

Proceedings of Classis: Friday, October 12, 2018

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

<u>Church</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Deacon</u>
Barrhead	—	—	—
Edm - Bethel Comm	Tom Baird	Derk Opdendries	Robert Solomonson*
Edm - Centrepoinste	Jeremy Vandermeer	—	Jesse Edgington
Edm - Covenant	Wally Mulder (E)	John VanMeetelen	Anna Feddes*
Edm - Fellowship	—	Darcy Visscher	Margie Patrick*
Edm - First	Brian Dunn	Bruce Smid	Wilma McLaughlin
Edm - Inglewood	John Ooms	Leo Mos	Theo Emmelkamp
Edm - Maranatha	Trincy Buwalda (E)	Dirk Kos*	Gerald Velthuisen
Edm - mosaicHouse	Victor Ko	Walter Bonilla*	—
Edm - The River	Bruce Gritter	—	—
Edm - Trinity	Rich deLange	Kevin Hofstede*	Jordan Hale* (evening)
Edm - West End	Henry Kranenburg (aft) Lyda Uitvlugt (E) (eve)	Gerry Uitvlugt	Margo DeMoor*
Edson – Peers	Ken Douma	Gerald Los	Dean Christie*
Fairview - Faith Fellowship	—	Jack de Jong	—
Ft. McMurray - Evergreen	—	Colin Dorchak*	—
LaGlace	Ryan Hoogerbrugge	—	—
Lacombe - Bethel	Terry Vandeborn* (E)	August Luymes	—
Lacombe - Wolf Creek	—	Gary Barnes	—
Lacombe - Woodynook	Neil deKoning	Miriam Doef* (aft only)	Hidde Born
Leduc - Ebenezer	Jason Dahlman	Henk Siderius	Brendan Bulten*
Neerlandia	Art Verboon	Richard De Vries	Liz Nanninga (E)
Ponoka - Sunrise	—	John Hulsman	Jennette Oosterink
Red Deer - First	Harry Zantingh	Cor Pikkert	Jonathan Drok*
Red Deer - New Life	Peter Rockhold	—	—
Rimbey	—	Mark Buwalda*	Tim Buist
Rocky - Covenant	Nic Wolmarans	John Piers	—
Rocky - First	Elroy Leenstra (E)	Anthony Blaak*	—
St. Albert	Tony Maan	David Appell	—
Stony Plain- Hope	Jacob Boer	Natasha Specht	Esther Graff* (evening)

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Bruce Gritter, Chair of Classis, called the meeting to order at 12 noon. He welcomed the delegates and other visitors.
2. **Devotions:** Jason Dahlman, Director of Ministries at Ebenezer CRC led with devotions.
3. **Opening Procedures**
 - 3.1. Roll Call – attendance was taken as delegates arrived and first-time delegates signed the *Covenant for Office-bearers* at that time. The Stated Clerk reported on the attendance and indicated that a quorum was present.
 - 3.2. Chair ruled that Gary Barnes can be seated as delegate for Wolf Creek CRC.
 - 3.3. **Credentials advisory committee** brought forward the request of Neerlandia CRC regarding seating of delegates.

Motion Carried: to allow Neerlandia CRC to seat a second Elder in lieu of a Deacon delegate.

The Stated Clerk emphasized, and the committee affirmed, that the decision on this matter is an exception to the rule and will not be considered a precedent.

Grounds offered by the Credentials Committee:

1. The Church Order appears to not be explicit in addressing the situation in which a Council is unable to send either an elder or a deacon delegate. Church Order Art 40a does address the situation in which a minister is unable to attend, in which case an elder may be seated.
2. Ideally each church should send an elder, a deacon, and a minister delegate. However, ideal conditions

do not always prevail and the Advisory Committee believes that in some cases exceptions are warranted.

