



Classis Alberta North of the Christian Reformed Church

Minutes of the

162ND SESSION OF CLASSIS ALBERTA NORTH OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
March 1-2, 2017
held at Neerlandia CRC, Edmonton, Alberta

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.

The **Vision** is that 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.

Serving Classis:

- Tom Baird, chair
- Jeremy Vandermeer, vice-chair
- Gary Duthler, Stated Clerk
- Linda Ryks, Recording Clerk
- Michelle Kool, Classis Chaplain
- Balloting Committee: the delegates of Covenant CRC
- Classis Credentials Committee: the delegates of Sonrise CRC and Inglewood CRC
- Synodical Deputies:
 - David Cheung – BC Northwest
 - Rudy Ouwehand – BC Southeast
 - Dale Melenberg – AB South / Saskatchewan
- Oversight Committee Dr. Ferry Yang – Melle Pool, Zhang Pan, and John Boonstra

Proceedings of Classis: Wednesday, March 1, 2017

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

<u>Church</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Deacon</u>
Barrhead	Harold Vandersluis	Meerten Zeldenrust	—
Bethel Comm. – Edm.	Tom Baird	Rene Hebers	—
Bethel - Lacombe	Mike Vandyk	Marvin Ebens/Wayne Bouman	—
Centrepoinste – Edm.	Jeremy Vandermeer		— —
Covenant – Edm.	Michelle Kool	Carol Haarsma	*Erik Veldhuizen
Covenant - Rocky	Nic Wolmarans	Adrian Blaak	—
Ebenezer - Leduc	Elder Jason Dahlman	Dick de Klerk	—
Edson – Peers	Ken Douma	Winson Elzinga	Darrel DeLeeuw
Evergreen - Ft. McMurray	—	—	—
Faith Fellowship - Fairview	—	Ron Weenink	—
Fellowship – Edm.	—	—	—
First – Edm.	—	Jason Van Doesburg	—
First – Red Deer	Gary Bomhof	Ted Oostenbrug	*Sharyn Lodewyk
First – Rocky	Len Batterink	Gord van't Bosch	—
Hope – Stony Plain	Jacob Boer	Victor Hoogendorn	Dorothy Curr
Inglewood – Edm.	John Ooms	Jim Joesse	Coni Rozema
LaGlace	—	—	—
Maranatha – Edm.	Pete VanderBeek (late)	*Jacques Barzilay (late)	Jo Niemansverdriet
mosaicHouse	Victor Ko (late)	—	—
Neerlandia	Elder Andy Strydhorst	*Carolyn Aarsen	*Troy Nanninga
New Life- Red Deer	*Peter Rockhold	—	—
Rimbey	Bill Nieuwenhuis	John Holtkamp	—
Sonrise - Ponoka	William Delleman	John Hulsman	*Luke Van Aken
St. Albert	Tony Maan	—	Bert Jager
The River – Edm.	Bruce Gritter (late)	—	—
Trinity – Edm.	Rich de Lange	*John Strikwerda	—
West End - Edm	Rick Mast	*Linda Piers	John Taekema (late)
Wolf Creek - Lacombe	Leon Johnston	Ken Vanderwekken	—
Woodynook - Lacombe	Neil deKoning	Peter Den Oudsten	—

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Tom Baird, Chair of Classis, called the meeting to order at 12 noon. He welcomed the delegates and other visitors.

2. **Devotions:** Art Verboon led with devotions focussing on what drives our service to others.

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 that the churches represented constituted a quorum.

Motion Carried in the absence of credentials: to seat Elder Ron Weenink from Faith Fellowship, Elder Peter Den Oudsten and Pastor Neil deKoning from Woodynook.

Motion Carried in the absence of credentials: to seat Bruce Gritter as delegate for The River (later in the meeting).

3.2. Classis was declared constituted by the Chair, Tom Baird.

3.3. **Motion Carried:** to adopt the agenda with time-line as guide.

4. **Congregational Health** –small group discussions were facilitated by Rich deLange.

Delegates were asked to sit with people from other churches. In the spirit of Ash Wednesday, the discussion began with corporate confessions followed with prayer. Delegates shared the concerns, joys, and struggles of their local churches and joined together in intercessory and celebratory prayer.

5. **Stated Clerk Report and Classical Interim Committee Report:** Stated Clerk Gary Duthler summarized the work of the Classical Interim Committee. The report was distributed with the Agenda.

