



Classis Alberta North of the Christian Reformed Church

Minutes

of the

157TH SESSION OF CLASSIS ALBERTA NORTH OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
March 10-11, 2015
held at First CRC, Red Deer, Alberta

Vision/Mission Statement (adopted March 2, 2004)

The purpose of Classis Alberta North is:

- To encourage member congregations to faithful and creative ministry;
- To jointly undertake ministries of common interest;
- To participate in denominational ministries and governance;
- To hold member congregations mutually accountable for their work of ministry, and to provide appropriate resources for the same.

Serving Classis:

- Rev. Bill Nieuwenhuis, chair
- Rev. Nic Wolmarans, vice-chair
- Henk Van Andel, Classis Stated Clerk
- Linda Ryks, Recording Clerk
- Rick Abma, Classis Chaplain
- Balloting Committee: delegates of Rocky Mountain House Covenant CRC
- Classis Credentials Committee: delegates of Edmonton Inglewood and Edmonton Fellowship CRC
- Rich deLange, Prayer Coordinator

Delegates that were able to be in Red Deer by 11 AM gathered for prayer at that time.

1. Welcome and Introductions: **Bill Nieuwenhuis**, Chair of Classis, called the meeting to order at 12 noon.
2. Devotions: **Gary Bomhof**, Pastor of the host church, welcomed the delegates and other visitors, and made a few announcements and opened the meeting with devotions from John 20, on the Breath of God and following His will.
3. Roll call: Presence of delegates as determined by the roll call is shown below. (*denotes first time delegates).

<u>Church</u>	<u>Pastor or Elder</u>	<u>Elder or Deacon</u>
Barrhead	*Harold Vandersluis	—
Edm Bethel Comm.	Tom Baird	*John Oort
Edm Centrepointe	Bill Tuininga	*Winnie Diepeveen
Edm Covenant	John Pasma	Frank Zee
Edm Fellowship	Edith Sinnema	Karen Norris
Edm First	Jason Van Doesburg	Wilma McLaughlin (deacon)
Edm Inglewood	John Ooms	*Sim Vandervinne
Edm Maranatha	Art Verboon	—
Edm mosaicHouse	Victor Ko	Anne Vanderhoek / Aaron Au
Edm Ottewell	Martin Mobach	Pete Jorritsma
Edm The River	Bruce Gritter (late)	—
Edm Trinity	Rich de Lange	Mary Van Ryk
Edm West End	Gordon Pols	John Taekema
Edson – Peers	Ken Douma	Pete Smit (deacon)
Fairview - Faith Fellowship	Jacob Hiemstra	Gosse de Jong
Ft. McMurray – Evergreen	George Holthof	—
Lacombe – Bethel	Mike Vandyk	August Luymes
Lacombe - Wolf Creek	Leon Johnston	Bernie Kolkman
Lacombe – Woodynook	Neil de Koning	Ray Prins
LaGlace	Paul Birnbaum	—
Leduc – Ebenezer	Peter Tuininga	Harold Hofstra
Neerlandia	*Randy Strydhorst	Peter Schuring
Ponoka – Sonrise	William Delleman	*Wes Wierbos
Red Deer – First	Benny Borgman	*Karl Kranenborg
Red Deer - New Life	Kris Kooman	Jenny Bakker – (deacon)
Rimbey	Bill Niewenhuis	Sy Bennik
Rocky – Covenant	Nic Wolmarans	*Arnold Van Ginkel
Rocky – First	Len Batterink	Art Terpsma
St. Albert	John Luth	*Suzanne Hoogendoorn (deacon)
Stony Plain – Hope	Jake De Heer	

4. Opening Procedures

- 4.1. The *Covenant for Office-bearers* was signed by first time delegates.
- 4.2. **Motion:** to seat deacon delegates . **Carried.**
- 4.3. Classis was declared constituted by the Chair, **Bill Nieuwenhuis; Nic Wolmarans** served as Vice-Chair.
- 4.4. **Motion:** to adopt the time schedule as presented. **Carried.**

5. Stated Clerk Report and Classical Interim Committee Report: **Stated Clerk Henk Van Andel** summarized his work and the work of the Classical Interim Committee, as printed in the Agenda.

