

CLASSIS EASTERN CANADA

Of the Christian Reformed Church

MINUTES

Oct. 26, 2007

Meeting at John Calvin CRC of TRURO, N.S.

OFFICERS of CLASSIS

Chairman.....Rev. H. Vanderbeek

Vice-Chairman....Rev. N. Cornelisse

Stated Clerk.....Mr. James Kooistra

DELEGATES of CLASSIS

CONGREGATIONS	Pastors	Elders	Deacons
Athens	Rev. W. Visser	deac. R. Triemstra	
Brockville	Rev. N. Cornelisse	H. Steketee	
Charlottetown	Eld. B. Enserink	P. Bondt	
Cornwall	Rev. H. Vanderbeek	M. Vanderveer	
Dixons Corners	Rev. C. Witten	K. Rook	
Fredericton	Rev. R. Boertje	G. Pot	
Halifax	Rev. D. Vroege	J. Porter	E. Hutten
Kemptville	Rev. B. Ponsen	H. Boersma	W. Schuurmans
Kentville	Rev. M. veenema	A. VanHatterm	W. Cupido
Milford	Rev. P. Vanderkooy	M. Howlett	D. Taylor
Montreal	Eld. S.-J. Tigchelaar	J. Penner	
Ott.-Barrhaven	Rev. D. Meijer	H. DeSchiffart	P. Oegema
Ott.-Kanata	Rev. M. Miedema	B. Wissink	
Ott.-Calvary	Rev. P. Heerema	R. Wassenaar	
Ott.-Calvin	Rev. K. Gehrels	D. Kralt	
Pembroke	-	-	
Renfrew	Rev. D. Tigchelaar	R. Hultink	
Truro	Rev. D. Brown	G. Altenkirk	
Williamsburg	Rev. J. Noordhof	J. VanGilst	

.....
CLASSIS EASTERN CANADA

MINUTES

Oct. 26, 2007
.....

Art.1 OPENING DEVOTIONS: (9:08 a.m.)

- Rev. Nick Cornelisse, the chairman of the March/07 meeting of Classis E. Canada, calls the meeting to order and welcomes the delegates;
- Rev. Dan Brown, pastor of the host church, John Calvin CRC of Truro, leads the delegates in singing hymn #409 "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise" and he reads 1 Thes.2:1-7. He focuses on the "ministry of God", addressing our task, our burden, and our joy, and he offers an opening prayer; we sing #573 "O, Master, Let Me Walk With Thee".

Art. 2 -Rev. Cornelisse asks the clerk to do the roll-call: all the congregations are duly represented, except Pembroke's delegates are not present. It is mentioned that Rev. H. VanderSluis is unable to attend the meeting due to his health;
MOTION: that deacon Ron Triemstra of Athens be seated as delegate..... **Carried**

-1st time Delegates who have signed the Form of Subscription are:

H. Boersma	W. Cupido	R. Hultink	E. Hutten
D. Kralt	J. Penner	J. Porter	D. Taylor
S-J.Tigchelaar	R. Triemstra	A. VanHattem	R. Wassenaar

-the delegates approve the Agenda/Schedule for the day;
-Rev. Cornelisse then declares Classis 'constituted';
-Rev. H. Vanderbeek, the chairman of this meeting, mentions that he considers it a privilege to chair the meeting, expressing the hope that he will receive good support from the Vice-Chairman and the Clerk, and that he intends to keep things moving at a good pace;

Art. 3 Stated Clerk & C.I.C. Reports:

-the Stated Clerk leads classis through the Correspondence, Reports, and his own actions, and he singles out a few items;

Motion: that Classis approve the work of the S.C..... **Carried**
-the Stated Clerk presents the work done by the C.I.C.;

Motion: that Classis approve the work of the C.I.C..... **Carried**
-the Stated Clerk then informs Classis that he likes to retire after having done this task for 15 years. He plans to do the March/'08 meeting yet and expresses the hope that a new clerk will be appointed at the Spring-08 meeting of classis; he mentions that he has done this job with joy and he is thankful that he was privileged to do it;
-the vice-chairman Rev. Cornelisse expresses thanks to the clerk and then leads in prayer;

