



Classis
Alberta
North

of the
Christian Reformed Church in North America

AGENDA Materials for 164th Session, March 14-15, 2018

First Christian Reformed Church
16 McVicar St.
Red Deer, Alberta
403-346-5659

General Information

Serving Classis:

Peter VanderBeek, chair

Bruce Gritter, vice-chair

Gary Duthler, Stated Clerk

Linda Ryks, Recording Clerk

Hilary Smith, Classis Chaplain

Balloting Committee (if needed): the delegates of Edmonton Bethel Community CRC

Classis Credentials Committee: the delegates of Edm. Centrepointe and Edm. Covenant CRC

Advisory committee: the delegates of Stony Plain and Edson-Peers CRC

NOTE: Do not take access to **Wireless Internet** for granted during the Classis Meetings. It is advised that you download this Agenda and its support documents to your computer, laptop, tablet, phone, paper, cerebral memory, etc., so that you do not need wireless access to consult these materials.

ALL DELEGATES:

You will be signing in as a delegate before the start of the meeting. If you are a first-time delegate, you must sign the Covenant for Office Bearers as you sign in.

Please arrive in time to do this before the meeting starts.

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MISSION AND VISION

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.

As you consider the agenda, and as the meeting progresses, you are encouraged to consider each item in light of both the mission and vision of Classis.

Selected Agenda Highlights:

Wednesday

- Small Group Round-tables: an opportunity to get to know each other and share our congregational celebrations and challenges.
- Reports from the ministries and agencies that serve the churches.
- A Classis Home Missions presentation on church planting.
- Exploring how church partnership groups carry out the mission of Church Visitors.
- A presentation from the Safe Church team.
- A visit from Cuban Pastor Juan Miranda.

Wednesday evening

- A Healthy Church presentation on Mental Health for Pastors (and the role of church councils supporting their pastors.)

Thursday

- A conversation about LGBTQ inclusion in our local congregations.
- A ratification interview with Rick Mast, newly appointed Campus Minister at the University of Alberta.
- A ratification interview with Bill Nieuwenhuis, newly-appointed Youth Consultant for Classis Alberta North.
- The Annual Meeting of the Classis Alberta North Association.

COVENANT FOR OFFICE BEARERS

We, [the undersigned], believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God, which proclaims the good news of God's creation and redemption through Jesus Christ. Acknowledging the authority of God's Word, we submit to it in all matters of life and faith.

We affirm three creeds—the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed—as ecumenical expressions of the Christian faith. In doing so, we confess our faith in unity with followers of Jesus Christ throughout all ages and among all nations.

We also affirm three confessions—the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort—as historic Reformed expressions of the Christian faith, whose doctrines fully agree with the Word of God. These confessions continue to define the way we understand Scripture, direct the way we live in response to the gospel, and locate us within the larger body of Christ. Grateful for these expressions of faith, we promise to be formed and governed by them. We heartily believe and will promote and defend their doctrines faithfully, conforming our preaching, teaching, writing, serving, and living to them.

Along with these historic creeds and confessions, we also recognize the witness of *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony* as a current Reformed expression of the Christian faith that forms and guides us in our present context.

We also promise to present or receive confessional difficulties in a spirit of love and fellowship with our brothers and sisters as together we seek a fuller understanding of the gospel. Should we come to believe that a teaching in the confessional documents is not the teaching of God's Word, we will communicate our views to the church, according to the procedures prescribed by the Church Order and its supplements. If the church asks, we will give a full explanation of our views. Further, we promise to submit to the church's judgment and authority.

We honour this covenant for the well-being of the church to the glory of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

CLASSIS AGENDA
Wednesday 12:00 – 8:00 p.m.

All delegates will register, and 1st-time delegates will sign the Covenant for Office Bearers prior to the meeting.

11:00	Light lunch available before the meeting	
12:00	Welcome and Introductions	Peter VanderBeek, Chair
12:05	Opening Devotions	Host Church
12:20	Opening Procedures	
	a. Roll Call – attendance sign-in report	Stated Clerk
	b. Classis Declared Constituted	Chair
	c. Adoption of the Agenda with the time-line as guide	Chair
12:30	Small Group Round-tables on Congregational sharing	Rich deLange
	- Delegates share the celebrations and challenges of their congregations with table partners and spend time in prayer for the churches.	
1:10	Classis Interim Committee Report	Stated Clerk
1:40	Canadian Ministries	Darren Roorda
2:20	Missions and Ministries	
	- Consideration of written, submitted reports from various ministries.	
	- Opportunity to comment on, and raise questions about, written reports included in the agenda. Representatives of ministries will be given opportunity to respond.	
2:45	Refreshment Break	
3:10	Ministry Presentation: Home Missions	Tom Baird
	<i>Motion: that Classis Alberta North approve the release the designated funds for the church plant in Ft. Saskatchewan and affirm our commitment to pray for the new church plant.</i>	
3:40	Implementing Effective Church Visitor Clusters	Melle Pool
	- Presentation and Discussions	
4:15	Retirement of Martin Mobach	John Ooms
	<i>Motion: that Classis approve Rev. Martin Mobach's early retirement from the Ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church effective June 30, 2018.</i>	
4:30	Safe Church Presentation	Carmen Voogd
5:00	Nominations Coordinator	Henk Van Anandel
5:15	Council of Delegates Update and Report	Michelle Kool
5:30	Ministry Presentation: Cuba Connection; Introducing Pastor Juan Miranda	John Strikwerda
6:00	Supper	
7:00	Worship – Red Deer First CRC Praise Group	
7:15	Healthy Church Task Force Presentation – Mental Health for Pastors	Mel Slomp
8:45	Closing Prayer	Chaplain

Thursday 8:30 am – afternoon

All delegates will sign in and 1st-time delegates will sign the Covenant for Office Bearers prior to the meeting.

- 8:00 Cookies, Muffins, Tea and Coffee available before the meeting
- 8:30 Welcome Chair
Devotions Chaplain
- 8:45 Opening Procedures
Roll Call – attendance sign-in report Stated Clerk
- 8:50 LGBTQ, a facilitated conversation Anita Veldhuisen Slomp
- 10:30 **Refreshment Break**
- 10:50 Campus Ministry Search Committee Report Committee
Conversation with Rick Mast – Campus Minister John Ooms
Motion: that Classis ratifies the decision to hire Rick Mast as Campus Minister.
- 11:35 Church Visitors and Counsellors Reports
- 11:50 Credentials Committee Report
- 12:00 **Lunch**
- 1:00 Youth Ministry Consultant Search Committee Report Committee
Conversation with Bill Nieuwenhuis John Ooms
Motion: that Classis ratifies the decision to hire Rev. Bill Nieuwenhuis as Youth Ministry Consultant

Motion: that Classis affirms that the task description of the Youth Ministry Consultant is consistent with the calling of a minister of the Word in accordance with Church Order Supplement Art. 12-c.
(Synodical Deputies' concurrence is required.)
- 1:45 Overture from Woodynook CRC re Classis meeting dates Advisory Committee Report
- 2:00 Annual Meeting of the Association John Ooms, CIC Chair
- 2:30 Opportunity for feedback: comments and suggestions about this meeting and suggestions for the improvement of future meetings of Classis.
- 2:45 Closing Vice-Chair

CLASSIS INTERIM COMMITTEE REPORT

The Classis Interim Committee has met three times since our Classis meeting in October. The mandate of the Committee is to “do all things entrusted to it by Classis and all things that require the action of Classis prior to its next session,” and to “act as Directors of the Association of Classis Alberta North.” That mandate has kept us very busy on several fronts. What follows is a summary of what CIC has done on the behalf of Classis, with the motions that have been passed.

1. Follow-up to Classis Meeting

a. Rules of Procedure

At the last Classis meeting it became clear that our Rules of Procedure needed to be updated to bring the examination process in line with the Church Order. These changes were reviewed by CIC.

Motion carried: to approve the changes to the Rules of Procedure.

With the changes approved by Classis to create a Student Support Team, CIC reviewed a changed in the Rules of Procedure deleting the Classis Leadership Committee and the Student Fund Committee, and substituting the Student Support Team.

Motion carried: to approve the revision to the Rules of Procedure.

b. Classis Ministries Reports

Classis has sought a balance between oral and written presentations by ministries and agencies. CIC recognizes the importance of ensuring that Classis is informed of, and has the opportunity to celebrate, the work of its ministries. CIC has developed a rotation schedule for invitations to present oral ministry and agency reports at Classis. The schedule is appended to this report.

c. Review of Classis Ministries

The Classis vision and mission statement commits the CIC to “develop an outline of ministries and develop a schedule to review them ... to determine that they are viable and ongoing Classis initiatives.” CIC discussed how to best carry out this mandate and determined that this should be done through budget reviews and presentations to Classis.

Motion carried: to request Classis ministries to include the ongoing rationale for the ministry in relation to the ministry criteria as they present their budget requests annually, and in presentations at Classis where Classis will be asked to confirm its support for the ministry.

d. LGBTQ discussion

In March 2017, Classis responded to a request from Fellowship by referring the matter of furthering the LGBTQ conversation to CIC for consideration.

CIC did consider the issue together with the Classis Ministries Committee and determined that we need to collate what is happening in Classis and how to best develop a multi-pronged approach to this conversation. Following a discussion by the Classis Ministries Committee and the CIC, an ad-hoc committee began working in the late Fall.

Motion carried: to confirm the appointment of Anita Veldhuisen-Slomp, Ron DeVries, Michelle Kool, Neil DeKoning, and Peter Rockhold to the ad hoc committee to further the LGBTQ conversation.

This committee has met in January and February to pull together events that have happened and are scheduled to happen in Classis, and to focus on what aspects of the needed multi-pronged discussion are missed.

