



CLASSIS BRITISH COLUMBIA NORTH–WEST

Christian Reformed Church in North America

Minutes for Session 74

Held March 6 & 7, 2018
The Tapestry, 9280 No 2 Rd, Richmond, BC

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.

Officers: President: Rev. Ken Vander Horst; Vice President: Rev. Chelsey Harmon; Stated Clerk: Mr. Andy de Ruyter; Recording Secretary: Mrs. Kathy Smith

Delegates, as per classical credentials:

	Church	Delegate	Delegate
1	Burnaby - NACC	Rev. Johannes Schouten	Elder Deanne Arnott (Tues) Elder Angela Elliot (Wed)
2	Duncan CRC	Rev. Len Batterink	Elder John Duifuis
3	Houston CRC	Rev. Charles vanHoffen	Elder Keith Jaarsma
4	Maple Ridge CRC	Rev. Tim Sheridan	Deacon Al DeJong
5	Nanaimo - CCC	Rev. Chelsey Harmon	Elder Shirley Dorsey
6	New Westminster CRC	Rev. Andrew Beunk	Elder Henk VanRyk
7	Port Alberni – Alberni Valley CRC	Rev. Curtis Korver	Elder Willem Colyn
8	Prince George CRC	Rev. Andrew Aukema	Elder Harry Groot
9	Richmond – Immanuel CRC	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
10	Richmond – The Tapestry	Rev. Jesse Pals (Tues)	Rev. Albert Wu (Tues)
		Rev. Albert Chu (Wed)	Rev. Samuel Lee (Wed)
11	Smithers CRC	Rev. Ken Vander Horst	Elder Glenn Bandstra
12	Telkwa CRC	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
13	Terrace CRC	Elder Rolf VandeVelde	Deacon Paul Moravec
14	Vancouver – downtown friends	Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma	<i>n/a</i>

15	Vancouver – First CRC	Rev. Trevor Vanderveen	Deacon Melissa Van Dyk
16	Victoria - CCC	Rev. William Delleman	Elder Ann Hietkamp
17	Victoria CRC	Rev. David Salverda	Elder Stien Jonker

I. Prayerful Dependence on God

A. Opening Worship: Rev. Chelsey Harmon & Rev. David Salverda led us in a time of opening worship. Chelsey shared some reflections on Discernment. We were encouraged to ask “what is the mind of Christ” as we participated in our meeting this week. And we prayed for “indifference, wisdom, and quiet trust” as we did so.

B. Constitution of Classis

- i. Welcome: The President welcomed all delegates and visitors.
- ii. Roll Call as per credentials by the stated clerk.
- iii. Delegates recited in unison the “Affirmation of Reformed Doctrine and Life”.
- iv. First time delegates signed the “Covenant for Office Bearers in the CRC”.

C. Going Forward Team Report

- i. Mrs. Kathy Smith took delegates through a brief history of classis renewal efforts since March 2015 to bring us to where we are today: the reshaping of classis around a new Mission Statement and the Five Values. (*The Mission Statement and the Five Values can be seen on page 1 of these minutes.*)
- ii. Mr. Andy de Ruyter introduced the new format for the agenda and the new agenda schedule, both of which are formatted around the Five Values.

II. Covenantal Relationships

A. Pre-advice Committee assignments

Credentials: The Tapestry and Mr. Vic Chen (CMIC)

Overtures: Alberni Valley CRC & Rev. Ken Vander Horst (CMIC)

Expense: New Westminster CRC & Mr. Andy de Ruyter (CMIC)

B. The Minutes of the Classis BCNW Meeting held Oct 17 & 18, 2018 were received for information

C. Stated Clerk / CMIC report: Mr. Andy de Ruyter

1. **Motion** to accept the new mission statement as it has been presented.....**Approved**
2. As the previously appointed President and Vice-President were unable to fulfill their duties this classis meeting, precedent called for us to ask the most recent chair, Rev. Ken Vander Horst, to do so again. He agreed to do so, and Rev. Chelsey Harmon agreed to be vice president.
3. We do not yet have a meeting place for our next classis meeting as the lower mainland churches are becoming less able to host. We are considering using one or two venues but host ourselves. This will mean that costs will go up and we will need a committee to organize lodging, food, and transportation. The CMIC welcomes your ideas. Please let Andy know if your congregation is willing to host.
4. Duncan CRC pulpit supply: The current pulpit supply schedule is now in effect. If pulpit supply is needed from September to December Andy will schedule Lower Mainland pastors. The list will be out in June.
5. downtown friends loan: The 2007 Fall BCNW Classis approved a motion by the Church Development Team to provide a \$15,000 loan to downtown friends. This was essentially a grant written as a loan. It is still sitting on the books and needs to be cleared.
Motion to forgive the \$15,000 loan by taking the money from the BC Ministry Fund and putting it back into the General Account.....**Approved**
6. The CMIC is looking at a way to present ministry shares with a dollar value. The thought right

now is to take the current BC Ministry Fund, increase ministry shares to that fund, and give grants from there to the regional ministries like UBCN, Seafarers, and BC LDN. The two goals are to make what each ministry receives more understandable, and to help each ministry know exactly how much money they will be receiving. It could take 1-2 years to implement this, and it will go to churches for input and approval first. Any ideas are welcome.

