

CLASSIS EASTERN CANADA

OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

M I N U T E S

Oct. 20 & 21, 2006

Meeting at the CRC of Williamsburg

OFFICERS of CLASSIS

Chairman.....Rev. J. Noordhof
 Vice-Chairman...Rev. D. Meijer
 Stated Clerk....James Kooistra

DELEGATES of CLASSIS

CONGREGATIONS	MINISTERS	ELDERS
Athens	Eld. W. Visser	R. Bennett
Brockville	Eld. M. VanDyke	T. Trapman
Charlottetown	Rev. H. Bierman	J. Terpstra
Cornwall	Rev. H. VanderBeek	T. Hartholt
Dixon's Corners	Rev. C. Witten	H. Van'tFoort
Fredericton	Rev. R. Boertje	H. Drost
Halifax	Rev. D. Vroege	D. Poel
Kemptville	Rev. B. Ponsen	L. Geleynse (Frid.)
		G. Dykstra (Fri.Eve.& Sat.)
Kentville	Rev. M. Veenema	M. Gerrits
Milford	Rev. P. VanderKooy	D. Bokma
Montreal	Rev. J. Boer	R. VanEyck
Ottawa-Barrhaven	Rev. D. Meijer	B. Berghout
Ottawa-Calvary	Rev. P. Heerema	M. Mallette (Friday)
		Deacon L. Forrest (Sat.)
Ottawa-Calvin	Rev. K. Gehrels	J. Kralt
Ottawa-Kanata	Rev. M. Miedema	B. Wissink
Pembroke	Rev. H. Vandersluis (Friday a.m.)	Deacon H. De Veen (Frid. a.m.)
Renfrew	Rev. D. Tigchelaar	H. Huyer
Truro	Rev. D. Brown	J. Kolstee
Williamsburg	Rev. J. Noordhof	J. VanGilst

CLASSIS EASTERN CANADA	MINUTES	Oct. 20 & 21, 2006
Oct. 20, 2006	<u>MORNING SESSION</u>	10:00 A.M.

=====
 Art. 1 OPENING of MEETING:

a. CALL to ORDER: (10:00 a.m.)

Rev. D. Meijer, vice-chair, calls the meeting to order, welcomes the delegates and gives special welcome to: Pastor Osee Mupesse, Chaplain Brad Close, Ian DeWaal (CLAC), Cand. Karen Norris, Chaplain Michelle DePooter (Ministry to Seafarers in Montreal), Rev. Brian Barr, Bill Schuurmans, Rev. Michael Miedema;
 He further mentions that the Lord welcomes us to do His Work in His Church;

Art. 2 OPENING DEVOTIONS:

-Rev. John Noordhof of the host-church, the CRC of Williamsburg, speaks about 'Thanksgiving', and in particular about these 3 aspects:
 Creation (Ps. 19) and we sing P.H. # 430;
 Church (2 Cor. 3:4-6) and we sing P.H. # 510;
 Christ (Rev.5:9-14) and we sing P.H. # 471;
 -He leads in an opening prayer;

Art. 3 ROLL-CALL:

- S.C. mentions that all churches are represented, except Fredericton which will arrive a little later;
- a. first-time delegates have signed the Form of Subscription;
- b. Pembroke has delegated a deacon;
- MOTION:** that deacon H. De Veen be seated as a delegate... **CARRIED**
- d. The following delegates have signed the Form of Subscription:
 - H. De Veen L. Forrest L. Geleynse M. Gerrits
 - J. Kolstee M. Miedema H. Van'tFoort W. Visser
- Schedules for the 2 days of meetings have been handed out;
- Rev. Meijer declares Classis constituted and hands the gavel over to the chairman for this session of CEC, Rev. John Noordhof;
- Rev. Meijer offers prayer for the chairman;

Art. 4 STATED CLERK & C.I.C.:

