



Classis Alberta North

Agenda and Support Materials for 165th Session, October 12-13, 2018 Ebenezer Christian Reformed Church 49245 Range Rd 250, Leduc, Alberta

CLASSIS 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.

Serving Classis:

Bruce Gritter, chair

Rich deLange, vice-chair

Gary Duthler, Stated Clerk

Linda Ryks, Recording Clerk

Jonathan Nicolai-DeKoning, Classis Chaplain

Balloting Committee: the delegates of Maranatha CRC

Classis Credentials Committee: the delegates of Covenant and St. Albert CRC

Synodical Deputies: Rudy Ouwehand, BCSE; Henry Jonker, BCNW; David Swinney, AB-S/Sask.

Examiners: for Jeremiah Basuric: Art Verboon – theological; Pete VanderBeek – practica;
Tom Oosterhuis and Allan Groen – sermon critics.

for Jason Dahlman: Bob DeMoor – theological; John Ooms – practica;
Harry Cook and John Pasma – sermon critics.

for Brian Schouten: Tony Maan – theological; Henry Kranenburg – practica;
Neil De Koning and Paulina Prins - sermon critics.

Note: Classis starts at **noon**. Refreshments are available by 11:00 a.m. (after you have signed in).

WIFI: Access to Wireless Internet may be sporadic during the Classis Meetings. It is advised that you download this Agenda and its support documents to your computer, laptop, tablet, phone, cerebral memory, etc., so that you do not have to access your email to consult these materials.

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AGENDA FOR CLASSIS
Friday 12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Note 1: Refreshments and snacks will be available by 11 a.m.

Note 2: All delegates will sign in and 1st-time delegates will sign the Covenant for Office Bearers prior to the meeting.

Note 3: The time-line is a guide for the meeting and may be adjusted by the Officers.

- 12:00 Opening Devotions Jason Dahlman, Director of Ministries, Ebenezer CRC
- 12:15 Welcome, Introductions and Opening Procedures Bruce Gritter, Chair
1. Roll Call – attendance sign-in report Stated Clerk
2. Covenant for Office-Bearers to be signed by all first-time delegates
3. Classis Declared Constituted Chair
4. Motion: to adopt Agenda with time-line as guide Chair
- 12:25 Classis Interim Committee Report Stated Clerk
- 12:45 Missions and Ministries Reports Ministry Representatives
- Opportunity to comment on, and raise questions about, the written reports included in the agenda. Representatives of ministries will be given opportunity to respond.
- 1:10 Ministry Presentations
These presentations will go beyond the written submission presented with the Agenda.
- 1:10 Campus Ministry
- 1:40 Student Support Team
- 2:00 The King's University
- 2:30 Refreshments**
- 2:45 Congregational sharing time Rich deLange, Classis Prayer Coordinator
Delegates share the celebrations and challenges of their congregations in small groups and spend time in prayer for the churches.
- 3:25 Hope CRC Letter (see page 36)
- 3:45 Review of Synod 2018
Delegates are given opportunity to respond to the summary report included with the Agenda and to hear from Classis Delegates to Synod.
- 4:15 Church Visitors and Counsellors Reports
- 4:30 Ad-hoc LGTBQ+ committee update Anita Veldhuisen-Slomp
- 4:40 Classical Appointments Art Verboon
- 4:50 Ministry Presentation
The Edmonton Native Healing Centre Harold Roscher
- 5:30 Supper**
- 6:30 Praise and Worship (in the sanctuary) Ebenezer Church
- 6:45 Climate Witness Project
- 7:20 – 9:00 Examination of Jeremiah Basuric for ordination as a Commissioned Pastor

Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

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

The meeting will convene in the sanctuary.

- 8:00 Refreshments available before the meeting as delegates have signed in.
- 8:30 Welcome and Devotions Chair / Classis Chaplain
- 8:45 Opening Procedures
- a. Roll Call – attendance sign-in report Stated Clerk
- b. Covenant for Office-Bearers to be signed by all first-time delegates
- 8:50 Examination of Jason Dahlman for ordination to the Ministry of the Word
- 10:30 Refreshment Break**
- 10:50 Examination of Brian Schouten for ordination to the Ministry of the Word
- 12:30 Lunch**
- 1:30 **Meeting of The Association of Classis Alberta North** (See Agenda below)
- 2:10 Credentials Committee Report Credentials Committee
- 2:30 Council of Delegates Report Michelle Kool
- 2:45 Canadian Ministries Presentation Darren Roorda
- 3:25 Feedback on the proceedings of Classis
- 3:40 Closing Comments and Prayer Rich deLange, Vice Chair

Next Meeting of Classis: March 8 and 9, 2019 at Woody Nook CRC

Special Meeting of The Association of Classis Alberta North

1. Call to Order Martin Mobach, CIC Chair
2. Consideration of CIC motion to amend By-law Article 11 to read as follows (with changes in bold italics)
Auditor
11. The books, accounts and records of the Treasurer shall be audited ***or reviewed*** at least once each year by a duly qualified independent accountant. A complete and proper statement of the standing of the books for the previous year shall be submitted by such auditor(s) at the Annual Meeting of the society. The fiscal year of the society in each year shall be the calendar year. ***A full audit shall be done at least once every five years and when there is a change of Classis treasurer.***
Rationale: this amendment will give Classis the flexibility to request either a full audit or a review by the auditor. It is expected that the use of auditors to review the accounts, with a full audit every five years, will save a considerable sum of money while maintaining the integrity and accountability of the finances of Classis
3. Appointment of Auditor
4. Classis Budget 2019 and financial update (Send with Classis Agenda) Mike Vos, Treasurer
5. Other Business
6. Adjournment

ORIENTATION FOR DELEGATES TO CLASSIS

October 12-13, 2018

This document is intended to help delegates, especially first-time delegates, better understand the procedures at Classis meetings as well as to answer some important questions. Please read these pages carefully.

Agenda highlights

CIC Report:

The Classis Interim Committee (CIC) handles all matters that require attention between classis meetings. You will be asked to ratify the actions of the CIC as well as to vote on a number of motions proposed to Classis.

Missions and Ministries – Reports:

Classis committees and ministries, as well as several denominational and other agencies, are asked to provide written reports for each classis meeting. Delegates are expected to have read the reports. If there are questions or comments, the presenters will be asked to respond. Otherwise the reports are received for information.

However, you will see from the agenda that some ministries have been invited to make oral presentations. This is done on a rotational basis and is intended to provide delegates with a better understanding of how Classis ministers to and on behalf of the churches. At this meeting you will hear from the Campus Ministry, the Student Support Team, the Edmonton Native Healing Centre and The King's University.

Round Table Sharing:

At each classis meeting we take time to engage in small group conversations where churches are grouped randomly to share with each other such things as blessings received, challenges that lie ahead, and pains with which they struggle. There will be time to pray for each other. We hope that this will help to build the sense of community and fellowship that sets the stage for a good meeting.

Examinations:

We are blessed to be given the opportunity to examine three candidates for ministry.

Jeremiah Basuric has been called by mosaicHouse to serve as a Commissioned Pastor. He will be examined on Friday evening.

Jason Dahlman and Brian Schouten have been called to the Ministry of the Word by Ebenezer CRC and Sonrise CRC respectively. Their examinations will take place on Saturday morning.

Prior to the Classis meeting you will receive copies of sermons they have preached as part of their examination. Please read them. As a classis it is our common responsibility to determine if these candidates should be ordained in their respective callings.

Canadian Ministries:

Darren Roorda is the Director of Canadian Ministries of the CRC. He will be making a presentation about the upcoming Canadian National Gathering. Your Council received information about this in July and you should have some direction from your Council in response to the questions Darren has posed. (A copy of his letter to the Councils is also included with the Agenda.)

Things Delegates Should Know

Introduction:

Classis consists of three delegates from each member congregation – a pastor, an elder and a deacon. (If no pastor is available, a congregation may send 2 elders and a deacon.) Each Council has been asked to submit the credentials for their delegates prior to the classis meeting. First-time delegates are asked to sign the *Covenant for Officebearers* at the registration desk.

Duration of Classis Meetings

- The meetings normally are held beginning at noon on Day 1 and continue to about mid-afternoon on Day 2. You are expected to remain at classis until the meeting is formally adjourned. If there is an urgent need to leave, or if you will be replaced at some point by an alternate, you should ask the permission of the chair who may seek the consent of the assembly.

Classis Agenda:

- The Classis Agenda will, ordinarily, be in the hands of church councils four weeks prior to the actual meeting date of classis. It is hoped that each church council will review the agenda prior to sending delegates.
- Delegates are to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the classis agenda. The assumption is that the agenda has been discussed at the delegates' local council meetings.

Executive of Classis

- The Executive consists of a Chair, Vice-Chair and the Stated Clerk. A Recording Clerk takes minutes.
- The Stated Clerk appoints a Chaplain for each meeting of Classis to lead in devotions and to monitor the pastoral needs that arise in the context of the meeting.
- The Chair and Vice-Chair are asked to serve on a rotation (alphabetically by church name). The Vice-Chair will serve as Chair at the succeeding meeting of Classis.

What May I Expect to Happen at Any One Classis Meeting?

- First time delegates are to sign the Covenant for Officebearers.
- Delegates may be requested to serve in the following capacities:
 - **Prayer:** for the ministries of classis, concerns of classis and/or for individuals.
 - **Committee work:**
 - Delegates in teams of one or two churches may be asked to serve on one of its advisory committees, Credentials, Ad-hoc (as determined by previous Classis or Classis Interim Committee) or Overtures & Appeals.
 - Some advisory committees may need to meet prior to the classis meeting.
- Though there is a degree of flexibility (especially where there is silence on a matter), classis abides by its own Rules of Procedure together with the rules of the CRCNA Church Order in conducting its meetings. The Church Order is determined by Synod and is held in covenant by all CR churches. The classis Rules of Procedure are available on our website at: <http://www.classisalbertanorth.ca/documents.html>.
- At each Spring Classis meeting there will be time devoted to the Annual General Meeting of the Association of Classis Alberta North. As required, the Association may also meet in the context of other classis meetings.

What Are Classis' Expectations of Me?

- Be on time for all sessions of classis.
- Delegates are expected to review the agenda prior to the meeting. Delegates are not obligated to vote according to their council's wishes. Classis is a deliberative body and the delegates are expected to speak and make decisions based on the best information or perspective presented at classis. (*Church Order*, Article 34; & *Manual of CRC Government*, Article 34, Commentary #'s 1 – 4.)
- If you do not understand the procedure, or it is not clear what is being discussed, or you are uncertain of the implications of a decision, **please ask**. It is important that all delegates deliberate and vote with good awareness of what is going on. That is a much higher priority than "getting done" with the agenda.
- Be aware that classis is a deliberative body and may make decisions from time to time that you do not necessarily agree with.
- Strong objection to a decision of classis may be voiced by stating your objection. If you wish to have your objection recorded, you will need to submit a written statement (within 24 hours) indicating your objection and reason(s) why.
- Delegates should report to their councils the decisions made at the classis meeting.

What do the Acronyms Used at Classis Mean?

It is always a challenge for persons coming to a meeting of an organization to understand the shortcut language often used. Part of that shortcut language is using acronyms. Here follows a list of more common ones often included in reports or heard at classis meetings. If you are puzzled by an acronym not listed here, do all the new delegates a favour and ask. (YANA: You Are Not Alone).

- CHMC – Classis Home Missions Committee
- CYMC – Classis Youth Ministry Committee (Bill Nieuwenhuis is Consultant)
- CIC – Classis Interim Committee (also serves as the corporation's Board of Directors)
- CMC – Classis Ministry Committee representing all Classis committees and ministries.
- CRCNA – Christian Reformed Church in North America
- DMC – Diaconal Ministries Canada
- EPMC – Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidates
- HCTF – Healthy Church Task Force
- NADC – Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference (Jesse Edgington is Consultant)

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 INTERIM COMMITTEE REPORT

The Mandate of the Classis Interim Committee (CIC) 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.” CIC has met 4 times since the last meeting of Classis in March of 2018. What follows is a summary of CIC’s deliberations and actions.