The following motions arising from the work of the CIC were dealt at this point and several other motions were dealt with as they arose according to the time schedule later in the meeting.

- 5.1. **Motion:** That Classis appoint **Rich deLange** to the position of **Prayer Coordinator** effective immediately. **Carried**
- 5.2. **Motion:** That Classis grant a preaching license to former Commissioned Pastor **Ken Vis** –**Carried**
- 5.3. **Motion:** That the work of the Classis Interim Committee during the period October 16, 2014- March 9, 2015 be approved. –**Carried**

6. Youth Ministry Consultant report – Ron De Vries reporting:

- 6.1. Delegates participated in an exercise completing an intergenerational faith web – identifying members instrumental in faith building. The exercise encouraged delegates to be aware of who is invested in faith building in the lives of youth as well as in the lives of leaders.

6.2. **Youth Unlimited SERVE Edmonton** is planned for June 27- July 4, 2015 at the Alberta Avenue Church plant and is being promoted throughout Classis AB North and Classis AB South. This is a faith forming experience for youth who will work alongside Aaron and April Au in the Edmonton Avenue community. Churches are asked to assist by encouraging youth to participate. Area churches were also encouraged to assist with the provision of food and other services that will be required.

7. Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference – **Loretta Stadt** reporting:

- 7.1. **Sonya Wagenaar** (NADC Board member and a serving deacon at First CRC Red Deer) shared her experiences being part of the board. She is encouraged by the “sharing and caring” time that happens at each meeting which broadens the mind and excites her as a deacon. She was able to attend the 2014 Day of Encouragement and highly recommends attendance. Monthly NADC newsletter shares information from churches as well other agencies associated with Classis.
- 7.2. The **Honduras Water Project** is in its 20th year of partnership with World Renew, Micah Centre at King’s and NADC. Celebrations are planned for the fall of 2015.
- 7.3. **Patrick Nderitu Wanjiru**, who works for the Anglican Church in Kenya as part of **NADC’s Kenya Project** will be in Classis AB North in April 2015 and may be available to speak in churches.
- 7.4. Two **Operation Manna** projects of Diaconal Ministries Canada were approved for Classis Alberta North:
 - 1) Kamamak (“butterfly” in Cree) is a leadership mentoring program for young indigenous women between the ages of 14-18, led through the Edmonton Native Healing Centre.
 - 2) The Open Door Project is a reintegration program for former inmates.
- 7.5. **The Offering as Worship** is a workshop sponsored by Diaconal Ministries Canada and led by Diaconal Ministries Developer **Lucinda Klapwyk**, and will be held in Edmonton on April 23rd. This is open to all churches in Classis.
- 7.6. Starting in 2016, there will be changes to the **NADC budget** as it relates to Classis AB North’s budget allocation. The NADC budget will no longer include funds for the **Diaconal Ministries Canada** shares, but each church will be directly billed for their DMC shares.

8. **Motion:** to send the following **Communication** to Synod:

Classis Alberta North, having reviewed the Report of the Task Force to Study the Offices of Elder and Deacon, commend the Task Force on its work. The recommendations made by the Task Force are in keeping with those made in the Diakonia Report of 2012, and Classis Alberta North encourages Synod to move forward with the recommendations made in the Report as it encourages holistic ministry of word and deed.

The **motion** was **carried**

9. Nominations Coordinator – **Rick Struik** presented information regarding the election of various Classis functionaries, and voting took place with the following results:

1) Pastor delegates to Synod:

Gordon Pols elected as First Pastor Delegate as per rotation

Balloting committee motion –To approve the pastor delegate candidate who, while not receiving 50% of votes, received almost double the votes of the next candidate. **Carried.**

Neil deKoning was elected as Second Pastor Delegate

Pastor Alternate Delegates: first alternate: **Mike Van Dyk**; second alternate: **Paul Birnbaum**

2) Elders delegates elected to represent Classis at Synod:

First Elder Delegate: **Matt Schoonderwoerd** ; Second Elder Delegate **Frank Zee.**,

First Elder Alternate: **Peter Prins**; Second Elder Alternate: **Mary Van Ryk.**

3) **Tom Oosterhuis** was acclaimed as our Synodical Deputy as a single nominee. **Neil deKoning** was elected as the Alternate Synodical Deputy.

