



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 for Session 73

Held October 17 & 18, 2017

New Westminster CRC, 8255 13th Ave., Burnaby, B.C.

Classis Executive:

President:	Rev. Ken Vander Horst	Stated Clerk:	Mr. Andy de Ruyter
Vice President:	Rev. Joe Ellis	Recording Secretary:	Mrs. Kathy Smith

1. Opening Session, Tuesday Afternoon, 1:00 p.m.

- a. Opening Worship: led by a team from New Westminster CRC.
- b. Opening the Word: Rev. Curtis Korver led us in a reflection on Authenticity. Authenticity is bringing all that you know about yourself to all that you know about God.
- c. The President welcomed all delegates and visitors. A special welcome to Pastor William Delleman (Victoria CCC) and Rev. Ray de Lange (local missionary to the Persian community).
- d. Roll call as per credentials by the Stated Clerk.

Church	Delegate	Delegate
Alberni Valley CRC	Rev. Curtis Korver	Elder John DeJong
Burnaby - NACC	Rev. Johannes Schouten	Elder Deanne Arnott (Tues)
		Elder Angela Elliot (Wed)
Duncan CRC	Elder John Duifhuis	Elder Gerald Wikkerink
Houston CRC	Rev. Charles van Hoffen	Elder Dennis Verbeek
Maple Ridge CRC	Rev. Tim Sheridan	Elder Ralph Everts
Nanaimo - CCC	Rev. Chelsey Harmon	n/a
New Westminster CRC	Rev. Andrew Beunk	Elder Irene Kraay
Prince George CRC	Rev. Andrew Aukema	Elder William Van Delft
Richmond – Immanuel CRC	n/a	n/a
Richmond – The Tapestry	Rev. Samuel Lee (Tues)	Rev. Albert Wu (Tues)
	Rev. Albert Chu (Wed)	Rev. Jesse Pals (Wed)
Smithers CRC	Rev. Ken Vander Horst	Elder Theo Bandstra
Telkwa CRC	Rev. Joe Ellis	Elder John Franken
Terrace CRC	Rev. Joel Ringma	Elder Steve Dotto
Vancouver – downtown friends	Rev. Janina Krabbe (Tues)	Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma (Wed)
Vancouver – First CRC	Rev. Trevor Vanderveen	Deacon Melissa Van Dyk
Victoria - CCC	Rev. William Delleman	Elder Colin Montgomery
Victoria CRC	Rev. David Salverda	Elder Stien Jonker

- e. It was noted that Immanuel CRC, Richmond, did not send any delegates. The CMIC will follow up on this.
- f. Delegates recited in unison the “Affirmation of Reformed Doctrine and Life”.
- g. First time delegates signed the “Covenant of Officebearers”.

2. Appointment of Committees for Pre-advice to Classis:

The President ruled appointments as noted in the agenda.

Overtures: *Nelson Ave CC & Maple Ridge CRC (1 overture received)*

Expenses: *1st Vancouver CRC & Nanaimo CCC*

Credentials: *Prince George CRC & Victoria CRC*

Review of Transcribed / Concept Minutes: *Victoria CCC & Houston CRC*

Standing Nominations Committee: *CMIC*

3. Stated Clerk Report: Stated Clerk, Mr. Andy de Ruyter

Items to Note:

- a. Classical Credentials are to be completed on-line now by each congregation. Each delegate is also asked to complete a Delegate Registration Form for each classis meeting.
- b. The deadline for this round of biennial church visits is March 1, 2018. Those churches who have not yet completed their visits are asked to do so before that date. Church Visitor Assignments can be found on page 6 of the Agenda and on the classis website.
- c. Duncan CRC is asking for classical pulpit supply. The current schedule is made up of pastors from the Island. If more pulpit supply is needed then we will be using Lower Mainland pastors. That schedule would come out in early December. The Classical Pulpit Supply Schedule can be found on page 7 of the Agenda or on the classis website.
- d. The Canadian Gathering will be held every three years; the bi-national Inspire Conference every two years.
- e. In future, all emailed documents will be sent as pdf’s.

