

# Minutes

144TH MEETING OF CLASSIS ALBERTA NORTH OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH  
HELD TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY March 3 & 4, 2009  
The King's University College

## Vision/Mission Statement (Adopted 22 October 2003)

*The purpose of Classis Alberta North is:*

*–to encourage member congregations to faithful and creative ministry;*

*–to jointly undertake ministries of common interest; and*

*–to participate in denominational ministries and governance.*

*\*To hold member congregations mutually accountable for their work of ministry;  
and to provide appropriate resources for the same.*

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Opening devotions were led by Rev. Harry Zantingh, pastor of Sunrise CRC, Ponoka. We sang "There's no God as Great as You, O Lord." Pastor Zantingh read Mark 9:33-37 and brought a short message. We sang "Take My Life and Let it Be".
2. Roll Call is read by the Stated Clerk:

<b>Church</b>	<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Elder/Deacon</b>
Barrhead	Dan Meinema	Anita Zeldunrust
Edtn Bethel Comm.	Walt Brouwer	Arnie Steenbergen
Edtn Covenant	John Pasma	Harry Cook
Edtn Fellowship		Bob Bruinsma, Marian Williams, August Guillaume
Edtn First		Bertha Van Essen, Don Nyland, Dan Vriend
Edtn Centrepointe		Daryl Hagens
Edtn Inglewood	John Ooms	Ryan Wyngaarden
Edtn Maranatha	Art Verboon	Al Flim, Peter Zuidhoff
Edtn Ottewell	Martin Mobach	Peter Jonkman
Edtn So Mang	David Joo	
Edtn The River	Bruce Gritter	
Edtn Trinity	Fred Bultman	Mary van Ryk
Edtn West End	Karen Norris	Alyce Oosterhuis
Edson-Peers		Arnold DeLeeuw
Lacombe – Bethel	Mike Vandyk	Art Hazelhoff
Lacombe-Wolf Creek	Harry Valstar	Ken Vanderwekken, Henk-John Kuipers
Lacombe-Woodynook	Neil DeKoning	Lawrence Buit
La Glace		Lyle Nyland, Stan Nyland
Leduc – Ebenezer	Peter Tuininga	Dennis Van Beek
Neerlandia	Randy Blacketer	Cliff Tuininga
Ponoka – Sunrise	Harry Zantingh	Josh Lubach, Jan Star
Red Deer – First	Gary Bomhof	Alan Anderson
Red Deer- New Life	Henry Steenbergen	Jenny Bakker
Rimbey	Bill Nieuwenhuis	John Holtkamp
Rocky – Covenant	Nic Wolmarans	Jan Hondebrink
Rocky – First	Len Batterink	Robert Boodt
St. Albert	John Luth	Jane Brouwer
Stony Plain – Hope	Melle Pool	Debbie Caldwell, Louis Bourassa
Fairview – Faith Fell.		Jack DeJong
Ft. McMurray	George Holthof	

### 3. Opening Procedures:

- a. Signing of the Form of Subscription by several first time delegates.
- b. Motion to seat deacon delegates, as well as delegates of Fairview CRC and Centrepont CRC whose credentials we do not yet have. MSC (Moved, Seconded, Carried)
- c. Classis is declared constituted by the Chair, Rev. Len Batterink. Rev. John Luth will serve as Vice-Chair.
- d. The Chair welcomed the delegates, and introduced guests.
- e. Classis expresses its sympathy towards Rev. Henry Steenbergen who was recently widowed.
- f. Expense Committee and Credentials Committee: members were identified and approved. MSC
- g. Time Schedule was adopted as presented, with the understanding that it is a flexible schedule. MSC

4. **The Stated Clerk** led us through his report, and thanked Allan Groen for his past work as Stated Clerk.

5. **Classical Interim Committee:** The Stated Clerk led us through the report and made the following motions:

- a. that we schedule future Classis meetings, starting in March 2010, on Wednesday and Thursday. MSC
- b. that we lift from the table Item 13e from the minutes of the October 2008 Classis meeting, which states: "Those who have served as Ministry Associates in Classis ABN and retire from their positions be granted emeritus status within the bounds of Classis ABN with permission to preach, perform sacraments and serve as stated supply under the authority of local Councils." MSC
- c. that we declare that the work that Rev. Bill Tuininga is doing at Urban Sanctuary is compatible with the calling of a Minister of the Word, pending concurrence by three Synodical Deputies. Stated Clerk read some details of the job. MSC

6. **Classical Ministries Committee:** Martin Mobach reporting. The Committee met on Nov. 26, 2008 and Feb. 18, 2009 to share about our various ministries; we were encouraged by almost full participation by the various committees. Classis will hear and celebrate what God is doing in some of these committees.