- 4) **Henrietta Hielema** from Winnipeg MB was confirmed to be nominated as member of the **Board of Home Missions for Region 2**.
10. **Motion:** That Classis approve the conditional merger of **So Mang CRC** and **The River CRC**. **Carried**.
Question: Will So Mang's Pastor **David Joo** still be part of the Ministry team? **Answer:** Yes, David Joo is taken on as staff by The River CRC.
Question: Are all costs such as David's pension being carried by The River? **Answer:** Yes .
Note: Conditions as spelled out in the agreement will come off in January 2016.
11. Healthy Church Task Force / Structure Report - John Pasma HCTF Chair
 11.1. **Motion** to adopt the document "Map of Offices and Resources for Classis AB North". **Carried**
Question: by adopting this report are we also changing the nomination procedures for Church Visitors?
Answer: Yes, we are establishing clearer roles in terms of our relationship with churches, pastors, Classis, Church Visitors and Pastor-Church relations.
Comment: Finding nominees for mentor pastors, regional pastors, church visitors, church counsellors will all be the responsibility of the HCTF, working collaboratively with Classis. This is an important change.
Question: Supervision of a Consultant is included in the mandate. Is this intentional, as Classis has not yet decided to hire a Consultant?
Answer: HCTF is the supervisory body; however, the hiring of a pastoral consultant is undecided for now. The committee will provide clarity on this at a later date.
12. Home Mission – Martin Contant, Home Missions Regional Leader for Western Canada, reported that he will retire in June 2015 after 21 years of service. He expressed thanks to Classis for the opportunity to serve. There have been many changes over the years, moving from where the denomination started new churches to where today, churches start new churches. Some noteworthy changes:
- 24 churches were planted in western Canada in the past 2 decades of which 20 still flourish today.
 - Six campus ministries are operating, with a seventh at NAIT in its planning stages.
 - Classis AB North has been very active in church plants – three in the past 10 years.
- Martin encouraged members to contact the denominational World Missions or Home Mission Director with any ideas regarding his replacement.
13. Ministry Review Committee Report –Campus Ministry - Co Vanderlaan reporting:
Review Conclusions:
- i) That the Campus Minister very capably articulates a Reformed worldview to the audiences with whom he is involved.
 - ii) That the Campus Minister is a sensitive counsellor for any students or others seeking his counsel.
 - iii) That the Campus Minister is a powerful personality with a winsome way of providing a Reformed view—thoughtful, knowledgeable, approachable.
 - iv) That the Campus Minister is powerfully connected in University of Alberta Chaplain's Association and in the university's structure through the Dean of Students.
 - v) That the Campus Ministry is not well connected to the members of Classis Alberta North, not effectively "owned" by Classis. It is a ministry to a community quite outside our Christian Reformed circle, and, in that way, unlike the other main ministries of Classis.
 - vi) That the first objective of the Campus Ministry purpose, is to gather the Christian Reformed students on campus into a community of believers, has not been relevant to the ministry for some years. While most CRC students attend Kings University, Rick does attempt to locate and make contact with any CRC students at U. of A.
- Recommendations**
- i) That the vision and mandate of the Campus Ministry be revised by the Campus Ministry Committee and recommended to Classis. It should be made to fit current circumstances of university life and

university structure. The overall intent should be to continue providing a significant Christian presence to the University of Alberta—a community of perhaps 50,000. Any university is an important contributor to the shaping of current culture, and the word of the Lord should continue to be richly present there.

- ii) That the Campus Ministry Committee be restructured by Classis so that its membership have two Christian Reformed congregational pastors appointed by Classis, and that two students, two faculty members and two members from the larger Christian Reformed community be recommended for appointment to Classis by the Campus Ministry Committee.
- iii) That Classis Alberta North revise the Chaplaincy Purpose (2006) to reflect the current realities of university culture and the campus ministry within that culture. And, that the “purpose statement” be changed into a “mandate,” a mandate which includes a statement such as the following: “To supervise the work of the Campus Minister in a timely fashion.” The word “all” should be dropped from item 3 since it is impossible to address all 50,000 students, faculty and staff.
- iv) That the Campus Ministry Committee revise the “Task of the U. of A. Chaplain” to a more practical set of tasks reflecting the current ministry and to then recommend the changed job description to Classis Alberta North.
- v) That the Campus Ministry Committee assist the Campus Minister to explore more ways in which the Christian presence might be expressed in the university community.
- vi) That the churches of Classis Alberta North be urged to invite Rick Van Manen to come to their churches to preach and explain the work of the Campus Ministry in order that our congregations may be better informed about the Campus Ministry.

