

Minutes

148TH SESSION OF CLASSIS ALBERTA NORTH OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

March 9-10, 2011

Covenant Christian Reformed Church, Edmonton, Alberta

Vision/Mission Statement (adopted March 2, 2004)

The purpose of Classis Alberta North is:

- To encourage member congregations to faithful and creative ministry;
- To jointly undertake ministries of common interest;
- 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. Welcome: **Rev. Ron Klok**, Chair of Classis, welcomed the delegates.
2. Opening devotions were led by **Rev. John Pasma**, pastor of Covenant CRC Edmonton. Rev. Pasma brought a short message based on John 13 and opened in prayer. We sang two hymns.
3. The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. He made a few announcements and welcomed three pastors who are new to Classis Alberta North: **Rev. Mike Van Boom** (First CRC Edmonton), **Rev. Leon Johnston** (Wolf Creek CRC Lacombe), and **Rev. William Delleman** (Sonrise CRC Ponoka). The roll was called by the Stated Clerk. Delegates present for one day only are noted.

Church	Pastor	Elder/deacon
Barrhead	Rev. Dan Meinema	Bill Wever
Edm Bethel Comm.	Rev. Bill Tuininga	*Rob Drost
Edm Centreponte	Rev. Ron Klok	*Carla Stolte
Edm Covenant	Rev. John Pasma	Frank Zee
Edm Fellowship	----	Marian Williams, Vicki Van Anandel
Edm First	*Rev. Mike Van Boom	Joe Oostenbrink
Edm Inglewood	Rev. John Ooms (Wed)	*John Jager
Edm Maranatha	Rev. Art Verboon	Anko Buwalda (Wed), *Jerry VanEe (Thu)
Edm Ottewell	Rev. Martin Mobach	Andrew Geisterfer
Edm So Mang	----	----
Edm The River	Rev. Bruce Gritter	Karen Wilk (Wed.)
Edm Trinity	Rev. Rich DeLange	Mary VanRyk
Edm West End	Rev. Karen Norris	Co Vanderlaan
Edson-Peers	Rev. Paul Van Stralen	Ron DeLeeuw
Fairview – Faith Fellowship	----	Gerben Bosma
Ft. McMurray - Evergreen	Rev. George Holthof	----
Lacombe – Bethel	Rev. Mike Vandyk	*Wilf Ebens
Lacombe - Wolf Creek	*Rev. Leon Johnston	Henk John Kuipers (Wed), Ken Vanderwekken (Thu)

Lacombe - Woodynook	Rev. Neil DeKoning	Hidde Born
La Glace	----	Raube DenKema (Wed)
Leduc – Ebenezer	Rev. Peter Tuininga	Dennis Van Beek
Neerlandia	Rev. Randy Blacketer	*Glen Vander Lugt
Ponoka – Sunrise	*Rev. William Delleman	Bob Duggan
Red Deer – First	Rev. Gary Bomhof	*Art VanZantan (Wed)
Red Deer - New Life	----	Evert Gritter
Rimbey	Rev. Bill Nieuwenhuis	John Holtkamp
Rocky – Covenant	Rev. Nic Wolmarans	*Harmen Hondebrink
Rocky – First	Rev. Len Batterink	Brenda Boodt
St. Albert	Rev. John Luth	Douwe Spriensma
Stony Plain – Hope	Rev. Fred Bultman	Vic Hoogendoorn

*Denotes first time delegates.

4. Opening Procedures

- 4.1. The Form of Subscription was signed by a number of first time delegates.
- 4.2. **Motion to seat deacon delegates.** Carried.
- 4.3. Classis was declared constituted by the Chair, **Rev. Ron Klok.**
- 4.4. **Rev. John Pasma** will serve as Vice-Chair.
- 4.5. **Motion to approve the time schedule.** Carried.

5. Ron deVries was examined for ordination as Ministry Associate

- 5.1. The Chair led us in prayer and invited **Ron deVries** to come forward.
- 5.2. **Karen Wilk** led the practica exam. There were no questions from the floor.
- 5.3. **Motion to proceed.** Carried.
- 5.4. **Rev. Richard deLange** led the exam for Biblical and theological knowledge. There were several questions from the floor.
- 5.5. **Motion to proceed.** Carried.
- 5.6. **Rev. Bill Nieuwenhuis** presented the sermon critic report which he and **Rev. Neil deKoning** had prepared. Ron deVries led the service and preached at Rimbey CRC on February 6, 2011, based on the assigned text, I Timothy 4:12-16.
- 5.7. **Motion to proceed.** Carried.
- 5.8. Executive Session was held for further questions regarding Ron deVries' examination and subsequent vote.
- 5.9. **Motion to admit Ron deVries as Ministry Associate in Classis Alberta North.** Carried. **Ron deVries** was invited back into the room and congratulations were given. **Rev. John Pasma** led us in a prayer of thanksgiving.