The committee will organize a conversation at the March Classis meeting.

e. **Mentors**

Following the examination of 5 candidates for Ministry of the Word, it was necessary to appoint mentors to the new pastors. These mentors were a

Motion carried: to approve the following appointments:

Harold VanderSluis as mentor for Ryan Hoogerbrugge,
Henry Kranenburg as mentor for Brian Dunn,
Tony Maan as mentor for Michael McGowan,
Victor Ko as mentor for Ryan Pedde
Neil De Koning as mentor for Josh Vriend

f. **Elders serving communion**

At Classis, mosaicHouse presented a request to deal with the lack of availability of pastors for communion services in the Church Plants, and Classis passed a motion to approve one elder from each campus of mosaicHouse to administer the sacraments whenever the Pastors are not able to be present.

CIC received notice from mosaicHouse that Jeremiah Basuric and Eunea Kim will serve as elders deemed to have been approved by Classis under C.O. Art. 55 and its Supplement.

g. **New approach to church visiting**

Classis approval of the new “cluster” approach to church visiting left CIC with some questions about how the proposed approach aligns with the Church Order’s requirements to appoint Church Visitors.

Melle Pool and John Pasma of the Healthy Church Task Force met with CIC in January for a good discussion

Action: It was agreed that time will be scheduled at the March meeting of Classis for an update and next steps to be taken in implementing this approach to Church Visiting.

2. CIC functioning

a. **Classis – Council of Delegates (COD) relations**

With the new denominational structure, we now have direct connection to the Council of Delegates (COD) through our delegate, Michelle Kool. To take advantage of this opportunity to stay connected, CIC will share its agendas and minutes with her and invite her to attend CIC meetings where the agenda items intersect with her role as delegate for Classis on the COD. Michelle is also invited to submit COD information on the Classis website

b. **HCTF – CIC relations**

The Healthy Church Task Force proposed a change to its mandate and relationship with Classis and CIC. Subsequent CIC discussion with the HCTF chair helped to clarify issues and resulted in an agreement that the mandate should continue as it is, with a commitment to streamline communications.

c. Alternate Stated Clerk

With Michelle Kool's resignation from CIC, we were left without an Alternate Stated Clerk. **Motion carried:** to appoint Henk Van Anandel to serve as Alternative Clerk for the duration of his term. (Henk's term is up on June 30, 2018.)

d. Membership on CIC

As the candidate recommended to be hired as Classis Youth Consultant, Bill Nieuwenhuis tendered his resignation from the CIC. (He had previously excused himself from any participation in discussions related to the Youth Ministry Committee or its search for a consultant to avoid any conflict of interest.

Motion carried: to accept the resignation of Bill Nieuwenhuis as member of CIC and director of Classis Alberta North.

The terms of John Ooms and Henk Van Anandel will end on June 30, 2018.

At the time of the writing of this report, Martin Mobach has agreed to serve, and CIC is actively seeking nominations to fill the other two positions.

3. Pastors

a. Eligibility for call

In June 2016, Rev. John Luth was released from the St. Albert CRC congregation in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 17-a. Classis agreed to delay the declaration of his availability for a call to "an appropriate time in the coming year," pending his evaluation of where God is leading him in ministry.

Unfortunately, neither CIC nor Classis followed through at the time with that declaration. In retrospect we have learned that, since Classis determined that there was no need for an oversight committee, Rev. Luth should have been declared eligible for call at that time, and he and St. Albert CRC should have determined when to announce his availability. We are now tying up those loose ends.

Motion carried: to recommend that Classis declare Rev. John Luth eligible for call.

If Classis agrees, the St. Albert CRC should announce his availability.

b. Credentials transfers

Motion carried: to transfer the credentials for Rev. Cecil VanNiejehuis to West End CRC.

Motion carried: to transfer the credentials for Rev. Martin Mobach to Bethel CRC.

c. Retirement

CIC received a request from Bethel Community CRC in Edmonton to approve the early retirement of Martin Mobach.

Motion carried: to recommend to Classis to approve the early retirement of Rev. Martin Mobach, effective June 30, 2018.

d. Commissioned Pastor – Rick Van Manen

Rick Van Manen was Campus Minister at the University of Alberta. CIC has received a letter from Fellowship CRC amending his job description as Commissioned Pastor to enable him to work with Resonate Global Mission at Kosin University in South Korea. The Partnership Agreement for Resonate Global Mission and Kosin University was also received.

Motion carried: to recommend to Classis to accept the revised task description for commissioned pastor Rick Van Manen, called by Fellowship CRC to serve with Resonate Global Ministries at Kosin University.

Grounds:

1. The revised task description is in essence similar to his role as campus minister at the University of Alberta and is consistent with the guidelines adopted by Synod.
2. The partnership position ensures that Rick's work at Kosin University will be supervised by Resonate Global Ministries, and Fellowship CRC will continue to function as calling church.

Synodical Deputies will have to concur with this action.

4. Employment

a. U of A Campus Minister

The search committee of the Campus Ministry Committee interviewed candidates and made the recommendation to CIC that Rick Mast be hired as Campus Minister.

Motion carried: to approve the recommendation of the committee to hire Rick Mast as the CRC Classis Alberta North Campus Minister at the University of Alberta, subject to ratification by Classis at the March 2018 meeting.

An agreement between Rick, West Edmonton CRC and CIC arranged that Rick's position at the university would begin ½-time at both WECRC and the UofA in February and then full-time in March.

Motion carried: That Rick Mast's position will be full time beginning February 15.

(This is with the understanding that he will split his time throughout February between Campus Ministry and his WECRC commitments.)

CIC also considered the advisability of incorporating the NAIT position into the full-time campus ministry position.

Motion carried: to recommend to the Campus Ministry Committee that for 2018 the NAIT position will be incorporated in Rick's Campus Ministry role.

CIC is pleased to communicate that Rick has accepted the offer of employment as Campus Minister and has begun to work in that position. Whether the time spent at NAIT will be incorporated into his full-time position or be done as an extra role has not yet been decided the Campus Ministry Committee at the time of this writing.

Rick's status as Commissioned Pastor at West End CRC officially ended with his resignation of his position at WECRC. The Stated Clerk has been in contact with WECRC whether they intent to call Rick as Commissioned Pastor with a new task description reflecting his role as Campus Minister. If WECRC submits this request, it will be presented to Classis.

b. Youth Ministry Consultant

The Classis Youth Ministry Committee interviewed candidates for the position of Youth Ministry Consultant and recommended to CIC that an offer of employment should be extended to Rev. Bill Nieuwenhuis. CIC accepted the recommendation, aware that due to Bill's status as ordained pastor there are salary obligations that go beyond our budgeted expectations.

Motion carried: to approve the recommendation of the Youth Ministry Committee to offer Rev. Bill Nieuwenhuis the position of Classis Youth Ministry Consultant, effective July 1, 2018, subject to ratification by Classis at the March 2018 meeting.

c. **Hiring procedures**

It became clear during the hiring process for both the Campus Minister and the Youth Ministry Consultant that Classis needs to have a consistent procedure to follow so that search committees, CIC and Classis all understand their respective roles. The recommended procedure is appended to this report.

Motion carried: to recommend to Classis that the hiring procedures be included in the Classis Rules of Procedure.

5. **Nominations**

CIC was presented with the following nominations.

- Synodical Deputy and Alternate

Motion carried: to recommend to Classis the reappointment of Tom Oosterhuis as Synodical Deputy and Neil de Koning as Alternate.

- Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee

Motion carried: to nominate James Joosse to the EIRC.

- Committee for Contact with Government

Co Vanderlaan has resigned from the committee. Since he represented Alberta North as well as Alberta South/Saskatchewan, we expect Alberta South/Saskatchewan to nominate Co's replacement.

6. **Miscellaneous**

Invoice re NAIT expense

There was a misunderstanding and a lack of communication between CIC, Campus Ministry Committee and Rick Mast about whether the role at NAIT continued for the last part of 2017 in the absence of WECRC support. CIC received an invoice for Rick's service at NAIT during this period of time.

Motion carried: to approve the payment of the invoice *[for the latter part of 2017]* to Rick Mast as requested.

7. **Motions by CIC to be voted on by Classis as part of this report:**

- a. That Classis approve the work of the Classis Interim Committee between October 14, 2017, and March 13, 2018.
- b. That Classis declare Rev. John Luth eligible for call.
- c. That Classis reappoint Tom Oosterhuis as Synodical Deputy and Neil de Koning as Alternate Synodical Deputy.
- d. That Classis approve the hiring procedures appended to this report to be included in the Classis Rules of Procedure.
- e. That Classis accepts the revised task description for commissioned pastor Rick Van Manen, called by Fellowship CRC to serve with Resonate Global Ministries at Kosin University.
(Documentation attached to the agenda. Synodical Deputies' concurrence is required.)

Grounds:

1. *The revised task description is in essence similar to his role as campus minister at the University of Alberta and is consistent with the guidelines adopted by Synod.*
2. *The partnership position ensures that Rick's work at Kosin University will be supervised by Resonate Global Ministries, and Fellowship CRC will continue to function as calling church.*

8. Motions to be dealt with as part of the Classis Agenda:

- a. That Classis approve the early retirement of Rev. Martin Mobach, effective June 30, 2018.
- b. That Classis ratify the decision to hire Rick Mast as the CRC Classis Alberta North Campus Minister at the University of Alberta, effective February 15, 2018.
- c. That Classis ratify the decision to hire Rev. Bill Nieuwenhuis as the Classis Youth Ministry Consultant, effective July 1, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Duthler

Stated Clerk, on behalf of the Classis Interim Committee

CIC Report Appendix 1 – Classis Staff Hiring Procedure

Draft

CLASSIS STAFF HIRING PROCEDURE

The following principles will apply to the procedure for hiring employees of Classis:

1. Since Classis is the hiring body, it is important that Classis have a direct voice in selecting its employees.
2. The Classis Interim Committee (CIC) has been mandated by Classis to act on its behalf between regular sessions of Classis.
3. It is usually in the interest of Classis and its ministries that vacant positions be filled in a timely manner.

