



CLASSIS BRITISH COLUMBIA NORTH – WEST

Christian Reformed Church in North America

Agenda for Session 70

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 @ 1:00pm & Wednesday March 2, 2016 @ 8:30am

Location: Immanuel CRC, 7600 #4 Rd, Richmond, B.C.

Classis Executive:

President - Rev. Tim Sheridan Vice All - Rev. Andrew Aukema
Stated Clerk - Mr. Andy de Ruyter Rec. Secretary – Rev. Chelsey Harmon

1. Opening Session

- Welcome, Praise and Worship
- Roll call as per credentials by stated clerk
- First time delegates sign “Covenant of office Bearers”
- Recite in unison the “Affirmation of Reformed Doctrine and Life”

Time Schedule:

Tuesday	Wednesday
1:00 - opening session	8:30 - opening session
2:45 - refreshment break	10:00 - refreshment break
3:00 - session	10:15 - session
5:30 - dinner break	12:00 - lunch break
6:30 - evening session	1:00 - session
7:30 - Kairos Blanket Exercise	(same as Tuesday till agenda completed)
8:45 - adjournment	

2. Committees for pre-advice to Classis:

- * reporting to come under # 8 of this agenda
- Overtures - New Westminster CRC & Nanaimo CCC: from Alberni Valley CRC **pg.13**
- Expenses - 1st Vancouver CRC & Victoria CCC
- Credentials - Alberni Valley CRC & Victoria CRC
- Review of Transcribed / Concept Minutes - The Tapestry & Houston CRC
- Standing Nominations Committee - CMC

3. Classical Ministries / Interim Committee

Reports from:

- Stated Clerk (including any correspondence and/or submitted reports)...**pg. 4-7**
- Classical Ministries / Interim Committee...**pg. 8-12**
- New Procedure for electing Synodical delegates...**pg. 12**
- Classical Treasurer
- Annual General Meeting of the Corporation (*March session*)...**pg. 18-19**
- Rev. Dr. Darren Roorda - Canadian Ministries Director: **Tuesday 3:00 PM**
: updates on Ministry Plan, National Gathering etc....**pg. 20-25**

4. Examinations and / or matters requiring synodical deputies

Wednesday Morning session, March 2nd @ 9:00 am **pg. 14-17**

- Examination of Candidate Janina Mobach: Downtown Friends (1st Vancouver calling church)
- Art 17 Separation: Duncan CRC and Rev. Walt Vanderwerf (reports given at classis)
- Synodical Deputies: Rev's. Cameron Fraser (Alberta South/Sask.), Ken Koeman (Pacific NW) and Andrew Vander Leek (BCSE)

5. Classis Teams / Standing Committees

- Church Counsellors (for Victoria CC, Mundy Park CF & Houston CRC)
- Church visitor reports
- Synod report (Fall session)
- Student Fund Committee (SFC)...**pg. 36**
- Classis Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT)...**pg. 28**
- Safe Church Team (SCT) Faye Martin ...**pg. 33-35**
- Classis Renewal Team – with CMC Report
- Leadership Development Network (LDN)...**pg. 31-32**
- Church Development Team (CDT) – with CMC Report

6. Classis Ministries

- Ministry to Seafarers / Chaplain Ernst Devries...**pg. 37**
- Christian Reformed Campus Ministry in B.C....**pg. 30**
- Downtown Friends / Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma
- Breakthrough Ministries...**pg. 29**

7. Denominational Ministries

- CRCNA BOT – Andy de Ruyter
- Home / World Missions- J. DeGroot **pg. 40-41**
- World Renew – Ko Spysma – **pg. 38-39**
- Calvin College BOT
- Calvin Seminary BOT
- Office of Race Relations
- Diaconal Ministries Canada – Rachel Vroege - **attached**
- Disability Regional advocate – Caroline Short
- Faith Formation – Liz Tolcamp

Non-Denominational Ministries

- Bethesda Christian Association - **attached**
- Cascade Christian Counselling - **attached**
- The Kings University College
- M2 / W2 - **attached**

8. Reports from Pre- Advice Committees

- Overtures - New Westminster CRC & Nanaimo CCC **pg.13**
- Expenses - 1st Vancouver CRC & Victoria CCC
- Credentials - Alberni Valley CRC & Victoria CRC
- Review of Transcribed / Concept Minutes - The Tapestry & Houston CRC
- Standing Nominations Committee – CMC (in addendum report)

note: attached documents were sent in a separate pdf file along with this agenda

9. Additional Reports / Correspondence

- Request for support and funding for Refugee Chaplain and Community Mobilizer - **pg. 26-27**
Rev's. Al Chu and/or Trevor Vanderveen
- Motion to approve Ministry Shares (Fall Session)
- Submitted written reports not accompanied by verbal presentation (listed on pg.11 under #3)
- List of Classical Committees / Teams and Denominational Representatives – **pg. 42-43**
- Acronym List - **pg. 44**

10. Closing Session

- President to inquire of delegates / team members / executive if all business has been completed
- Closing announcements and notifications
 - Next Meeting of Classis – October 4th & 5th, 2016, 1st Vancouver CRC
 - Next Officers of Classis - Rev. Andrew Aukema : President
 - Rev. Curtis Korver : Vice All
- Closing remarks by President
- Vice All to lead in thanking all those who participated, (president, secretaries, kitchen help, host church volunteers etc)
- Vice All to lead in closing devotions

President to declare Classis adjourned.

LODGING / TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS

For lodging requests and airport pickup / drop off, please provide the following information to the Ms. Chrystal Malapas from Immanuel CRC, no later than

February 23, 2016 **email: chrystalm@gmail.com**

1. Name and City of Home Church _____
2. Name of Delegate _____
3. Billet / Lodging _____ Yes _____ No
4. Transportation _____ from airport _____ to airport
Transportation to and from Billet / Hotel _____ Yes _____ No
5. Airline & Flight # _____ arrival time on March 1st _____
Airline & Flight # _____ departure time on March 2nd _____
6. Any special dietary requirements (allergies etc) _____

All expense claims need to be accompanied with receipts for travel, meals, mileage etc.

Stated Clerk Report

March 1st & 2nd, 2016

1] Welcome to Session 70 of Classis British Columbia North - West.

A big thank you to the council and members of Immanuel CRC for their hospitality in once again hosting the March meeting of classis.

2] The agenda for this meeting will keep us busy with ministry reports and presentations, candidate Janina Mobach's examination (Wednesday morning) a report by Canadian Ministries Director Darren Roorda (Tuesday afternoon), participation in the Kairos Blanket Exercise (Tuesday evening), a pastoral art. 17 issue, 2016 synod delegate elections, nominations as well as all the regular classis work and committee reporting. Also the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Classis BCNW incorporation will need to take place as well.

3] As stated clerk I have engaged in numerous emails, telephone calls, conference calls, correspondence, reports, meetings, dealing with requests and information from pastors and councils, continual updating functionaries lists, web site updates and organization, organizing marriage registrations for new pastors in our classis as well as some temporary registration numbers for visiting pastors, set the examinations in place and assigned the various teams needed for these examinations, organized CMC agenda material and lead meeting, recorded executive minutes, set agendas, recorded and distributed classis minutes and regular administrative duties on behalf of classis. Other work done includes spending time on forwarding announcement emails, denominational and government communications, etc. to churches, committees, and others as required.

4] On December 1st, 2015, I participated in a Vidyo conference with the other 11 stated clerks of Canada and Rev. Dr. Daren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director.

Subjects discussed were:

- Whether all classes in Canada have registered charity status and how many were incorporated.

- Elder / Deacon training: note DMC website for materials

- Newly ordained Canadian Leaders Gathering, January 20/21, 2016

- Ministry Plan Development and Contextualization

- National Gathering of CRC in Canada, May 6 to 8, 2016

- Proposed seminary (student) funding proposal and overture from Classis Hamilton

- Governance / Societies Act – Provincial

Agreed to have these stated clerk meetings twice a year from now on as they have proven to be very helpful in networking and information shared between the Canadian Classes.

5] Sent as an attachment in a single pdf file along with the agenda, written reports from:

M2W2, Diaconal Ministries Canada,

Cascade Christian Counselling & Bethesda Christian Association

6] Classis Credential Form. *Note new contact information section

Please complete and return before the meeting of classis, either scanning and sending by email or using post-mail. If you send back the credentials by email, electronic signatures are fine. You do not have to send a second copy with signatures. Please note to include delegates email addresses.

It would be helpful if delegates could be elected/appointed at least 1 month before the meeting of classis so I can better prepare them for the large amount of material that is needed to be studied and read before classis meets. In this way we make good use of our limited time together and all delegates can come properly prepared. Please send the names of delegates with email address as soon as possible.

7] Please do what you can to keep travel costs down, booking flights early, using possible seat sales when coming from the north and ride / ferry sharing when coming from the Island. Also please inform the contact person from Immanuel CRC by February 23rd, on transportation and lodging requirements. (please see the form at the bottom of **pg. 3 of the main agenda)**

8] Delegates are reminded to review the “classical rules of procedures” before attending classis, (available on our website, www.classisbcnw.ca under documents) and are reminded that as delegates, you are expected to attend all sessions of classis.

9] The Fall 2016 meeting of classis will be held on October 4th & 5th, 2016, at 1st Vancouver CRC in Vancouver, B.C. (who will be celebrating their 90th anniversary as the first CRC in B.C.)

10] Classical and Denominational ministry shares for 2016

<u>Classis BCNW Ministry Share</u>		<u>Denominational Ministry Share</u>	
per member \$ 66.95		per member \$ 376.42	
Ministry to Seafarers	\$ 9.45	BTGMI	\$ 44.41
LDN	\$ 7.50	Calvin College	\$ 3.40
(2017 - \$10.00 / 2018 - \$12.50)			
SFC	\$ 12.00	Area Colleges: Kings	\$ 65.46
C.R. Campus Ministry	\$ 15.00	Calvin Seminary	\$ 36.27
Classis Expense Fund	\$ 14.00	Church Support Min.	\$ 78.95
Kwantlen Chaplain	\$ 1.00	Home Missions	\$ 47.35
SCT	\$ 4.00	World Missions	\$ 61.17
downtown friends	\$ 4.00	Syn. Admin. Services	\$ 35.68
		Assistance fund	\$ 3.73

note: CRHM and CRWM retain individual budgets while the unification approved by Synod 2015 is implemented.

Classical Ministry Shares: 50 % by July 1st / Balance at end of year.

11] Church Visiting for 2015/2016

Church Visitors Assignments for 2015/16, beginning March 2015

The following church visiting assignments have been assigned for this year.