Art. 4 BALLOTING COM.: Rev. Paul Vanderkooy reports for this com. and asks for nominations for a number of vacancies on committees and agencies; [see also Art. 26 of these minutes]

Art. 5 REGIONAL PASTORS: both regional pastors mention that they have no matters to report at this meeting;

Art. 6 MINISTRY to SEAFARERS in MONTREAL:

-Michelle DePooter, chaplain of the Seafarers, reports for this ministry and has handed out the Sept/07 issue of "GOODNEWS";
-she mentions that things have been quite slow, which allowed her to spend more time on the ships she visited;
-she also mentions that there is illness among maritime chaplains: the chaplains in Vancouver and Boston are not well;
-there is a new assistant-chaplain in Montreal, namely Dave Rozeboom;
-she attended a conference for chaplains in Buffalo, which Rev. L. Burghart and his wife organized;
-they hope to receive Christmas Parcels again, aiming for 1800, by Nov.25th;
-Michelle then shares her great news with the delegates: she is engaged! She receives a warm applause from the delegates!
-Rev. Gehrels prays for Michelle's work and for her personal life;

Art. 7 SAFE CHURCHES:

-Dr. Mike Howlett reports for the committee, and he refers to the report found in MATERIALS, p.9-11;
-he mentions that there are a few changes in the membership of this com. and that there are still 2 vacancies;
[some new members are approved later: see Art. 26]
-there has been one general meeting, and the East and West have both met twice each;
-their plan is to have one general meeting each year, and both E. & W. meet once or twice in their own region;
-the role of the com. is to educate and support councils and churches;
-Dr. Howlett answers a number of questions from the floor;
-the chairman thanks the reporter;

COFFEE/TEA BREAK at 10:15 a.m.

Art. 8 EXAMINATION of Cand. Bradley Willis Close

1. **Introduction:**
 - Chair welcomes Cand. Brad Close and the Syn. Deputies: Rev. J. Kerkhof (Cl. Toronto), Rev. J. Kerssies (Cl. Huron), and Rev. E. Visser (Cl. Quinte);
 - Rev. David Vroege, pastor of All Nations CRC of Halifax, the Calling-Church, introduces Cand. Close;
 - Williamsburg reports on paper-work (letters, documents, etc.) which was found to be in good order;
 - **MOTION:** that Classis proceed with the examination **Carried**
 - Chairman Rev. Vanderbeek leads in prayer for guidance;

2. **Practica-** an inquiry into the Candidate's relationship to God and commitment to ministry, understanding of the meaning and the relevance of the ministry for our times, and loyalty to the church and related matters. (This part of the examination is led by Rev. M. Miedema)
 - a. Opportunity to ask questions by delegates and deputies is given;
 - b. **MOTION:** that Classis proceed to the next area of inquiry..... **Carried**

3. **Sermon Evaluation** - 2 written and 1 preached sermon
 - Written :** Eld. H. Steketee of Bethel CRC of Brockville presents a printed report which he reads; this report deals with 2 printed sermons;
 - Preached:** Rev. P. Vanderkooy of Milford reports on the preached sermon which was delivered in Community Church in Milford in the presence of Rev. Vanderkooy and an elder. The sermon was based on the assigned text: Ezek. 36:20-28; -they were very pleased with the service and the sermon;
 - a. Opportunity to ask questions by delegates and deputies is given.
 - b. **MOTION:** that Classis proceed to next area of inquiry.... **Carried**
 - the Syn. Dep.'s **concur** with this decision;

4. **Biblical and Theological Position** - an inquiry into the candidate's biblical and theological judgement, competence, and soundness;
 - This part of the examination is led by Rev. M. Veenema;
 - a. Opportunity to ask questions by delegates and Syn. Deputies is given;

