

# Minutes

## 145TH MEETING OF CLASSIS ALBERTA NORTH OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

October 20 & 21, 2009

Bethel CRC, Edmonton

### 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. A worship team from Bethel CRC led us in several worship songs and hymns, incorporated with readings from Colossians 1. Opening devotions were led by **Rev. Bill Tuininga**, employee of Bethel CRC. Rev. Tuininga brought a short message based on Colossians 1 and led us in prayer, followed by another song.
2. The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:50 p.m. Roll Call was read by the Stated Clerk:

<b>Church</b>	<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Elder/Deacon</b>
Barrhead	Rev. Dan Meinema	Ron Nanninga
Edm Bethel Comm.	Rev. Bill Tuininga	Royce Boskers
Edm Covenant	----	Harry Cook
Edm Fellowship	----	Marian Williams, August Guillaume
Edm First	----	Dan Vriend, Glen Vandeborn, and Bertha Van Essen
Edm CentrepoinTE	Rev. Ron Klok	Crystal Kainz
Edm Inglewood	Rev. John Ooms	Elizabeth Kroon
Edm Maranatha	Rev. Art Verboon	Chris Toornstra
Edm Ottewell	Rev. Martin Mobach	Andrew Geisterfer
Edm So Mang	----	----
Edm The River	Rev. Bruce Gritter	Steve Oosterhof
Edm Trinity	----	Trudy Quartel, Brendan Casement
Edm West End	Rev. Karen Norris	Carolyn Dieleman-Booth
Edson-Peers	Paul Van Stralen	Lewis Elzinga
Fairview – Faith Fell.	----	Jaap Hiemstra, Gerben Bosma
Ft. McMurray	Rev. George Holthof	
Lacombe – Bethel	----	August Lymes, Frank van Iperen
Lacombe - Wolf Creek	Harry Valstar	Martin Zuidhof
Lacombe - Woodynook	Rev. Neil DeKoning	Hidde Born
La Glace	----	Cory Vanderleest, Lyle Nyland
Leduc – Ebenezer	Rev. Peter Tuininga	Wilbur Hofstra
Neerlandia	Rev. Randy Blacketer	Jan Aarsen
Ponoka – Sunrise	----	Peter Doornenbal, Otto Nieuwland
Red Deer – First	Rev. Gary Bomhof	Tony Lindhout

Red Deer - New Life	Rev. Henry Steenbergen	Evert Gritter
Rimbey	Rev. Bill Nieuwenhuis	Rob Dolman
Rocky – Covenant	Rev. Nic Wolmarans	Adrian Black
Rocky – First	Rev. Len Batterink	Gordon Vantbosch
St. Albert	Rev. John Luth	Bert Jager
Stony Plain – Hope	Rev. Fred Bultman	Nico Wyngaarden

We were also joined by Synodical Deputies: Rev. Jake Corvers, Rev. Henry Jonker, Rev. Dick Kwantes.

3. Opening Procedures:

- 3.1. Signing of the Form of Subscription by several first time delegates.
- 3.2. Motion to seat deacon delegates. Carried.
- 3.3. Motion to seat **Rev. Bill Tuininga**, since his ministerial credentials still reside with another Classis. Carried.
- 3.4. Classis is declared constituted by the Chair, **Rev. John Luth**. **Rev. Fred Bultman** will serve as Vice-Chair.
- 3.5. The Chair welcomed the delegates, and introduced guests.
- 3.6. Credentials Committee members were identified.
- 3.7. Classis was declared constituted.

4. The Stated Clerk made the following motion:

- 4.1. That Classis approve that the assistant to the Stated Clerk be allowed to remain in Executive Sessions during Classis meetings. Carried.