- a. the Stated Clerk presents the correspondence, reports & materials and his own report;
- MOTION:** that Classis approve the work of the S.C. **CARRIED**
- b. the Stated Clerk presents the work done by the C.I.C.;
- MOTION:** that Classis approve the work of the C.I.C.... **CARRIED**
- c. One matter of the 'APPEAL' in the CIC Report will wait till the Church Visitors Report is presented [see Art.11 of these Minutes]

Art. 5 REGIONAL PASTORS:

- EAST:
- Rev. Boertje is thankful for the pastors and their wives, and is glad that Rev. M. Veenema has joined the Maritimes pastors;
- he is also thankful for retired pastor H. Boehm who is well enough to do some preaching again;
- the pastors and their wives had a very good retreat in March of 2006;
- he is looking forward to next year's retreat and hopes some Classical Funding will be approved;
- WEST:
- Rev. Ken Gehrels speaks about 'pastoral burnout' among pastors;
- he refers to a survey that was done among pastors and cites several statistics and findings: e.g. an average pastor works 50-60 hrs. per week, most of the pastors are content with their work, many feel incompetent at times, they speak of time-management struggles and of administrative overloads, and of a lack of clear boundaries;
- in general pastors feel appreciated;
- Rev. Gehrels stresses that support mechanisms be put in place, e.g. courses, retreats, etc.

Art. 6 BALLOTING COMMITTEE-1: [see also Art. 18]

- Rev. D. Tigchelaar speaks for this committee;
- he has a sheet with some nominations, but is asking for more names;
- sheets will be gathered later;

Art. 7 CORRESPONDENCE COMMITTEE:

- Rev. H. VanderSluis reports on the application for Lic. to Exhort from Mr. Frank Folkema of Renfrew;
- Rev. VanderSluis and an elder from Pembroke have listened to a sermon on an assigned text, prepared and delivered by Mr. Folkema; [complete report is on FILE]
- Mr. Folkema should be encouraged to continue the process and come back at a future meeting of C.E.C.;

TRAINING SESSION: (11:00 - 12:25)

- the chairman welcomes Rev. G. Dykstra Exec. Dir. of the CRCNA.
- Rev. Dykstra feels privileged to travel through the USA and Canada and visit various classes and churches;
- he addresses the delegates and speaks about several aspects of the church and also uses a Power Point Presentation;
- he deals with topics like:
 - a. significant changes and new procedures for ministerial candidacy;
 - b. sesquicentennial or 150th Anniversary of the CRC and the excitement about that;
 - c. CRC needs to be a church for now, for today's generation;
- he speaks to the delegates expounding this definition of a Healthy Church: 'A diverse family of healthy congregations/assemblies, and ministries expressing the good news of God's Kingdom that transforms lives and communities worldwide.'
- he stresses that God's Word is central;
- there is a good discussion & question/answer time;
- chair thanks Rev. Dykstra for the many things he shared with us;

DEVOTIONS: SHARE & PRAYER TIME - 1: (12:25)

- the following churches share some joys and concerns: Kanata, Cornwall, and Fredericton;
- Rev. R. Boertje leads in a prayer for these churches and also asks for a blessing upon the food that has been prepared for the delegates and the visitors;

12:30 NOON ===== A delicious meal is served by a group of kind ladies of the CRC of Williamsburg =====

Art. 8 DEVOTIONS: SHARE & PRAYER TIME - 2: (1:30)

- it is noted that the 2 Pembroke delegates have notified the Stated Clerk that they had to go back to Pembroke because of a very ill, elderly sister in the congregation whom the doctors expect to pass on very shortly;
- the following churches share some joys and concerns with the delegates: Athens and Ottawa-Calvary;
- elder M. Mallette leads in prayer;

Art. 9 SPECIFIC MINISTRIES, consistent with the calling as a minister of the Word:

- the chairman explains that Classis needs to deal with 2 specific ministries involving: Rev. Derek Miedema and Rev. Bryan Hummel;
- he welcomes the 2 brothers and also other guests; he also welcomes the 3 Syn. Deputies: Rev. J. Kerssies (Classis Huron), Rev. H. Praamsma (Classis Toronto), and Rev. E. Visser (Classis Quinte);

a. Rev. Derek Miedema

- chairman makes some introductory remarks;
- Rev. H. Bierman reports for Advisory Com.-2; he refers to P.34 of the MATERIALS and reads Ottawa Calvin's request: 'Calvin Church, therefore, sees his present work as researcher with The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada as being in keeping with the calling of Minister of the Word. We would like the permission of Classis and the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies, as per art. 12c of the Church Order, to extend a formal call to Rev. Derek Miedema to work in this context, while retaining his standing as a minister of the Word in the CRCNA'. Rev. Bierman reports that the Advis. Com. recommends that Classis accede to the request of Ottawa-Calvin;
- Rev. K. Gehrels now introduces Rev. Derek Miedema and shares with CEC that the supervision is in place, and that the Pension Plan arrangements are in place with EFC.
- Rev. D. Miedema is welcomed and he addresses CEC, and shares with classis his excitement about his work at EFC of which he gives an explanation;
- some questions are asked by delegates and answered by Rev. Miedema and Rev. Gehrels;
- the chairman offers prayer before a decision is made;
- the chair declares EXECUTIVE SESSION
- opportunity for more questions is given;
- voting takes place 'by ballot';
- MOTION:** that Classis accede to the request of Ottawa-Calvin CRC to call Rev. D. Miedema as Associate Pastor who serves as researcher with EFC which task is consistent with the calling of minister of the Word in the CRCNA.... **CARRIED**
- the Syn. Deputies concur and want the title 'researcher' included in the decision;
- the chairman declares 'EXEC. SESSION' over;
- Motion:** that the ballots be destroyed.... **CARRIED**
- the chairman informs Rev. Miedema of the decision that CEC approved Ottawa-Calvin's request;

b. Rev. BRYAN HUMMEL

- the chairman makes some introductory remarks;
- Rev. H. Bierman reports for Advisory Com.-2 and refers to p. 35 of the MATERIALS and reads Ottawa-Calvary's request: 'That Calvary CRC seek classical approval to call Rev. Bryan Hummel to the Next Level men's ministry in the Ottawa area.'

 1. Calvary would support Bryan with prayer and encouragement.
 2. Calvary would be responsible to maintain regular contact with Bryan and so remain informed of his ministry activities.
 3. It is understood that this ministry is a 'tentmaking' ministry and requires no financial support from Calvary.

This is conditional on two provisos:

 1. That this arrangement be reviewed after 12 months to determine its viability;
 2. Pending investigation of Calvary's responsibilities regarding Pension fund contributions.

Rev. Bierman reports that the Advisory Com. recommends that CEC NOT accede to the request of Ottawa-Calvary;

Ottawa-Calvary's request takes precedence;

Rev. Heerema speaks for Ott.-Calvary and about Bryan.s work in Next Level Men's ministry;

Rev. Hummel is welcomed and gives his story, his journey, calling himself 'a broken servant of the Lord';

Questions are asked and responded to;

The chairman offers prayer;

EXECUTIVE SESSION is declared;

Further discussion takes place;

MOTION: that this position is consistent with the work of a minister of the Word and sacraments in the CRCNA

CARRIED

- the Syn. Deputies concur with the decision of CEC, but add this comment to their concurrence: unless Rev. Hummel receives and accepts a call from Ottawa-Calvary by Nov. 30, 2006, he shall be considered released from ministry;
- the chairman declares EXEC. SESSION over;
- the chairman informs Rev. Hummel of the decision and of the additional comment from the Syn. Deputies;

4:30 p.m. ===== Time of Refreshments =====

Art. 10 CHURCH COUNSELLOR:

Rev. K. Gehrels reports that Community CRC of Kanata has a new pastor. Rev. M. Miedema was installed as the new pastor on Sept. 16, 2006;

