



Classis Alberta North of the Christian Reformed Church

Minutes of the

161ST SESSION OF CLASSIS ALBERTA NORTH OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
October 12-13, 2016
held at West End CRC, Edmonton, Alberta

Vision: Classis Alberta North will be a gathering of mutually supportive, healthy churches expressing the good news of God's kingdom that transforms lives and communities.

The Mission of Classis Alberta North as a regional gathering of Christian Reformed churches is:

- to assist, support and encourage faithful and creative local ministry, promoting healthy churches;
- to assist, support and encourage local churches to unite in shared ministries of evangelism and diaconal involvement through denominational and common initiatives.

Vision and Mission statement adopted October, 2016.

Serving Classis:

- Len Batterink, chair
- Tom Baird, vice-chair
- Gary Duthler, Stated Clerk
- Linda Ryks, Recording Clerk
- Aaron Au, Classis Chaplain
- Balloting Committee: the delegates of Edmonton First CRC
- Classis Credentials Committee: the delegates of Lacombe Wolf Creek CRC and Rimbey CRC
- Synodical Deputies:
 - Dale Melenberg - Alberta South/Saskatchewan
 - Rudy Ouwehand – B.C. South-East
 - Henry Jonker – B.C. North-West
- Advisory Committees:
 - Overtures from Trinity CRC and mosaicHouse:
delegates from Rocky Mountain House Covenant CRC and Rocky Mountain House First CRC
 - Release from ministry Arthur Verboon, Michael Van Boom and Ferry Yang:
delegates from Edmonton West End CRC and Trinity CRC

Proceedings of Classis: Wednesday, October 12

Presence of Wednesday's delegates: (*denotes first time delegates).

<u>Church</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Deacon</u>
Barrhead	Harold Vandersluis	Douwe Akkerman	
Bethel Comm. – Edm	Tom Baird	*Genesse Pelster Cutknife	
Bethel - Lacombe	Mike Vandyk	Wayne Bouwman & Marvin Evans	
Centrepointe - Edm	*Jeremy Vandermeer		
Covenant - Edm	Nola Visser	Richard VanderVeen	Sally Leder
Covenant - Rocky	Nic Wolmarans	Jan Honderbrink & Adrian Blaak	
Ebenezer - Leduc		*Jason Dahlman & Tim TeVelde	Lieuwe Bruinsma
Edson – Peers		Arnold DeLeeuw & Pete Smit	
Evergreen - Ft. McMurray	—	—	—
Faith Fellowship - Fairview	—	—	—
Fellowship – Edm.		Stuart Williams	
First – Edm.		*Tysen Hantelmann	Amy Borkent
First – Red Deer	Gary Bomhof	Ted Oostenbrug	Nick Vanderveen
First – Rocky	Len Batterink	Gord van't Bosch	
Hope – Stony Plain	Jacob Boer	Russell Scheideman	*Dorothy Curr
Inglewood - Edm	John Ooms	Henry Bosch	*Theo Emmelkamp
LaGlace	—	—	—
Maranatha - Edm	Pete VanderBeek	Roy Schouten	Johanna Niemansverdriet
mosaicHouse	Victor Ko & Aaron Au		
Neerlandia	*Eva Elgersma	Peter Schuring	
Red Deer - New Life		Tim VanDoesburg	
Rimbey	Bill Nieuwenhuis	Ken Buist	Brian Weenink
Sonrise - Ponoka	William Delleman	Siebe Brouwer	
St. Albert		*Aaron Maan & Douwe Vanderwel	Randy Mann
The River - Edm	Bruce Gritter	Luke Seinen	
Trinity - Edm	Rich de Lange	*Janelle Jager	*Bert Goutbeck
West End - Edm	Bob DeMoor	*Lyda Uitvlugt	John Taekema
Wolf Creek - Lacombe		Bernie Kolkman	
Woodynook - Lacombe	Dayna Vreeken&Neil deKoning	Ron Prins	*Brian Prins