3. Full representation of each church is valuable for the deliberations and decisions of Classis. Seating the third delegate as an elder would allow Neerlandia to be fully represented.
4. We agree with Neerlandia that full representation from each local church is weightier than the nature of each particular office. Distinctions between the office of elder and deacon do not appear sharp enough, in our opinion, to exclude an elder from serving in a deacon's position and vice versa.
5. It appears that precedence has been set for such an allowance in our denomination. In a supplementary note to Church Order 40a, a modification is noted for Classis Red Mesa, which directs: "if a minister, elder, or deacon delegate is prevented from attending, any combination of three office bearers may be delegated."

Further suggestion by the Credentials Committee: given that this is the third time in a row that Neerlandia has faced the concern of an unavailable deacon delegate, the Credentials Advisory Committee suggests that the Neerlandia CRC may wish to present an overture to a future Classis to address this situation.

3.4. Classis was declared constituted by the Chair, **Bruce Gritter**.

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

4. **Interim Committee Report:** Stated Clerk, Gary Duthler, highlighted the report of the Classis Interim Committee as it appeared in the Classis agenda.

4.1. **Motion Carried:** to approve the work and ratify the decisions of the Classis Interim Committee since the previous Classis meeting.

4.2. **Motion Carried:** to appoint Anna Feddes as Alternate Stated Clerk.

4.3. **Motion Carried:** to declare 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. The Stated Clerk noted that Synodical Deputies concurred with the decision via email.

4.4. **Motion Carried:** to adopt the Capital Expenditure Policy.

4.5. **Motion Carried:** to adopt the employee performance appraisal policy and include it in the Classis Rules of Procedure.

4.6. **Motion Carried:** to extend Mike Van Boom's license to exhort for two years.

5. **Missions and Ministries Reports** – opportunity was given to comment or raise questions on written reports:

5.1. Youth Ministry Consultant – received for information

5.2. Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference– received for information

5.3. Healthy Church Task Force: It was noted that the Task Force has a roster of psychologists and counsellors. If churches or members find themselves in a place where a resource such as this might be required, they should contact the Task Force. Report received for information

5.4. Cuba Connection Committee – received for information

5.5. World Renew – received for information

5.6. Diaconal Ministries Canada – received for information

5.7. Ministry to Seafarers – Chaplain Gary Roosma described upcoming changes to this ministry's funding model. For the last 50+ years, the Ministry to Seafarers has been supported as a ministry within the budgets of Classis BC North and Classis BC South. However, this support will be phasing into a grant (full details are as yet unknown).

6. **Ministry Presentations:**

6.1. **The King's University:** President Dr. Melanie Humphreys thanked everyone for faithful support over nearly 40 years! Enrolment at The King's continues to climb: a tribute to faculty and staff, and a credit to our Father. King's is committed to continued and growing quality academic programs, always seeking ways to expand, and finding more areas for students to study (e.g., health sciences, public administration). The King's faculty just passed, with a resounding affirmation, a Christian worldview curriculum: a common curriculum that all students engage in regardless of their study focus. The University is

continually seeking ways to partner even further in training the next generation and encourages scholarships which help students afford their education.

6.2. **Home Missions Committee and Resonate Global Ministries update:**

- The chair invited Ryan Pedde to bring Classis up to date about the Ft. Saskatchewan church plant, “The Bridge Church.” Ryan began in this ministry in February and as of September his time is split 50/50 between Bethel Edm. and The Bridge Ft. Sask. The Pedde family moved to Ft. Sask. in September. It is exciting to see God moving in Ft. Sask. and how the church is growing. The leaders feel stretched but gratified. This ministry started with the house church model and two house churches are now looking to become four house churches in the new year. It’s exciting that there are 50 children included in these two house churches at present. They are excited by the potential of a building being made available for this church.

Delegates and churches were asked to join in prayer for this church plant and they are looking to establish a band of people who are willing to pray regularly for the protection of the people involved in this ministry, for the wisdom of God, and for finances and skilled people to be in place as they are needed. Ryan also urged delegates to pray for the moving of God’s spirit in people’s hearts. Victor Ko and Bruce Gritter are mentoring Ryan Pedde.

Pastor Anne Vanderhoek of mosaicHouse invited delegates to a community prayer for this church; delegates extended their hands as a multitude of prayers were said simultaneously.