Art. 11 CHURCH VISITORS TEAMS:

a. Rev. C. Witten reports on visits made to: Barrhaven, Ottawa-Calvary, Pembroke and Renfrew. He gives a general overview of these visits; [reports are on file];

b. Rev. H. Vanderbeek reports on a visit made to Community CRC of Dix. Cors.; He mentions the Appeal that was sent to the churches in CEC, but has been postponed till March, 2007; [report on file]
If the matter needs more involvement from the Church Visitors, a different Church Visitors Team will deal with the matter due to a conflict of interest of a member of the present Team;
so Ruled by the chairman;

CIC will arrange that switch of Teams;

Classis now deals with the recommendation of CIC [see CIC Report, Art. 4 of these MINUTES];

MOTION: that Classis E. Canada receive and table this appeal until the March/07 meeting of Classis....

CARRIED

Classis receives the assurance from the delegates of Dix. Cors Community CRC that no 'special services' featuring 'baby blessings/dedications' will take place while this matter is being dealt with;

c. Rev. D. Vroege reports on a visit made to Milford;[report on file]

Art. 12 STUDENT FUND COMMITTEE:

Rev. D. Meijer reports for the committee;

-A printed report has been distributed;

-At present CEC supports only one student: David Westra who is in his final year at CTS;

-Karen Norris is presently a candidate looking for a call;

-The Student Fund Com. tracks the former students who are all involved in full-time CRC ministry;

-the committee sees a need to update the mandate of the Student Fund Committee;

KAREN NORRIS addresses Classis at this point and expresses her sincere 'Thank You' to C.E.C. for:

a. the financial help she received;

b. the personal 'touch' from the Student Fund Com. during those 5 years;

c. that C.E.C. was willing to find a way to support her, a female student;

-Classis shows its appreciation to her with a warm round of applause;

- the chairman **RULES** that classis approve the work of the Student Fund Com.;

Art. 13 MINISTRY to SEAFARERS:

Chaplain Michelle DePooter gives an oral report about her work in Montreal's harbour ministry;

She attended a conference of chaplains in North America;

She asks for Christmas parcels for this year's Christmas season;

Last year they were short 100 parcels, needing a total of 1500;

She informs the delegates that it's the CRC that supplies the bulk of these parcels;

A highlight for Michelle was that she participated in a wedding (church ceremony) in Montreal;

A newsletter has been made available to the 19 churches in our classis;

Art. 14 EAST CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH:

Rev. Bill Kuurstra reports for this church;

He mentions that they just finished a workshop on 'Prayer';

They have their 'ups' and 'downs' in East City with attendance fluctuating from week to week;

They really notice it in their group when a person or family leaves since their group is so small;

A Newsletter has been handed out;

Art. 15 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:

Rev. Pieter Heerema mentions that this committee is not needed any longer since the matter of Rev. Hummel is being settled;

-the chairman rules that this committee is herewith dissolved;

Art. 16 DEVOTIONS: SHARE & PRAYER TIME - 3:

-the following churches share some joys and concerns: Halifax & Brockville;

-Eld. M. Van Dyke prays for these churches;

From 5:30 - 6:30 ===== a delicious SUPPER is served by the ladies of the CRC of Williamsburg=====

Art. 17 DEVOTIONS: SHARE & PRAYER TIME - 4:

- the following churches share some joys & concerns: Renfrew and Ottawa-Calvin;
- Rev. K. Gehrels leads in prayer for these congregations and for the evening session of classis;
- it is noted that Elder G. Dykstra has taken Elder L. Geleynse's place for Kemptville;

Art. 18 BALLOTING COMMITTEE-2: [see Art. 6]

-Rev. Dave Tigchelaar presents the updated sheet with nominations after a few names were added;

MOTION: that classis approve all single nominations

CARRIED

-delegates vote by ballot; -the chairman announces the results a while later:

Regional Pastor (East)		
David Vroege	1	(009)
C.I.C.:		
Clarence Witten	2	(009)
F.A.C.:		
*Class. Treasurer		
*Mrs. Huibers	3	(009)
P. Van Harmelen	1	(009)
*Hans Stekete	1	(009)
Pastoral Advisor:		
D. Tigchelaar	1	(009)
C.Y.M.T.:		
Ms. A. Lee	2	(009)
CL. HOME MISSIONS COM.-East:		
Harry Bierman	1	(009)
Dale Poel	1	(009)
Paul Vanderkooy	1	(009)
Michael Veenema	1	(009)
CL. HOME MISSIONS COM.-West:		
*Michael Miedema	1	(009)
MARITIME DIAC.CONF.-Pastoral Advisor:		
Dan Brown	1	(009)
STUDENT FUND COM.:		
John Noordhof	1	(009)
Board of SEAWAY MINISTRY:		
Ms. M. Bastion	2	(009)
Bernie Berghout (Treas.)	1	(009)
SYNODICAL DEPUTY:		
Nick Cornelisse	2	(009)
*Daryl Meijer	1	(009)
Church Vis. TEAM-East-1:		
Rev. P. Vanderkooy	2	(009)
Church Vis. TEAM-I:		
P. Heerema	1	(009)

Art. 19 CORRESPONDENCE COMMITTEE:

-Rev. J. Boer reports for the committee;

a. Reduction Ministry Shares (ANCRC of HALIFAX)

-he reports that the com. recommends that classis accede to the request of ANCRC of Halifax;

1. **MOTION:** that CEC accede to the request of ANCRC of Halifax to reduce the number of Active Ministry members from 73 to 63 for the year 2006

CARRIED

2. **MOTION:** that, for future years Classis E. Canada not require any congregation to make this type of request, as per Acts of Synod-2006, Art. 37-7, p.661..

CARRIED

3. **MOTION:** that Classis approve a 2-year extension to the Lic. to Exhort of Paul Hutten...

CARRIED

Art. 20 ADVISORY COM-1: [see p.33 MATERIALS: FUND for PASTORS' RETREATS]

-Eld. Mike Van Dyke reports for this committee;

-the Adv. Com. recommends acceptance of the request

MOTION: That Classis E. Canada establish a fund for Annual Pastors & Spouses Retreats, in the amount of \$ 2000 annually, to be divided equally between the two regions, for the purpose of inviting a guest facilitator.

GROUNDS:

1. This would give leadership and focus for annual Retreats.

2. This would cover the cost of travel and honorarium for a facilitator.

3. This would bless each region with a sense of support from the entire Classis in what can be unique challenges in each region.....

CARRIED

REQUEST from MONTREAL re: difficulties in ministry affecting pastors, families, churches...

[see p.38-39 of MATERIALS]

-the com. recommends that Classis take no formal action re: concern from First CRC of Montreal

-First CRC of Montreal is encouraged to use available resources and may come back with this matter in a more concrete format.

Art. 21 Class. Home Missions Com.-W:

-Rev. H. Vanderbeek reports for this committee;
REPORT TO CLASSIS [see P. 21-23 MATERIALS]

SHEILA MURPHY, OUTREACH MINISTRY DEVELOPER, deals with 3 main questions or aspects in her presentation to Classis:

- a. what are the strengths of your church?
- b. what are the challenges of your church?
- c. what are your church's 3 top wishes?

Proposal -1 (p. 25 MATERIALS)

MOTION: That CEC approve that the contract for the position of Outreach Ministry Developer for CEC run from November 1, 2006 - Dec. 31, 2007, instead of Nov. 1, 2006 to Oct. 31, 2007 ...

GROUNDS:

- a. The contract currently runs from Nov. 1, 2006-Oct. 31, 2007 making it two months out of sync with the Classis budget year which runs from January to December.
- b. The period of Nov. 1, 2007-Dec.31, 2007 will be without funding until the 2008 budget begins.
- c. Funding the period of Nov. 1, 2007-Dec. 31, 2007 will ensure a continuance of services by the Developer.