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** **Len Batterink**, Chair of Classis, called the meeting to order at 12 noon. He welcomed the delegates and other visitors.
2. **Devotions:** **Bob DeMoor** led with devotions based on Ecclesiastes 1.
3. **Opening Procedures:**
 - 3.1. Roll Call – attendance was taken as delegates arrived and first-time delegates signed the *Covenant for Office-bearers* at that time. The Stated Clerk reported on the attendance.
 - 3.2. Classis was declared constituted by the Chair, **Len Batterink**.
 - 3.3. **Motion Carried:** to adopt the agenda with time-line as guide.
4. **Stated Clerk Report and Classical Interim Committee Report:** The Stated Clerk, **Gary Duthler**, summarized his work and the work of the Classical Interim Committee as described in the agenda documents.
 - 4.1. **Motion Carried:** To ratify the decisions of the Classis Interim Committee since the previous Classis meeting.
 - 4.2. **Motion Carried:** that **Bill Nieuwenhuis** be appointed to a second term on the Classical Interim Committee effective July 1, 2016.

4.3. **Motion Carried:** that Classis approve as its policy that the fourth Synodical delegate from Classis AB North will be a second minister; that is, the Synodical delegates will consist of 2 ministers, 1 elder and 1 deacon.

4.4. **Motion Carried:** to approve the revision of the *Rules and Procedure* as revised (April 2016, revision).

Comment/Question: There is nothing in the rules and procedures or on the classical credentials to inform church what concerns require an overture to Classis and what can be discussed as part of the agenda. Also, could the credentials committee report earlier in the meeting to allow for the proper discussion of issues raised.

The Stated Clerk and the chair responses: It is important to ensure that Credentials are received and reviewed well in advance of the meeting so that issues can be identified. Credentials might be best scheduled earlier in the agenda of future meetings of Classis.

5. **Missions and Ministries** – delegates were given opportunity to ask questions and make comments regarding the reports appended to the Agenda:

5.1. Back to God Ministries International report – no questions

5.2. Calvin Theological Seminary report – no questions

5.3. CRC World Missions report – no questions. Jacob Boer (recently stepped down from board) encouraged delegates to pray for the ongoing work of the merger of World Mission and Home Mission and for the staff as they are now meeting as one Global Missions board.

5.4. Diaconal Ministries Canada –no questions

5.5. The King's University – Dan Van Keeken:

Question: What is the significance of the change of name to just University vs a University College?

Answer: It captures what the institution has become. Our previous government had appended “college” for unknown reasons and the elimination of that word has reduced the confusion about who we are and what we offer.

Comment: Dan expressed gratitude for the enrolment of 778 students in The King's University this school year.

5.6. A Moment of Grace – Our common story:

Ebenezer CRC in Leduc noted that they have also had the artwork displayed.

5.7. Home Missions: presenter - Tom Baird:

Question: Can you provide info on anticipated church plant sites?

Answer: A 72-page report looked at the entire city of Edmonton to determine where it would be best to start a church plant. The report identified three areas where there is little gospel presence and a high immigrant population and growth: the SE corner and SW corner and Central North.

Question: Will this be a daughter church?

Answer: It is part of the Classis Home Mission goal of a church planted in about every 3 years. These look like promising locations for that. Bethel CRC Edmonton is looking closely at church planting options.

Question: As Classis AB North is broader than just Edmonton, are you looking outside Edmonton as well?

Answer: There are other promising areas in our Classis, but this is where we are initially focussing.

Question: Can you update us on the Church Renewal Lab?

Answer: Six churches gathered in Leduc a couple of weeks ago, a bond is developing and it has been positive so far.

5.8. NADC – no questions

5.9. Cuba Connection: presenter - Dan Van Keeken:

Question: Are there plans for new trips to and from Cuba?

Answer: Didn't receive request, but it is difficult to get the Cuban pastors to Alberta as the Canadian government is concerned that the pastors won't go back and is reluctant to grant visas - even though the pastors always have returned. Cuba Connection is looking for 1-2 pastors to go to Cuba in March 2017 to teach and preach.

5.10. Student Fund Committee – presenter - Dayna Vreeken:

Question: How many courses are these students required to take from Calvin Seminary Professors; is there a minimum?

