



CLASSIS BRITISH COLUMBIA NORTH – WEST

Christian Reformed Church in North America

Minutes of Session 71
October 4th & 5th, 2016
1st CRC Vancouver

Classis Executive:

President: Rev. Andrew Aukema
Stated Clerk: Mr. Andy de Ruyter

Vice-All: Rev. Curtis Korver
Rec. Secretary: Rev. Chelsey Harmon

1. Opening Session

- Praise and Worship led by Rev. Curtis Korver and a group from First Vancouver CRC
- Roll call as per credentials by stated clerk

Alberni Valley CRC
Burnaby – NACC;

Rev. Curtis Korver & Elder Colin Banks
Rev. Johannes Schouten & Elder Deanne Arnott (Tues)
Elder Lori Bender-Fieber (Wed)

Coquitlam – Mundy Park CC
Duncan CRC
Houston CRC
Maple Ridge CRC
Nanaimo CCC
New Westminster CRC
Prince George CRC
Richmond Immanuel CRC
Richmond - The Tapestry

Elder / Rev. Henry Numan & Deacon Elly Hofman
Elder Bill Wikkerink & Elder Don Gerrits
Elder Keith Jaarsma & Elder Bart Plugboer
Deacon Al DeJong & Deacon Robin DeHaan
Rev. Chelsey Harmon

Smithers CRC
Telkwa CRC
Terrace CRC
Vancouver - First CRC
Vancouver – downtown friends

Rev. Andrew Beunk & Elder John VanderWoude
Rev. Andrew Aukema & Elder Gerry DeBoer
Rev. David Cheung & Elder Chrystal Malapas
Rev. Albert Chu & Rev. Sam Lee (Tues)
Rev. Gary Roosma (Wed)

Victoria CCC
Victoria CRC

Rev. Ken Vander Horst & Elder John Vis
Elder John Franken & Elder Paula Dieleman
Rev. Joel Ringma & Elder Rolf VandeVelde
Rev. Trevor Vanderveen & Deacon Lance Cummings
Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma (Tues)
Rev. Janina Mobach (Wed)
Elder Judy Aalders & Elder Jeff Hoogendoorn
Rev. David Salverda

- First time delegates signed “Covenant of office Bearers”
- Rev. Trevor Vanderveen shared some information from the host church
- Delegates recited in unison the “Affirmation of Reformed Doctrine and Life”

2. Appointment of Committees for pre-advice to Classis were assigned.

- Chair rules appointments as noted in the agenda

3. Classical Ministries / Interim Committee

A) Stated Clerk

- thanked First Vancouver for hosting this session of Classis.
- reported on the stated clerk vidyo conference held May 31st

Motion to approve \$500.00 for two members of CMC to attend the Canadian Stated Clerks / CMC Leaders workshop January 17-18, 2017.....MSC

Motion to approve \$400.00 for Youth Ministry Project delegate.....MSC

- reported that most ministry reports will be sent out separately from the main classis agenda for easier distribution to councils, ministry staff and church members.

- highlighted the church visitor assignments, needing to be completed by March 1, 2018.

- provided material from denominational organizations.

Motion to approve the work of the Stated Clerk.....MSC

B) Classical Ministries / Interim Committee

Stated Clerk presented on behalf of CMC:

- reported that Rev. Jo Schouten has resigned from the CMC and as alternate stated clerk, and was thanked for all his work and participation over the years.

- final expenses for March 2016 meeting of classis was \$ 7352.27

- Session 71 executive appointments made

- accepted offer from Rev. Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director to address classis for approx 1 hour to update, integrate and have time for feedback and Q & A.

- transferred the ministerial credentials for Rev. Walt Vanderwerf to Nanaimo CCC and Rev. Martin Vellekoop to Cephas CRC in Peterborough, Ontario and Classis Quinte.

- approved financial request (\$500.00) to host a second seminar on “Pastoral Approaches- the church and same sex relationships

Motion to ratify the \$500.00 funding for the Seminar.....MSC

- presented the following draft Mission Statement for approval

note: statement was first presented in March 2016 and was also circulated to all church councils for their discernment and discussion prior to this approval.