CARRIED

Proposal -3 (p. 27 MATERIALS): is tabled till Sat.a.m. session [see Art. 31 of MINUTES]

SHEILA MURPHY-ECLDN (E. Can. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT NETWORK [see p.36 MATERIALS]

-Sheila presents this item using Power Point format;

PROPOSAL for funding of \$ 2000.00 is tabled till Sat. a.m. [see Art. 31 of MINUTES]

-the chairman thanks Sheila Murphy for her work on our behalf;

Art. 22 DELEGATING DEACONS to CLASSIS: [p.28-29 MATERIALS]

-Mr. T. Luimes represents the committee and introduces the motion;

MOTION: That CEC, along with a pastor and elder from each congregation, seat an additional 1/3 diaconal delegates at each of its meetings (following a rotation of the churches as determined by the Classical Interim Committee).

a. Grounds:

- i. Seating deacons at CEC in this fashion takes into consideration the concerns and desires of the churches while remaining in the "spirit" of the Church Order.
- ii. The sense from this committee's visits with the churches is that the goal for CEC is to achieve a full delegation of deacons to the meetings of Classis. This recommendation brings us a step closer to this goal.
- iii. We believe that this is a good step for CEC yet would be even more effective with steps taken in classical renewal.

CARRIED

MOTION: That CEC, after 3 years, review the seating of deacons at its meetings with the goal of having a deacon, an elder, and a pastor from each church seated at every meeting.

CARRIED

MOTION: That CEC declare the work of this committee to be completed and dismiss it with thanks.

so RULED

Art. 23 PERSONNEL SHEET:

-Classis has received a list of names for members of the Abuse team:

Athens	Barrhaven	Barbara Bal
Brockville	Mike Van Dyke	Cornwall	Diane Kuipers
Dixon's Cors.	Elizabeth Van Dyke	Kanata	Kathy Selst
Kemptville	John Beking	Montreal
Ottawa-Calvary	Sarah Cook	Ottawa-Calvin	Jake Brunsting
Pembroke	Renfrew	Christina Briscoe
Williamsburg	John Guthrie		
Charlottetown	Andy Vos	Fredericton	Jennifer Foster
Halifax	Pam Stel	Kentville	Matthew Cupido
Milford	Mike Howlett	Truro
Rev. Daryl Meijer	- Pastoral Advisor		

MOTION: that Classis approve these names as members and Rev. D. Meijer as pastoral advisor...

CARRIED

-the chairman **rules** that CIC appoint an 'interim chairperson' who will call a meeting of these members who then will choose an executive;

Art. 24 MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS:

- Rev. Boertje reports for this committee;
- the committee has found the following Min. Cred.'s to be 'in order':
 - a. Rev. M. Miedema, Rev. G. Van Leeuwen, Rev. M. Veenema

Art. 25 TRANSCRIPTION OF MINUTES:

- Rev. M. Veenema reports that the committee has checked the Minutes of March/06 and found them to be 'in good order';

Art. 26 DEVOTIONS: SHARE & PRAYER TIME - 5: (8:25 p.m.)

- the following churches share some joys and concerns: Dix. Corners, Barrhaven, Milford;
- Rev. Paul Vanderkooy leads in prayer for the churches and thanks the Lord for the first day of Classis and asks for His blessing upon our decisions;

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October 21, 2006	SATURDAY	8:00 a.m.
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Art. 27 DEVOTIONS-SHARE & PRAYER TIME -6:(8:00 a.m.)

- the chairman calls the meeting to order and welcomes those present;
- he directs a special welcome to: Eva Reitsma (Treas.), Kees Rystenbil, Martin Mudde, Gayla Postma;

MOTION: that Classis seat deacon Les Forrest (Ottawa-Calvary) **CARRIED**

- the following churches share some joys and concerns: Charlottetown, Kentville, Kemptville;
- Rev. B. Ponsen of Kemptville reads Phil. 1:1-6, 7-11 and leads in prayer for these churches and for the meeting of classis;

Art. 28 CLASSICAL YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM (C.Y.M.T.)