Transitions within our Classis:

- Retirement of Bob DeMoor, Len Batterink, Gary Bomhof.
- Accepting a call:
 - Leaving Classis: Mike Vandyk to Grace CRC, in Welland, Ontario,
 - Arriving to Classis: Tony Maan to St. Albert CRC, and Henry Kranenburg to West End CRC.

Employment changes:

- Ron deVries will leave his employment as our Youth Ministry Consultant at the end of the month.

Appointments:

- Luke Seinen to Safe Church Committee
- Peter VanderBeek and Janet Vlieg-Paquet to Healthy Church Task Force
- Rich deLange as mentor for Michelle Kool
- Melle Pool and Trudy Snaterse as Church visitors
- Neil deKoning as mentor for Peter Rockhold
- Siebe Brouwer as church visitor with Gary Bomhof
- Martin Mobach as Counsellor at Maranatha CRC
- Melle Pool, Zhang Pan, and John Boonstra to the Oversight Committee for Dr. Ferry Yang.

- 5.1. **Motion Carried:** To ratify the decisions of the Classis Interim Committee since the previous Classis meeting.
- 5.2. **Motion Carried:** to approve the official disbanding of Ottewell CRC as of January 9, 2017, in accordance with Art. 38D of the Church Order.
- 5.3. **Motion Carried:** to develop a policy regarding paid leaves for Classis employees.
- 5.3.1. The implementation of this motion was referred to CIC.
- 5.4. **Motion Carried:** to renew the license to exhort for Harry Cook for 2 years.
- 5.5. **Motion Carried:** to renew the license to exhort for Rebecca Warren for 2 years.
- 5.6. **Motion Carried:** to reappoint Mike Vos to CIC for a second term effective July 1, 2017.
- 5.7. **Motion Carried:** to reappoint Michelle Kool to CIC for a second term effective July 1, 2017.

6. **Ministries and Agency Reports:**

Ministry and Agency Reports, included in the agenda for Classis, were received for information. Delegates were given opportunity to ask questions where ministry and agency representatives were present:

- 6.1. CRCNA, Canadian Ministries – no representative
- 6.2. Back to God Ministries International – no representative
- 6.3. World Renew – Question: Is there anything to update on Ft. McMurray? Answer provided by Jim Joosse: Progress for W-R is slow in developing due to structural issues around Ft. McMurray. The NGOs are working to find places where they can do no harm (i.e. not interfere with government funded programs or private insurance). W-R has been involved with other agencies and many of the cases where we may be able to help are identified. Will expect work to commence this summer.
- 6.4. Committee for Contact with Government -- no representative
- 6.5. Diaconal Ministries Canada – no representative
- 6.6. Home Missions – no questions
- 6.7. Healthy Church Task Force – William Delleman distributed a flyer on what the HCTF does and a list of resources was distributed to the delegates. He mentioned that the upcoming Pastor/Spouse Retreat on April 21, 2017, still has space available.
- 6.8. Edmonton Native Healing Centre – no representative

- 6.9. NADC consultant – Jesse Edgington was present. No questions.
- 6.10. Cuba Connection – John Strikwerda was present. No questions.
- 6.11. Campus Ministry Report – Rick Mast was present. No questions.
- 6.12. The King’s University –Shannon Tuininga was present. No questions.

7. **Youth Ministry Report:** Ron DeVries reported

- 7.1. Attended Youth Ministry Champions retreat in Burlington, a Canadian Youth Ministry initiative. Champions met with the stated clerks and leaders of Classis, and the exchanges provided an opportunity to hear the good things happening our denomination.
- 7.2. Faith Formation Ministry folders were distributed to all the churches. This folder includes toolkits and links to online resources to help the local churches.
- 7.3. Ron thanked Classis for the opportunity to serve. Classis thanked Ron for his great work in this role.
- 7.4. Jim Joosse updated Classis that Inglewood appointed Jenna Boonstra as youth leader until the summer.
- 7.5. Classis Chaplain Michelle Kool and other delegates laid hands on and surrounded Ron in prayer.