Answer: This is not a requirement to receive funding, but if you wish to take courses elsewhere you will be required to take courses at Calvin through the Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy (EPMC). The responsibility for candidacy has shifted out of Calvin and into a separate stand-alone candidacy committee.

Motion Carried: The Student Fund Committee (SFC) moves to approve the increase of the committee's budget from \$32,000 to \$34,000.

Motion Carried: The SFC moves to approve the funding of the listed students for the listed amounts.

Joshua Friend (First CRC Red Deer) - 5,200.00

Ryan Pedde (Bethel CRC Edmonton) - 4,400.00

Melanie Reynders (Bethel CRC Edmonton) - 4,800.00

Hilary Smith (Trinity CRC Edmonton) - 2,800.00

Brian Dunn (First CRC Rocky Mountain House) - 3,800.00

Derrick Lee (MosaicHouse CRC) - 5,400.00

Paul Vandyk (Bethel CRC Lacombe/Bethel CRC Edmonton) - 6,000.00

6. Campus Ministry Presentation

Rick Van Manen provided Classis with a verbal report of the work done through campus ministry and exciting opportunities they experience. Classis was thanked for the time he was allowed for a sabbatical spent in Korea. Rick Mast also gave a brief update on his work at NAIT as a classic example of fields full and ripe and workers few. Rick Mast had the privilege of being asked to speak about chaplaincy at a new opening of a prayer room. He noted that the institution expresses concern for all the needs of its students, including faith needs. Rick Mast's work at NAIT is to meet with students, faculty and staff for two hours/week. While the chaplains are there at the request of NAIT, the program is not paid for by NAIT.

6.1. **Motion Carried:** that Classis approve the revised Campus Ministry Mission Statement and Guiding Principles

Discussion on the motion:

Question: Without direct reference to Jesus, are these documents missional enough?

Chaplains walk a fine line and one thing we are not to do is to openly proselytize, so you won't see it listed front and centre. But if you read the language, the main thrust is one of missional direction without actually saying it. It's more of a dance than a march and we must operate in the confines that the institution has asked of us. Doing hospitality and providing services such as memorial services are all missional opportunities. When the opportunities arise, such as being on a panel, or when we are personally approached by students, then we are not confined by the institutional boundaries.

Question: Are these internal documents or are they also given to the university to understand the work?

These are working documents and for us right now. But they could possibly be asked for to show the backing of Classis in the work of our Chaplains. The documents are public documents and could be downloaded by anyone.

6.2. **Motion Carried:** that Classis approve the Job Description for Campus Minister.

Errata: Rick Van Manen noted an omission in the document: the groups under the bullet "Be of service to collaborative partners such as..." should include the Office of Dean of Students, Student Services, and Interfaith Chaplains Association at the University of Alberta.

6.3. **Prayer: Classis Chaplain, Aaron Au** offered prayer over both these chaplains.

7. Youth Ministry presentation Ron deVries –

7.1. Highlights from his presentation

7.1.1. On Sept 11th, Ron, together with local youth leaders, hosted a meeting of youth leaders to discuss LGBTQ issues – 90 in attendance. So far nothing has been planned to follow up. Ron invites

members to talk with him if they would like to have another conversation like this in other locales – eg. central AB.

7.1.2. Delegates and churches were encouraged to pray for youth ministry leaders who are dealing with our kids who are wrestling with this topic

7.2. **Ron's employment future:** William Delleman, on behalf of the Classical Youth Ministry Committee informed delegates that Ron deVries has accepted a dual role with Youth Unlimited and Faith Formation Ministries (overseeing youth ministry for the denomination for US and Canada) and will be leaving us as our Classical Youth Consultant. On December 1, 2016, Ron will begin employment in a 50/50 shared position with Classis AB North and Youth Unlimited. On April 1, 2017, Ron will conclude his employment with Classis AB North. Classis expressed appreciation to Ron for his service to Classis in this capacity.