Motion to approve the following Mission Statement for Classis BCNW

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.....MSC

- reported on the new policy for ministry reporting for non-classis ministry reps and non-denominational ministries. Presentations and oral reporting will be limited to one session of classis every two calendar years. (see pages 8/9 of main agenda for details)

- updated classis on the appointment of a committee for Ministry Funding that will look at developing criteria for evaluating classical ministries that will include effectiveness, costs, longevity and affordability. Committee members are David Pel, Fred Herfst and Martin Contant. Any questions / comments can be directed to David Pel.

- reminded churches of the New BC Societies Act, including a forthcoming template made in conjunction with Classis BCSE. Request for more support to be directed to the Stated Clerk and working with the law firm of Ken Volkenant & Associates in Surrey, BC.
 - highlighted classical examinations appointments for candidates Jesse Pals and Charles van Hoffen.
 - noted Mundy Park CF will not be needing pulpit supply any more after December 31st, 2016. Stated clerk will make a new schedule for supply assignments for Victoria CCC for January to May 2017.
 - provided information on appointments for the oversight committees for Duncan CRC and Rev. Walt Vanderwerf.
 - highlighted 2017 proposed classical / denominational ministry share information
 - review of nominations committee report and ballots, noting the need for more synodical delegate (elders and deacons) nominees
- From addendum report:
- highlighted 2015 Auditors Report and items needing either clarification and/or corrections. *noted: CMC has addressed most items already and will complete remaining items soon.*
 - recording secretary for classis meeting to return to rotation schedule if no new person can be found to do this work.
 - noted letter of appreciation from Rev. Andrew Beunk for classis support of seminar on pastoral approach to same sex relationships
 - introduced Mrs. Kathy Smith as CMC’s nominee for alternate Stated Clerk and secretary of the CMC. Noted rules of procedure for alternate stated clerk’s position and membership on the CMC. Ms. Smith provided a bio for delegate’s info.

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

C| Classical Treasurer

Mr. David Pel reporting

- presented the financial statements to June 30th, 2016, highlighting several schedules and answered questions

Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report.....MSC

- reported on the preliminary work of the Committee for Ministry Funding.

4. Examinations and / or matters requiring synodical deputies

The Chair welcomed the Synodical Deputies: Rev. Tom Oosterhuis (Alberta North.), Rev. Rich DeRuiter (Pacific NW) and Rev. Rudy Ouwehand (BCSE)

Letter of request from 1st CRC Vancouver for a C.O. art 12c change

- Rev. Julia Vanderveen addressed classis regarding her new position as Chaplain at Carver Christian High School, transitioning from her role as quarter time pastor at First CRC.
- Rev. Vanderveen also explained what contact has been made with the denomination’s chaplaincy office.

Motion to approve the position of Chaplain as a ministerial position under

CO art. 12c.....MSC

Synodical deputies concur.

Before the candidate examinations began, a question was asked if it was advisable that the second candidate to be examined not be in the room during the question period of the first examinee. After some discussion,

Motion to have the second candidate, leave the room for the open question period of each section of the exam was.....defeated.

Examination of Candidate Jesse Pals (The Tapestry CRC calling church)

Practica Exam by Rev. David Salverda.

- questions from delegates and deputies

Motion to proceed.....MSC

Sermon Evaluation report by Rev. Andrew Beunk & Mr. Fred Herfst

- questions from delegates and deputies

Motion to proceed.....MSC

Synodical deputies concur.

Biblical and Theological Exam by Rev. Ken Vander Horst

- questions from delegates and deputies

Motion to admit Jesse Pals as a Minister of the Word in the CRC.....M/S

Classis prayed for the Holy Spirits guidance.

CLASSIS ENTERED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to admit.....Carried

CLASSIS RECONVENED

Classis, with the concurrence of the synodical deputies, welcomed Jesse Pals into ordained ministry in the CRC. Classis spent time praying for Pals family, and Jesse shared with Classis how the Marpole church plant is progressing.