8. **Ministry Presentations:**

- 8.1. **Christian Reformed World Missions** – Ko Spykma, Mission Consultant for Western Canada, was given the opportunity to make a presentation.
 - The merger between CRC’s World Missions and Home Missions is ongoing and Ko asked for everyone’s prayers for the new leaders and for our denomination to be faithful to the great commission.
 - The agency merger decision comes after at least 5 years of deliberations. With the world changing so drastically, the mission field is often coming to us via immigration, refugees, travel and technology. As a result, there was a huge overlap in our World and Home Missions agencies; the merger made sense to many but not without many challenges and insecurities over job security, finances, roles of missionaries, bi-nationality issues, etc.
 - Ko presented a handout outlining the look of the newly formed New Mission Agency (name is awaiting final approval). The handout listed the ministry directors appointed and regional leaders around the world. Rev. Zachary King has been appointed to be the Executive Director of the new agency pending Synod’s ratification. He will report to the Executive Director of the denomination. More information is available on the CRCNA website.

Bruce Gritter provided an update as a member of the board of the New Mission Agency. Rev. King will bring new energy to this new agency. Merging the agencies was tough but has been good as well. The merger will bring strength to the agency and more regional empowerment and more local regional leadership.

Casper Geisterfer, a missionary with World Missions, highlighted the reduction in monies received by missionaries due to diminished Ministry Shares. He has personally taken a 50% budget cut for next year and he spoke emotionally on how the lack of funds will require downscaling existing programs in his missionary ministry. Casper asked the delegates, for the sake of the kingdom, to urge their churches to think of him and ministries like his when their churches are asked to pay their ministry shares.

- 8.2. **Ministry to Seafarers** – Ernst DeVries gave a report and showed a short video of the work happening in this ministry. Ernst will retire this year but highlighted some of the changes that he’s seen in his years of service, including the impact of technology: coming from one dial-up computer to offering wireless for hundreds of seafarers. His prayer is that the ministry will continue to serve those arriving in the Vancouver harbor. Classis wished Ernst all the best in his retirement.

9. **Retirement of Gary Bomhof:**

- 9.1. William Delleman shared about Gary’s ministry over the past 41 years of ministry during which he served six churches.

Motion Carried: that Classis grants Pastor Gary Bomhof retirement from the Ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church, effective June 30, 2017.

- 9.2. Gary Bomhof shared what impacted him in ministry, including his joys and struggles. He remembered well a question on his exam for the ministry when he was asked why he wanted to go into ministry. The question was later rephrased: Gary, do you love Jesus? This question formed the basis of how he worked throughout his ministry.
- 9.3. Chaplain Michelle Kool and other delegates laid hands on and surrounded Gary in prayer.
10. **Nominations Coordinator** – Gary Duthler, Stated Clerk presented the positions and nominees on behalf of the Nominations Coordinator. The delegates voted on the names presented, with the following results:
 - 10.1. **Synod 2017 Delegates:**

Pastors:	Bill Nieuwenhuis (1 st delegate by rotation) John Ooms (2 nd delegate) Art Verboon (1 st alternate) Victor Ko (2 nd alternate)
Elders:	Henry Bosch Jason Van Doesburg (alternate)
Deacons:	John Taekema (single nomination, no alternate available)
 - 10.2. **Calvin College Board** – Rick Mast, preferred nominee
 - 10.3. **Calvin Seminary** – Frank Zee, preferred nominee
 - 10.4. **Council of Delegates** – Michelle Kool is elected by Classis
 - 10.5. **World Renew Board** – The reappointment of Ray Prins to a second term is supported by Classis

Motion Carried to destroy the ballots.

The Chair suspended the meeting of Classis and invited John Ooms to conduct the Annual Meeting of the Association.

11. Annual Meeting of the Association:

- 1) **John Ooms**, Chair of the Association, opened the meeting with a word of welcome.
- 2) **Motion Carried** to approve the agenda.
- 3) **Motion Carried** to approve the minutes of the AGM held on March 10, 2016.
- 4) **Motion Carried** 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, 2016, as presented by Treasurer Mike Vos.
- 5) **Motion Carried** to accept the signed Auditor's Report from Halpert Monsma, Chartered Accountants, which accompanied the Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, as presented by Treasurer Mike Vos.
- 6) **Motion Carried** to appoint Halpert Monsma, Chartered Accountants, as Auditors for the fiscal year 2017.
- 7) Board of Directors:
 - a) **Motion Carried:** That Michelle Kool be reappointed for a second term as Director of the Association, effective July 1.
 - b) **Motion Carried:** That Mike Vos be reappointed for a second term as Director of the Association, effective July 1.
 - c) **Motion Carried:** to reappoint Mike Vos as Classis Treasurer, effective July 1, 2017.
 - d) **Motion Carried:** to reappoint Ellen Vlieg-Paquette as alternate Classis Treasurer, effective July 1, 2017.
- 8) **Question period:**

Question: In light of the changes re: Denominational changes to the Council of Delegates, has there been any discussion about redesigning Classis in general as we are out of sync at the national level (eg. We have Classical Home Missions Committee; this is out of sync with new co-joined missions). The volume of work the one delegate now needs to do between council and Classis should be discussed.

