



The Christian Reformed Church Classis Alberta North

Supplemental Agenda for 149th Session, October 19-20, 2011

St. Albert Christian Reformed Church

Table of Contents

Classis Interim Committee.....	2
Ministry Shares Discussion.....	2
Chaplaincy Report	3
Classis Leadership Team	3
Edmonton Native Healing Centre.....	4
Pastor-Church Relations Committee.....	7
Student Fund Committee	9

DELEGATES PLEASE NOTE:

The Time Schedule which accompanies this Supplemental Agenda is substantially REVISED from the one sent out with the main Agenda. Please use this one.

Classis Interim Committee

Excerpts from CIC meeting of October 5, 2011

1. **Ron Knol** joined CIC and provided a sample CAN Privacy Policy which the CIC will review and approve in the coming months.
2. **Rev. Rich deLange** has agreed to be the counselor for Centrepointe Community CRC.
3. The Cuba Connection Committee advised the CIC that they overspent their 2011 budget because they thought they had a surplus carry forward from the previous year. The CIC approved a motion to approve an additional \$5000 for the Cuba Connection Committee for the budget year 2011. The CIC has requested that the Cuba Connection Committee report to the churches by December 2011 what they have learned about Cuban churches and what connections have been made thus far.
4. The Treasurer reviewed the third quarter financial reports for the various classis expenses.

Ministry Shares Discussion

The Classis Interim Committee would like to remind all delegates that a 2 hour time slot has been allocated at Classis in order to discuss the questions which follow. Councils have been asked to discuss these questions ahead of time so that delegates will be prepared. If you need a copy of the ministry shares budget to be sent to you again (it was included with the main Agenda), please contact the Assistant to the Stated Clerk, Arlene Vandekamp, at statedclerk@classisalbertanorth.org

The Questions to be discussed at Councils and Classis:

After reviewing the 2012 budget and the 5 year projections, please discuss the following questions regarding Classis Ministry Shares:

1. If you see it as an Expense problem:
 - a. Of all the good ministries we presently support, which is least needed for your local church and our collective classis' ministry?
 - b. Where [in which ministries] would you suggest we cut?
 - c. How can we best evaluate if ministries are still needed and effective?
2. If you see it as an Income problem:
 - a. How do you think we can better raise the money to fund our collective classis ministries?
 - b. How can we better capture the giving imagination of our members?
3. If you see it neither as an Expense Problem nor an Income Problem but as an opportunity to do effective and transformative ministry:
 - a. How can we better promote this perspective?
4. What other questions or suggestions do you have in regards to Ministry Shares?

Chaplaincy Report

Dave Sutherland has retired from the military and is now living in Nova Scotia. He is awaiting an opportunity in Classis Eastern Canada, but he also has established Serenity Christian Retreats for pastors and spouses who need some time away.

Classis Leadership Team

Support for Persons on the Way to Ordination:

Purpose: the Classical Leadership Team provides support for members of the CAN who are on a journey toward ordination – either as a Minister of the Word or Minister Associate.

People: we keep contact with those funded by the student fund committee and others who intend to or have initiated a process toward candidacy in the CRC.

Leadership Development with Kings:

Purpose: to be the classical representatives that encourage and facilitate the development of a Leadership program with King's University College

Activities: over the last year, we have had a number of meetings with King's University College to pursue collaboration in various areas of leadership development. Along the way we have invited Chris Pulleneyegem of the Leadership Exchange to be part of the conversation.

- King's University College has identified ways in which the present programs of the college can be part of and support a focused attention on Leadership Development.
 - Host and provide support for a ReScript Weekend (Leadership Exchange)
 - Host a weekend Conference on a theme determined by Classis
 - Re-institute the Preachers Conference
 - Training for Transformation events for deacons and others seeking to participate and engage in short term missions.
 - Other options
 - Making courses (or segments) more accessible for church members
 - Organizing a short series of talks to be held in other communities
- At the present time the following activities are being contemplated or developed.
 - With the Leadership Exchange and the Classis work on a Rescript Weekend
 - Continued work in the Honduras Water Project (NADC/ Kings)
 - A re-activation of the Preacher's conference with active participation from Classis (a pastor (s) be part of the planning process)

- Mentoring Young Leaders Program. In this program we would connect identified young adult leaders with identified and trained mentors with the goal of developing the leadership capacity of our Young Adults. King's University College would have a part in supporting training programs and providing leadership.
 - In the next phase we need to identify potential mentors in our various church communities.
 - We would anticipate a best practices session for mentors in the new year. (perhaps under the leadership of King's)
- A "King's on the Road" program that could support the work and leadership of the Local Church. It is important for Kings that the local congregation/ community initiate and organize this event.