- Bruce Gritter reported that he is working one day/week for Resonate Global Mission. Cards were distributed allowing members to sign up to keep in touch with church plants in Western Canada.
- Rich Braaksma, Resonate Global Mission Regional Leader for Western Canada, informed Classis of an upcoming visit to Classis AB North by Zach King (Resonate Global Mission Director) from Nov. 11-15. He will be preaching in Woodynook CRC on Nov 11th and on Wednesday Nov. 14th at 10 am he’ll be in Ft. Saskatchewan at The Bridge Church.

6.3. **Campus Ministry:** Janet Greidanus reported on behalf of the Campus Ministry Committee.

- She expressed gratitude to Rick Mast for his work at the University of Alberta among their 2700 faculty, 15,000 staff members and the thousands of students. Rick welcomes and helps students in a variety of ways and also helps to identify and develop student leaders.
- The committee is working on searching out a new chaplain for the ministry at NAIT. Rick has agreed to maintain his two hours at NAIT until December. There is enormous potential for ministry among the 30,000 students. The committee noted that the search for a new chaplain does not require Classis involvement at this time.
- Two NAIT students shared the compelling stories of how the Campus Ministry at NAIT impacted their lives, making them feel safe knowing there was someone in place and available to support their faith, helping them make meaningful connections within community. They indicated that the impact is enormous.
- Rick shared that chaplaincy ministry is a true mission filled with so many young adults in post secondary needing to be ministered to, along with staff and faculty.
- Prayer was encouraged for the chaplaincy ministries at NAIT and U of A.

Classis Chaplain Jonathan Nicolai-deKoning invited delegates to come forward, and led in prayer over the students, Campus Ministry Committee members and Rick Mast and Melanie Humphreys.

6.4. **Student Support Team:** Jonathan Nicolai-deKoning reported that this ministry has expanded from simply giving financial support for those who are pursuing ordination, to also supporting those looking to do so through distance learning. The team provides help with practical needs and prayer supports as student go through this process. Compared to other Classes, this Classis has sent a disproportionate number of students into ministry. Delegates were encouraged to steer any students who might be candidates for further theological studies to this support team.

Rich deLange offered a prayer over Jonathan and this Team.

7. **Letter from Hope CRC:** Hope CRC delegates Jacob Boer and Natasha Specht spoke to the assembly to provide a context for the letter sent to Classis. The church has been encouraged by the Renewal Lab process over the past two years. However, at the close of the renewal process there was a growing sense that the church might not be able to continue this process. While the doors of the church are not closing just yet, it does appear that this is may be the path. Hope's Council has given Pastor Jacob a six-month notice of release; they no longer see clear to support his salary.
 - 7.1. Rich deLange invited delegates to come forward and pray with the delegates of Hope CRC.
 - 7.2. The Healthy Church Task Force (HCTF) will continue to support Hope and its members. HCTF encouraged Classis to pray for the leaders and pastor as they go through this difficult process, and also encouraged all churches to connect with the Healthy Church Task force for support as it is needed.
8. **Congregational Sharing Time:** Classis Prayer Coordinator Rich deLange led the delegates in a small-group session, encouraging a time of sharing what is happening in the churches and prayer for one another. Rich deLange closed this session with a prayer for all the churches.
9. **Synod 2018:** Classical delegates Art Verboon and Gary Duthler reported on their experience at Synod. They felt it was a very pastoral Synod and much time was spent in prayer, including intentional prayers for reconciliation hurt in the wake of previous decisions made. The Reformed Church of America's synod met at the same time and joint meals, worship and workshops also contributed to an exciting and different atmosphere. One of the issues discussed at Synod was the need for awareness of abuse and the need for effective and supported Safe Church policies. Many churches still do not have such policies. Beginning in 2019, each Classis will have to report to Synod how many of their churches have policies.