5. Examinations of Candidates:

- 5.1. The Candidates to be approved for ordination of the Ministry of the Word are:
  - 5.1.1. **Tim Wood**, called by Fellowship CRC, Edmonton, for a 10 month contract position as Chaplain at The King's University College.
  - 5.1.2. **Paul Van Stralen**, called to Edson-Peers CRC.
  - 5.1.3. **Paul Birnbaum**, called to LaGlance CRC.
- 5.2. **Rev. Gordon Pols** led the "practica" exam for all three candidates concurrently. Delegates and Synodical Deputies received an opportunity to ask questions; however there were no questions from the floor.
- 5.3. Moved to proceed to the sermon evaluation. Carried.
  - 5.3.1. **Rev. John Ooms** presented the critique for Paul Van Stralen.
  - 5.3.2. **Rev. Bob DeMoor** presented the critique for Paul Birnbaum.
  - 5.3.3. **Rev. Art Verboon** presented the critique for Tim Wood.
- 5.4. Motion to proceed, with the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies. Carried.
- 5.5. **Rev. Martin Mobach** led us in the biblical/theological exam for each candidate separately, and there was opportunity to ask questions of each. There were several questions from the floor.
- 5.6. The chair called for executive session.
- 5.7. **David Sutherland**, Chaplain of the day, read a few words from Scripture, and led us in prayer for God's guidance.
- 5.8. Motion to admit **Paul Van Stralen** to the ministry of the Word. Carried.
- 5.9. Motion to admit **Paul Birnbaum** to the ministry of the Word. Carried.
- 5.10. Motion to admit **Tim Wood** to the ministry of the Word. Carried.
- 5.11. All three motions were carried by ballot.
- 5.12. The Synodical Deputies concurred with the decision of Classis Alberta North.

- 5.13. Motion to destroy ballots. Carried.
- 5.14. Ordination dates have been set as follows:
- 5.14.1. **Paul Van Stralen**: October 31, 2009 at 1 p.m. at Edson-Peers CRC. Rev. Bob DeMoor will represent Classis.
- 5.14.2. **Paul Birnbaum**: December 6, 2009 at LaGlace CRC.
- 5.14.3. **Tim Wood**: November 1, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. at Fellowship CRC.
6. Transfer of Ministry Associate Status: **Harry Cook** introduced **Mr. Ken Vis**, and Ken told us a few things about himself. Motion: that Classis grant Ministry Associate status to **Mr. Ken Vis**, on the basis of a transfer of his Ministry Associate status at Taber CRC Classis Alberta South, pending approval of the synodical deputies. Carried. The Synodical Deputies informed us that this motion did not require their approval.
7. Pastor Eligible for Call: At the request of the Synodical Deputies, the Chair interviewed **Rev. Tony Maan** for a few moments. Motion: that **Tony Maan** be declared eligible for a call under Article 14.e subject to concurrence of the Synodical Deputies. Carried. The Synodical Deputies concurred.
8. Supper Break: Devotions were led by **David Sutherland**, Chaplain of the day. A delicious supper was served by the cooks from Bethel CRC.
9. Emerging Adulthood Discussion: After supper, we reconvened at 7:30 p.m. and a panel discussion on the topic of "Emerging Adulthood" was led by **Sandy Blacketer** (Youth Director of Neerlandia CRC), **Rick VanManen** (Campus Chaplain at U of A) and **Ron deVries** (Classis Youth Ministry Consultant).
10. On Wednesday we gathered at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast, once again provided by Bethel CRC.
11. Opening devotions were led by the worship team from Bethel CRC.
12. CRC Executive Director's Report and Foundation Presentation: **Rev. Jerry Dykstra**, Executive Director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, and **Peter Harkema**, Director of Denominational Advancement, spent some time talking about the denomination, the direction it is going, some big projects that are happening such as a new computer program called the Network which will connect all CRC churches in North America, followed by a question and answer time.
13. The Chair called for roll call changes. Several first time delegates signed the form of subscription. The following delegates were at Classis for Wednesday only:
- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Edm Covenant       | Frank Zee        |
| Edm The River      | Karen Wilk       |
| Edm West End       | Bertha Tiemstra  |
| Lacombe Wolf Creek | Gaylord Hulsman  |
| Red Deer First     | Dick VandenBrink |
| Rimbey             | John Holtkamp    |
14. Motion to seat deacon delegates. Carried.
15. Stated Clerk Report and Classical Interim Committee Report: The Stated Clerk led us through the report and made the following motions:
- 15.1. that Classis approve the NADC Refugee Loan Program. Carried.

