Supplemental Agenda
Classis Niagara Meeting 9:30 AM, Wednesday, February 15, 2017
Meeting at the Bridge, 4333 Queens Street, Niagara Falls, ON

Delegates Please Note:
1. Arrival time is 9:00 am. Starting time is 9:30 am. Please park in the back lot. Cost is $4.00.
2. Churches please come prepared with nominees for delegates to Synod. Classes are to delegate one Minister of the Word, one Elder, one Deacon, and one other officebearer (pastor, elder, or deacon). You can include the nominees on your credentials form or nominate them from the floor. Synod 2017 will convene at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois from Friday, June 9th at 8:30 AM through Thursday June 15th at 12:00 PM.
3. Church councils are reminded to send their historical documents to Archives of the CRCNA, Attention: Dr. Robert Bolt, Calvin College Heritage Hall, 1855 Knollcrest Circle SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546-4402, phone 616-526-6922 or email at bolt@calvin.edu.

AGENDA ITEM 5.1: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE/CLASSICAL INTERIM COMMITTEE
Classis Niagara of the Christian Reformed Church
Executive Committee – Thursday, January 12, 2017
9:00 AM Mountainview CRC, Grimsby

Present: Rev. Sid Couperus (Chair), Rev. Bob Loerts, Hilda VanderKlippe, Brian van Staaldhuinen, and Rev. Rich Loerop (Stated Clerk)
Guest: Rev. Chris deWinter, Rev. Peter Tuininga
Absent: Anita Van Geest (Treasurer)

Report of Meeting
1. Opening Devotions/Prayer—Rev. Couperus
2. ECIC Minutes of Nov. 17, 2016. Approved.
   a. Stated Clerk read letter from the Elders of Wyoming CRC re Rev. Jim Dekker and Covenant CRC. To avoid a conflict of interest, Rev. Bob Loerts absented himself from the discussion.
   b. Stated Clerk read email from Mr. Peter Beimers, interim pastor at Riverside CRC re advise on ordination via Article 7 of the Church Order. Stated Clerk will communicate back to Mr. Beimers.
4. Old Business:
   a. Motion: That Mike Wallace, Hilda VanderKlippe, Kelsey Kiers, Andrea Veldhuizen, Steve deBoer, and Bod Loerts be appointed to a task force for examining Classis Niagara’s future involvement in campus ministry. Approved.
   b. Stated Clerk reported re Wayne Knight and Bert deBolster licensure to exhort in Classis Niagara.
   c. The process of recruiting leaders for the five ministry teams of Prayerful Dependence, Authentic Community (Karin Vermeer), Disciples Making New Disciples (Hilda VanderKlippe), Leadership Development (Rev. Sid Couperus), and Covenant Relationships (Rev. Bob Loerts, Rev. David Tigchelar) continues.
   d. Motion: To adopt the job description for Ms. Anna Bailey as youth champion. Compensation for this position is $2000.00 (see job description below*). Approved.
5. New Business:
   a. Motion: That Dr. Andre Basson be appointed as Regional Pastor. Approved.
   b. Motion: That in Classical appointments when a sending church has only one worship service and the receiving church as two worship services, the receiving church pays $100.00 to the sending church for one service and $100.00 to the pastor of the sending church for the second service plus mileage that is incurred for both services. Approved.
   c. Motion: That Alice Posthumus be appointed to the Nominating Committee. Approved.
   d. Nominations from ECIC:
      i. Motion: That the following be appointed as Church Visitors. Approved.
         2. Rev. Peter Tuininga, Rev. Kevin VanderVeen—Jubilee Fellowship, Trinity, Providence
ii. Motion: That Rev. Jim Dekker be appointed for second term as Synodical Deputy. **Approved.**

iii. Motion: That Bob Loerts be appointed as Alternate Synodical Deputy. **Approved.**

6. Next ECIC meeting Feb.7, 2017 at Trinity CRC, 9:00 am.


*Youth Champion Job Description:*

**Classis Youth Champion - Classis Niagara**

**The Need for the Classis Youth Champion Role**

In a report conducted by the Canadian Youth Ministry Committee (CYMC) it was determined that there were gaps within youth ministry in the Canadian CRC that were ready to be addressed and were summarized as the following:

- Need for a common vision and vocabulary for youth ministry and its place in the overall discipleship ministries of congregations.
- Need for proper education and equipping of youth workers
- Need for knowledge on the part of churches regarding assessment, managing expectations and the building of strong ministry teams for the youth ministry staff they hire.
- Need for integration of a youth ministry into the life of the church. When this happens, even strong youth ministry cannot bear long-term fruit.

