Healthy Church Task Force

Report to Classis Alberta North:

March 1-2, 2017

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

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

Over the past year some major agenda items include:

* The HCTF thanked John Luth, Sylvia Denning and Bill Nieuwenhuis for their service and welcomed Janet Vlieg-Paquette, Pete VanderBeek and Melle Pool into its membership
* Completed a roster of certified mediators that can also be referred to the churches in classis.
* Recommended the names of mentors for appointment by the denomination Pastor-Church Relations Committee. They will mentor those newly ordained in classis.
* Appointed counsellors for churches without a pastor. Thanked counsellors for their work. The past year has seen a significant number of ministry transitions.
* Planning the Pastor-Spouse conference to be held in Banff, April 21-23, 2017. The theme is, “***I'm Right, You're Wrong: When Either-or Thinking Challenges our Relationships and Congregations.”***.
* The certified mediators in our group have led a number of “talking circles” in our congregations during the past year. These facilitated conversations have been very much appreciated by the congregations and are helpful in moving forward through difficult issues.
* Began work on an initiative to re-image the ministry of church visiting.
* Began work on preparing a workshop on Clergy Mental Health, to be presented at the 2017 Fall Classis meeting.
* Heard and discussed reports from church visitors, the regional pastors, and counsellors.
* Involved Cecil VanNiejenhuis of PCR in discussions as appropriate to maintain a strong working relationship between our work in Classis and the denominational office.

For the HCTF

William Delleman (chair)

Members; William Delleman (regional pastor), Joanne Munro (restorative justice), Melle Pool (church visitor co-ordinator), Anita Slomp (restorative justice), Pete VanderBeek (regional pastor), John Pasma (regional pastor), Janet Vlieg-Paquette (lay member).