Answer – No, it hasn't been discussed. This will perhaps trickle into the agenda of CIC work.

Question: Are you looking into the sizable drop in income in 2016?

Answer: Yes, CIC has been talking about the income. CIC is trying to do due diligence in its ministry along with doing the things which are felt to be needed. CIC has requested the church visitors to discuss ministry share giving with the churches for which they are responsible. So yes, it is noted and is a shared concern.

9) **Motion Carried** to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting of Classis was resumed.

12. **Presentation on the Value and Importance of Church Visitors** led by Melle Pool:

Church visiting serves a two-fold purpose: 1) coming alongside and supporting one another as churches and office-bearers; 2) as a good way to hold each other accountable. It was noted that there is a shortage of church visitors and finding replacements has not been easy.

Delegates gathered in small table groups and were encouraged to re-imagining how church visiting can be effective. Following the discussion time, members shared their thoughts and handed in their comment sheets to Melle for further evaluation.

13. **C.O. Article 17 Reports/Updates:** John Ooms, Chair of CIC, provided an update.

13.1. John & Audrey Luth: CIC, along with the Luths, have engaged Melle and Diane Pool to be the mentors for John and Audrey. John is involved with Clinical Pastoral Education and benefiting from this experience.

13.2. Martin & Sandra Mobach: A mentorship couple has not yet been identified for the Mobachs. They have found some avenues of support: Martin meets with two other colleagues and as a couple they have found another worshipping community and have enrolled in counselling.

14. **Oversight Committee for Dr. Ferry Yang – report:**

The Chair declared an **Executive Session**.

Chaplain Michelle Kool offered prayer over the session.

Melle Pool presented the committee's report and entertained questions.

Motion Carried that, in accordance with Article 17d of the Church Order, Classis Alberta North declares that Dr. Ferry Yang is released from ministerial office.

This release is effective March 1, 2017

The Synodical Deputies concurred and were thanked for their participation and insights.

Motion Carried to destroy ballots.

Motion Carried to disband the committee with the thanks of Classis.

Chaplain Michelle Kool prayed for Dr. Yang, for the church of Neerlandia, and for a blessing on our dinner.

Executive Session ended.

Supper Break

15. Classis re-convened with worship led by the Neerlandia CRC Praise Group.

16. **Examination of Loretta Stadt for License to Exhort:**

16.1. Tom Baird led Classis in opening prayer.

- 16.2. Loretta was invited to come forward and was introduced by Tom Baird.
- 16.3. Tom Baird read the sermon critic report as prepared by Martin Mobach and John Elzinga. Loretta preached in First CRC in Edmonton, on the morning of February 22, 2017, based on the assigned text Matthew 11:1-15 entitled “Gospel Offensiveness”.
- 16.4. **Motion Carried:** to proceed with the examination.
- 16.5. Karen Norris conducted the Biblical and Theological Knowledge examination
- 16.6. Several questions were raised from the floor.
- 16.7. **Motion Seconded:** to grant Loretta Stadt a License to Exhort for one year.
- 16.8. **Executive Session** was held for further discussion regarding the examination and subsequent vote.
 - ***Motion Carried:*** to grant Loretta Stadt a License to Exhort for one year.
 - ***Motion Carried:*** to destroy the ballots.
- Executive Session ended**
- 16.9. The assembly was informed that the motion to grant Loretta Stadt a License to Exhort for one year was carried. The Chair congratulated Loretta on behalf of Classis.
17. Chaplain Michelle Kool prayed over Loretta and offered a prayer of thanks for the day’s proceedings.
18. Classis adjourned for the day.