5. Classical deliberation:
 - i. the chairman declares executive session;
 - ii. **MOTION:** that Classis admit Cand. Brad Close to the ministry of the Word in the CRC;
 - iii. the chairman leads in prayer for guidance of the Holy Spirit; some questions are asked during a time of discussion;
 - iv. The delegates vote by ballot on the following motion:
 - v. **MOTION:** that Classis admit Cand. Brad Close to the ministry of the Word in the CRC..... **Carried**
 - vi. The Syn. deputies present a written statement and **concur** with the decision of CEC;
 - vii. **MOTION:** that the ballots be destroyed **Carried**
 - viii. the chairman declares executive session over;
 - ix. the chairman:
 - informs Cand. Close of the favourable decision of classis,
 - he welcomes him to the ministry of the Word,
 - he congratulates him,
 - he presents the Classical Diploma,
 - he authorizes Halifax to proceed with the installation, D.V., on Nov. 18, 2007;
 - X. the candidate signs the Form of Subscription;
 - xi. the delegates are asked to stand around the candidate and a prayer of thanksgiving is offered, which is concluded with a song;
 - xii. the delegates get a time to congratulate Cand. Close;

Art. 9 DEVOTIONS:

The following churches share some joys and concerns with the delegates: Cornwall, Fredericton, Kanata, Kemptville;
-Pastor Ben Ponsen leads in prayer for these churches and also asks for a blessing upon the food that has been prepared for the delegates and visitors;

12:30 – 1:30 =====A delicious lunch is served by a group of ambitious members of John Calvin CRC =====

Art. 10 DEVOTIONS:

The following churches share some joys and concerns with the delegates: Barrhaven, Milford, Williamsburg;
-Pastor John Noordhof leads in prayer for these churches and also for the afternoon session of classis;

Art. 11 REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE:

Susan Vanderkooy of Milford, a boardmember of Redeemer Univ. College, reports;
-she considers it a privilege to serve on the board and she is glad that she has the opportunity to speak with delegates about Redeemer University College;
-she mentions that this year Redeemer is celebrating its 25th anniversary;
-at present there are 820 students attending, quite an increase from 90 in 1982!
-God has kept and guided Redeemer during all those years;
-she thanks CEC for its continued financial support which amounted to over \$ 93,000 in the past year;
-Pastor Ben Ponsen prays for Redeemer University College;

Art. 12 EAST CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH:

The Ministry Team of East City, consisting of Rev. & Mrs. Bill Kuurstra, Ron Kok, and Brian Buys share some of their feelings experiences and thankfulness of ministering to unchurched people in Orleans for the past dozen years with the delegates;
Each member mentions items and happenings that relate to East City Community Church.
=Shirley Kuurstra shares that after all that they have been able to do in and for East City Comm. Church, they now give it back to God Who will finish what they began.
=Ron Kok mentions that God has called us to be faithful, not successful. The Lord alone knows the results upon their labours. We may leave it with Him.
=Rev. Bill Kuurstra, touched and moved by this moment, alludes to the partnership in the Gospel, naming the Team, but also Home Missions, many individuals including his own mother, C.E.C., all those who were involved in some way in this ministry. Lives were touched!
=Brian Buys mentions that this church-plant stops, but others continue or start up. God knows. Brian mentions the celebration of what God has done, the comfort we have from that, and the challenge which is ours.
=A number of delegates express warm and kind feelings toward this church-plant and to the Team. Rev. Peter Heerema leads in a prayer while the delegates have formed a circle around the team. This is concluded with the singing of "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"
=Rev. Peter Heerema summarized the feelings of classis this way afterwards:

" It was with mixed emotions that Classis listened to the final report of East City Community Church. While thankful to God for His faithfulness and also grateful for the excellence of the East City Leadership team, Classis expressed its sadness at the closure of this ministry, and celebrated the lives that were impacted by this East City Ministry."