10. Church Visitors and Counsellors Reports

- 10.1. Edson CRC: Church visitors Jacob Boer and elder Russell Scheideman reported. In their visit they celebrated many joys and heard some challenges. Council carries the heavy workload faithfully. They found this to be a healthy church which supports the Pastor and his family well.
 - 10.2. Stony Plain Hope CRC Church visitors Ken Douma and Winson Elzinga reported. They found that Hope CRC is very thankful for their pastor. The strength of the church is in their relationships, but they are challenged by an aging congregation and the declining number of members. They are struggling with the future of the church.
11. **Ad-hoc LGTBQ+ Committee Update** – Anita Veldhuisen-Slomp reported that the committee has met four times since the Oct 2017 Classis meeting. They have debriefed a number of the events that have been held in Classis and they hope to have a document available later in Nov. 2018 that will be useful as churches engage in difficult conversations. The committee will be having a conversation with a lesbian couple seeking a home in the CRC to help understand their hopes and challenges.

If churches need assistance or information they can contact the committee (Anita Veldhuisen-Slomp, Neil deKoning, Ron deVries, Michelle Kool, Peter Rockhold).

Comments and responses:

- The concern was raised that the committee might be skewed to one sided viewpoint and that we would want to have a good balance of perspectives. The committee was not chosen on the basis of any views, but with the intention of being able to address the issues from many angles.
- In answer to the concern that sometimes the work done previously has been lost or is not consulted (e.g., The Great Lakes Catechism), the committee hopes that over time, the work previously done can be collected and an archive compiled. The hope is that the new document will remain a living document as things change so quickly.

12. Classical Appointments – Art Verboon reported that we have a few vacant churches:

- Bethel Lacombe
- Rimbey (Pete VanderBeek has begun a short-term contract)
- Maranatha Edmonton (is receiving help from Bob DeMoor)
- Rocky First (has a student intern)
- Wolf Creek reports they will be okay for the short term.

- Some additional names will be added to the pulpit supply list: Karen Wilk, Bill Nieuwenhuis, and Folkert de Boer.

13. Ministry Presentation – The Edmonton Native Healing Centre (ENHC)

- Harold Roscher updated classis on the work of ENHC over the past 27 years and his work there as an evangelist/commissioned pastor since 2003.
- Harold is the only ordained indigenous leader in the Canada. Although many indigenous peoples have a “straight up hate for the church,” Harold has been able to make connections and demonstrate to them that, while bad things have happened through the church, the church also does much good and that this ministry would not exist if it weren’t for church sponsorship.
- ENCH is the only native healing centre to have an all-indigenous staff which provides great wisdom for the ministry and the centre.
- Relationship building is at the centre of this ministry’s focus. Harold has been given the great honor by the indigenous leaders of being a pipe holder; this equates to being ordained in the CRC community.
- A medical clinic has been opened within the building which provides a much-needed service to this community who otherwise would not seek medical attention. While only open 3 days per week, the clinic sees approximately 100 visits in a month.
- Connections are often made over meals, and the centre is very thankful for the \$85,000 made available through community donations for recent kitchen improvements.
- Harold challenged delegates to look at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Call to Action items 48-49, 59-60 (appended to these minutes for reference) and see what can be done in our communities:

The Classis chaplain prayed over Harold and his work at the ENHC and offered thanksgiving our evening meal.

Dinner Break

14. Ebenezer CRC led in a time of Praise and Worship

15. Climate Witness Project presentation

Margo DeMoor & Jesse Edgington informed the delegates about this project which began when the 2012 Synod created a task force on this topic.

15.1. We learned more about the four pillars of the Climate Witness Project:

1. Energy Stewardship: to reduce waste in our worship space, work space and homes.
2. Worship: with the provision of resources such as liturgies, songs, scriptures.
3. Education: reflection, films and books for libraries.
4. Advocacy: enabling the church to impact public policy regionally, provincially, and nationally.

15.2 Margo and Jesse gave many practical examples of how churches can get involved.

15.3 Churches were challenged to review and adopt some of the ten ideas for creation care which were distributed. Churches wishing to know more can contact Elco Vandergrift elcovdg@hotmail.com; 403-396-2717.

16. **Examination of Jeremiah Basuric** for ordination as a Commissioned Pastor – called by mosaicHouse.

16.1. Pete VanderBeek introduced Jeremiah and led in a practica examination.

16.2. No questions from the floor.

16.3. **Motion carried:** to proceed with the exam.