Visits to be completed by March 1, 2016

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

Church being visited:	Church doing the visit:	Date Visited: 2015/2016
-----------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------

Northern Churches:

Terrace CRC	- Houston CRC	**
Smithers CRC	- Terrace CRC	
Telkwa CRC	- Prince George CRC	June 8, 2015*
Houston CRC	- Telkwa CRC	Sept 8, 2015*
Prince George CRC	- Smithers CRC	June 1, 2015*

Island Churches:

Victoria CRC	- Duncan CRC	April 14, 2015*
Victoria CCC	- Nanaimo CRC	
Duncan CRC	- Alberni Valley CRC	
Nanaimo CCC	- Victoria CRC	
Alberni Valley CRC	- Victoria CCC	

Lower Mainland Churches

Maple Ridge CRC	- Vancouver CRC	
Mundy Park CF	- New Westminster CRC	
New Westminster CRC	- Nelson Ave CC	**
Nelson Ave CC	- The Tapestry	Nov. 17, 2015
Vancouver CRC	- Nelson Ave. CC	
Richmond Immanuel CRC	- Maple Ridge CRC	Jan. 10, 2016
Richmond The Tapestry	- Mundy Park CF	

* all ready reported on
** report coming

Reimbursement form for classical church visits

On our web page, www.classisbcnw.ca, under the tab marked “documents” you will find a short form that needs to be filled out for any reimbursements for costs associated with a classical church visit. These forms need to be printed off and sent to the stated clerk, either by scanning and emailing, classisbcnw@shaw.ca or regular mail, 22591 McClinton Ave., Richmond, B.C. V6V 2P8 for approval for payment. Please do not send directly to the classical treasurer.

Church Visitors Assignments for 2016/17, beginning March 2016

Visits to be completed by March 1, 2017

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

Church being visited: 2016/2017	Church doing the visit:	Date Visited:
--	--------------------------------	----------------------

Northern Churches:

Terrace CRC	- Smithers CRC	
Smithers CRC	- Prince George CRC	
Telkwa CRC	- Terrace CRC	
Houston CRC	- Telkwa CRC	
Prince George CRC	- Houston CRC	

Island Churches:

Victoria CRC	- Nanaimo CCC	
Victoria CCC	- Duncan CRC	
Duncan CRC	- Alberni Valley CRC	
Nanaimo CCC	- Victoria CCC	
Alberni Valley CRC	- Victoria CRC	

Lower Mainland Churches

Maple Ridge CRC	- New Westminster CRC	
Mundy Park CF	- Nelson Ave CC	
New Westminster CRC	- The Tapestry	
Nelson Ave CC	- Maple Ridge CRC	
1 st Vancouver CRC	- Mundy Park CF	
Richmond Immanuel CRC	- 1 st Vancouver CRC	
Richmond The Tapestry	- Richmond Immanuel CRC	

Reimbursement form for classical church visits

On our web page, www.classisbcnw.ca, under the tab marked “documents” you will find a short form that needs to be filled out for any reimbursements for costs associated with a classical church visit. These forms need to be printed off and sent to the stated clerk, either by scanning and emailing, classisbcnw@shaw.ca or regular mail, 22591 McClinton Ave., Richmond, B.C. V6V 2P8 for approval for payment. *Please do not send directly to the classical treasurer.*

Humbly Submitted,
Andy de Ruyter
Stated Clerk

Motion to approve the work of the stated clerk.

CLASSICAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE
REPORT TO CLASSIS BCNW: Session 70

March 1st & 2nd, 2016

The classical Ministries committee does most of its work by email conversations, phone calls and conference call meetings. Meetings were on November 10th and January 26th, where several key issues were discussed and items planned for the agenda of this classis meeting.

1] CMC Actions

- Reviewed and approved expenses from Classis meeting in October 2015 - \$ 6240.01
- Classis Renewal Event held prior to the Classis meeting: \$ 1908.53
- Appointed Rev. Tim Sheridan to serve as the next chair of classis and Rev. Andrew Aukema as Vice-all.
 - Rev. Chelsey Harmon will serve as recording secretary.
- Rev. Curtis Korver will lead classis delegates in the Kairos Blanket Exercise for the Tuesday evening session.
- The Annual General Meeting of the Corporation of Classis BCNW will need to take place at this classis meeting. - agenda and minutes of past meeting **pgs. 18-19**
- Rev. Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director, to address Classis at 3pm on the Tuesday March 1st, session

Ministry Funding Tax Report

Classis Treasurer David Pel has continued doing an ongoing review of accountability criteria for the ministries classis financial support. Items such as appointing directors, control over spending, agreement outlining accomplishments on behalf of classis, incorporation requirements etc.

Will be meeting with lawyers to discuss liability concerns and responsibilities

He will make a report to classis on what needs to be done by each ministry.

Election of Synod 2016 Delegates

A proposal for a new process to elect Synod delegates is included in this agenda. **pg. 12**

Election of delegates will happen in the Nominations Committee report.

Classis Renewal

The CMC has continued with this work from our last classis meeting. A draft proposal for a Vision / Missions statement will be presented for approval. With this statement a “Carry Forward Team” will be appointed to examine how we are doing ministry within our classis and try to focus more on partnering with the local churches instead of doing ministry for them, (aligning with the same thought of the new denomination ministry plan currently being implemented) Included in the work of this Team will be a full review of our current classis ministries, how we are involved, how we support (both human and financially), length of support, church planting funding, ministry shares etc. A clearer mandate will be worked out in the coming months with a presentation at the October classis meeting.

At the same time the CMC is looking at its own mandate and considering the possibility of separating into two committees, one Ministries Committee that would deal with local

churches in ministries and the standing committees (ministries) of classis and then an interim committee that would deal with all administrative, church order matters. Most of these thoughts come from our renewal event held last October. CMC continues to evaluate and make plans to implement many of the ideas and comments heard at this event. Along with this review is how actual classis meetings are run, the way we deal with ministry reporting, the way we hear guest speakers and presenters, the way we do the business of classis, topics for workshops / seminaries, interviews and fellowship times. As always, CMC welcomes all councils input, ideas and suggestions as we move forward with making changes and remaining a positive link for the broader CRC church.

Advisors to Synod 2016

CMC approved of the nominations for Rev. David Cheung to serve as an Ethnic advisor and Ms. Melissa Van Dyk to serve as a Woman's advisor to Synod 2016. Nominations were sent to the BOT for their consideration.

National Gathering: May 6-8, 2016

Each church has been asked to nominate 1 or 2 persons to attend this conference. Each Canadian Classis will be sending 12 delegates, the 12 chosen from the list of nominees submitted.

Each delegate will be required to pay \$150.00 which should be paid by their church. Each classis is being asked to pay \$500.00. The rest of the funding is to be covered by the denomination.

Motion needed to approve the \$500.00 funding.

note: Rev. Daren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director, in his address to classis on the Tuesday afternoon session will highlight this event and answer questions.

New B.C. Societies Act

All churches will have to align themselves with the new B.C. Societies Act in the coming year. The legislation has been passed and implemented as of January 2016. There is a two year grace period for churches / charities to come on line. Information has and will be passed on to the churches in the coming months of the steps to take. Councils please take note. This is very important to your incorporation and charity status.

Funding for workshop by Prof. John Cooper

CMC approve a funding request from several pastors for a \$1500.00 grant for a weekend workshop by Prof. John Cooper from Calvin Seminary on: "Same sex unions and the CRC: Biblical and Hermeneutical Reflections".

Motion needed to ratify.

Refugee Chaplain and Community Mobilizer request

Request for support and funding, Rev's Al Chu and/or Trevor Vanderveen

- report on **pgs. 26-27**

Overtures

Received 1 overture from Alberni CRC. Referred to pre-advice overtures committee

Classical Pulpit supply has been set for the Victoria CCC, Mundy Park CF and Houston CRC for the months of January to May 2016.

<u>DATES</u>	<u>Victoria CCC</u>	<u>Mundy Park CF</u>	<u>Houston CRC</u>
<u>January</u>			
10	Rev. Henry Jonker	Rev. Sam Lee	Rev. Joel Ringma
24	Rev. A. Turkstra	Rev. Andrew Beunk	Rev. Jo Ellis
<u>February</u>			
7	Rev. Curtis Korver	Rev. Gary Roosma	Mr. Curt Gesch
21	Chaplain E DeVries	Rev. T VanderVeen	Rev. Andrew Aukema
<u>March</u>			
6	open	Rev. Jo Schouten	open
20	Rev. B. Salverda	Rev. Tim Sheridan	Dr. Neil Lettinga
<u>April</u>			
3	Rev. C. Harmon	Rev. M. Bouma	Chaplain E. DeVries
17	Rev. Daren Colyn	Rev. Al Chu	Rev. A. VanderWoerd
<u>May</u>			
1	Rev. D. Salverda	Rev. Gary Roosma	Mr. Curt Gesch
15	Rev. H. Jonker	Rev. David Cheung	Mr. John Franken

If pulpit supply is still needed for Fall 2016, a new list will be made in June 2016.

2] Ministerial Concerns and actions

Candidate Examination

Candidate Janina Mobach has accepted a call from “downtown fiends” for a bi-vocational ministry position. (1st Vancouver CRC as calling church) Included in this agenda are copies of the job description and a letter of information on bi-vocational ministries from Rev. David Koll, denominational Director of candidacy. **pgs. 14-17**

Examination to take place on the Wednesday morning session, March 2nd, beginning at 9am.

Examiners:

Practica – Rev. Andrew Beunk

Biblical and Theological Position – Rev. Joel Ringma

Sermon Evaluators – Rev’s. Sam Le and Al Wu

Synodical Deputies: Rev’s. Cameron Fraser - Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan,
Ken Koeman - Classis Pacific NW and Andrew VanderLeek - Classis BCSE

Art. 17 Separation

Duncan CRC has requested an art. 17 separation between themselves and Rev. Walt Vanderwerf.

The CMC has appointed a pre-advice team of Rev’s. Henry Jonker, Brittney Salverda and Elder John Messelink, to meet with all parties involved and advise classis on how to proceed.

The two documents, request from the Duncan CRC and the report from the pre-advice committee will be given to the classis delegates under executive session at the classis meeting.

The synodical deputies will also be present.

Classis Councilor for Houston CRC

The CMC has appointed Rev. Jo Ellis to serve as classis councilor for the vacant Houston CRC while their current councilor, Rev. Ken Vander Horst is on leave.

3] Requests for reporting at this meeting of classis (late Tuesday afternoon session)

- LDN – Andrew Aukema / Wilma Van der Leek
- CRWM: Jenny DeGroot
- Faith Formation: Liz Tolkamp
- Seafarers: Ernst DeVries
- World Renew: Ko Spyksma
- DMC: Rachel Vroege
- Disability advocate – Caroline Short
- Bethesda – Joyce Vander Hoek
- Safe Church Team Coordinator: Faye Martin

Written Reports submitted (no verbal presentation)

CMLT, CRCM, Breakthrough Ministries, Cascade Counselling, M2/W2, SFC

4] Ministry Fair

CMC has been looking at implementing a Ministry Fair for interaction between delegates and various ministries and their reps. A lot of feedback from the ministry reps has resulted in our re-thinking of this as their main concern is a lack of interaction at Ministry Fairs as delegates are often too busy in the breaks to meet with the reps. CMC is looking at other options for Ministry reporting, including highlighting one or two ministries per classis meetings and giving more time for interaction and reporting. CMC will continue to work with the Ministries and the upcoming “Moving Forward team” from the Classis renewal in coming up with a positive solution for both the ministry reps and the delegates to a classis meeting and finding the best way of reporting to the local churches.

5] Nomination Committee Report (ballot will be in the addendum report)

Election / Appointment of delegates to Synod 2016

note: more Elder and Deacon nominees needed

Historical Archives – Anne Kwantes: re-appoint to a 3rd term

CTS – denominational ballot

Alternate synodical deputy - Henry Jonker 2nd term

Banner Correspondent (Tracy Yam retiring)

Seafarers – Rens Slot re-appoint to 2nd term

CMC – Henry Numan and David Salverda – re-appoint to 2nd terms

Stated Clerk – Andy De Ruyter reappoint to a 3rd term

6] Stated Clerk / CMC Addendum Report

- will be made available to delegates shortly before classis meets.