6. Stated Clerk Report and Classical Interim Committee Report: The Stated Clerk made the following motions on behalf of CIC:

- 6.1. **that CAN approve the request from Fellowship CRC to approve Denis Vanderwekken's request for retirement for pension reasons effective October 18, 2010 at which time Denis turned 65.** Carried.

- 6.2. **that Carolyn Dieleman-Booth replace Herman Berkenbosch on the CIC upon his retirement effective July 1, 2011.** Carried.
 - 6.3. **that CAN consider whether to extend or lapse the ministerial credentials of Andy Geleynse at the spring 2011 meeting.** Tabled.
 - 6.4. **that Classis approve the audited 2010 Financial Statements.** Tabled.
 - 6.5. **that Classis approve the work of the Classis Interim Committee from October 2010 to February 2011.** Carried.
7. Overture from the Pastor Church Relations Committee to Amend Church Order Article 17
- 7.1. **Rev. Paul Van Stralen** presented the report on behalf of the Advisory Committee (delegates of Edson CRC and Inglewood CRC Edmonton). The report is as follows:

Note: The Advisory Committee agrees with the intent of the overture to make a process of redemptive healing integral to an Article 17 separation between church and pastor. However, the Advisory Committee believes that making changes to Church Order Supplement Article 17a would be more appropriate than adding a “section e” to Article 17 as the overture recommends.

Our reason: Article 17 provides for the reality of a separation of pastor and church. The Church Order Supplement to Article 17a lays out the responsibilities of parties involved in a separation. Thus the proposed amendment has a better context in the Supplement than in the Article.

Preamble: The concern raised by this overture is legitimate. Past hurts in pastor church relationships leaves lasting impact on congregations and pastors. The more understanding and healing we experience the better it is. In our reflections as an advisory committee, we agreed with this fundamental concern for reconciliation to be practiced.

A. The Advisory Committee recommends that the overture be legally placed before Classis.
Carried.

B. The Advisory Committee recommends that Classis overture Synod 2011 to amend Supplement Article 17a of the Church Order to include the following as the new #1.

1. *When the separation under Article 17 has ensued in woundedness between pastor and church, classis shall assure that both pastor and council make a sincere effort at redemptive healing using competent restorative dialogue facilitators who are to report back to classis. This effort is to be made before the pastor accepts a new call, and the church extends a new call. The church, pastor, and classis shall share the cost of this effort.*

i. *Redemptive healing requires that hurts that have been inflicted – intentionally or unintentionally – are aired in a safe environment with the use of competent restorative dialogue facilitators. The hurts are recognized, acknowledged, validated, owned, and forgiven by the parties.*

- ii. ***The goal of redemptive healing is that while the wounds still hurt and likely will for some time, the relationships are restored.***

GROUNDS

- a) Pastor-church separations under Article 17 often result in deep, long-lasting, relational, emotional and spiritual wounds for the pastor, his or her family, and the church. This amendment mandates that a sincere effort at healing be made.
- b) Seeking redemptive healing between pastor and church is required by the gospel (2 Corinthians 5:18, I Corinthians 14:33, Colossians 2:2, 3:13-15, I Peter 3:8). We owe it to one another to help the parties find a way to overcome their painful separation.
- c) Redemptive healing is important in the pastor's readiness to accept a new call and the church's readiness to issue a new call.
- d) This amendment is in line with the Synodical report from the *Committee to Study Restorative Justice* (2005).

7.2. **Motion to amend B to change "include" to "insert".** Carried.

7.3. **Motion to amend B.1.ii. to add "...to the extent that parties involved are free enough to follow Christ forward into a new future."** Defeated.

7.4. **Motion to amend B.I to delete the sentence "This effort is to be made before the pastor accepts a new call, and the church extends a new call."** Defeated.

7.5. **Motion to amend B.I to change 'ensued' to 'resulted' and 'assure' to 'ensure'.** Carried.

