz CRC to Maple Ridge CRC. Presented for information as retired ministers credentials can be transferred directly between churches without classis approval.

- regional pastors report that mentors have been assigned for Revs. Jesse Pals and Charles Van Hoffen who sustained their ordination examinations at the last classis meeting.

- proposal from Vancouver 1st CRC for a commissioned pastor position will be dealt with at this classis meeting.

- noted reports from oversight committees for the art 17 from Duncan CRC will be heard under executive session.

- 2017 ministry shares, both classical and denominational presented for information.

From Addendum report:

- permission asked to destroy submitted classical credentials from 2009 to 2015, as all matters presented in credentials are part of official classis minutes.

Motion to shred the Classis credentials from 2009 to 2015.....MSC

- noted with thanks and appreciation that this will be the last classis session Rev. Chelsey Harmon will serve as recording secretary. Ms. Kathy Smith, secretary of the CMIC will take over this position for the next classis meeting.

- Seafarers Committee asks classis to deal with the following matter:

That in light of the current Chaplains forthcoming retirement and the co-ownership of the Manse, the house be sold with the proceeds being divided between the chaplain and classis according to the ownership agreement and that the monies for classis be retained for future housing needs for a new chaplain.

Motion to give approval to the Committee for Seafarers to sell the manse of the Ministry to Seafarers.....MSC

note: as this ministry is held jointly with BCSE, their approval will also be needed.

- Rev. Ken Vander Horst, on behalf of a committee appointed by the CMIC, presented a working draft of revisions to the Classis Rules of Procedure. Following several comments that were received from the floor, the committee will continue its work on revisions and present again to the Fall meeting.

- reminder that ministry reports from the denomination are meant to be forwarded to all church members, via email, bulletin, webpage etc. These reports are meant for all members to enjoy and be informed of what is happening within our denomination.

Motion to approve the work of the CMIC.....MSC

Classical Treasurer, David Pel, presented to Classis.

- Financial Statements for 2016 are presented and reviewed

Motion to approve the 2016 Financial Statements.....MSC

CLASSIS ADJOURNS TO HOLD THE CORPORATION OF CLASSIS BCNW AGM
separate minutes are kept for this meeting by the directors of the corporation
CLASSIS RECONVENED

4. Examinations and / or matters requiring synodical deputies

1st Vancouver CRC proposal for a commissioned pastor position for a “Chaplain and Refugee Support Mobilizer”

- Rev. Trevor Vanderveen presented to Classis and took questions about the position, the working relationship between the committee and the church, and the grounds for the request.

Motion to approve the Chaplain and Refugee Support Mobilizer as a Commissioned Pastor position.....MSC

- Stated Clerk reports that the Synodical deputies, Rev's Rich DeRuiter from Pacific North-West, Rev. Tom Oosterhuis from Alberta North and Rev. Rudy Ouwehand from BCSE have conveyed that they will concur with an approval from classis for this position. Classis entered into a time of prayer for this ministry.

6. Classis Ministries

- International Student Ministries / New Westminster CRC
Pastor Hyung-Jun Kim presented to Classis about what is happening through the Mosaic House. Pastor Kim's position has expanded at New West CRC to a full-time position connecting the international student community and the church through discipleship, etc. Classis prayed for the continued blessing of this ministry.

5. Classis Teams/Standing Committees

- Classis entered executive session to hear reports from the oversight committees for the art17 with the Duncan CRC and former pastor, a pastoral question from one of the local churches and to hear a report from a pastoral support team.

7. Denominational Ministries

World Renew: Dave Mayer

Mr. Mayer thanked the churches for their support and asked for feedback about how World Renew is doing. This feedback can be provided in person to him or through the World Renew website (worldrenew.net)

World Renew is at the disposal of individual churches to help them discover the unique calling out of the myriad of needs in the world.

Youth Champion: Ashley Patton

Ms. Patton presented to classis about her role as Youth Champion. In this role she regularly checks with churches for support, development etc. Ms. Patton invites churches to receive her support and directed churches to available resources and appropriate denominational websites.

New Missions Agency: Jenny deGroot

Ms. deGroot presented to Classis as the two agencies enter the final stretch of the amalgamation, including sharing the decision for the New Mission Agency director, Rev. Zachary King and the challenges of branding the New Mission Agency.

Rev. Michelle Ellis led a devotional and closed our afternoon session in prayer.

DINNER BREAK

Rev. Henry Numan led in devotions and prayer to open the evening session

5. Classis Teams/Standing Committees cont.

Student Fund Committee: Vic Chen

- presented to Classis on matters relating to the student fund.

7. Denominational Ministries cont.

Calvin Seminary Board of Trustees: Vic Chen

- presented to Classis and took questions from the floor.

Workshop of Church Visiting

Rev. Cecil Van Niejenhuis of Pastor Church Resources led the evening session in a workshop on Church Visiting, looking at the reasons we do church visiting, how to make it more meaningful for both the church being visited and the visitors, the need for accountability between our member churches and the overall care and grace given and received with doing church visits.