Art. 13 OUTREACH MINISTRY DEVELOPER:

-Sheila Murphy has prepared a printed report for classis;
-she mentions a number of highlights from that report:
a. in the past 2 years she visited almost all of the churches in CEC;
b. the Everyday Evangelism Course has been a blessing;
c. she has seen some churches become 'on fire';
d. Living Hope & Quebec City are or may become new Outreach Ministries;
e. she is looking forward to do more work in the Maritimes;
-Rev. Nick Cornelisse thanks Sheila for her work and leads in a prayer for her;
-a PROPOSAL re: her increased workload is tabled and is dealt with in Art. 23 of these Minutes;

2:50-3:10 p.m. COFFEE/TEA BREAK

Art. 14 DEVOTIONS:

The following churches share some joys and concerns with the delegates: Ottawa-Calvary, Athens, Kentville;
-Rev. M. Veenema leads in prayer for these churches;

Art. 15 CLASSICAL CREDENTIALS COM.:

- Ron Triemstra reports for this com.;
- he lists the following items/concerns churches have mentioned on the credentials:
 - ideas for Outreach & Growth
 - help to start a Church Plant in Quebec
 - more participation from more members in the congregation
 - assistance needed from classis to fill out the forms for incorporation or for revision of the same;
 - pulpit supply (Fredericton)
 - initiatives for marriage-wellness and ministry to young adults
 - post secondary chaplaincy in the Ottawa-region
- C.I.C. is instructed to take note of these items and include some in future training sessions of classis;

Art. 16 CAMPUS MINISTRY at DALHOUSIE University:

- the delegates have received a neatly printed written brochure;

Art. 17 CHURCH COUNSELLOR REPORT

- Rev. Dan Brown, the counsellor for Charlottetown CRC reports that this congregation is busy calling a minister. They have received one decline so far, but are continuing this process of calling;
- The congregation has been blessed by the services of interim retired pastors;

Art. 18 Rev. Bryan HUMMEL:

- Rev. P. Heerema reports that Rev. Hummel has been installed as associate minister in Ottawa-Calvary, making him a part of the ministry staff of that church. He is continuing his special ministry called "Next Level" which is growing; Evang. Yannick BAUDEQUIN;
- Rev. Heerema reports that Yannick Baudequin's credentials are now with Ottawa-Calvary and he works under its supervision; this outreach, called Eglise Chretien Reformee St. Paul, remains a small group of people and covets our prayer support;
- Rev. Heerema also mentions that "Living Hope" is an outreach and is also under the supervision of Ottawa-Calvary;
- Rev. Winston Visser leads in prayer for Ottawa-Calvary and its outreaches;

Art. 19 CHURCH VISITORS' REPORTS:

- Rev. Paul VanderKooy reports on a visit made to Kentville (on file);
- Rev. Herb Vanderbeek reports on visits made to Kemptville and Williamsburg; (on file)

Art. 20 STUDENT FUND COM./Classical Ministry Leadership Team (C.M.L.T.):

- The delegates have received a printed report;
- Rev. John Noordhof reports for this committee;
- ∴ - the committee has met twice since the Spring Classis Meeting;
- at present our classis has no students at Seminary;
- we are advertising via church bulletins that funding is available for students seeking to enter fulltime ministry;
- the committee keeps in touch with students CEC supported and who are now serving as pastors;
- at present we are assisting Karen Norris in her search for an ordained position;
- the committee's focus has changed and we are to come up with a mandate in accordance with the decision of Synod;

- **MOTION: that Classis replace the current Student Fund Committee with the Classical Ministry Leadership Team, with the terms of reference/mandate defined according to the Guidelines of Synod. Ground: Synod has asked each Classis to make this change to the Student Fund Committees in order to fall in line with the mandate of the Synodical ministerial Candidacy Committee. CARRIED**

- **MOTION: that Classis approve the following members for C.M.L.T. (Classical Ministry Leadership Team) with their new terms:**
 - o **Eva Reitsma (Ex-officio as Treasurer of CEC)**
 - o **James Kooistra (Ex-officio as Stated Clerk of CEC)**
 - o **Gladys Baart (2008)**
 - o Rev. Paul Vanderkooy (2008)
 - o Rev. John Noordhof (2009)
 - o Rev. Ken Gehrels (2010)
 - o Rev. Derek Miedema (2010)
 - o **The Motion**

- the new committee is already working on the case of Pierre Simard in Quebec;

CARRIED

Art. 21 DIACONAL CONFERENCE WEST:

- deacon Ron Triemstra, chairman of this committee, reports for this conference;
- the executive of the committee is working hard to make ECDC work;
- Rev. Ponsen is the ministerial advisor on this committee;
- they invite capable speakers to their special days to help the deacons in their work;
- The attendance was good at the 2 meetings: in the spring (25) and this fall (100);

Art. 22 MARITIME DIACONAL CONFERENCE:

- Rev. Dan Brown, the Pastoral Advisor on the committee, reports for this conference;
- The committee is looking for a person to be the CRWRC board delegate;

- Rev. M. Miedema leads in prayer for the 2 conferences;

Art. 23 FINANCIAL ADMIN. COM.:

- Eva Reitsma, treasurer of CEC, is present and reports for this committee;
- she ably leads the delegates through the many pages with lots of financial data;
- the delegates have been supplied with financial statements, etc.,

- **MOTION-1:**
 - o That classis rescind its 2003 decision to add \$ 10,000 each year to the budget for church planting effective for the 2008 budget year.
 - o –after some discussion the motion is **Defeated**

- **MOTION-2:**
 - o That classis appoint Michael Barclay, Chartered Accountant, as accountant to review the financial statements for the year ending, December 31, 2007.... **Carried**

- **MOTION-3:**
 - o That classis support the ACTS leadership team (4 representatives) from CEC to the GEMS Leadership Conference to be held in Asheboro, N.C., @ a total cost of \$ 1588.00 US (\$397.00 p.p.) **Carried**

- **MOTION-4:**
 - o After some discussion it is agreed to omit the word ‘western’ from the original motion;
 - o **Amended MOTION-4:**
 - o That classis approve that the Outreach Ministry Developer (OMD) position for the churches of CEC be expanded to 24 hours per week, 16 for the Western Churches and 8 for the Maritime churches **Carried**

BUDGET-2008

- Eva now presents the Budget-2008 to Classis;
- Discussion follows and the following amendment is made:
- MOTION:**
That Classis delete the amount of \$ 2000.00 for Algonquin College from the proposed budget **Carried**
- MOTION:**
That Classis approve the amended proposed Budget-2008 at a total amount of \$ 146,519.00 **Carried**

- Eva Reitsma announces that the Ministry Share will be\$ 56.12 per member.

- next Eva presents the Financial Statement as of Oct. 15, 2007;
- the chairman thanks her for all her diligent work for Classis;
- he closes this section of the agenda with prayer

Art. 24 DEVOTIONS:

- The following churches share some joys and concerns with the delegates: Halifax and Brockville;
- Elder H. Steketeer leads in prayer for these churches and asks a blessing on the supper that is ready to be served;

5:55 - 6:50 ===== SUPPER which was prepared by a friendly group of ladies and a gentleman, from the Truro congregation=====

Art. 25 DEVOTIONS (6:50 p.m.)

- the following churches share some joys and concerns with the delegates: Charlottetown, Renfrew, Ottawa-Calvin;
- Elder Kralt leads in prayer for these congregations and for the evening session;

Art. 26 BALLOTING COM.: [see also Art. 4 of these Minutes]

- Rev. P. Vanderkooy presents a list with names which are all approved by classis;
- World Missions Rev. Herb Vanderbeek (2010)
- CRWRC Class. Delegate Ms. Elna Siebring (2010)
- Mar. Diac. Conf. (Chair) Mr. Dan DeVries (2010)
- Chu. Vis. TEAM (Vanderbeek)Mr. Nick VanDalen (2010)
- BOT (Alt.) Rev. P. Heerema (2010)
- Safe Church Team: Amy Buzzell
- Marique Branderhorst
- Margo Bastian
- Julie-Anna VanMeekeren

Art. 27 RETIREMENT of Rev. R. Boertje:

- Rev. Dan Tigchelaar reports for the Correspondence Com.:
- He reads a letter from the council of the CRC in Fredericton requesting CEC to grant retirement to Rev. R. Boertje;
- The committee recommends that CEC grant that;
- **MOTION:** that Classis Eastern Canada grant honourable retirement from active ministry to Rev. Robert Boertje, effective Dec. 1, 2007 **Carried**
- Rev. David Vroege, the Regional Pastor of the Maritimes, addresses Rev. and Mrs. Boertje on behalf of classis:
 - o -He begins by quoting 2 Cor. 13:14 which contains the beautiful blessing: "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you."
 - o -Rev. Vroege thanks Rev. Boertje for his 37 years as a faithful servant of Christ in the CRCNA;
 - o -he notes that he has learned from retiring pastors, including Rev. H. Bierman, that this step, this moment of retirement comes with its own set of questions, doubts, regrets, and a need to step out in faith;
 - o -Rev. Vroege also mentions that he appreciated the openness of Rev. Boertje and also of Rev. Bierman, especially at retreats;
 - o -he says: "I really felt like a 'receiver' in their presence."
- Rev. Boertje mentions that he feels that he has been blessed very richly during these 9 ½ years in Fredericton and in CEC;
 - he has enjoyed coming to the classis meetings and he thanks classis for its support, its prayers, and its encouragement, especially during the times of illness;
 - he also thanks his wife Ruth for her wonderful support during the 37 years of ministry;
- Rev. Vroege asks all the delegates to surround Rev. & Mrs. Boertje and he offers a prayer of thanksgiving and also asks for God's blessing on them in their retirement;
- The delegates conclude the prayer with the singing of "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow."

Art. 28 OVERTURE-I (Halifax)

- **Overture:** "The council of All Nations CRC overtures CEC to permit women to come to Classis to seek license to exhort."
- Rev. J. Noordhof reports for the Pre-Advice Com. (Williamsburg & Ottawa-Calvin);
- The Com. recommends: "Given that CEC has already made its decision in the Fall of 2006 to make the word "male" inoperative in our Classis and given the subsequent decision of Synod to delete the word "male" entirely from the Church Order, the decision by CEC in the Fall of 2003 has already been reversed and does not need further action on the part of Classis. In other words, Classis already now allows women to come to Classis to seek license to exhort. No further decision is required. We would recommend that the chair so rule. We also note that the decisions made in the Fall of 2006, regarding women at Classis, already provide provisions for delegates and churches to abstain in matters that go contrary to their biblical position on this issue.
- The chairman **'so RULED' ;**

Art. 29 OVERTURE-2 (Kanata)

Motion to amend the church order Article 12a

The council of Kanata Community Christian Reformed Church overtures Classis to overture Synod-2008 to add the phrase “engage in the ministry of prayer” to the list of things a minister of the Word serving as pastor of a congregation shall do, as found in Church Order article 12a.

Art. 12 C.O. to read:

- a. A minister of the word serving as pastor of a congregation shall preach the Word, *engage in the ministry of prayer*, administer the sacraments, conduct public worship services, catechize the youth, and train members for Christian service. The minister, with the elders, shall supervise the congregation and fellow officebearers, exercise admonition and discipline, and see to it that everything is done decently and in order. The minister, with the elders, shall exercise pastoral care over the congregation, and engage in and promote the work of evangelism.

Grounds: In the early church, when the work of ministry became overwhelming, the apostles said: *It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.* [Acts 6:4]

Colossians 4:2-6 says: *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

As God’s house is to be called a house of prayer, so the ordained leader in that house must be a leader of prayer. That expectation should be clearly stated in our church order.

In Acts 14:23, Paul and Barnabas installed newly ordained elders in the churches, and *with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord.*

It is true of all believers in Romans 12:12, that they must *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer*, then how much more for the leaders who must lead by example? In James we read a sick person *should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.*

The disciples asked Jesus *teach us to pray*, so the ordained leaders of God’s people are to teach them to pray, and thus must themselves be growing people of prayer. If the pastor is serving a teaching role in the church, then must not that pastor [along with the elders and deacons] be a person of prayer? I cannot see otherwise!

Prayer was obviously a crucial aspect of ministry in the early church, and it should be listed in our church order as a crucial aspect of the pastor today as well.