13.1. **Motion:** That Classis accept the Report of the Ministry and Staff Review Committee regarding the University of Alberta Campus Ministry. **Supported.**
Concerns raised that in accepting the report also meant accepting all the recommendations - which led to the following **Motion** to table. **Carried.**

13.2. **Motion:** That Classis dismiss the Ministry Review Committee with thanks for a job well done over the last three years. – **Carried**

14. Canadian Ministries Director - **Darren Roorda** was introduced. Darren explained how he, and his two colleagues: **Steve Timmermans**, Executive Director and **Colin Watson**, Director of Ministries and Administration are working as a trio. Their current purpose (modified version) is to cultivate and nurture a shared and vibrant vision for the mission of the CRCNA with churches, classes, and agencies in Canada as reflected in the “five streams of ministry”, and to encourage, coordinate and supervise how the many agencies and Classes work to serve local churches.

Some specifics:

14.1. Darren promises to visit each Classis at least once per year.

14.2. Some highlights of changes and ongoing work:

- Task Force Revising Structure and Culture.
- Potential merger of World Mission and Home Missions.
- Bi-nationality awareness – Canadian BOT members now have the ability to meet on their own and it feels good to be Canadian.
- A Canadian “National Gathering” will meet once every 3 years. There is a possibility that the first may be hosted in the West. One representative will be invited from each church across Canada, with approximately 300 people in attendance.
- Binational ministry plan will include a lot of the ministry plans developed at the local church level.

Five areas of focus arose from the discussions with churches:

- 1) Congregations will connect with their local context providing the message of Christ.
- 2) Congregations will engage youth and young adults in the life of the church.
- 3) Congregations will focus on holistic lifelong faith.

- 4) There will be leadership development in congregations, both for clergy and lay leaders.
- 5) Congregations will understand and express a shared identity in Christ.

15. Campus Ministry

- 15.1. **Rick Van Manen** introduced **Katie McNaughton** and **Savannah Long**, both students at the U of A and serving on the Campus Ministry Committee. They shared their experiences with the U of A CRC Campus Ministry and expressed appreciation for this ministry which provides them with “community” in the competitive academic environment. They are thankful for Rick Van Manen’s teaching and encouragement to be evangelists in their academic community.
- 15.2. **Rick Mast** spoke briefly of heading up the campus ministry at **NAIT**. He thanked West End CRC for their sponsorship.

16. **Annual General Meeting of the Association of Classis Alberta North.**

1. Chair of the Association, **John Ooms** opened the meeting.
2. **Motion** to approve the **Agenda**. **Carried**
3. **Motion** to approve the **Minutes of the AGM held on March 6, 2014 - Carried.**
4. **Motion** to approve the **Financial Statements of the Association Classis Alberta North of the Christian Reformed Church in North America for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014**, as presented by Treasurer Mike Vos. **Carried**
5. **Motion** to accept the signed **Auditor's Report from Halpert Monsma, Chartered Accountants**, which accompanied the Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, as presented by Treasurer Mike Vos. **Carried**
6. **Motion** to appoint **Halpert Monsma, Chartered Accountants**, as Auditors for the fiscal year 2015. **Carried**
7. **Motion** to reappoint **John Ooms** and **Henk Van Anandel** as Directors of the Association, for a second three-year term, effective July 1, 2015. **Carried**
8. Question period:
Question: what will be done with the surplus of \$65,000?
Answer: The surplus is the result of not having a Pastor-Church Relations Consultant for a good part of the year, and not having to write off any student loans this year. It needs to be held in reserve for now. The matter is referred to the CIC for review.
9. **Motion** to adjourn. **Carried.**

17. **Motion:** That Classis approve the request of **Fort McMurray Evergreen CRC** to become an **Organized Congregation** in the CRCNA. **Carried.** George Holthof led us in prayer for Evergreen CRC.