7] Motion to approve the work of the CMC

Mr. Andy de Ruyter - Lead / Stated Clerk
Rev. Jo Schouten - Secretary / alt. Stated Clerk / nominations

Mr. David Pel - Classis Treasurer
Mr. Victor Chen - CMLT/SFC rep
Rev. David Salverda
Rev. Henry Numan

**Proposal for election of Synod delegates.
CMC**

The minister delegate be appointed by way of rotation as per classis rules of procedure for senior ministers who have served the longest within classis and have not yet been delegated to a synod meeting. The alternate for this position would be the following year name on the rotation list.

For 2016:

- * Rev. Chelsey Harmon –delegate
- * Rev. Andrew Aukema - alternate

The following nominees would come by way of the classical credentials from local councils / churches or from the floor of classis, providing the potential nominee has agreed to his/her nomination.

The elder delegate and their alternate be selected by vote from a list of elder nominees presented to Classis for delegation to synod.

- * Elder Ed Adema from Prince George CRC has been nominated

The deacon delegate and their alternate be selected by vote from a list of deacon nominees presented to Classis for delegation to synod.

- * Deacon Elly Hofman from Mundy Park CF has been nominated

The fourth delegate and their alternate be selected by vote from a list of nominees from any of the three offices presented to Classis for delegation to synod. This would include all ordained ministers within Classis BCNW and any elder/deacon nominees left over from the first round of elections.

note: the alternates elected for the first three positions would be eligible for this position as well. If one of the alternates is chosen for the fourth position, their alternate position would be taken by the next in line from their original position.

Overture from Alberni Valley CRC to Classis BCNW January 2016

Overture: The council of Alberni Valley CRC asks classis BCNW to overture synod to adopt all the recommendations of the Doctrine of Christian Discovery report, especially Recommendations F, G,

Grounds

1. We sense that there is now in Canada a *kairos* moment. The CRCPD and other justice agencies have long advocated for new relationships with First Nations people. The national Truth and Reconciliation Commission has submitted its final report and the federal government has committed to adopting the report's recommendations. We sense the Holy Spirit moving this country toward reconciliation and the recommendations of the report will be help us participate in the Spirit's work. Now is the time to ensure that the ongoing work of the CRC in Canada continues and expands (Recommendation F).

- Though we still see through a glass darkly, we see faint glimpses of people from every nation, tribe, people and language streaming into the presence of God (Revelation 7:9); we sense an opportunity to join God's gathering and reconciling work.

2. Many classes and congregations have participated in "The Blanket Exercise" and are asking for next steps and recommendations in the report will be of immense value.

- The development of materials to help us understand the DoCD (Recommendation G) would help us to participate faithfully and give meaningful direction to local and national efforts at renewed relationships with First Nations people.
- Resources for prayer and lament (Recommendation I) help give voice to our sadness upon learning of the wrongs our nation has committed against First Nations people and guide us to repentance.
- The call for a common story (Recommendation K) would help us enter into humble and meaningful dialogue with First Nations neighbours; this is an essential part of the communication of the Gospel.

Candidate Janina Mobach

The council of 1st CRC Vancouver, as the calling church for emerging church Downtown Friends CRC, is delighted to invite you to serve as a bi-vocational missionary pastor in the exciting work of making disciples and helping this simple church network in Vancouver. This letter officially conveys the call to you to this ministry.

Job Description

Bi-vocational Urban Missionary: Helps develop emerging network of simple churches by giving leadership to *downtown friends'* **mission** of making disciples of unbelievers in downtown Vancouver and by modeling a missional lifestyle to other believers

The missionary pastor will be responsible to: Mary-Lee Bouma & *downtown friends'* leadership team. Her supervision will include biweekly meetings for training, study and prayer.

Job Responsibilities

Leadership (8 hours):

- share vision-casting responsibilities for simple church network
- coordinate annual church leadership retreat
- listen and elicit ideas from church community as well as from neighbourhood communities regarding ongoing strategy in creating simple church network

Disciple making (12 hours)

- model giving and receiving hospitality to and from neighbours
- listen, love, and serve neighbours
- do justice with and for neighbours
- invite others to follow the Jesus-Way

Preaching & Teaching (8 hours)

- share one quarter of preaching/teaching for network gatherings
- share pulpit supply appointments

Campus Ministry (8 hours)

- share pastoral and evangelistic responsibility for initiating new downtown campus ministry
- meet staff, students, and faculty
- help coordinate hospitality events, outings, and discussion groups

Spiritual Companionship (4 hours)

- offer formal or informal spiritual direction to neighbours and/or students

40 hours per month

From: David Koll
Director of Candidacy for the CRCNA
Re: Bi-vocational call for Candidate Janina Mobach

Thank you for inviting me into the conversation as your Classical Ministry Committee seeks to concern how to appropriately process the request for ordination of candidate Janina Mobach and the related job description at Downtown Friends CRC in Vancouver.

For the sake of full disclosure, and as noted on the letter from Rev Mary-Lee Bouma, I have been involved in this case for a while. I helped introduce Janina to Mary-Lee as Janina was seeking a specific type of mentor, and I have been privileged to see Janina progress through the 24-month non-resident EPMC program. Mary-Lee has also consulted me in how to honor the church order covenants as they look for ways to step into a new chapter of partnership between Downtown Friends CRC and Janina.

As you and I acknowledged in our phone conversation, this case has many non-conventional elements to it, and also presents us with opportunities to contextualize our processes in ways that they have not been contextualized before. I'm hoping and praying that your classis can find a way to be faithful to our covenants and the intent of the church order, while also affirming an exciting and innovative ministry opportunity.

Here are some questions that deserve some reflection:

Why is this job description presented to classis?

The main reason is because the ministry Janina will be doing is in a bi-vocational context, and Church Order Article 15 requires approval of classis for such an arrangement. ("By way of exception and with the approval of classis, a church and minister may agree that a minister obtain primary or supplemental income by means of other employment.")

I would offer a few observations that would affirm the motion to allow this exception:

- Even the senior pastor, Mary-Lee, is working under such a "bi-vocational" model. The model is intricate to the ministry plan of Downtown Friends, so the expansion of the ministry team would naturally follow under this "bi-vocational" provision.
- The reality is that the whole of Janina's life, as it is in Mary-Lee's life, revolves around a pastoral identity, The "supplemental income" is motivated by a ministry plan that brings the gospel into the streets.
- This ministry plan arrangement can serve as a useful and helpful laboratory for future denominational ministry and missional endeavors, as it also is built on a "tent-making model" that is as old as the apostle Paul.

Is classis paying sufficient attention to the guidelines of the supplement to Article 15?

It is good to review the definition of "proper support" and the guidelines advanced by synod 1987 as they appear in the supplement. Keep in mind, though, the intent of these statements rather than treating them as rigid regulations. They are, in fact, called "guidelines." Their intent, I believe, is

to ensure that a given pastor is adequately cared for, both in the present and into the future through salary, health insurance, opportunity for rest, opportunity for continuing education, and a plan for eventual retirement income.

Again, a few observations may be helpful:

- In the broader CRC context, especially since 1987, there has emerged a great divergence between compensation packages and housing allowances.
- Janina would be blessed with medical insurance, and with income sufficient for her living.
- Ultimately it is an individual decision whether to accept a given compensation package, and in this case Janina is eager to enter into this arrangement.
- The expected number of hours of ministry (10 per week as specified in the job description) and hours of other employment (presumably 40 hours a week) does not exceed the specified number of sixty hours per week (see guideline #5 in Church Order Supplement Art 15). This is to say that classis can know that they have not demanded or facilitated for Janina an unhealthy number of expected work hours.

Can classis approve as ordainable a ministry position that is only 10 hours per week?

This is a very interesting question, and it has been presented to me in other contexts. I have not been able to find in the church order any reference to a minimal number of hours, or even a minimal required pay scale. I have seen, in fact, ministries contract with ordained pastors for even less than 10 hours per week, and at no pay at all. It depends on the joint and shared vision of the ministry and the ordained minister in question.

For pension purposes (as noted in the Church Order Art. 15 Supplement guideline #4) the pension credit earned is “in proportion to the percentage of time devoted to the duties of the church.” Yet eligibility for full pension credit “may be secured if full contribution to the Minister’s Pension Plan is made.” This is a question of pension, though, and not a question of “eligibility for ordination.” Janina will be well served in the process makes her aware of these pension considerations, and if Janina is encouraged in some way to make a plan for eventual retirement. However, a number of her peers are entering ministry without entering the denominational pension plan, and a number of the current ordained Ministers of the Word take a break from making pension plan contributions as they enter into a ministry for which pension payments are not feasible.

I would add another comment at this point. A given church that would want to call a person to a 10 hour a week position would not need the permission of classis to do so. Churches that build staff are free to engage the services of retired and active pastors, as they offer them a call to their ministry positions. What brings this situation before classis is the “bi-vocational element” at play. Which is to say, if Janina had a wealthy family supporting her so she only needed to do 10 hours of ministry each week, the Downtown Friends CRC would have been able to simply call her.

(I need to add a parenthetical note here: The call letter for all pastors requires the signature of a counselor, which in some sense then constitutes a “classis approval” of even the 10 hour a week positions. However, in practice, many churches find their classis does not demand a counselor signed call letter for staff ministry positions. It may or may not be a relevant for this issue to be raised in your classis. However, a) this is not the issue properly before your classis at this point, as

b) Downtown Friends has been admirably transparent in bringing their strategy for building staff before the classis.)

One more thought regarding the concept of “part time ministry” being eligible for ordination (whether as Minister of the Word or as Commissioned Pastor). In a very broad perspective I am sensing this is an issue we will be dealing with more and more as a denomination and as classes. I’ll admit some personal discomfort as I imagine a person being ordained for only 2 hours per week, for instance. There seems to be some “tipping point” where a person is actually not legitimately active in ministry, and this would need to be dealt with according to Church Order Articles 14 and 17. However, in Janina’s case, two factors have been persuasive for me: a) Her “10 hours per week” job description are a way to quantify something that is in fact, part of a full time calling as ministry, albeit in a non-conventional way. Mary-Lee has led the way in this, and Janina follows, and we all will hopefully be able to learn from this new model. b) 10 hours would not be on the side of the tipping point where I would say “they are no longer in ministry” – I’m thinking here of cases where both partners in a marriage are ordained, and a single position is shared. We’re generally willing to benefit even from a 25%/75% share model, which is equivalent to the hours expected of Janina in the documents that have been presented.

Wouldn’t it be better to recognize more part time ministry as eligible for Commissioned Pastor ordination, and leave the Minister of the Word ordination to those engaged in full time ministry?

This is a question some might raise, and I hear it offered as we are finding our way through our evolving ordination practices. Let me offer a few observations:

- The denomination has not used “full time” vs. “part time” to differentiate the ordinations. There are full time and part time laborers in both pastoral ordination categories.
- The major differentiation that the denomination has used is “those who have completed the requirements for the Minister of the Word ordination” vs. “those who have not”. Which is to say, the major distinguishing element is that of the training, or educational background.
- Janina has been approved as a candidate for Minister of the Word, indicating that she has completed all the requisite training for that office. Therefore the ministry she would do as an ordained person would properly be done as a Minister of the Word.