16.4. Tom Oosterhuis provided the sermon critic report that he and Allan Groen submitted. Tom and Allan attended the October 7, 2018 service at mosaicHouse. The sermon was preached on the assigned passage of Exodus 33:12-23.

16.5. **Motion carried:** to proceed with the exam.

16.6. Art Verboon led in the Biblical and Theological Knowledge examination.

16.7. Questions were taken from the floor.

16.8. **Executive Session was declared**

Motion: to admit Jeremy Basuric to the office of Commissioned Pastor at mosaicHouse.

Executive Session notes:

Opportunity was extended for comments and questions

Classis chaplain prayed for guidance of the Spirit for the delegates.

*Delegates voted by ballot. The Balloting Committee reported support for the motion. The chair declared the **motion carried**.*

Motion carried: *to destroy the ballots.*

The Executive Session was ended.

16.9 The result of the vote was announced, and congratulations were extended to Jeremiah Basuric.

16.10 Prayer was offered by Victor Ko as members of mosaicHouse joined in laying hands on Jeremiah.

Proceedings of Classis: Saturday, October 13, 2018

Presence of Saturday`s delegates: (*denotes first time delegates).

<u>Church</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Deacon</u>
Barrhead	—	—	—
Edm - Bethel Comm	Tom Baird	Derk Opdendries	Robert Solomonson*
Edm - Centrepoince	Jeremy Vandermeer	—	Jesse Edgington
Edm - Covenant	Michelle Kool	John VanMeetelen	Anna Feddes*
Edm - Fellowship	—	Darcy Visscher	—
Edm - First	Brian Dunn	Bruce Smid	Wilma McLaughlin
Edm - Inglewood	John Ooms	Leo Mos	Theo Emmelkamp
Edm - Maranatha	Trincy Buwalda (E)	Dirk Kos*	Gerald Velthuisen
Edm - mosaicHouse	Anne Vander Hoek	—	—
Edm - The River	Bruce Gritter	—	—
Edm - Trinity	Rich deLange	Kevin Hofstede*	Jordan Hale*
Edm - West End	Henry Kranenburg	Gerry Uitvlugt	Fran Aarnoutse*
Edson – Peers	Ken Douma	Gerald Los	Dean Christie*
Fairview - Faith Fellowship	—	Jack de Jong	—
Ft. McMurray - Evergreen	—	Colin Dorchak*	—
LaGlance	Ryan Hoogerbrugge	—	—
Lacombe - Bethel	Terry Vandeborn* (E)	—	—
Lacombe - Wolf Creek	—	Bowen Tenhove*	—
Lacombe - Woodynook	Neil deKoning	Josh Ingwersen*	Hide Born
Leduc - Ebenezer	—	Jordan Schuurman*	Brendan Bulten*
Neerlandia	Art Verboon	Richard De Vries	Liz Nanninga (E)
Ponoka - Sunrise	Sieve Brouwer	John Hulsman	Jennette Oosterink
Red Deer - First	Harry Zantingh	—	Jonathan Drok*
Red Deer - New Life	Peter Rockhold	—	—
Rimbey	—	Mark Buwalda*	Tim Buist
Rocky - Covenant	Nic Wolmarans	John Piers	—
Rocky - First	—	Anthony Blaak*	—
St. Albert	Tony Maan	David Appell	—
Stony Plain- Hope	Jacob Boer	Natasha Specht	Esther Graff*

17. The session was opened by the chair, Bruce Gritter, who welcomed the delegates and led in prayer.
18. **Roll Call:** The Stated Clerk reported on the attendance and stated that a quorum was present.
19. **Examination of Jason Dahlman** for ordination to the Ministry of the Word - called by Ebenezer CRC.
 - 19.1. John Ooms introduced Jason and led in a practica examination.
 - 19.2. Questions were taken from the floor.
 - 19.3. **Motion carried:** to proceed with the exam.
 - 19.4. Harry Cook provided the sermon critic report that he and John Pasma submitted. Harry and John attended the September 9th service at Ebenezer CRC on the assigned passage of Genesis 45:4-15 entitled *“Its OK – God is in Control.”*
 - 19.5. **Motion carried:** to proceed with the exam. Synodical deputies concurred.
 - 19.6. Bob DeMoor led in the Biblical and Theological Knowledge examination.
 - 19.7. Questions were taken from the floor.
 - 19.8. **Executive Session was declared.**

Motion: to admit Jason Dahlman into the office of the Minister of the Word in the CRC.