Actions to be taken by Classis & its Member Churches

1. That Classis renew funding for the Classical Leadership Team
2. That Classis begin identifying mentors for the Mentoring Young Leaders Program
3. That Classis begin identifying young adult leaders that would benefit from leadership mentoring
4. That members of Classis participate in these various projects by volunteering to take these responsibilities.

We recognize that there are other leadership initiatives taking place in the boundaries of Classis (ie Karen Wilk with Forge/ Neighbouring and the Day of Encouragement). We are not in competition and will seek to coordinate our plans and involve each other as more concrete plans will be worked on.

Neil de Koning, Rick Mast, and Bernice Ooms

Edmonton Native Healing Centre

11813-123 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5L 0G7

(780) 482-5522 Fax: (780) 482-5560

Email: info@e-nhc.org

Visit us on-line at: www.edmontonnativehealingcentre.com

Director's report for June, July, August, September 2011.

Board Development

Our Board met on July 12th, discussed Taylor lake project, Resignation of Sharon Pasula as chair (accepted). Ron to write a thank-you card. More details needed for Taylor lake project, i.e. financial commitment and use. We also met on September 26th, discussed Taylor lake project and welcomed two

new board members Cherie Spence and Denise Van Weelden. Also the board is looking at fund raising for kid's camp next year.

Personnel

Harold Roscher: Fulltime Chaplain/Director

Michelle Nieviadomy: Fulltime Assistant Director/Youth Liaison

Kim Roscher: Full time community support worker/administration support.

Michael Loyer: part time Janitor

Darlene Barnaby: Part time Bookkeeping

Financial Report

We have undergone a capacity audit by Heritage Canada and the final report is coming out next week. Revenues are down over all and we currently are in a deficit position of approximately \$9000.00. This has happened because Harold chose to pay off the heating and cooling units off completely. Comes from drawing on our line of credit to pay staff and kid's camp bill of \$2400.00. We will begin to make enough money to cover these debts in September when we have signed our pre-employment contract with HRSDC.

Facility status

The Inglewood crc serve team came in during the week of July 4-8 and laid down some laminate flooring, ripping up the existing carpeting. They also painted ¾ of the centres interior walls using a color scheme set by and interior designer. The place simply looks beautiful, the new look was met with great appreciation by our clients and they feel their home away from home is even better than before. Simply amazing what these youth did in one weeks time.

Programming

Youth programming: I rode bike with young man for a couple weeks as he sorted out the break up of his mom and dad. Michelle worked with several youth from the community putting on her production of "Hear the Call of the Drum" a theatrical success for our ministry. Kim and our Volunteer Nikki have made Thursday afternoon's popcorn and home work days for the kids who are let out early from schools on Thursdays. They have about 8 youth ranging from grade 3 to grade 7.

Public access computers: We now have six computers in our computer kiosk up from two so less frustration for clients waiting for a computer.

Drop-in Pastoral Care: We continue to see a lot of new faces in our drop in, however some of the chronic problems still plague most of them. We have become a food bank depot and we do intakes on Mondays with pickups on Tuesday mornings at 11 am and Wednesday morning intakes with Thursday pickups. This is a change for us, but things are going smoothly. We can serve 20 clients per intake or 40

per week. We have also applied for a grant towards a seniors program and hope to work more intentionally with the elderly in our community.

Health for Two: Michelle is working with 9 young mothers currently and is taking some pre-natal fitness training this fall to help the women she works with.

Cultural Camp: I allowed Russell Auger to use our cultural camp to teach folks about Aboriginal culture. These folks are mandated to go through Aboriginal cultural training by their employers. Our Kid's Cultural camp this summer was a huge success, we hosted 60 kid's ages 8-12. We also started an oskapew program (spiritual helpers) for 13-15 year olds who previously attended camp. The weather was good after the first night and we had to dry some sleeping bags out, but the campers were still eager to stay in the tipis. This year we followed Cree teachings about the tipi poles which all have meanings. Three big poles are Faith, Hope and love and this foundation is what we danced on, prayed on, sweated on because Jesus requires a response from us.

The Taylor lake project is moving ahead slowly as we work out a lease agreement and a dollar amount that works for both parties. This property is 500 acres of scrub brush three dwellings and a small lake, a beautiful spot if we can make it work out. Board rejected our first proposal so Dr. Esmail and myself will see if we can find a good solution that will make the board endorse the project.

Community and CRC relationships: I preached in Woody nook CRC, Ebenezer CRC, Barrhead CRC in June and preached in Trinity CRC, Fellowship CRC and hope CRC in July. These were great opportunities to talk about our kid's camp and the need for dollars and volunteers. I recruited a young aboriginal man from Ebenezer CRC to join us at camp and he loved every minute. I also had lunch with the Christian Labour association of Canada (CLAC) aboriginal liaison to discuss possible job training opportunities. Our annual "Hear the Call of the drum" event was well received an original play written by Michelle Nieviadomy. Had a couple of breakfast meetings with Canadian bible league about a possible Canadian "book of hope" project.

