



Agenda for the Meeting of

Classis Alberta South & Saskatchewan

of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

Friday, March 6th, Maranatha CRC, Calgary, AB



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VISION STATEMENT

Classis Alberta South & Saskatchewan is a regional group of Christian Reformed Churches dependant on the Holy Spirit, striving to function together as one body in Christ, share in worship, promote evangelism, diaconal ministries, and nurture through mutual accountability.

Chair: Rev. Brian Kuyper (Taber First CRC, Taber, AB)

Vice Chair: Rev. Rafik Kamel (Bethel CRC, Saskatoon, SK)

Clerk: Rev. David J. Swinney (Stated Clerk)

LODGING: Please see the attached "Accommodation Policy" ([page 4](#))

TRAVEL: Please see the attached "Travel Policy" ([page 4](#))

FIRST TIME DELEGATES: Please read the **Covenant for Officebearers** ([page 5](#)) prior to arrival and be ready to sign it at the Meeting of Classis.

8:30 AM Delegates arrive and share a time of fellowship over coffee.

9:00 AM Classis is formally constituted in a time of worship.

1. Welcome to delegates and visitors by the Chair

2. Classis is called to Order:

- 2.1. Credentials & Roll Call – Please sign in at the door and pick up your name tag prior to the meeting.
- 2.2. First-time delegates sign the Covenant for Officebearers in the CRC
- 2.3. Classis is declared to be constituted.
- 2.4. Seating of advisors

One ordained Minister or Commissioned Pastor leading each work of Classis (currently Indigenous Christian Fellowship of Regina and U of C Campus Ministry) will be designated as an advisor to Classis. (Oct. 2008, Item 6)

3. Review/revise and approve the AGENDA

4. Time Schedule

Worship 9:00 – 9:30; Classis meets 9:30 to 12:00; Lunch (deacons and committees meet) 12:00 – 1:30; Classis 1:30– 6:00; Supper; Classis 7:15 – 9:00 as needed. The morning and afternoon coffee breaks to be scheduled in a manner convenient to the Agenda.

5. Committee Appointments

- 5.1. Credentials Committee: Burdett, Iron Springs
- 5.2. Nominations Committee: Covenant, River Park

- 5.3. Expense Vouchers: Jerry Borst
- 5.4. Overtures (if required): Iron Springs, River Park
- 5.5. Concept Minutes: Classis Executive, Maranatha CRC, Calgary (host church)

6. Classical Administrative Reports: Received for information unless noted otherwise.

- 6.1. Classical Interim Committee: The committee met on November 26th, 2019 at High River CRC to follow up on items raised at the fall meeting of Classis, and for preliminary planning for the Spring 2020 meeting.
- 6.2. Classical Ministries Committee: Met January 21st at High River CRC to prepare/approve the agenda and discuss some of the items that will be raised in various reports. See minutes on website.
 - 6.2.1. **Motion to approve the work of the Classical Ministries Committee**
- 6.3. Classis Stated Clerk Report (summary)
 - Prepared/Posted minutes of Fall Meeting of Classis.
 - Processed credentials as required.
 - Prepared agenda and minutes of CIC/CMC meetings in November and January, in addition to other interactions with the committee via telephone, email, and Skype.
 - Prepared & distributed classical appointments
 - Solicited reports for Classis
 - Prepared the Classis Agenda
 - 6.3.1. **Motion to approve the work of the Stated Clerk.**
- 6.4. Classical Treasurer's Report
 - 6.4.1. Presentation of the 2019 financial report.
 - 6.4.2. **Motion to approve the work of the Classical Treasurer.**
- 6.5. Classical Ministry Leadership Team: ([page 7](#)) Rev. Paul Verhoef reporting.
- 6.6. Classical Safe Church Coordinator: No Report (position currently vacant)
- 6.7. Classical Campus Ministry Team: ([page 8](#)) Rev. Layne Kilbreath reporting.
 - 6.7.1. **Motion to approve the appointment of Michelle Slomp (Covenant CRC) and Zaak Robichaud (The Road CRC) to the Calgary University Campus Ministry Committee.**
- 6.8. Faith Formation Committee & Youth Champion: Chris Vanderberg reporting.
- 6.9. Regional Pastor's Report: Rev. Martin Boardman reporting.
- 6.10. Classical Prayer Coordinator Report: Rev. Martin Boardman reporting.
- 6.11. Canadian National Gathering Delegates Report/Presentation
- 6.12. Church Visitor team reports.
 - 6.12.1. Team # 1 – Brooks, Regina and Saskatoon
 - 6.12.2. Team # 2 – Covenant, The Road, River Park and The Lantern
 - 6.12.3. Team # 3 – Emmanuel, Maranatha (Calgary) and High River
 - 6.12.4. Team # 4 – Burdett, Iron Springs, Medicine Hat, Taber First
 - 6.12.5. Team # 5 – Granum, Maranatha (Lethbridge), and Nobleford