1. Matters from the previous Classis Meeting

a. Minutes

CIC approved the minutes of the meeting of Classis, March 14-15, 2018. These minutes have been distributed and posted on the web.

b. Ministry alignment

Classis directed the CIC to provide guidance on the request from The River to consider the creation of a task force on the feasibility of reorganizing the structure of Classis to align with the denomination’s structure

This was discussed at length over several meetings. The Stated Clerk met with Al Postma (Classis Renewal Consultant) in the CRCNA Burlington office and with Pastor Bruce Gritter of The River.

There is no other classis in Canada engaged in this exercise at this time, however Al Postma will be encouraged to include this topic for discussion and exploration at future meetings of Stated Clerks.

The **consensus** developed that this is not the time to pursue the creation of a task force.

c. Appointment of Auditors

CIC considered the inconsistency between the Classis Rules of Procedure and the Association Articles of Incorporation regarding the appointment of auditors. As discussed in the previous Classis meeting, amending the Articles of Incorporation has the potential of significant savings.

Motion carried: to recommend to Classis (at special meeting of the Association) to amend By-law Article 11 to read as follows (with changes in bold italics)

11. The books, accounts and records of the Treasurer shall be audited ***or reviewed*** at least once each year by a duly qualified independent accountant. A complete and proper statement of the standing of the books for the previous year shall be submitted by such auditor(s) at the Annual Meeting of the society. The fiscal year of the society in each year shall be the calendar year. ***A full audit shall be done at least once every five years and when there is a change of Classis treasurer.***

Rationale: this amendment will give Classis the flexibility to request either a full audit or a review by the auditor. It is expected that the use of auditors to review the accounts, with a full audit every five years, will save a considerable sum of money while maintaining the integrity and accountability of the finances of Classis.

d. Presentation of Ministry Reports

CIC has continued to work on refining the procedure for Ministry Reports at the meetings of Classis. Together with the Classis Ministries Committee (CMC) a schedule for oral presentation has been developed. CIC and CMC have also agreed on evaluation/review guidelines for the various ministries. The ministry evaluations will begin with the March 2019 Classis meeting.

Motion carried: to implement the guideline for oral presentations.

Motion carried: to approve the proposed evaluation schedule.

2. Matters Arising Since the Previous Classis Meeting:

a. Nominations

On the recommendation of the Nominations Coordinator, CIC made the following appointments:

- Campus Ministry Committee: Jim Joose, Jody Groenendyk, Anna Noga and Janet Greidanus
- Home Missions Committee: Jason Dahlman
- Safe Church Committee: Ken Vis and John Feddes
- Youth Ministry Committee: Leon Johnson

b. CIC Membership

The Classis Interim Committee elects its own officers. The following persons have been acclaimed into those offices:

- Chair: Martin Mobach
- Vice-Chair: Neil De Koning
- Nominations Coordinator: Anita Veldhuisen-Slomp
- Classical Preaching Schedule Coordinator: Art Verboon
- Alternate Stated Clerk: Anna Feddes (Subject to Classis approval)

c. Financial Matters

Capital Expenditures: Classis Treasurer Mike Vos proposed a policy to clean up the accounting process for smaller capital items. The policy is appended to this report.

Motion carried: to adopt the Capital Expenditure Policy. (Subject to Classis approval)

Signing Authority:

Motion carried: to appoint Martin Mobach, Anna Feddes, Mike Vos and Gary Duthler as Signing Authorities effective July 1, 2018.

Insurance: Our insurance policy has a \$1000 deductible for car rental glass coverage.

Motion carried: For people renting vehicles on behalf of Classis, Classis will pay for glass damage not covered by insurance.

d. Commissioned Pastor Emeritus

Classis has, in the past, granted this status to Maurice Boonstra and Bill Weenink. There is no policy of how “emeritus” status is retained other than that the commissioned pastor emeritus remains under the supervision of the council where he is called unless that is transferred to another congregation. Maurice Boonstra has informed us that he is presently not regularly attending a CRC congregation, nor under the supervision of a CRC council. In response to our communications with him, CIC agreed to remove Maurice Boonstra from the list of functionaries of Classis available for pulpit supply. (Synod is in the process of incorporating and clarifying the status of “Commissioned Pastor Emeritus” into the Church Order and Commissioned Pastor Handbook.)

e. Classis Employee Performance Appraisals

CIC discussed the fact that there has been no policy regarding employee performance reviews and that such reviews have not been conducted on a regular basis. A draft policy was considered.

Motion carried: to recommend that Classis adopt the employee performance appraisal policy and include it in the Classis Rules of Procedure.

This policy is appended to this report. In consultation with the CMC there was agreement that there will be considerable leeway in the use of the CRCNA’s “Short Performance Evaluation Form” as a template to make it relevant to the position being evaluated.

f. Pastoral Transitions

CIC received a request to transfer Pastor Ron Klok's credentials.

Motion carried: To approve the transfer of credentials of Ron Klok from Neerlandia CR to Sonrise CRC in Ponoka.

CIC received a request from Classis Huron to transfer the credentials of Harry Zantingh from Owen Sound, Ontario, to First CRC in Red Deer.

Motion carried: To approve the transfer of credentials of Harry Zantingh to Red Deer First.

g. License to Exhort

Mike Van Boom has requested that his license to exhort be extended. (Letter Appended)

Motion carried: to recommend to Classis to extend Mike Van Boom's license to exhort for two years.

h. Preaching Schedule exemption

CIC received a request mosaicHouse to be exempt from classical appointments.

Motion carried: to exempt mosaicHouse from classical appointments for this present schedule.

i. NAIT Campus Ministry

CIC has been in discussions with the Campus Ministry Committee about the future of the chaplaincy at NAIT. The Campus Ministry Committee will address this in their report to Classis.

j. Classis Examinations

CIC received a request to approve a task description for the position of Commissioned Pastor at mosaicHouse. CIC discussed the elements of the job description submitted by mosaicHouse and compared it to the synodical guidelines.

Motion carried: that CIC considers that the job description submitted by mosaicHouse accords with the guidelines set by synod for the work of a commissioned pastor.

Classis will be asked to confirm this decision, and the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies is also needed. The job description is appended to this report.

CIC also reviewed the c.v. submitted by Jeremiah Basuric.

Motion carried: that CIC deems that the c.v. demonstrates evidence of formal education and training to equip Jeremiah Basuric for the ministry to which he is called.

Based on these decisions, **Jeremiah Basuric** will be examined for the position at the October 2018 Classis meeting.

Ebenezer CRC in Leduc notified CIC that they are calling **Jason Dahlman** to the Ministry of the Word, and Sonrise CRC in Ponoka has notified CIC that they are calling **Brian Schouten** to the Ministry of the Word. CIC has received and reviewed the letters of call and of acceptance for both positions.

CIC, and the Stated Clerk in particular, truly appreciate the willingness demonstrated in our search for 12 examiners and critics for this Classis meeting.

Motion carried: to approve the following list of examiners and sermon critics:

For Jeremiah Basuric (mosaicHouse)

Sermon Critics: Tom Oosterhuis and Allan Groen

Practica: Pete VanderBeek; Theological: Art Verboon
For Jason Dahlman (Ebenezer, Leduc)
Sermon Critics: Harry Cook and John Pasma
Practica: John Ooms; Theological: Bob DeMoor
For Brian Schouten (Sonrise, Ponoka)
Sermon Critics: Neil De Koning and Pauline Prins
Practica: Henry Kranenburg; Theological: Tony Maan

k. Decisions of Synod

CIC received a document intended to inform Classis of Synodical decisions that relate to Classis. The document is included with the agenda and will help to frame the presentation by the delegates to Synod.

CIC did discuss how Classis might best respond to Synod's encouragement to classes to commemorate the **Canons of Dordt**.

CIC recommends that the Churches take a lead on such organizing or sponsoring such events on local or regional levels.

l. Safe Church Ministry

CIC has been concerned about the ability of this committee to function well. Carmen Voogd has served Classis extremely well but has retired from the committee. Ken Vis has stepped into the role of chair of the committee but needs the support of a strong committee. In light of the importance of this committee and its support for the churches, it is essential that we find more members who are willing to step into this important role.

m. Emerging Churches at Classis.

Some classes have made provision to allow emerging churches to send delegates to Classis meetings, either as voting or non-voting delegates. CIC is looking for feedback from the churches to determine whether to bring this issue to the March Classis meeting.

n. Hope CRC

The Council of Hope CRC has sent a letter to Classis requesting prayers as they consider their church's future. This letter will be placed on the Classis agenda for prayer and encouragement.

Motions by CIC to be voted on by Classis as part of this report: (each motion is moved by CIC and needs a seconder)

1. That Classis approve the work and ratify the decisions of the Classis Interim Committee since the previous Classis meeting.
2. That Classis appoint Anna Feddes as Alternate Stated Clerk.
3. That Classis declares that the job description submitted by mosaicHouse for a commissioned pastor accords with the guidelines set by synod for the work of a commissioned pastor.
(See Appendix 1 – This motion requires the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies.)
4. That Classis adopt the Capital Expenditure Policy. (See Appendix 2)
5. That Classis adopt the employee performance appraisal policy and include it in the Classis Rules of Procedure. (See Appendix 3)
6. That Classis extend Mike Van Boom's license to exhort for two years.

Motion to be dealt with in the course of the Classis/Association Agendas:

1. To amend By-law Article 11 – Auditing (See Association Meeting Agenda)

***Submitted on behalf of the Classis Interim Committee
Gary Duthler, Stated Clerk.***

CIC Report Appendix 1 – Commissioned Pastor Job Description

Ministry Position: **Commissioned Pastor at mosaicHouse**

Qualifications

1. A person of mature godly character, exhibiting the Fruit of the Spirit [Galatians 5], & versed in biblical knowledge.
2. A passionate promoter of mosaicHouse Church culture, embodying the vision of the church [Acts 2, 1Corinthians 11].
3. A servant-heart and a team-player, willing to submit to church authority [Hebrews 13].
4. A Covenant Partner for minimum of 2 years who has shown and proven his ministerial influence & leadership at mosaicHouse Church [1 Timothy 3].

Responsibilities

1. **CULTIVATING:** The Commissioned Pastor cultivates and promotes mosaicHouse Church Missional DNA and is responsible for equipping mosaicHousers to accomplish the mission and vision of the church! He will be involved in these main ministries: **education, pastoral care, evangelism, and sacraments**
2. **EDUCATION:** The Commissioned Pastor preaches approximately 50% at South Campus and 50% at East Campus, sharing the pulpit with the Lead Pastor.
3. **PASTORAL CARE:** The Commissioned Pastor will ensure the spiritual life of the congregation is vibrant. He will engage in pastoral counselling, premarital counselling, as well as officiate at weddings.
4. **EVANGELISM:** The Commissioned Pastor will seek to lead others to Jesus through various programs and personal relationships. He will prepare himself for mosaicHouse's call to plant a church every 5 years. He will intentionally seek out opportunities to plant a church with both cultural and socio-economic diversity.
5. **SACRAMENTS:** The Commissioned Pastor will administer both Baptisms and the Lord's Supper.

Description and Accountability

1. While the Commissioned Pastor answers and reports to Staff, the Personnel Team, and the Elders, he is overseen by Lead Pastor directly. This will include a weekly mentorship meeting with the Lead Pastor, monthly Elder's meetings, and a bi-monthly peer-support team.
2. The position is expected take approximately 10 hours weekly.

CIC Report Appendix 2 – Capital Expenditure Policy

Capital expenditures are any new items to be purchased with a value of over \$1,500, excluding taxes, and will be amortized in accordance with CRA approved guidelines as directed by the Classis auditor. Individual items purchased with a value of under \$1,500, excluding taxes, will be included in the respective ministry committee's annual operating budget. Funds for approved capital expenditures are not set aside if the purchase is not made.

CIC Report Appendix 3 – Employee Performance Appraisal Policy

Ministry Committee chairs and employees working with their Committee are strongly encouraged to discuss job performance and goals on an informal, regular basis.