The following procedure will normally apply in the hiring procedure:

1. When there is a vacancy, the CIC will appoint an ad-hoc search committee consisting of members of the responsible Classis ministry and one or more members of the CIC.
2. CIC will provide the search committee with a salary range for the position.
3. The search committee will be mandated to advertise the position, interview candidates and recommend its preferred candidate to the CIC along with a salary recommendation.
4. The CIC will review the recommendation of the search committee and, if satisfied that the recommendation is in the interest of Classis, will offer employment pending ratification by Classis.
5. The candidate may be expected to begin the work in the position prior to the Classis meeting, with the understanding that its continuance is dependent on Classis ratification. If the candidate does not desire or is unable to work in a provisional situation, the starting date may be delayed until after Classis ratification.
6. If the candidate has accepted an offer of employment, the candidate will be presented to the next meeting of Classis in the context of an introductory conversation/interview so that Classis and the person filling the position may meet and get to know each other.
7. Following that introduction/conversation, Classis will vote on a motion to ratify the work of the CIC in this matter.

CIC Report Appendix 2 – Presentations at Classis Schedule

Proposed schedule for invitations to give oral presentations at Classis Meetings.

CAN has a goal of more effectively managing time spent on oral reports at Classis Meetings while also recognizing the value of such oral reports in building awareness of, and interest in, the various ministries. To achieve this, we will invite Classical, Denominational and other ministries to provide oral reports according to the following schedule. Time will continue to be allocated to questions and responses based on the regularly submitted written reports received at Classis meetings. We will also allocate time in the agendas for proposals and other information as determined by CIC.

The proposed schedule is intended to be a very flexible document subject to emerging issues and to available time on any specific Classis Agenda.

Year	Month	Classis Ministry	CRCNA and others
2018	03	Home Missions Cuba Connection Safe Church	Canadian Ministries Council of Delegates
	10	Campus Ministry Native Healing Ctr. Student Support Team	Synodical Delegates Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations Com. King's University
2019	03	Youth Ministry Safe Church Healthy Church	Canadian Ministries Resonate Global Mission Diaconal Ministries Canada
	10	NADC Home Missions	Synodical Delegates World Renew Aboriginal Ministries
2020	03	Campus Ministry Native Healing Ctr. Student Support Team	Canadian Ministries Council of Delegates King's University
	10	Youth Ministry Safe Church Healthy Church	Synodical Delegates Comm. for Contact with Gov. Resonate Global Mission
2021	03	NADC Home Missions Cuba Connection	Canadian Ministries Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations Com. Diaconal Ministries Canada
	10	Campus Ministry Native Healing Ctr. Student Support Team	Synodical Delegates Youth Unlimited World Renew
2022	03	Youth Ministry Safe Church Healthy Church	Canadian Ministries Council of Delegates Aboriginal Ministries
	10	NADC Home Missions Cuba Connection	Synodical Delegates Resonate Global Mission King's University
2023	03	Campus Ministry Native Healing Ctr. Student Support Team	Canadian Ministries Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations Com
	10	Youth Ministry Safe Church Healthy Church	Synodical Delegates Comm. for Contact with Gov. Diaconal Ministries Canada

COMMISSIONED PASTOR – RICK VAN MANEN

Request by Fellowship CRC Pastoral Committee

Re: Revised job description for Commissioned Pastor Rick Van Manen

The Pastoral Committee of Fellowship CRC Edmonton wishes to retain Rick Van Manen as a commissioned pastor in a revised role. Until December 2017, Rick served as CRC Campus Minister at the University of Alberta, with Fellowship as his commissioning congregation. He is now moving into a similar role at Kosin University in South Korea in partnership with Resonate Global Mission. His revised job description is as follows:

Position Summary

The main goal of my non-teaching activity at Kosin University will be to “engage campus communities with enthusiastic, Spirit-filled witness to the transformative power of the gospel for every dimension of life.” I will serve the whole campus community, especially students, by being a visible presence of the church, providing pastoral care, establishing relationships, offering hospitality, creating opportunities for spiritual formation and discipleship, and serving the campus community through healthy collaborations with other entities.

Characteristic Duties

- Encourage the spiritual formation of students by offering various opportunities for prayer, Bible study, service, reflection and learning, fellowship and retreats.
- Establish relationships with students by actively seeking them out, offering hospitality, and being responsive to their inquiries.
- Provide pastoral care as needs arise for individual students, faculty and staff, and for the campus community as a whole.
- Create discipleship opportunities, such as lectures series or book studies, to explore the relationship between faith, learning and vocation.
- Identify and develop potential student leaders by inviting mentorship, peer supporting relationships and other strategies.
- Encourage and assist students in identifying meaningful service opportunities on campus, in the wider community and around the world.
- Regularly report to Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in Edmonton and Resonate Global Mission.

This position builds on the work that Rick has done as Campus Minister at the U of A as well as his graduate studies. He has also lived and worked in Korea in the past and has a deep knowledge of and love for the culture and people. He is well equipped for this role.

Primary supervision for this new position will be conducted by Resonate in accordance with its partnership agreement with Kosin University (dated September 2017). Rick will also report to the Pastoral Committee of Fellowship annually and will be in regular contact via email and (at least once a year) via video-conferencing when an in-person visit is not possible. Through these means the Fellowship PC will offer spiritual support and guidance to Rick as well as taking account of his work. Resonate will also offer an annual spiritual retreat in Asia as well connections to short-term care and referrals, and opportunities for professional development (see Resonate – Kosin Partnership agreement).

Fellowship has been blessed by Rick’s presence among us and his joyful commission of his work at the U of A. We are equally delighted to remain “home-base” for this new calling for him and trust that God will bless and prosper his work.

-- Michael DeMoor – Chair.

Kosin University & Resonate Global Mission Partnership Agreement

I. INTRODUCTION

Kosin University (hereafter Kosin) was founded right after the colonization period and for about 71 years, we have produced spiritual leaders, professors, doctors and nurses, and many other talented individuals in multiple fields. The name change to Kosin University in 1993 reflects the significant progress made in becoming a comprehensive, Christian university, equipping leaders for the church, for Korea and for the world, leaders who have been trained using principles based on the Old and New Testaments and on Christian worldview. Kosin University has reached out to other nations of the world by inaugurating, English and Chinese language postgraduate programs for students from countries where Christianity is not well established and for whom financial considerations are a deterrent to further study. This is a true reflection of the basic principles of the founders expressed in a relevant way in the 21st century.

Resonate Global Mission (hereafter Resonate) is an agency of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA). Our vision is to bring the Gospel to people, neighborhoods, communities, churches and the world, to embolden them in participating in God's mission and faithfully proclaiming and living out the good news of Jesus. More than 200 missionaries serve in more than 50 countries by equipping missional leaders, guiding church development, actively making disciples, and participating in holistic mission networks.

II. STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT

Resonate desires to work together with Kosin in providing academic excellence with a Christian foundation for advancement of God's Kingdom worldwide through Christian Higher Education, by assisting Kosin in recruiting and retaining teachers who are members of the CRCNA. Both Resonate and Kosin commit to a quality cross-cultural mission/teaching experience for staff that are designated as Kosin staff members and Resonate partner or volunteer missionaries.

III. COMMITMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Resonate has different policies and guidelines for partner and volunteer missionaries. This agreement outlines the responsibilities of KOSIN and RESONATE in the areas of Reporting, Member Care, Orientation and Training, Budget, Security, and Discipline.

A. Responsibilities of Kosin:

1. Kosin is responsible for planning, implementing, managing, monitoring, and evaluating its own educational programs.
2. Kosin will make decisions regarding hiring, job assignments, supervision, and contract length:
 - i. Partner missionaries' primary reporting responsibility will be to Kosin.
 - ii. By signing the Resonate's Conditions of Service, the partner missionary authorizes both organizations to share pertinent evaluation reports and any other information which may affect the status of the missionary with either party.
3. Termination of employment or discipline of Kosin/Resonate staff/partner or volunteer missionary shall be the sole responsibility of Kosin. Notification shall be given to Resonate in a timely fashion. Kosin will provide the necessary administrative, technical, material, and moral support that is necessary for Resonate missionaries to

carry out their contractual responsibilities. Primary member care of the partner missionary are the responsibility of Kosin.

4. Kosin will provide a basic orientation to Korea and Kosin University.
5. Kosin may provide additional benefits such as immigration services, housing, etc. to partner or volunteer missionaries according to its policy for foreign teachers.

B. Responsibilities of Resonate:

1. Resonate will recruit individuals from within the CRCNA in USA and Canada to serve as teachers at Kosin according to the staffing needs determined by Kosin, as feasible within the resources and priorities of Resonate. These individuals may apply for partner or volunteer missionary status with Resonate.
2. Resonate may assist partner and volunteer missionaries with raising support to meet their financial needs, if any, while serving at KOSIN, according to the budget approved by Resonate, within the limits of Resonate policies.
3. Resonate will furnish to each partner and volunteer missionary a statement of all CRC churches and individuals who contribute to the missionary's ministry together with the amounts given so that donors may be thanked. This list of donors may not be used to solicit funds for other Kosin university missionaries or projects. The list is the property of Resonate.
4. In addition to orientation and training offered by Kosin, new partner and volunteer missionaries will normally attend the pre-field orientation program sponsored by Resonate, with costs covered by Resonate.
5. Partner and volunteer missionaries may receive additional training from Resonate concerning relations with the CRC constituency and the deputation process. When engaged in deputation among CRC churches, missionaries may be asked to send reports of their church visits to the Resonate advancement department.
6. Resonate will invite partner missionaries to Resonate's annual spiritual retreat in Asia; Resonate will cover retreat expenses, while partner missionaries are responsible for their own travel expenses. Resonate requests that Kosin gives reasonable time away to the partner missionary for attendance at the spiritual retreat.
7. Partner missionaries may connect with Resonate's member care coordinators for short-term care and referrals.
8. Either Resonate or the partner or volunteer missionary may conclude the partner or volunteer status at any time. Notification shall be given to Resonate and Kosin in a timely fashion.
9. By mutual agreement between Kosin and Resonate, Resonate may provide ministry training tools such as Educational Care training or Timothy Leadership Training for the benefit of international students and, when feasible, Korean students. This training follows a specific curriculum and methodology to provide churches and ministry leaders with training in the areas of Christian school teachers' professional development, preaching, teaching, shepherding, stewardship, worship and work.
10. By mutual agreement, Resonate may support and network Kosin with other agencies within the CRCNA: Calvin Seminary, Calvin College, Institute of Christian Worship,

World Renew, Publications, etc. for mutual support and collaboration (example: Kosin students' internship experiences overseas)

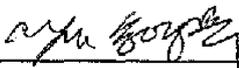
- C. Security: Monitoring security of partner missionaries, overseeing crisis events, and making decisions regarding evacuation, are the exclusive responsibility of Kosin while it is Resonate's responsibility regarding volunteer missionaries. In any crisis event, notification will be given to Resonate as soon as possible. Costs associated with crisis events are the responsibility of Kosin for partner missionaries; however, the partner may adjust their budget to account for any out of pocket expenses associated with a crisis situation.