Proceedings of Classis: Thursday, March 2, 2017

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

<u>Church</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Deacon</u>
Barrhead	Harold Vandersluis	—	—
Bethel Comm. – Edm.	Tom Baird	Rene Hebers	—
Bethel - Lacombe	Mike Vandyk	Marvin Ebens/Wayne Bouman	—
Centrepointe – Edm.	Jeremy Vandermeer	—	—
Covenant – Edm.	Michelle Kool	Carol Haarsma	Sally Leder
Covenant - Rocky	Nic Wolmarans	Adrian Blaak	—
Ebenezer - Leduc	Elder Jason Dahlman	Dick de Klerk	—
Edson – Peers	Ken Douma	Winson Elzinga	Darrel DeLeeuw
Evergreen - Ft. McMurray	—	—	—
Faith Fellowship - Fairview	—	Ron Weenink	—
Fellowship – Edm.	—	—	—
First – Edm.	—	Chris Stolte	—
First – Red Deer	Gary Bomhof	Ted Oostenbrug	*Sharyn Lodewyk
First – Rocky	Len Batterink	Gord van't Bosch	—
Hope – Stony Plain	Jacob Boer	Victor Hoogendorn	Dorothy Curr
Inglewood – Edm.	John Ooms	Jim Josse	Coni Rozema
LaGlance	—	—	—
Maranatha – Edm.	Pete VanderBeek	*Jacques Barzilay	Jo Niemansverdriet
mosaicHouse	Victor Ko	—	—
Neerlandia	—	*Carolyn Aarsen	*Troy Nanninga
New Life- Red Deer	*Peter Rockhold	—	—
Rimbey	Bill Nieuwenhuis	John Holtkamp	—
Sonrise - Ponoka	William Delleman	John Hulsman	*Luke Van Aken
St. Albert	Tony Maan	—	Bert Jager
The River – Edm.	Luke Seinen	—	—
Trinity – Edm.	Rich de Lange	John Strikwerda	—
West End - Edm	Rick Mast	*Gerry Uitvlugt	John Taekema
Wolf Creek - Lacombe	Leon Johnston	Ken Vanderwekken	—
Woodynook - Lacombe	Neil deKoning	Peter Den Oudsten	—

19. The session was opened by chairman Tom Baird with words of welcome.
20. Chaplain Michelle Kool led in devotions and prayer for the day's proceedings.
21. **Roll Call:** The Stated Clerk reported on the attendance and that the covenant for Office-bearers was signed by first time delegates.

Motion Carried in the absence of credentials: to seat Luke Seinen as delegate for The River.

22. **Retirement of Len Batterink:**

- 22.1. William Delleman spoke a few words about Len's ministry. Len is retiring after 34 years in ministry.

Motion Carried: that Pastor Len Batterink be granted retirement from the Ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church effective July 1, 2017

- 22.2. Len Batterink spoke a few words about his ministry and its stresses. He is retiring early for personal reasons in order to spend much-needed time with his family. He gave thanks to Classis for the years of involvement here, and to his church, First CRC of Rocky Mountain House.
- 22.3. Chaplain Michelle Kool and other delegates laid hands on and surrounded Len in prayer.

23. **Credentials Committee:** John Ooms reporting

- 23.1. The committee noted the lack of credentials received from Woodynook, The River, and Faith Fellowship CRCs.
- 23.2. The committee noted that no credentials were received, nor were delegates present from La Glance and Evergreen CRCs.

- 23.3. Fellowship Edmonton's delegate was excused due to health reasons and the church was unable to send an alternate in his place.
- 23.4. Covenant, Rocky Mountain House, submitted a request for "a better explanation/justification of NADC/Diaconal Ministries funding/fees. The committee recommended that Jesse Edgington (NADC Consultant) be given an opportunity to speak briefly about the relationship between ministry shares applied to NADC and the funding of Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC).

Jesse Edgington explained that DMC arose as a grass roots movement of deacons in Canada. However, our Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference was in existence prior to the formation of DMC. The classical funding for NADC goes directly to its work within Classis AB North and also pays for Jesse's salary. Jesse's work includes the organization of our Classis Day of Encouragement, and he sits on various committees keeping in touch with what's happening in Classis and connecting with our churches and their deacons. DMC ministry shares support the national ministry which provides many deacon resources and support services and also includes paying for two part-time Diaconal Ministry Developers within our Classis: Lucinda Klapwyk who represents the Edmonton and the northern part of Classis, and Harvey Buit who meets the needs of the central/southern region of Classis. Jesse invited anyone with questions to contact him.

- 23.5. Fellowship Edmonton submitted a request for "a discussion on inclusivity for LGBTQ and persons with disabilities, and opportunities for continued conversations within and between churches."