7. **Nominating Committee:** Bill Wildeboer reporting.

- a. The following motions were presented:
  - i. to appoint Rick Struik as Stated Clerk of Classis Alberta North. MSC
  - ii. that the Stated Clerk be given permission to hire a paid assistant not to exceed \$6500/year. MSC
- b. We voted for Regional Delegates to Denominational Board of Home Missions. Rev. John Van Sloten received 19 votes and Rev. Bruce Gritter received 33 votes. This ballot will be sent to Grand Rapids.
- c. Synodical Delegates: Selected as Minister delegates were Martin Mobach and Neil De Koning and alternates Dan Meinema and Garry Bomhof.
- d. Selected as elder delegates were Ryan Wyngaarden and Alan Anderson and alternates Co Vanderlaan and Peter Jonkman. Motion to destroy the ballots. MSC

- e. Selected by ballot to various Classical Committees were:
- |                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Walt Brouwer      | Classis Interim Committee  |
| Peter Tuininga    | Home Missions Committee    |
| Bernie Kolkman    | Home Missions Committee    |
| Bruce Gritter     | Home Missions Committee    |
| Bill Wildeboer    | Nominating Committee       |
| Martin Wikkerink  | NADC Board                 |
| Andrew Geisterfer | Student Fund Committee     |
| Cathy Tilstra     | Youth Ministry Committee   |
| Sim VanderVinne   | Cuba Connection Committee  |
| Ria Cook          | Safe Church Committee      |
| Gordon Pols       | Synodical Deputy           |
| Allan Groen       | Alternate Synodical Deputy |

f. Committees are asked to submit names for remaining vacancies.

g. Bill Wildeboer and the Chair express thanks to those who have served on various Classis committees and whose terms are now over.

8. **Christian Reformed World Missions:** Hans Huizinga, World Missions Mobilizer, gave a verbal report and a slide show about the work of World Missions. He encouraged the churches to keep up support, not only financially but also in prayer for CRWM and missionaries. Hans Huizinga is available to speak at churches upon request.

9. **Cuba Connection Committee:** Sim Vandervinne gave a verbal report. To increase exposure in the churches, this Committee plans to send bulletin or newsletter notices more frequently, as well as make use of a link on the Classis website.

10. **Classical Home Missions Committee:** Henry Steenbergen reporting.

- a. Victor Ko, pastor of Mosaic House, shared some things that have been happening at Mosaic House, a cluster of three house churches in Edmonton. Mosaic House is a daughter church of The River Community church, and the youngest daughter church in our Classis. A slide show was presented and will soon be available to any church. Martin Mobach led us in prayer for Mosaic House.
- b. Church Planting – Creating a Way Forward: The delegates met in groups for 30 minutes to discuss the questions on p.6 of the Supplemental Reports, and passed their comments to the Home Missions Committee. Henry Steenbergen asked for some verbal feedback:
- i. New mission efforts are welcomed within the churches but these efforts sometimes come under criticism and increased scrutiny after a few months or years.
  - ii. Key is 'setting our people free' and equipped to minister.
  - iii. Individuals have fear of personal missions (witnessing).
  - iv. Awareness of missions is often dependant on whether a missionary or church planter has visited the church lately.
  - v. Churches can ask Home Missions for help/advice and should inform Home Missions of new local efforts.
  - vi. Churches should be willing to take risks.
  - vii. Home Missions welcomes further feedback from the churches.