A formal written performance evaluation is to be conducted by the Committee at the end of an employee's initial period of hire, known as the introductory period (usually three months). Additional formal performance evaluations are conducted annually to provide both the committee and the employee the opportunity to discuss job tasks, identify and correct weaknesses, encourage and recognize strengths, and discuss positive, purposeful approaches for meeting goals. Input may be received from others including the serviced body, church leaders and members of the Classis Ministry and Interim Committees.

Performance evaluations are conducted using the Short Performance Evaluation Form found on the crcna.org website as a template. All evaluations must be filed with the Classis Stated Clerk.

CIC Report Appendix 4 – Request to extend a License to Exhort

To Classis Alberta North

Dear friends and colleagues in Classis Alberta North,

I would like to submit this request for an extension to my License to Exhort. With my present responsibilities working with faith communities all over Edmonton, I do not have much time or opportunity to visit the pulpit of churches in the CRC community. However, I continue to value the connection and the standing opportunity to do so on occasion.

I do preach in my home congregation at Centrepointe community church on rare occasions and have also had the opportunity to preach in both Presbyterian and RCA pulpits over the last two year. In the work I do with other faith communities, it says much to them that my own community continues to see me as a leader in my tradition. And I continue to be proud to serve as a faith-filled Christian Reformed voice in the context of housing conversations in our city.

In His grip,

Mike Van Boom

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES REPORTS

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

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

Campus Ministry Committee

The Mission of the Campus Ministry is to engage campus communities with enthusiastic, Spirit-filled witness to the transformative power of the Gospel for every dimension of life.

The Ministry is mandated to provide services to two separate campuses in Edmonton; Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) and the University of Alberta (UofA). The NAIT ministry is part time and consists of two dedicated on-campus hours per week. The NAIT ministry position is presently being temporarily staffed by the UofA Chaplain Rick Mast. The UofA ministry is a full-time ministry position and is filled by Rick Mast, who has had the position since February of this year.

The Ministry is supervised by the Campus Ministry Committee.

The Committee (accompanied thankfully by the outgoing Chair) has met twice over the summer; on June 11 and on July 31. Another meeting is planned for early fall.

This report will focus on activities within the UofA Ministry as the NAIT Ministry is presently not staffed.

1. Mandate of the Ministry:

Relationships with Students/Pastoral Care: Our Campus Chaplain keeps normal office hours during which he has had meetings with many students, some on an ongoing basis. He provides pastoral care as needed and in one particular case did a more extensive (4x) intervention with a special needs student. In regard to the special attention to CRC member students that is part of the Mandate, our Chaplain reports that he is witnessing a reluctance among some CRC young people to be engaged with the CRC Campus Ministry and will have to research and adopt strategies to overcome those barriers. We are heartened that our Campus Chaplain has found that when he *is* able to connect with CRC student members, they do bring other non-CRC colleagues with them.

Organize Programs and Events/Occasions for Worship/Opportunities for hospitality: This having been the summer season, such programs are and would not be attended. Fall programming is in development.

Opportunities for exploring the connection of faith and learning: This aspiration informs everything that occurs within the Christian Reformed chaplaincy and is the unique offering that we make within the larger Campus Chaplaincy offices and beyond.

Provide pastoral care to the campus community: Pastoral care is an ongoing and daily offering from our Chaplaincy office, and is provided consistently as needed. Our Chaplain reports that the Campus, by its nature and

the culture that we live in, is a high stress environment. Pastoral and counselling services is a recognized need and the offerings of our Chaplaincy are much respected and encouraged by the larger Campus community.

Network with local organizations to identify and promote service opportunities: Our new UofA Chaplain has made networking a priority as he identifies opportunities for service. Examples are that he has been on a tour of the UofA, met with the TKU Campus pastor and participated in a TKU SummerMelt program.

Collaborate with the University and other faith groups: Our Chaplain meets with his UofA faith-based Chaplaincy colleagues on a regular basis.

Our Chaplain has sought and accepted positions on two standing UofA Supports and Services subcommittees on "Suicide Prevention" and "Supports following Campus Death". These are

broadly populated committees, and put our Chaplain into contact with a wide range of campus faculties and services from the Deans office through the Medical and Engineering faculties. He reports that his membership on these committees has given the Chaplaincy a significant profile and universal acceptance because of his overtly faith-based starting point.

Our Chaplain has identified International students as a Campus group that may be especially receptive for ministry. He was made aware of this opportunity by the Chaplaincy experience at Simon Fraser University which has a large population of international students. The fact that many of these students find themselves far away from their traditional support systems make them needy but also presents an opportunity for service.

Identify and develop potential student leaders: An on-going aspiration and one which the committee believes for which our Chaplain is particularly well suited, because of his previous career in Youth Ministry.

Maintain a healthy relationship with the supporting constituency of Classis Alberta

North: Because of his previously attained profile within the Classis, our Chaplain has the advantage of an existing working network within the constituency. His numerous preaching assignments within the Classis give the Ministry a face and profile to the CRC membership. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Calvin College and the Board of Governors of The Kings University and attends meetings of both Boards. He has engaged the pastor and elders of one of the Classis AN churches to explore ways that the church(es) could find a role in Campus Ministry.

2. Chaplain Accountability and Training:

The Chaplain meets with the Committee and reports on his activities and the Staff/Committee relationship is healthy and respectful. In terms of Professional Development, the Chaplain has attended a Christian Reformed Campus Ministry Association conference in Vancouver this summer and was both challenged and blessed by it. He also attended a two-day Mental Health First-Aid training session at NAIT.

3. The NAIT Campus Ministry Issue and challenge to fill the vacancy

The most pressing issue for the Committee is maintaining the NAIT Campus Ministry. Even the relatively small breadth and shorter lifespan of that Ministry have given us a clear sign that the NAIT Ministry is needed and has enormous potential. That potential has been demonstrated in previous institutional and individual reports and testimonials to Classis.

The problem is that this Ministry is presently not appropriately staffed. Rick has agreed to maintain the Ministry by attending NAIT for the two hours a week until December, but is finding that doing both Ministries will be counter-productive to both institutions in the longer term.

There has been an opinion expressed that we should fold the NAIT Ministry into the UofA Ministry and have a combined Campus Ministry. For reasons hereafter stated, the Committee is not of that mind, and believes that Classis AN should maintain the NAIT Campus Ministry as a separate ministry. Furthermore the Committee believes it must engage in a search for a staff member to fill the present NAIT vacancy (two hours/week).

The Committee has taken this position for the following reasons;

1. The NAIT Ministry to date has demonstrated that it is needed and is an opportunity for service for Classis AN.
2. The trades and applied sciences are a growing sector within the larger higher educational environment and therefore the NAIT ministry presents a significant and growing opportunity for service.

3. The UofA Chaplaincy is a full-time position which requires full time staffing and to “add-in” the NAIT responsibilities will disservice both ministries, probably mostly in harm of the NAIT ministry.
4. Unique staffing provides a distinct identity for the NAIT ministry and therefore avoids its loss of identity within the larger Classical Campus initiatives.

As the forgoing does not change the present status quo, we as Committee do not believe that we require any Classical motions at this time.

4. Conclusion

Your Committee congratulates and celebrates the Classical initiatives to place a witness of Christian viewpoint, service and reconciliation on the secular campuses within our region. We encourage the delegates to be ambassadors for this important work within your various faith communities and we seek the prayers and support of the Churches.

All of which is respectfully submitted, August 28, 2018.

Dave Nydam and Jim Joosse, Co-Chairs

For the Committee:

Dave Nydam
Janet Greidanus
Anna Noga
Jody Groenendyk
Jim Joosse

Youth Ministry Consultant Report

The last couple of months for me as the new Youth Consultant have been very engaging. My new pastoral work commenced at the beginning of July and has allowed me to set up a new office for work in my home, reading up on some of the latest trends in youth and emerging adult ministry as well as meeting with various pastors. My strategy for July through September has been to meet with or talk to as many pastors as I could about youth ministry and their involvement in their churches with youth. Then, for September I will begin to meet with youth leaders who are seeking help for the upcoming season as well as arrange some visits to Councils.

The three-fold purpose of meeting with pastors, youth leaders and Councils is to gather information on the churches of Classis Alberta North and to better understand the ways in which I can be of assistance as the Youth Consultant. We all recognize and appreciate the important role pastors play in the life of the church. Without pastoral interest and support in youth ministry it could be very easy for a church to generally neglect this good work. My interest in meeting with Councils has to do with that their level of engagement in their church's youth ministry. Without Council direction, support and funding the church's ministry to youth will flounder. Then, meeting with youth leaders will help me assess their needs for information, materials and training so as to assist in the ground level work with youth and emerging adults.

In the coming months I will continue to work this strategy to learn more about each of the churches in the Classis and consider ways to assist. For the future I envision events for training youth leaders to better disciple the youth in our churches so as to assist these youth in their development of a life-long commitment to Jesus Christ. I also look forward to helping pastors, Councils and congregations to grow in their interest and love for youth and ministry to youth through visits and preaching.

In June I was able to attend a meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, regarding denominational efforts being developed by our former Youth Consultant Ron DeVries. The hope is that in the not too distant future every Classis will have a go-to person for youth ministry such as myself or a Youth Champion. Youth Champions are people who have volunteered to assist other churches in the area of youth ministry. Many Classes have already adopted someone (often a youth pastor from a local church) into the role of a Youth Champion. Altogether, the vision and goal is to so encourage youth ministry in the CRC so that many more disciples of Christ are raised in his name.

Some early conclusions from my visits with pastors indicates that in our Classis we have lots of work to do in the area of youth ministry. Many pastors are kept so busy that they have little time to give to the faith formation of their youth or emerging adults. Clearly, our churches have room to grow in their desire, organization and effectiveness in discipling the present generation for Christ. It is my pleasure to assist in this work as your new Youth Ministry Consultant.

Sincerely,

Pastor Bill Nieuwenhuis
Classis Alberta North Youth Ministry Consultant

Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference (NADC)

Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference (NADC): A Classis ministry of which all CAN 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 inspire congregations and communities to grow in living lives of stewardship, justice, mercy, and compassion. This is accomplished by regularly meeting, collaborating, communicating and sharing of expertise and experience between members and ministry partners.

1. The Day of Encouragement (DOE) is scheduled for November 3, 2018 and the Keynote speaker will be Dr. Bill McAlpine from Ambrose University. The theme is Sacred Spaces and we will hear a variety of applications of that theme from Pastors, Chaplains, denominational leaders, counselors and more. We will start by considering how and why the built environment is much more than an inert container in which worship and ministry occurs. Sacred space, whether intended or not, is part of who we are (our identity) and what we do (our ministry) and thus is integral to fulfillment of our mission. From there we will explore ideas of Sacred Space from many different angles and contexts. There will also be music by special guest Clinton Richardson. Register at www.regonline.ca/doe2018edmonton and find full details at www.classisalbertanorth.ca/nadc. Remember November!!
2. We gathered together in June and early October, as NADC board representatives, to listen to each other and learn. This is a time to network, share and update things happening in our diaconates. We were blessed to have presentations from John Taekema on behalf of the CLAC Foundation, Russ Graff updating us on the Little White Church of Glory Hills, and Randy Haluza-Delay sharing about his experience in the Middle East this summer as a volunteer member of the Christian Peacemaker Teams. We also had time for reporting on different ministries that our diaconates are involved with.
3. NADC Consultant. I have had a social justice and human rights focused season with much of my own learning including research on the detriments of arms trafficking and war, the importance of peacemaking and a personal trip to Winnipeg where I was able to take in a day at the National Human Rights Museum. Wow, if you are inspired by anything in this report, be inspired to go to Winnipeg! No really, the museum was overwhelming, moving and cried out with so many stories of the attributes that we know about our God who loves and cares for all people and wants this world to be healed.

I continue to administratively help the Classis with circulating the Cree paintings called "The Creators Sacrifice." Three churches had the paintings at their church since our last meeting and we were also excited to be able to loan them to a RCA sister church in Edmonton (see more details on a post on the website).