Rev. Van Niejenhuis closed the session in prayer.

CLASSIS ADJOURNED FOR THE EVENING

WEDNESDAY MARCH 8, 2017

Rev. Ken Vander Horst led in morning devotions with worship and time for sharing in smaller groups.

1. Opening Session cont.

Roll Call by the Stated Clerk. All members according to credentials are present.

Executive Director of the CRCNA, Dr. Steve Timmermans, reported to classis

Rev. Curtis Korver introduced Executive Director of the CRCNA, Dr. Steven Timmermans who spoke on the denomination ministries, presented the Ministry Plan, how to engage the ministry plan in our local churches, and led a time of Q&A.

Rev. Chelsey Harmon led us in a time of prayer for Dr. Timmermans and the denominational ministries.

COFFEE BREAK

7. Denominational Ministries cont.

Disability Regional advocate: Caroline Short

- presented about the Clergy and Mental Health Initiative. Classis delegates were challenged to pay attention to how they reacted to what they learned in this presentation and to talk with someone they trust about the impact later.

- led through the document "Guide for a Clergy Leave of Absence for Mental Health Reasons," which churches are encouraged to use.

-visit this website to be equipped on how to start the conversation:

<http://network.crcna.org/disability-concerns/guide-clergy-leave-absence-mental-health-reasons-toolkit>

5. Classis Teams / Standing Committees cont.

Safe Church Team (SCT): Faye Martin

- Faye Martin presented, including sharing about a documentary about pornography called "Over 18" that she can equip churches to host.

6. Classis Ministries cont.

Breakthrough Ministries: Rev. Andrew Turkstra

- Rev. Andrew Turkstra presented to Classis about his work with the community in Nanaimo to encourage (listening), support (loving), and serve (serving) business owners, leaders and managers.

5. Classis Teams / Standing Committees cont.

BC Leadership Development Network: Rev. Andrew Aukema

- presented to Classis, including developments within the board about how to effectively engage local churches. Churches are invited to hold a “Let’s Talk About” workshop within your communities and to contact Pastor Wilma Vander Leek or the BCLDN website for more information.

7. Denominational Ministries cont.

CRCNA BOT: Andy de Ruyter

- Andy de Ruyter presented to Classis, sharing about the most recent board meeting, which included interviews for three new directors and the continued transition to the Council of Delegates. Two documents were highlighted (pg 18/19 in main agenda and pgs. 10-13 in addendum) that further explain the transition and would be helpful for local councils and members to better understand the who, what and why of the coming change in governance.

- information given on two items. First the new Bridge App from the denomination for smart phones and the wonderful opportunity it presents to further experience God’s message in this ever changing technical world we live in. <http://info.etgrow.com/download-the-bridge-ap>
Second, a resource for financial issues facing our pastors and the help that is available <https://www.crcna.org/Services/financial-shalom-project>

Rev. Charles Van Hoffen closed the session with devotions.

LUNCH BREAK

Report of The Tapestry

Rev. Albert Chu presented to Classis about what’s happening with ministry at The Tapestry (Marpole, Mundy Park, Richmond campuses) giving a history and a present day report on how the three churches are one, yet separate in their communities, each one focusing on local outreach and missions. He explained how the three form an elder board together and their responsibilities to each other. The Tapestry uses a collegiate style model, one elder board made up of elders from each campus, overseeing the leadership and staff at each site.

Rev. Chu laments the fact his position has become more administrative than pastoral, but marvels at Gods work in expanding the Kingdoms work in these three communities.

Rev. Chu also presented an update on Engage Vancouver (an initiative through Home Missions) and informed us that the next Missional Café will be on April 1 at First Vancouver Church

Rev. Jesse Pals also shared about the church plant he pastors in Marpole.

6. Classis Ministries cont.

- Christian Reformed Campus Ministry in B.C: review-Rev. Andrew Aukema
Rev. Andrew Aukema presented the results of the evaluation done through Home Missions of the ministry on UNBC.
Rev. Alan van der Woerd shared about his experience with the evaluation.

8. Reports from Pre- Advice Committees

Overtures: Terrace CRC & Richmond Immanuel CRC

Rev. Joel Ringma reported.

Motion: that the overture from Nanaimo Christ Community Church on adopting the Belhar Confession as a Contemporary Testimony be acceded to by classis and that classis overture Synod 2017 to do the same.....MSC

Classis Expenses: The Tapestry & Houston CRC

Rev. Albert Chu reported on the expenses of Classis as \$8329.16.

Credentials: New Westminster CRC & Nanaimo CCC

Elder Hank van Ryk presented on behalf of the committee. They found the credentials to be in good order. No items were listed in the credentials.