18. **Motion:** that **George Holthof** be granted early retirement from the Ministry, effective August 1, 2015. **Carried.** The Council of Evergreen CRC supports the request for retirement. John Pasma led us in prayer for George.

19. Classical Home Missions Report- **Bruce Gritter** reporting

- 19.1. The Avenue – **Aaron Au** reporting. The Avenue church has moved to weekly ministry. It has experienced the joys and challenges of congregational flux (eg. 55 to 25 attendees from Sunday to Sunday). The congregation is rejoicing in the faithfulness of God’s call, and looking forward to the YU SERVE this summer – on July 1st Avenue church will be hosting a festival and four local churches will be joining in as well. Local businesses are coming together to join in this relationship building festival Fusion Canada is assisting in putting this on.
- 19.2. Neighborhood Life – Central Alberta **Rick Abma** reporting. Rick will be joining the SERVE trip to Alberta Avenue. He has set up a new website www.rickabma.com – which provides opportunity to showcase the stories and work in Central Alberta.
- 19.3. Home Missions Committee: The Committee has developed a five year plan (see Agenda) based on four pillars:
 1. Opportunity – AB North is a growing,

2. Leadership – the challenge is to find and train leaders. The Committee will need to be creative in making this work.
3. Resourcing – Classis needs to be thinking beyond the “division of the pie” but instead think of “growing the pie”.
4. Prayer

Question: Why is Education and Resources funding placed in this plan?

Answer: This is for training – it takes funds to train an effective church planter.

Comment by Martin Contant: Home Missions is pulling their partnership with Forge Canada because not enough churches are availing themselves of the resource (partnership costs is \$25,000/year). We need to re-think ministry share as funding the 5 year plan, because if the need is demonstrated the funding could come from other sources.

20. Church Visitors reports

20.1. **Tom Baird** – reported on Church Visits (with **John Luth**) to:

- 1) **mosaicHouse** - The visit was an inspiration to all.
- 2) Also made a pastoral visit to **Neerlandia CRC**.

20.2. **Len Batterink** reported on Church Visits (with **Nic Wolmarans**) to:

- 1) **Woodynook CRC** – is a large thriving multi-generational country church.
- 2) **Sonrise – Ponoka**: is in a good space – is a relatively young church at 30 years; has a young demographic with a large number of recent immigrants.

20.3. **Bill Nieuwenhuis** –reported on a follow-up visit to **First Edmonton** (with **Roy Schouten**) as requested at the May 2014 Classis meeting. It was a good visit and more of an informal discussion with Council members. Bill sensed some hurts and disorganization in the time of transition. However, a transitional team is in place and just recently specialized interim pastor help options have been made available.

21. Church Counsellors reports

21.1. **Neil De Koning** reported on **New life Red Deer**: Doing well and in the process of calling

21.2. **Bill Tuininga** reported on **Barrhead CRC – Harold Vandersluis** accepted the call and was installed on Feb 22/15.

21.3. **John Pasma** reported on **Hope CRC Stony Plain** – This congregation has gone through struggles over the last few years. Classis will be hearing more from this church later this meeting.

22. **Cuba Connections** – **Dan Van Keeken** reporting. Dan brought greetings from Cuban CRCs. He expressed the Cuba CRC's thanks for the \$13,000 raised so far toward pastor home replacement. What's next?

- Committee is still working on raising the rest of \$30,000 for replacement of a pastor's home.
- It would love to have youth visit Cuban churches (8-10 youth – preferably ages 18 and over).
- The Committee encourages Sister Church partnerships – drawback is that there is only one email address for all members in the Cuban CRC. Possibly churches could “Adopt a pastor” – if the pastor's salary could be topped up 10-15% that would have a huge benefit and ripple effect.
- The Committee is hoping to make it possible for Cuban pastors to visit Canada. The Cuban churches are keen for CRC pastors to visit and possibly provide them with some training.
- The Committee is considering sending another container of goods. There is a need for many items.
- Delegates are encouraged to keep the Cuban church in their hearts and prayers.