In conjunction with the paintings we have also done a study called "Living the 8th Fire." I worked with the Edmonton Native Healing Centre to modify it, as a concentrated one-day event, and was able to pilot it this summer with a group of people from Bethel and Stony Plain. It was well received and I would be happy to discuss this option with you.

With the advantage of summer weather, I was also blessed to be able to be a part of Indigenous ministry happening outdoors in God's beautiful creation. NADC partnered with the Edmonton Native Healing Centre and Poundmaker's Lodge Treatment Centres to organize two walks of reconciliation. People representing many of our CRC churches and communities were able to join us and walk along side our Indigenous brothers and sisters as we continue to move towards healing and right relationships. More details on these stories were covered on the CRC's Network (<https://www.crcna.org/news-and->

views/edmonton-community-members-gather-walk-reconciliation) and the Banner (<https://www.thebanner.org/news/2018/08/talk-walks-and-steady-work-canadian-crcs-on-the-journey-toward-reconciliation>).

4. NADC Communication. I have been making regular posts on the NADC tab of the Classis Website. It is a place where I am able to add info about upcoming events, stories of things that have taken place in the ministries of deacons and reflections from learning, reading and experiencing our service together. Some of the ways we are working to supplement emails and newsletters, are to create consistent hubs of communication that can be easily followed, like our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/yournadc) and web tab (www.classisalbertanorth.ca/nadc). Posts relate to the CRCNA and CAN umbrellas, as well as highlights from 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.

5. Honduras Water Project. The 2018 team went back to the project in Varsovia for a third year, which meant doing a few different things like cement floors in homes, finishing pipes in the village and even building latrines, fun! They have really been able to cement some strong relationships and have been a shining example to the communities around them, who are now looking to them as local leaders. Praise God for how he moves among the people there and thank you to the churches for your continued support.

Submitted by:

Jesse Edgington
NADC Consultant

yournadc@gmail.com
780-819-7488

Home Missions Report

Tom Baird, Committee Chair

Our overarching goal as a Classis Home Missions Team is to empower our churches individually and corporately to fulfill the Great Commission. Our strategy for achieving this revolves around three things:

- Encouraging established churches
- Planting new churches
- And nurturing unity in prayer for the harvest among all of our churches

Encouraging established churches: Our vehicle for this has been the Church Renewal Lab (CRL), offered through Calvin Seminary and directed by Keith Doornbos. Six churches have completed the two year CRL process. Five more churches have embarked on a second CRL journey (CenterPoint, Covenant, Trinity, St. Albert and West End CRCs). By the time of our October Classis meeting these churches should have experienced the first CRL session. (Each session usually includes a two day retreat during which Keith meets with the pastors only, and then a Saturday event at which pastors are joined by the teams from their churches.) We are hopeful that these five churches will have the same stimulating and potentially church-transforming experience offered to the first six churches.

Planting New Churches: Bethel Community Church is shepherding the Fort Saskatchewan church planting process, and things have been moving along far faster than anyone ever imagined they would. Pastor Ryan Pedde of Bethel Church officially leaves Bethel to start fulltime church planting in January 2019; however Bethel Church is allowing Ryan to commit 50% of his time to the new plant already.

The church already has a name, “The Bridge”, and a core group of 8-10 families. At a recent gathering of the whole Fort Saskatchewan group, 49 children were in attendance! Part of the reason for the quick start is that the pastor and the core group are from the same church. Being together already, they could hardly be held back from getting right to the work they are so eager to do. Clearly however, it is the guidance and the presence of the Holy Spirit is the endeavor that is the major reason for the dynamism.

Bethel will take its offering for the church plant on October 21, with the aim of collecting a minimum of \$125,000. Please pray for the new church’s core group and the Bethel Church team working diligently to make the fundraising a success.

The next date for a Classis supported church plant is 2022. The Home Missions team is already in discussion with one of churches about being the sponsor for this new work. Stay tuned for more information.

United Prayer for the Harvest. Our team continues to encourage each church to have a prayer group that will remember both their church and the mission of classis in their prayers. We have been cheered by news of creative efforts among the churches toward cultivating an atmosphere of prayer in their churches (notably Bethel Lacombe CRC who sponsored a well-attended prayer conference; and Bethel CRC Edmonton who did one week of 24-7 prayer.) The HM Team continues to work with our prayer coordinator Rich DeLange to seek ways of nurturing this movement further.

Questions to ponder: Does your church take a yearly offering for church planting in Classis? Does your church have a prayer group actively praying for the Church’s mission? Anything is possible as we unitedly cry out to the Lord together and invest ourselves in partnering with Him in His mission.

Avenue Church Update

Aaron Au

To our partners in the gospel:

As Avenue Church prepares to celebrate four years of God's faithfulness in ministry this fall, we want to thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Anniversaries and birthdays are opportunities to reflect on the journey we've been on while looking forward to the adventures to come. Looking at this past year, we are thankful that God continues to draw new and diverse people into the ragtag family of faith that is Avenue Church. We're grateful for the many ways in which our house churches continue to provide space for community and discipleship as we grow together in faith, doing "life on life". We are thankful for the community partnerships that continue to grow with other neighbourhood churches as we pray and journey together for the sake of God's kingdom. This was evidenced on Canada Day when we hosted, along with four other local churches, a joint outdoor service and BBQ for the community. Pastorally, I've been excited to begin one-on-one discipling of current and future leaders of Avenue Church and look forward to the fruit that God will bring from this.

Even as we have all of this to be thankful for, God has made us aware of some new challenges we are facing. Perhaps the biggest one is that, at nearly four years old, we are not a "new" community anymore. Much of the excitement and good will that exists for a new work is slowly and naturally dissipating. Volunteers and launch team members, serving with incredible passion and capacity are starting to fatigue and are needing a season of rest. Sensing this, our leadership team has recognized the importance of clarifying the vision God has given us and ensuring that this vision is cast clearly and consistently in all areas of ministry. It also has recognized the importance of raising up new leaders and volunteers to carry on in the mission God has for us. We would greatly appreciate your prayers in this area of developing leadership, mission clarity and effectiveness.

As we look forward to the adventures God has in store for us, there are certain things that he is making clear. Perhaps the one we are feeling most strongly at the moment is a desire God has given us to return as a worshipping and serving community to 118 Avenue, the area God first gathered us in when he planted us at the Carrot Coffee House. The challenges and opportunities for this are many! We are currently in exploratory talks with the Edmonton Community Development Company to see if there is a partnership opportunity in the new ArtsCommon 118 project, a large arts hub that is planned for 118 Avenue and will hopefully be built in the next few years.*

At the same time, we are also discerning if God is asking us to secure our own space, transforming one of the many derelict buildings along 118 Avenue and inviting others into partnership there for the sake of God's kingdom and our community. All of this is taking a lot of time, energy, prayer, discernment (and of course when the time is right, resources!) so we certainly ask for and appreciate your prayers and wisdom in all of this as we continue seeking God's direction, leading and provision.

*More on the ArtsCommon 118 project and the ECDC can be found at: www.edmontoncdc.org

Healthy Church Task Force

Since the last Classis meeting in March the task force met four times, not including the Pastor Spouse conference that was held in April in Banff.

Our monthly agenda concerns healthy relationships among pastors and congregations and thus consists of a brief survey of the ministerial status of classis—pastors taking a call, churches without pastors, assigning mentors, counsellors, churches in transition etc. The annual pastor spouse conference is usually a prominent item requiring attention. We discuss and respond to congregational needs and situations that come to us through church visitor and regional pastor reports. A few years ago, when we formed the HCTF, classis linked church visitors with the task force. This has been a positive development. We also believe that new methods in church visiting such as church clusters are showing real potential.

Some highlights from recent meetings

- The Pastor-Spouse conference of April 21-22 was well received by the 25 registrants. The theme focused on polarity and conflict. “I am right, you’re wrong: when either-or thinking challenges our relationships and congregations.” It was a good time of relationship building, getting to know colleagues and their spouses. Learning, sharing, mutual encouragement, prayer and worship occurred. Thanks especially to the facilitators, Joanne Munro, Anita Veldhuisen Slomp, Peter VanderBeek, and Cecil VanNiejehuis. We are busy working on the next conference to be held on **April 26-29 2019 at Banff Park Lodge**. Save the date!
- Appointed Rev. Martin Mobach counselor to Maranatha CRC now that Rev. Peter Vanderbeek completed his work there. Rev. Nic Wolmarans has been asked to be counselor to Rimbey CRC.
- Anita Veldhuisen Slomp and Joanne Munro are two experienced mediators on our team. They are often called to help restore relationships and also facilitate difficult congregational meetings and conversations. If your congregation is dealing with a challenging situation do not hesitate to call us.
- We also have the names of psychologists that we can recommend. Please call us and we will provide them to you.
- Rev. Peter VanderBeek and Anita Veldhuisen Slomp (probably) will be attending the Colossian Forum Annual Conference in Holland Michigan in September 20-22. The theme of this conference is “Moving from Fear to Hope: Christian Practices for Polarized Times.”
- We look forward to welcoming back into our Classis Rev. Harry Zantingh from Own Sound as he has taken a call to First Red Deer.
- Presently a number of our pastoral families are experiencing health challenges. Please remember Eunae Ko and Bernice Ooms as they deal with cancer. Margaret Verboon had brain surgery to remove a growth; her prognosis is good. The deLange family has been “journeying” with daughter Rachel who was very sick in Thailand. Things are looking up as she is now in the US. Continue to pray for Christ’s family here in Classis Alberta North.

For the Healthy Church Task Force

Rev. John Pasma (chair, regional pastor),

Members:

Janet Paquette (lay member)

Rev Gary Bomhof (regional pastor)

Peter VanderBeek (regional pastor)

Joanne Munro (mediator)

Melle Pool (Church Visitor coordinator)

Anita Veldhuisen Slomp (mediator)

Student Support Team

The Student Fund Committee, at the request of classis, has evolved into the Student Support Team to better respond to the denominational office's various requirements for students seeking ordination. These responsibilities include meeting regularly with EPMC-enrolled students and students pursuing candidacy in the CRC, interviewing candidates seeking classical recommendations for candidacy, submitting references for EPMC students, and communicating with classis on behalf of our students.

Our team also continues with the work of our previous mandate – providing forgivable loans to students pursuing graduate studies with the eventual aim of full-time ministry, ordained or non-ordained, in the CRC.

We supported three students seeking candidacy this year: Derrick Lee, Christopher Lee, and Jason Dahlman. Additionally, we supported the students the following students financially through our Student Fund support. The amounts loaned to each student are based on the number of credits in which they are enrolled.