- Rev. M. Veenema reports for the Overture Com. (Kentville & Kemptville)
- The committee recommends that classis approve this overture, with a minor change: use the word ‘pray’ only in stead of ‘engage in the ministry of prayer’, and it gives these grounds for recommending the overture for approval:
 - - o a. Biblical support for the request seems to us to be there;
 - o b. It articulates an important aspect of ministry that is widely assumed, and raising its visibility seems appropriate;
- **MOTION:** *that Classis Eastern Canada overture Synod-2008 to add the word ‘pray’ to the list of things a minister of the Word serving as pastor of a congregation shall do, as found in C.O. Art. 12a. which would read:*
- *“A minister of the Word serving as pastor of a congregation shall preach the Word, ‘pray’, administer the sacraments, conduct public worship services, catechize the youth, and train members for Christian service. The minister, with the elders, shall supervise the congregation and fellow office-bearers, exercise admonition and discipline, and see to it that everything is done decently and in order. The minister, with the elders, shall exercise pastoral care over the congregation, and engage in and promote the work of evangelism..... “*

CARRIED

Art. 30 OVERTURE-3 (Milford)

- Overture: "Faith Community CRC of Milford, N.S., requests that consideration be given to changing the methodology used in nominating and electing pastor delegates and alternates for Synod.":
- Rev. P. Heerema reports for this committee;
- The Com. recommends that classis **NOT** accede to this overture, giving these grounds:
 - o a. Presently pastors are free to remove themselves from the ballot for a variety of reasons;
 - o b. The present system also allows those who wish to serve multiple times the freedom to do so;
- The request of the council of Milford takes precedence;
- Discussion follows and the delegates of Milford agree to withdraw the overture;

OVERTURE-4 (Milford)

- Overture: " Faith Community CRC of Milford, N.S., requests that consideration be given to questioning churches which do not contribute 100% of their budgeted amount towards denominational and/or classical ministry shares in the March meeting of CEC annually."
- Rev. P. Heerema reports for the committee;
- The Com. recommends that classis **NOT** accede to this overture, noting the following:
 - o a. Classical and Denominational Ministry Shares are collected differently in our congregations. There is a commitment to pay our full classical ministry shares and each congregation is notified of its support level at each classis meeting;
 - o b. Often churches share that they have difficulty meeting these financial obligations: local, classical, denominational. Often there is no clear reason for financial shortfalls;
- The request of the council of Milford takes precedence;
- Discussion follows and the delegates of Milford agree to withdraw the overture.

Art. 31 TRANSCRIPTION of MINUTES:

- Elder Stuart-John Tigchelaar reports for the com. that they checked the minutes of the March/07 meeting of CEC and that they have found them to be in good order;
- The chairman thanks the Com. and the Stated Clerk;

Art. 32 LOCATION of 2008-Spring Meeting of CEC:

- it is noted that the meeting place should be in a city with an airport;
- no volunteers come forward and CIC will look into it;

Art. 33 COUNSELOR for FREDERICTON:

- since this congregation will become vacant on Dec. 1/07, a counsellor needs to appointed;
- CIC will appoint a counsellor;

Art. 34 CLOSING DEVOTIONS

- the following churches share some joys and concerns with the delegates: Montreal, Dixons Corners, Truro;
- Rev. Dan Brown of Truro leads in prayer for these churches;
- The delegates sing # 508 "Jesus, with Your Church Abide";
- Pastor Dan pronounces the blessing upon the delegates;

Art. 35 CLOSING REMARKS

- chairman Rev. Vanderbeek thanks Truro for the hospitality, facilities, food, etc.,
- he also thanks the Syn. Deputies and the committees for their work;
- he expresses his thanks to the Vice Chairman and the Stated Clerk for their assistance;
- the vice-chairman Rev. Nick Cornelisse thanks the chairman for leading us so ably, generously, and cheerfully;
- Chairman Rev. Herb Vanderbeek leads in a closing prayer.

NEXT MEETING

- a. Date: March 7 & 8, 2008
- b. Location:Ottawa-Calvary CRC
- c. Chairman: Rev. David Vroege
- d. Due-date for Agenda Materials: Jan. 19, 2008

.....
 James Kooistra, Stated Clerk of C.E.C.
 12537 County Road 18, Williamsburg
 ON K0C 2H0
 E-Mail: james@kooistra.ca
 Tel/Fax: 613-535-2152