The following were referred to the CIC for guidance:

- 1) The Classical Youth Ministry Committee recommendation to provide Ron with a one month transitional sabbatical to begin on March 1, 2017.
- 2) Clarification of steps going forward to address this position.

7.4 **Classis Chaplain, Aaron Au** offered prayer over Ron and his work within our Classis.

8. **Canadian Ministries Director – Darren Roorda** spoke to Classis about his work for and with the churches. He highlighted: “Our Journey – 2020” and the National Gathering held in May 2016 and these three uniquely Canadian items:

- 1) The Youth ministries pilot project
- 2) Servicelink – CDN entity which has reimagined itself and now is the one place to go to for assistance in locating resources and any questions about CRC agencies.
- 3) Pilot project for a new CRC phone app is in the works. This app aims to provide missional content for people in broader community to use around their local church

9. **Edmonton Native Healing Centre - Harold Roscher.** The Centre is celebrating its 25th anniversary of ministry with coffee and cake on October 27th at the Chateau Nova Hotel (Grand Room). Everyone is encouraged to join in the celebration and to witness what this ministry is all about.

10. **Congregational Health** – Small group discussions were facilitated by **Rich deLange**. Delegates were asked to move so that there was only one person from a congregation at one table. They were encouraged to share both the good and hard situations that they are dealing with in their congregations and to spend time in prayer for each other's congregations. Each group was then given an opportunity to share highlights of their discussions in the plenary session.

11. **Mission and Vision Statement - John Ooms**, on behalf of the Classical Interim Committee, presented the revised Classis Alberta North Mission and Vision Statement and the document on the Nature and Purpose of Classis Ministries and Meetings

11.1. **Motion Carried:** that Classis adopt the revised Mission and Vision Statement.

11.2. **Motion Carried:** that Classis adopt the description of the Nature and Purpose of Classis Ministries and Meetings.

12. The **Synodical Deputies** were introduced: Dale Melenberg from Classis Albert South/Saskatchewan, Rudy Ouwehand from Classis BC South East and Henry Jonker from Classis BC North West.

13. **Ken Vis - Commissioned Pastor:** Gary Bomhof reviewed the background information provided by First CRC of Red Deer in support of their request to allow Ken Vis to serve as their Commissioned Pastor of Student Integration and Young Adults.

13.1. **Motion Carried:** to approve the job description of the Commissioned Pastor of Student Integration and Young Adults in First CRC, Red Deer as distributed with the Classis Agenda. The Synodical Deputies concurred.

13.2. **Motion Carried:** To approve the request of First CRC in Red Deer to re-instate Ken Vis as Commissioned Pastor of Student Integration and Young Adults in First CRC, Red Deer.

- 13.3. Classis Chaplain, Aaron Au offered a prayer for Ken Vis and for the work he begins in the First CRC Red Deer.
14. **Delegates to Synod 2016 Panel Presentation:** William Delleman, Bruce Gritter, Janet Paquette, and Wilma McLaughlin each shared their experiences at this year's meeting of Synod and together responded to questions from the floor.
15. **Bob DeMoor retirement:**
- 15.1. John Ooms summarized Bob's work in ministry over the past 41 years and gave thanks for Bob and his ministry to our Classis and the denomination in his various roles.
- 15.2. West End delegate, Lyda Uitvlugt, shared and gave thanks on behalf of West End CRC.
- 15.3. Bob shared his thoughts and encouraged the churches of Classis. He thanked everyone for their support.
- 15.4. **Motion Carried:** that Bob DeMoor be granted retirement pursuant to Article 18 of the Church Order to be effective December 23, 2016.
16. Classis Chaplain, Aaron Au offered prayer for Bob DeMoor and asked for a blessing on the supper.