Examination of Candidate Charles Van Hoffen (Houston CRC, calling Church)

Practica exam by Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma.

- questions from delegates and deputies

Motion to proceed.....MSC

DINNER BREAK

Sermon Evaluation Report by Elder John Franken, Elder John Buikema and Rev. Joe Ellis

- questions from delegates and deputies

Motion to proceed.....MSC

Synodical deputies concur.

Biblical and Theological Exam by Rev. Jo Schouten.

- questions from delegates and deputies

Motion to admit Charles Van Hoffen as a Minister of the Word in the CRC.....M/S

Classis prayed for the Holy Spirits guidance.

CLASSIS ENTERED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to admit.....Carried

CLASSIS RECONVENED

Classis, with the concurrence of the synodical deputies, welcomed Charles Van Hoffen into ordained ministry in the CRC. Classis spent time praying for the Van Hoffen family.

Mr. Nick Loenen gave a 90th Anniversary Presentation in celebration of the CRC's presence in British Columbia, beginning with First Vancouver CRC in 1926, which was the 1st organized CRC within the province of B.C.

note: copies of Nicks presentation were distributed to the churches following classis for the enjoyment and information of all members of our churches. Presentation delightfully received by delegates and guests.

Classis adjourned for the evening.

Wednesday, October 5, 2016
CLASSIS RECONVENED.

1. Opening Session cont.

Rev. Curtis Korver and the team from First Vancouver led classis in worship and a time of mutual prayer and encouragement.

Roll Call by Stated Clerk.

First-time delegates signed the "Covenant of office Bearers"

5. Classis Teams / Standing Committees

* Church Counsellors

Rev. David Salverda updated Classis on Victoria Christ Community Church's pastoral vacancy - delegates from Victoria CCC expressed gratitude Rev. Salverda's help

* Church Visitor reports

Rev. Trevor Vanderveen provided a verbal report on a visit to Richmond Immanuel on June 5, 2016. He shared about the work of unifying the three different congregations, their ministries, and various demographics. Richmond Immanuel noted that Classis only interacts with the English speaking congregation, but want us to recognize that there are two other congregations and it would be good to find ways to support and interact with non-English speaking congregations.

* Oversight Committee for Duncan CRC

* Oversight Committee for Rev. Walt Vanderwerf

- Classis enters into executive session to hear reports and updates.

- Classis is reconvened

3. Classical Ministries / Interim Committee cont.

Canadian Ministries Director, Rev. Dr. Darren Roorda presented to Classis: "Our Journey 2020",

note: written report can be found in addendum report pages 11-13

5. Classis Teams / Standing Committees cont.

* B.C. Leadership Development Network (BCLDN)

Pastor Wilma Vanderleek, Director of BCLDN, presents to classis, along with board member Joanna DeVries.

- Pastor Vanderleek shared stories of LDN graduates/current students' involvement in the local churches.

- Churches are encouraged to consider hosting a "Let's Talk About..." one-day retreat by contacting Marion Van Driel, mvandriell34@gmail.com.

- LDN is also looking for a volunteer treasurer to help preparing the budget and keeping the finances in order. Please contact Marion Van Driel if you would like to volunteer.

* Classis Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT)

Mrs. Kathy Smith presented for the CMLT sharing about the connections the committee has with current students.

- CMLT needs two more committee members, please seriously consider any invitations.

Motion to approve \$500.00 funding for January student luncheon.....MSC

* Student Fund Committee (SFC)

Mrs. Kathy Smith presented for the Student Fund Committee.

The Student Fund is quite low and needs to be replenished.

The underwritten Canadian student loans between 2006-2010 are the result of an agreement with students who have attended Seminary, but not entered ministry in the CRC. If they had gone into the ministry, they would have been reimbursed as they paid the loans. Since they have not entered ministry, the SFC and CMC feel confident in releasing those funds.

Motion to no longer retain the \$23,000 underwritten Canada student loans.....MSC

Motion to approve funding for Jialuo Xu, Shane Rozeveld, and Dai Shi for a total of 20,000, half immediately, and the other half at the beginning of 2017.....MSC

The monies are to be divided between the three students based on need.