The Credentials Committee responded that the spirit of the request is understood, but the committee does not consider it wise to include "LGBTQ" and "persons with disabilities" in the same consideration. The committee understands that the CIC has considered furthering the LGBTQ conversation at a future meeting of Classis.

Motion Carried to refer the matter of furthering the LGBTQ conversation to the CIC for consideration.

- 23.6. Neerlandia CRC submitted two requests:

- a) Request to have a discussion on "what are the elements of a meaningful Council retreat?" The Neerlandia delegates were given the opportunity to elaborate on their request. They indicated that they hoped to have some feedback from other churches as to what works well and what does not. The Classis chair invited delegates to respond.

Feedback received:

- There are a lot of resources on the CRCNA website, including ideas for structuring effective retreats.
 - One church spoke about a yearly get-together on Friday night to discuss the vision of the church, followed by a time away on the Saturday. Found this beneficial for office bearers to connect with one another
 - Regardless of topic for retreat, you need to spend time as a group to get to know one another's heart, fears, personal vision for the church and the congregation.
 - Include staff in your retreat. We have a two-pronged approach: 1) look at the big picture (the forest), what has God called us to be and do at this time; 2) look at one particular item (the tree). We name the big tree in our church at that time and plan how we will address it and then implement the plan as leaders and staff.
- b) Request that Classis "publish a list of joys and challenges of each church 2x/year so that we can be specific in our congregational prayers"

The Credentials Committee applauded Neerlandia's practice of praying for each church in Classis "once or twice a year," but did not feel compelled to structure this at a classical level for all churches. The committee also identified the following concerns: the need for an administrator to solicit, collate and disburse the information; the matter of confidentiality; the issues of responsiveness from the churches on a regular basis; the timeliness of information submitted at an earlier date and then included in prayer at a later date.

The Credentials Committee recommended that Classis not accede to the request. However, Rich deLange, Classis prayer coordinator, was asked to take note and to discuss this further with the delegates of Neerlandia.

24. Youth Ministry Consultant Job Description:

Wayne Bouman spoke on behalf of the Classis Youth Ministry Committee (CYMC):

He reminded the delegates that having activities for youth and making disciples are not the same thing. The first is easy, latter is not. We need a Youth Ministry Consultant to assist the local churches in this task.

Churches in Classis have benefited from this position in the past years. This Classis is devoted to youth and it has yielded fruit as witnessed in a video where Ryan Pedde shared his experiences and how he benefited from the leadership of the Classical Youth Ministry Consultant.

Wayne urged Classis to carry on and move forward with hiring a new Youth Ministry Consultant to fill the vacated postion..

Motion Carried: to approve the Youth Ministry Consultant job description proposed by the Classis Youth Ministry Committee.

Motion Carried: that Classis initiate the process to hire a new Youth Ministry Consultant.

Note: The CYMC and CIC will consult together and seek feedback from the churches to determine whether the position will be full or part time.

Comments on the motion:

- It is too early to vote on this, especially as there hasn't been a lot of feedback (only 1/3 of the churches reported back)
- Having worked with youth in our church, both in teaching catechism and as a youth leader, I have been blessed by the work the Classical Youth Ministry Consultant's services and support. This ministry is important to prevent burnout.
- Caution on drawing implications re: few responses to the survey as Classis has embarked on learning a new system to speak into process and into the ministries. CIC is also learning. All of this may have attributed to the lack of responses.
- This vote would be a vote of confidence. Then, with the input of churches, decisions on the shape of this position can be drafted.
- This position is especially important to smaller churches who cannot afford to hire a youth pastor and who rely on volunteers.
- CAN has a long history of employing a youth consultant – didn't feel that the churches received the surveys early enough and notes this is the case with all the surveys that have been sent.
- Question: What does this decision mean – that we hire someone? Or would it be that we recommend a F/T or a P/T for approval at an upcoming meeting? Answer: No decision will be made between now and next meeting of Classis with respect to F/T or P/T. We expect to see a recommendation presented to the fall Classis.
- Last Classis began the evaluation process with this committee (CYMC). The process forward is to re-send the surveys and that CYMC and CIC can present recommendation for the next meeting of Classis.
- Will support be given to the churches in this gap where Classis doesn't have a consultant as it could easily be a year?