Executive Session notes:

The Classis chaplain prayed for guidance of the Spirit for the delegates and Synodical Deputies.

Opportunity was extended for comments and questions

The Synodical Deputies left to prepare their recommendation.

Delegates voted by ballot. The Balloting Committee reported support for the motion. The chair declared the **motion carried**.

The Synodical Deputies concurred with the decision of Classis.

Motion carried to destroy the ballots.

The Executive Session was ended.

19.9 The result of the vote was announced, and congratulations were extended to Jason Dahlman.

19.10 Prayer was offered by the Classis Chaplain as delegates laid hands on Jason and his wife.

19.11 Installation is planned for Sunday, November 25, 2018, at Ebenezer CRC in Leduc.

20. **Examination of Brian Schouten** for ordination to the Ministry of the Word - called by Sunrise CRC.

20.1. Henry Kranenburg introduced Brian and led in a practica examination.

20.2. Questions were taken from the floor.

20.3. **Motion carried:** to proceed with the exam.

20.4. Neil DeKoning provided the sermon critic report that he and Pauline Prins submitted. They attended the September 16th morning service at Sunrise CRC on the assigned passage of Matthew 18:23-35 entitled *The Unforgiving Servant.*”

20.5. **Motion carried:** to proceed with the exam. Synodical deputies concurred.

20.6. Tony Maan led in the Biblical and Theological Knowledge examination.

20.7. Questions were taken from the floor.

20.8. **Executive Session was declared.**

Motion: to admit Brian Schouten into the office of the Minister of the Word in the CRC.

Executive Session notes:

Classis chaplain prayed for guidance of the Spirit for the delegates and Synodical Deputies.

Opportunity was extended for comments and questions.

The Synodical Deputies left to prepare their recommendation.

Delegates voted by ballot. The Balloting Committee reported support for the motion. The chair declared the **motion carried**.

The Synodical Deputies concurred with the decision of Classis.

Motion carried to destroy the ballots.

The Executive Session was ended.

20.9 The result of the vote was announced, and congratulations were extended to Brian Schouten.

20.10 Prayer was offered by the Classis Chaplain as delegates laid hands on Brian and his wife.

20.11 Installation is planned for Sunday, October 28, 2018, at Sunrise CRC in Ponoka.

Classis adjourned for a meeting of the Association.

Meeting of the Association of Classis Alberta North:

1. Called to Order by Neil De Koning, Classis Interim Committee Vice-Chair.
2. **Motion Carried:** 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. **Motion Carried:** to appoint Halpert Monsma as Reviewers/Auditors for Classis AB North.
4. Classis Budget 2019 and financial update – led by Neil De Koning.

Q: wondering why the large increase in both campus and youth ministry funds.

A: Campus Ministry: The 2018 budget reduced the campus ministry budget request as the position was not expected to be filled for the full year. Looking at the 2017 year and the 2019 request for funds, the request has not gone up that significantly.

A: Youth Ministry: A good portion of increase was due to this position now being filled with an ordained minister which has associated increased expenses (pension, etc.).

Motion Carried to approve the budget as presented.

5. The meeting of the Association was adjourned.

Classis Meeting resumed, Bruce Gritter chairing

21. Credentials Committee Report:

21.1. Sonrise CRC Questioned Classis's relationship with The King's University. After discussion with delegates, there was concurrence that Sonrise will initiate direct correspondence with The King's University with their concerns.

21.2. Covenant CRC - Edm

- Would like Classis, in the near future, to have a discussion regarding Church clusters – evaluation/feedback on how it's going. Credentials Committee advises the CIC to pick this up.
- Expressing concerns regarding homelessness in the broader Edmonton Community and encouraging our churches to work with other denominations on this. Churches are advised to connect with Mike Van Boom for more information in this regard.