11. **Campus Ministry:** Rick VanManen gave a verbal presentation and referred the delegates to his report in the Agenda. Churches are encouraged to have their students contact Rick on campus. There are 12 chaplains on campus (10 Christian); Rick has some contact with them and finds that they have similar problems connecting with students of their own churches. Rick was invited by the University of Alberta to participate in the discussion to revise the 'charge to the graduates'.
12. Greetings were brought from The King's University College by the President, Harry Fernhout. He thanked the churches for their support through ministry shares. He also led us in supper devotions. Note that the college has chosen "King's" as the approved abbreviation and would appreciate it if we no longer use the acronym TKUC. Delegate from Covenant CRC, Rocky Mountain House, expressed thanks for the work of King's and for their openness is helping to deal with some questions that their council had.
13. We enjoyed a delicious dinner together, catered by King's.
14. **Diaconal Ministries:** Henry Bosch reporting.
  - a. Ian Gray, a deacon who leads a serve team at The River Community Church, presented a slide show outlining what their objectives are. Approaching ministry from a church perspective: preparation, information, call to action, enabling action, reflection. Ian gave us some examples of projects the church has been involved in, eg., HIV/AIDS awareness, Karin refugees, Partners in Hope (raising awareness of problems of refugees in Edmonton).
  - b. Henry Bosch reported from Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference. Henry expresses his thanks to the churches of Classis for ongoing support of the various diaconal ministries. The next Day of Encouragement is scheduled for Nov. 7, 2009 and a bridge funding plan for refugees is being worked out.
  - c. Harry Cook was recently in Kenya and brings greetings from Reformed Church of East Africa.
  - d. Hans Kater, who serves as National Director of Diaconal Ministries Canada, shared some of the activities they are involved in.
  - e. Quentin Nanninga, board member of CRWRC, speaks about some of CRWRC's activities.
  - f. A slide show about Disaster Response Services was presented by John Ooms who worked in New Orleans for 3 weeks while on sabbatical. A video was shown about Ecuador where CRWRC is active; copies are available to the churches.
15. **Church Visitors/Counselors Reports:** The reports were received for information.
  - a. Harry Zantingh and Gary Bomhof visited Bethel CRC in Lacombe; Harry Zantingh reported.
  - b. Nic Wolmarans and Len Batterink visited Sunrise CRC in Ponoka; Nic Wolmarans reported.
  - c. Nic Wolmarans and Len Batterink visited Woodynook CRC in Lacombe; Nic Wolmarans reported.
  - d. Melle Pool, church counselor for Hope CRC, Stony Plain, reported.
16. Martin Mobach read Psalm 125 and closed in prayer. We sang "Praise God From Whom all Blessings Flow".
17. On Wednesday we reconvened at 9 a.m.
18. The Chair called for roll call changes. Several first time delegates signed the form of subscription. The following elder delegates were at Classis for Wednesday only:
 

Edtn Fellowship	August Guillaume
Edtn First	Dan Vriend
Edtn Maranatha	Peter Zuidhoff

Lacombe – Wolf Creek	Henk-John Kuipers
Ponoka – Sonrise	Josh Lubach
Red Deer – New Life	Jenny Bakker
Stony Plain – Hope	Louis Bourassa

19. Opening devotions were led by Harry Valstar. We sang “This Is the Day” and “Great is Thy Faithfulness”.
20. Motion to seat deacon delegates. MSC
21. **Meeting of the Association of Classis Alberta North:** The financial report was presented by Ellen Vlieg-Paquette, treasurer. The following motions were brought forward:
- To appoint Rick Struik as Stated Clerk and Director of the Society replacing Allan Groen. MSC
  - To approve the Financial Statements as at December 31, 2008. MSC
  - To approve the Auditor's Report. MSC
  - To approve the appointment of A. Dieleman Professional Corporation as auditors for 2009. MSC
  - Presentation of the Ministry Share reports. There was some discussion. A suggestion was made that it would be helpful to offer a workshop for church treasurers.
22. **Board of Trustees:** John Pasma reporting. He reviewed the members of the Board of Trustees and mentioned a few items that are being discussed by the Board, such as:
- A ‘Center for Congregations’ is being established, with a director, to respond to needs of congregations.
  - New crisis management policy.
  - On-line yearbook may be a possibility.
  - Ministry Shares will be reviewed.
  - Safe Church Ministry (formerly Office of Abuse Prevention).
  - Budget will be \$7 million short this year and cutbacks have been made (staff, salaries, pension).
  - Vision/Mission targets review.
  - BOT asks for nominees of youth delegates to Synod.
23. **Classical Youth Ministry:** Panel discussion with Ron DeVries and guest Ben Bentam.
- What does it mean to ‘be real’? We put on a ‘mask’ in church; there is some pressure to dress a certain way, act a certain way.
  - Are singles ostracized? Again, there is pressure to get married. Churches say they support families; what about singles?
  - Church should be an authentic community; church shouldn’t just be something that we ‘consume’ on Sunday; what happens outside of church? Confusion exists about what worship is or should be; do we even know what we want?
  - Hurtful church experiences. Sense of frustration that we can’t be who we are in the church community.
  - Are we developing student leaders? We miss out on talents because of those leaving due to disenchantment. God will raise up leaders regardless of what we do right or wrong.
  - The church has struggled with “what to do with the youth” for many years. Is it any different now? Things are always changing.