D. Publication and Sharing of Information:

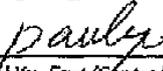
1. By applying for missionary status with Resonate, the partner or volunteer missionary authorizes both organizations to share pertinent application materials, evaluation reports and any other *information* which may affect the status of the missionary with the other party.
2. Resonate partner and volunteer missionaries should copy prayer letters and other formal updates to Resonate at resonateletters@ercna.org.
3. Articles and pictures depicting the work of partner or volunteer missionaries, including their names, may be used by Resonate in Resonate/CRCNA publications except in cases where security concerns make this inadvisable.

IV. TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT

- A. This agreement shall be in effect upon the joint approval of Resonate and Kosin signed by their representatives.
- B. Each party shall appoint a liaison officer to serve as the principle point of contact for coordination between the two agencies/institutions.
- C. The agreement shall be in force for three years from January 1, 2018 until December 31, 2020. Three months prior to its conclusion, a review shall be conducted with a view toward possible renewal, which can be approved by email consent of the signees or their successors.



Kosin: Dr. Young Mog Song, Dean of Intl Cooperation



Resonate: Rev. Paul Yu, East/Central Asia Director

- D. Modifications: This agreement may be modified at any time with the agreement of both parties.
- E. Dissolution: This agreement can be nullified by the agreement of both parties or by either organization with three months' notice. In the unlikely event that either organization loses its tax-exempt status, the agreement will be discontinued immediately.

V. APPROVAL

We hereby declare the approval of this agreement by our respective agencies.

(Signed by:)

KOSIN: Dr. Young Mog Song/ Dean of Intl Cooperation

RESONATE: Joel Huyser, Global Area Director for Latin America and Asia

RESONATE: Steve Kabetu, Canada Director

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES REPORTS

The following pages contain reports from various ministries that support the mission of the Classis and the Christian Reformed Church.

Please review them prior to the meeting. For most of these there will be no oral presentation at the Classis Meeting, but there will be an opportunity to comment on each of the reports and to ask questions where members of the ministries are present.

CRCNA - CANADIAN MINISTRIES

January 2018

Dear Servants of our Living Lord,

I do not want to write too much because I know the volume of content you receive in/through classis. So, let me be brief.

In the spirit of “doing more strategic work with less cost”, the ongoing retooling of Canadian Ministries and the pursuit of serving the local church has meant staff changes. Three names and faces that you will begin to know are:

- Alkathy Patrick who has become the new Senior Administrative Assistant replacing Dorothy Vandersteen
- Peter Elgersma who is becoming the Director of Advancement in place of Peter Noteboom (now serving with the Canadian Council of Churches)
- Meanwhile, Dorothy Vandersteen is moving to a position equivalent to the director of what was known as *ServiceLink* – but geared towards the direct serving of local churches, resourcing strategy for local churches and managing the roll-out of “The Bridge App”. Call her!

Speaking of the roll out of “The Bridge App”, the new year now sees us with 1/3 of the churches from the classes who said YES to its support intentionally onboarding! In the process of onboarding we have had a brief “Welcome webinar”, looking to host 2 more in February to train church administrators exactly how to set up and run the app – and then... we intend to put all the content together that a church will need to promote “The Bridge App” for a local church user sign up in March 2018!

Early stories are already demonstrating the Godly fruit that the Bride app can bring. One local community raised over 5000 dollars in the first month of promoting the app and its *Give* function.

Do not hesitate to contact the Canadian Ministries Office if you wish for your church to be signed up with the capacity to use “The Bridge App” in a unique, local, missional way!

Rev. Dr. Darren Roorda
Canadian Ministries Director

DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA

DMC Spring report to Classis

January 2018

Dear partners in ministry,

Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) is actively working on implementing the newly revised Strategic Plan developed and approved in 2017. This plan was developed under the direction of Ron Vanden Brink, National Director, in conjunction with the Board of Directors, DMC staff and strategic stakeholders. The process involved a detailed review of DMC's vision, mission, policies and processes, and was a helpful exercise in providing focus and direction for the organization to move forward.

DMC is primarily an organization created "by Deacons for Deacons", focusing on helping Deacons fulfill their calling/mandate as spelled out in the Church Order (2016) and the Charge to Deacons as articulated in the form for the Ordination of Elders and Deacons (2016).

One of the primary ways that DMC fulfills its calling is through part time Diaconal Ministry Developers (DMDs) who work with churches to animate, encourage, coach, and educate both ordained Deacons and others involved in diakonia. The DMDs help Deacons understand their roles and live into their callings in the church and its community. DMDs are also available to assist others involved in God glorifying service, doing their best to connect annually with every CRC across Canada.

Priorities for 2018 include:

- evaluating the value of the annual Ancaster Day of Encouragement (DOE) as well as other regional DOEs and the relationship between DMC and regional DOEs
- reviewing the ways in which DMC is financed and developing a fiscal strategy for the future
- strengthening communication strategies, developing brand recognition, and promoting the use of available resources

DMC has a robust agenda and is working hard to ensure it is an impactful and effective resource for Deacons and the broader work of diakonia. We covet your prayers and invite you to visit our website www.diaconalministriescanada to become familiar with the vast array of resources available. For more information, call us at the Burlington office (1-800-730-3490 ext. 4304) or contact one of the board members listed below.

DMC's Executive for 2016-17:

Chair – Erica Snippe-Juurakko (Thunder Bay, ON)

erica.snippejuurakko@gmail.com

Vice-Chair – Martin Slofstra (Toronto, ON)

martinslofstra9@gmail.com

Secretary – Norm Haayema (Leduc, AB)

normhaayema@gmail.com

Treasurer – Scott Plante (Hamilton, ON)

scott.plante@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted:

Erica Snippe-Juurakko ~ DMC Board Chair
ron vanden brink ~ DMC National Director

WORLD RENEW

Classis Alberta North Report – March 14-15, 2018
Submitted by Peter Bulthuis, Associate Director of Church Relations

There are 100s of thousands of people across the world, whose stories have been changed through the prayers, the support and the work of members of CRCs in Canada, working through World Renew. Community development, disaster response, rehabilitation, and seeking justice, as well as leadership in the global transformation movement are foundational to what World Renew does and are foundational to your aspirations as supporters. Thank you. Thanks as well to the devoted World Renew board members of Classis Alberta North: Ray Prins, Daniel Muthui and Rebecca Warren. They are God's gifts to World Renew.

We also want to thank this Classis Alberta North for the loving donations of a total of \$379,647.28 from July 1, 2017 to January 1, 2018, for the work of World Renew.

A. Upcoming Offering Dates

Annually, Synod recommends offerings for various CRCNA agencies. For the first half of 2018, Synod had again encouraged the churches to hold offerings for World Renew, specifically for:

March 4: CFGB (Canada) and DRS (US). By early or mid-February, CDN churches will receive such resources as sermon notes, a newsletter, bulletin covers/inserts, a litany and children's message notes.

April 24: Refugees (Canada), FRB (US). By early April, CDN churches will receive or have access to print and digital resources for the church service and offering.

June 24: Maternal and Child Health. By late May/early June, churches will have received or have access to bulletin covers/inserts, a litany, a poster, a link to a children's video and a PPT slide for the offering.

All these resources will also be accessible at worldrenew.net/churches.

B. Community Development: Stories of Transformation

With the help of God, James Maguma has changed the story of his family from a story of desperation to a story of hope. Joining a World Renew sponsored village savings and loan association gave him the tools he needed to make this change. James and his wife Sauja and their three daughters are one of thirty-nine households in the village of Orwadai, Uganda. Orwadai participates in a food security project supported by World Renew through the Foods Resource Bank (FRB), a Christian nonprofit based in the US that is committed to supporting farming households as they seek long-lasting solutions to hunger. James was interested.

"One day I attended a meeting in the village," James remembers, "where emphasis was made for community members to start savings groups. We organized ourselves and formed the Orwadai Farmers Group. That was the beginning of a turnaround in my family." God gave James the wisdom he asked for and the village savings and loan association (VSLA) enabled him to use that wisdom. The Orwadai community now has their first school, a nursery school with 67 pupils. They have constructed a grass-thatched building with two classrooms and James is the director of the school.

Membership in a village savings and loan has not only benefited Orwadai village, but James' own family as well. This year, they planted one acre of groundnuts for family income and two acres of cassava gardens for food at home. "We harvested ground nuts and it earned us 320,000 shillings (\$88), which enabled us to buy a cow for milk," James says proudly.

"Our yearly family savings from the village savings and loan association was 250,000 shillings

(\$70),” he continues, “which helped us buy five bags of cement for building an additional room to our small family house. I plan to borrow money from our VSLA group to complete it. I give glory to God for what He is doing to change our story of shame to a story of glory.” (Story written by Edward Orkiror, program consultant with the Uganda team)

C. Disaster Response

Internationally; some programs:

Bangladesh: We have received approval from the World Food Program to work with them in providing complementary food assistance; to date World Renew has distributed food to over 120,000 people. This will continue in the new year. A non-food response is also being explored.