7. Denominational Agencies/Visitors Reports

- 7.1. Council of Delegates: Heather Cowie reporting. (also see letter, [page 9](#))
- 7.2. BOT, Calvin College (see attached report, [page 10](#))
- 7.3. BOT, Calvin Seminary
- 7.4. Canadian Ministries CRCNA: Rev. Darren Roorda reporting

- 7.5. Resonate Global Ministries: Rev. Rich Braaksma reporting.
- 7.6. Diaconal Ministries Canada: Don Miedema reporting.
- 7.7. Canadian Aboriginal Ministry Committee
 - 7.7.1. Indigenous Christian Fellowship: ([page 11](#)) Rev. Bert Adema reporting.
- 7.8. Disability Concerns: Cara Milne reporting.
- 7.9. The Kings University: (see attached report, [page 13](#))
- 7.10. Redeemer University College: (see attached report, [page 14](#))
- 7.11. World Renew: ([page 15](#)) George Lubberts reporting.
- 7.12. Ministry to Seafarers: ([page 18](#)) Rev. Gary Roosma reporting.
- 7.13. Salaam 2.0: ([page 19](#)) Rev. Greg Sinclair reporting.

8. Brief reports for prayer: Prayer and sharing in small groups.

9. Reports from Advisory Committees

- 9.1. Credentials Committee
- 9.2. Nominations Committee
- 9.3. Overtures Committee
- 9.4. Expense Vouchers (Treasurer, Jerry Borst)

10. Closing

- 10.1. Closing remarks by the chair, and vice-chair
- 10.2. Motion to adjourn.
- 10.3. Closing prayer and doxology

11. Next Classis meeting to be held at TBD on October 30, 2020

Travel Policy (rev. February 2020)

When travel is required for Classis business, the onus is on the individual to make a cost effective and practical choice when considering transportation.

The following options are available;

Personal Vehicle: With shorter trips, using your own vehicle is generally the best option. Classis pays mileage as established annually by the CRA. 2019 rates are \$.59/km for the first 5000 km and \$.52/km thereafter. (Rates are reviewed annually)

Carpooling: When possible and as with your personal vehicle, carpooling is often a logical, convenient and cost effective option. CRA rates apply.

Car Rental: On longer trips (over 300km return) a car rental is best. Some rental firms will drop the vehicle at your home or pick you up. Review your insurance for proper coverage.

Bus Charter: At times the Classis will arrange for a bus charter to accommodate a larger number of travellers. When a charter is made available, the Classis will only pay mileage to and from the point of bus origin or stopover. Again the carpooling guideline applies.

Air Travel: When distances are excessive, such as for our churches in Saskatchewan, air travel is both a time saver with an often reasonable costs when considering the distance.

If there are questions as to what may or may not be reimbursed, contact the Classis Treasurer for preapproval at, treasurer@classisabss.ca

Accommodation Policy (rev. February 2020)

When accommodations are required for Classis business, the policy of the Classis is to rent single room accommodations. It is expected the individual will make a cost effective and practical choice.

The Classis Interim Committee will ordinarily make accommodation arrangements when multiple rooms are required for a Classis meeting. When this is the case, details will be made available in advance of the meeting.

The following options are available;

Single occupancy hotel rooms are the preferred choice of Classis.

Shared occupancy hotel rooms are acceptable, but both parties must agree to shared accommodations.

You are of course free to arrange your own accommodations at your own expense.

If there are questions regarding this policy, please contact the Classis Treasurer by email using the address, treasurer@classisabss.ca

Covenant for Officebearers in the CRCNA

We, [the undersigned], believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God, which proclaims the good news of God's creation and redemption through Jesus Christ. Acknowledging the authority of God's Word, we submit to it in all matters of life and faith.

We affirm three creeds—the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed—as ecumenical expressions of the Christian faith. In doing so, we confess our faith in unity with followers of Jesus Christ throughout all ages and among all nations.

We also affirm three confessions—the [Belgic Confession](#), the [Heidelberg Catechism](#), and the [Canons of Dort](#)—as historic Reformed expressions of the Christian faith, whose doctrines fully agree with the Word of God. These confessions continue to define the way we understand Scripture, direct the way we live in response to the gospel, and locate us within the larger body of Christ.

Grateful for these expressions of faith, we promise to be formed and governed by them. We heartily believe and will promote and defend their doctrines faithfully, conforming our preaching, teaching, writing, serving, and living to them.