- g. Youth want something and are not sure what it is or how to get it. They may still take their cues from their parents in terms of what is sacrificed (work, entertainment, family, possessions) in order to be involved in church activities. They take their cues from their parents about many things, such as personal daily bible study.
  - h. Conforming happens in peer groups as well as in church.
  - i. Let go of some customs and traditions.
  - j. Dislocation / separation ... is it really a problem? Maybe our young adults are right in calling us out into the streets, rather than us trying to call them into the church.
  - k. Authenticity ... is Jesus real in the church? Are we living a life that is 'attractive' to others? Do our lives illustrate the gospel and draw people in who are searching?
  - l. Mentoring: Youth want mentoring and love from the older generation. Help build confidence, be yourself.
  - m. Young adults have suggested that the church needs to be or provide: authenticity, mentorship, passionate leadership, interactive environment, involvement, relevant engagement, intellectually challenging, technology and an internet presence.
24. **Citizens for Public Justice:** Representative Darryl Exelby reporting. CPJ works on the political dimension of loving our neighbour, poverty reduction, refugees, and aboriginal issues. Darryl Exelby will be contacting the churches individually.
25. Lunch devotions were led by Janina Mobach, who talked briefly about her recent work with the "Embrace AIDS" campaign in Nigeria, and brought greetings from the churches there. We enjoyed another delicious meal together, generously provided free of charge by King's.

**26. Pastor/Church Relations Committee**

- a. Mike Vandyk reported that a new Regional Consultant was needed. A team of two members of the Pastor Church Relations Committee (PCRC) and two CIC members interviewed three candidates for this position, following which it was agreed to recommend to Classis that Walt Brouwer be appointed to this position. The committee gives thanks for God's provision. Martin Mobach, Chair of CIC, was asked to comment on the process that was followed. Walt Brouwer addressed Classis regarding the job description and answered a few questions. Motion to approve Walt Brouwer for the position of Regional Pastor/Church Relations Consultant for Classis Alberta North for a two-year term. MSC
  - b. This Committee has planned a conference for pastors and spouses May 1-3, 2009 and all invitees are encouraged to attend.
  - c. Classis went into Executive Session to address an issue regarding Faith Fellowship CRC in Fairview.
27. **Back to God Hour Ministries International:** Gary Bomhof reported.
28. **Classis Credentials Committee:** Delegates of Neerlandia CRC and Bethel Lacombe CRC. Mike Vandyk reported.
- a. Trinity CRC and West End CRC requested advice on youth and young adults. The churches should contact Ron Devries.
  - b. New Life CRC in Red Deer asked for a visit from the Church Visitors. The Church Visitors acknowledged this request.
  - c. Sunrise CRC in Ponoka requested Classical appointments. Referred to CIC.

- d. LaGlace church's name is simply LaGlace CRC.
  - e. Trinity CRC requested help with seniors ministry at Emmanuel Home. Emmanuel Home or the Edmonton churches could come to Classis with a proposal. There has been no chaplain at Emmanuel Home since 2008; funds received through Ministry Shares are still available for use. Delegates from Trinity were asked to clarify the request. Churches that have members living at Emmanuel Home were asked to continue to minister to them and perhaps to record the visits (sign in at the home).
  - f. Ottewell CRC requested advice on their current practise of admitting children to the Lord's Supper since Synod declared in 2008 that this practice not be continued for a five year moratorium period. Several churches volunteered to convey to Ottewell CRC what they do in their respective churches.
  - g. First CRC Edmonton requested Classis to provide a church counsellor. Motion to appoint Allan Groen as Counsellor for First CRC. MSC
29. **Classis Expense Committee:** Delegates of Ebenezer CRC in Leduc and Inglewood CRC. John Ooms reporting.
- a. Expenses for Classis were: Facility costs of \$1756.16 plus travel costs of \$620.81 for a total of \$2376.97. (Actual facility costs were \$3272.01 but King's generously contributed \$1515.85). The Chair ruled that the expenses are approved.
  - b. The Committee recommended that the CIC evaluate with the Classical Treasurer the rationale and feasibility of having an Expense Advisory Committee for each Classis Meeting.
30. The Vice Chair thanked the Chair for his work. The Chair led us in closing prayer. We sang "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow".
31. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next Classis meeting is scheduled for October 20 & 21, 2009  
at Bethel CRC in Edmonton, Alberta.