Review of Transcribed / Concept Minutes: 1st Vancouver CRC & Duncan CRC

Rev. Trevor Vanderveen presented on behalf of the committee.
Minutes were found to be in good order with a few minor typos.
note: stated clerk has taken note of and corrected the original minutes

Standing Nominations Committee: CMIC

1] Classical Committees and Representatives
Classis Ministry/Interim Committee: Vic Chen
Classis Treasurer: David Pel
Student Fund Committee & Classis Ministry Leadership Team: Rev. Albert Wu
Synodical Delegate for June 2017: Alternate Deacon: Robin DeHaan

Motion to elect in one vote the above classical committee members, delegates and representatives.....MSC

2] Denominational Board Members (done by ballot)

Council of Delegates: elected: Andy de Ruyter
Calvin College BOT: Tom Bomhoff 16
Richard Mast 12

note: the Calvin College board member is elected from Regions 1 and 2. The collective amount of votes from the two regions will determine who is being elected to serve in this position.

10. Closing Session

- President inquires of the delegates / team members / executive if all business has been completed and declares the business of classis finished
- Closing announcements and notifications
 - Next Meeting of Classis: **October 17 & 18, 2017, New Westminster CRC, Burnaby B.C.**
 - Next Officers of Classis: Rev. Ken Vander Horst - President
 - Rev. Joe Ellis - Vice All
- President makes some closing remarks
- Vice All thanks those who participated, (president, secretaries, kitchen help, host church volunteers etc)
- President declares Classis adjourned and leads in a closing prayer.

APPOINTEES & COMMITTEES OF CLASSIS BCNW
 WEB SITE: www.classisbcnw.ca

STATED CLERK (S/C)		
Mr. Andy de Ruyter	2019(3)	classisbcnw@shaw.ca
Alternate – Mrs. Kathy Smith	2019(1)	kathy.bcnw@outlook.com
CMC - CLASSICAL MINISTRIES (INTERIM) COMMITTEE & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE		
Mr. Andy de Ruyter – S/C - Chair	2019(3)	classisbcnw@shaw.ca
Mrs. Kathy Smith - alt. S/C - Secretary	2019(1)	kathy.bcnw@outlook.com
Mr. Victor Chen – CMLT/SFC	2020(3)	
Mr. David Pel – Classis Treasurer	2020(8)	
Rev. Henry Numan	2019(2)	
Rev. David Salverda	2019(2)	
Ms. Faye Martin – SCT Coordinator	EX OFFICIO	
CLASSICAL TREASURER		
Mr. David Pel	2020(8)	david@dpelcga.com
Mrs. Verney Kho - alternate	2018(1)	
CLASSIS AUDITOR		
Mr. Fred Bosma	2018(8)	
SCT - SAFE CHURCH TEAM COORDINATOR		
Ms. Faye Martin (interim)		sfmartin@telus.net
SCT – SAFE CHURCH TEAM CLASSIS REPRESENTATIVE		
Rev. Chelsey Harmon	2018(2)	
CLASSICAL LICENSURE		
Dr. Neil Lettinga (250-964-7734)	9/17	
REGIONAL PASTORS		
Rev. Joel Ringma	Northern Churches	
Rev. Henry Jonker	Island Churches	
Rev. Andrew Beunk	Lower-Mainland Churches	
LDN - LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT NETWORK		
Ms. Joanna deVries (bcse)		
Rev. Andrew Aukema (BCNW)	chair / classis rep	
Mr. John Messelink (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 (SFC)	2020(3)
Rev. David Cheung (SFC)	2018 (1)
Rev. Al Wu (SFC)	2020(1)

MINISTRY TO SEAFARERS

Chaplain Ernst deVries ernstd@flyingangel.ca

BCNW Members:

Mr. David Pel – Treasurer BCNW	2020(9)
Mr. Rens Slot	2019(2)
Mr. Steve Berkenpas	2018(1)

CRCM – ASSOCIATION FOR CHRISTIAN REFORMED CAMPUS MINISTRY IN B.C.

Rev. Dr. Alan VanderWoerd – Chaplain alan@alabanza.ca

DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADIAN BOARD MEMBER FOR B.C.

Ms. Melissa Van Dyk – term extended to 2017

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

REGIONAL DISABILITY ADVOCATE / B.C. Rep

Mrs. Caroline Short caroline.vanderloo@gmail.com

DENOMINATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

SYNODICAL DEPUTY

Rev. David Cheung	2018 (2)
Rev. Henry Jonker - alternate	2018 (2)

BOT - BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF CRCNA

Mr. Andy DeRuyter 2018(1)

CCBOT - CALVIN COLLEGE: BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mrs. Margaret Verboon 2017(2)

CTS - CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Mr. Vic Chen (2019(1)

REGIONAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

BGMI - BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INT'L

Mr. John Vegt 2017(2)

WORLD / Home MISSIONS

Mrs. Jenny Siebring-deGroot 2018(2)

WORLD RENEW – Classis Rep

Dan Mayer 2020(1)

CRCPD - CHRISTIAN REFORMED CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Dena Nicolai 2017 (1)

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE LIAISON

Mrs. Anne Kwantes 2019(4)

Revised March 2017