4. Classical Ministries / Interim Committee Report: Stated Clerk, Mr. Andy de Ruyter

Items to note:

- a. Delegates have received a revised copy of Dena Nicolai’s sermon.
- b. Regarding the Rules of Procedure: there is no need for a 70% majority approval to changes made to the ROP, because they simply reflect what happens on the floor of classis.
- c. The CMIC presented a Proposal for Changes to the Pre-Advice Committees of Classis. Essentially this changes our current practice of having two churches form each pre-advice committee to having one church and one member of the CMIC form each pre-advice committee. Also, the Minutes Committee will now be composed of the Recording Secretary and the Stated Clerk. They will produce the minutes, and a highlight sheet that will go to each congregation soon after classis meets.

Motion to accept the changes to the Pre-Advice Committees of Classis as per the CMIC proposal.....
.....Approved.

- d. Classis has a new Vidyo account which allows us to “meet” on-line in a very easy-to-use and practical way. This account is available for classis committees and teams to use.
- e. Request from Terrace CRC requesting permission for elders to serve the Lord’s Supper while Rev. Joel Ringma is on sabbatical leave, and at other times when he is not available to do so, due to geographical isolation. Rev. Ringma affirmed that the serving elders would use prescribed forms,

and that it will be the responsibility of the consistory to oversee this and to ensure proper training and oversight happens annually. This request was made to classis in accordance with Church Order Article 55.

Motion to authorize the elders of Terrace CRC to administer the Lord’s Supper without the presence of an ordained minister of the Word when a minister is unavailable to preside.....Approved.

Motion to extend the licensure to exhort for two more years to Dr. Neil Lettinga.....Approved.

Motion to accept the ministerial credentials of Rev. William Delleman and Rev. Raymond De Lange.....
.....Approved.

- f. Classis received a letter from Terrace CRC requesting help, prayers, volunteers, and support for the process of finding pastors to come up to Terrace for a Sunday while Rev. Joel Ringma is on sabbatical leave.
- g. Rules of Procedure: Rev. Ken Vander Horst updated classis on the few changes that had been made since the March meeting of classis; notably, the remuneration of the Stated Clerk and Treasurer, updating some of the language, updating some of the committees and teams sections, and it no longer being a requirement of the stated clerk to provide an index of decisions.

Motion to adopt the changes and updates to the Rules of Procedure as prepared by the members of the CMIC.....Approved.

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

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

5. Inspire 2017 Report

- a. Rev. Tim Sheridan shared his positive experience of being at Inspire 2017 as a participant and also as a workshop speaker promoting the healing discipleship ministry, Freedom Session.
- b. Some highlights: the ability to be with people engaged in front-line ministry, the collegiality of being with brothers and sisters engaged in similar struggles, and the immediate take-aways in terms of ministry application. He encouraged all delegates to attend in the future.

Rev. Ken Vander Horst prayed for Rev. Sheridan and for Inspire.

6. Treasurers Report

The Classis Treasurer, Mr. David Pel, took us through the Classis Financial Reports for the Period Ended June 30, 2017. Some items to note:

- a. If you want your church’s information to be up-to-date in each report, you must send your ministry share cheque in by the cut-off date. These dates are sent regularly to each church’s bookkeeper/treasurer.
- b. 50% of classical Ministry Shares are due by June 30th each year. The remaining 50% no later than December 31st each year.

Motion to approve the work of the Classis Treasurer.....Approved.

The President directed that the minutes note that classis is heartily grateful for the work of the Stated Clerk, Treasurer and the members of the CMIC.

C O F F E E B R E A K

7. Rev. Ray De Lange, new associate pastor at New Westminster CRC, introduced himself and his ministry with Persians in the Vancouver area. He is doing evangelistic work in Coquitlam with East-West Ministries International, and is in the final stages of a partnership agreement with Resonate. Rev. Joe Ellis prayed for Rev. Ray De Lange and his ministry.

8. Report from delegates to Synod 2017

Rev. Andrew Beunk reported on behalf of the delegates to Synod 2017. A few things he shared:

- The Belhar Confession, while accepted in the new category 'Contemporary Testimony', will not be included in the Covenant for Officebearers, and it will have footnotes to accompany the parts of the confession that some see as problematic.
- Synod approved some recommendations to give greater equality across the denomination in terms of supporting seminary students.
- Denominational agencies were directed to seek out best practices and resources to pass on to the local churches for help with evangelism, outreach, and growth.
- Operation Christmas Child was not accepted as an accredited ministry, although local churches may still choose to support them.
- The mission of the church: dichotomy between evangelism and justice. Where put the emphasis? An on-going discussion.

9. Church Counselor for Victoria CCC

Rev. David Salverda reported on his work as church counselor to Victoria CCC while they were vacant. His work is finished as Rev. William Delleman is now pastoring there.