Kristie Bootsma – Bethel Edm.	Calvin Theological Seminary	9,400
Hilary Smith – Trinity Edm.	Calvin Theological Seminary	6,250
David Schermers – Woodynook	Regent College	2,750
Melanie Reynders – Bethel Edm.	Fuller Theological Seminary	5,850
Cathy Ferchau – Bethel Edm.	Taylor College & Seminary	3,900
Wendy Werkman – Bethel Edm.	Taylor College & Seminary	2,925
Jeremiah Basuric – mosaichouse	Taylor Seminary/Sioux Falls Seminary (joint program)	2,925

Submitted by Rev. Jonathan Nicolai-deKoning, Committee Chair

Committee Members: Rev. Dayna Vreeken (Pastor – WoodyNook CRC); Rev. Jeremy Vandermeer (Pastor – CentrePointe CRC); Mike Vos (Classis Treasurer); Rev. Jonathan Nicolai-deKoning (Program Director – The Micah Centre)

Cuba Connection Committee

Mandate: *Opening doors, Bridging cultures*

- To nurture a partnership between la Iglesia Cristiana Reformada en Cuba and Classis Alberta North of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
- To provide some material and financial support where appropriate
- Begun at the request of the Cuban church when they were even more isolated

History of committee relationship with Cuban CRC:

- Regular communication since the early 1990s – now by email
- Many visits– most recent March 2016; Cuban visits here – Nov. 2011 & Nov. 2015
- Financial sponsorship for pastors in Cuba---they get only \$15 per month salary
- Several large containers of a variety of goods from bicycles to computers
- \$20,000 in our Classis in 2000 to buy a van---still in use today.
- \$25,000+ raised in 2014-15 to rebuild a pastor's home and diaconal ministry centre
- Container of a great variety of goods shipped again in 2016
- More visits planned – ongoing communication, prayer & encouragement

Summer 2018 Update

Thanks to your faithful support, extra gifts and God's continued blessing, here's what the Cuba Connection Committee has been able to accomplish in the past year:

1. *April 2018 visit to Cuba:* Committee member and former chairman Dan VanKeeken was able to spend almost a week visiting a number of Cuban Christian Reformed Churches this past April, joining a team of four from La Grave CRC in Grand Rapids, which has been supporting the Cuban church since well before the revolution of 1959. The highlight for Dan was spending the weekend in the small town of Torriente with Pastor Antonio and his family and joining them for worship on Sunday morning: 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., which includes a preaching service and a teaching service, with a coffee break in between. (*Pastor Antonio has visited Edmonton twice, in 2011 and 2015.*) The international visit team met with pastors and their wives, plus deacons and elders from at least six churches and missions from central Cuba and deep into the eastern part of the country, including the historic cities of Cienfuegos and Trinidad, both UNESCO world heritage sites. The team heard their amazing stories of diaconal work---daily seniors feeding programs and drop-in centres most especially---evangelism and church planting, encouraging their ministry through increasingly tough times in the communist country, and praying with them. Food is getting increasingly expensive, government rules for Christian churches continue to be restrictive and although almost all Christian denominations are present in Cuba, and several million citizens are Christians, they are still the minority, neglected, overlooked or even mocked for their faith. They covet our prayers and it is important to them that we don't forget about them, visit and encourage them.
2. *Alacranes parsonage project:* This project to replace a second pastor's home that is literally falling apart has now begun, thanks to some leftover funding from the first project, combined with gifts from some CRC churches in the U.S., which replaced a pastor's home in the small town of Torriente, south of Varadero in the Cuban countryside. Thanks to the generosity of the churches of our Classis, more than \$25,000 was raised a few years ago (over and above our usual modest \$5,000 annual budget) to replace a dangerous, dilapidated pastor's home and diaconal ministry centre feeding dozens of seniors twice a day, five days a week, now operating fully. Expect to hear more from our committee as we raise money to complete this second badly needed home and ministry centre.

3. *Mutual visits*: As you may recall, Pastor Juan from the Christian Reformed Church in Cuba visited us this past spring and spoke at Classis, as well as visiting a number of churches, organizations and events. We hope to invite a few more Cuban pastors this fall, but it is often hard or impossible to get approval from the Canadian government for their visits. We also send teams to Cuba most years to keep our relationship strong and to encourage them.

Background on the Cuban Christian Reformed Church

- 14 Christian Reformed Church congregations in west-central Cuba; 9 or more house churches
- Established in the 1950s before the Revolution
- Relationship with Classis Alberta North since the early 1990s
- Major programs by every church to feed seniors *twice a day, five times a week*
- Lacking in most resources: clothes, bicycles, parts, over-the-counter medication, food, etc.
- Tourist areas not a real indication of daily life: utter dependence on outside help in a country where Christians are marginalized, salaries are bizarrely low & everything is owned and run by government---except the church, which is completely on its own - by gov't permission.

The Cuba Connection Committee: John Strikwerda, Trinity CRC (Chair)

Ron Prins, Woodynook CRC

Dan VanKeeken, Bethel CRC

Rick Abma, Lacombe Neighbourhood Life

Rev. Jim Dekker, CRWM, founder & consultant

Chris Toornstra, Maranatha CRC

& occasional translator for the committee

BACKGROUND TO CUBA

Key issues for Cuba include an aging population, no incoming immigration and a net outflow of the most productive members of society as the island nation continues to languish economically. There is an almost uniform level of poverty with most owning little, using and reusing beat-up bicycles and the few mostly ancient vehicles they do own, a lot of horse carts and not a lot of personal possessions. Beans and rice are staples. Luxuries are rare. Homes are plain “concrete bunkers” or tumble-down wooden structures with a lot of cracks and holes held together with wire, or bleak Soviet-era apartments. Over-the-counter medication is rare and expensive.

Outside of main highways, infrastructure is crumbling and power outages are common. The \$18 per month salary doesn't go far, and the food ration cards run out at the middle of the month. Everyone does something “on the side” to make ends meet. As Cubans like to joke, “Welcome to socialism.” They continue to be a largely warm and friendly people, inured to their economic condition, resourceful, well educated, literate, articulate and enjoying musical and visual arts, which are government supported. But their churches lack for simple things like soccer balls for youth programs, new instruments for worship teams---even simple guitar strings are rare and expensive. There is no government support whatever for churches, pastors or church programs, though many aspects of church life we take for granted are strictly government controlled, like real estate or even renting a building for a house church, or any construction projects. Visitors to the Cuban CRC even require religious visas if they are engaged in meetings or will speak at churches (not if simply attending a church service however).

Nothing much has come out of the warming relations with Cuba begun by former U.S. President Obama, who even visited the country. The new American government is in fact rolling back or stalling any further changes in its dealings with Cuba and their embassy is empty. Canadians are still deeply appreciated and welcomed everywhere as our nation was one of the handful to never abandon Cuba and our mining interests and tourist dollars provide a primary source of income. Almost one million Canadians visit Cuba every year, one of the largest cohorts to do so. It is more difficult for Americans to get permission to do so, but some come through other countries or with special permits for religious visits.

World Renew

Submitted by Peter Bulthuis, Associate Director of Church Relations

In Christ's parable of the sheep and the goats in Matt. 25, "the righteous (will) answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" (vs. 37 – 40). Thank you, Classis Alberta North, for your loving church donations of a total of \$296,447.89 from January 1, 2018 to July 1, 2018, partnering with World Renew in helping to feed, to clothe, to look after, to visit, to lift up and to support.

A. General Update

The Jeremy Benjamin cross-country I AM NOT MY OWN tour! Check out his website: iamnotmyown.org. Jeremy and his family have been travelling from Charlottetown to Victoria/Nanaimo from June 3 – end of October (bypassing southern Ontario, where he will hold his tour during the winter-time). The [blog](#) that Lara is writing is just amazing! The tour will culminate in May of 2019 at the CRC National Gathering, where he will be the worship leader, playing the I Am Not My Own audience/congregation-sung tracks which he will have gathered during his tour and lumped onto each other to create a virtual choir of over 10,000 voices! World Renew is supporting this worship and fund-raising tour with logistical and other forms of assistance. Among other things, Jeremy is raising funds and awareness for the work of World Renew and CFGB in Nigeria, in the areas of food security, peace building and justice, trauma healing, and development.

B. Upcoming Offering Dates

Here are World Renew's upcoming offering dates for the rest of 2018, as approved by Synod.

Thanksgiving, Oct. 8: Designated for the Free A Family® program, in which the donations help assist communities and families to break free from poverty and to live a life of renewed hope in Christ.

Sunday, Nov. 4: World Renew is inspired by the knowledge that Jesus, the Life of the world who grants abundant life to all who believe in Him, sustains His creation and is making everything new. For that reason, the theme for this year's World Hunger Campaign is UZIMA, the Swahili word for life that captures the essence of life as Jesus intended it to be.

Christmas Day, Dec. 25: Disaster response, development and peace-building and justice are the hallmarks of the core activities through which World Renew partners with communities worldwide. Your church's offering on this Christmas Day will help 1000s of people experience the love, mercy and grace of Christ.

C. Community Development: Stories of Transformation

There are many(!) stories of transformation in which World renew plays a part. This is one of them from Honduras. (Please, see the website for more stories: www.worldrenew.net/stories.)

When you think of a hardworking farmer, you may not think of a stay-at-home mother with seven children, but Pilar Martinez from Cañada Galana, Honduras, is both. She has her own plot of land that she works with the help of her husband to provide enough food for their five daughters and two sons. Though she works hard with great motivation, she has had her share of struggles in the past.

For farmers, grain storage is essential, but Pilar did not have an efficient way to store her seeds and grains. They often got wet and rotted, or were invaded by insects and mice. The seeds she planted, which were of low quality and had to be purchased every season, resulted in

poor yields. And, although she knew a lot about farming, she had no knowledge of sustainable farming practices.

When Pilar heard about the work that World Renew and its partner organization, Diaconía Nacional, was doing in her community, she decided to join in and has not looked back. “Since the beginning of the program, many blessings have come to my life,” she says. She now has a grain storage silo and is able to enjoy all of her harvest, instead of sharing it with bugs and rodents or losing it to mold and rot. She has access to high-quality seeds that produce a better yield. And, best of all, Pilar now has training in proper use of the silo; selection, classification, and harvesting of seed; and sustainable practices like using mulch as ground cover and kitchen food waste for organic compost.



With all of these improvements, Pilar has seen more success as a farmer. The silo allows her to store seeds and grains for a longer time. Now that she knows how to harvest seeds from what she produces each season, she no longer has to spend money on seeds annually. Her crops are benefiting from the new sustainable methods of farming that she applies and she is enjoying higher yields.

Pilar also recognizes changes in her own confidence and abilities. “In many cases,” she says “I have been able to face different situations head on because I now have much more knowledge.”

D. Disaster Response

Update International: Bangladesh (Rohingya): As you may know, we met the goal of \$100,000 for the *One Day's Wages* campaign to build community kitchens for Rohingya refugees. This is incredibly helpful as it allows our response to Rohingya refugees to continue. We're in the process of strategic planning for how best to move forward with future projects. August 25 marked the 1-year of the break out of violence against the Rohingya people by the Myanmar government. While we don't have any big updates planned, World Renew appreciates all that you as churches and individuals have done to help share about this enormous need over the last year.

Uganda (Latrines): The campaign for building latrines for South Sudanese refugees in Uganda is still ongoing, and we're excited at how things have been going so far. As of right now, we're at about \$65,000. Our goal was \$100,000 - so we're excited to see how close we'll get.

Syrian Civil War: We continue to provide food assistance every month to Syrian families in both Syria and Lebanon affected by the war. Since the Syrian war began (2012), we have received \$3.0 million in donations, which has been leveraged and matched to total \$16.3 million in support to over 204,000 people!

International Disaster Response is necessarily fluid. For updates, see www.worldrenew.net/idr.

Update Domestic: Canada:

In British Columbia, World Renew (DRS) is:

- Partnering with Mennonite Disaster Services, World Renew DRS volunteers are in William's Lake repairing homes damaged by 2017 wildfires.
- Providing financial support to build new homes for three families who lost their homes to 2017 wildfires.
- Monitoring the wildfires currently burning across BC.

In Ontario, World Renew (DRS) is monitoring the wildfires in Northern Ontario.

Update Domestic: United States:

In California, World Renew (DRS) is currently involved in these ways:

- Wildfires are burning throughout the state, covering over 230,000 acres. World Renew DRS has been on daily conference calls to monitor the situation.
- A needs assessment will take place in Santa Rosa/Sonoma County in September in response to past wildfires.
- There is a one week group in Lake County this month helping with some home repairs from past wildfires and caring for evacuees of the current wildfires.

...and working in 14 states and Puerto Rico with monitoring, needs assessments, rebuilding. Disaster Response is necessarily fluid. For updates, see www.worldrenew.net/disaster-response-services.

E. Refugee Settlement Activities, January 1/18 to August 20/18 in your Classis:

Applications Submitted – 1 application (2 refugees) submitted by 1 church

Newcomer Arrivals – 6 Applications / 19 refugees welcomed by 3 churches

Applications in Process, Submitted before Jan. 1 / 18 – 13 applications (23 refugees) in process for three churches

Totals for Canada:

Applications Submitted – 30 applications (84 refugees) submitted by 18 churches.

Newcomer Arrivals – 25 applications / 71 refugees welcomed by 14 churches.

Applications in Process submitted before Jan. 1/18 – 43 applications (98 refugees) for 21 churches.