“We long for a shift from ministry that is ad hoc, reactive, age-segregated and anxiety driven to a ministry that is rooted in grace, part of a larger, comprehensive vision of inter-generational discipleship and built on solid foundations of leadership development.”

**Purpose:**

The Classis Youth Champion is a person who is passionate for youth ministry and faith formation within the CRC. The CYC is here to empower and encourage those working on the frontline in youth ministry within each Classis across Canada. The CYC will listen, pray, help connect, and be a voice, on behalf of youth workers, on a Classis level. Our desire is to strengthen youth ministry in Classis Niagara by reminding churches that we are all in this together and we all play a significant role in furthering the Kingdom of God.

**Action Steps for Youth Champion work in Classis:**

a. function as a listener/broker for youth leaders and congregations (listen to the joys and struggles of youth ministry and connect them to places/resources for support as needed)
b. connect on a personal level with each church’s youth ministry leaders in classis at least once a year to foster relationships and connections (volunteer and paid staff)
c. bring awareness at the classis level of the opportunities, needs, challenges and celebrations of youth ministry volunteers and staff within Classis Niagara
d. represent congregational voices to the Canadian Youth Ministry Team (CYMT) in part to help create an understanding of the diversity in classes across Canada and how individual classis needs can be addressed by each Youth Champion
e. bring awareness of events and resources that are available to congregations in Classis and act as a conduit of information from the CYMT (ie. Webinars for youth ministry/faith formation, multi-classes events, youth ministry opportunities and training to develop leadership etc.)
f. serve on the Leadership Development Team of Classis Niagara
g. pray for each church’s’ youth ministries in Classis with intentionality (monthly prayer guide)

**Support Needed from Pastors and Council Members:**

To help the CYC accomplish the above tasks we ask Councils to commit to:

a. provide contact information for youth leaders/staff in your congregations
b. help educate your youth ministry leaders about the role of the Classis Youth Champion and provide contact information to them
c. encourage participation from ministry leaders (pastors, elders, deacons) in their congregation at youth related activities in their churches, classis and multi-classes events to foster an environment where youth feel connected to the Body of Christ
d. intentionally check-in and encourage their youth ministry volunteers/staff - there is a significant burden placed on them for fostering spiritual development and faith formation with this age group that takes a lot of time, energy and prayer.
e. pray for youth ministry locally and on a denominational level

Accountability:
- Direct: Classis Ministry Council
- Indirect: Leadership Development Team
- Indirect: Classis Niagara (written reports twice annually & in person once annually)

Functional Relationships
- Canadian Youth Ministry Team
- Faith Formation Ministries

Classis Youth Champion: Anna Bailey

Contact Information:
Email: youth@jubilee crc.org
Cell: 905-933-3621

AGENDA ITEM 5.2: REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK/CORRESPONDENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Action/Content</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 9</td>
<td>Sent agenda to Clerks/Pastors for Feb. 15, 2017 meeting of Classis Niagara.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 9</td>
<td>Sent agenda of Classis Niagara to Dee Recker and Dr. Roorda.</td>
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<td>Jan. 11</td>
<td>From Rev. Dekker requesting a copy of the letter from the elders of Wyoming CRC.</td>
<td>Sent reply indicating the ECIC has decided that proper procedure requires the letter from the Elders of Wyoming CRC first be presented to the delegates of Classis before being released to concerned parties.</td>
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<td>Jan. 12</td>
<td>From Wendy de Jong, on behalf of Jubilee Fellowship, asking if an elder delegate can substitute for a deacon delegate at Classis.</td>
<td>Sent reply that Classis would have to approve the seating of an elder delegate in place of a deacon delegate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 16</td>
<td>Sent reply to Mr. Peter Beimers re pursuing ordination in the CRC referring him to Article 7 and Article 23 of the Church Order.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 19</td>
<td>From Mr. Peter Beimers re getting licensure to preach in Classis Niagara.</td>
<td>Forworded request to ECIC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 20</td>
<td>From Kristin Posthumus, Fruitland CRC, re ministerial credentials for Rev. Ben Ponsen.</td>
<td>Signed and forwarded credentials to Classis Hamilton.</td>
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AGENDA ITEM 5.4: NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Report from the Nominating Committee for Classis Niagara
February 2017
We have been looking for people to serve in a few positions that have become available. We, the Nominating Committee is looking to have Alice Posthumus from Mountainview CRC be accepted/ratified by Classis Niagara for a 3 - year term. The ECIC has accepted her and she has started to work with this committee so ratification would be appreciated. We would also like to have Classis Niagara accept Wendy DeJong of the CMLT for a second term. The Brock Chaplaincy is looking for a few new members and the Nominating Committee is in need of one new member. If you have any suggestions of individuals you may seem fit, please forward them to one of our committee members. Joyce Koornneef, Alice Posthumus or Ann Kiers
Thanks and God Bless.
**2016 By the Numbers**