- Rev. J. Boer reports for the TEAM, using the written report [p.37 MATERIALS];
- the team meets regularly with Rev. B. Barr;
- there is a great need for training and resources;
- the team deals with safety issues and protection;
- viable, workable Abuse Policies are needed;
- churches need to take a serious look at insurance, and be pre-active;
- the chairman thanks Jake and the Team;

Art. 29 DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MINISTRY:

- Chaplain Brad Close is welcomed by the chairman, and he then introduces himself, and refers to the newsletter that went to all the churches;
- he thanks the delegates for the support they give to this ministry;
- he focuses on these 3 items:

- a. to be on campus, to be present, is important in order to relate with students on a personal basis;
- b. practice hospitality: he and his wife invite groups of students to their home and they offer a Sunday lunch to students at A.N.C.R.C.;
- c. 'academic witness' on campus is very important: asking students: 'How does your faith relate to learning?';

-the chairman thanks Brad;

Art. 30 CLASSICAL CREDENTIALS COM.:

- Rev. B. Ponsen reports that everything was in 'good order';

Art. 31 A.TREASURER of CEC:

- the chairman welcomes Eva Reitsma, treasurer of CEC;
- Eva takes the delegates through the STATEMENTS of Financial Positions for 2006;
- she answers a number of questions;
- the chairman thanks Eva for all the work she has done for CEC;

MOTION: that CEC appoint Michael Barclay as auditor of the Financial Statements for the year ended on Dec. 31, 2006.... **CARRIED**

- Kees Rystenbil, chair of F.A.C., then presents the PROPOSED BUDGET for 2007;
- a number of items need to be approved first:

a. **MOTION:** that CEC drop the \$ 2000 for Algonquin College Campus Ministry.. **Defeated**

b. **MOTION:** that CEC approve \$ 25,000 for the Ministry to Seafarers **CARRIED**

- Proposal-3 is withdrawn [see Art. 21 of MINUTES] and classis goes to Proposal-2 which is amended by deleting the word 'WESTERN' thus including all of the churches of CEC.

- c. **MOTION:** that CEC approve that the Outreach Ministry Developer (OMD) position for all of the churches of Classis E. Canada be expanded to 16 hours per week, at \$ 15,140 per year;

GROUNDS:

1. Keeping contact with the churches of CEC and supplying training and resources utilizes more than 8 hours per week.
2. This type of contact and support has been well received and appreciated by the churches that have been contacted.
3. In order to increase harvest potential for churches and encourage church planting, it will be necessary to work more intentionally and intensively with the churches in the form of coaching and mentoring.
4. The coaching and mentoring will require extra time over and above the existing 8 hours per week.

CARRIED

- d. **MOTION:** That CEC increase the amount of \$ 10,000 for the Classical Youth Ministry Team to \$14,331

CARRIED

- e. **MOTION:** That CEC decrease the amount of \$ 7500 for the Encounters Scholarship Fund to \$ 5000

CARRIED

- f. **MOTION:** That CEC add \$ 2000 to the budget for 2007 for E.C.L.D.N.

CARRIED

- g. **MOTION:** That CEC increase the amount of 17,900 for General Expenses to \$ 19,600....

CARRIED

- h. **MOTION:** That CEC approve the BUDGET-2007 for CEC at a total of \$ 112,071

CARRIED

[This amount translates into \$ 41.69 per member for CEC]

B. INCORPORATION:

- Kees Rystenbil reports that FAC wants to bring this matter to the attention of Classis now;
- FAC will bring it back to Classis in March/07 to deal with it then and to vote on it;
- he reads his introduction to the process of obtaining incorporation for info. purposes only;
- the chairman thanks Kees and FAC for all their work for Classis;

Art. 32 **SEATING WOMEN at CLASSIS:** (AD HOC COM.) [p. 13-14 MATERIALS]