10. Regional Pastors

- a. Rev. Joel Ringma reported on his Tour de North. As a follow-up to his tour he wrote a letter to the church councils encouraging them to consider: their pastor's job description and compensation; a mental health leave policy; a continuing education/sabbatical leave policy; and whether they might welcome their female colleague from the North to their pulpits.
- b. Rev. Henry Jonker reported on his recent contacts with the pastors of the Island churches. He highlighted a concern that mentors be provided to new pastors, and spoke of the value of churches affording sabbaticals to pastors and commissioned pastors.

11. Church Visits

- a. Two churches recently submitted their written reports. These are not passed on to delegates but are kept on file by the Stated Clerk. Churches are reminded to do their visits before March 1, 2018.
- b. A few churches gave short, verbal reports:
 - i. Houston visited Prince George: it was a good visit, no concerns.
 - ii. Smithers visited Terrace: it was a good visit, no concerns.
 - iii. Prince George visited Smithers: it was a good visit. A few highlights: Smithers is hosting a weekly soup kitchen on Sundays, with five rotating teams serving; a couple of elders meet weekly with Ken for prayer; there are eighteen countries of origin represented in the congregation; the new building is generating new ideas for ministry; Smithers recently completed an inventory of spiritual gifts.

12. Student Fund Committee Report: Mr. Vic Chen reported.

- a. Classis is supporting 2 students this year. Both are graduating this coming year and the SFC knows

of no students coming up that need support. If you know of someone aspiring to ministry, put them in touch with Vic.

- b. Classis was also informed that Calvin Seminary is now offering a two year EPMC.

13. Board of Trustees Calvin Seminary Report: Mr. Vic Chen reported.

14. Resonate Global Mission: A Ministry of the C.R.C. in N.A.

- a. Rev. Rich Braaksma, Western Canadian Team Leader, spoke about Resonate and how he is available to join with and encourage local churches in their ministry. His posture is one of listening to local churches rather than bringing ideas from G.R.: Where are those places in our communities where we can see God at work? How is he asking us to get involved? How can Resonate join with and encourage us?
- b. Mrs. Jessica Boy introduced herself. She lives in Nanaimo and works as a Placement Advisor for Resonate. She is the person to contact if any person or group is interested in missions, either short-term or long-term.
Rev. Ken Vander Horst prayed for Rich, Jessica and Resonate.

B E G I N E X E C U T I V E S E S S I O N

The following recommendations came from the oversight committees:

Motion to grant approval to Duncan CRC to begin the process of searching for a new pastor.....Approved.

Motion that Rev. Walt Vanderwerf be granted the privilege of early retirement at the age of 55 on February 22, 2018 under Church Order Article 18 (Supplement).....Approved.

Note: both oversight committees will remain in place to offer assistance in the next steps for both church and pastor.

E N D E X E C U T I V E S E S S I O N

15. Tuesday Evening Session: A celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

- a. Supper: A joint meal with delegates from Classis BCSE.
- b. Mr. Nick Loenen shared with the Classis BCNW and Classis BCSE delegates some of the history of the CRCNA denomination in B.C.
- c. Joint worship service with Classis BCSE delegates and members from local churches to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Dr. Jim Payton shared with us his thoughts on repentance and unity, based on the 1st of Martin Luther's 95 Theses: "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' (Mt. 4:17), He willed that the whole life of believers should be repentance."

C L A S S I S A D J O U R N E D F O R T H E E V E N I N G

16. Opening Session, Wednesday morning, 8:30 a.m.

- a. Opening Worship: led by the worship team from New Westminster CRC.
- b. Opening the Word: Rev. Chelsey Harmon led us in a reflection on Integrity. A key aspect of the core value of integrity is working with God's intended design, and joining your word to God's word by making big promises with God--even though we cannot keep them.

- c. We concluded with a time of sharing and prayer in small groups.
- d. Roll call as per credentials by the Stated Clerk. Delegates who are new to the meeting were welcomed, and first-time delegates were invited to sign the Covenant for Officebearers.

17. Examination of Dena Nicolai, Chaplain and Refugee Support Mobilizer, for the position of Commissioned Pastor

- a. Examiner: Rev. Curtis Korver
- b. Sermon Review (Text: Matthew 25:31-46): Rev.'s Gary Roosma & Albert Chu & Commissioned Pastor Kathy Kiesser

B E G I N E X E C U T I V E S E S S I O N

Motion to admit Dena Nicolai to the Office of Commissioned Pastor to serve as a Chaplain and Refugee Support Mobilizer, First Vancouver CRC calling church.....Approved.