7.6. **Motion to Classis to approve Recommendation B of the Advisory Committee.** Carried with amendments as noted.

8. Youth Ministry Consultant: **Ron deVries**

- 8.1. Ron is working with a team of three youth leaders to plan youth services and to improve relationships between churches and Christian schools.
- 8.2. Youth worker retreat was held in February 2011.
- 8.3. Three churches will be hosting SERVE sites this year.
- 8.4. Coffee house called "Oasis" was held in February 20 at mosaicHouse for grade 12 students.
- 8.5. Ron asked the delegates to pray for various upcoming events which he outlined.
- 8.6. Deuteronomy 6 Conference in September can help churches reach the next generation; leaders and parents were encouraged to attend and Ron has contact information.

9. Classis Leadership Team: **Rev. Neil DeKoning** encouraged anyone who is entering the ministry to contact the team for information and assistance. The team is in conversation with The King's University College to establish a leadership training project.

10. Diaconal Ministries/NADC: **Henry Bosch**

- 10.1. Information on the Operation Manna offering will be going out soon; two local ministries will be supported (Mosaic House through Trinity CRC and Families Living Well Society through West End CRC).
- 10.2. Diaconal ministry developers continue to work with church diaconates.

- 10.3. Honduras Water Project will have two teams this year.
- 10.4. Kenya Project – a video clip was shown. Exchange visits with the people there are important to maintain relationships.
- 10.5. Day of Encouragement is scheduled for November 5, 2011.
- 10.6. Stewardship Empowerment Conference will be held at Inglewood CRC on April 9, 2011. The speaker is **Rev. Bob DeMoor**.
- 10.7. Henry Bosch will be on sabbatical and vacation May – August 2011, spending some time in Kenya and Honduras evaluating projects.

11. Classis Home Missions Committee

- 11.1. **Andrew Geisterfer** thanked the retiring members of the committee.
- 11.2. **Victor Ko** reported that mosaicHouse is growing. They are working on moving from worship to fellowship; discipling people intentionally; weekday ‘house church’ meetings which build on teaching from the previous Sunday.
- 11.3. **Karen Wilk** presented a slide show and video clip to illustrate some principles behind the neighbourhood life proposal. She shared a few stories of neighbourhood activities which have helped build relationships and opened opportunities for sharing the gospel. Principles are: model it, equip for it, support it, share the stories, yield to the Spirit. Karen is available for speaking engagements and offers courses to equip people in this mission.

12. Overture from Edson CRC re: Faith Formation Committee’s Proposed Changes to Church Order

- 12.1. **Rev. Peter Tuininga** presented the report on behalf of the Advisory Committee (delegates of Ebenezer CRC Leduc and First CRC Rocky Mountain House). The report is as follows:

Background: The Council of Edson-Peers overtures Classis to overture Synod 2011 to alter the wording of Church Order Article 59c and Supplement, Articles 78-81b proposed by the Faith Formation Committee.

The proposed wording lists the “privileges” of communicant membership in the CRC: *“Privileges include but are not limited to presentation of children for infant baptism, the right to vote at congregational meetings, and eligibility to hold office” (Report of the Faith Formation Committee, p. 6).*

The Council of Edson-Peers believes that the proposed wording implies a “right” to ecclesiastical office. Such a “right,” it believes, does not exist. Some churches do not ordain women to ecclesiastical office. Some church members may not have the necessary gifts.

Therefore the council proposed alternate wording – that the privileges of communicant membership “may include” eligibility to hold office. This, it feels, would bring greater clarity to Article 59c.

Recommendation: That Classis not accede to the overture of the Edson-Peers council. Its proposed wording – “may include” – is unnecessary.

GROUNDS:

- a) Confessing membership is a minimal requirement for eligibility to hold office. It does not, however, grant a confessing member an automatic “right” to office. (In the same way, Canadian citizenship is a minimum requirement for the office of Prime Minister but offers no automatic right to the office.)
- b) Synod has already clarified the matter of the eligibility of women to office in local congregations: (Article 3 Church order and supplement).