We tested the resolve of our client community by having the ministry doors closed for a full month. The first week we attended Kid's cultural camp and then it was holiday time for staff and volunteers. When we opened on September 6th people were happy to have us back.

Enter a big thank-you to the churches who responded to my plea for a \$500 donation towards our kid's camp, on fairly short notice. You just need to look into the eyes of these kid's and see their smiles and you can see the triune Creator at work.

Christian Aboriginal Spirituality:

I had a good visit with Mike Peters from Four Fires Ministry in Grand Rapids. It was encouraging to know that things we are doing God honoring and pleasing. It is also nice to have one more Christian aboriginal resource person because there are not too many of us in ministry positions.

Grace Mercy and Peace,
Harold Roscher, Chaplain/Director

Pastor-Church Relations Committee

Based on our evaluation, we are making two recommendations to Classis:

1. That the position of Classis Consultant be made permanent

Grounds:

- a. A permanent position would be consistent with other positions of classis.
- b. Classis Alberta North has had this position for 6 years now, 4 with Melle Pool, now 2 with Walt Brouwer.
- c. The presence of the Classis consultant is a way of recognizing that we as leaders in the churches need to be cared for and supported as well. There is particular value to pastors and councils in having this care and support be provided by an ordained pastor who has special training and many years of experience working in the church.
- d. The work of the consultant is 'pro-active' rather than 'reactive'. A fair comparison may be the way a municipality invests in fire safety and fire prevention and not simply fire fighting. That is, rather than respond when relationships and effectiveness within church leadership has become unworkable; our consultant is actively working to help build healthy leaders and healthy relationships within our churches. At least one pastor commenting on the consultant's work said, *"This may well prevent an unhappy separation with my church or even an Article 17."* This comment is admittedly anecdotal and while it is impossible to know if the pastor's fears would have become reality, but prevention of even one such situation from a monetary perspective alone is worth the cost to the churches of the consultant position.

2. That Rev. Walt Brouwer be affirmed to continue as our Classis Consultant.

Grounds:

- a. Walt has worked energetically among us for the past two years. He has visited all but two of the 30 churches in classis (thus, 28). 16 churches have engaged him in his work, not including preaching.
- b. Walt has shown himself to be effective and continues to build on the skills he brings to the work, reading avidly and making use of educational opportunities to help our pastors, councils and congregations.
- c. In the committee's formal evaluation process the responses from those with whom Walt has worked have been thoughtful, favourable and heartfelt and appreciative.

Our 2012 Jasper conference speaker has been confirmed as **Dr. Arthur Paul Boers** from Tyndale Seminary in Toronto.

We remind all pastors and councils that this annual event is in keeping with Synod's emphasis on continuing education for pastors (cf Agenda for Synod 2012 p. 332)

The conference enhances this educational focus in two particular ways: the presence and involvement of colleagues and of spouses. Learning and reflecting are done together. This is tied in with warm fellowship, a beautiful location and often much laughter. Pastors and spouses have found the conferences to be strengthening and encouraging.

Here's the theme for 2012: Living into Focus: Embracing Abundant Life

Lecture 1: Walking 500 Miles to Church— or — How the “Spiritual but Not Religious” Call Christians to Faithfulness Pilgrimage is on the rise. Philip Jenkins believes that European Christianity is not dead but being re-shaped by pilgrimage. Intriguingly, many pilgrims on traditional Christian routes are not themselves Christian. For these seekers, pilgrimage poses a contrast to hollow living, pointing toward practices that engage us deeply and connect us with others, creation, and God.

Lecture 2: Paved with Distractions— or — How the Information Highway and Other Technologies Led to a World Wide Waste of Time A major challenge for Christians is to pay careful attention to how we, our characters, and our communities are formed by ways we engage technology. This warrants constant, devoted care and discernment. People of faith have always asked such questions: Where do you look with your eyes, listen with your ears, focus with your minds and imaginations? When do you say “Yes” and when do you say “No”? How do you relate to people, objects, nature, God? How do you love others, God, nature, and yourself? Where do you invest yourself and your time?

Lecture 3: Finding Focus and Fulfillment— or — How Christians Can Recover the Meaning and Wonder of Abundant Life In the final lecture, we explore hopeful strategies for moving forward. Christians are not without choices. “The best thing is knowing that there is good news: it is possible to live the good life.” (Albert Borgman)

To God be the glory,

John Luth – secretary	Mike Van Dyk – chair
Alice Joosse	Joanne Munro
John Pasma	Walt Brouwer – ex officio

Student Fund Committee

Amended report

The Student Fund Committee met in August, 2011 to review the status of students who had received financial assistance in 2010, and to consider applications for funding from Classis Alberta North for the 2011/12 academic year. Andrew Geisterfer chaired the meeting and welcomed the committee members. There were new applications along with several renewed applications.