Uganda: Since September 2016, IDR has been working with Here is Life, a local Ugandan partner, to construct latrines for South Sudanese refugees who have fled conflict in their home country. This has been generously co-funded by Tear Australia. A submission to a Swiss funding agency, through Tearfund Switzerland, was approved in November for \$150,000 USD, which will allow this project to continue until at least March.

Nigeria: The cash assistance project for families in Nigeria displaced by Boko Haram has been extended until at least March. A proposal has also been submitted to Global Affairs Canada to expand this project and help even more families. A response to this proposal is expected in January. (See also worldrenew.net/idr)

Domestically; some programs: Regional managers for World Renew Disaster Response Services (DRS) have spent weeks in *Florida* and *Texas* meeting with dozens of community leaders, pastors, and various officials offering services such as building estimating, unmet needs assessments, and reconstruction services. As communities are now able to start setting their sights on the next phase of recovery, communities are beginning to request World Renew services.

Bob Laarman, director for World Renew Disaster Response Services (DRS) traveled to *Puerto Rico* with DRS regional manager Len Blauwkamp in November. They met with potential partner organizations after Hurricane Maria made a direct hit on the island in September 2017. “We were hoping to send volunteers to help with home repairs before Christmas,” said Laarman. “But once in Puerto Rico and talking with several Christian organizations, we were asked to wait because they were not ready to host volunteers from the mainland U.S. We will continue to communicate with these organizations, and we hope to put plans in place soon to make inroads there after the new year.”

“Compared to the progress of recovery in Texas, where the work is well underway, much of Puerto Rico is still in the immediate response phase of recovering from a disaster. Electrical service is sporadic, especially in rural areas. One of the days we were there, the entire Island was without power. In the capital, San Juan, we did not see any working traffic lights. While there, we not only visited with FEMA representatives, we also met a representative from U.S. Department of Transportation, who is also a World Renew volunteer, and the chair of Puerto Rico’s chapter of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.”

“Long-term recovery on the island will take many years, for sure. It is working with local organizations that allow us the opportunity to serve the Puerto Rican people who were affected by Hurricane Maria.” (See <https://worldrenew.net/domestic-disaster-0>)

D. Refugee Settlement Activities in your Classis Alberta North, January 1/17 to middle of December/17:

Three churches of this Classis were deeply involved with refugees from Jan. 1/17 – December 19/17. Fellowship Edmonton (3), Neerlandia (15) and Bethel Edmonton (5) welcomed 23 newcomers altogether this year. This does not include those churches who are working with refugees currently, and/or who have applications “in the pipeline”.

E. Sea to Sea

It has been over four months since this year’s *Sea to Sea* completed the 2017 transcontinental ride. The aches and pains of daily rides have gone away (at least we hope so), but what hasn't gone away is the tremendous impact that riders, volunteers, staff, and donors made with the successful 2017 event—raising \$1,683,981 (\$1,326,543 USD)!

As the proceeds are now going to work in programs and efforts to end poverty through World Renew and Partners Worldwide, it gives us a good occasion to once again express our deepest thanks to you riders, volunteers, supporters and churches. Thank you for your huge investment in time to ride, fundraise, and support *Sea to Sea* and its goal of cycling to end poverty.

F. What else can the people and the churches of Classis Alberta North do? LOTS!

- Volunteer for work with Disaster Response Services (DRS... “The Green Shirts”).
- Apply to get involved with International Disaster Response (IDR) as an International Relief Manager (IRM).
- Connect with this office for help in (re-) defining your church’s “missional DNA”.
- Request a workshop or speaker from World Renew at worldrenew.net/speakers-and-workshops

Contact Peter Bulthuis (pbulthuis@worldrenew.net; 800-730-3490, ext. 4237), or Maria Oliveira (moliveira@worldrenew.net, ext. 4319) for more ideas on how we can help you achieve your ministry objectives. To learn more about World Renew’s ministry and/or to sign up for our regular newsletter, please visit www.worldrenew.net.

Blessings,

Peter Bulthuis, Church Relations

COMMITTEE FOR CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENT

operating as

The Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue

2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the Committee for Contact with Government (CCG) of the CRC in Canada. In those 50 years the CCG has worked out of a reformed and Christian vision: that Christ's call to justice and reconciliation requires participation in critical debates in the life of the nation.

As a small ministry in a relatively small church community, we've been blessed in opportunities to participate in key moments of public debate on social justice and ethical issues: abortion and end of life, pluralism and the constitution, gambling and pornography, housing and environment, peacebuilding, ethics of assisted human reproduction, human rights, refugees, Indigenous justice and reconciliation – these are only a sample. Throughout its history, the CCG has been shaped by deep contributions of grass roots church members across the country; meaningful dialogue with churches and classes; and rich ecumenical collaboration. In all this we have learned that the call to seek justice and speak hope in the name of Christ is a beautiful and challenging community experience.

In the course of 2018, we plan to mark the 50-year milestone in visits to key CRC regions in Canada. These events will celebrate God's faithfulness, reflect on the current realities of Justice and Reconciliation; and focus on mutual discernment and equipping for God's call to faithful citizenship. We will certainly be eager to work with Classis Alberta North Churches and leaders to facilitate such an event.

The core work of CCG and the Centre for Public Dialogue continues to focus on Indigenous Justice and Reconciliation; and hospitality and justice for Refugees. Here is an update on that core work:

- We are honoured to be partnering with the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (Caring Society) in our ongoing pursuit of justice for Indigenous Children. Reconciliation in Indigenous education will be built on Indigenous leadership in education systems, strong language and culture programs, and funding equity. During Lent 2018, we are working with the Caring Society to invite CRC congregations into prayer and action for these key elements of reconciliation. For more information see this link: <http://dojustice.crcna.org/article/re-focusing-lent>
- CRC congregations have a long heritage of commitment to Refugee Sponsorship. In the course of dialogue with Members of Parliament for the last year, we've learned that polls are suggesting that Canadians are losing enthusiasm for welcoming Refugees. For this reason, we are working in coalition with World Renew (Refugee settlement office), Mennonite Central Committee and Citizens for Public Justice to encourage and equip citizens to interact with Members of Parliament. The messages we are bringing forward: justice and hospitality for refugees are critical in the current crisis of human displacement; and that addressing long wait times in the sponsorship system is urgent for the welcome of Refugees. We're all working with CPJ's great study on the Sponsorship system: *A Half Welcome*: <https://www.cpj.ca/half-welcome>

Please join us in these important opportunities to bear witness to justice and reconciliation. For more information contact us at publicdialogue@crcna.ca or view our web site: crcna.ca/PublicDialogue.

THE KING'S UNIVERSITY

Report to Classis AB North of the Christian Reformed Church Spring 2018

Greetings from The King's University! We're pleased to have this opportunity to share the blessings we've enjoyed since our last report and to look ahead to the exciting opportunities of 2018.

This fall, King's enrolled a record high of **820** students as part of our community for the 2017/18 academic year. It is encouraging to see five consecutive years of positive enrolment growth. Much of our strategic planning is centered on ways to further increase student enrolment. This includes program expansion in key areas (natural and social sciences), enhancing student services by providing university-level student skill development, fostering faith formation and spiritual development, and improving scholarship options to assist in recruitment and retention. Thank you for continuing to partner with us on this exciting journey.

The Micah Centre at King's recently received \$500,000 from a charitable foundation. This gift will support the work of the centre and provide essential funding for its growth. This is the first gift commitment in our effort to raise \$3 million to enhance and increase the work of the existing centre. Gifts to the Micah Centre will allow the university to increase staffing, develop and expand programs, back additional research around poverty and justice issues locally and globally, and provide critical funding for student scholarships and bursaries. We are incredibly thankful for the community investment in the Micah Centre and pray that God will continue to provide for this important initiative.

King's is pleased to announce it recently received \$500,000 in government research funding. The Government of Canada awarded King's its first Canada Research Chair, which is a program aimed at ensuring outstanding minds are working (and developing students) in the Canadian university system. This grant was awarded to King's philosophy professor Dr. Neal DeRoo to support his research on providing a philosophical basis for a new understanding of how religious commitments can be expressed in everyday life. A research chair award demonstrates that the Government of Canada's granting agencies recognize that King's is doing top-quality, world-class research.

King's also received \$225,000 from the Government of Alberta to support mental health initiatives. Over the next three years, King's students will benefit from an additional \$75,000 per year which will provide the resources to add additional counselling and support staff. "We hope to foster an abundant community comprised of students, staff, and faculty practicing self-care and participating in honest and vulnerable relationships of trust," comments Vice President Student Life and Dean of Students Dr. Michael Ferber. "In this way, we hope to fulfill our mission to bring renewal and reconciliation to every walk of life."

On September 30, 2017, King's and the Institute for Christian Studies signed a Memorandum of Understanding in which the two organizations committed to exploring what a partnership or affiliation might look like. Both institutions have a vision for accomplishing something bigger than either can on their own—a Canadian Christian university in the Reformed tradition offering both undergraduate and graduate degrees. There are still many questions to answer and work to be done to understand what will allow both institutions to benefit and build capacity. In the upcoming year, King's will set timelines and processes to be able to realize this vision.

Under the leadership of Business Dean Ryan Young, the Leder School of Business recently became a member of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). AACSB International is a global association of leaders in education and business dedicated to supporting and advancing quality business education worldwide. King's membership signifies the intentions of the business school to pursue the highest quality of business program. The long-term goal is to become fully accredited through the association which will position the King's business program in the top 10% internationally. The King's business program is also in the final stages of enabling our graduates to seamlessly enter a Chartered Professional Accountant certification program.

The gifts we receive from our supporting community are profoundly important for our institution. We are incredibly thankful to all the churches in Classis AB North for confirming the value of the work being done at King's by giving generously through Ministry Shares and other offerings. We continue to use the resources with which we have been blessed in the most efficient and effective manner possible. Your commitment to our students and King's mission to provide **university education that inspires and equips learners to bring renewal and reconciliation to every walk of life as followers of Jesus Christ, the Servant-King** is deeply appreciated. On behalf of the entire King's community, we would like to express our sincere gratitude.