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

There are so many ways in which you can participate, to which the King can reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

- Learn about the **Global Engagement Opportunities** program and see how your church can become involved at <https://www.worldrenew.net/global-engagement-opportunities-churches>
- Check with your church or group, to see if a World Renew workshop/speaker would fit into your/their plans: <https://worldrenew.net/speakers-and-workshops>.
- Increase your church's involvement in justice and advocacy: <https://www.worldrenew.net/advocacy>.
- Tell your network about World Renew; suggest that they sign up for the newsletter: <https://www.worldrenew.net/enews>.

Contact Peter Bulthuis (pbulthuis@worldrenew.net; 800-730-3490, ext. 4237), or Chris Orme (corme@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

Diaconal Ministries Canada

Dear partners of Diaconal Ministries Canada,

Warmest greetings to you, your church and your Classis!

As you likely know, I have been the National Director of Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) for two years now – and it really has been a pleasure to serve the church in this way. During those two years, however, I have noticed that there is some confusion regarding how DMC is funded and how our annual “Ministry Shares Invoices” came to be, so I have decided to dedicate this report to answering those questions.

First, it's important to point out that Diaconal Ministry Shares (formerly “Dues”) are not the same as *Denominational* or *Classical* Ministry Shares. In a nutshell, Diaconal Ministry Shares are part of the agreement that **Canadian** Deacons made with each other in the 1960s and recommitted themselves to in 2001 when representatives from every CRC Classis (and/or Diaconal Conference) in Canada met and approved the organization of DMC. Each year the DMC Board, made up of representatives from every Canadian Classis, reviews and approves the amount – and each year these amounts, along with audited financial statements, are presented at DMC's Annual General Meeting. (As an important side note, this year's AGM will take place on September 28 @ 7:30pm EST in the CRCNA Burlington office – and, for the first time, Deacons will also be able to participate via Facebook live. Stay tuned for more information!)

Still not sure what we're talking about? Here's a bit more history:

Believe it or not, all of this goes back to the 1950s. That's right – we've dug through our archives and discovered that the first “Diaconal Conferences” were formed and hosted meetings (organized *by* deacons *for* deacons) in the late 1950's. From the Maritimes to British Columbia, deacons formed “conferences” and met to share experiences and resources, develop workshops and training events, and find ways to assist each other and their congregations. These meetings were so popular that at one point there were as many as 10 different CRC Diaconal organizations (called Conferences) across Canada. **And our records show that in each region these Conferences were funded via a “Ministry Share” style of dues collection.** That is, already back then, Canadian Deacons covenanted together to pay a ‘per professing member’ amount to support their Conferences.

Over time, and with the help of the Canadian arm of the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC, now known as World Renew), the number of Diaconal Conferences expanded and contracted as the various local organizations merged and/or folded. Then one day, in 1998, at a Classis Renewal Gathering in Chicago, Canadian folks representing the various Diaconal Conferences, along with representatives from Home Missions (now Resonate Global Mission) and CRWRC, met over lunch and began dreaming about pooling their Diaconal experiences, resources and training materials nationally. They dreamed about forming a Diaconal “umbrella” organization which would oversee the training of deacons right across Canada. Soon the napkins on that table (the only paper they had available) were filled with circles, triangles and arrows pointing from east to west and west to east. Leaders' names were written in the various provinces and before long, a committee was formed with hope that one day their dreaming would evolve into reality.

It was an exciting time and, after a few more years of discussions (and maybe some more napkin drawings), all of the individual conferences (except one in Northern Alberta) were merged and in 2001, Diaconal Ministries Canada was formally constituted. DMC soon hired a National Director as well as other staff, and began organizing training materials, a robust

website and timely regional events. At the same time, ***the funding model which had served each regional conference so well for so many years was approved to be adopted by the national organization.*** So, in reality, this model has now been in place since the 1960s.

Over the years, this way of funding has proven to be a very stewardly and cost-effective way to ensure that DMC is able to fulfill its mission. Through these ministry shares (aka “dues”), DMC has been able to do the following:

- Hire a National Director and 2 full-time regional leaders, along with 17 part-time Diaconal Ministry Developers (DMDs) whose job it is to *Inspire, Empower and Equip Deacons as they animate congregations to join in God’s transforming work in the communities across Canada*;
- Make personal contact with approximately 90% of diaconates every year;
- Develop new materials as requested, including devotions for deacons’ meetings;
- Develop and maintain a robust website with resources available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The website includes information in the areas of *Community Engagement and Development* (including Community Opportunity Scans and Operation Manna Coaching and Grants), *Stewardship, Justice and Mercy*;
- Provide a monthly blog/e-newsletter called “e-Quip”;
- Maintain a “just in time” learning presence on Social Media;
- Provide regional training in specialized areas as requested (including “Helping Without Harming” workshops);
- Provide oversight, advice and trainers for regional Days of Encouragement;
- Respond to every request it receives for information, encouragement and training.

I hope the above information has helped you understand how DMC is funded and how it manages to maintain its robust agenda. All in all, Diaconal Ministry Shares is a remarkably efficient system, with low overhead costs. It enables every CRC member in Canada to stretch their dollars further, and be involved in a variety of diaconal ministries more effectively and efficiently than any of us could do on our own. So, thank you! Thank you for partnering with us in fulfilling the vision which God has given us to inspire, equip and encourage Deacons (both ordained and non-ordained), churches and their partners across Canada as **together** we join in God’s transforming work. Thank you for your time, your prayers, and your financial support – we could not do this without you.

For more information, please call us at the Burlington office (1-800-730-3490 ext. 4304) or contact one of the board members listed below. You can also visit our website www.diaconalministriescanada.com to become familiar with the vast array of resources available. Thanks again, and may God continue to bless and guide us all, as we carry out the ministries He calls us to.

DMC’s Executive for 2017-18:

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:

ron vanden brink
National Director, Diaconal Ministries Canada

The King's University

God has continued to bless the work being done at The King's University as we carry out the mission and pursue the vision set by a community which deeply values Christian education and the important role it plays in our world.

As King's wrapped up the fiscal year this past March, we celebrated the incredible impact our donors made for our community. Between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018, King's received over four million in charitable gifts! This is an increase of \$665,000 from donations in the 2016/17 fiscal year—a testament during tough economic times of our donors' generous commitment to King's. This is only the second time in King's history that charitable giving has exceeded four million. Nearly 1,000 donors, 70 churches, and 34 foundations and organizations contributed to this total. Over the past year, these gifts supported student scholarships and bursaries, program development, research growth, university operations, and facility and equipment upgrades. Thanks be to God for providing for our university and the students we serve!

The Government of Canada announced in March that it is allocating a federally-funded Tier 1 Research Chair to King's. The investment brings an additional \$1.4 million from the federal government for research. The goal behind establishing the chairs is to elevate Canadian universities and showcase Canada as a leading country for research and development investment. This is King's second Canada Research Chair allocation. "That King's has been awarded a Canada Research Chair not once, but twice, is an incredible accomplishment," comments VP Academic, Dr. Hank Bestman. "This speaks not only to our professors' dedication to their fields but also to the quality of education and research being done at King's."

Dr. Arlette Zinck, Associate Professor of English Literature and Dean of Arts, was selected to receive the 3M National Teaching Fellowship for 2018. The 3M award, recognizes Canadian teachers who show exemplary education leadership and teaching in universities and colleges and is Canada's most esteemed post-secondary teaching award. Each year, the fellowships are given to no more than 10 professors. Zinck's fellowship comes just a decade after King's first 3M Fellowship was awarded in 2008 to Professor of Chemistry Dr. Peter Mahaffy. This national recognition places King's in an elite group of post-secondary institutions with an exceptional ratio of 3M teachers among its 50 faculty members.

New courses at The King's University are opening pathways into kinesiology-related studies. Kinesiology, the study of human movement applied to living a healthy lifestyle, is an area of increasing interest to students as society tries to better understand the impact of physical health on overall wellness. King's has added several courses to build direct learning streams within existing programs for students. There are two kinesiology paths students can start beginning this fall of 2018.

This past spring, students from King's came out on top in a business competition featuring teams from as far away as Scotland and as close to home as the University of Alberta. While many of the students competing in the Alberta Not-for-Profit Association External Case Competition had not heard of The King's University, they came to know the name well when Leder School of Business students took home first place with their case proposal. This international competition, hosted at the University of Alberta, saw 12 teams facing off to present their best business case for a not-for-profit organization, the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

King's students also took first place at the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers conference in early March that hosted 40 other competitors from across Canada and the United States. This latest win marks four years out of the last six where King's students have won the undergraduate poster competition. Dr. Harry Spaling, Professor of Geography and

Environmental Studies, noted, “We are now the annual challenge!” A total of 13 King’s Environmental Studies students, as well as a King’s alumna, presented posters and papers at the conference.

The King’s University was created by a community of believers with a commitment to providing Christian 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. With our donors’ partnership, God is blessing this vision and helping it to grow and thrive. Thank you to the Christian Reformed Church and the individual churches in Classis Alberta North, for your faithful partnership in prayer and generous financial support.

Melanie Humphreys, PhD
President

The Climate Witness Project

Background to the Workshop on Friday Evening.

Creation Care and Climate Change – Do these two titles belong together?

Often when the term “Climate Change” is used in our North American culture, the ensuing response results in copious debates about whether it is real or “fake”. Furthermore, this debate has often entered the political spectrum in which voters can often choose candidates who represent this disparity.

The Climate Witness Project (CWP) was born out of desire of many in the Christian Reformed Church of North America through the [Office of Social Justice](#) and [World Renew](#) to walk with congregations as they learn about the realities of climate change, as they seek to be better stewards of the resources they have been given, and as they find their voice to speak to their public officials about common sense climate policy – a climate policy that will benefit the earth, people around the world who are poor and vulnerable, and future generations. So far, nearly 700 partners from 99 congregations in the U.S. and Canada have come together to learn, act, and advocate for a safer and more just world.

During this session, participants will be able to learn more about the initiatives of CWP and discover how their congregations can become more involved.

The Ministry to Seafarers

- Rev. Gary Roosma has now been in the role of Vancouver port chaplain for just over a year and is settling in well. The committee has agreed to extend his contract for one additional year. Gary divides his time between the downtown centre and Roberts Bank, though has been generally spending about 4 days each week downtown and 1 day at RB – this seems to be working best for the time being. He has also been doing a fair bit of preaching in churches from both Classes in British Columbia.
- We hired an intern for the summer of 2018 – Ms. Megan Apperloo, from Abbotsford. She has proved to be very effective with visits and helping out at the centres generally. With summer holidays and various conferences and events, her presence has also been a big help in keeping the work of ship visiting and management of the centers running smoothly. We are very thankful for the support of NAMMA (North American Maritime Ministry Association) in providing much of the funding for this position through a grant.
- The committee has prepared a 5-year Strategic Plan that is now under review by the two BC Classis Interim Committees. We do see the need for an ongoing presence here in the Port of Vancouver. In some ways the scene at the Port is constantly changing. Yet the presence of seafarers is still a constant, and thus the need for and importance of this ministry remains.
- The Ministry to Seafarers Committee recognizes that funding for this ministry through the BC Classes will very likely be reduced in coming years. We have been having frank conversations about this reality. In all likelihood, if the funding situation does change, we will soon be alerting churches and individuals to this shift. We would obviously become much more dependent on donations from the CRC community, rather than ministry shares. Our prayer is that we will see God’s ongoing provision for the ministry through these other means. If anyone has other helpful suggestion, we are happy to receive them.
- Ship visiting continues to be the core and central part of this work, and we do try to visit as many of the ships that pass through this port as possible. Our focus is primarily on the south shore of the Burrard Inlet and Roberts Bank. *Lighthouse Harbour Ministries* has centres on the north shore and by the Fraser/Surrey docks. We do collaborate and have some cross-over depending on our connections with ships – e.g., recently Gary visited a ship at Neptune Terminal on the north shore, as they were a mainly Indonesian crew
- The literature ministry also remains a strong component of what we do. Scripture distribution is a key part of this, along with devotionals (e.g., *Today for Seafarers*), *Jesus* videos in many languages, maps, calendars, etc.
- We continue to partner with the Anglican “Mission to Seafarers” as well as the Roman Catholic “Apostleship of the Sea.” We also continue to support the ministry in Port Alberni.