Nearly 9,000 people made a commitment to follow Christ as the result of direct evangelism efforts by CRWM staff or through a CRWM-related evangelism program of our partner organizations. A CRWM missionary in Asia asks you to continue praying for one of these believers. “May she now find a broader fellowship to join and wisely share her newfound hope!” says this missionary.

More than 17,000 participants took part in CRWM-related leadership development programs. “The seminar I attended impacted me in an incredible way,” says one participant in an Educational Care workshop. “As a result, I intentionally added Bible teaching as an integral part of our school program.”

CRWM staff or partners helped establish 315 new faith communities that have been meeting for at least three months. A pastor in Sierra Leone whom CRWM has come alongside in planting a church said, “We believe that God is the one in charge of this work. He was here before our coming and gave us all that was needed.”

80 missionary teachers served at international schools ranging from elementary to master’s level. A student who has a ministry for individuals with special needs took part in a theology class with one of these missionary teachers in Costa Rica. “This has nourished my dream of perceiving that a better world is possible for [individuals with disabilities] and others who are socially excluded,” she said.

CRWM began 121 new initiatives with partners inside and outside the CRC. This includes a ministry to Middle Eastern refugees in Germany with a new partner in Berlin, Berliner Stadtmission. David Kromminga and Mary Buteyn, CRWM missionaries who serve with Berliner Stadtmission, say, “The opportunities for our involvement are abundant. Pastoral care, language education, leadership training for new Christians, interreligious understanding, worship in easy German, and workshops for congregations in intercultural competence.”

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**January Challenge**

This month, look at our website for resources that are available this year. There are many resources that you might not know about yet!

As a second challenge, remind your deacons about the two dates set aside for Christian Reformed World Missions on the offering schedule (Pentecost Sunday June 4, 2017 and September 17, 2017).

**Missionary Openings**

We currently have openings for long-term ministry in Japan, West Africa, Haiti, the Middle East, Uganda, and Asia. Pray that God will bring the right candidates forward for these positions. Pray that God will start preparing their hearts for ministry now.

Please share these openings (found at crwm.org/career) with anyone who may be interested.
Cohort of Missioners

If you know someone who wants to explore the world of long-term mission work with hands-on experience, the Cohort of Missioners may be for them. The Cohort of Missioners is a year-long program that pairs North Americans and Central Americans together with current missionaries in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, or Guatemala.

“As I lived in Costa Rica, I saw great inequality in rights for immigrants,” she said. “I learned more about the service of missionaries, which sparked an interest in me to serve and feel more love for my neighbors,” says Guiselle Brenes, one of the participants.

For more information on the Cohort, visit crwm.org/Cohort.

CRHM-CRWM UPDATE

The process of joining Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions continues to move forward. Seven current staff members of either Christian Reformed Home Missions or Christian Reformed World Missions have been appointed to key leadership roles in the denomination’s new mission agency.

Applicants for the new mission agency’s director are in the interview phase and the chosen candidate will go before Synod 2017 for approval. The joint board of CRHM and CRWM will meet next in February, where they will continue to help frame the structure for this new agency.

Thank you for praying for God’s guidance in this transition process.

Are You a Good Partner?

When looking at ministries around the world to be a part of, it can be tempting to look at the wide variety of options without really thinking about the other side of this partnership—your church.

Take some time to think about what you can offer a missionary or other international partner. What is the character of your church? What types of ministries or countries would be a good fit for your church? What would make it a supportive place for missionaries to share blessings and burdens? With these answers in hand, it will help your church better see its role in international ministry rather than seeing it as simply a line item in a budget.

If your missions committee or other leaders want help in considering different opportunities for supporting the ministry of global missionaries, contact Trish De Jong at tdejong@crcna.org.