* Synod 2016 report from ministerial delegates: Rev. Chelsey Harmon and Rev. Andrew Aukema

* Safe Church Team (SCT)

Rev. Chelsey Harmon presented for the Safe Church team, updating classis on the work of the Abuse Prevention and Response Coordinator, Faye Martin.

Motion to ratify the endorsement of Ms. Faye Martin's appointment as APRC for a two year term, January 2017-December 2018.....MSC

6. Classis Ministries

* Christian Reformed Campus Ministry in B.C

Rev. Alan VanderWoerd presented to Classis, including his thanks for our continued support, especially through prayer. He shared about new ministry initiatives, how his work involves being in an "Inter-Faith Center" allowing for conversation with people of different faiths (rather than being a Multi-Faith Center where services for different faiths are offered, but there is no dialogue), and the class he teaches on world religions.

* Chaplain and Refugee Support Mobilizer/1st Vancouver CRC

Ms. Dena Nicolai presented to Classis about her work: a ministry of presence out of 1st Vancouver CRC; material provision like welcome baskets and rental subsidies—always with an eye for sustainable support; relational and social support such as learning how to connect with neighbours, learning how to use the library, etc; and equipping congregations and individual members for how to help well. Please continue to pray for this ministry.

Requests for budget breakdown for the ministry can be made to Dena Nicolai.

Motion to approve \$10,000 support through Ministry Shares of \$4.00 per member.....MSC

note: request approved for 2017 only. Will need review if to be extended to 2018 and beyond

Classis thanked Ms. Nicolai for her work in helping us engage our Muslim neighbours and Syrian refugees.

Note to CMC: requests for future ministry funding for any proposed ministry to include more precise breakdowns of budgets.

* Kwantlen Ministries– The Tapestry

Rev. Gary Roosma introduced the new Kwantlen Chaplain, Jennifer Roosma, replacing Rev. Sam Lee who is moving into a new ministry role at Mundy Park CF through his position at The Tapestry.

8. Reports from Pre-Advice Committees

Credentials – Smithers CRC & Maple Ridge CRC

Rev. Ken Vander Horst presents for the committee, presenting Mundy Park and The Tapestry’s request for approval of the merger of their two churches. The church leadership and congregations have been in discussion over the last year, anticipating a mandate for merger this Fall and effective merger January 1, 2017.

Motion to approve the merger of the two churches, contingent upon the approval of both congregation.....MSC

note: Classis requires a report from the churches at the March 2017 meeting of classis regarding the completion of the merger.

Rev. Sam Lee, Associate Pastor of The Tapestry, will serve as satellite/campus pastor for the Mundy Park congregation as part of The Tapestry church.

Prince George CRC & New Westminster CRC requests support in helping churches to be in compliance with the new BC Societies Act, which was addressed in the Stated Clerk and Treasurer’s reports.

Motion to approve the work of the Credentials Committee.....MSC

7. Denominational Ministries

* Diaconal Ministries Canada: Melissa Van Dyk

Ms. Melissa Van Dyk, chair of Diaconal Ministries Canada, presented to Classis.

Rev. Ron VandenBrink has taken over as Director of Diaconal Ministries Canada. Along with transition of staff, the board is entering a time of strategic planning for the future. Our classis has DMDs in the North, on the Mainland, and on the Island who works with churches to engage communities, equipping deacons, and to support individuals to live justly.

- The DMC website www.diaconalministries.com provides these resources along with staff.

- DMC will need a new board member from our Classis, nominations can be given to the Stated - Clerk.
- DMC asks for prayer in this key season and shares that DMC will continue to be in prayer for our churches.

* Climate Witness Project/ Ms. Lindsay Vander Hoek

The Climate Witness Project continues through the Office of Social Justice:

<http://justice.crcna.org/climate-witness-project-0>

Congregations are encouraged to consider how to be energy efficient, such as moving towards LED light bulbs.