Supper Break

17. **Chairman, Len Batterink** welcomed all candidates and visitors to the evening session of Classis and explained the process for the examination of the candidates for Ordination.
18. **Classis Chaplain Aaron Au** opened the evening session with prayer
19. **Examination of Michelle Kool and Peter Rockhold for Ordination** – led by Tom Baird, Art Verboon, Henk Van Andel, Mike Vandyk, Wayne Bouwman, and Dayna Vreeken.
- 19.1. Peter and Michelle were invited to come forward and were introduced. Tom Baird led in the practical exam of both candidates.
- 19.2. **Motion Carried:** to proceed with the examination. The **Synodical deputies concurred.**
- 19.3. Art Verboon presented the sermon critic report which he and Henk Van Andel had prepared on Michelle Kool. Michelle preached in Covenant CRC in Edmonton, on the morning of October 2, 2016, on the assigned text of Mark 5:1-20 entitled "Kingdom Hope".
- 19.4. **Motion Carried** to proceed. The Synodical Deputies concurred.
- 19.5. **Mike Vandyk** presented the sermon critic report which he and **Wayne Bouwman** had prepared. Peter preached in New Life CRC in Red Deer on the morning of September 25, 2016, based on the assigned text **Ephesians 2:1-10** entitled "**From Death to Life**". One question was raised by the Synodical Deputies.
- 19.6. **Motion Carried** to proceed. The Synodical deputies concurred.
- 19.7. Dana Vreeken led the exam for Biblical and Theological Knowledge of both candidates. One question was raised from the floor for Michelle.
- 19.8. **Motion** to admit **Michelle Kool** into the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments. **Supported**
- 19.9. **Motion** to admit **Peter Rockhold** into the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments. **Supported**
- 19.10. **Classis Chaplain, Aaron Au** offered prayer for the upcoming deliberations.
- 19.11. **Executive Session** The chair announced that Classis was in executive session for further discussion regarding the examination and subsequent vote.
- **Motion Carried unanimously:** to admit Michelle Kool into the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments.
 - **Motion Carried unanimously:** to admit Peter Rockhold into the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments.
 - Synodical Deputies reported their concurrence with the motion and asked that Classis ensure a mentor be assigned for each candidate.

- Dates for installation for Michelle Kool: October 30, 2016 in Covenant CRC, Edmonton
- Date for installation for Peter Rockhold: October 30, 2016 in New Life CRC, Red Deer.
- **Motion Carried** to destroy the ballots.

Executive Session ended

- 19.12. Michelle and Peter and all guests were invited back into the room. The Chair reported on the outcome of the vote. He congratulated Peter and Michelle and presented them with the Classical Diplomas.
20. **Chaplain, Aaron Au** and delegates laid hands on Michelle and Peter and offered a prayer of thanks.
21. Classis adjourned for the day.

Proceedings of Classis: Thursday, October 13

Presence of Wednesday`s delegates: (*denotes first time delegates).

<u>Church</u>	<u>Pastor or Elder</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Deacon</u>
Barrhead	Harold Vandersluis	Douwe Akkerman	
Bethel Comm. – Edm	Tom Baird	Genesse Pelster Cutknife	
Bethel - Lacombe	Mike Vandyk	Wayne Bouwman & Marvin Evans	
Centrepointe - Edm	Jeremy Vandermeer		
Covenant - Edm	Nola Visser	Richard VanderVeen	Sally Leder
Covenant - Rocky	Nic Wolmarans		
Ebenezer - Leduc	Jason Dahlman		Lieuwe Bruinsma
Edson – Peers		Arnold DeLeeuw	Pete Smit
Evergreen - Ft. McMurray	—	—	—
Faith Fellowship - Fairview	—	—	—
Fellowship – Edm.		Stuart Williams	
First – Edm.		Tysen Hantelmann	Amy Borkent
First – Red Deer	Gary Bomhof	Ted Oostenbrug	Nick Vanderveen
First – Rocky	Len Batterink	Gord van't Bosch	
Hope – Stony Plain	Jacob Boer	Russell Scheideman	Dorothy Curr
Inglewood - Edm	John Ooms	Henry Bosch	Theo Emmelkamp
LaGlance	—	—	—
Maranatha - Edm	Pete VanderBeek	Roy Schouten	Johanna Niemansverdriet
mosaicHouse	Victor Ko	Frank VandenBrink	
Neerlandia		Eva Elgersma & Peter Schuring	
Red Deer - New Life		Tim VanDoesburg	
Rimbey	Bill Nieuwenhuis	Jurie De Bruyn	Brian Weenink
Sonrise - Ponoka	William Delleman		Brian Wiebe
St. Albert		Aaron Maan & Douwe Vanderwel	Randy Mann
The River - Edm	Bruce Gritter		
Trinity - Edm	Rich deLange	Janelle Jager	Bert Goutbeck
West End - Edm	Bob deMoor	Lyda Uitvlugt	John Taekema (late)
Wolf Creek - Lacombe	Leon Johnston	Bernie Kolkman	
Woodynook - Lacombe	Dayna Vreeken&Neil deKoning		Alida Doornbos