I am hopeful that these extended reflections serve you as you process this matter. Please feel free to contact me if you need clarification regarding anything I have stated. Blessings to you as a classis as you deal with the request before you.

In His Service,
David Koll

March 1, 2016
2016 Annual General Meeting of the Members

- 1] Call the 2016 AGM to order
- 2] Motion to approve the Minutes of the 2015 AGM (copy of minutes below)
- 3] Treasurer's Report
 - a) Motion to accept the financial statements for 2015
 - b) Motion to appoint auditors for 2016:
 - McBride, Lauwers & Bosmas, Certified General Accountants
- 4] Election of Board Officers and Directors
 - J.P. (Andy) de Ruyter - Stated Clerk / CMC Lead
 - David Pel - Classis Treasurer
 - Jo Schouten- CMC Secretary / Alt. Stated Clerk
- 5] Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF
CLASSIS BC NORTH-WEST OF THE CRCNA,
(the "Corporation") held on March 2nd, 2015

With the consent of the meeting, J.P. (Andy) de Ruyter acted as President of the meeting and David Pel acted as Secretary of the meeting.

CONSTITUTION OF MEETING

The President stated that all of the members of the Corporation was personally present and that notice of the meeting had been sent to all of the members of the Corporation in accordance with the by-laws of the Corporation, proof of such notice and attendance of members at the meeting was taken and maintained by the Secretary and shall be available upon request. The President therefore declared the meeting to be regularly constituted for the transaction of business.

ANNUAL REPORT

The President presented to the meeting the annual report of the Corporation containing the financial statement and the report of the auditor thereon and requested the Secretary to read to the meeting the auditor's report appended to the balance sheet. After the reading of the auditor's report and On motion duly made, seconded and carried unanimously,

IT WAS RESOLVED that the reading of the annual report for the fiscal year ended December 31 2014, be dispensed with.

The President then made a few remarks on the annual report and on motion duly made, seconded and carried unanimously,

IT WAS RESOLVED that the financial statements of the Corporation for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, with comparative statement for the preceding financial year made up of a statement of income and retained earnings, balance sheet and a statement of changes in financial position for each period, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

WHEREAS it is required under the provisions of the *Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act* (the "Act") that the members shall at each annual meeting appoint one or more auditors to hold office until the next annual meeting and, if an appointment is not so made, the auditor in office shall continue in office until a successor is appointed and that the auditor shall make such examination as will enable the auditor to report to the members as required under the Act;

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried unanimously,
IT WAS RESOLVED that McBride Lauwers & Bosmas and they are hereby appointed Auditor of the Corporation for the ensuing year. The unanimous written consent of all of the members of the Corporation (including those not otherwise entitled to vote at the annual meeting of the Corporation) exempting the Corporation for the ensuing fiscal year from the requirements of the Act regarding the appointments and duties of an Auditor was directed to be annexed as a schedule to these minutes.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The President called for nominations for election as directors of the Corporation and the following persons were nominated:

J.P. (Andy) de Ruyter
David Pel

Johannes Schouten

There being no further nominations, the President declared nominations closed.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried unanimously,

It was resolved that the following persons be elected directors of the Corporation for a term expiring at the close of the next annual meeting, or until their successors are elected or appointed.

J.P. (Andy) de Ruyter
David Pel
Johannes Schouten

CONFIRMATION OF ACTS

It was resolved that all acts, contracts, by-laws, proceedings, appointments, elections and payments enacted, made, done and taken by the directors and officers of the Corporation since the last meeting of members referred to in the minutes of the meetings of the board of directors of the Corporation or in the annual reports of the Corporation be and the same are hereby approved, ratified and confirmed.

TERMINATION

There being no further business before the meeting, the meeting then terminated.

J.P. (Andy) de Ruyter – President

David Pel – Secretary

Canadian Ministries Director: Rev. Darren Roorda
Classis Handout for 2015-16

Dear Classis Participants,

In my time spent with you at Classis I wish to discuss some of the significant resources, tools and responses that we have been working on in the Canadian Ministry Office. Below you will find links to some of those resources which may also be available in print form at the Classis meeting itself.

As well, you will find a handout about the Emerging Ministry Plan that we will be working through at the Classis meeting in small groups. We also hope that the conversation about the CRC Ministry Plan makes it into your churches. More to come at the meeting...

Contents:

1. Ministry Plan Handout Attached (to be used in conjunction with local churches)
2. Web link to /Canada page: <http://www.crcna.org/Canada>
3. Refugee Response Link (resources and video): <http://www.crcna.org/Canada/social-justice-canada/refugee-issues>
4. Canadian Ministry Directory:
http://www.crcna.org/sites/default/files/ministry_in_canada_directory_-_august_2015.pdf
5. Other CDN projects:
 - a. Youth Ministry Pilot Project
 - b. Denominational service practices with Classis Niagara Pilot
 - c. Preparing for Synod 2015: Doctrine of Discovery and the Blanket Exercise

**THE EMERGING MINISTRY PLAN OF THE CRCNA:
Possibilities for Congregations**

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Desired future #1: Congregations of the Christian Reformed Church participate with each other and with their local communities to discern where the Spirit is working and to bear witness to Christ's presence.

Strategic Focus 1.1 Congregations discover and discern how God is at work in their churches and communities, bringing renewal and transformation.
--

Step 1.1.1: Congregations assess their community assets, ministries and opportunities.
--

Step 1.1.2. Congregations design experiments and develop plans and strategies that will enhance ministry contextualization and renewal.

Strategic Focus 1.2: Ministry leaders,¹ both ordained and lay, discover and discern how God is at work in their communities, resulting in the birth of new churches and discipling communities.

Step 1.2.1: Ministry leaders and groups assess the assets, ministries and opportunities in their local communities.

Step 1.2.2: Leaders emerge from within local contexts to start new churches and discipling communities.

DISCIPLESHIP

Desired future #2: Congregations of the Christian Reformed Church are vibrant, grace-shaped communities engaged in lifelong discipleship with those of all generations.

Strategic Focus 2.1: Congregations are shaped by grace.

Step 2.1.1: Congregations affirm that all that they are and do flows from grace, which defines every dimension of congregational life: culture, worship, discipleship, the ways ministry is structured, pastoral care, the ways power is exercised, etc.

Strategic Focus 2.2: Congregations are places where all generations find spiritual homes and grow in belonging and maturity.

Step 2.2.1: Congregations sign up for the project and use its tools to assess, discern and strengthen practices whose fruit is belonging and maturity.

Strategic Focus 2.3: Congregations discern God's call within their unique identities and contexts, giving rise to strong and creative discipleship practices and a broad range of resources.

Step 2.3.1: Congregations become aware of the faith formation resources available through a combination of regional workshops, interactions with regional personnel and denomination-wide communication and make discerning use of these resources.

Strategic Focus 2.4: Congregations engage children, youth and young adults in the life of the church.

Step 2.4.1: Congregational leaders engaged in youth and young adult ministry assist in developing and implementing an infrastructure to support these areas of ministry.

2.4.2: Five congregations in West Michigan participate in a joint CRC/RCA project called "Generation Spark," whose purpose is to partner young adults with seniors so that together they provide focused ministry leadership.

2.4.3: NOTE: This step will not immediately impact congregations, as young adult ministry is complex and requires discernment work to be undertaken first.

Strategic Focus 2.5: Congregations are characterized by vibrant worship that engages people of all ages.

Step 2.5.1 Congregations have opportunities to grow, relearn preaching, incorporate testimony, re-imagine/retool the use of creeds and confessions, and teach fundamentals of worship.

LEADERSHIP

¹ Ministry leaders, ordained and lay, may be serving in existing congregations or connected in clusters, or may be individuals who have a very clear call to planting.

Desired future #3: Congregations and ministries of the Christian Reformed Church are places where clergy and lay leaders are developed, trained and empowered to lead effectively in today's diverse and challenging contexts.

Strategic Focus 3.1 Congregations and ministries discover, understand and respond to leadership needs in ways that meet their local contexts.

Step 3.1.1: Congregations identify and understand their need for various leadership skill sets.

Step 3.1.2: Congregations identify opportunities for development of current leaders, as well as new leadership positions unique to their context, and prepare specific implementation plans.

Step 3.1.3: Congregations enable individuals to discern God's call to leadership in ways that honor their diversity (e.g., ability, multicultural-racial, socio-economic status, language, age, and gender) and include both ordained and lay leaders in ministry service.

Strategic Focus 3.2 Congregations and ministries are characterized by Spirit-filled leaders who have the skills to minister in their local contexts, both internal and external.

Step 3.2.1 PASTORS:

(A) Congregations allow and encourage pastors to continue to develop holistically as leaders, always understood and expressed in contextual ways.

(B) Congregations, in consultation with their pastors, evaluate existing skills and design or create annual development plans for their ordained clergy.

Step 3.2.2 LAY LEADERS:

(A) Congregations encourage and empower lay leaders to develop holistically as leaders, always understood and expressed in contextual ways.

(B) Congregations evaluate existing skills and design or create a development plan for their lay leaders. This development plan is evaluated and augmented annually, based on individual needs.

Step 3.2.3: Council members are equipped to evaluate leaders.

Strategic Focus 3.3 Congregations and ministries participate in leadership development efforts in mutually beneficial partnership throughout the world.

Step 3.3.1: Congregations identify and participate in global leadership development efforts as appropriate in their contexts (e.g., local university chaplaincy, mission support of global Christian universities, volunteer faculty assignments, etc.)

Step 3.3.2: Congregations identify and participate in global leadership developments appropriate for the mission efforts they support.

Strategic Focus 3.4 Congregations and ministries create opportunities for women, racial-ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and young adults to discover and develop their leadership gifts and callings.

Step 3.4.1: Congregations develop, implement and share tools and programs especially for women and young adults, as well as tools and programs aimed at identifying and developing leadership gifts.

3.4.2: Congregations select and implement tools and programs especially for members of racial-ethnic minorities and those with disabilities, as well as tools and programs aimed at identifying and developing leadership gifts.

IDENTITY

Desired future # 4: Congregations and members of the Christian Reformed Church understand deeply, embrace fully and express freely what it means to be a part of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

Strategic Focus 4.1: Congregations and ministries develop ways to deepen our understanding of our shared identity as the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

Step 4.1.1: Delegates to synod have the opportunity to engage in various learning sessions while at synod.
--

Step 4.1.2: Congregations are offered materials that build a sense of Christian Reformed identity in conjunction with specific events.
--

Strategic Focus 4.2: Congregations, ministries and members of the Christian Reformed Church understand, embrace and express our identity as part of Christ's church worldwide.

Step 4.2.1: Congregations and members express in clear and simple language what it means to be a part of the Christian Reformed Church in North America in the 21st century. ²

Step 4.2.2: Congregations and colleges are encouraged to select a day in an identified span of time as part of a denomination-wide Day of Service and to identify community partners as well as intended participants (youth, intergenerational, etc.).

(Note: This seeks the same kind of unifying effect as the Sea to Sea rides.)

Step 4.2.3: Congregations send leaders, ordained and lay, to various gatherings that provide learning, sharing, and celebrating opportunities geared to a variety of interests and levels.
--

² This process should include within its scope a consideration of accompanying visual representations and use of the words *binational* and *international*.

Strategic Focus 4.3: Congregations, ministries and members understand, embrace and express our identity as a diverse church gathered from "every nation, tribe and tongue."
--

Step 4.3.1: Congregations that are not yet or only emerging as multi-ethnic churches use training and resources to further their journey toward becoming multi-ethnic.
--

Step 4.3.2: Ethnic minority members of the CRCNA use collaborative tables and dedicated personnel to provide continuous feedback on progress for all levels of the denomination.
--

Step 4.3.3: Ecumenical relationships, when appropriate, give rise to the presence of the CRCNA (or a new category of CRC-partner denominations) in countries other than Canada and the U.S.

Strategic Focus 4.4: Congregations, ministries and members respond to the call to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly" with God.

Step 4.4.1: Congregations identify and set goals to address social justice issues that are affecting their local context and one affecting global partnerships.

Step 4.4.2: Congregations engage in active citizenship that encourages them and their leaders to be accountable for developing and implementing just policies.
--

COLLABORATION

Desired future #5: Congregations and ministries of the Christian Reformed Church interact together in ways that are effective, efficient, responsive, cross-culturally competent, easily accessible and sustainable.

Strategic Focus 5.1: Congregations and ministries of the Christian Reformed Church develop new ways of working together at all levels – local, regional, national and binational – that are effective, efficient, responsive, clear and sustainable.

Step 5.1.1: Congregations and classes participate in pilot projects so that together we learn how new delivery systems can emerge in ways that meet the goals of this strategic focus (efficiency, responsiveness, etc.).

Step 5.1.2: Congregations participate in healthy classes that serve church polity purposes as well as provide mutual support, continuing education, strengthening opportunities for established churches, and an impetus for new church development.

Strategic Focus 5.2: The Christian Reformed Church develops new ways of connecting congregations with the denominational services they need, as well as increased opportunities to participate in mission outreach, in a way that generates greater efficiency, accessibility, cross-cultural competence, clarity and sustainability.

Step 5.2.1: Congregations make use of channels for communication with denominational services that (a) reflect and make accessible the five-stream metaphor and (b) recognize that congregations are led by paid staff and volunteers as well as pastors and office-bearers.

Step 5.2.2: Congregations participate in the funding of denominational services and shared ministries in ways that are sustainable and that demonstrate broad ownership and alignment with congregational priorities.

January, 2016

Dear Classis BCNW

My work continues in the following areas:

The Ministry Plan Process:

Is maturing and getting ready for greater implementation. As the pieces come together we are being mindful of their Canadian fit and context.

Leadership Development:

We are hosting a gathering of “New to Ministry in Canada” leaders this month. A total of 13 people will be travelling to our office in Burlington for 2-3 days of learning and prayer together about what it means to be a leader in the CRC in Canada. As well, we will have youth ministry champions, who are working with Syd Hielema under the banner of Faith Formation, meeting during this time. Portions of these meetings will feature a shared time together.

Twice per year the stated clerks and I join in video conference to review work at a classical level. This creates an area of information sharing, learning, and development of ideas or initiatives (Student Funding in Canada as a unique contextual approach, Governance Models to align churches to CNCA/ONCA regulations).

Working towards a stronger linkage and support into *Dunamis* as a means of growth in the area of prayer for local churches and denominational leadership.

Communications:

A new crcna.org/Canada website has been launched! Check it out for news across Canada about ministry in your local context, helpful resources and social justice engagement tools.

A “Ministry in Canada” directory has been developed. This can be found on the website noted above. We are currently developing phase two of this directory in that a list of partner agencies in ministry will be listed.

The CRCNA-Canada Corp. board and the Canadian Ministries office is considering the integration of a communications person solely designated for Canadian CRC ministry. This position would help improve our two way dialogue with churches in the Canadian context. In the area of refugees and other social justice issues, communication is key and consistent amongst churches. A cross-agency approach about local ministry regarding refugees was developed and its integration has proven very successful.

Administration:

Regular monthly meetings of the *Canadian Ministries Team* continue to occur. Members consist of a representative of each agency and specialized ministry of the CRC that work in the Canadian context.

The denominational budgeting process now includes delineation of Canadian and US priorities and initiatives. This will help the Canadian CRC discern and determine a more fulsome Ministry Plan as a nation as it works with its ministries in the Canadian context.

Connecting:

Work continues on a *Connecting* pilot project that is happening in Classis Niagara. This project is exploring a new intentional way of connecting to each church in the classis with a personal customer service approach. As well, a technological resource has been developed for the churches to utilize. Expansion of this project to other classes is planned for later this year. Stay tuned!

We continue to seek to strengthen our linkages and integration with ecumenical partners. Practical approaches to ward ministry effort are being discussed with the Presbyterian Church of Canada, the Reformed Church in America and organizations such as Kairos. A national gathering is being planned for May 6-8 at Wilfrid Laurier University. For more details, check the crcna.org/Canada website.

There is much more to say that builds on the aforementioned. For some classes where I will be present, I look forward to sharing with you at your next classis meeting. If you are not the delegate for this classis, feel free to get in touch with me at any time through email or by phone.

May God greatly bless your ministries,

Darren Roorda
Canadian Ministries Director

REPORT TO CLASSIS BCNW
RE: CFC REFUGEE CHAPLAIN AND COMMUNITY MOBILIZER
January 21, 2016

On November 20th, 2015, First CRC Vancouver and *Engage Vancouver* co-hosted a discernment event to explore possible avenues of responding to the influx of refugees coming to BC. As a direct response to that evening, a Task Force consisting of representatives from a number of CRC congregations was formed to dream, explore, and pray about the possibilities of what God might have in store for CRC churches in the Lower Mainland. Since that meeting, the doors opened in a meaningful, ongoing way.

In May 2016, a Refugee Welcome Centre will open right beside First CRC in East Vancouver. This building, the first of its kind in the world, is a 58,000 square foot facility that will offer Government-Assisted Refugees a holistic place of care for their initial two weeks in BC. From there, they will move to their permanent placement where housing is more affordable, which means the majority of refugees will settle throughout Metro Vancouver and throughout the Fraser Valley. Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS) is the organization tasked with this work of supplying Government-Assisted refugees with temporary placement, identifying permanent housing and assisting refugees with employment and joining Canadian society.

Through on-going conversation with ISS, the Task Force was invited to participate in this humanitarian and community building work by creating and filling a full-time position of **CRC Refugee Chaplain and Community Mobilizer**. This person will open a Multi-faith Chaplaincy office for the Refugee Welcome House and serve as the Christian chaplain. In addition, this person will mobilize our congregations to come alongside Government-sponsored refugees, communicating refugee movement and needs. Furthermore, this person will educate, encourage and equip congregations in the effective assistance, communication with, and respectful care of refugees. Given the CRC's long standing humanitarian work through *World Renew*, our collective experience in sponsoring refugees, our recent experience in both CRC classes in BC to start the Multi-Faith Center at Kwantlen University, and the proximity of one of our churches to the Welcome Centre, we are uniquely situated to make a meaningful impact with government-assisted refugees.

On January 11th, the congregation of First CRC Vancouver unanimously voted to create this position on their staff. A job description was created, and posted, with the hopes that the CRC Refugee Chaplain and Community Mobilizer would begin work on March 1st, 2016. A full job description can be found here: <http://www.van1crc.org/refugee-chaplain-and-community-organizer>. The hope is that the successful candidate would pursue ordination once the position has started.

The position will be accountable to ISS via a Memo of Understanding being currently developed, to First CRC Vancouver as an employee, and to the Regional Task Force. **We propose that Classis BCNW and BCSE approve the Regional Task Force to work on its behalf to annually evaluate the position and the ministry.**

We forecast the annual budget to be approximately \$75,000 (Ministry cost \$15,000; Staff salary \$60,000). Aside from financial commitments by First CRC Vancouver, other CRC congregations have also committed financial support to participate in this ministry and we have asked all CRC congregations in the Lower Mainland to consider planning and promoting a special offering for this ministry. We have also already begun exploring some long-term, strategic partnerships with various denominational ministries.

Thus far, our financial projections for the first year are as follows:

First Vancouver CRC	\$5,000
The Tapestry Church	\$5,000
Other CRC churches	\$15,000
Engage Vancouver	\$2,500
CRHM/ WM Innovation Team	\$7,500
Private Donors	\$20,000
Diaconal Ministries Canada	\$15,000

However, the funds from Denominational partners are not yet firm and we hope to begin this ministry with a firm financial footing. **Therefore, we are humbly requesting that Classis BCNW consider supporting this new ministry to the sum of \$10,000 (through the Classical Church Planting Fund).** Subsequent and on-going funding from Classis for this ministry would be proposed in the 2016 fall meeting.

We look forward to further conversation and collaboration concerning this exciting new ministry opportunity. This is an incredible opportunity for our churches to be a strategic presence with each of the thousands of government-assisted refugees arriving this year and in the years to come. We ask that you continue to pray for the creation, development, and on-going work of this ministry.

The Refugee Chaplain and Community Coordinator Taskforce:

Peter Roukema, Langley Willoughby CRC
Brian Woudstra and Ed VanderPloeg, Fleetwood CRC
Pastor Albert Chu, The Tapestry CRC & Engage Vancouver
Joel Pel, Andrew Kuipers and Pastor Trevor Vanderveen, First CRC Vancouver

BCSE/BCNW CMLT Report To Classis

January 7, 2016

Team Members

Mike VanderKwaak (Chair BCSE), Dan Hoogland (Clerk BCSE), Peter Stillingwerff (SFC BCSE), Marlene Ensing (SFC BCSE), Mary Lee Bouma (BCNW), Henry Jonker (BCNW), Victor Chen (SFC BCNW); Kathy Smith (SFC BCNW) .

The BCSE and BCNW joint CMLT committee continues to meet on a regular basis. Our main objective is to serve, guide and support students and pastors towards candidacy for minister of the word and sacraments in the Christian Reformed Church. The CMLT functions as an umbrella which includes the Student Fund Committee.

The main routes that people can follow towards candidacy are:

- 1) In resident MDIV Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) student; (Art. 6)
- 2) Non-resident MDIV CTS student; (Art 6)
- 3) EPMC (MDIV non-CTS) either 10 week resident or 24 month nonresident. (Art. 6)
- 4) Ordained Pastors from another denomination who wants to be a candidate in the CRC.(Art. 8)

The CMLT also provides support to those seeking ordination via Art. 7 (individuals with exceptional giftedness) and Art. 23 (Commissioned Pastor). We work with individuals and students from a wide range of backgrounds. Some simply want more information. Others are well on their way to candidacy.

We have worked closely with Regent College for several years and host a luncheon every January for students who are pursuing or interested in ministry in the Christian Reformed Church. We are also continuing to establish a relationship with ACTS Seminary in Langley.

We ask Classis to Pray:

- 1) That God would equip, develop and affirm His call on these new emerging leaders in the CRC.
- 2) That God would equip the CMLT in its role of providing support and encouragement to a wide range of individuals considering or seeking ordination in the CRC.
- 3) That God would provide the financial resources necessary (through the Classis Student Fund) to support students who have requested assistance for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Hoogland
CMLT Clerk

Meeting of Classis BCNW, March 1 & 2, 2016
Bi-Annual Report from Breakthrough Ministries
Prepared by Pastor Turk (Andrew Turkstra)
January 20, 2016

Dear Colleagues and Delegates of Classis BCNW:

Review:

Breakthrough Ministries is a bi-vocational chaplaincy ministry directed primarily toward the business community of Nanaimo. Over the past 2 years, I have contacted approximately 350 different businesses with the goal of building relationships of trust through which the gospel of Christ may be discovered, discussed and experienced. Currently, I meet regularly (twice a year or more) with over 200 business owners and managers. During these one on one visits, God has given me the opportunity to be a witness of and a witness to his on-going kingdom work. I have listened to countless life stories. I have been engaged in deep discussions about life, work and faith. I have officiated weddings and sea memorials. I pray regularly for the joys, needs and concerns of those I meet. And I have brought together 3 other individuals (also business leaders) as mutual accountability partners who also participate in this ministry.

Fall 2015 (October—December):

With another season of chartering behind me, I began my Fall visits to the business owners and managers whom I have been getting to know better. During these visits, I handed out over 200 cans of smoked Sockeye Salmon as a small token of love and appreciation for the services these businesses offer, the people they employ, and the economic support they provide to the city of Nanaimo. Their response to this small gift and my continued visits reminded me again of the need of ministering to people in their workplaces.

Winter/Spring 2016 (January—April)

In addition to some preaching and the on-going work of Breakthrough Ministries, God continues to show me new opportunities to break through barriers that stand in the way of experiencing the love of Christ. For many business owners and managers, there are the barriers of stress and time. Yet, asked if they would be willing to find time to retreat aboard my charter boat, the answer is often yes. In the coming months, I will be offering a number of free corporate charters/cruises as a means of encouragement and support. One business owner has even discussed the idea of celebrating communion at sea. To some, this may appear to be blurring the lines between ministry and business. However, as a chaplain and chartered guide, the ministry and business have been designed to work together as both revolve around relationships and life renewal.

The Future:

Long term commitment is necessary for the success of Breakthrough Ministries. As a bi-vocational ministry, my goal has been to build a charter business that would eventually support my work in Nanaimo's business community. During the gradual reduction of Classis and Home Missions funding over the past 2 years, God has blessed the charter business with just enough funds to cover living and ministry expenses. As I enter my final year of funding, I ask that you keep both the ministry and business in your prayers. We are grateful for God's continued guidance and blessing.

Your fellow partner in the Kingdom Work
Pastor Turk

**Report to Classis BCNW of the CRC Campus Ministry @ UNBC
January 21, 2016**

The winter semester has begun faster than we can imagine. Students are buckled down in the library studying. At the chaplaincy the first couple of weeks are ones of adjustments to the schedule of our 15 volunteer chaplains. Here are some questions students have asked me in the last few weeks that have sparked significant conversations:

A Christian student asks, *“Can I trust God, even when bad things happen?” “How do I know I can trust him?”*

A Muslim student asks me *“A Christian minister told me that adultery in the Bible only refers to people who are married; that sex before marriage is ok and that homosexuality is also ok --- Is that what Christians believe ?”*

A student in my class asks: *“I am Catholic, do I need special permission to visit an Evangelical church?”*

A female student with no religious affiliation asks: *“I have dreams every night about being washed in the waters of Allah. I think he wants me to learn how to pray—can you help me?”*

My Comparative Religions course has 70 students. Yesterday I chose a TA to help me grade papers. She is a Muslim from Iran who expresses interest in Jesus. This class allows me to embed the campus ministry into the fabric of the university. Students are required to visit faith communities and several will visit a church for the first time. Pray that these students will meet Jesus and his followers! A student who took the course several years ago approached me and asked:

I am reexamining my atheism, can I come and talk to you in your office?

Every week I have a Bible Study with the Imam of Prince George. This week we talked about Moses and Jesus’s view of the law. The Imam comes to my office walking down the hall carrying his NIV study Bible, which is starting to show wear. I smile at the sight of him, and can only thank God for the surprising ways he uses me on this campus.

The Board of Directors for the Campus Ministry at UNBC is undergoing changes. Rev. Andrew Aukema has joined and will be chair, replacing Dr. Ted Binnema. Shelley Hempstead, also from Prince George, will take the place of Ted van Helden as treasurer. George Horlings in Smithers has also joined us, as well as Ed Kronemeyer in Houston.

Many thanks to all the churches in Classis BCNW for your prayers and support!

Dr. Alan van der Woerd



Report to Classis BC NW

to be a great help to those who by grace have believed
Acts 18:27

The BC Leadership Development Network moves forward with gratefulness and accountability for the increased resourcing received to **discover, develop and deploy** leaders in its members churches. (As approved at our fall classis meeting, Classis BC NW's increase combined with Classis BC SE's increase allows the LDN facilitator position to become a 50% position -including hours to plan new *Let's Talk about* sessions -and the hiring of a 10% administrator at a 10% position.) In light of these changes, we offer the following report:

1. Promo of LDN

An article on the BC LDN was published in the October Banner (see <http://thebanner.org/news/2015/07/fifteen-years-of-lay-leadership-training-in-british-columbia>) and led to the earliest application ever for LDN, 18 months ahead of time. In the article, Melissa VanDyk, LDN alumni and recently retired LDN treasurer said "the fingerprints of LDN training are all over everything I do." Melissa serves as assistant to the chaplain at UGM and is currently pursuing an M.Div degree at Carey Theological Seminary.

2. 2015-2016 Year of LDN

Thoughtful reflection on scriptures and the on-the-ground leadership experiences of our participants continues for those in our 3 year program. So far this year, participants have:

- explored the value of & sources of theology as a discipline
- completed a number of leadership assessments, including one which considers the five-fold ministry model of Ephesians 4 studied the wide scope of church history , the gifts and liabilities of each era and the CRC's own place in that Great Tradition
- written their spiritual autobiographies so that, as leaders, they can be ready to give witness to the hope that is within them
- begun theological studies considering God's revelation of himself as Three-in-One, as well as the many components to Jesus' life in Christology
- in the second half of this year, we will consider seeking God's will together (*discernment*), as well as worship & sacraments, Reformed spirituality and theology and theology and the arts
- outside speakers have included **Pastor Jim Heuving** (Leadership Assessment); **Pastor Julia Vanderveen** (Christology); **Pastor Andrew Beunk** (Pneumatology); **Pastor Liz Tolkamp** (Inter-generational faith formation)
- as part of our Reformed "accent" studies this year, we will be attending a one day session with Prof. John Cooper from Calvin College on theological/hermetical issues around same-sex relationship

3. Let's Talk About....

L.T.A's are one-day training opportunities for ministry leaders in the CRC designed to deepen their Biblical foundations in conversation with Scripture and each other.

Our facilitator, Wilma van der Leek, is preparing two new **Let's Talk About...** one on mentoring new leaders (*to be piloted at an island conference in the fall*) and one on Biblical interpretation (*available January 2017*)

List of L.T.A. Offerings Available to the Churches:

- **Guarding the Treasure: Christian Leadership** (*letters to Timothy*)
- **It Seemed Good to the Holy Spirit and to Us: Pursuing God's Will Together** (*John 9 & Acts 15*)
- **The One Thing Necessary: Prayerful Hearts in an Anxious World** (*Mary & Martha in Luke 10*)
- **Strangers Once More: Christian Identity in a Post-Christian World** (*1 Peter*)
- **Till Christ is Formed in You: Leading a Small Group** (*Galatians 4*)
- **Let Me Be as Christ to You: Mentoring the Next Generation of Leaders** (*Elijah & Elisha*)
- **Eat this Book: what it means to live by the Scriptures** (*available January 2017*)

3. LDN Graduates, 2016

Fleetwood CRC: Sheryl Deboer (*interested in deployment that includes small group leadership, particularly young adult ministry*)

The Tapestry: Arturs Feist (*interested in deployment that includes teaching, particularly with a social media, eastern European focus*)

Immanuel CRC: Kristen Hoogland (*interested in deployment that includes teaching, small group leadership and spiritual direction*)

New Life CRC: Danielle Kampen (*interested in deployment that includes teaching, spiritual direction and pastoral care, particularly of leaders*)

Victoria CRC: Ashley Patton (*interested in continued deployment that includes youth, worship and music, preaching, small groups*)

4. Leadership Needs at LDN

We are so pleased that **Pastor Mike Koot** has agreed to join the board as our new Classis BC SE pastor rep (following the departure of **Pastor Joel DeMoor** to Grand Rapids). He joins **Pastor Andrew Aukema** from Classis BC NW as pastor reps on the board. Also we are so pleased that LDN alumni Marion Vandriel (*Ladner CRC*) will take up LDN administrator duties beginning Feb. 1 2016 with a particular focus on deepening the use of our website (bcldn.ca). We are still in need of a board treasurer (beginning immediately) and a board chair (beginning August 2016).

Finally, and most importantly, we continue to covet your prayers and attentiveness in order to **discover** the leaders in your churches who would benefit from LDN training and then to **deploy** them in areas appropriate to gifting and the needs of their communities. *Who are the Apolloses in your congregation? (Acts 18). Might it be you?*

for the board, Joanna Devries, board chair; Wilma van der Leek, BC LDN Facilitator

BCNW Safe Church Team – Report to Classis: Jan 2016

This past November the movie **SPOTLIGHT** hit the big screen across the nation. The story is about the Boston Globe's "SPOTLIGHT", a newspaper investigative unit in the United States. Based on a true story, it takes us back to 2001, when a team of journalists from The Boston Globe methodically uncovered a pattern of sexual abuse of children by Roman Catholic priests in Massachusetts and an ongoing cover-up by the Boston Archdiocese. (The real SPOTLIGHT Team earned the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service.)

This film is indeed excellent! The journalists' initial unbelief, the journey to awareness and recognition, their commitment and desire to uncover the truth, their kindness and sensitivity to the victims, their dedication and persistence and their questioning of established religious systems are all so compelling. (The story is centered on the investigation process and does not include any scenes of abuse occurring.)

One of (many) responses to this movie recognizes that **SPOTLIGHT** is a “**must see**” for **ALL** church leaders. A major theme of the movie is how various community institutions, possibly sometimes unwittingly, allowed the scandal to fester and grow and the abuse to continue. The archdiocese very effectively settled cases quietly, keeping victims' families and accused priests out of the press and out of criminal and civil courts.

In the movie, a memorable and poignant statement was made by one of the lawyers who represents victims. “**If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a village to abuse one.**” That statement certainly rang true in the unfolding of this story.

The “**village**”, in this instance, consisted of priests, friends of the church, church leadership, attorneys, the media, and even members of some of the parishes who decided it was better to keep quiet than to stand up for the children and victims.

It is important for us as a church to avoid the temptation/pitfall of turning this movie and true story into a lecture on the evils of the Catholic Church or the institutional powers that kept the voices of the abused silent for so many years. More importantly, **SPOTLIGHT** shows us that well-orchestrated secrets can be brought to light through the dedicated efforts of a group of persons with a will to push past political, institutional and social pressures. In its own way this movie calls on **all of us** to take responsibility for the church. By the end of the movie the clear message in my mind expanded the memorable statement to... “**If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a village to abuse one**” then it also takes a village (community) to protect/prevent/ and respond to the abuse of a child.” One of our consistent Safe Church statements parallels this kind of message... “**It takes a WHOLE CHURCH to be a SAFE CHURCH**”.

The list of lessons that can be learned from this movie is significant. Far too many to adequately cover in this report. My urging to all church leaders and members is to watch SPOTLIGHT with a mindset of: **WHAT** can we learn from this? **WHAT** does it mean for my church? **WHAT** does it mean for me as a member? **WHAT** is our collective lesson of responsibility? **WHAT** does it mean when we are aware of boundary issues/misconduct/abuse and we allow a church leader/pastor/staff/member move on to another church?

SPOTLIGHT provides the greater faith community, including our churches with a valuable learning opportunity. Our own histories clearly indicate that we too have erred in responding to and preventing abuse.

SCT - MINISTRY NEEDS ASSESSMENT: The premise “**It takes a Village...**” or “**It takes a WHOLE CHURCH to be a SAFE CHURCH**” underscores the current **MINISTRY NEEDS ASSESSMENT (MNA)** offered

by the BC Safe Church Ministry to the churches in Classis BCSE & BCNW. It takes the active involvement of the whole church to ensure it is a safe place from any abuse. We are called to do everything possible to reduce that risk.

Since April 10, 2015, **22 CHURCHES - 10 IN BCNW & 12 in BCSE** have engaged in this **MINISTRY NEEDS ASSESSMENT**.

For those **churches who have not yet scheduled a date for their MNA** some information (in brief) follows in this report:

Each church can **CHOOSE A DATE AND TIME** for the **MNA** to take place. SCT will accommodate that timetable and be present to facilitate the process.

ALL LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS IN ALL MINISTRIES are invited to participate!

The **MNA** focus is on the SCT mandate through a series of specific questions clustered around the top **8 Goals for Safe Churches**. These goals are derived from the CRC's 3 fold mandate of **EDUCATION, SUPPORT & THE ADVISORY PANEL** (a fact finding & listening panel in cases of allegations of abuse against a church leader).

These **8 goals** are:

1. That every church has a council appointed representative on the Classis Safe Church Team.
2. That every church has a Safe Ministry Practices team at the local level.
3. That every church has written and implemented their own Safe Church Policy.
4. That every church regularly accesses training for their staff, leaders and volunteers.
5. That every church leader is actively committed to safe church practices within their ministry.
6. That every church uses a Safe Church curriculum specifically designed to train, guide, and empower children & youth with regard to their personal safety.
7. That every church has become a place in which everyone feels that she/he can raise issues of abuse without fear or shame.
8. That every church council has knowledge of, and follows approved protocols for, responding to allegations of church leader misconduct.

Goals 1-6 are derived from the **Education** mandate, goal seven from the **Support** mandate and goal eight from the **Advisory Panel** mandate.

Important Note: Upon completion of the MNA, some church councils are discussing and have chosen to **adopt** these **8 goals**. Doing so assists the council in evaluating their safe church responsibilities and progress on a yearly basis.

Churches which have not yet gone through the MNA process are **encouraged to set a date** with the Abuse Prevention & Response Coordinator, Faye Martin: sfmartin@telus.net or 604-850-5137.

MNA Reports to churches: Churches who have completed the MNA process have already received **or** will be receiving their reports in early 2016. Delays in reporting have occurred, due to the large volume of collating information. We now have a system in place that assists the process and it is expected the reports will be sent to the churches in a more timely manner.

SCT Update: FaithCARE: Learning how to grow restorative congregations, held Oct 29-31

34 registrants: CRC: 26, United Church: 6, Surrey Christian School staff: 2

Overall evaluation by attendees gave a score of **9.6 out of 10**

Participants learned the tools to **support the implementation of restorative practice** in their congregation, which enables **conflict prevention** (by nurturing respectful relationships) and provides **healthy ways to address conflict** when it arises.

Follow – up coaching by the International Institute of Restorative Practices (IIRP) is available to the attendees as they use the newly learned skills in their churches.

Some churches have become “**restorative congregations**” integrating restorative practices into everyday lives at home at church, even before a clear conflict arises. Conflict is inevitable and the church bears responsibility for its prevention and response.

This training opportunity was a collaborative venture of **FaithCARE**, the International Institute of Restorative Practices (IIRP), CRCNA Office of Social Justice and Office of Pastor Church Relations, Diaconal Ministries Canada and Classis BCNW/BCSE Safe Church Team Ministry. The committee hopes and prays restorative practices training can continue to be offered, empowering churches to engage in restorative practices which also support conflict prevention. An overture to classis has been sent by Langley Willoughby requesting the continuance of this ministry in Classis BCSE.

GENERAL Summary of FaithCARE: Learning how to grow restorative congregations:

It is a skill based conference teaching restorative practices. **FaithCARE** trains and supports churches to:

- transform conflict and become **restorative culture congregations**,
- implement a restorative, relational framework across congregational life and explicit practices that help to heal relationships and build stronger, more connected congregations,
- use restorative approaches to healing relationships and repairing harm in churches.

A Restorative Congregation lives out the belief that:

- every person has God-given worth
- no one is disposable
- conflict and harm can be most effectively addressed by attending to the healing of all persons affected.

Abuse Prevention & Response Coordinator summary: by Faye Martin

The longer I am back in the APRC position, the more I enjoy the work. I am deeply grateful and humbled by how the churches have engaged in the work of abuse prevention. The SCT ministry and APRC position exist to support that important work.

In the neighbouring classis, the BCSE SCT executive team contributes valuable hours and expertise to this ministry supporting the work of the Abuse Prevention & Response Coordinator.

The current goal for BCNW is to form an executive team that will oversee the SCT in BCNW.

We have been very blessed and learned a lot since 1996 when this ministry began. In both of our classis the concern for safety and level of commitment amongst leaders is evident. The CRC as a denomination supports/serves the classes and their teams well through the Safe Church Office work done by its **Director: Bonnie Nicholas** and **Carol Vander Ark-Champion** as **Safe Church Specialist:**

Action required: As we move forward in this 2016, churches are requested/encouraged to

1. **Schedule training opportunities** or a **Ministry Needs Assessment** with the APRC.
2. Ensure your church has a **council appointed rep** to the Safe Church Team of each region, Northern, Van Island & Fraser Valley.
3. **Classis** is requested to approve the work of the SCT.

Contact info: Faye Martin sfmartin@telus.net or 604-850-5137, www.bcsafechurch.com

**Classis BCNW
Student Fund Committee
March 2016**

The CMLT will be meeting at Regent in a few weeks in early February to reconnect with students we are supporting and hopefully to meet other students, soon to graduate , to introduce them to the CRC.

Our student fund is very low but with the \$2 increase to \$12 per member and the possible completion of studies for two students at Regent this year, hopefully the amount we will need to disburse will also drop. John Jianou Xu and his family from Nelson Avenue who is at Calvin will need support until 2017 and needs significant help. The plummeting of the Canadian dollar makes it even more challenging for us as a classis.

The two students who hope to complete their studies at Regent this year are Jesse Pals and Se Youn Moon.

Luke Dai Shi from Immanuel Richmond is at Regent pursuing his M.Div. and Shane Roseveld of Maple Ridge is on the long – distance MDiv program through Calvin Seminary. Both of them will be seeking funding for the next two years.

Respectfully submitted,

Vic Chen
Kathy Smith
David Cheung



**THE MINISTRY TO SEAFARERS
(CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH)**

401 East Waterfront Road, Vancouver, BC V6A 4G9

Phone: 604-253-4421 Cell: 778-549-4944 e-mail:

ernstd.mission@gmail.com

Report to Classis BCNW – SPRING 2016

With thankfulness to God for another year of blessing, we present below a short overview of this ministry's work over the past year.

- Our chaplain, Ernst deVries, visited between 50 and 70 ships each month while the Seafarer Center in Delta Port welcomed more than 14,000 seafarers last year.
- Again this past Christmas season, Christmas at Sea was a great success. Some 3,100 gifts were distributed and brought much joy to the recipients. On Christmas Eve, Global TV joined us as we delivered gifts to 21 ships that were anchored in English Bay.
- In our Fall Report we informed you about the developments in Port Alberni and the following is Revs. Curtis Korver's update on the exciting happenings there:

*Ministry to Seafarers is happening in Port Alberni with people from various churches working together in this ministry. Since the spring of 2015 we have visited ships and even arranged to take seafarers curling, to hockey games, and to a neighboring church which has opened its gym to sailors who would like to play basketball. **Our big news is that in December we opened a Seafarer Center!** – an upstairs apartment within easy walking distance of the three births in our port. The center provides wi-fi so that the sailors can communicate with their families back home and that comfortable space gives our volunteers opportunities for more in-depth conversations with those interested. We can share Bibles and literature with them, and take time to pray with those who would like prayer. A chief cook we met leads an on-board Bible study and thanks to the Seafarer's Ministry Literature Fund, we were able to supply him with the study materials needed. We want to thank the Ministry to Seafarers Committee and Chaplain for their great support as well as Jason Zuidema of NAMMA. We're planning an official opening of the center on February 8th. Thanks be to God for this work!*

- The Mission to Seafarers (Anglican) is searching for a new chaplain for the Port of Vancouver.
- The Mission to Seafarers (Delta Port) was the runner up of the ISWAN (International Seafarers' Welfare and Assistance) award. Congratulations to chaplain and staff for this accomplishment! (The Seafarer Center in Bremerhaven, Germany won first place.)
- 2016 calendars were distributed and well received, and again this past year many CD's were received.

We thank the churches and their members for their faithful support. To God be the glory!

Recommendations:

1. That Classis approve the work of the Ministry to Seafarers and continue its prayer support for Chaplain Ernst deVries as he is witness to the Good News of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
2. That Classis grant permission to both chaplain Ernst deVries and Rev. C. Korver to briefly address the assembly.

Respectfully submitted, Hank Hamstra, Chair

WORLD RENEW

Classis Report for late winter, March, 2016, Classis BCNW *Submitted by Peter Bulthuis, Associate Director of Church Relations*

Greetings to the delegates of the churches to the meeting of Classis BCNW in 2016. First of all, we pray that each of you, and your families, and your churches, have a blessed, enriching, safe New Year. May you continue to work and rest in God. Thanks again for your incredible support for the work being done by YOUR World Renew. Let me just say that when I total the offerings from this classis from Sept. through December (that includes the World Hunger Campaign), the total for the churches of this classis is \$50,692.00 (not including gifts from individuals). So: thank you so much! And thank you for your other support as well: churches connecting with countries and missionaries, individuals volunteers who go out with DRS. And thanks especially to the board member in Classis BCNW: Ko Spyskma. My friend: you are and will continue to be extremely helpful to the Board and to this classis.

A. Staff Changes:

The last few months have seen a flurry of staff changes in the Canadian World Renew team.

- We have welcomed Dan Galenkamp to the Church Relations team as the part-time CR associate. Dan also works with DMC part-time. Dan is the maternity leave staff person while Maria Oliveira is away.
- We have welcomed Rhonda Elgersma as the new MPP coordinator. Rhonda comes with great experience in having managed a Christian NGO in Mexico for a number of years. We are grateful she's been brought to our team.
- Dec. 14 will have marked the last day of Michelle Kikkert's work on the Communications team before she goes on maternity leave. Her position has been filled by Cameron Phillips.
- We are grateful that Pam De Wilde has accepted a full-time position working in the Refugee office with Rebecca Walker.
- (There are more mat. leaves coming... God has blessed the World Renew team members with new life, and has blessed the whole team by sending just the right people to continue doing His important work.)

B. Important Synodically-Approved Offering Dates, 2016:

- Mar. 6: CFGB, Canada: The important work of this organization, made up of 15 churches or church-related agencies will be highlighted on this day. Resources will be sent to the churches.
- April 10: Refugee Sunday: At this time, the refugee sponsorship work being done churches and groups across Canada will be both celebrated and encouraged. Thank you, Classis BCNW, for your support in assisting refugees to resettle.
- May 22: Maternal and Child Health: This theme is one that has been a strong thread throughout much of what World Renew does. Thanks for your support for our work!
- Oct. 10: Thanksgiving: The offering of this day has highlighted the Free A Family® program (although any World Renew program can be emphasized here).
- Nov. 6: World Hunger: A major campaign with World Renew, supported by devotionals and other resources for individuals and families.
- Dec. 25: World Renew: The traditional Christmas offering has been one that supports World Renew's programs in any of the 20+ countries in which World Renew works with partners to share the love, grace and mercy of our Lord.

In all of these cases, churches will (automatically) receive resources for your members. For more information and resources, please visit www.worldrenew.net/churchresources.

C. Community Development: Stories of Transformation:

World Renew has been working in **Zambia** since 1990. World Renew is addressing the issues outlined above by working alongside Zambian churches and organizations to transform communities. Two of the partner organizations are church diaconal ministries reaching out to the needs of the rural poor in the communities in and outside the church. These outreach programs focus on the long-term chronic needs of the most impoverished Zambian people. A large focus of

the work is improving the agricultural and health skills of those that struggle to grow enough food to feed themselves and find basic access to health care. Other areas of focus include literacy, maternal health, income generation, diaconal development, and HIV and AIDS prevention. This description is true for so many of World Renew's programs world-wide. Please read more at www.worldrenew.net

D. Disaster Response: North America and International:

-Disaster Response Services (DRS) continues to do important work across **North America**. Volunteers with this arm of World Renew are actively engaged in many cities and states, particularly in the US. Learn more at www.worldrenew.net/drs.

-World Renew was on the ground directly after **Hurricane Haiyan in the Philippines**; since that time, it has helped to build 1392 permanent houses, and supported 590 fishing families, among other activities. Ken Kim, the director of Disaster response says: "The past two years of rebuilding have not been easy ones but very rewarding to see so many people and lives transformed. We thank God for enabling World Renew to mount this two year response to assist these families and improve their lives in the long-term."

-With respect to World Renew's response to the **Nepal earthquake**: individuals and churches across the United States and Canada heard about the needs and responded generously, giving more than \$2.1 million towards World Renew's earthquake response. World Renew leveraged these donations through its memberships and associations to raise an additional \$450,000. It has since carried out six months of disaster response efforts. Read more at www.worldrenew.net/nepalearthquake.

E. Refugee Settlement Activities:

110 churches have inquired about **sponsorship**. Most of the inquiries have been since September 2015. When we explain the process to sponsor to churches and explain that there are many other refugee populations in the world in need of resettlement the overwhelming majority of CRCs express interest in sponsoring any refugee populations not necessarily Syrian refugees. Churches have requested information sessions and the workshop *Journey With Me*. We are busy responding to those requests. Churches too have been active in inviting other churches in their communities to participate. We are also planning to set up info session webinars for CRCs across the country. Please see www.worldrenew.net/refugees, or www.crcna.org/Canada/social-justice-canada/refugee-issues

F. Prayer Requests for Classis BCNW:

Thank God for the end of the Ebola disease in West Africa; pray for the victims of disasters, and the people sent to assist; pray that the horrible Syrian conflict will end.

G. What Else Can the churches of Classis BCNW Do?

Volunteer with GVP (Global Volunteer Program) or DRS (Disaster Response Services). Sponsor a refugee family. Get involved in the GOOD SOIL CAMPAIGN: Write a letter to your Member of Parliament urging the Canadian government to invest in smallholder agriculture in developing countries. Tell your MP that you care about poverty and hunger in the world. Let them know that Canada can reduce hunger by investing in agriculture and supporting small-scale farmers in developing countries, especially women. Engage and mobilize your congregation by holding a "Harvest of Letters" activity at your church. Visit www.worldrenew.net/goodsoil for more information and to find resources that will help you get started in advocating for small-scale farmers.

Contact Peter Bulthuis (pbulthuis@worldrenew.net; 800-730-3490, ext. 4237) for more ideas on what you can do. To learn more about World Renew's ministry, please visit www.worldrenew.net. Blessings,



Peter Bulthuis



CHRISTIAN REFORMED WORLD MISSIONS (CRWM)

Classical update

BCSE and BCNW March meetings

Spring 2016

Greetings to all delegates, guests and congregations represented at the B.C. spring classis,

As I write, I anticipate meeting with CRWorld Missions board in Grand Rapids in early February. Once again I will have the opportunity to hear about the work that God is doing through the CRC and particularly CRWM close to home and across the globe. I am serving my fourth year, the start of a second first term as a CRWM board member representing classis BCSE and BCNW.

The main agenda item for CR World Missions is the preparation involved in forming a new entity with CR Home Missions as mandated by Synod 2015. The movement towards this have been sure but slow and thoughtful. Our Canadian director, **Steve Kabetu**, is very involved at the various levels of transitioning alongside Gary Bekker, the CRWM director and Moses Chung, the director of CRHM. Your prayers are requested as this team and the various project team leaders are in need of guided wisdom and discernment.

In addition Steve continues his faithful work out of the Burlington, Ontario, office with committed staff, missionaries, volunteers and partners around the world.

In B.C., continued and committed financial and prayer support for the Sierra Leone Partnership and particularly Rev. Istifanus Bahago, the Nigerian missionary to Sierra Leone, is cause for deep gratitude and thanks. This past winter the SLCRC identified specific needs, including a building from which the CRC can gather for leadership training, one of a number of needs in this quickly growing church. Continue to pray for Ebola free reports for the Koinindugo district, Freetown and all of Sierra Leone and western Africa. At the time of writing another case seems to have surfaced outside of the Freetown.

Churches within our BC classis continue to support **Naji Umran and Anne Zaki** and their family serving in Egypt. Continue to pray for them and others who serve in the epicenters of unrest in the Middle East. The Umrans will be in B.C. again this summer. You might want to invite them speak in your church.

Last but certainly not least pray for and encourage young, middle aged and older folk to consider a call to being a career missionary for a year or more. There is a need for Canadian career missionaries...the field is ripe and harvesters are needed. At present there are a number of paid and volunteer positions that need to be filled for 2016.

Together with CRWM Mission Consultants for Western Canada, Bill and Ko Spyksma, I pray that our B.C. Classis gatherings may be an opportunity to share and celebrate God’s way with His people in the CRC in our BC communities and beyond. Again, God bless you as you gather together for our classis meetings.

Jenny S. deGroot
7296 Telegraph Trail
Langley B.C. V1M 2M6
604 888 5505
ddegroot@telus.net

Please take note:

Ministry Reports from:

- * **M2W2**
- * **Diaconal Ministries Canada**
- * **Cascade Christian Counselling**
- * **Bethesda Christian Association**

Are all in one pdf file sent as an attachment with this agenda.
They will also be reproduced and supplied in the addendum report from the CMC at the meeting of classis for the delegates.

Andy de Ruyter
Stated Clerk

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

STATED CLERK (S/C)

Mr. Andy de Ruyter 2016 (2) classisbcnw@shaw.ca
 Alternate - Rev. Jo Schouten 2018(2)

CMC - CLASSICAL MINISTRIES (INTERIM) COMMITTEE
 & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Andy de Ruyter – S/C - lead 2016(2) classisbcnw@shaw.ca
 Rev. Jo Schouten - alt. S/C - Secretary 2018(2) pastorjo@shaw.ca
 Mr. Victor Chen – CMLT/SFC 2017(2)
 Mr. David Pel – Classis Treasurer 2017(6)
 Rev. Henry Numan 2016(1)
 Rev. David Salverda 2016(1)
 Ms. Faye Martin – SCT Coordinator EX OFFICIO

CLASSICAL TREASURER

Mr. David Pel 2017(8) david@dpelcga.com
 Mrs. Verney Kho 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. Walt Vanderwerf Island Churches
 Rev. Andrew Beunk Lower-Mainland Churches

LDN - LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Ms. Joanna deVries (bcse) chair
 Rev. Andrew Aukema (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. Mary-Lee Bouma (CMLT) 2017(1)
 Rev. Henry Jonker (CMLT) 2017(1)
 Rev. David Cheung (SFC) 2018 (1)
 Mrs. Kathy Smith (SFC) 2018(1)

MINISTRY TO SEAFARERS

Chaplain Ernst deVries ernstd@flyingangel.ca

BCNW Members:

Mr. David Pel – Treasurer BCNW 2017(9)
 Mr. Rens Slot 2016(1)
 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

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

BANNER CORRESPONDENT – BCNW / BCSE
Ms. Tracy Yan tracey.yan@hotmail.ca

DENOMINATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

SYNODICAL DEPUTY
Rev. David Cheung 2018 (2)
Rev. Henry Jonker - alternate 2016 (1)
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
Rev. Andrew Van der Leek 2016 (2)

REGIONAL BOARD REPRESENTITIVES

BGMI - BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INT'L
Mr. John Vegt 2017(2)
HOME MISSIONS
?
WORLD MISSIONS
Mrs. Jenny Siebring-deGroot 2018(2)
WORLD RENEW – Classis Rep
Mrs. Ko Spykma 2018(1)
CRCPD - CHRISTIAN REFORMED CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIALOGUE
Dena Nicolai 2017 (1)
HISTORICAL COMMITTEE LIAISON
Mrs. Anne Kwantes 2016(3)

Revised October 2015: s/c AD

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

- ACRCMBC** Association for the Christian Reformed Campus Ministry in British Columbia
aka Christian Reformed Campus Ministry at UNBC
- BCSE** Classis British Columbia South-East
- BOT** Board of Trustees (usually refers to the denominational board of trustees;
however, the various agencies each have their own BOTs)
- BTGMI** Back to God Ministries International
- CC** Candidacy Committee
- CDT** Church Development Team (classical)
- CMC** Classical Ministries Committee
- CMLT** Classis Ministry Leadership Team (*formerly* Classis Ministry Candidacy Committee)
- CO** Church Order (*also* CO Art. = Church Order Article)
- CPJ** Citizens for Public Justice
- CRCM** Christian Reformed Campus Ministry (*see also* ACRCMBC)
- CRCPD** Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue (Canadian ministry;
- CRHM** Christian Reformed Home Missions
- CRWM** Christian Reformed World Missions
- CRWRC** Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
- CTS** Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids MI
- DMC** Diaconal Ministries Canada
- DV** Deo Volente, Latin for “Lord Willing”
- FOS** Form of Subscription (*may become known as* Covenant for Officebearers)
- LDN** Leadership Development Network
- M2/W2** Man-to-Man/Woman-to-Woman restorative ministry often within prisons
- MA** Ministry Associate
- MSC** Moved, Seconded, Carried (shorthand in classis minutes)
- NCD** Natural Church Development (inter-denominational ministry)
- OSJH** Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action (denominational)
- PCR** Pastor-Church Relations (denominational)
- RMT** Regional Ministry Team
- ROP** Rules of Procedure (classical)
- SC** Stated Clerk (classical)
- SCE** Sustaining Congregational Excellence
- SCT** Safe Church Team (*formerly* Abuse Response Team)
- SFC** Student Fund Committee (classical)
- SL** Sierra Leone (*as in* CRC in BC & SL)
- SPE** Sustaining Pastoral Excellence
- TKUC** The King’s University College, Edmonton AB