Melanie Humphreys, PhD
President

CLASSIS HOME MISSIONS REPORT

February 2018

Some years ago, Classis Alberta North adopted three ministry foci that were proposed by the Home Missions Committee. They are:

- The renewal of established Churches
- The planting of new Churches, and
- The uniting of churches in prayer for the harvest.

Our committee has pursued these foci with unwavering commitment, and we have made significant progress in each area.

Renewal of Established Churches

Our main tool for helping churches to experience increased missional effectiveness has been The Church Renewal Lab program of Calvin Seminary. Six churches in classis will be completing this two-year learning journey in June of this year.

In order to create an awareness of the Church Renewal lab program, with a view toward launching a second cohort starting in September of 2018, we invited the pastors of classis to attend *the More and Better* conference. (This conference, to be held in Port St. Lucie, Florida February 3-8, is a key component of the Church Renewal lab program.)

Twelve pastors, and three pastor's spouses, accepted the invitation. God willing, by the time this report is considered at our upcoming Classis meeting, the group will have been to the conference and returned. We are hoping that a significant number of these conference attendees will see the value of engaging in The Lab experience and will lead their churches to join in the September launch.

To cover the expenses of this undertaking, we created a cost-sharing arrangement between the Home Missions Committee, a generous donor, and the attendees. Approximately half the funding came from the Home Missions Committee budget with the other half coming from the participants and the donor.

Church Planting

The Home Missions church planting strategy calls for our classis to launch one new church every three years for a fifteen-year period. We are on schedule for the first church plant set to start in 2019.

Bethel Community Church (Edmonton) is actively considering the proposal to become Classis' partner for the first plant. At a congregational meeting held in the fall, the implications of the commitment were detailed for Bethel's members—a requirement that the church donate at least \$125,000 over three years, provide a core group of people for the new church, and lend some administrative and volunteer support.)

A straw vote at that meeting indicated that a very strong majority of the congregations is already prepared to adopt the proposal. A formal vote will be taken in June.

A surprising development is that we have identified Fort Saskatchewan as the preferred location for the plant. Some of the reasons we have come to believe that the Holy Spirit is leading us in this way include:

- Fort Saskatchewan's population is growing.
- The city is under-churched.

- The city is only 20 minutes from Bethel Church, which will better enable Bethel's members to assist, and be impacted by, the new church in its fledgling years
- There is a core group of Bethel members living in Fort Saskatchewan who are already actively reaching out to their neighbours and are prepared to be part of the new church.

The Classis Home Missions committee requests that Classis Alberta North approve the release of funds and affirm our commitment to pray for the new church plant. (As described in the original proposal, the financial commitment will include a minimum of \$53,000 per year, for three years).

By agreeing to release these funds and to pray for the new work, Classis will be assuring the Bethel congregation that they can vote in favor of planting a new church confident that they have Classis' full support.

As articulated in our original proposal to classis, our committee is actively seeking other generous financial contributors to church planting in Classis Alberta North and has requested annual donations from the churches for this cause. We praise the Lord that already \$16,000 dollars have been raised in this way.

We are also considering which church might partner with classis for the next church plant, scheduled for 2022. Is your church ready to take on this challenge? Or, could your church work with a group of other churches to do so?

Prayer for the Harvest

We can only fulfill the great commission as we rely on the Holy Spirit. That is why we are committed to seeing the churches united in prayer.

We are in regular communication with the Classical prayer coordinator, Pastor Rich deLange, and his prayer team. While we count on Pastor Rich and his team to give primary leadership in the area of prayer, we share a vision of seeing prayer groups formed in each church and having lines of communication among the churches so that we can pray for one another as we take bold missional steps.

On Saturday, February 24, the Classical Prayer Team is hosting a training event for any members of our churches who are interested in growing deeper in their prayer lives. At that meeting we will discuss the vision articulated above, receive feedback, and see if we can discern a way of making the vision a reality. Each of us can help this vision succeed by encouraging prayer among our church members.

Submitted by Tom Baird
Home Missions Committee Chair

Reports from the Field

This year we are continuing to fund two missional efforts: Neighbourhood life in Lacombe and the Avenue Church. Reports from Rick Abma and Aaron Au are below.

Neighbourhood Life Report – Central Alberta 2018—Rick Abma

The new year brings with it questions about the last. And the one question asked most last year revolved around learning. In other words, what did you learn from loving your neighbours? 'Learning' itself was central to all that went on in Neighbourhood Life. Too many show a desire to help with limited understanding, much like the mission field in developing countries where a visitor may arrive with a saviour mentality and attempt to solve the problem. I was that guy,

wanting to buy a flag for a *poor* school, only to find out that the flag was not raised until certain celebrations, or the time I bought an appliance for one family only to find out that it would be misused due to lack of electricity. Others feel that 'loving your neighbour' means they must be a service provider of some sort, or add something to the schedule, making our love for neighbours more of a checklist item in our life. Perhaps we should just live to learn from our neighbours before we breathe any life into their lives.

Neighbourhood Life is laying out several disciplines for 2018 so that we become more Christ-Like. One of the greatest challenges have been to love without condition (some of us already know this is challenging when loving our children). Last year we covered the practice of re-imagining and the practice of hospitality as disciplines in our neighbourhood. Starting January 14th, we will focus on the practice of vulnerability, which in itself is a topic that begins to make us vulnerable. The reason we want to take this discipline head on is because its a game changer among neighbours. The discussion of 'practicing vulnerability among neighbours' brings a variety of emotions to the forefront, no doubt! In February we will focus on the practice of investment and the practice of trust. Later, in the spring, we will practice the art of conversation as a way to lead us into block party season. If you want a head start on these disciplines, you will find them in my book, "Neighbouring for Life" available on lulu.com or amazon.

The cities of Red Deer and Lacombe continue to create opportunities to lead in this capacity. Benalto Baptist, Sylvan Lake Alliance, Leduc Fellowship and Terrace CRC are all on the 2018 schedule as well. This spring we will be launching an media invitation that will help gain traction in neighbourhoods that have yet to get started. We will include the use of our tool kit which includes a promo/invitation package, the use of our coffee and its neighbourhood stories, the Neighbourhood life travelling BBQ and our Espresso Bike.

The Good Neighbour Coffeehouse is becoming a home for good connection, counseling and various other ministries. For example, it will play host to the new Alpha in conjunction with Wolf Creek Church - several people have expressed interest while visiting the Coffeehouse.

This year we have also started a podcast (with Ron DeVries) with nearly 100 views on our last show. Just type in 'Rick and Ron podcast' in YouTube for a sample.

Much to Celebrate. Your servant, Rick

Avenue Church Update—Aaron Au

To our partners in the gospel: Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support of the work God is calling Avenue Church to as part of the larger body of Christ in this city and region.

Since our last update, God has been bringing Avenue Church through a period of growth, learning and renewal. Our Sunday gatherings, which God has grown now to an average of sixty people from both the surrounding communities and the larger city, continue to be an exciting time for worship, fellowship and discipleship.

During Advent, we had the opportunity to "Recover the Awe" of the season by collaborating with a visual artist from our community, Lori Youngman. Her four-week series of paintings, inspired by Scripture from Isaiah 64, Matthew 2 and Luke 2 was an inspiring, engaging and challenging invitation to recover the awe and significance of the Advent and Christmas seasons which for many have become busy, tiring and even mundane.

The New Year has seen us take on the challenge of a new series called "The Problem of God" in which we are exploring the reasons for and objections towards the Christian faith. It has already sparked some incredible conversation and it is our hope and prayer that this series will

provide skeptics a safe space to ask questions and begin to “doubt their doubts” while providing believers the opportunity to refine and grow in their faith. It’s also our prayer that this series becomes part of a more missional posture as we seek to reach those with no or different beliefs and those who may have experienced a crisis of faith.

As God continues to grow and challenge us in our Sunday gatherings, the same is true for our house churches. Even as the house churches remain the primary place for fellowship, discipleship and, as we say, “doing life on life”, growth has been very welcomed but also challenging. The diversity of house churches is something we celebrate but when people aged 6 months to 80 years old gather in a house, there can be some logistical challenges. We are praying about ways in which this diversity can remain while different practical needs can be addressed at the same time, even as we pray about how God may be wanting to multiply our house churches.

One answer to prayer in this season of growth has been the addition of a new team member to the Avenue Church staff. We are blessed that Loretta Stadt has taken on the role of pastoral intern with us. As part of her journey towards ordained ministry in the CRC and a student of Calvin Seminary’s EPMC program, Loretta will have the opportunity to participate in all the different aspects of ministry available at Avenue Church, from preaching to house church leadership to community engagement. We are thankful that God has brought Loretta and her husband John to us for this season and are thankful also to First CRC for sending them to us as partners in the gospel.

Prayer requests: Please pray with us that God would continue to raise up servant leaders at Avenue Church who are passionate followers of Christ and who will lead his body by listening to his Spirit. As we are almost three and half years old, it is a critical time for us to make sure that we are in tune with God’s vision for us and continue to refine and cast that vision for the entire community.

A final thought: Though it can be messy, confusing and frustrating at times, it is a joy to see how, under the headship of Christ, the unity of the body described in Ephesians 4 is being cultivated in the midst of cultural, generational and socio-economic diversity. Genuine friendships have been grown as we have celebrated milestones together such as an addictions recovery graduation and pregnancy announcements. They have also grown as we have mourned together through heartbreak and tragedy such as the untimely death of a friend in a car accident. Through it all, we have witnessed and experienced together the goodness, grace, love and faithfulness of God.