22. The session was opened by chairman **Len Batterink** who welcomed the delegates.
23. **Rich deLange** opened day two with devotions
24. **Roll Call:** The Stated Clerk reported on the attendance, noting that all churches expected for this day were represented.
25. **Nominations:** Henk Van Andel alerted delegates to the upcoming afternoon vote for the listed nominees to the Board of Trustees of Calvin Seminary. A vote will also be required for a nominee to

the Board of Trustees of Calvin College, and delegates were asked to seek out candidates willing to stand for nomination and to bring forward those names this afternoon prior to the vote.

26. Overture Advisory Committee report – Nic Wolmarans reporting:

26.1. Council of mosaicHouse requests relief from providing classical appointments to churches in Classis for one year.

Advisory Committee Motion: that Classis not accede to the request of mosaicHouse Council to be excused from Classical Appointments for one year. **Tabled**

Ground: The burden on mosaicHouse is not greater than the burden carried by many other churches in Classis.

Delegates from mosaic House were given the opportunity to address the overture.

Motion Carried: That mosaicHouse be exempted from classical appointments for one year, from January to December, 2017.

26.2. The Advisory Committee had considered the letter from Ron Klok regarding remuneration for visiting pastors requesting that Classis consider setting a fee for remuneration for pulpit supply requests.

Advisory Committee Motion: that delegates be given an opportunity to speak to the communication from Pastor Klok.

The issue was raised that since this matter was not brought forward by a local church or as an overture, this discussion should be ruled out of order.

The advisory committee motion was not supported and therefore failed.

26.3. Trinity CRC overtures Classis regarding costs incurred to churches providing classical appointments, suggesting that the receiving churches should bear some of the costs.

Advisory Committee Motion Carried: that Classis accede to the overture for the grounds outlined in the Classis Agenda, and adopt the Classis Niagara policy: *“Churches receiving appointments shall reimburse the assigned minister for his travelling expenses and his church for a per service cost at the rates set forth by Classis”*.

CIC is tasked to provide recommendations regarding these costs.

27. Executive Session: The Chair declared an Executive session for a discussion of the Advice Committee report regarding the release of three pastors:

27.1. **The release of Arthur Verboon** at Maranatha CRC, Edmonton:

Motion Carried: that Classis Alberta North approve the release of Rev. Arthur (Art) Verboon from active ministerial service at Maranatha CRC, effective October 31, 2016, in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 17a and its supplements.

The Synodical deputies concurred.

In the discussions it was noted that Pastor Art is available for a call with no conditions and that Maranatha Council heartily recommends Pastor Art to be available to serve in another church. Maranatha Council declares the delegate available for call and announces so in publications, etc.

27.2. **The release of Michael Van Boom** – Article 17.

Motion Carried: that Classis Alberta North declare that **Rev. Michael Van Boom** is released from the ministerial office in the Christian Reformed Church in North America in accordance with Article 17c of the Church Order.

The Synodical deputies concurred.

Motion Carried: that Classis grant Michael Van Boom the right to exhort within its bounds for a period of two years in accordance with Article 43(b) of the Church Order.

Chaplain Aaron Au offered prayer for Rev. Art Verboon and Michael Van Boom.

27.3. **The release of Dr. Ferry Yang** at Neerlandia CRC:

Two letters received from Dr. Yang were distributed and read orally as requested by him.