It was reported that the Classical Scholarship awarded through The King's University College has not been awarded this year. A warm welcome was given to Ron DeVries and John Luth, the two new members of the committee, although Ron DeVries was unable to attend due to vacation schedules.

New Student Applications:

1. **Aaron Au** – a new student application coming to us from mosaicHouse Christian Reformed Church. Aaron is recently married and is planning to attend Taylor Seminary in Edmonton, Alberta. Aaron will be attending his first year of studies.
2. **Trevor Froelich** – a new student application coming to us from Bethel CRC in Edmonton. Trevor is married and has five children. He will be attending Taylor Seminary on a part-time basis and also entering into a distance learning program with Calvin Seminary.

Continuing Student Applications::

1. **Janina Mobach** – comes to us from Ottewell CRC in Edmonton. She is in her last year of studies at Regent Theological Seminary in Vancouver, B.C. She has expressed how blessed she has been in her studies and is very thankful to Classis Alberta North for its support both financially and in its prayers. She will now be attending the final year of studies at Regent Seminary.
2. **Geoffrey VandeKuyt** – comes to us from Inglewood CRC where he has and continues to serve as the Youth leader. Geoff is attending Taylor Seminary here in Edmonton and this is done in conjunction with his entry into the Master of Divinity program of studies which he plans to finish with Calvin Theological Seminary. Geoff is studying part-time with a course load of approximately 60% of the full load requirements.

Factors the committee considers when determining applications:

1. Identification of need.
2. Institutions in which the applicants are enrolled. Calvin Theological Seminary has been the preferred institution with respect to classical funding assistance. Students enrolled there will receive appropriate consideration where possible.
3. Enrollment in U.S. institutions where students may continue to experience poor exchange rates; this exchange rate issue does not usually come into consideration with Canadian institutions.
4. Ability of Classis to assist on a year-to-year basis.

Financial Assistance Recommendations:

Given the above factors to be taken into consideration with each of the applicants, the committee makes the following recommendations:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Recommendation (Base plus ‘bump’)</u>	<u>Grounds</u>
Janina Mobach	\$8,500.00	1, 2, 3, 4,
*Geoffrey VandeKuyt	\$6,000.00	1, 2, 4
Aaron Au	\$8,500.00	1, 2, 4
*Trevor Froelich	\$5,750.00	1, 2, 3, 4

Note: the usual base amount has been set at \$3,500.00 for attendance at seminary this year. This amount would be increased by \$500.00 per child if applicable. Attendance at the preferred educational institution, Calvin Theological Seminary, has this year included a “bump” of \$500.00. Financial assistance for students attending other than Calvin Seminary has traditionally been somewhat lower than these amounts. **The committee asks each council to canvas its membership to encourage people to consider whether they are being called into Ministry.** It continues to be an underlying principle of the Student Fund Committee that the financial assistance provided by Classis AB North is not provided by way of grant, but rather by way of loan. Classis retains the discretion to forgive the sums provided to each student dependent upon what happens as each student’s professional career commences. To this end, the committee has had a discussion with respect to outstanding loans. As students confirm that they have pursued their career *in* (with) the full-time ministry of the CRC, their loans are forgiven. For students who have not done so, their loan obligations are monitored to the best of our ability. To this end, George Den Oudsten has confirmed that he has accepted a call to Boseman, Montana CRC. The committee recommends that the loans to George Den Oudsten be forgiven.

*It should also be noted that we are experiencing a new kind of student, namely, a student who may not necessarily attend full-time. To this end, several applications either have been or will be pro-rated pending confirmation of the level of attendance.

Ministry Share

Next year, the committee expects to have a need of approximately \$25,000 for student assistance. This estimate is based upon some continuing students requiring on-going support at the current levels which are under review. The Committee also anticipates that there will be new applicants and that all applications will require the ministry share of \$25,000. Please note that this year two students were denied because of their application for assistance was for pre-seminary level course work.

Classis Alberta North Scholarship

This is a scholarship created in 2005 awarded to students in their final year of studies at The King’s University College. There have been two awards of the scholarship since inception. In an effort to increase the number of students who may wish to apply for this scholarship, the committee has reviewed the current criteria, and would like to propose changes to allow the scope of applicants to be increased. Due to time constraints, those proposals will be given shortly.

Recommendations:

The committee recommends:

- 1. That Classis approve the levels of financial assistance proposed above.**
- 2. That Classis approve or allocate \$25,000 in its budget for the Student Fund Committee for the upcoming year.**
- 3. That Classis forgive the loans given to George Den Oudsten.**
- 4. That Classis amend the criteria for awarding the Classis Alberta North Scholarship as presented.**

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the committee:

Ron DeVries, Andrew P. Geisterfer, Ellen Vlieg-Paquette, John Luth