Along with these historic creeds and confessions, we also recognize the witness of *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony* as a current Reformed expression of the Christian faith that forms and guides us in our present context.

We also promise to present or receive confessional difficulties in a spirit of love and fellowship with our brothers and sisters as together we seek a fuller understanding of the gospel. Should we come to believe that a teaching in the confessional documents is not the teaching of God's Word, we will communicate our views to the church, according to the procedures prescribed by the Church Order and its supplements. If the church asks, we will give a full explanation of our views. Further, we promise to submit to the church's judgment and authority.

We honor this covenant for the well-being of the church to the glory of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*To be signed by professors, ministers, commissioned pastors, elders, and deacons when ordained and/or installed in office.

Adopted by Synod 2012

Classis Alberta South And Saskatchewan

2020 EXPENSE VOUCHER

c/o Jerry Borst
 97 Douglasview Rise SE
 Calgary, AB T2Z 2P5

treasurer@classisabss.ca

Date:

Church & Person: _____
 Cheque Made out to: _____
 Address: _____
 City / Town: _____
 Postal Code: _____

Details of Expense: _____

Expenses:	Travel: _____	KM's @	0.59	\$	-
	Other: _____			\$	-
				\$	-
				\$	-
		GST		\$	-
	(* KM rate effective Jan1 '20)	Total Expenses:		\$	-

Signed: _____

Expense Approval: _____

Please attach receipts when possible

Paid by Cheque # _____

6.5 – CMLT Report

Classis Ministerial Leadership Team (CMLT)

Report for Classis Alberta South and Saskatchewan

Written for Classis scheduled for March 6, 2020

Dear members of Classis ABSS,

As of our October 2019 Classis meeting, I'm back on the CMLT (Classis Ministerial Leadership Team). And again with Nelly Eyk and Jerry Borst. Thanks for the trust that commissions the three of us for this good work.

What is the CMLT? Well, primarily it's meant to be a small committee that reminds the churches of our classis to keep an eye out for those called into the vocation of Gospel ministry. And once somebody is connected to the CMLT to explore that vocation, we get to help with finding a mentor, encouraging them as students, connecting them to the denominational candidacy committee, and supporting them with the Student Fund.

As we look at the students we are supporting this year, many of them need less financial support than usual. **So we emailed all the pastors of our classis reminding them that they too are welcome to be students** – to work on a Doctorate of Ministry or towards a certificate in Spiritual Direction or to take a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education. And if your church's Professional Development fund is not quite sufficient, our CMLT Student Fund is also available to support the costs.

Who are we currently supporting?

Evelyn Eisses – at Ambrose Seminary in the M.Div. program

Evelyn is getting close to finished in her degree program. She has intentionally taken it slow, but has also faithfully been moving forward. She is currently enjoying her class on hope and suffering, which feeds directly into rich conversations she has as a Chaplain at the Foothills Campus.

Steven VanDyk – in Grand Rapids at Calvin Seminary, M.Div. Program

Steven, together with his wife Rosanne, moved to Grand Rapids in 2016, and he is now in the last semester of his seminary training and needing only to take 3 classes (5 is normal). While his course work is less than normal, he will be working to finalize the candidacy process and likely begin hearing from churches soon.

Ryan Poelman – in Granum studying via distance education at Calvin Seminary, M.Div. Program

Ryan continues to study via distance education with Calvin Seminary. While being stretched by re-entering the academic world after a decade, Ryan is finding the material to be engaging (he highlighted his class on introduction into Missional Ministry). And actually says his Greek teacher makes that class enjoyable too!

Current Ministers in Our Classis – we have had one current minister apply for funding as he pursues his Clinical Pastoral Education certificate. By the time classis meets, we may have more!

To God be the glory,

Rev. Paul Verhoef, Chair, CMLT of Classis ABSS

On behalf of Nelly Eyk and Jerry Borst

6.7 – Calgary University Campus Ministry Report

Classical Update – February 6, 2020

* REQUESTS for:

1. Committee member approval (at bottom)
2. Time to give a verbal report at Classis

Our Campus Ministers:

- Jacqui Mignault: Mount Royal University (1 day/ per week)
 - After a year, Jacqui is prayerfully finding her way on Campus. When at MRU, you'll may find her coordinating broader Chaplaincy with the University, meeting with students, or speaking at the Well (weekly worship gathering at MRU).
- Pearl Nieuwenhuis: University of Calgary (2 days/ week)
 - Pearl has a ministry of spiritual direction and listening to students and faculty on Campus. She also helps lead a Women's group & the Kaleidoscope Project, an immersive experience that looks at the practices of some of the World's religions.
- Paul Verhoef: University of Calgary (full-time)
 - Lately Paul has spent time meeting with students, lecturing in a class on how the prophets of the Old Testament point to Jesus as the Christ, helping to coordinate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, working with the new Chair of Christian Thought, as well as coordinating speakers for Calgary-based Christian events including Calvin Seminary Professor Dr. Amanda Benckhuysen (April 2020) and Calvin University Professor Dr. Kirsten DuMez Kobes (October 2020).