- the chairman welcomes Martin Mudde, chair of the com., and Gayla Postma, secr. of the committee;
- Gayla Postma reads Recommendation-1 [see p. 13-14 MATERIALS]

MOTION-1: That Classis Eastern Canada allow the seating of women at classis meetings, effective January 1, 2007, by declaring the word *male* inoperative in Church Order article 3-a, with the following provisions:

- a) That councils may request that church visitors to their congregation and ministers filling classical appointments in the congregation be male.
- b) That a local congregation may request that only male delegates conduct the classical examination for ordination of a candidate called by that congregation. The examination

for ordination may then be conducted by a *classis contracta*.

In the event a quorum cannot be found, representatives from a neighbouring classis may be invited to achieve the equivalent of a quorum.

GROUNDS:

- i) This recommendation is consistent with synod's position.
- ii) This recommendation is in line with the practice of the majority of churches in classis, which now have, or may soon have female elders.
- iii) This recommendation respects the discretion of the local church not to permit women officebearers.
- iv) The provisions allow a local congregation, in keeping with its understanding of the biblical position on the role of women in ecclesiastical office, to have its male candidate examined only by male officebearers. This is consistent with synod's provision that a classis that has not declared the word *male* inoperative in church order article 3-a may request that only male synodical deputies be sent from neighbouring classes.
- v) Declaring the word *male* inoperative is the clearest, least confusing path to allowing women to be seated at classis. Information received from classes that allow women to be delegated to classis, but did not make such a declaration about article 3-a, shows that such a decision leads to further confusion and dissension.

CARRIED

MOTION-2: That classis refer this report to the churches for information and discussion.

- GROUND: i) Our survey results show that clear, unequivocal communication with the churches is one of the best ways to prevent dissension and promote healing of any divisions this decision may cause.

CARRIED

MOTION-3: That the officers at classis meetings be intentional and overt in respecting all delegates at classis meetings, allowing room for differing views and abstaining from votes.

- GROUND: i) Experience in the churches shows that by being intentional about respecting all officebearers and their views, further division and hurt is avoided and healing is promoted.

MOTION-4: That Classis declare the work of the committee completed and dismiss the committee.

so RULED

- Art. 33 Pastor Osee Mupesse:
-this guest is very pleased that he could be present both days at the meeting of CEC;
-he shares with the delegates some items about his small Agape Christian Church, a French Reformed church, in Montreal, consisting of people of a variety of cultural and national backgrounds;
-the chairman thanks him for coming to our meeting;
- Art. 34 CLOSING DEVOTIONS: SHARE & PRAYER TIME -7:
-the following churches share some joys and concerns: Truro, Montreal, Williamsburg;
-Rev. J. Noordhof reads 2 Cor. 4:1-7 and mentions that God's Grace is working in our brokenness. That can only be through Christ;
-he leads in a closing prayer and we sing Hymn # 637;
- Art. 35 CLOSING REMARKS:
-Vice-Chairman Rev. D. Meijer expresses thanks to Rev. J. Noordhof, the chairman of this meeting of CEC, for his able leadership throughout these two days of sessions;
-the chairman then thanks everybody, including the Vice-Chairman and the Stated Clerk, and also the delegates for their cooperation;
-he also thanks the Williamsburg CRC for hosting this session of Classis;

NEXT MEETING of CEC:

- Location:
- Dates : March 2 & 3, 2007;
- Chairman : Rev. Nick Cornelisse of Brockville;
- Vice-Chair: Rev. John H. Noordhof of Williamsburg CRC;
- the final date for AGENDA-MATERIALS is Jan. 15, 2007;

NOTE: After the Saturday-session, the Stated Clerk checked the Concept Minutes of Oct. 20 & 21, 2006, with the following delegates: Elders: Bob Bennett, Theo Trapman, Mike Van Dyke, Winston Visser, who approved these Concept Minutes.

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(James Kooistra, Stated Clerk)
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