Article 3

- a. All adult confessing members of the church who meet the biblical requirements are eligible for the office of minister, elder, deacons, and ministry associate.
- b. Only those who have been officially called and ordained or installed shall hold and exercise office in the church.
--Cf. Supplement, Articles 3-a, 45, and 48-a
Supplement, Article 3-a. Regulations
1.a. All congregations may, but will not be required to, allow women to serve in the office of minister, elder, deacon, or ministry associate.
- c) Local church councils retain the right to nominate confessing members who are spiritually gifted, according to their own specific ministry needs. (See Article 4a-c Church Order)

Article 4

- a. In calling and electing to an office, the council shall ordinarily present to the congregation a nomination of at least twice the number to be elected. When the council submits a nomination which totals less than twice the number to be elected, it shall give reasons for doing so.
- b. Prior to making nominations the council may give the congregation an opportunity to direct attention to suitable persons.
- c. The election by the congregation shall take place under the supervision of the council after prayer and in accordance with the regulations established by the council. Adult confessing members in good standing shall have the right to vote.

12.2. **Rev. Paul Van Stralen** was given opportunity to speak; he asserted his original motion. **The Council of Edson-Peers Christian Reformed Church overtures Classis Alberta North to overture Synod 2011 to alter the Faith Formation Committee’s proposed wording of Church Order Article 59c and Supplement, Articles 78-81b as indicated in the committee’s report to Synod 2011 ... (see Agenda p. 25-26).**

12.3. Discussion. This could be a “communication to Synod” rather than an overture. Rev. Van Stralen is in favour of this suggestion. Edson-Peers CRC could send it to Synod themselves. **Motion to table the motion.** Carried.

13. Calvin Seminary

13.1. **Dr. Henk Van Andel**, board member of Calvin Seminary, reported that the seminary awaits arrival of the new president in June 2011.

- 13.2. There will be a change in the administrative structure of seminary so that there will be cabinet of chief officers rather than vice-presidents.
 - 13.3. Exciting development in an academic program to establish an institute for church planting and renewal, to start this fall. Diploma in church ministry will soon be offered.
 - 13.4. Enrolment this year is good, but there are fewer Canadian students.
 - 13.5. Center for Excellence in Preaching provides a valuable service to preachers throughout the country; they have had 155,000 hits on the website and over 9000 different people access the website every month.
14. Church Visitors
- 14.1. **Rev. John Pasma** reported on a visit that he and **Harry Cook** made to the pastoral committee of Fellowship CRC Edmonton on Feb. 7, 2011.
 - 14.2. **Rev. Gary Bomhof** reported on a visit that he and **Herman Salomons** made to Covenant CRC Rocky Mountain House on Feb. 14, 2011.
 - 14.3. **Motion to approve the work of the church visitors.** Carried.
15. Executive Session
- 15.1. **Rev. Fred Bultman** reported on a church visit that he and **Rev. Art Verboon** made to Neerlandia CRC.
 - 15.2. **Rev. Mike Vandyk** reported on a previously tabled motion regarding the ministerial credentials of **Rev. Andrew Geleynse.**
16. Supper Break: Devotions were led by **David Sutherland**, Classis Chaplain, after which we enjoyed a meal provided by the ladies from Covenant CRC.
17. Classis reconvened at 6:40 p.m. The motion from Edson CRC (see minute #12) re: proposed changes to the church order was untabled. The question was called; the motion was defeated.
18. Thanks expressed: The elder delegate from Neerlandia CRC thanked Classis for the help they received from the church visitors and Rev. Walt Brouwer.
19. Nominations Coordinator: **Bill Wildeboer** reviewed the requirements to appoint members for various committees, and for delegates to Synod. **The chair ruled that Rev. Fred Bultman will be the first minister delegate to Synod 2011.** Nominations for a second minister delegate were received.
20. Panel Discussion on the Belhar Confession. **Rev. Gary Bomhof** moderated the discussion with **Dr. Peter Borgdorff** and **Dr. Tom Oosterhuis**. Several members of local churches were present along with the delegates.
21. Classis reconvened on Thursday at 9:00 a.m. and the chair welcomed the delegates.

22. Opening devotions and a prayer exercise were led by **Rev. Walt Brouwer**. The delegates spent some time sharing and praying for the joys and concerns of their various churches. Rev. Brouwer will prepare a prayer calendar based on this input.

23. Pastor Church Relations – Classis Consultant

23.1. **Rev. Walt Brouwer** spoke about the model that he has developed for evaluations of pastors which has been in use since March 2010, and has proved to be very effective. A copy was given to every pastor present at Classis.