HEALTHY CHURCH TASK FORCE

Report to Classis Alberta North: March 14, 15

An outline of our mandate: (see the full mandate on the classis website)

The HCTF meets monthly to fulfill its mandate, which is to, “foster congregational health within the churches of CAN by means of the following:

1. Cultivating pastor-church relationships
2. Dispatching appropriate resources for congregation councils and pastors
3. Strengthen, support and challenge pastors, their spouses and families
4. Encouraging the active participation of congregations, councils and pastors in restorative justice efforts within their communities
5. Create a roster of local skilled and trained and qualified mediators, restorative practice facilitators, church consultants, professional counsellors and specialized transitional ministers.
6. Exercise intentional cooperation and appropriate reporting of its work to the CIC and PCR.

Membership

- In 2017 we said “good-bye” to our chairperson, William Delleman, who took a call to Victoria, BC.
- We welcomed newly retired pastor, Gary Bomhof, from Red Deer replacing William as the regional pastor of the southern area of the classis.
- Anita Veldhuisen Slomp and Joanne Munro are our restorative practice facilitators. Their helpfulness in facilitating talking circles has been well received.
- Melle Pool is our Church Visitor coordinator. Along with the committee he is working at developing church clusters as an alternative means of fulfilling the church visitor mandate of the Church Order. He also coordinates and receives reports from “regular” Church Visitors—experienced pastors and elders who visit with church councils.
- Janet Vlieg Paquette is a lay member who also serves as our minute taker.
- Peter VanderBeek and John Pasma are regional pastors. Peter is also a Specialized Transitional Pastor.

Major Agenda Items since our last report:

- Reviewed the way pastor evaluations are carried out (or not). We remind the churches of the booklet that denominational Pastor Resources has published: [Evaluations Essentials for Congregational Leaders](#). This booklet is free, and you can find a pdf copy on the CRCNA website. We encourage formal reviews.
- Work on our annual pastor-spouse retreat continues. At this writing pastors are registering for the retreat to be held April 20-22 in Banff. A major focus is the opportunity to build up relationships. The specific theme is on polarity thinking: *“I’m right—You’re wrong: When Either/or Challenges Our Relationships and Congregations.”* You can find a brochure further describing it on our classis website under the HCTF heading. Councils are encouraged to encourage their pastor (and spouse) to attend.
- Recommended names for mentorship of the newly ordained in our classis. Pastor Church Resources of the CRCNA makes the formal appointment.
- At our monthly meetings we hear and discuss reports from our membership and work at responding appropriately. Melle Pool our Church Visit Coordinator will report separately.
- In November the regional pastors attended a three-day conference in Grand Rapids.

For the HCTF, John Pasma (chair)

SAFE CHURCH TEAM

With a new year comes a point of beginning and with this usually bring a time of reflection and an opportunity to formulate new goals. Safe church has seen considerable positive changes in the past 5 years as our congregations begin to gain an understanding of abuse prevention policy, procedures and volunteer screening.

- In order to continue this journey **CAN Safe Church is looking for new team members** to steer the continued development of this ministry. Perhaps there is a person in your congregation with a passion for making our churches safe places of worship, where we can feel free to talk about the issues of abuse that have for so long been buried and ignored. There has been much groundwork done at the denominational level to give this team the resources and support needed.
- With the start of a **NEW Classis Alberta North website, Safe Church Team** has welcomed the opportunity to reach our individual churches and especially excited about managing our own safe church page. This forum allows us to reach everyone with resources, links and updates in the area of safe church ministry. Please encourage your teams to visit this site on a regular basis for new updates and events. This communication tool will serve to increase support of our individual churches. Please use the direct link provided on the website to contact our safe church team. We welcome the questions, comments and suggestions! See the latest limited time offer from Plan to Protect.
- Another exciting but rather slow project is the “**online refresher abuse prevention training**” for our volunteers. We are progressing with trials and anticipate unveiling probably later this year. It is our hope that this will ease the work load of the individual church teams by having the training accessed on-line as well as all the administration bookkeeping of tracking and contacting volunteers will be automatically generated.
- Classis Safe Church Team is focusing on **providing more opportunities** where all our Classis Alberta North Church Safe Church Teams can meet, share and grow together in our knowledge of abuse prevention. Hopefully by working more together we can ease the workload and at the same time increase awareness and opportunities for growth of this ministry.
- Want to talk face to face about your church safe church ministry? Curious to see the Circle of Grace curriculum or the pilot of the online training project? CAN Safe church team will have a committee member at general Classis meeting Wednesday March 14, 3-9 pm. Traveling to Classis meetings or from the Red Deer and surrounding area, we would love to touch base with a member of your team. Please RSVP via the classis website safe church page.
- **VISIT the Classis Alberta North WEBSITE - SAFE CHURCH PAGE For Information or Assistance!**

submitted by Chair - Carmen Voogd

CLASSIS PRAYER COORDINATOR

In the past year the Classis Prayer Coordinator and team provided resources to all the churches of classis in order for each congregation to have a Prayer Summit of their own.

We also sent two people to the bi-annual denominational prayer summit last March in California, which was very well received.

Like last year, we are planning our second Prayer Retreat for the pastors and prayer coordinators (and others) in our classis who wish to have a day of growing in prayer, encouragement in their role as ministry leaders and support with resources for the local church. Last year over half the churches in classis were represented.

We are also working with our Classis Home Missions team's Renewal Lab project to help get a prayer coordinator in each church of Classis and to link churches up for mutual encouragement.

Rich deLange, Prayer Coordinator

CLASSIS YOUTH MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Since the fall Classis meeting, our committee has been on quite a journey. As a committee our primary role is to offer support to the Youth Ministry Consultant in his or her work for the classis. Since the departure of our former Youth Ministry Consultant, our role was expanded.

1. We needed to find a new member as one of our members left the denomination; this is still an ongoing concern.
2. The first order of business for CYMC was to validate the need for a Youth Consultant in this classis. Budgets are always a concern so weighing the need of the impacted people within said ministry vs the budget of Classis is required for some ministries of CAN, in our case this was done on the floor of the fall classis meeting.
3. Following this, CYMC reviewed and updated the mandate and job description of Youth Ministry Consultant. Through the job posting we received six qualified applicants, three of which were interviewed by our committee and a CIC representative.
4. We have submitted a recommendation to the Classis Interim Committee for filling the position of Youth Ministry Consultant.

We look forward to working with our new Youth Ministry Consultant as we look to encourage youth and youth ministry in this classis

Wayne Bouwman, Ken Vis, Janneke Bakker, Ryan Pedde

CAMPUS MINISTRY COMMITTEE

February 2, 2018

The Campus Ministry Committee had our last meeting with Rick VanManen on November 21. While there were a few business items to attend to, we spent the majority of our time remembering and celebrating Rick's ministry at the U of A. We listened to his stories, spoke words of blessing over him, and closed by praying for him.

Meanwhile, the search committee was hard at work reading applications, setting up interviews, and seeking to discern who the next campus minister might be. We were delighted to receive applications from highly qualified individuals from all over North America. After two rounds of interviews, **we were pleased to recommend Rick Mast to CIC as our chosen candidate for the position.**

Rick Mast and Julianne Gilchrist met with representatives of the Campus Ministries Association at the University of Alberta so that Rick could be officially approved and welcomed into that association.

While the fall semester was focused on supporting Rick VanManen end well, the winter/spring semester is focused on helping Rick Mast begin well. We are excited for Rick and the passion and energy he brings to the ministry.

For this semester, Rick will continue to spend two hours a week doing campus ministry at NAIT. Come summer, the committee will evaluate whether or not it's sustainable and desirable to have one person for two campuses.

Thank you for continuing to support campus ministry.

NADC CONSULTANT

Classis Report: March 14 + 15, 2018

Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference (NADC): A Classis ministry of which all Classis Alberta North Christian Reformed churches are members. The full board consists of a representative of each church. This representative is usually, though not always, a deacon. We exist to encourage and challenge congregations and communities to grow in living lives of stewardship, justice, mercy, and compassion.

This is accomplished by collaborating, communicating and sharing of expertise and experience between members and ministry partners.

1. **The Day of Encouragement (DOE) was held:** on November 4, 2017. This year, the Keynote speaker was the CRCNA's Executive Director, Steven Timmermans and he spoke about the different aspects where the CRC communities can be involved in creating and living out Shalom. We also enjoy a lunch and learn with Bob Laarman from World Renew, where we learned about the long-term commitments of Disaster Response Services and heard some of the stories of lives restored. The date next year will be November 3, 2018. Planning has begun but input is always welcome. Remember November!!

2. **We gathered together** in February, as NADC board representatives, to listen to each other and learn. This is a time to network, share and update any new things happening in our diaconates. We had a presentation from Dean Kurpjuweit, Managing Director of the Mustard Seed, which followed up on a proposal raised by one of the churches at our last Classis meeting. They are exploring possibilities of partnering with churches, diaconates or even Classis in the area of providing supportive housing for various groups of people, including young single moms facing challenges. We also gave time for reporting on different ministries that our Classis supports and is involved with.

3. **NADC Consultant.** I have been working on ways of expanding our communication base to include social media and also contributing to the renewal of our Classis website by creating and uploading content to our ministry page. Denominational leadership has been helpful to make suggestions to possibly incorporate social media into the DOE to increase flexibility and audience participation, so I am continually learning and exploring ways to make it happen. This also has the potential to help connect our churches that are geographically spread out.

I continue to administratively help the Classis with circulating the Cree paintings called "The Creators Sacrifice." Two churches have signed up to have the paintings at their church in 2018 but please note, 2018 will be the last year that Classis will cover the travel expenses of these paintings, so if your church has not yet done so, please contact me for details and to learn more about them.

In conjunction with the paintings, there is also a seven-week study series that we have done in our Classis called "Living the 8th Fire" that is a valuable resource. I would be happy to walk with you and your church to explore it further. I have worked with DMC and the Edmonton Native Healing Centre to modify it, as a concentrated two-day event, so we would be happy to explore what would fit best.