Rick Mast offered short-term assistance in response to youth consultant position vacancy. He will make himself available to anyone working in youth ministries in our Classis, if they find themselves in a position where they are at a loss. Rick noted that there are things he can help with during the transition. On behalf of Classis, the chair expressed appreciation to Rick for this offer.

25. Safe Church Presentation: Carmen Voogd presenting.

The Safe Church Committee is working on a website to give churches easy access to resources. The Committee needs members and encourages anyone interested to connect with Carmen. Delegates were urged to think about their church's Safe Church protect protocols, familiarize themselves with responses

and actions, and to look at the role of Safe Church in reaching out, with a goal to healing both victim and survivors. Carmen stressed that it's not primarily about having policies but rather safe practices in place. Training of all staff and volunteers is an essential component.

26. **Farewell to Mike Vandyk:**

- 26.1. Mike has accepted a call to Grace CRC, in Welland, Ontario. Leon Johnston provided a tribute to Mike for his 11 years served in this Classis, noting he was a shepherd serving in Bethel Lacombe. He shared testimonies of members from Bethel who expressed that they were blessed by Mike's ministry and will miss him. On behalf of Classis he wished Mike God's blessing for the future and thanked him for being a blessing to our Classis.
- 26.2. Mike Vandyk challenged and encouraged Classis to keep going and doing the work we have set in motion. He noted the acronym for Classis AB North CAN, indicating the CAN = Yes! we CAN do it, more than most described the vision and actions of this Classis!
- 26.3. Chaplain Michelle Kool and other delegates laid hands on and surrounded Mike in prayer.

27. **Church Visitor and Church Counsellor reports:**

- 27.1. **Wolf Creek and New Life:** Len Batterink reported that both congregations are doing well and are "in a good place."
- 27.2. **Neerlandia:** Harold VanderSluis reported that Neerlandia CRC is ably led by interim pastor, Art Verboon, for nine months. The Search Committee is seeking a new pastor.
- 27.3. **LaGlace:** Ken Douma reported that LaGlace CRC appreciates those who come for pulpit supply. He challenged the churches to make sure to send someone to fill pulpit supply if they can't make their assignment. LaGlace did pursue one person for the vacancy; however, that fell through and they are continuing their search.

28. **Opportunity for Feedback:** Delegates were given the opportunity to comment about the meeting of Classis.

- 28.1. One delegate indicated that the meeting was a "great encouragement, especially for a first-time delegate."
- 28.2. There was a note to be careful about table placements to ensure appropriate sight lines to speakers and to video screens.
- 28.3. Several delegates had comments about the practice of minimizing oral Ministry Reports:
 - 28.3.1. With only written reports received, we miss something. If someone was in house to speak to the ministry it would be good to hear from that person.
 - 28.3.2. As it is, there are very few representatives of ministries here, and if they are given no opportunity to speak fewer will be here in the future. We will then lose something for the sake of keeping things orderly and short.
 - 28.3.3. Maybe Classis over-corrected in response to delegates feedback that reports were overly lengthy. Some speakers used to go forever. Maybe there is another method that would allow speakers to be heard, but giving them warning of their time limits.
 - 28.3.4. Could CIC possibly discuss options with Classical Ministry Committee?
 - 28.3.5. Thanks and appreciation for the effective chairing of the meeting. Don't want the printed words repeated, so, if there are presenters, ask them to provide us with a story or something like that to encourage us about their ministry.
 - 28.3.6. "This was my first time at classis where reports weren't dominating, and I found this format and the discussions we were able to have is more encouraging."
- 28.4. Jim Josse, on behalf of World Renew, thanked Classis for their continued and very generous support.
- 28.5. Thanks for having opening time of sharing and prayer at the beginning which fostered relationships.
- 28.6. Thanks for having a chaplain. A request to encourage that ministry in classis meetings to continue.

- 28.7. Maybe make a schedule of 2-3 churches and that we pray for those churches in our prayers before meal times, breaks, etc.
- 28.8. Expression of appreciation for a well-run classis with competent people at the leadership.
29. On behalf of Classis, the chair thanked the kitchen staff for all their work in serving and preparing the meals for this meeting and thanked Neerlandia CRC for their hospitality and accommodation to our needs.
30. Jeremy Vandermeer thanked Tom Baird for his role as chair of this meeting, and closed the meeting with prayer.
31. Classis adjourned at 10:30 am.

Next Meeting of Classis: on October 11 and 12, 2017. Tentatively scheduled to be at Trinity CRC in Edmonton.