- 15.2. that Classis change the Rules of Procedure D.3.b. to delete the requirement for a Classis Expense Advisory Committee. Carried.
  - 15.3. that **Harry Cook's** license to exhort be extended for another 2 years. Carried.
  - 15.4. that the funds designated for the Emmanuel Home chaplain (approx. \$11,400) be transferred to the Pastor Church Relations Committee account. There was support and a discussion followed. Carried.
  - 15.5. that Classis approve the revised Classis Leadership Team Mandate. Carried.
  - 15.6. that **Rev. Walt Brouwer** remain as a member of the CIC. There was support and a discussion followed. The motion was defeated.
  - 15.7. that Classis approve the appointment of a clergy alternate to the CIC. Carried.
  - 15.8. that the CIC will function as the Finance Advisory Committee to review the 2010 budget as presented by the Classical Treasurer. The motion was amended as follows: that the CIC will function as the Finance Advisory Committee to review the *annual* budget as presented by the Classical Treasurer. The amendment was carried. The amended motion was carried.
  - 15.9. that Classis Alberta North approve the work of the Classical Interim Committee from March 2009 to September 2009. Carried.
16. President of Dordt College, **Dr. Carl Zylstra**, spoke for several minutes about the work of the College.
17. Senior Development Officer from The King's University College, **Shannon Tuininga**, reported that enrolment at King's approaches 700 students, and he highlighted a few items from the report in the Agenda for this Classis.
18. Calvin Seminary Regional Representative, **Henk VanAndel**, brought greetings from the Seminary, spoke about upcoming plans for a new curriculum, and reported that enrolment is up. President **Neil Plantinga** plans to retire from his position in 2011 but will remain involved in other Seminary work.
19. Classical Ministries Committee: **Rev. Martin Mobach** reported that he has been encouraged by the work of all the Classical Ministry Committees, and the networking that happens at CMC meetings.
- 19.1. Motion: that Classis approve the revised Classical Ministries Committee Mandate. Tabled
20. Student Fund Committee: **Andrew Geisterfer** made the following motions:
- 20.1. that Classis approve the levels of financial assistance for students as recommended in the Student Fund Report on p. 24 of the Agenda for this Classis. Carried.
  - 20.2. that Classis allocate \$35,000 in its budget for the Student Fund Committee for the upcoming year. Carried.
  - 20.3. that the outstanding loans be dealt with as stated in the Student Fund Report on p. 24 of the Agenda for this Classis. Carried.
21. Lunch Devotions were led by **David Sutherland**, Chaplain of the day. Several prayer requests were received. We enjoyed lunch together.
22. Synodical Delegates 2009: **Rev. Neil DeKoning** and **Rev. Martin Mobach** offered a few comments on items of note from the June Synod meeting.

23. Classis Financial Report and Budget 2010: **Ellen Vlieg-Paquette**, treasurer, presented the reports.
- 23.1. Motion: that Classis approve the budget proposal for 2010 as presented. Carried.
  - 23.2. Total Budget 2010 for Classis Alberta North will be \$178,832.
  - 23.3. Classical Ministry Shares for 2010 will be \$56.73 per member.
24. Campus Ministry: **Rick VanManen** expanded on his Campus Ministry Report, printed on pgs. 9 - 12 of the Agenda for this Classis. The Campus Ministry Committee is looking for a new member, who must be a pastor.
25. Board of Trustees (BOT): **Rick Struik** reported as our Classis' representative on the BOT.
- 25.1. Synod has requested that BOT representatives actively promote ethnic diversity in leadership positions.
  - 25.2. Decided to appoint seven youth observers to Synod 2010, and to recommend to synod that youth advisers be appointed to each synod starting in 2011. Churches will be notified and asked to submit potential nominations.
  - 25.3. Recommended that Synod 2010 accept the invitation of Ancaster CRC in Ontario to convene Synod 2012 at Redeemer University College in Ancaster.
  - 25.4. Endorsed the report of the Abuse Victims Task Force, which will be forwarded to the churches.
  - 25.5. A working lunch was held with members of CRWRC's Joint Ministry Council (JMC), using the time to discuss the work of CRWRC and the relationship between the BOT and the JMC.
  - 25.6. Ministry shares income for July and August 2009 was about the same as for the same period last year.
26. Classical Home Missions Committee: Rev. **Henry Steenbergen** reviewed the report printed on p. 7 of the Supplemental Reports for this Classis.
- 26.1. **Rev. Victor Ko**, pastor of MosaicHouse, shared some things that have been happening at MosaicHouse, a daughter church of The River Community church. The first service was held one year ago this month. Victor spoke enthusiastically of some of the experiences of the past year. He will distribute a DVD about the MosaicHouse ministry to each church, via the delegates to this Classis. He also requests that churches take up an offering for this ministry.
  - 26.2. **Rev. Bruce Gritter**, pastor of The River CRC, spoke for a few moments.
    - 26.2.1. The River CRC has been praying about finding a more permanent home, and currently has an opportunity to purchase a ministry centre.
    - 26.2.2. A number of pastors and lay leaders from Classis Alberta North have been participating in Forge Canada's Missional Training Network through CRHM ([www.forgecanada.ca](http://www.forgecanada.ca)). Edmonton Hub activities have included "Days With" Alan Hirsch, Hugh Halter and Alan Roxburgh to learn more about the theology and practice of the missional church and regular 'Neighbourhood Network Nights' where we share stories and encourage each other to keep the second greatest commandment together.
27. Classis Alberta North 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee: **Ron Knol** informed Classis that 2010 will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the CRC in Northern Alberta. First CRC, Edmonton (organized on Oct 21, 1910 with 19 families and a tent) invites the sister congregations of Classis Alberta North to join in "Celebrating a Century of Grace". In conjunction with First CRC, an ad hoc classis committee will assist in planning celebratory events for the fall of 2010. For example, a music and worship celebration has been scheduled to take place at the Winspear Centre on **October 17, 2010**. All churches are asked to set this date aside and, if possible, refrain from planning anything else on that weekend.