E N D E X E C U T I V E S E S S I O N

A number of delegates and guests gathered around Dena and prayed for her and for her ministry.

C O F F E E B R E A K

18. Ministry to Seafarers (MtS)

- a. Mr. Hank Hamstra, Chair of the MtS Committee, made some introductory comments.
- b. Rev. Gary Roosma, Interim Seafarers Chaplain, introduced himself and his ministry, and informed the delegates that he is available to preach.
- c. Rev. Bill Tuininga, Reporter of the MtS Review Committee, led delegates through the review report and the recommendations that it contains. He indicated that the MtS Committee agrees with the recommendations and will follow through with them.
- d. Some comments during the Q&A time:
 - i. Classis needs to have a mutual conversation with the MtS committee about ministry support, so that we can give a clear message to the committee going forward. Bill encouraged us to have the conversation by asking the questions: What is the ministry about? Why do we have it? Is it worth it?
 - ii. Volunteer involvement is a key indicator of classis ownership of the ministry. The committee needs to keep this in mind going forward: whether this is a ministry we give money to, or a ministry owned by classis.

Motion That the Classis accept this report, refer the recommendations to the Ministry to Seafarers Committee, and dissolve the Review Committee..... Approved.

19. Leadership Development Network (LDN)

- a. Pastor Wilma Vander Leek & Rev. Andrew Aukema reported on LDN's ministry of equipping leaders through its three year training program and through the "Let's Talk About..." congregational training events.
- b. Classis is encouraged to
 - i. Keep encouraging the gifts of LDN grads and look for people to participate.
 - ii. Find ways for LDN participants or alumni to share with the congregation, e.g. at a congregational meeting.

Rev. Joel Ringma prayed for LDN & the Ministry to Seafarers.

20. Safe Church Ministry (SCM)

Mrs. Faye Martin reported to classis on the work of the Safe Church Ministry.

- a. The SCM is hosting a conference: Shame: Hope & Healing in the Church – Responding to Trauma
- b. The SCM is able to provide assistance to churches and families regarding the issue of pornography. They are doing this through the showing of the Over 18 film, and by gathering a significant number of resources for people who need help: resources of material and people.
 - i. One of their recommended resources is Dr. Gail Dines and the ministry, Culture Reframed: <http://www.culturereframed.org/>
 - ii. Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma is also a good resource for anyone needing help in this area.
- c. The SCM provides annual council and leadership training.
- d. The SCM will be redoing their website and providing even more resources to churches and individuals.

Rev. David Salverda prayed for Faye and the ministry of the Safe Church Ministry.

L U N C H B R E A K

21. Going Forward Team:

Mrs. Kathy Smith reported on the Going Forward Team’s plans to revise the agenda according to the Four Lenses of classis relationships as discerned by Al Postma: Lens 1, A Spiritually Discerning Community; Lens 2, A Network of Support and Accountability; Lens 3, A Regional Ministry Organization; Lens 4, A Bridge: Congregations and Denomination. They also plan, as an experiment, to give some time at the next classis meeting for regional breakout sessions.

22. Communication to Canadian Classes from Rev. Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director

Motion to support and integrate the use of The Bridge App for all of Classis BCNW churches for the next two years (\$5,100/yr).....Approved.
Suggestion: at a future classis meeting have time to share how churches are using it; and/or provide people as resources who can help us use it more effectively.

Motion That the BC (Church Planting) Fund be used to pay for The Bridge App for two years.....Approved.
Grounds: this app is of benefit to all three regions of classis.

Motion to support the January 2018 “New Pastors to Canada Gathering” for \$500.00.....Approved.

Motion to support the January 2018 “Canadian Youth Ministry Champions Team” meetings for \$350.00....
.....Approved.

23. CRCNA Council of Delegates: Mr. Andy de Ruyter reported on the role of the C.O.D. and provided an update on its recent inaugural meeting.

24. Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC)

Ms. Melissa Van Dyk provided an update on the DMC and its work of deacon development, church relations, community ministry, community development, and justice.

- a. The DMC is still looking for a new classis representative as Melissa’s time on the board is finished.
- b. In the area of church relations:

- i. Regional DMC reps are available to come to our churches and meet with our deacons.
- ii. Pastors are encouraged to occasionally join in deacon meetings as a way of coming alongside and encouraging deacons in their ministry.