Motion Carried: that Classis rescind its previous decision made at its October 2015 meeting to release **Dr. Ferry Yang** from the ministerial office under Article 14b of the Church Order.

Motion Carried: That Classis release **Dr. Ferry Yang** from active ministerial service in the Neerlandia CRC in accordance with Article 17a of the Church Order.

Motion Carried: that Classis, in accordance with the Supplement Article 17a of the Church Order, require **Dr. Yang** to receive evaluation and assistance before declaring him eligible for call.

Motion Carried: That Classis appoint, as per Supplement Article 17a, an oversight committee that plans and monitors an evaluation of **Dr. Yang's** readiness for the ministry. The evaluation will focus on professional competence and personal/emotional status. Appointment of the oversight committee shall be done in consultation with the CRCNA's Pastor-Church Resources and Race Relations agencies. Costs for the committee's work shall be borne by Classis.

Synodical Deputies concurred with the package of motions relating to the release of Ferry Yang.

27.4. **Chaplain Aaron Au** offered a prayer over Neerlandia CRC and the Yang family

27.5. **Executive session was declared ended.**

28. **Healthy Church Committee – William Delleman** reported that the committee now organizes the church counsellor visits. Thanks were given to the following counsellors whose work is finished because the churches served now have pastors: John Ooms to Covenant CRC, Edmonton; Neil deKoning to New Life, Red Deer; and John Pasma to West End Edmonton.
29. **Ron Klok** invited pastors to attend an event, sponsored by Studion (school for spiritual direction) on October 19th. This is especially timely as our Classis, for various reasons, has recently seen five pastors leave churches under Article 17.
30. Church Counsellor reports
- 30.1. St. Albert CRC: Bob DeMoor reported that the St. Albert Christian Reformed Church (CRC) has convened a search committee that is mandated to seek candidates for a two-year term ordained position. A number of excellent prospects have been identified. Since this is a term call allowing for a subsequent more in-depth search, the committee was made up only of council members, so that the process could move quickly, and confidentiality of interested parties assured.
- The congregation has been duly informed of this process by way of a congregational meeting. To be assured that St. Albert CRC's obligations under the agreement with their former pastor are being appropriately met, Bob met separately with Pastor John. He assured Bob that St. Albert is living up to that agreement. We are grateful that Pastor John was accepted into the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program and is actively involved in that very extensive training process.
- St. Albert CRC council and congregation are taking excellent steps towards the future that our Lord has in store for them. They are moving ahead together in a faithful and expedient manner. They covet our prayers as they continue in faith, hope, and love.

- 30.2. Covenant CRC Edmonton – John Ooms reported. He signed a call letter to Michelle Kool as well as a second letter concerning the expectations of the congregation. The retiring pastor will be staying in the congregation.
- 30.3. First CRC Edmonton -- No report.
- 30.4. Neerlandia – Harold Vandersluis reported. He has been working with Pastor Ron Klok from Nov., 2015 to Sept., 2016. He has worked with the Council on issues related to Dr. Ferry Yang and church order.
- 30.5. Ft. McMurray – John Pasma reported. Pastor George Holthof had his final service about 2 weeks ago after working about 1 year on an ad-hoc basis. The congregation has a calling committee and is in talks. The Church appreciates the classical support.
31. No Church Visitor reports.
32. **Jason Dahlman – authority to administer sacraments.** Classis considered the request from Ebenezer CRC, Leduc, that Jason Dahlman be granted authority to administer the sacraments as an Elder in the Ebenezer CRC in accordance with Article 55 of the Church Order. Background information was provided with the Agenda. Jason was introduced to Classis by a member of the Ebenezer CRC.
- Motion Carried:** that Classis grant Elder Jason Dahlman the right to perform the sacraments in the Ebenezer CRC in accordance with Church Order Article 55.
33. **Chaplain, Aaron Au** led in devotions and offered prayer for lunch.

