



of the
Christian Reformed Church in North America

Minutes of the 167TH SESSION
October 18 and 19, 2019
held at St. Albert CRC, St. Albert, 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:

- Henry Kranenburg, chair
- Jacob Boer, vice-chair
- Gary Duthler, Stated Clerk
- Linda Ryks, Recording Clerk
- Wendy Werkman, Classis Chaplain
- Balloting Committee: the delegates of Barrhead CRC
- Classis Credentials Committee: the delegates of Edmonton Inglewood and Lacombe Bethel CRCs
- Synodical Deputies: Rudy Ouwehand, BCSE, Henry Jonker, BCNW, and David Swinney, Alberta South/Sask.

Friday October 18, 2019 delegates: (*denotes first time delegates).

<u>Church</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Deacon</u>
Barrhead	Harold VanderSluis	Jan Heida*	—
Edm – Avenue	Aaron Au	Loretta Stadt*	—
Edm - Bethel	Tom Baird	Maria Zapata*	Hans Huizinga
Edm - Centrepointe	Jeremy Vandermeer	Mike Van Boom	Jesse Edgington
Edm - Covenant	Michelle Kool	Ken Saik	Anna Feddes
Edm - Fellowship	—	Darcy Visscher	—
Edm - First	Brian Dunn	Bruce Smid	Wilma McLaughlin
Edm - Inglewood	John Ooms	Janet Paquette*	Sandra Vandervinne*
Edm - Maranatha	Terence Visser*	Roy Schouten	Dave Greidanus*
Edm - mosaicHouse	Derrick Lee	—	—
Edm - The River	Bruce Gritter	—	—
Edm - Trinity	Michael McGowan	Mary Van Ryk	Stephanie Carrozza*
Edm - West End	Henry Kranenburg	Bert Kamphuis (late)	Nathan Vos
Edson – Peers	—	Ron Deleeuw	Jake McCaffrey*
Fairview - Faith Fellowship	—	Jack de Jong	—
Ft. McMurray – Evergreen	—	—	—
Fort Saskatchewan	Ryan Pedde*	Evert Vroon*	Mark Dubbeldam*
LaGlace	Ryan Hoogerbrugge	—	—
Lacombe - Bethel	Jacob Boer	Andrew Tenbrinke*	Ann Wildeboer
Lacombe - Wolf Creek	—	Marlene Vanderwekken*	—
Lacombe - Woodynook	Dayna Vreeken	Marg Hoogland*	Hidde Born
Leduc - Ebenezer	Jason Dahlman	Roy Van Boom	Birgit Mulder*
Neerlandia	Art Verboon	Dawna Nanninga*	—
Ponoka - Sunrise	Brian Schouten	Jordan Vreugdenhil*	Roy Weever*
Red Deer - First	Ken Vis	Wilf Opden Dries*	Jonathan Drok
Red Deer - New Life	Peter Rockhold	Shane Stolte*	—
Rimbey	—	Rob Dolman	—
Rocky - Covenant	Nic Wolmarans	John Piers	Jordan Piers*
Rocky - First	Ken Douma	Tony Blaak	—
St. Albert	Tony Maan	Joanne Munro	Rob De Kleer*
Stony Plain- Hope	—	Natasha Specht	—

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** **Henry Kranenburg**, Chair of Classis, called the meeting to order at 12 noon. He welcomed the delegates and other visitors.
2. **Devotions:** **Tony Maan**, delegate from the **CRC of St Albert** led with devotions and delegates celebrated communion together.
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. Fort McMurray was the only church not represented.
 - 3.2. Classis was declared constituted by the Chair, Henry Kranenburg.
 - 3.3. **Motion carried:** to adopt the agenda with timeline as guide.
4. **Round Table Sharing**—Delegates shared both blessings and challenges faced by their congregations with table partners and prayed for one another.
5. **Stated Clerk Report and Classical Interim Committee Report:** Stated Clerk Gary Duthler summarized and highlighted specific items of the Classical Interim Committee’s work as it appeared in the Classis agenda.
 - 5.1. **Motion carried:** to approve the work and ratify the decisions of the Classis Interim Committee since the previous Classis meeting.
 - 5.2. **Motion carried:** to appoint an ad hoc committee (chaired by Mike Vos) to study the provisions in the Commissioned Pastors Handbook for the use of video technology in the examination of candidates and come up with a recommendation that could apply to the examinations for Commissioned Pastors and Ministers of the Word. (Delegates were requested to submit names of volunteers to serve on the committee.)