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Hamstra, Chair
Ministry to Seafarers Committee
401 East Waterfront Rd., Vancouver,
British Columbia, Canada, V6A 4G9
Phone: 604- 253—4421
Email: crcvanportchaplain@gmail.com

LETTER FROM HOPE CRC – STONY PLAIN

Dear Classis Alberta North,

This letter is to inform classis of Hope Church's present situation. Some of you may already have heard that Hope is going through a difficult time. We are presently in the process of seeking God's direction for our future. Over the past 2 years we have journeyed through the Church Renewal Lab training and have been blessed by it, however it may be that this journey of renewal may not have been enough to ensure Hope Church's future existence.

By the time of the meeting of Classis Alberta North in October, Hope will have gone through a series of council and congregational meetings where we have been, and are still seeking God's guidance for us. We believe that Hope's future has come down to 2 options:

1. Engaging deeply in the church renewal vision that has been developed through conversations with the congregation, the church renewal team and council.
2. Closing our doors well and graciously, celebrating God's faithfulness to Hope Church for over 100 years in the Parkland County area and then using her resources to continue to bless this area through a possible church plant through Home Missions and gifts to local ministries and organizations that are bringing God's shalom in our area.

Our preferred option is number 1, however we are also facing the reality that our financial situation is not strong, and our church consists of a mostly senior (very senior) demographic on fixed incomes and may not be able to carry out and sustain the hard work that option 1 asks for.

Council has gone as far as encouraging Pastor Jacob to update his minister's profile and to begin engaging in conversations with vacant churches. Hope council cares deeply about their pastor and his family and do not wish to see them without financial support.

We ask for your prayers and we may need to approach Classis for advice, guidance and people resources to help us through this time, wherever God is leading us,

Thank you,

Hope Church council

MATERIALS RELATED TO ORDINATION

Jeremiah Basuric: Application for Ordination, Letters of Call and Acceptance

Application to Pursue Ordination as a Commissioned Pastor in the CRC Under the Provisions of Article 23

Personal

Name: Basuric, Jeremiah Damir

Address: 106-10530 56 Ave NW, Edmonton, Alberta T6H0X7

Phone Number: 780-919-0414 Email: jeremiah@mosaichouse.ca

Education * see separate Curriculum Vitae document

Employment (List two most recent employment experiences)

Employer: mosaicHouse Church

Position: Campus Pastor

Dates: 2017-Present

Employer: The Mustard Seed

Position: Community Engagement Coordinator

Dates: 2013-present

Autobiography.

I was born April 18th, 1991 at the Grey Nuns hospital in Edmonton, AB. It was an act of grace. My father's wild living made it doubtful that my parents were able to have kids. Also, mother had been cursed as a child in the Philippines. A demonic force thought they had a right to me, but God prevailed. My parents lived in the inner city and then moved to a small acreage. There I grew up as a country boy taking care of our zoo of odd and unusual livestock. When my parents separated we moved to a small town.

After an attempt to follow my dad's footsteps of wild living, God stepped in and changed my life. I became very involved with my church and youth group, started a Christian band with some friends, and kept myself very busy playing sports (mainly soccer and basketball), volunteering at the local library, and as student council president. By the grace of God I graduated Valedictorian of my high school. During school I also worked multiple part time jobs including in the oil field, customer service, and as a health care aid for the elderly. I also worked at the Bible Camp of my youth as a cabin leader and then speaker.

After high school, I was accepted into King's University and was given substantial financial aid since I came from a low-income family. I enjoyed my studies, especially Theology, as well as being on the soccer team. I also became leader of the Prison Ministry team at King's university in which we went twice a week to Edmonton Young Offenders Centre. I also was very active in my church, leading several bible studies. During the school year I also worked as a Ministry Coordinator, ministering to students who lived in residence; and I was privileged to work and live with two First Nation communities, the Mikisew Cree and Alexander First Nation. By the grace of God, I was also Valedictorian of my university class.

These experiences all led me to an internship and later full-time employment with The Mustard Seed, serving and being served by Edmontonians living in poverty and homelessness. This is where I presently work now. In line with this ministry, I am also on the Board of the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness. My small town roots have also encouraged me to be intentionally present in my neighborhood by hosting events and being on the Board for the Community League Social Committee, doing youth events for neighborhood kids. I married shortly after university graduation to a wonderful woman who shared a love for Jesus and a passion for the disenfranchised. She is now a nurse working in the psychiatric emergency at the hospital closest to the inner city. After I was married, the Lord led us to mosaicHouse because of its multi-cultural nature. Through mentorship, training, and God's abounding grace, I eventually became Campus Pastor of its newest church plant.

My passion for music is still kindled by serving in worship at church, playing at festivals and through song writing. I also play soccer often and hope to use these passions to bridge the divide between rich and poor in our society, to the glory of God. I pray my whole life may be pleasing to God and bring glory and praise to his name. By His grace, I am because He is.

Personal Statement of Faith

“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” Philippians 1:21

I first came to Jesus because I feared death. I grew up in a newcomer family of two different cultures, who shared the commonality of being ex-Catholic. After my father was “saved” in prison, he evangelized my mother and they married. It was my Nanay originally from the Philippines who told me about death and hell apart from Jesus. And with tears and great horror, I asked God to take me up in the rapture so I would not have to face death. And then, oddly, my fear of death turned into a longing for it. My parents did not have a happy marriage. We moved from the inner city of Edmonton to a small acreage so that my father could plant his own little Croatia. In the midst of the screaming, the beatings, and my failed attempts to be a good son, I wanted to die – or at least escape. God became my escape: someone I could talk to, like a loving Father I could only wish for. Eventually, my mother had had enough and moved us out. We moved to a small town. There my longing for death was replaced by depression, caused by an identity crisis. I knew what it meant to be a Christian, but I could not do it. I served the church we went to on Sunday but then added another escape route: partying.

My friends accepted me. I was enough for them. I remember reading the Lord's Prayer on Friday night right before I would go out to get hammered. And then, in the midst of a drunken stupor when I was 15 years old, the Lord reminded me about death. He electrocuted me with the same fear I had when I first came to him. He gave me two options: life or death. I chose life, because of death, and I distanced myself from my friends. I was new and was baptized that same year. I became the model evangelical from my father's tradition: I memorized scripture, attended as many Bible studies as possible, and awkwardly told others they were sinners. In a word, I was militant for Jesus. My mission was to tell others about Jesus until I die, which I hoped was sooner than later. Although a bit misplaced, I treasure that season.

When I went to the King's University, I found two important additions to my faith: community, which included my wife; and new longing to live in Christ. Prior, I thought all I needed was in Jesus against the world. Community showed me how to love (truly love, even when your Christian friends don't act Christian) and forgive. I learned to embrace weakness and use my gifts for the entire body of believers. But still my studies and my faith led me to emphasize, “to die is gain”. I had left an individualistic faith for one entrenched in the Kingdom of God for all peoples. I had

planned that my life would mimic Christ's. I would become 'a least of these' in order to be first. In particular, my plan was to become homeless and die for the sake of Christ. And then God placed my wife into my life, who had other plans. Through her, friends and mentors, and my studies, God drew me to accentuate "to live is Christ" more and more.

My passion for the least of these drew me to The Mustard Seed where my faith is still growing. My heart is there, but recently it also was led to become the Pastor of a new church plant, mosaicHouse East. There I developed new gifts, especially of teaching and preaching. It seems more and more my life is balancing the two parts of Paul's mantra. It is my hope that the church can embody the Kingdom of God, a kingdom that transcends and celebrates race and socio-economic status. I believe my calling is to plant a church that creates space, to value and celebrate all people from all types of economic and social background in addition to ethnic diversity. Becoming a commissioned pastor will grant me the skills to grow in ministry and move towards this calling, God helping me.

Ministry Experience

1. What gifts/strengths do you have for the ministry?

I have been blessed with the gifts of preaching and teaching, the give of service and hospitality, and the gift of encouragement.

2. How have these gifts already begun to bear fruit for Christ and his Church?

I have been amazed to see what God has been doing through my Sunday messages. In the past 2 years, two individuals who have come to Jesus and been baptized at mosaicHouse specifically mentioned a moment in my sermons when God was present to them. I praise God for that. Also, many people with struggles have opened up to me because of my gift of serving and encouragement. I have been able to journey with them and partner with our Staff to lead them towards the fullness of healing found in Jesus Christ.

3. What do you believe are the most important tasks a pastor performs?

Especially for the new generation, I really believe that the most important part of a Pastor's ministry is his or her example. When you live a life fully and authentically in Christ, all the duties you perform hold a new power especially for those who are skeptical. A sermon, for example, becomes more real and convincing when it is backed up by a life that is so connected to Jesus in word and deed.

4. In what areas of church life and ministry have you been involved?

Currently as Campus Pastor, I preach almost every Sunday. I administer the sacraments as an elder, and hold my co-workers to account. I lead the Sunday service and manage a team of servant-leaders at our East location to ensure our church is energized by the Spirit of God, and good order. For our congregation, I am active in Pastoral care either in our houseChurches or one-on-one meetings. I am doing a premarital course with a couple and am involved with our inner-healing ministry. I am also active in Outreach and Evangelism activities such as King's University events and our Community Soccer program.

References: Provided

Jeremiah Basuric: Letters of Call and Acceptance

mosaicHouse Church Office
47 Meadowview Drive
Sherwood Park, AB T8H 1G7

Jeremiah Basuric
6805 112 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T6H 0X7

Dear Mr. Basuric,

As the chair of the mosaicHouse Christian Reformed Church council, it is my pleasure to offer you a part-time position as a teaching pastor. We believe you are the one the Lord has called to cultivate a culture of searching for the lost sheep, equip the congregation to be a praying Church, provide counseling to those in need, and build up the congregation by both leading and preaching in worship services. We also want to thank and commend you for using your spiritual gifts in the Body of Christ at mosaicHouse Church already.

To express our gratitude and compensate you for your teaching ministry, mosaicHouse Church agrees to pay you (.....) We are most grateful that you will provide other forms of ministry as voluntary service unto the church as you are available. We also believe that these valuable experiences will equip and prepare you for God's future ministry in and through you.

We look forward to a challenging and rewarding year of serving the body of Christ together!

Yours sincerely,

Herman Borkent, Chairman
mosaicHouse Church Council

Jeremiah Damir Basuric
106-10530 56 Ave
Edmonton, AB
T6H 0X7

MosaicHouse Christian Reformed Church
6811 92A Ave
Edmonton. AB.

June 21st, 2018

Dear Elders of mosaicHouse Church,

Thank you for encouraging me to receive the call to become a Commissioned Pastor. I gladly accept and will do whatever the process entails God helping me. I believe that this opportunity will increase my scope and effectiveness in my current ministry at mosaicHouse Church and draw me closer to the knowledge of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. I look forward to serving the body of Christ together with all of you and to seeing the ways that the LORD will continue to lead and guide us.

In the Service of Christ,

Jeremiah Damir Basuric

SUMMARY OF SYNOD 2018 DECISIONS FOR CLASSES

1. Addressing patterns of abuse; implementing safe church policies

Synod spent a significant amount of time addressing growing concerns about patterns of abuse in our society and particularly in our churches. Synod 2018 reaffirmed the action Synod 2010 took in response to the Abuse Victims Task Force Report (*Agenda for Synod 2010*, pp. 475-509; *Acts of Synod 2010*, pp. 862-66) and instructed the executive director to continue allocating resources to provide support for pastoral care and healing. (See *Acts of Synod 2018*, p. 474.)

The following five goals approved by Synod 2014 (*Agenda for Synod 2014*, p. 237; *Acts of Synod 2014*, pp. 559-60) to guide the Safe Church Ministry were reaffirmed by Synod 2018 and may be the basis of important conversations at the fall classis meeting:

- Each church has implemented a written Safe Church/abuse prevention policy.
- Each church includes abuse prevention in its church school and youth education. Programs such as Circle of Grace, which teach positive respect in relationships, are recommended.
- Each church has protocols in place for responding to misconduct and is aware of the recommended “Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations against a Church Leader” approved by Synod 2010.
- Abuse is acknowledged as an important issue and can be freely discussed.
- Leadership at all levels is supportive of Safe Church Ministry, and each church is represented on a classis Safe Church team.