7. An ad hoc committee is looking at criteria for supporting regional ministries in our classis.
8. Nominations: Neither the minister delegate to synod or the alternate, appointed by way of rotation at the last classis meeting, can attend. Nor can any of the other minister delegates eligible to attend via rotation.

Motion to, by way of exception, hold an open vote for the minister delegate to synod, and go back to the rotation list next year.....**Approved**

9. A reminder to send your church's information to the historical archives.
10. **Motion** to approve the work of the CMIC and stated clerk.....**Approved**
11. Andy informed the delegates that his third term as stated clerk, and seventh on the CMIC, will be ending in March 2019. He will not be seeking another term. The CMIC will come to the October 2018 classis meeting with a recommendation to fill the stated clerk position.

D. Classis Treasurer Report:

1. Mr. David Pel talked us through the financial reports for the period ended Dec. 31, 2017. A discussion was held concerning the different levels of giving from the churches to both classical and denominational ministry shares. Darren Roorda encouraged us to send any ideas we have to reimagine ministry shares through the COD members, himself, or John Bolt.
2. **Motion** to approve the work of the Classical Treasurer.....**Approved**

III. Annual AGM: Classis BCNW was adjourned to hold our annual AGM. Separate minutes have been prepared for this meeting. After the AGM, Classis BCNW was called back to order.

IV. Authentic Community

A. Church Visitor Reports

1. The Tapestry reported positively on their visit to 1st CRC, Vancouver.
2. The Tapestry Marpole reported positively on their visit to New Westminster CRC.
3. Maple Ridge CRC reported positively on their visit to Nelson Ave. Community Church. They visited Pastor Jo and his wife first, and then visited with the church council.
4. Victoria CCC reported positively on their visit to CCC Nanaimo. They enjoyed a meal with council, and also experienced devotions of the style their council normally does.
5. The new church visiting schedule is in the agenda, on page 7 of these minutes, and on the website. Eleven of the seventeen church visits that needed to be done during the last cycle were completed, which means six visits did not occur. All churches are now on the new schedule and have two years to complete their visits. Churches are reminded that there is information on the classis website that they can use to help them make their visits. It is good to meet with the pastor and spouse as part of the visit, and to make sure that the congregation knows about the visit. After the visit a written report, okayed by the council of the church that was visited, is to be submitted to the stated clerk and an oral report is to be given to classis.

B. Regional Pastor Reports: Rev. Henry Jonker reported on his meeting with Rev. Andrew Turkstra. Turk is re-evaluating his current ministry and is dealing with family issues as his wife is struggling with a debilitating health issue.

C. Oversight Committee: Rev. Curtis Korver reported that the oversight committee assigned to Duncan CRC is now disbanded. Duncan CRC is in the process of searching for a new pastor. Curtis is being included in the hiring process in his role as church counselor,

*Refreshment Break 3:30 to 3:50 pm***V. Leadership Development**

- A. Mr. Victor Chen reported on the work of the Student Fund Committee.
- B. **Motion** to approve the funding of \$1,500 US each to two students for their psychological evaluations. The students had neglected to factor this into their student fund request.....**Approved**

VI. Review of reports submitted with no verbal presentation

Andy had sent a number of reports to delegates in a zip file. Opportunity was provided to ask questions or make comments. The good work of these ministries was noted by the President. Andy reminded delegates that these reports are sent in a separate zip file so that they can be shared with church councils and congregations.

VII. Telkwa CRC overture:

- A. The pre-advice committee shared their advice that we not accede to the overture, but that we consider, instead, taking some of the wording and submitting a communication to synod. After a fair bit of discussion:
Motion to not accede to the overture.....**Approved**
- B. The decision was made to consider a communication to synod. Rev. Curtis Korver distributed copies of the communication for review and discussion on Wednesday. (See XIII. A.)

VIII. Covenantal Relationships

Rev. Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director, spoke for an hour on his work and the work of Canadian Ministries. He spoke on strengthening ministry relationships, and highlighted the following points as he talked: The Canadian Ministries' Intentional Movement: Along a Mission/Vision Trajectory...a) Organizationally, b) Ecumenical Behaviours, c) Communication and Engagement, d) Local Church Equipping, and e) Looking Ahead. He also shared his theory that "your relationships with other churches, your classis, and even with the extended ministries of the denomination should be beneficial to everyone's ability to do ministry."

