

Classis Alberta North Credentials Committee - Fall 2021

Rimbey CRC – Pastor Ken Vanderploeg as chair

Woody Nook CRC – Pastor Chad Vandervalk as reporter

The credentials are all order, though it should be noted that some of the forms which were filled out by hand are difficult to read (especially the email addresses). We would encourage churches to fill the form out digitally in the future and either send it back as an attachment (remember that a typed in name serves as a signature) or scan the paper copy that has been filled out electronically with the hand written signatures and send them to the Clerk of Classis electronically or by mail.

In answer to the question: “In what aspect of your ministry would you like the assistance of Classis?” there were three requests.

- 1) From Edson Peers: “How to remain faithful during controversy.”

While we are uncertain as to what the controversy has been, one of the resources which churches and pastors could make use of is the Pastor Church Resources of the CRCNA. That office “serves pastors, churches, and classes as they seek to promote healthy relationships, encourage one another in ministry, and discern next steps in seasons of growth, transition, or challenge.” (from PCR website). There are two main options that might provide some assistance to this request: Coaches and Consultations. The resources that these places can provide to give clarity about what faithfulness means during a time of crisis or controversy might satisfy this congregation's (or council's) need.

This committee would also encourage the Classis Interim Committee to consider inviting Pastor Church Resources to provide a workshop at an upcoming Classis on this topic, as controversy does not seem to be waning any time soon.

- 2) Inglewood CRC: “We request feedback from other churches as to the use of ‘The Challenging Conversation Toolkit’ recommended by the denomination to support discussion of the Human Sexuality Report.”

We would suggest that Inglewood find and connect with those churches who have used the toolkit and get some feedback directly from them. If your church has had any experience with the toolkit, could you connect with a delegate from Inglewood so that your experiences could be shared?

- 3) Covenant CRC in Edmonton: Covenant CRC has not had a “church visitor” come to our congregation for a number of years.

As a committee we find it difficult to answer this question, though there are a few things we would like to note. The first is that church visitors should find ways to connect with the churches of Classis in a timely manner, particularly during this difficult and unprecedented time in ministry. The second is that churches are free to request a visit from a church visitor at any time.

We would suggest that the Clerk provide a list of the churches and assigned church visitors to all the churches so that everyone is made aware of who the church visitors are for each church.

This concludes our report.

Respectfully submitted,

Delegates of Rimbey CRC and Woody Nook CRC