23. **Leadership Team report** – **Neil deKoning** reporting. Neil has had discussions with **Melanie Humphries** (The King's University President) regarding development of a leadership track in cooperation with TKU. TKU has developed networked courses - enabling distance learning. The plan is to partner with TKU June 8 or 10 (date yet to be finalized), for a e-session designed for leaders from each congregation (e.g. the Chair of Council and a younger person in leadership) in Classis to explore what it means to be a leader of an organization. Churches that might be changing their Chair in the spring are encouraged to have the current as well as the replacing Chair participate.

24. **John Luth** extended an invitation to all elders of Classis on behalf of the elders in St. Albert to attend a **spiritual training for elders** to be held on May 12, 2015
25. Board of Trustees – **Mike Wevers** reporting:
- 25.1. BOT has filled **leadership** positions and now has a very strong leadership team in **Steve Timmermans, Darren Roorda, and Colin Watson.**
 - 25.2. **Bi-nationality:** BOT has established a Canadian identity in its structures and Board
 - 25.3. Change will continue in the CRC. Mike distributed a proposed **model of governance and relationships;** work on this is ongoing. In summary, the recommendation is that with exception of World Renew and Calvin Theological Seminary, boards managing ministries are to be eliminated and replaced by advisory committees.
26. **Rick Abma** led in devotions prior to supper.
27. Evening Session: Discussion of Classis Ministries – led by **Darren Roorda** – Director of Canadian Ministries
- 27.1. **Learning about ministries** – Members from each ministry committee were distributed among the Classis delegates (at least one at each table), and were asked to share stories about their ministry work and the blessings experienced.
 - 27.2. Time was spent in public **prayer** for each of the ministries
 - 27.3. Darren distributed a **discernment tool** to rate each ministry's ``alignment`` with CAN's Mission and Vision statement using the following five statements:
 - 1) To encourage member congregations to faithful and creative ministry
 - 2) To jointly undertake ministries of common interest
 - 3) To participate in denominational ministries and governance
 - 4) To hold member congregations mutually accountable for their work of ministry
 - 5) To provide appropriate resources for the work of ministry.Delegates were asked to rate only the ministry discussed at their table, plus two other ministries if they were familiar with them. Ministry committee members were asked not to rate their own ministry.
 - 27.4. Tables reported briefly on their discussions about the various ministries they discussed.
28. The day's closing was led by **Rick Abma**, Classis Chaplain, at 9:20 PM.
29. **Day 2** – delegates met at 8 am in a time of prayer for Classis – led by **Rich deLange**, Prayer Coordinator
30. Official session was opened by Chairman **Bill Nieuwenhuis** at 8:30 AM.

31. Roll call: Presence of delegates as determined by the roll call is shown below. (*denotes first time delegates)

<u>Church</u>	<u>Pastor or Elder</u>	<u>Elder or Deacon</u>
Barrhead	Harold Vandersluis	Albert Wierenga
Edm Bethel Comm.	Tom Baird	*Fred Myschuk
Edm Centrepointe	Bill Tuininga	Winnie Diepeveen
Edm Covenant	John Pasma	Frank Zee
Edm Fellowship	Edith Sinnema	Stuart Williams
Edm First	Jason Van Doesburg	Wilma McLaughlin (deacon)
Edm Inglewood	John Ooms	*Coni Rozema (deacon)
Edm Maranatha	Art Verboon	—
Edm moscaicHouse	Victor Ko	*Herman Borkent
Edm Ottewell	Martin Mobach	Pete Jorritsma
Edm The River	Luke Seinen	
Edm Trinity	Rich deLange	Mary Van Ryk
Edm West End	Gordon Pols	John Taekema
Edson – Peers	Ken Douma (late)	Pete Smit (d) (late)
Fairview - Faith Fellowship	Jacob Hiemstra (late)	Gosse de Jong (late)
Ft. McMurray – Evergreen	George Holthof	—
Lacombe – Bethel	Mike Vandyk	August Luymes
Lacombe - Wolf Creek	Leon Johnston (late)	Bernie Kolkman (late)
Lacombe – Woodynook	Neil de Koning	Ray Prins
LaGlace	Paul Birnbaum	—
Leduc – Ebenezer	Peter Tuininga (late)	Henk Siderius
Neerlandia	Randy Strydhorst	Peter Schuring
Ponoka – Sonrise	William Delleman	Wes Wierbos
Red Deer – First	Karl Kranenborg	Benny Borgman
Red Deer - New Life	Jenny Bakker (deacon)	
Rimbey	Bill Nieuwenhuis	Sy Bennik
Rocky – Covenant	Nic Wolmarans	Jake Klooster
Rocky – First	Len Batterink	Art Terpsma
St. Albert	John Luth	Suzanne Hoogendoorn (deacon)
Stony Plain – Hope	Jake De Heer	Louis Bourassa

31.1. The *Covenant for Office-bearers* was signed by first time delegates

31.2. **Motion:** to seat deacon delegates. **Carried.**

32. **Rick Abma** led Classis in opening prayer.

33. **Credentials Committee report –John Ooms** reporting:

33.1. Ottewell CRC recommends discussion and prayer on declining membership of CR churches.

1) **Motion:** That Classis give Ottewell delegates 3 minutes to elaborate on their request. **Carried.**

Pastor Martin Mobach: We are worshipping with 90-110 in the mornings, but a good number of key members are considering leaving which would leave the church with most of its membership as seniors. The church is not in dire crisis at this point, however it is of concern and would like to have discussion on declining membership issues with other churches as to best practices to avoid this.

2) **Credentials Committee** requests to determine whether this is a desirable topic for a future Classis to pursue. A show of hands provided support. The matter is sent to CIC for advice and to put this matter on a future Classis Agenda.

3) **The request for prayer** for Ottewell CRC regarding membership decline was noted to Classis Prayer Coordinator and Classis Chaplain.

33.2. Fairview Faith Fellowship CRC – requests the following assistance:

1) That the church visitors help us visioning for our future

Motion: That Classis request the church visitors to assist Faith Fellowship CRC in exploring the viability of the congregation in the light of Church Order Article Supplement 38-d.

Grounds:

- a) Membership has declined to approximately 12 families and approximately 17 active professing members.
- b) The present church visitors have an established history of working with the congregation and are thus aware of the situation.

The motion was **carried**.

- 2) That classical appointments be granted for one Sunday per month.

Motion: that Classis grant Faith Fellowship's request for one classical appointment per month. **Carried.**

- 3) That guidelines be given on how Rev. Peet Marx can acquire a preaching license.

Motion: that Classis direct the attention of Fairview Faith Fellowship CRC to the Classis Rules of Procedure regarding application for a license to exhort. **Carried.**

- 33.3. LaGlace CRC requests a visit with the Church Visitors. Chair **rules** that the Church Visitors visit LaGlace
- 33.4. Red Deer First CRC –Nominates Matt Schoonderwoerd as elder delegate to Synod. The nomination was forwarded to the Nominations Coordinator and Clerk.
- 33.5. Stony Plain Hope CRC requests a **"classis contracta"** to process a license to exhort for Loretta Stadt whom they wish to employ as an interim pastor.

- 1) Hope CRC is looking to fill a part time interim position responsible for worship preparation and coordination, pastoral care, and preaching 2x a month while they are in the process of calling a minister.
- 2) Following up on a recommendation, Hope CRC entered into discussions with Loretta Stadt who has a MDiv degree from Taylor Seminary in Edmonton. Loretta does not have classical or denominational authorization to exhort.

Recommendation: That Classis not accede to this request.

Question: is the exception not the same as in Fairview – we allow for one but not the other. Urge that we give her permission.

Response: We don't need to give our permission. The Church Order allows her to preach under the auspices of that church's Council. A license to exhort grants permission to preach classis-wide, under the auspices of Classis.

Chairman's Clarification: The recommendation to not accede is specifically to the request for a classis contracta (special meeting of Classis). Classis encourages Hope CRC to proceed with calling Loretta Stadt to this position and not to let the lack of a licence to exhort prevent the call.

34. Executive Session was called and Classis continued with the Classical Ministries Discussion led by **Darren Roorda.**

- 34.1. A **summary of feedback** was presented. The findings were ranked first place to last place based on responses to the values of the Classical Mission and Vision:
 - 1) Jointly undertake ministries of common interest
 - 2) Encourage member congregations to faithful and creative ministry
 - 3) Participate in denominational ministries and governance
 - 4) Provide appropriate resources for their work of ministry
 - 5) Hold member congregations mutually accountable for their work
- 34.2. General discussion followed.
- 34.3. The next steps:
 - 1) Darren will provide CIC with complete data and report.
 - 2) CIC will report to the churches.
 - 3) CIC is to consider developing an exercise for local church councils to weigh in and discern, and provide feedback to Classis.

Executive session ended.

35. Examination of Josh Friend for Commissioned Pastor – **Victor Ko & Art Verboon** as examiners and **Bill Nieuwenhuis** and **Bob Barthel** as sermon critics.
- 35.1. **Bill Nieuwenhuis** presented the sermon critic report which he and **Bob Barthel** prepared. Josh preached a sermon on Feb 22/15 at First CRC Red Deer based on the assigned texts, **Matthew 7:24-29**, entitled: **Wisdom and Folly**.
 - 35.2. **Motion** to proceed. **Carried**.
 - 35.3. **Victor Ko** introduced **Josh Friend** and led the practica exam. There were several questions from the floor.
 - 35.4. **Motion** to proceed with the exam. **Carried**.
 - 35.5. **Art Verboon** led the exam for Biblical and Theological Knowledge. There were several questions from the floor.
 - 35.6. **Motion** to proceed. **Carried**.
 - 35.7. Executive Session was held for further discussion.
 - 35.8. **Motion** to admit Josh Friend into the office of Commissioned Pastor.
 - 35.9. **Rick Abma** led in prayer
 - 35.10. It was noted that the **Synodical Deputies** concurred via email that the job description is consistent with the office of commissioned pastor.
 - 35.11. Voting took place by secret ballot. With an overwhelming vote of support, the **motion** to approve Josh Friend as Commissioned Pastor was **carried**.
Executive Session was declared ended.
 - 35.12. Josh was invited back into the room and congratulations were given.
36. **Rick Abma** led us in a prayer of thanksgiving and a blessing prior to lunch
37. The **Report of the Ministries Review Committee re Campus Ministry** was **lifted off the Table**.
Motion: To receive report for information and discuss the recommendations at a future meeting. **Carried**.
The Report is referred to CIC.
38. Examination of Dayna Vreeken for ordination. Led by **Len Batterink, Rick Mast, George Holthof, and Martin Mobach**. Synodical Deputies **Cameron Fraser, Bert Slofstra, and Jelmer Groenewold** were welcomed.
- 38.1. **George Holthof** invited **Dayna Vreeken** to come forward and she was introduced. George led in the practica exam. There was a question from the floor.
 - 38.2. **Motion** to proceed with the exam. **Carried**. The **Synodical Deputies** concurred.
 - 38.3. **Len Batterink** presented the sermon critics report which he and **Rick Mast** prepared. Dayna preached in Woodynook CRC on the morning of February 15, 2015, based on the assigned text **John 1:1-18** entitled: **The Word is about to Turn**.
 - 38.4. **Motion** to proceed. **Carried**. The **Synodical Deputies** concurred.
 - 38.5. **Martin Mobach** led the exam for Biblical and Theological Knowledge. There were no questions from the floor.
 - 38.6. **Motion** to proceed. **Carried**. The **Synodical Deputies** concurred.
 - 38.7. Executive Session was held for further discussion. The Synodical Deputies left the meeting to deliberate.
 - 38.8. **Motion** to admit **Dayna Vreeken** into the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments.
 - 38.9. **Rick Abma** prayed for guidance of the Holy Spirit.
 - 38.10. Discussion on the motion to admit: none.
 - 38.11. Voting took place by secret ballot. The **motion** to approve Dayna Vreeken as a Minister of the Word was **carried** by an overwhelming affirmative vote. The **Synodical Deputies** concurred.
Executive Session ended
 - 38.12. Dayna was invited back into the room and congratulations were given.
Rick Abma led us in a prayer of thanksgiving
 - 38.13. Ordination Sunday is set for March 22nd in Lacombe Woodynook CRC at 10 AM.
39. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm after vice chair, **Nic Wolmarans** closed the session of Classis.