*Dinner Break 5:15 to 6:45***IX. Disciples Making New Disciples**

- A. We opened the evening session with a song.
- B. Pastor Dena Nicolai, Chaplain and Refugee Support Mobilizer, led us in an evening session on "Finding our Way Home Together: The Church and the Refugee Crisis". She gave a handout and led us through Ten Principles of Welcome. We also heard from Pastor Al Chu about two unique opportunities God has provided The Tapestry in ministering to refugees.

*8:30 pm Session adjournment. Classis reconvened at 8:30 a.m.***X. Prayerful Dependence on God**

- A. **Opening Worship:** Rev. Chelsey Harmon led us in a time of opening worship where we reflected on Gratitude. We were encouraged to look at three stages of our life (childhood, teen/early adulthood, the present stage of life) and think of a person, a place, and a thing for which we are thankful at each of those stages. We then shared those with another person.

- B. The President conducted Roll Call**, and 1st time delegates who were not in attendance on Tuesday signed the “Covenant of Office Bearers”.

XI. Authentic Community: Regional Breakout sessions

We broke into regions and spent an hour discussing the following questions. We then spent ten minutes reporting back to each other on our discussions.

1. As we move towards these 5 Values, which of these Values do you think Classis need to allocate more intentionality and time towards: Prayerful, Authentic Community, Discipleship and Mission, Leadership Development, or Covenantal Relationships?
2. Same question as above, but specific to your region. Which of these 5 Values do you think the churches in your region could be more intentional about and spend time doing together?
3. One of the 5 Values is Leadership Development. How does your church develop leaders? Are you having a hard time raising up new leaders? Are your lay leaders and your volunteers feeling burnt out? Share your experience.

Refreshment Break 10:00 to 10:20 a.m.

XII. Authentic Community, Leadership Development, Disciples making New Disciples, and Covenantal Relationships

- A. BC Leadership Development Network (LDN):** Pastor Wilma Vander Leek and Rev. Andrew Aukema reported on the work of BC LDN. A yellow handout was given to churches with the request that they review the questions on there with their church councils and contact Wilma in response. Wilma also mentioned that there is a bi-classis Equipper’s Cohort group that has begun meeting and Rich Braaksma (from Resonate) will be doing a missions audit.
- B. Seafarers Chaplain:** Rev. Gary Roosma reported on his work, particularly the success of Christmas at Sea. He is looking for volunteers who would be able to drive, hang out at the center, and do a variety of things both downtown and at Robert’s Bank. They are also advertising for a paid intern.
- C. Faith Formation:** Liz Tolkamp & Ashley Patton (classis youth champion) reported on their work for Faith Formation ministries. They both highlighted some of the ways Faith Formation can be a resource for local churches.
- D. Kings University:** Dr. Melanie Humphreys shared that Kings is enjoying its highest enrollment and that many of their programs are developing and growing.
- E. Safe Church Team Coordinator:** Faye Martin updated classis on the continuing work of the Safe Church Team. There is a new Safe Church website: www.bcsafechurch.com. Feel free to contact Faye at any time.
- F. Mosaic Ministry to International Students:** Pastor Hyung-Jun Kim shared a video celebrating the five year anniversary of Mosaic Home (a home for female international students). Jun is available for any questions and/or discussion on ministry to international students.
- G. World Renew:** Mike Hoyer (International Relief Manager) reported on some of the disasters Disaster Response Services has responded to in the past few years. World Renew will pay the costs for any pastor to work with them in disaster response for a week. All they ask in response is that the pastor promote the work of World Renew in their church and community.
- H.** Pastor Tim Sheridan prayed for the above ministries.

Lunch Break from 12:00 to 12:30 pm

XIII. Covenantal Relationships: Reports and actions from pre-advice committees

- A. Overtures Committee:** The communication from the previous day (VII. B.) was put back on the floor.

Motion to send a communication to synod indicating our support for the Office of Social Justice, the Centre for Public Dialogue, and the justice and mercy ministry stream.....**Defeated**

B. Credentials Committee: All credentials are in order. The church responsible for Immanuel CRC Richmond’s church visit this cycle (NACC) is encouraged to visit them soon as they did not submit credentials or send delegates to classis.