23.2. Rev. Brouwer mentioned some of the other work that he is involved in, including church renewal and restorative justice, and thanked Classis for supporting his work.

24. Roll Call: The Clerk asked if there were any delegates present who were not present for the first day of Classis. Delegates present for one day only are noted on the roll call on pages 1-2 of these minutes.

25. Nominations Coordinator: **Bill Wildeboer**

25.1. Selected by ballot (appointed or re-appointed) to various classical committees were:

Peter Tuininga	Youth Ministry Committee
Laurie Stol	Youth Ministry Committee
Andrew Geisterfer	Home Missions Committee
Mike Wevers	Alternate Classis Treasurer
Rev. John Pasma	Pastor-Church Relations Committee
Alice Joose	Pastor-Church Relations Committee
Dana VanGyssel	Safe Church Education Panel
Rita Nyman	Safe Church Education Panel
Dan Van Keeken	Cuba Connection Committee
James Joose	Cuba Connection Committee
Rev. Henry Steenberg	Home Missions Committee
Joanne Romyn	Campus Ministry Committee – check spelling

25.2. **Motion to appoint Rev. John Luth as the second minister delegate to Synod 2011.** Carried.

25.3. Nominations were received for alternate minister delegates. After voting, it was determined that:

Rev. Karen Norris will be the alternate to Rev. Fred Bultman

Rev. Art Verboon will be the alternate for Rev. John Luth

25.4. Nominations were received for elder delegates to Synod. The voting determined that:

The first elder delegate will be **August Luymes** from Bethel CRC Lacombe

The second elder delegate will be **Ralph Helder** from Barrhead CRC

The first alternate will be **Co Vanderlaan** from West End CRC Edmonton

The second alternate will be **Frank Zee** from Covenant CRC Edmonton

25.5. **Motion to destroy the ballots.** Carried.

25.6. Ballots for regional board members were collected and the results of the voting will be forwarded to the Director of Synodical Services.

25.7. **Motion to destroy the ballots.** Carried.

26. The King's University College

- 26.1. **Shannon Tuininga** reported that enrolment is up a little.
- 26.2. There will be fourteen graduates this year from their secondary education program.
- 26.3. King's received some funds from the federal economic stimulus package and some good things have resulted from that.
- 26.4. MP Rona Ambrose will be visiting the campus at an upcoming event.
- 26.5. King's continues to rate very high in surveys among other universities and among students.
- 26.6. Parents and prospective students are welcome to visit King's anytime.

27. Annual Meeting of the Association and Financial Reports

- 27.1. Opening remarks – Chair Rev. Martin Mobach.
- 27.2. **Motion to approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held March 11, 2010.** Carried.
- 27.3. **Motion to approve the Financial Statements of The Association Classis Alberta North of the Christian Reformed Church in North America for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010, presented by Treasurer Ellen Vlieg-Paquette.** Carried.
- 27.4. **Motion to accept the signed Auditor's Report from Halpert Monsma, Chartered Accountant, which accompanied the Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010, presented by Treasurer Ellen Vlieg-Paquette.** Carried.
- 27.5. **Motion to appoint Halpert Monsma, Chartered Accountants as Auditors for the fiscal year 2011, presented by Treasurer Ellen Vlieg-Paquette.** Carried.
- 27.6. **Motion to approve the appointment of Carolyn Dieleman-Booth as Director of the Society, presented by Chair Rev. Martin Mobach.** Carried.
- 27.7. **Motion to approve the re-appointment of Chair Rev. Martin Mobach, Clerk Rick Struik, and Treasurer Ellen Vlieg-Paquette for a second 3-year term, presented by Chair Rev. Martin Mobach.** Carried.
- 27.8. **Motion to approve the appointment of Mike Wevers for a 3-year term as alternate treasurer.** Carried.
- 27.9. Question period. A delegate from West End CRC urged CIC to come to the next Classis meeting with a proposal to address the continued increase of ministry shares, and the Clerk responded that CIC is addressing it.
- 27.10. Closing remarks. Sincere thanks are extended to the treasurer, **Ellen Vlieg-Paquette.**
- 27.11. Adjournment.

28. Overture from Edson CRC concerning the proposed combined RCA/CRC translation of the Three Reformed Standards was withdrawn, since further information was received which made this overture unnecessary.