Lunch Break

34. **Credentials:** The Credentials Committee reported on the credentials submitted and noted:
- 34.1. Future topic for the CIC to explore: team pastorates, team ministry
- 34.2. Several submitted credentials contained only one of the required two signatures that should appear on the documents.
35. **Nominations** for consideration for the following boards:
- 35.1. **Calvin Seminary Board** –Henk Van Andel noted that one person was to be nominated for consideration for this region. There were three nominees: Jacob VandenPol; Janet Wesselius and Frank Zee. Delegates, voting by ballot, gave Frank Zee a plurality of votes.
- 35.2. **Calvin College Board:** Rick Mast received a unanimous vote from Classis.
- 35.3. **Motion Carried:** to destroy ballots. Henk Van Andel will communicate the results of the votes.
36. **CRC Board of Trustees Report – Wally Mulder**, newly appointed to this board by Synod 2016, gave an overview of the composition of the board of trustees and provided highlights to their Sept. meeting (a summary report will be distributed to the churches). A few key items noted:
- 36.1. The shift in the governance model from the current Board of Trustees to a new Council of Delegates will happen over the next two years, but could be in place as early as the summer of 2017.
- 36.2. Our Journey 2020 – the ministry plan for the CRC for the next 5 years can be found in the recent Banner and online at www.crcna.org/welcome/our-journey-2020
- 36.3. CRC launched a digital library in the spring of 2016 which gives CRC churches to free access to many resources found at www.crcna.org/resources/digital-library
37. **Diaconal Ministries Canada – Lucinda Klapwyk**, Diaconal Regional Developer for Edmonton and Northern Alberta was given an opportunity to highlight an upcoming study which is a continuation of our response to The Truth and Reconciliation, and is open to all. “Living the 8th Fire” is study from

the Canadian Aboriginal Ministries Committee which will take place Monday evenings, Oct. 17, 31, Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28 and Dec.5 at The Edmonton Native Healing Centre.

38. **John Ooms** requested feedback from churches receiving classical appointments:
- 38.1. Covenant, Edmonton expressed appreciation for the work done. Now that they have a new pastor the service is no longer needed.
 - 38.2. First Edmonton, Ebenezer – Leduc, Neerlandia and St. Albert all indicated that the appointments are being fulfilled.
 - 38.3. Fairview, Ft. McMurray and LaGlace CRC were not in attendance and no report was available.
 - 38.4. New schedule will come out in January when we anticipate six churches requiring classical appointments.

Discussion:

Question: What should be do while we wait for the CIC to set a cost for churches to pay for these pastors' services?

Answer: CIC will meet in November and will hopefully set rates and inform churches before new budgets are set.

Question about the efficiency of meeting distant church's needs in travelling far distances for a service for a few people and whether alternatives such as live streaming could assist our more distant places. Are these topics being explored?

Answer: CIC has looked into this for Fairview but this church didn't have the resources to accommodate.

39. Classis Budget and Financial Report – **Mike Vos** presented the proposed budget for 2017. **Motion Carried:** to approve the 2017 Classis Alberta North budget.
- 39.1. Concerns were expressed over the sustainability of the per member cost (a 10% increase/member from 2015), especially in our current economic times. There was a request that a future Classis seriously look at the trend and its sustainability. Request that the churches in our Classis be honest about whether they are committed to supporting this ministry share.
 - 39.2. Items for consideration by CIC:
 - What is the mechanism for making the decision on auto renewal of Youth Ministry position?
 - Is there a body that says, we are going to hold the increase to X%?
40. Opportunity given for delegates to provide feedback on their experience at this meeting of Classis:
- 40.1. Appreciated the good sound in this facility – thanks given to the sound technician.
 - 40.2. Concern that for the last couple of meetings of this Classis there have been no delegates from Fairview, Ft. McMurray, and LaGlace. We should be pro-active in helping them to attend.
 - 40.3. We will leave this meeting with feelings that there was civility in discussion of hard topics. Good to talk about what's happening in the churches. The interview of candidates was wonderful.
 - 40.4. Chairman Len Batterink was thanked.
41. Tom Baird closed the meeting with prayer
42. Classis adjourned at 2:15 pm

The next meeting of Classis Alberta North will take place on March 1-2, 2017, in the Neerlandia CRC.