C. Nominations Committee

Election Results are as follows:

1. Diaconal Ministries Committee Canadian Board Member for B.C.: Mrs. Cindy Verbeek
2. Synodical Deputy: Rev. Henry Jonker
3. Alternate Synodical Deputy: Rev. Andrew Beunk
4. Synodical Delegates:
 - a. Minister Delegate: Pastor Dena Nicolai
 - b. Alternate Minister Delegate: Rev. Henry Jonker
 - c. Alternate Delegate to the 4th Position: Rev. Chelsey Harmon
 - d. Alternate Deacon Delegate: Mr. Paul Moravec

D. Expenses Committee:

Motion to approve expenses of \$6,437.78, recognizing expenses could go up because we do not yet know if the Telkwa delegates were able to cancel their flights.....**Approved**

XIV. Classis Review

Time was given in small groups to discuss, reflect on, and give feedback to classis as a whole, and particularly the Going Forward Team, on the decision to adopt the Five Values, the new Mission Statement, and the new agenda format. The feedback was favourable. Written answers to the questions discussed will go to the Going Forward Team for their consideration moving forward.

XV. Closing Session

- A. The President expressed appreciation to the volunteers from The Tapestry who hosted us so well.
- B. The next meeting of classis:
 - Date: Oct 2 & 3, 2018. Location still to be determined.
 - Executive: President, Rev. Chelsey Harmon; Vice-President, Rev. Joe Ellis
- C. Rev. Chelsey Harmon closed the meeting with prayer, encouraging us to spend some time on our drive home doing her council’s practice of closing with a Prayer of Examen in which time is given to consider what we are grateful for (consolation) and what we need to repent of (desolation).
- D. The President declared classis Adjourned.

Next Meeting of Classis	
Tuesday and Wednesday, October 2 & 3, 2018	
Location TBD	
Next Officers of Classis	
President:	Rev. Chelsey Harmon
Vice-President:	Rev. Joe Ellis

Church Visitors Assignments for 2018 to 2020, beginning March 1, 2018

Visits to be completed by March 1, 2020

The following church visiting assignments have been assigned for the next cycle.

CHURCH BEING VISITED:	CHURCH DOING THE VISIT:	DATE VISITED:
Northern Churches:		
Terrace CRC	Houston CRC	
Smithers CRC	Terrace CRC	
Telkwa CRC	Prince George CRC	
Houston CRC	Smithers CRC	
Prince George CRC	Telkwa CRC	
Island Churches:		
Victoria CRC	Duncan CRC	
Victoria CCC	Nanaimo CCC	
Duncan CRC	Alberni Valley CRC	
Nanaimo CCC	Victoria CRC	
Alberni Valley CRC	Victoria CCC	
Lower Mainland Churches:		
Maple Ridge CRC	The Tapestry	
New Westminster CRC	Maple Ridge CRC	
Nelson Ave CC	1 st Vancouver CRC	
1 st Vancouver CRC	New Westminster CRC	
Richmond Immanuel CRC	Nelson Ave CCC	
Richmond The Tapestry	Richmond Immanuel CRC	

APPOINTEES & COMMITTEES OF CLASSIS BCNW, Revised March 7, 2018
 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@dpelcga.com
 Mrs. Verney Kho - alternate 2018(1)

CLASSIS AUDITOR

Mr. Fred Bosma 2018(8)

SCT - SAFE CHURCH TEAM COORDINATOR

Ms. Faye Martin sfmartin@telus.net

SCT – SAFE CHURCH TEAM CLASSIS REPRESENTATIVE

Vacant

CLASSICAL LICENSURE

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

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, Rev. Gary Roosma crcvanportchaplain@gmail.com

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

CHAPLAIN AND REFUGEE MOBILIZER

Pastor Dena Nicolai

DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADIAN BOARD MEMBER FOR B.C.

Mrs. Cindy Verbeek 2021 (1)

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 REPRESENTATIVES

WORLD RENEW – Classis Rep

Dave Mayer 2020(1)

CRCPD - CHRISTIAN REFORMED CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Dena Nicolai 2020 (2)

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE LIAISON

Mrs. Anne Kwantes 2019(4)

Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA)
& Classis British Columbia North-West (Classis BCNW)
Acronym List

ACRCMBC	Association for the Christian Reformed Campus Ministry in British Columbia <i>aka</i> Christian Reformed Campus Ministry at UNBC
BCSE	Classis British Columbia South-East
BOT	Board of Trustees
BTGMI	Back to God Ministries International (now part of the COD)
CC	Candidacy Committee (<i>formerly</i> Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee)
CDT	Church Development Team (classical)
CMIC	Classical Ministry Interim Committee
CMLT	Classis Ministry Leadership Team (<i>formerly</i> Classis Ministry Candidacy Committee)
COD	Council of Delegates
CO	Church Order (<i>also</i> CO Art. = Church Order Article)
CPJ	Citizens for Public Justice
CRCM	Christian Reformed Campus Ministry (<i>see also</i> 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 (<i>as in</i> CRC in BC & SL)
SPE	Sustaining Pastoral Excellence
TKU	The King's University, Edmonton AB
UNBC	University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George BC