Thank you for your faithful prayers on behalf of God’s mission to His world.
Dear Friends,

My name is Ron Vanden Brink. As the new (Aug. 2016) National Director of Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC), one of the first things I did was review the history of DMC. I did this in order to better understand what DMC’s primary role has been in the past, and then used this information as a tool in order to give direction to DMC’s role for the future. With this report I’d like to share a bit of what I discovered and ask for your help as we move forward.

Some History

- 1959 – 128 deacons from across Ontario gathered to discuss diaconal ministry issues
- 1950’s & 60’s - Three diaconal conferences formed in western Canada: the Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference (NADC), the Palliser Triangle Diaconal Conference (PTDC), and the British Columbia Diaconal Conference (BCDC)
- 1960 - The All Ontario Diaconal Conference (AODC) was formed
- 1993 – AODC grew to include Manitoba and the Maritimes and was renamed Diaconal Ministries Eastern Canada (DMEC)
- 2001 – DMEC and the 3 conferences in western Canada came together to form a new organization, Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC). In May of that year a new board, consisting of one representative from each of the 12 Canadian Classes approved a vision and mission statement:
  - Vision: Transforming Communities in Christ.
  - Mission: To inspire, equip and encourage deacons and their partners in transforming communities with the love of Christ
- 2001 – Hans Kater was hired as the first National Director

During the tenure of Hans Kater a strong foundation was established for the ongoing work of DMC:

- Based on the form for the installation of deacons (1982), DMC researched how best to help deacons fulfill their callings. This research was developed into training
- Three pillars – or major areas of work – were developed: “Engaging Communities, Training Deacons, and Living Justly”
- Deacons were united under one vision and gained benefits from working together
- Strong relationships were developed with many of the agencies of the CRCNA and other like-minded organizations
- Operation Manna was promoted nationally and been used to help start many new community engagement ministries
- Community engagement was promoted through the use of Community Opportunity Scans
- Relevant and timely Diaconal material and information has been made available free of charge via the DMC website (http://diaconalministries.com/)
- The model of using Regional Directors and local Diaconal Ministry Developers was birthed and honed (see http://diaconalministries.com/equipping-deacons/diaconal-ministry-developers/)
- Research and development was done in the area of living justly (see http://diaconalministries.com/living-justly/)
A lot of great work has been done in order to build the excellent foundation upon which the future work of DMC will stand. We are extremely grateful for the contributions of the visionary deacons who established diaconal conferences and DMC.

Since 2001 however, there have been many changes in diaconal ministries and the role that deacons are now called to play in the local church. A few notables include...

- **2000+** The rise of the “missional movement”
- **2000+** A noticeable rise in the focus on justice (locally and globally) in the CRC
- **2009** The book “When Helping Hurts” was published
- **2013** The synodical study “Diakonia Remixed: Office of Deacon Task Force” was completed and discussed at Synod
- **2015** The synodical study: “Task Force - to Study the Offices of Elder and Deacon” was completed and discussed at Synod. This led to major revisions to the CRC church order as well as the form for the installation of Elders and Deacons (2016)
- **2016** For the first time in CRC history, deacons were seated as delegates at Synod
- **2016** A new National Director was hired

These are just some of the reasons why it seems clear that now is the time to take a careful, in-depth look at DMC and, with fresh eyes, develop a blueprint that will build on the past and take us into a new and exciting future.

**And this is where you can help.**

We covet your prayers and input! Our next national board meeting is scheduled for February 16 & 17, at which time we’ll be developing a strategy for the future. If you have any words of encouragement, ideas, thoughts or wisdom regarding DMC’s future direction or, if you have any questions regarding DMC, please contact ron or another member of our Executive Committee as soon as possible. We’d love to hear from you!

**DMC’s Executive for 2016-17:**
- Chair – Melissa Van Dyk (Vancouver, BC) melissa.vandyk@gmail.com
- Vice-Chair – Peter Kral (Beamsville, ON) peter-kral@sympatico.ca
- Secretary – John Knibbe (Calgary, AB) knibbe@telus.net
- Treasurer – Scott Plante (Hamilton, ON) scott.plante@gmail.com
- Member at Large - Erica Snippe-Juurakko (Thunder Bay, ON) erica.snippejuurakko@gmail.com
- National Director – ron vanden brink (Burlington, ON) rvandenbrink@gmail.com

For more information on DMC and to access the resources we have available, please check out our website www.diaconalministries.com and our Facebook page.

Thanks!

ron vanden brink