25. Christian Reformed Campus Ministry in B.C

Alan van der Woerd reported to classis on his work as a campus chaplain in the areas of person to person contact; programs that he runs and/or is involved with; and teaching a philosophy of religion course. Alan thanked classis for allowing students the space to work out their religious identities through Alan and his participation with the Interfaith Chaplaincy Program.

Andrew Aukema prayed for the Safe Church Ministry, The Going Forward Team, The Bridge App, The Council of Delegates, Diaconal Ministries and the CR Campus Ministry in BC.

26. Expenses Pre-advice Committee Report: 1st Vancouver CRC & Nanaimo CCC reported that expenses for this classis meeting come to \$6,911.99. The stated clerk expects that expenses for the Reformation Celebration to be approximately \$2,500. (*Actual costs were \$4,491.68 with each classes paying ½ or \$2,245.84.*) Thank you to New Westminster CRC for hosting delegates in their homes as this helped to keep costs down.

27. Overtures Pre-advice Committee Report

- a. The pre-advice committee of Nelson Avenue Community Church and Maple Ridge CRC dealt with the following overture from Victoria Christ Community Church.

Victoria Christ Community Church overtures Classis BCNW to overture Synod 2018:

- 1. *To encourage the denomination, its officers, boards, agencies, publications (including The Banner), and local congregations to foster discussion and education focused on biblical principles for Christian citizenship.*
- 2. *That the Executive Director monitor progress made and report to Synod 2019*

Motion to not accede to the overture as presented by Victoria CCC.....Approved.

- b. It is recommended that Victoria CCC reconsider and clarify the overture, making it more specific.
- c. Victoria CCC would appreciate any concrete suggestions on how to reword the overture.

28. Credentials Pre-advice Committee Report

- a. Prince George CRC & Victoria CRC reported that all the credentials are in good order.
- b. One church passed on a few questions for classis to consider in the future. These have been referred to CMIC. The questions:
 - i. How have churches navigated multi-ethnicity? How done it well? Best practices?
 - ii. How have churches organized themselves regarding local congregational structure?

29. Ministry Shares

Mr. Andy de Ruyter presented the following ministry share proposal on behalf of the CMIC.

	2018	2017
Ministry to Seafarers	9.45	9.45
Leadership Development Network	8.00	8.00
Student Fund	12.00	12.00

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 chair	2020(3)	
Mr. David Pel – Classis Treasurer	2020(8)	
Rev. Henry Numan - Lower Mainland rep	2019(2)	
Rev. David Salverda – Island rep	2019(2)	
Rev. Ken Vander Horst – Northern rep	2020(1)	
Ms. Faye Martin – SCT Coordinator	EX OFFICIO	

CLASSICAL TREASURER

Mr. David Pel	2020(8)	david@dpelega.com
Mrs. Verney Kho - alternate	2018(1)	

CLASSIS AUDITOR

Mr. Fred Bosma	2018(8)	
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SCT - SAFE CHURCH TEAM COORDINATOR

Ms. Faye Martin	sfmartin@telus.net
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SCT – SAFE CHURCH TEAM CLASSIS REPRESENTATIVE

Currently vacant

CLASSICAL LICENSURE

Dr. Neil Lettinga (250-964-7734)	9/19
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REGIONAL PASTORS

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

LDN - LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (bi-classis team)

Rev. Andrew Aukema (BCNW)	chair / classis rep
Mr. John Messelink (BCNW)	
Mrs. Wilma van der Leek	Fraser Valley LDN Facilitator

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 Gary Roosma	crcvanportchaplain@gmail.com
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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 @ UNBC	alan@alabanza.ca
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DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADIAN BOARD MEMBER FOR B.C.
Currently vacant

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)
COD – Council of Delegates: CRCNA
Mr. Andy DeRuyter 2018(1)
CCBOT - CALVIN COLLEGE: BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Mr. Richard Mast 2020(1)
CTS - CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Mr. Vic Chen (2019(1)

REGIONAL BOARD REPRESENTITIVES

WORLD RENEW – Classis Rep
Dave Mayer 2020(1)
CRCPD - CHRISTIAN REFORMED CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIALOGUE
Dena Nicolai 2017 (1)
HISTORICAL COMMITTEE LIAISON
Mrs. Anne Kwantes 2019(4)

Revised October 2017