- 5.3. **Motion carried:** to ratify the appointment of Mr. Andrew Renema to the position of part-time Campus Chaplain at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology for a one-year renewable term, commencing on May 1, 2019. All terms and conditions of the appointment to be as previously established by Classis for the NAIT position.
- 5.4. Classis extends best wishes to both Edmonton Covenant CRC and Nola Visser, as they continue on their separate ministry paths. No motion was required to release Nola from the position as commissioned pastor.
- 5.5. **Motion carried:** to extend the license to exhort for Harry Cook for two years to Oct. 2021.
6. **Mission and Ministries** – written reports were received.
7. **Home Missions**
- 7.1. **Motion Carried** that Classis recognize Bridge Church as an emerging church under the care of the council of Bethel Community CRC, Edmonton, in accordance with Church Order article 38a.
- 7.2. Ryan Pedde spoke to Classis regarding the happenings at Bridge Church. Their launch went amazingly well, and they have experienced incredible growth with reports of 16 new families in home groups ministries. Thanks was extended to everyone for the encouragement of the churches, both in prayer as well as the financial support received. The hope is that in six months or so, Bridge Church will be able to be in their new permanent facility.
- 7.3. Wendy Werkman, Classis Chaplain led in prayer over Bridge Church and their delegates.
8. **Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference (NADC) Presentation** – Jesse Edgington
- 8.1. Jesse gave a brief history of the NADC from its beginnings in the early 1980s and the various consultants throughout those years. NADC facilitates in building bridges for deacons and churches. They host the annual Day of Encouragement, as well as NADC meetings where deacon representatives gather and share with one another about their work, such as development of community gardens, Hands and Feet Sundays, and Christmas with Style events. NADC remains involved with the Honduras Water Project (now in its 25th year). A future dream is to build relationships on reserves and with indigenous communities, and to connect with prison ministries, with inmates and with those who have been recently released.
- Question: Could NADC explore homelessness – specifically the varied forms that it takes and assist with the possibilities for diaconal work in this area?
- Answer: Yes, they would be willing to assist deacons in this area.
- 8.2. Wendy Werkman, Classis Chaplain led everyone in prayer for the work of the NADC
- 8.3. **Motion carried:** that Classis confirms that the ministry of the NADC continues to meet the criteria for Classis engagement.
9. **Mental Health Ministry** – Tony Maan, CRC of St. Albert
- 9.1. Input was sought from the delegates (and the broader community) in how to assist members within congregations who in mental health crisis. Some suggestions and thoughts brought to the floor:
- a) “Wrap around” –build a team of people to surround the person in need. This might include a social worker as well as people this person could identify as important. The team and the individual meet to develop a plan – making the person in need part of preparing a plan.
 - b) People with dementia and their family – they carry a huge burden and feel that they need to carry it alone.
 - c) Cornerstone Christian Counselling is a great resource for people.
 - d) Canadian Mental Health services has courses which are great for leaders – especially for suicide prevention.
 - e) How can we, as community, be trauma informed? What does it mean as pastors and leaders to engage as well?
 - f) Mental health first aid. Anyone can take this course – gives a broad overview of mental health issues and first response activities. Can contact St. Albert CRC re: possibly arranging for a course for your community.
 - g) Church can be set up to be a confidential connector, to engage people with counselling, or with a number of free sessions of counselling.
 - h) Parish Nurse – such as was hired at The River. She works 15 hr/week and does a lot of work in the community re: mental health. Connect with The River to learn more about parish nursing.
 - i) Provide church space where community professionals could connect with community members re: mental health

- j) Alberta Health professionals can help too – through Primary Care Network, through personal coaching, etc.
- g) Classis counselling fund – Healthy Church Task Force has a list of trained psychologist and therapists. If pastors would like to know the list, please contact HCTF. In the past, HCTF has provided financial assistance for those who have asked for it – but it isn't part of their budget and would remain only as long as funds remain.

9.2. The CIC will take this conversation for consideration and bring forward further discussion opportunities at a future Classis meeting. Tony Maan offers to work with the CIC.

10. **Highlights of Synod for Classes** – Classical delegates Neil de Koning, Nathan Vos and Helen Doef, and Jacob Boer shared their experiences. Some of the decisions that will impact Classis AB North:
- 10.1. Each Classis will need to monitor / implement appropriate “abuse of power” training within all churches of a Classis. The Denomination is working out the resources for the Classes.
 - 10.2. Ministry Share system proposed changes likely to take effect for the 2021 budget year (will need to be ratified by Synod 2020). Until then, the current model of determining ministry shares remains unchanged. Under the new proposed system, churches will be asked to identify to their Classis their planned ministry share giving for the year.
 - 10.3. Next year's Synod plans to improve the connection between Synod, Classes and Churches using a variety of methods. This includes Synod encouraging Classes to send one or more delegates to Synod for two consecutive years, if possible.
 - 10.4. Churches within Classes are encouraged to support new and current missionaries in Resonate Global Mission.
 - 10.5. Call to be vigilant against Kinism (which teaches that races should be kept separate – a white supremacist interpretation of Christianity). Synod declared Kinism as a heresy.
11. **Canadian Ministries Director** – Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director
As the Director of the Canadian Ministries, he sees a steady 70% giving from Canadian churches to ministry share requests for which he gives this Classis thanks for their part in this giving. The Canadian National Gathering held this past spring at The King's University saw many members from across Canada, which provided a venue for discussion and setting priorities for the CRC. He identified that the CRC's main challenge is an evangelistic and missional one – to engage in church planting and outreach. Our Classis was thanked for supporting The Bridge App. It is likely that in the next year the app will be purchased by WayBase and that this purchase will include ongoing free use for the CRC members.
12. **Ministry Presentation – World Renew** – Chris Orme.
World Renew is grateful for the support of Classis AB North churches. In the last 10 years – Classis AB North has given a combined \$7,869,413.10, accounting for about 25% of total church giving to World Renew. These funds have allowed World Renew to assist many thousands of people—those suffering from disaster, hunger, etc.
13. **Centrepointe CRC: Commissioned Pastors job description**
Motion carried: to declare that the job description submitted by Centrepointe CRC accords with the guidelines set by synod for the work of a commissioned pastor.
Question: Will the Administration of sacraments be a regular part of this position as well?
Answer: Yes, that is to be included in this job description.
Question: Why isn't this a position of the minister of the word?
Answer: This will be a “tent making” ministry and no salary can be provided by Centrepointe. Funds will totally be self-raised by the Portuguese congregants. The proposed candidates will be interviewed by Classis at a future meeting. They will not have their M.Div.
Question: How did this ministry come to be part of Centrepointe?
Answer: Carlos and Meire Rosa are potential candidates for the commissioned pastor position. They came to Edmonton from their work planting a Portuguese church in Montreal. They joined Centrepointe's community and eventually became part of a larger Brazilian community. Through that process, they requested that they join as members of Centrepointe, and further that they establish a Portuguese church.

14. **Ministry Update by Ron Klok** – Ron’s eligibility for call as Minister of the World is valid through October 2020. He brought Classis up to date on his study leave and plans for ministry. In November he will receive his Masters degree and has entered the world of Mental Health support and will likely work practicing pastoral psychotherapy, a more in-depth, longer term pastoral counselling. He sees himself as a servant to Classis and desires to serve our Classis. He cautions the churches not to push away those who approach us with mental health issues, but that churches commit to working with these people. If churches would like more resources, they can be in touch with Ron.
15. **Neil deKoning introduced Pastor Kim Yung** who serves a Korean church in Red Deer which is seeking affiliation with the CRC in just over a year. Pastor Kim introduced himself. His church has been in Red Deer for 17 years. Pastor Kim arrived there 4 years ago. He is learning more about the CRC – our church order and our Classis.
16. **Classis Budget 2020 and Financial Report.** Neil deKoning presented the proposed 2020 budget on behalf of the Classis Interim Committee.
 - 16.1. **Motion carried:** to approve the 2020 Classis Alberta North budget.
17. **Church Counsellor reports**
 - 17.1. Melle Pool’s written report regarding Faith Fellowship CRC Fairview was read. The church functions well without a pastor.
 - 17.2. Bill Nieuwenhuis reported regarding First CRC Rocky Mtn House: Assisted the council in the selection and call of Pastor Ken Douma. Bill oversaw the installation service for Pastor Ken. He also oversaw a student this past summer. It has been a pleasure to serve First Rocky.
 - 17.3. John Ooms reported regarding mosaicHouse CRC: The Avenue, who are not an organized church, wished to call a second pastor. So work was done through their supporting church, mosaicHouse, and a call was extended to Loretta Stadt. This call was accepted.
 - 17.4. Nic Wolmarans reported regarding Rimbey CRC: They are well organized and well focussed. They have extended a call to Rev. Ken Vanderploeg from Taber CRC and he has accepted that call.
 - 17.5. John Pasma reported regarding Edson Peers CRC: They have extended a call to a candidate and are waiting to hear back from the candidate.
 - 17.6. Tony Maan reported regarding Hope CRC in Stony Plain: visited in September. They are not anticipating calling a pastor. HCTF will advise Tony regarding the required scope for his work at Hope.
18. **Classis Business**
 - 18.1. Nominations Coordinator – Anita Veldhuisen- Slomp
 - 18.1.1 **Motion carried** to support Michelle Kool’s nomination to a second term in her position on the CRCNA’s Council of Delegates.
 - 18.1.2 **Motion carried** to destroy the ballots.
 - 18.2. Classical Appointments Coordinator – Art Verboon.
 - 18.2..1. Faith Fellowship in Fairview is very thankful for the classical appointments received.
19. **Credentials Committee Report** – John Ooms
 - 19.1. Credentials Committee reminded all churches that Classis would like to see delegates of all three offices: Pastor, Elder and Deacon. This allows for a well-rounded representation to the discussions at Classis.
 - 19.2. West End CRC asks Classis to clarify whether Classis ministry shares are to be paid in full by each of the established churches of Classis Alberta North. WECRC notes that not all churches do and so would like to understand whether each church has the option as to the amount it contributes. They think in light of the recent decision of Synod re: denominational ministry shares, and the discussion Classis Alberta North will have on that decision, that this would be a good time to clarify Classis ministry share expectations as well.

Recommendations:

 1. **Motion carried:** That Classis affirms its expectation that all officially organized churches fulfill their ministry share responsibilities in the spirit of our covenant to work together.
 2. **Motion carried:** That Classis affirms its expectation that churches unable to fulfill their ministry share responsibility communicate accordingly with Classis.

3. **Motion carried:** That Classis, taking note of the decision of Synod 2019 to bring changes to our ministry share practice, delegate to the CIC the task of arranging an educational session on this matter at a future Classis Meeting.

19.3. The River CRC asks Classis to appoint Bill Nieuwenhuis as our church counsellor in The River's search for a new Lead Pastor of The River.

Recommendation:

Classis refer this request for a church counsellor to the Healthy Church Task Force, whose mandate includes the appointment of church counsellors.

20. Dinner Break

21. Classis resumed with worship led by Rev. Tony Maan from the CRC of St. Albert.

22. **Panel Presentation on the Canadian National Gathering** held May 24-26 at The King's University.

12 members from this Classis attended the gathering. Five members were present to speak to Classis. Margie Patrick from Fellowship Edm., Wendy Werkman from Bethel Edm., Cindy Abbink from The Avenue, Edith Zuidhof Knoop from Edson Peers and Andrew Tenbrinke from Bethel Lacombe. Some highlights:

- a) Lots of prayer which was central to everything at the gathering. This began months before the gathering.
- b) Harold Roscher's drumming and opening song was memorable
- c) Experiencing the CRC as a national community gave a sense of how great God is because our community is huge.
- d) Multiculturalism and racial reconciliation
- e) The many expressed desires to include LGBTQ+ people (although this was not unanimous).
- f) Didn't always know about the purpose or intended outcome of the exercises

Classis was led through a shortened exercise like the delegates' experience at the gathering. At the end of the exercise, Classis was asked to consider incorporating the following ideology in whatever mission statement is adopted for our Classis: "That *Our World Belongs to God* clearly serves as a guide for faithful living, as a way of living in this place and at this time as a disciple of Christ engaged in spiritual practices and deeply connected with the Word."

23. **Jacob Boer**, Classis Vice Chairman closed the evening with prayer and Classis was adjourned for the day.

Proceedings of Classis: Saturday, October 19, 2019

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

<u>Church</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Deacon</u>
Barrhead	Harold Vandersluis	Jan Heida*	—
Edm – Avenue	Aaron Au	Loretta Stadt*	—
Edm - Bethel	Tom Baird	Maria Zapata*	Hans Huizinga
Edm - CentrepoinTE	—	Mike Van Boom	Jesse Edgington
Edm - Covenant	Michelle Kool	Cyndi Hudson	Greg Pasma*
Edm - Fellowship	—	Darcy Visscher	—
Edm - First	Brian Dunn	Bruce Smid	Wilma McLaughlin
Edm - Inglewood	John Ooms	Janet Paquette*	Sandra Vandervinne*
Edm - Maranatha	Terence Visser*	Roy Schouten	—
Edm - mosaicHouse	Anne Vander Hoek	Walter Bonilla	—
Edm - The River	Bruce Gritter	—	—
Edm - Trinity	Michael McGowan	Mary Van Ryk	Stephanie Carrozza*
Edm - West End	Henry Kranenburg	Bert Kamphuis	Nathan Vos
Edson – Peers	—	—	Jake McCaffrey*
Fairview - Faith Fellowship	—	Jack de Jong	—
Ft. McMurray – Evergreen	—	—	—
Fort Saskatchewan	Ryan Pedde*	Greg Boskers*	—
LaGlace	Ryan Hoogerbrugge	—	—
Lacombe - Bethel	Jacob Boer	Andrew Tenbrinke*	Ann Wildeboer
Lacombe - Wolf Creek	—	Gary Barnes	—
Lacombe - Woodynook	Dayna Vreeken	Marg Hoogland*	—
Leduc - Ebenezer	Jason Dahlman	Roy Van Boom	Christina Vaandrager*
Neerlandia	Art Verboon	Dawna Nanninga*	—
Ponoka - Sunrise	Brian Schouten	Nathan Vanderkooi	Roy Weever*
Red Deer - First	—	Wilf Opden Dries*	Jonathan Drok
Red Deer - New Life	Peter Rockhold	—	—
Rimbey	—	Rob Dolman	James Vanderhoek
Rocky - Covenant	Nic Wolmarans	John Piers	Jordan Piers*
Rocky - First	Ken Douma	Tony Blaak	—
St. Albert	Tony Maan	Joanne Munro	Andrew Seinen*
Stony Plain- Hope	—	Natasha Specht	—

24. **Welcome:** The session was opened by the chairman, Henry Kranenburg who welcomed the delegates.
25. **Devotions:** Wendy Werkman, Classis Chaplain opened day two with devotions
26. **Roll Call:** The Stated Clerk reported on the attendance.
27. **Examination of Hilary Smith** for Ministry of the Word – called by Trinity CRC Edmonton.
 - 27.1. Dayna Vreeken led Hilary in her practica examination
 - 27.2. Questions were taken from the floor.
 - 27.3. **Motion carried:** to proceed with the exam. Synodical deputies concurred
 - 27.4. Art Verboon and Roy Schouten provided the sermon critic report. They attended the evening service on October 6th at Trinity CRC. Hilary preached on the assigned text: Genesis 12:1-3.
 - 27.5. **Motion carried:** to proceed with the exam. Synodical deputies concurred
 - 27.6. Gary Bomhof led in the Biblical and Theological Knowledge examination.
 - 27.7. Questions were taken from the floor.
 - 27.8. **Motion carried:** to proceed with the exam. Synodical deputies concurred
 - 27.9. **Executive Session was declared**

Motion carried: to admit Hilary Smith into the office of the Minister of the Word in the CRC
The Synodical Deputies concurred with the decision of Classis.

Motion carried: to destroy the ballots.

27.10. **The Executive Session was ended.**

27.11. The result of the vote was announced, and congratulations were extended to Hilary Smith

27.12. Prayer was offered by the Classis Chaplain as delegates laid hands on Hilary.

28. **Examination of Loretta Stadt** for Ministry of the Word – called by mosaicHouse CRC for work at The Avenue church plant.

28.1. Karen Norris led Loretta in her practica examination.

28.2. Questions were taken from the floor.

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

28.4. Allan Groen provided the sermon critic report that he and David Paszek submitted. They attended the service at The Avenue CRC. Loretta preached the assigned text: Genesis 12:1-3.

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

28.6. Nicolaas Wolmarans led in the Biblical and Theological Knowledge examination

28.7. Questions were taken from the floor.

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

28.9. **Executive Session was declared**

Motion carried: to admit Loretta Stadt into the office of the Minister of the Word in the CRC
The Synodical Deputies concurred with the decision of Classis.

Motion carried to destroy the ballots.

28.10. **The Executive Session was ended.**

28.11. The result of the vote was announced, and congratulations were extended to Loretta Stadt

28.12. Prayer was offered by the Classis Chaplain as delegates laid hands on Loretta.

29. **Church Visiting Clusters**

The Advisory Committee reported on the motions and recommendation of the Healthy Church Task Force.

a. Motion carried: Reports from Church Visitors are to be given early in the meetings of Classis, before our communal time of prayer, so that the delegates can pray for collective needs and joys.

b. Motion defeated: At Classis meetings, churches of a cluster sit at the same table together, for the duration of the meeting, to help build relationships.

Comments and questions:

- Delegates spoke against sitting within their clusters. They expressed the value of seating that allowed intermingling with other churches which they might otherwise not have the opportunity to talk with.
- Noted any changes would be a 2-meeting trial only allowing enough time to understand what we might lose and or gain.
- Might this change how Classis functions now? There is very limited time during coffee as it is.
- Uncomfortable that a committee is telling Classis how it should function.
- Not being around a table with others, there simply would not be time or opportunity to seek out other churches where people might be unknown.

c. Motion carried: that Church Visitors annually report to Classis in writing on joys, needs, and concerns of the churches in the cluster.

Question: Is there a point person for each cluster? This would require such a person.

Answer: Yes, that is part of the agenda for the next cluster meetings.

Question: Will all the other clusters be meeting between now and next Classis?

Answer: Unsure.

d. Motion carried: Complete reports are to be provided only to the councils of the cluster, to the HCTF and to the Stated Clerk, to help maintain confidentiality.

Comment: Church Order requires church visitors to send reports to the Stated Clerk for filing. Full reports, regardless of what is divulged at Classis, would be filed.

Question: Is there a guideline for reporting?

Answer: Not aware of a guideline but this concern is noted by HCTF. A whole section will be linked on the Classis website soon.

- e. **Motion carried:** We re-evaluate the proposed way of working after Classis has worked with it at 2 of its future meetings.
- f. **HCTF** is asked to give the CIC clarification of process to avoid duplication and smooth operations at Classis meetings.

30. **LBTQ2+ Update presentation** - This ad-hoc committee of Classis balances the history of this topic for Classis and ensures that there are opportunities for wrestling with the topic.

30.1. A document was prepared for members of Classis. It is designed as a working resource to facilitate smaller, one on one conversations within community. It covers:

1. The purpose of the document
2. A guide to enter challenging conversations
3. The importance of language choices
4. A list of resources (18) to assist members in self exploration of the conversations taking place today and to assist in the engagement of others.

Recommendations:

1. That we begin to think about creating support groups within our Classis, especially for the families. A place to share and wrestle together.
2. Create opportunity for more redemptive conversations – meeting face to face (round tables). Listening well, to understand our own pains, our own agendas and to welcome our neighbors. Lamenting together and being able to see beyond ourselves.

30.2. The Committee notes that time limits should probably be made for this Committee.

31. **Ministry Presentation: Indigenous Ministry** -- Shannon Perez and Kayla Boone presented and challenged Classis to next steps with indigenous peoples. They cited the following resources and challenges:

- “The Land We Stand On: A Territory Acknowledgement Guide” is a PDF document available from CRCNA website
- Members were challenged to listen. Indigenous peoples struggle with their identity and the need to be reconciled. It is important to listen as indigenous people wrestle with where that need comes from and as they learn to move forward in a better way.
- CRCNA adopted the UN declaration of indigenous rights. Many of the rights in this document were withheld from the indigenous population. Members were encouraged to read the declaration and see if there is one that you personally, or as a church or Classis can pray over and struggle with.
- Be a person who gets involved in a reconciliation program such as Youth Ambassador Reconciliation Program (YARP) or sponsor someone to be involved. The goal of YARP goes beyond the academic, it encourages personal involvement, to be in relationship, to travel along side with other indigenous youth and elders. Breaking down stereotypes
- Build a positive posture of listening, relationship building and learning about Canada’s role and how that impacts the indigenous peoples.
- Shannon and Kayla are open to hearing from churches inquiring about how people might want to expand their connections with indigenous peoples.

Wendy Werkman, Classis Chaplain, led us in prayer for the work done and work yet to be done in relationship with our indigenous neighbors.

32. **Discussion about aid to Naschitti CRC, Classis Red Mesa** - Harold Roscher

Harold presented Classis with the need of this church which goes beyond the rebuild of their facilities which were destroyed in a recent fire. This Indigenous church, as do many in Classis Red Mesa, has felt disconnected from the denomination for a long time.

The call to action is to ascertain interest within our Classis to come alongside and walk with this specific church. To share our blessings with a sister church that is struggling. To enfold this church with our community, putting reconciliation in action. DRS will be assisting with the rebuild but the hope is that we can also send teams, make personal connections, become a sister church. Responses can be sent directly to Harold.

Comments:

- We have some money – however, in the time required for Classis to move on decisions for financial assistance, many things will have taken place.
- Hoping that we would be more than just sending money and/or praying. But hoping that by next spring would be early enough to determine desire that this is a church that we'd like to enfold.
- This church, and its area, experience a lot of poverty and haven't experienced the reconciliation as we have here in Canada. We have much to offer based on our experience with reconciliation.
- Members were encouraged to add thoughts and suggestions to their Classis evaluation sheets so that CIC can assist Harold in this endeavour.
- Bring this to our deacons and think of creative ways to be involved. World Renew has a church to church program that could be a potential tool to explore. NADC is willing to facilitate discussion with deacons
- Would be good on a Classis-to-Classis basis to be in connection with Classis Red Mesa
- SERVE 2020 (youth from three churches within our Classis) will driving going right through this community – maybe some connection / assistance could take place through that as well.

Wendy Werkman, Classis Chaplain,, Classis Chaplain, led in prayer with Harold and other delegates, in support of the indigenous ministries and for the Naschitti CRC

33. **Closing Comments:**

33.1. Chair Henry Kranenburg thanked the St. Albert CRC for their hospitality and included special thanks for the excellent work of the kitchen and technical staff.

33.2. Vice Chair Jacob Boer thanked Henry for his leadership and closed the meeting with prayer.

34. **Classis adjourned** at 3:15 pm.