4. **NADC Communication and Support.** One of the bigger challenges facing communications is keeping the continuity of contact when deacon terms change over. Some of the ways we are working to supplement or emails and newsletters, are to create consistent hubs of

communication like our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/yournadc) and our website tab (www.classisalbertanorth.ca/nadc). Posts include ministry related events or stories within the CRCNA and CAN umbrellas, as well as highlights by our ministry partners. They also give an opportunity for our local churches to be connected and tell their stories. Input and local deacon content is always welcomed; I would be happy to include events or stories from your diaconates. The other thing some diaconates have done is to create a general deacon email that any of their deacon leaders can access so it remains a constant, even as terms of individuals change.

5. **The King's University/NADC Honduras Water Project.** The 2018 team has been formed and will be announced to churches very soon for support and prayer. They will be going back to the project in Varsovia for a third year, which means an amazing connection and relationship has already been formed and will be exciting to experience. Thank you to the churches for your continued support and remember, this trip is open to the people in Classis AB North so please contact me if you or someone you know would be interested in going, I would strongly recommend it.
6. **Connect regularly with Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) and World Renew** to share ideas, concerns, and to promote and encourage churches to show the love of Christ through word and deed. I was able to combine a visit to the Edson diaconate with DMC staff to review the progress of one of their Operation Manna grant recipients there. It was a blessing to be able to see how the deacons and the church were walking through its role of supporting community ministry, supported by the coaching and funding of DMC.
7. **Communicate with** – Home Missions, Cuba Connection, Edmonton Native Healing Centre, World Renew Edmonton Caucus, Disaster Relief Services, Refugee Coordinators, DMD's and Operation Manna partners.

Submitted by:
Jesse Edgington, NADC Consultant
yournadc@gmail.com
780-819-7488

CUBA CONNECTION COMMITTEE

Report to Classis meeting March 2018

The committee has met numerous times during the year either face to face or via email/telephone. Our main focus was the completion of the first parsonage in Torriente and commencing with the second one in Alacranas. Our Cuban family has already made a start on the second parsonage and the limited funds we have available will greatly assist in completing this project.

Meanwhile, Pastor Antonio continues to enjoy his new residence which includes meeting and kitchen space for diaconal projects and educational programs. A number of our committee and others have received expressions of gratefulness from Antonio and his family. During the hurricane the parsonage served as a shelter for the local people. He welcomes all visitors from our classis to visit him and stay in the parsonage for a day or two.

Due to hurricane damage to many parts of Cuba the supply of materials for construction will be at a premium. This will affect the new parsonage project. We have been told that the damage in areas where our churches and communities are located was not as bad as other areas. Mostly problems with homes and shelters. Injuries were minimal and no deaths reported.

More recently we have been involved with arrangements to have a pastor or two visit us in Alberta. At the time of writing this report we know that Pastor Juan Miranda has been given a visitor's visa to enter Canada. We are attempting to have him arrive in conjunction with the March Classis meeting and have faith that it will happen. Plans are in the process for accommodating him and taking him to various places affiliated with our CRC programs and activities. He particularly indicated a desire to visit Rimbey which will be done.

Fellow supporters of the Cuban churches from Grande Rapids and Minnesota are planning a trip to Cuba April 18-24 this year. We are hopeful that one or two of our committee can join them. The purpose of the trip is to visit a number of churches and assess needs which can be accommodated through our North American committees. It is also an opportunity to discuss plans with others who have been helping The Cubans for many years.

Our committee is thankful for the wonderful support received from Classis Alberta North churches. We praise God for his goodness and the generosity of His people. We ask that our member churches continue to pray for our Cuban brothers and sisters as they live in a land that is governed by atheism that barely tolerates religious organizations other than what diaconal work they can do to relieve pressure on the government.

RETIREMENT OF REV. MARTIN MOBACH

Bethel Community Christian Reformed Church
14204 – 25 Street
Edmonton Alberta T5Y 1G5

Re: Pastor Martin Mobach

Dear Classical Delegates,

At our council meeting of January 15, 2018, we approved the request of Pastor Martin Mobach to apply for early retirement. The early retirement to become effective June 30, 2018. At the next Classis meeting please approve the request of Pastor Martin Mobach. I have attached a copy of Martin's letter as part of this request.

Sincerely Yours

(Signed)
John Buisman
Clerk of Council

Friday, January 12, 2018

Dear Council of Bethel Community Christian Reformed Church,

I am requesting that you ask Classis Alberta North on my behalf to allow me to retire from being an active minister of the Word and have emeritus status.

I am asking on the grounds of age [post 55 years] and ask that it be effective June 30, 2018.

Thanks for your help in this.

Together in His service,



Martin Mobach
mobach@shaw.ca
780-340-2862

CAMPUS MINISTER - JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Campus Minister

Accountability:

Classis Alberta North via Campus Ministry Committee

Position Summary

The Campus Minister is responsible to develop a program that fulfills the mission and mandate of the ministry, namely to “engage campus communities with enthusiastic, Spirit-filled witness to the transformative power of the gospel for every dimension of life.” The campus minister is called to serve the whole campus community, especially students, by being a visible presence of the church, providing pastoral care, establishing relationships, offering hospitality, creating opportunities for spiritual formation and discipleship, and serving the campus community through healthy collaborations with other entities.

Characteristic Duties

- Encourage the spiritual formation of students by offering various opportunities for prayer, Bible study, service, reflection and learning, fellowship and retreats.
- Establish relationships with students by actively seeking them out, offering hospitality, and being responsive to their inquiries.
- Provide pastoral care as needs arise for individual students, faculty and staff, and for the campus community as a whole.
- Create discipleship opportunities, such as lectures series or book studies, to explore the relationship between faith, learning and vocation.
- Identify and develop potential student leaders by inviting mentorship, peer supporting relationships and other strategies.
- Encourage and assist students in identifying meaningful service opportunities on campus, in the wider community and around the world.
- Be of service to collaborative partners such as the Student Life Department, the Interfaith Chaplains Committee, and other entities on campus that may call upon the campus minister for insight and leadership.
- Build bridges between the Campus and the churches of Classis Alberta North keeping them informed about the challenges and successes of campus ministry by way of preaching, teaching, addressing youth groups and other strategies.
- Work closely with the Campus Ministry Committee to develop plans, budgets, reports, ministry evaluations, and to expand the ministry to other campuses.

YOUTH MINISTRY CONSULTANT - JOB DESCRIPTION

Purpose

The Youth Consultant will be responsible to work with youth leaders, pastors and councils of Classis Alberta North. The main purpose of the consultation will be to give insight to youth leaders, pastors and councils of how students and young adults (ages 12-29) can flourish in their Christian faith and come to an understanding of the importance of being an active church member.

Grounds

1. Synod has advised all classes to consider hiring a professional youth minister, consultant, or pastor to assist the churches and the Classis Youth Ministry Committee (CYMC) in ministering of congregations, the youth (See Acts of Synod 1991, Article 70.C.4).
2. The society is ever changing and there is a need for a consultant to give understanding of the culture that youth and young adults live in.
3. Churches with youth staff and churches with volunteers are in need of a youth consultant for encouragement, mentoring and receiving insight of ministry with the youth and young adults.
4. As a covenant community of congregations, it is essential that we set an example of care and support of youth and youth ministries. The churches' issues are not about resources but about support and training the next generation of leaders.

Responsibilities

1. Training and equipping the leaders of the youth and young adult ministries of the various churches of CAN:
 - a. offering seminars at Day of Encouragement.
 - b. connecting leaders with training events that are held locally.
 - c. bringing training to the churches as individuals or in regional groups.
2. Pastoring the Youth Pastors, youth and young adult leaders:
 - a. giving support and leadership to those who minister to the youth in our churches.
 - b. have personal contact with leaders of the youth ministries.
3. Speak to councils and churches about youth culture:
 - a. share the Word with congregations within the context of youth ministry and its culture.
 - b. communicate with all churches and embrace opportunities to share God's grace and mercy with youth and their leaders to equip them for the journey on an annual basis, or as needed.
 - c. speak with churches about the importance of youth ministry integration with the whole church.
4. Personal Training and development:
 - a. required to outline/summarize annual professional development plans including schedule, costs, and goals to the CYMC.
 - b. Maintain an active relationship with denominational youth ministries for the purpose of advocacy, support and training of youth ministries.

Accountability/Supervision

The Classical Youth Ministry Consultant is accountable to the CYMC and to CAN.

- He/she meets with the CYMC on a regular basis (4-5 times a year) for planning, accountability and encouragement.
- Reports at Classis meetings in written and verbal form.
- Attends and reports at all Classis Ministries committee meetings.
- He/she will undergo periodic evaluation for the purpose of ministry effectiveness and development.

August 2011, Updated Dec 22, 2016

OVERTURE – WOODY NOOK CRC

Overture to Classis Alberta North

Woody Nook Council overtures Classis Alberta North to change its meeting dates from Wednesday/Thursday to Friday/ Saturday.

Grounds:

1. This will accommodate a greater number of elders and deacons who have work obligations during the week.
2. It is in the interest of the church to ensure that a greater cross section of elders/ deacons can attend Classis meetings.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held March 15, 2018

1. Opening and welcome by the Chair of the Association, John Ooms
2. **Motion** to approve the **Agenda**
3. **Motion** to approve the **Minutes** of the AGM held on March 2, 2017 (see below).
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, 2017, as presented by Treasurer Mike Vos.
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, 2017, as presented by Treasurer Mike Vos.
6. **Motion** to appoint **Halpert Monsma, Chartered Accountants, as Auditors** for the fiscal year 2018.
7. **Board of Directors:**
 - a. **Motion:** To ratify the appointment of Anita Veldhuisen Slomp as Director of the Association, effective Oct. 2017.
 - b. **Motion:** To appoint Martin Mobach and _____* as Director(s) of the Association, effective July 1, 2018.
[* Note: other name(s) not yet available at time of publishing the agenda.]
8. Question period
9. Adjournment

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Association held March 2, 2017

1. **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.

APPENDIX – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Financial Statements will be sent out as a separate document for this Agenda when they are available from the auditor.