* CRCNA BOT / Mr. Andy de Ruyter

Mr. de Ruyter provided an update from the most recent BOT meeting. He encourages churches to read the written update, especially for possible future funding for congregational initiatives in the document “Ignite”. He also gave an update on the transition to the Council of Delegates Governance structure. BOT is also trying to discern how best to administer the actions of synod, especially regarding funding.

8. Reports from Pre- Advice Committees cont.

* Standing Nominations Committee – CMC

Following are the results of elections:

Synodical Delegates for June 2017

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1] Minister by rotation – Rev. Curtis Korver | Alt. Rev. Ken Van der Horst |
| 2] Elder – Mrs. Kathy Smith | Alt. Mr. Don Campbell |
| 3] Deacon – Mr. Colin Banks | Alt. |
| 4] Open position- Rev. Andrew Beunk | Alt. Mr. Don Campbell |

Alternate Stated Clerk: Mrs. Kathy Smith

Approved expansion of the CMC by one member representing the Northern churches (to be filled in March 2017)

LDN – Mr. John Messelink, Victoria CRC

Calvin College BOT

Nominations of either clergy or non-clergy persons are requested for this position. (to begin July 2017) still needed

* Expenses - Nelson Ave CC & Mundy Park CF

Rev. Jo Schouten presented.

Expenses were found to be in good order, total cost of classis \$9127.33

Motion to approve the work of the Expenses Committee.....MSC

Delegates are reminded of the rules for reimbursement: only for delegates and only for the days of Classis.

* Transcribed / Concept Minutes – Victoria CRC & Victoria CC

Elder Jeff Hoogendoorn reported that all was found in good order.

Motion to approve the work of the Transcribed/Concept Minutes Committee.....MSC

9. Additional Reports / Correspondence

* Stated Clerk reviewed 2017 Ministry Share requests

Proposed 2017 Ministry Share per member **\$ 69.45**

Ministry to Seafarers	\$ 9.45
Leadership Development Network	\$ 8.00
Student Fund	\$ 15.00*
Chr. Ref. Campus Ministry in B.C.	\$ 15.00
Classis Expense Fund	\$ 13.00
The Tapestry-Kwantlen Chaplain	\$ 1.00
Safe Church Team	\$ 4.00*
Chaplain & Refugee Support Mobilizer	<u>\$ 4.00</u>
	\$ 69.45

**The ministry share for Safe Church will be moved into the Student Fund for 2017 only.*

Motion to approve Ministry Shares for 2017.....MSC

10. Closing Session

* President and classis executive declare all business has been completed.

Closing announcements and notifications

- Rev. Trevor Vanderveen invites everyone to come to the 90th Anniversary service at First Vancouver CRC on October 23, 2016.

- Next Meeting of Classis - March 7th & 8th, 2017, Immanuel CRC, Richmond B.C.

- Next Officers of Classis - Rev. Curtis Korver - President

- Rev. Ken Vander Horst - Vice All

- President made closing remarks.

- Vice-all thanked all those who participated, (president, secretaries, kitchen help, host church volunteers etc.)

- Vice All led in closing devotions

-President declared Classis adjourned.

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 2017(2)
Mr. David Pel – Classis Treasurer 2017(6)
Rev. Henry Numan 2019(2)
Rev. David Salverda 2019(2)
Ms. Faye Martin – SCT Coordinator EX OFFICIO

CLASSICAL TREASURER

Mr. David Pel 2017(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) chair
Rev. Andrew Aukema (BCNW) 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) 2017(2)
Rev. David Cheung (SFC) 2018 (1)

MINISTRY TO SEAFARERS

Chaplain Ernst deVries ernstd@flyingangel.ca
BCNW Members:
Mr. David Pel – Treasurer BCNW 2017(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 REPRESENTITIVES

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
Mrs. Ko Spyksma 2018(1)
CRCPD - CHRISTIAN REFORMED CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIALOGUE
Dena Nicolai 2017 (1)
HISTORICAL COMMITTEE LIAISON
Mrs. Anne Kwantes 2019(4)

Revised Oct 2016