28. Church Visitors/Counselors Report was received for information. **Rev. Fred Bultman** and **Harry Cook** visited Centrepointe CRC on April 2, 2009; **Harry Cook** reported.
29. Seafarers Ministry: **Ernst DeVries** distributed a calendar designed to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Seafarers Ministry. He thanked the churches for their support.
30. Nominations Committee: **Bill Wildeboer** reported.
  - 30.1. **Rev. Fred Bultman** has volunteered to take **Rev. Walt Brouwer**'s position on the Classical Interim Committee (CIC). Motion: That **Rev. Fred Bultman** be appointed to the Classical Interim Committee. Carried.
  - 30.2. **Rev. John Luth** has accepted the position of clergy alternate on the CIC.
31. Mosaic Centre: **Megan Schuring**, a member of Trinity CRC, spoke passionately about Mosaic Centre, an outreach program started by Trinity CRC. This program is fashioned after the JP Health & Wellness Centre. Mosaic Centre has providentially found a rent-free facility; their mission is to connect people and help end poverty. The churches are asked to pray and volunteer if possible.
32. Classis Credentials Committee: Delegates of Bethel CRC, Edmonton, and Covenant CRC reported.
  - 32.1. Evergreen CRC, Fort McMurray, requested occasional classical appointments.
  - 32.2. First CRC, Rocky Mountain House, would like to have a discussion at an upcoming Classis meeting about how to stimulate volunteers.
  - 32.3. Covenant CRC, Rocky Mountain House, would like advice about ministering to the young adult group after profession.
  - 32.4. LaGlace CRC thanks Classis for their support with pulpit supply during their vacancy.
  - 32.5. Trinity CRC, Edmonton, asked about two items:
    - 32.5.1. What is the CRC doing about homeless people in their communities?
    - 32.5.2. How do we encourage youth to stay with the church?
  - 32.6. Fellowship CRC, Edmonton: The Pastoral Council of Fellowship CRC would like a report about what policies are currently in place in Classis to support ministers and their spouses who have become estranged from their congregations.
  - 32.7. First CRC, Edmonton would like to have a discussion at an upcoming Classis meeting about the training of lay leaders.
33. The Delegates of vacant churches briefly reported:
  - 33.1. Trinity CRC has placed a call to a prospective pastor and is awaiting a response.
  - 33.2. Wolf Creek CRC's report is in the agenda.
  - 33.3. Fairview CRC is thankful for classical appointments.
  - 33.4. Sunrise CRC in Ponoka had called a pastor but the call was not accepted. They are thankful for classical appointments.
  - 33.5. First CRC has a calling committee in place. They are also thankful for classical appointments.
34. The Chair thanked everyone for their participation, including the technical staff and cooks at Bethel CRC. The Vice Chair thanked the Chair for his work and led us in closing devotions. We sang "Thank You O My Father".
35. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

The next Classis meeting is scheduled for March 10 & 11, 2009  
at The King's University College in Edmonton, Alberta.