Synod lamented that some classes and congregations have yet to implement safe church practices, and synod encouraged all classes and congregations to learn from the best practices of others and to utilize the resources available through Safe Church Ministry. Safe Church Ministry will begin reporting annually through the Council of Delegates the number and names of classes with and without Safe Church teams, and the number of churches with and without Safe Church teams and policies. (See *Acts of Synod 2018*, pp. 475-76.)

2. Assistance for classes in developing a ministry plan

Synod received the report of the Classis Renewal Group (*Agenda for Synod 2018*, pp. 4450) and noted the establishment of a new Classis Renewal Advisory Team coordinated by the classis renewal consultant to accomplish the following:

- Continue to explore and address the challenges and opportunities facing classes in an ongoing and adaptive way.
- Assist classes in developing and implementing a ministry plan as described in Church Order Article 75 (inserted below).

Classes are encouraged to develop and share their ministry plan (cf. Church Order Art. 75, adopted by Synod 2015) with the Classis Renewal Advisory Team so that the team can provide the COD with a summary of the plans (to be forwarded to Synod 2020). (See *Acts of Synod 2018*, pp. 517-18.)

Church Order Article 75

- a. The classes shall implement a ministry plan that advances evangelistic and diaconal witness to Christ and his kingdom in its specific region and, when necessary, assist those churches needing support to fulfill their mission.
- b. Each classis shall ensure that deacons and elders are incorporated into the structure and plans for ministry in a manner consistent with their respective mandates.

3. Addressing unresolved conflict in the CRCNA and its effect on membership decline

An overture submitted by Classis Pacific Northwest continued the discussion about the decline of membership in the CRCNA addressed by Synod 2017. It highlighted unresolved conflict and the need to reconcile past hurts within the CRCNA and among people who have left the denomination.

Synod 2018 encouraged the process of reconciliation as follows:

- That the entire denomination be intentional in prayer for reconciled relationships among the members of the CRCNA, with special focus toward our brothers and sisters who have left the CRCNA for various reasons.
- That all church members and assemblies use Matthew 5:23-25 as a model, recognizing where hurt has been given and actively seeking to reconcile strained and broken relationships. (See *Acts of Synod 2018*, p. 472.)

4. Proposed Church Order changes related to commissioned pastor roles and to the process of calling ministers from other denominations—feedback invited

Synod 2018 is proposing to Synod 2019 recommended changes to Church Order Articles 23-24 for adoption (see *Agenda for Synod 2018*, p. 214).

Synod invites comments and suggestions regarding the draft Supplements to Church Order Articles 23-24, as presented in the *Agenda for Synod 2018* (pp. 219-21). Please send to the attention of the Candidacy Committee [via dkoll@crcna.org](mailto:via_dkoll@crcna.org) by September 15, 2018. The final draft will be presented to Synod 2019 for approval.

The Candidacy Committee will present revisions to Church Order Supplement, Articles 8284, sections e and f; and a newly formatted Church Order Supplement, Article 8, sections E and F, as presented in the *Agenda for Synod 2018* (pp. 225-26), to Synod 2019 for adoption. The Candidacy Committee will also be presenting required modifications to the “Journey Toward Ordination” document for synod’s approval.

Churches are called to pray for wisdom amid the tensions and challenges related to expectations and processes required for ordained ministry, and classes and congregations are invited to offer their own suggestions and thoughts regarding these matters either through communications with the Candidacy Committee or through overtures to synod. (See *Acts of Synod 2018*, pp. 465-66.)

5. 400th anniversary of the Synod of Dort

CRC classes are encouraged to recognize the 400th anniversary of the Synod of Dort at one of their 2018-2019 meetings. The following initiatives are also being planned for the 400th anniversary of the Synod of Dort—the participation of classes and churches is encouraged (see *Acts of Synod 2018*, pp. 469-70):

- Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary are planning a conference on the 400th anniversary of the Synod of Dort on September 14-15, 2018.
- Back to God Ministries International will commemorate this anniversary as a theme in an issue of the *Today* devotions in 2019.
- Dordt College's Andreas Center and the Lilly Fellows Network are hosting a conference on the 400th anniversary of the Synod of Dort, April 4-6, 2019.
- *The Banner*, in its *Faith Matters* section, will focus on the observance of the anniversary in its December 2018 issue.

6. Archiving classis and congregational records

Synod validated the importance of archiving and instructed all classes and churches to send duplicates (photocopies, faxes, or email attachments) of their constitutions and articles of incorporation to the denomination's archives. Copies can be sent via surface mail, fax, or email to Archives, Calvin College, 1855 Knollcrest Circle SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546-4402; fax: 616526-7689; orcarchives@calvin.edu.

In addition, synod encouraged the following classes, all of which have at least one member congregation more than ten years old that has not had its minutes duplicated, to contact the archives to have this done: Alberta North, Alberta South/Saskatchewan, Atlantic Northeast, B.C. North-West, B.C. South-East, California South, Central California, Central Plains, Chatham, Chicago South, Columbia, Georgetown, Grand Rapids North, Grand Rapids South, Grandville, Greater Los Angeles, Hackensack, Hanmi, Heartland, Holland, Hudson, Huron, Iakota, Illiana, Kalamazoo, Ko-Am, Lake Erie, Lake Superior, Minnkota, Muskegon, Northcentral Iowa, Northern Illinois, Northern Michigan, Pacific Northwest, Quinte, Red Mesa, Rocky Mountain, Southeast U.S., Toronto, Wisconsin, and Yellowstone. (See *Acts of Synod 2018*, p. 456.)

DARREN ROORDA – LETTER TO CLASSIS CHURCHES

July 7, 2018

Dear Canadian Classis Church Family,

It has been now 4 years since I began this work as the Canadian Ministries Director. An important part of that role has been keeping as many people as possible abreast of the work that is happening in and through this office. **I want to make a key request for this fall as it relates to the upcoming Canadian National Gathering in May of 2019 (Kings University in Edmonton, AB).** But before I do, allow me to back up a bit and provide you some summative points illustrating the kinds of things that have happened.

The Canadian Ministries Director is meant to serve the denomination by working binationally but serving with a particular Canadian intent for ministry. By coordinating staff and resources in Canada well, the goal is for the increased strength and purpose of the church in Canada. This happens through [with recent examples]:

- Creating new content and structure together with our agencies and ministries to serve the local church well [The Bridge App & the strengthening of Canada Corp/Council of Delegates structure]
- Driving collaboration amongst ministry parties for the betterment of the church [The increased function and purpose of the Canadian Ministry Team as well as the 'I Am Not My Own Tour' with Jeremy Benjamin Zeyl]
- Represent the Canadian side of the CRC in forums and places where ecumenical unity is strengthened and the CRCNA is supported [Summer Jobs Program and the federal government of Canada/Trinity Western University & working with Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and the Canadian Council of Churches]
- Supporting the uniquely Canadian Ministries of the CRCNA [Our Aboriginal Ministry Centres in Edmonton, Regina and Winnipeg] which continue to grow, serve and gain respect in their communities & the Centre for Public Dialogue whose files are increasing, resources are expanding and who recently served as an example at Synod 2018 for healthy partnership with the local church]
- Administrative work that serves and protects the ministry of the CRCNA. Although this is often 'silent' work, it is vastly important and gets me tied up in legal, governance or financial issues of the Canadian side of the CRCNA including Classis interests. Such examples might be the intentional relationships that are fostered amongst the Stated Clerks across Canada & legal matters that flow through churches, classes and the national church.

In all of this, feel free to ask me anything - or challenge me - to make it go better than it is. As it stands now, after 4 years, I am blessed at seeing the increased health of the Canadian side of the church and even binationally.

Now for the key request associated with the Canadian National Gathering in May 2019.

The Canadian National Gathering was originally designed to be a gathering of key participants across the Canadian CRC (held every 3 years) that would think strategically about the church moving forward. As such, we wish for the council of your churches to do two things.

First, begin thinking about a person they may wish to nominate for the event. More information about the event can be found here: <https://www.crcna.org/gatherings/canadian-national-gathering-2019> . The nomination process will be explained at the fall classis meeting.

Second, if you have time, it would be wonderful if the delegates to classis could be prepared for a discussion there by ensuring a simple discussion is held around your council table that will form the content around the Gathering in Edmonton and eventually the binational church and its future.

Here is the simple exercise, below:

Introduction: The current ministry plan, *Our Journey 2020*, helps concentrate the work of the denomination in the direction that CRC members have identified. From 2015 through 2020, we are focusing our attention on jointly working towards five “desired futures” for our congregations and our denomination. These goals are summarized as:

1. Church and Community
2. Discipleship/Faith Formation
3. Leadership
4. Reformed Identity
5. Collaboration

The CRCNA has a variety of tools and resources available to help your congregation continue to assess and work on each of these items over the next few years. Visit crcna.org/OurJourney to learn more. You can also visit crcna.org/resources or give us a call at 1-800-272-5125 with your specific questions or resource needs and we'll do our best to help you.

As we head into the final years of this ministry plan, we know that our churches will never be “done” working on any of these desired futures. We will always be striving to flow into our communities, to disciple new believers, to raise up servant leaders, to reflect our shared Reformed identity, and to collaborate with each other and others.

Yet, even as we continue to engage in the current emphases of *Our Journey 2020*, we hope that the “deadline” of 2020 will give us a target to work towards and a timeline to intentionally measure our efforts and success.

As we begin to think beyond 2020, we request your help in identifying what areas of focus we should be emphasizing in the next CRCNA ministry plan. We want to know where God is leading our church. We wish to plan for the future and begin to discern together with your church, classis and through the Canadian National Gathering, what are the most important things to emphasize together in our future.

Council Exercise

As we prepare for the Canadian National Gathering, we wish to engage in small group discussions at Classis. Your church will be sending delegates to the meeting and as such, a short conversation amongst your leaders will help in a discussion to be held at the Classis meeting itself.

The conversation centres around 2 questions:

1. Have **each** council member discern and highlight 2 to 3 of the following needs/emphases/challenge that they believe to be a necessary next best-step for the Christian Reformed Church in North America to consider. Ask them to think about things such as *'What is working in your church? What isn't working? What haven't you tackled at classis that needs to be discussed and worked on? It may help you prioritize from the list below.*

Note: SPACT = Strategic Planning and Adaptive Change Team

- a. Reconciliation (emphasized at Synod 2018)
- b. Classis health and restructuring (SPACT)
- c. Denominational Agencies and Ministries finding sufficient ways for Celebrating, Learning, and Listening in Partnership with CRC Members, Congregations, and Classes (SPACT)
- d. Progress in Becoming a Multicultural Church in pace with the changing North American Context (SPACT)
- e. An Increased Awareness that Something Is Missing with Regard to Discipleship, Spirituality, and Being Spirit-Led (SPACT)
- f. Lay Leadership emphasis for Engaging the Challenges before the Denomination (SPACT)
- g. Working to have Congregations, Classes, and Denominational Ministries deal with the Continuous Process of Change (SPACT)
- h. De-emphasizing the Operation and Sustainability of Our Centralized Ministry Delivery System to an increasingly local approach (SPACT)
- i. Moving toward a New Financial Paradigm (SPACT)
- j. Denominational Ministries and Local Congregations adapting to Changing Patterns of Ministry and Partnership Alignments in the Global Church (SPACT)
- k. building bridges with newcomers to Canada and sharing the gospel (CNG 2016)
- l. Working with Classis to become missionally motivated and equipping meetings (CNG 2016)
- m. Increased focus on making the word central and improvement in preaching (CNG 2016)
- n. Emphasizing the equipping of CRC laity to be missional (CNG 2016)
- o. Prayer and spiritual practices becoming a chief means of practice among the CRC (esp. those in leadership) (CNG 2016)

List any others of your own consideration, below ...

- a
- b
- c

2. As a council, together determine the 3 highest priorities from the above list and answer “ *Why did you choose them?*”

Answer in the blank space below: