



**Classis Alberta South & Saskatchewan
Of the Christian Reformed Church
Minutes of Fall Classis - October 28, 2016
Medicine Hat, Alberta**

VISION STATEMENT

Classis Alberta South & Saskatchewan is a regional group of Christian Reformed Churches dependant on the Holy Spirit, striving to function together as one body in Christ, share in worship, promote evangelism, diaconal ministries, and nurture through mutual accountability.

Place: Medicine Hat CRC
Officers: Chair: Rev. Brian Kuyper
Vice-Chair: Rev. Henry Veldboom
Clerk: Rev. J. Cameron Fraser

Delegates arrived on Friday morning and shared in fellowship and coffee during registration.

1. Classis delegates began a time of worship, led by Rev George Koopmans of the host church, with piano accompaniment by his wife Emily. We sang several songs and George gave a brief devotional based on Daniel 2: 31-35, the stone that destroyed the large statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. He encouraged us to see the work of classis as part of the ongoing victory of God's kingdom. Classis was formally called to order and Chair Rev. Brian Kuyper extended a welcome to all the delegates and to visitors.
2. The Credentials were presented and the roll was called: 43 delegates were present, including 14 first time delegates who signed the Covenant for Officebearers. The chair declared a quorum.
M/S to seat Rev. Paul Verhoef as advisor. **CARRIED.**

<u>Church</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Deacon</u>
Brooks	M. Boardman	Art Folkerts	Anne Marie Luchies
Burdett		Jos Langeweg	Marinus Keijzer
Clgy. Covenant	M. Vanden Heuvel		
Clgy. Emmanuel		John de Graaf	Albert Wagenaar
Clgy. Lantern	E. Top		

Clgy. Maranatha	D. Melenberg	Dave Bakker	Harry Nutma
Clgy. New Hope Hillside	R. Braaksma		
Clgy. River Park	H. Cho	Nelly Eyk	Quintina Blok
Granum	H. Veldboom	Jim Vos	Adam Ovinge
High River	D. Swinney	Cyril Norrie	Arlie Nouta
Iron Springs	F. de Boer	Leighton Kolk	Bert Tanis
Lthb. First		William Hummel	
Lthb. Maranatha	T. Maan	Bert Slomp	
Medicine Hat	G. Koopmans	Dirk Vis	Wayne Stigter
Nobleford		George Lubberts Vaughn Schiebout	Allan Ouwerkerk
Regina, Sonlight	C. Kooger	Kathleen deWolde	Anita Booy
Saskatoon, Bethel	R. Kamel	Joel de Haan	Kevin Taekema III
Taber	B. Kuyper	Fred Jonker	Bernie Vloo

3. Reviewed and M/S to adopt the AGENDA

CARRIED.

4. Time Schedule. Worship 9:00 – 9:30; Classis meets 9:30 to 12:00; Lunch (committees and deacons meet), 12:00 – 1:30; Classis 1:15– 6:00; Supper; Classis 7:15 – 9:00 as needed. The afternoon coffee break to be as convenient to the Agenda.

5. Committee Appointments

5.1 Credentials Committee: Medicine Hat, Brooks

5.2 Nominations Committee: Maranatha-Calgary, Iron Springs

5.3 Expense Vouchers: Jerry Borst, Treasurer

5.4 Overture Committee: Maranatha-Lethbridge, New Hope Hillside

6. Classical Administrative Reports: Received for information unless noted otherwise.

6.1 Classical Ministries Committee.

Met on May 11 at Covenant CRC, Calgary, to follow up on Spring Classis decisions/recommendations, and at High River CRC on September 7, to prepare the agenda for Classis and discuss related matters. See minutes available on website.

Rev. Martin Boardman has received a call from the Brooks congregation to serve as Prayer Mobilizer with Presbyterian Reformed Ministries International. He will report to the Brooks council every two months in the area of life and doctrine, with the supervision of duties and

compensation coming from PRMI. Classis is required to approve this position as being consistent with the calling of a minister of the Word as per Church Order Article 12-c. Martin will continue as prayer coordinator for classis.

6.1.1 M/S to approve the work of the Classical Ministries Committee **CARRIED.**

M/S that the position of Prayer Mobilizer with the PRMI is consistent with the calling of a minister of the Word, as per Church Order 12-c. **CARRIED.**

The concurrence of synodical deputies was sought and received by email.

6.2 Classical Interim Committee.

Processed ministerial credentials for Rev. Jack VanderVeer. Jack will be working as a chaplain at a rehab hospital in St Catharines, ON and as Community Support Pastor at Jubilee Fellowship CRC in Classis Niagara. Processed credentials for Rev. Ed Jager to New Life CRC, Guelph, ON in Classis Huron.

6.2.1 M/S to approve the work of the Classical Interim Committee **CARRIED.**

6.3 Classis Stated Clerk Report.

Prepared minutes of Spring 2016 Classis meeting

Prepared agenda and minutes of CMC meetings, May 11 & September 7

Sought advice from synodical office on various issues

Processed permanent and temporary licenses to perform marriages

Processed ministerial credentials

Several emails and telephone calls with members of the Classical Ministries Committee

Processed approximately 550 emails

Forwarded various items to the churches

Forwarded info on Synod delegates to synodical office

Forwarded registration information to Synod delegates

Forwarded two overtures to Synod

Took part in a video conference for Canadian clerks with the Canadian Director

Corresponded with the Lantern re request for license to exhort

Prepared & distributed classical appointments

Solicited reports for the Classis Agenda

Prepared Classis Agenda

6.3.1 M/S to approve the work of the Stated Clerk as reported in Agenda: **CARRIED.**

6.4 Classical Treasurer's Report. Jerry Borst reporting. Update of 2016 budget. Budgeted amount: \$190,560. Income to date: \$108,000 – 57%. Expenses to date: \$154,000 -81%. Deficit (\$35,500). 6 of the 18 churches have not made a contribution to the 2016 budget.

Presentation of 2017 budget. *Please ensure the approved budget gets forwarded to church treasurers.*

6.4.1 M/S to approve 2017 budget **CARRIED.**

6.5 Classical Home Missions Committee. Brian Kuyper reporting. He and Melonie Michaud submitted letters of recommendation.

M/S to disband the Classical Home Missions Committee.

CARRIED.

Rev. Rich Braaksma spoke of his new role as regional team leader.

6.6 Classical Ministry Leadership Team. See written report. Rev. Paul Verhoef reporting. He shared about the four roles of the CMLT: to encourage churches to seek out members who are investigating a call into ministry, to walk alongside of those students, to support them financially, and to remind churches to pray for and celebrate these students. He then shared about our four current students that we support: Cari Fydirchuk, Evelyn Eisses, Steven Vandyk, and Rafik Kamel. The first three sent emails of gratitude, and Rafik was able to be present and share his thanks in person. Paul thanked the classis for their faithful support of these four students, and invited the congregations of ABSS to pray for them.

6.7 Classical Safe Church Ministry. Rev. David Swinney reporting. M/S to replace the safe church team with Elza Bouman appointed as Coordinator. Elza addressed classis briefly on legal liability and the need for local church policies, including police checks for staff and volunteers. She entertained several questions.

6.8 Classical Campus Ministry Team. See report attached to Agenda. Rev. Paul Verhoef and Pearl Nieuwenhuis reporting. They reported on many pieces of their work, following the various roles of a chaplain: Chaplain as Loving Presence, as Worship Leader, as Host, as Catalyst of Christian Thought, as Advocate and as Ambassador. Pearl also shared a little about her specific work as a Spiritual Director on campus. They expressed gratitude for the trust in sending them, for the prayers that hold them, and the mission that calls them.

6.9 Classical Prayer Coordinator Report. Rev Martin Boardman reporting. Keep praying! He is available to assist churches in developing prayer ministries.

6.10 Church Visitor Team Reports. Team 1: visited Bethel, Saskatoon in November 2015. Met separately with Rafik Kamel and Ron Smeding; Sonlight, Regina and Berta Adema (IMCF). Team 2: No report. Team 3: No report. Team 4. Iron Springs (April), Taber (May). Team 5: Granum.

6.11 Regional Pastor's Report.

6.11.1 Rev. Jake Corvers reported on two visits. Rev. George Koopmans thanked Jake for his years of faithful service, prayed for him and presented him with a Tim Horton's gift card.

6.11.2 M/S that Rev. Martin Boardman be appointed as regional pastor.

CARRIED

6.12 Faith Formation Committee Report. Rev. Matt Vanden Heuvel reporting. Sid Hielema and Ron de Vries will be at High River CRC November 25, beginning with dinner at 6:30 pm. Ellen Brekeridge (nee Lyzenga) is still youth ministry champion, but no longer serving on the committee, as she has married a Baptist and is no longer active in a CRC congregation. There have been conversations with the Home Missions Committee about cooperating in their respective roles of growing spiritually (deeper) and numerically (wider).

7. Brief reports for prayer by Burdett, Calgary--Emmanuel, Lantern, New Hope, River Park, High River, Lethbridge First, Medicine Hat, Taber. Prayers were offered for each congregation following the reports.

8. Denominational Agencies Visitors/Reports.

8.1 BOT, CRCNA. See report attached to Agenda

8.2 BOT, Calvin College.

8.3 BOT, Calvin Seminary. See report attached to Agenda

8.4 Director of Canadian Ministries. See report attached to Agenda. Rev. Darren Roorda reporting. He spoke about “Our Journey 2020” ministry plan (church & community, discipleship, leadership, identity) available in handouts and also online. He also showed videos of local churches modelling the goals of the ministry plan. “It’s all about the local church!”

8.5 World Missions. See report attached to Agenda. Cora Rempel reporting. She shared the story of “Walking with West Africa.” World Missions and Home Missions are being merged into a new missions agency by the end of June, 2017.

8.6 Salaam 2.0. See budget request attached to Agenda. Rev. Greg Sinclair reporting. He thanked the delegates to Classis for their ongoing support and noted that the support of Classis Alberta South and Saskatchewan was a critical factor in keeping this ministry going after the transition from the original Salaam Project. Greg noted ministry events such as the Refugee Roundtable, a panel discussion at Redeemer UC and ongoing work in Montreal through Mission Montreal. Greg also highlighted an upcoming conference for the Canadian Network of Ministries to Muslims in Toronto. He is on the national leadership team of CNMM. There are 19 local network groups across Canada (including Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon and Regina). Greg is available to the churches for consulting on ministry to Muslims.

8.7 Diaconal Ministries Board. A Regional Diaconal Ministry Developer is needed for S. Alberta. Anyone interested should contact Rachel Vroege at rvoege@crcna.org.

8.8 Canadian Aboriginal Ministry Committee.

8.8.1 Indian Metis Christian Fellowship. Charles Kooger reporting for Bert Adema. He made newsletters available and promoted calendars sent to churches.

8.9 Home Missions Board.

8.10 Disability Concerns. See report attached to Agenda.

8.11 The Kings University. See report attached to Agenda

8.12 World Renew. See report attached to Agenda. George Lubberts reporting. This classis has given \$5,486,702.53 over the years. This year’s theme is “Changing the Story” based on 2 Cor 5:17. Some examples were given, based on the written report. World Hunger Sunday is Nov 6. DRS is active in Ft. McMurray. The book *Living Justly* was promoted.

8.13 Ministry to Seafarers. See report attached to Agenda. Ernst de Vries spoke about the importance of and opportunities for chaplaincy and thanked the classis for its support. He distributed newsletters. He plans to retire next year.

8.14 Back to God Ministries International. See report attached to Agenda.

9. Request from the Lantern re license to exhort (see attached request). Rev. Ed Top spoke to the need; also encouraged churches to look for people in their churches who may be so gifted. M/S to establish a need and to examine Tony Webbink at the Spring Classis meeting. **CARRIED.**

10. Reports from Advisory Committees.

10.1 Credentials Committee: Only items requiring further action are included here.

10.1.1. Brooks

As the Brooks CRC will be vacant as of January 1, 2017 we would like to request pulpit supply and would request that George Koopmans be assigned as the church councillor.
Passed on to CMC.

10.1.2. Emmanuel, Calgary

- a. We request a counsellor since we are vacant at present.
 - b. We also request classical appointments 2 times per month starting in January 2017 if possible.
- Passed on to CMC.*

10.1.3. Nobleford

Nobleford is currently vacant and we have Candidate Bryan Lanting for Pulpit Supply. Since Bryan is from the PCA he has no mentor in the CRC. We are looking for some help and advice with that.
Passed on to CMC

10.1.4. Iron Springs

Request that classis consider holding a Southern Alberta or classis workshop themed towards worship leadership/development.
Passed on the CMC.

10.2 Nominations Committee:

Synod delegates: Rev. George Koopmans pastor delegate; Rev. Cameron Fraser, "other officebearer". Alternates for these positions, as well as elder and deacon delegates to be determined at the Spring, 2017 meeting.

Back to God Ministries: No objections to Evelyn Bakker being appointed for a second term.

Calvin Seminary: M/S/C to nominate Hessel Kielstra

Calvin College: Gord Vander Leek & Michelle Gritter

M/S/C to destroy all ballots.

10.3 Expense Vouchers: The treasurer will reimburse delegates for expenses handed in.

10.4 Overtures Committee: Rev. Rich Braaksma reporting. Advisory committee recommended that classis not accede. Al Brander was given the floor to speak on behalf of the overture.

M/S/C to divide the motion into two parts.

1. **M/S** to instruct the clerk of classis to withdraw the legal authority of all persons registered to perform marriages under the auspices of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, and not to register any person to perform such services in the future. **DEFEATED.**

2. **M/S** to overture the 2017 Synod of the Christian Reformed Church in North America to adopt this as a matter of denominational policy, instructing all governing bodies of the CRC to withdraw the legal authority to perform marriages on the basis of ordination in the Christian Reformed Church. **DEFEATED.**

11. The concept minutes were reviewed by Medicine Hat delegates and the Classis executive.

12. Next Classis meeting to be held on March 31, 2017 at High River CRC.

13. Closing. The chair thanked the delegates and Medicine Hat CRC for hosting the meeting. Rev. Henry Veldboom thanked the chair. The chair read Ephesians 3:20-21, prayed and led in the singing of the doxology.