29. World Missions

- 29.1. **Hans Huizinga** spoke eloquently about how we as Christians are the salt and light of the world. World Missions appreciates the help, support, and prayers of individual members and churches of Classis.
- 29.2. **Caspar Geisterfer**, full-time missionary in Honduras, spoke about his work and showed a video clip.
 - He is thankful for being nurtured in the CRC and being able to work in missions.

- He encouraged the membership of CAN to become involved in missions and mentioned several churches and members who are already connected with projects in Honduras.
- Caspar proposed that Classis Alberta North, Home Missions, CRWRC and World Missions form a ministry partnership to empower our membership to be involved in ministry. This partnership will prepare members to be involved in ministry, provide ministry experiences, and follow up to maintain a high level of engagement in ministry.

30. Campus Ministry: **Rick VanManen**, Campus Minister, spoke about his belief that it is essential to 'be the presence of Christ' on campus, and related two stories of ministry opportunities that happened because he was there. He thanked Classis for their commitment to campus ministry.

31. Overture from West End CRC re: Women Serving as Pastors

31.1. **Vicki Van Andel** presented the report of the Advisory Committee (delegates of Maranatha CRC Edmonton and Fellowship CRC Edmonton). The report is as follows:

The Advisory Committee discussed the overture and agrees that it is important that women who desire to be ordained to serve as pastors in the CRC have sufficient opportunities for service in the denomination. As the overture suggests, one reason women may have fewer opportunities could be due to a "lack of awareness" in the many congregations that support the ordination of women. Bringing this concern to the fore is therefore timely. However, after a lengthy discussion, the Advisory Committee decided to present to Classis the following recommendation:

That Classis Alberta North not adopt the overture from West End Christian Reformed Church in its present form, and that West End Christian Reformed Church take back its overture for further consideration.

FOUNDATIONS

- a) The Committee has concerns about the statement "to investigate if churches in favour of women's ordination are providing sufficient opportunities for women to serve as pastors." The Committee is concerned about the practical application of the outcome of such a study. Given the nature of the calling system in the CRC and the freedom of congregations to choose whoever fits their needs, the "practical implications and outcomes" of such a study, whatever they turn out to be, have the potential to create unnecessary and unwanted tensions in congregations.
- b) A formal Synodical Study Committee of 3 years to deal with this concern is too long and not necessary. In our technological society, statistics can be gathered fairly quickly and easily. As well, there may be other avenues for gathering this information. The Denominational Office may be able to do this. As well, Calvin Theological Seminary and similar theological schools may be able to provide data on service opportunities for ordained women in the CRCNA.
- c) The overture states there are presently "no formal structures of support specifically for women within the CRCNA." This may be so. However, the CRCNA does have a Pastor Church Relations Ministry which serves to support ordained pastors. This would include the needs of ordained female pastors.

SUMMARY

The Advisory Committee supports the need for raising awareness of the unique challenges faced by ordained female pastors in the CRCNA. The committee prefers to see this valid concern addressed in ways other than via a formal study committee of synod. Awareness raising could be done, for example, by way of a series of articles in the Banner or similar avenues of communication, statistics can be collected in a variety of ways, and existing pastor support mechanisms could be approached to address the unique concerns of ordained women in the CRCNA.

31.2. The delegates of West End CRC asked that Classis deal with their overture directly.

31.3. Discussion followed.

31.4. **Motion: That Classis Alberta North overture synod 2011 to instruct the Board of Trustees to appoint a synodical study committee to explore the practical implications and outcomes of the decision of Synod 1995 allowing women to be ordained as pastors, and to investigate if churches in favour of women's ordination are providing sufficient opportunities for women to serve as pastors. This study committee will report its findings to Synod 2014 providing statistical information on whether such disparity indeed exists, and, if so, making recommendations to improve the situation.** Voting was done by a show of hands. The motion was defeated.

32. Lunch Devotions: **Harold Roscher** led us in a song and prayer. Lunch was served; the delegates applauded the excellent work of the cooks.

33. Safe Church Education Panel: **Ron Knol** reported that the Director of Safe Church Ministries has resigned and there is not a replacement yet. Criminal record checks have been slowed down by new police requirements; there is nothing that can be done about this at this time.

34. Century of Grace: **Ron Knol** reported that the Legacy Endowment Fund is being promoted; churches will receive information about how to promote this for their churches and for Classis.

35. Native Healing Centre

35.1. **Harold Roscher** reported that there was an article about the Native Healing Centre in the February 2011 issue of The Banner.