22. Canons of Dordt celebration

- 22.1. Tony Maan would like to hear from churches if they are interested in working together to put something in place.
- 22.2. Rich deLange notes that Trinity is planning a Reformation day service at Trinity using the Canons of Dordt. Everyone is welcome to come.

23. Council of Delegates Report: Report by Michelle Kool

- 23.1. This new structure is getting better at melding and becoming something different than the previous Board of Trustees.
- 23.2. Inspire 2019 will be held on August 1-3, 2019 in Windsor, Ontario

- 23.3. Denominational surveys based on the five streams for 2020 will be coming to churches on a more frequent basis, giving us a better voice.

24. Feedback on the proceedings of Classis

- 24.1. The Elder and Deacon delegates were asked to discuss experiences of the change in classis meetings to a Friday/Saturday meeting with their Council and to send any feedback to the Stated Clerk in writing.

25. Canadian Ministries Presentation

- 25.1. Darren Roorda updated delegates on the changes in the structure of CRC leadership (e.g., Council of Delegates replacing the former Board of Trustees). He highlighted some of the great happenings such as Jeremy Zeyl's "I Am Not My Own" tour; the crcna.org resources such as Click, Call, Chat; digital library where all of Faith Alive Resources are available for free; and the resource search.

In response to questions about the Bridge App, Darren noted that this is a tool that about 60% of Canadian churches are working with at various stages. He also described the privacy provisions in the app. Questions about the app can be directed to Darren or to Dorothy Vandersteen.

- 24.2 Delegates participated in a discernment exercise providing a voice into the future discussions of the CRC at the Canadian National Gathering to be held at The King's University in May 2019.
- 24.3 Canadian National Gathering will be different than the previous gathering. This one will not have keynote speakers but will focus on God and finding His way to direct the CRC in Canada. This will be done through a variety of spiritual disciplines – prayer, scripture reading and fasting. Organizers are looking for key people in the churches to be nominated to attend; people who understand the CRC and who are engaged in local ministry and reflect the diversity of the people and ministries of Classis. Names should be submitted to the Clerk of Classis by the end of October 2018, after which CIC will select the representatives from our classis to the gathering. Delegates were given information on this process and encouraged to engage their Councils in identifying nominees.

26. Adjournment:

- 26.1. Bruce Gritter thanked the host church for their hospitality.
- 26.2. Vice-chair Rich deLange thanked Bruce for his leadership as chair and closed the meeting with prayer.
- 26.3. Classis adjourned at 3:05 pm

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

Appendix: TRC Call to Action Items:

48. We call upon the church parties to the Settlement Agreement, and all other faith groups and interfaith social justice groups in Canada who have not already done so, to formally adopt and comply with the principles, norms, and standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for reconciliation. This would include, but not be limited to, the following commitments:
- i. Ensuring that their institutions, policies, programs, and practices comply with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
 - ii. Respecting Indigenous peoples' right to self determination in spiritual matters, including the right to practise, develop, and teach their own spiritual and religious traditions, customs, and ceremonies, consistent with Article 12:1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
 - iii. Engaging in ongoing public dialogue and actions to support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. iv. Issuing a statement no later than March 31, 2016, from all religious denominations and faith groups, as to how they will implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

49. We call upon all religious denominations and faith groups who have not already done so to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius.
59. We call upon church parties to the Settlement Agreement to develop ongoing education strategies to ensure that their respective congregations learn about their church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families, and communities were necessary.
60. We call upon leaders of the church parties to the Settlement Agreement and all other faiths, in collaboration with Indigenous spiritual leaders, Survivors, schools of theology, seminaries, and other religious training centres, to develop and teach curriculum for all student clergy, and all clergy and staff who work in Aboriginal communities, on the need to respect Indigenous spirituality in its own right, the history and legacy of residential schools and the roles of the church parties in that system, the history and legacy of religious conflict in Aboriginal families and communities, and the responsibility that churches have to mitigate such conflicts and prevent spiritual violence.