35.2. Government funding for the Centre has been reduced.

35.3. A kid's camp was organized last summer, but due to funding issues, it will be difficult to run it again this year. Harold challenged the deacons of each church to support the camp with \$500 this year.

35.4. Harold invited the delegates to visit the centre anytime, but especially on the third Sunday of each month when a time of worship is held in the afternoon, or any Wednesday when soup and bannock is served at noon.

36. Restorative Justice Task Force

36.1. **Joanne Munro** reported that a brochure being developed to outline the work of the Task Force.

36.2. They are seeking a contact person in each church.

36.3. A speaker is available to come to churches with a powerpoint presentation.

37. Pastor-Church Relations Committee

37.1. **Rev. Mike Vandyk** reported that a conference for pastors and spouses is planned for April 29-May 1.

37.2. They are working on a proposal to move the Classis Consultant position to a permanent position; this will be addressed at the October 2011 Classis meeting.

38. Classis Credentials Committee: **Rev. Fred Bultman** presented the review of the credentials on behalf of the committee (delegates of Hope CRC Stony Plain and LaGlace CRC).

38.1. Bethel CRC Edmonton requested that Classis give approval to Bethel Community Church for elders to lead in the celebration of Communion, as per Article 55 of the Church Order (cf. Acts of Synod 2002, p. 149) when the current pastor is not available. **Motion: The Committee recommended that Classis grant this request as submitted.** Carried.

38.2. CentrepoinTE CRC Edmonton informed Classis that **Pastor Ron Klok** has requested a leave of absence and will seek a release from active ministry at CentrepoinTE in order to pursue further study at St. Stephen's in Edmonton. Received for information.

38.3. Edson-Peers CRC requested a church visit. Referred to the church visit team.

38.4. Edson-Peers CRC requested a discussion at Classis regarding ministry shares as costs continue to rise, and a suggestion that Classis and Denominational ministries should be supported on a voluntary basis. Referred to CIC.

38.5. First CRC Edmonton requested assistance from Classis regarding ministering to inactive members. Referred to CIC.

38.6. First CRC Edmonton requested discussion on how other churches are dealing with the delays in volunteer police clearances. Referred to the Safe Church Education Panel report (minute #33).

38.7. First CRC Edmonton requested Classis assistance on Church Governance and second services. The Advisory Committee cannot make a useful recommendation without more specific information.

38.8. Edson-Peers CRC requested a discussion on Pension Fund management or mismanagement. The Advisory Committee cannot make a useful recommendation without more information.

38.9. Evergreen CRC Fort McMurray thanked Classis for pulpit supply and asked that it continue. Referred to CIC.

38.10. LaGlace CRC inquired into pulpit exchange possibilities. Referred to CIC.

38.11. **Motion to approve the work of the Credentials Committee.** Carried.

39. Justice and Reconciliation Mobilizer

39.1. **Steve van de Hoef** reported for the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue (former name was Committee for Contact with the Government).

39.2. Their work involves encouraging churches to engage in advocacy and learning about public and social justice.

39.3. Steve's job as mobilizer is to promote education and empowerment to follow God's call to justice.

39.4. He is available as a resource for churches.

39.5. He is involved with the Aboriginal Ministry Committee, educating churches about the history of residential schools and exploring why broken relationship exists.

40. Cuba Connection Committee

- 40.1. **Job DenOtter** reviewed how the Cuba Connection Committee was formed in the early 1990s.
- 40.2. Committee members first visited Cuba in 1995.
- 40.3. The first container was sent in 2006 and again in 2009.
- 40.4. A Cuban pastor visited our province in November 2009 which was educational for everyone.
- 40.5. Four committee members visited Cuba again in 2010.
- 40.6. Government red tape causes considerable delays for the shipments and visas.
- 40.7. Churches in Cuba are allowed to evangelize now, but are still under tight government control.

41. The Vice Chair, **Rev. John Pasma**, thanked the Chair for his good work in leading us through the time schedule and wished him God's blessing as he transitions from being a pastor to being a student. Rev. Pasma led us in a closing prayer.

42. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

43. Citizens for Public Justice: **Mark Huyser-Wieringa**, CPJ board chair, arrived on time according to the time schedule, but too late to present his report, since Classis was adjourned 2 hours early. He will send a report to the Stated Clerk.

The next Classis meeting will be held October 19 & 20, 2011
at St. Albert CRC.