Our Campus Committee:

- Arnold Zwart – Maranatha CRC
- Jerry Borst - Emmanuel CRC - Treasurer - treasurer@classisabss.ca
- Lynda Hoffman – Riverpark CRC
- Rev. Layne Kilbreath - Lantern CRC - Chair – lkilbreath@calgarychristianschool.com

Our committee welcomed a new chair at our January meeting, Rev. Layne Kilbreath. We spent our January meeting getting to know each other, celebrating what God is doing on the University campuses and remembering Classis' invitation to Campus ministry: "Do You Love Me?" written by Rev. Bill Van Groningen back in 1998. If you would like a copy of this beautiful and compelling invitation, email Layne at the address above.

1. Join us in thanking Rev. Rich Braaksma, who faithfully served as chair the past 6 years.
2. ***REQUEST for Classis APPROVAL: We request classis approval for both Michelle Slomp (Covenant CRC) & Zaak Robichaud (The Road CRC) as Committee members. Both are members on good standing of their Churches. Michelle is the Administrator at Covenant CRC and Zaak teaches High School math at Calgary Christian School.**

We wish to thank Classis for your continued prayer and financial support!

In Jesus with all of you,

Layne Kilbreath, on behalf of the Campus Ministry Committee

7.1 – Letter, Council of Delegates Nominating Service Committee

Dear Canadian Stated Clerks:

I am writing on behalf of the COD Nominating Services Committee to call attention to a special request for potential nominees for the Canada at-large position on the COD (to begin July 1, 2020). The Nominating Services Committee wishes to be intentional in seeking out young women, preferably who would also represent our denomination's rich ethnic diversity. As a reminder, nominees must be members in good standing in the CRC.

We need your help as you engage with the churches within your classis - do they know of qualified candidates?

Please forward suggested names and contact information to either Andy deRuyter (johan@shaw.ca) or Dee Recker (drecker@crcna.org) with a brief note of recommendation. We invite you to have a conversation with the recommended individual to explore their willingness to be considered. Please be aware that it does not ensure their nomination to the position. Nominations are requested by **March 31** to be considered.

Thank you for giving this request serious consideration.

On behalf of the COD Nominating Services Committee

Cordially,
Dee

Dee Recker

Director of Synodical Services
CRCNA.org | 616-224-0827



7.2 – BOT, Calvin College

Greetings from Board of Trustees, Calvin College

November 2019

Greetings to you as a board of trustee member and the regional representative of Calvin College. The purpose of this brief letter is to re-introduce myself, and to offer you the latest news of our denominational post-secondary educational institution – as of July 2019, now named Calvin University!

Calvin's vision is to become a university with an innovative Christian liberal arts approach to engage a new demographic of learners; to become a trusted partner for learning throughout life and in service; and to promote a Reformed Christian faith that is faithful, global, diverse, generous, committed, hospitable, and inspiring. We believe that this vision is our calling, and that it is the best way to preserve our unique approach to residential undergraduate education.

The effects of Calvin's shrinking operating funds, caused by a steady decline within the US mid-west traditional college-ready population, have prompted administration into continued action to think expansively, realign net tuition revenue, underscore program differences, and continue to focus on student experiences and outcomes. We remain humbled by the amazing generosity of Calvin's alumni and friends. Your/their generosity resulted in fundraising being ahead of last year by \$5.68 million (7.4 million Canadian dollars). The prime focus at this time is a Commons Union building, a new building to replace two outdated and cost-prohibitive buildings and Calvin's only power plant.

The Academic Affairs Committee reported that Calvin is re-examining its core curriculum and is planning a new university structure. They reported that Calvin heard from the Higher Learning Commission that the university already meets all requirements for accreditation.

An important new conduit for increased enrollment at Calvin will be through implementing a digital strategy. President Michael LeRoy shared that the new academic entity will offer an interdisciplinary online education—degrees, certificates, masters programs, etc.—with six starts per year. He also noted that Calvin will need an online program manager (OPM) in order to bring this goal to fruition in a timely manner.

Every trustee meeting thus far has emphasized the importance of Calvin's mission in building uncommon lives for Christ; that message is convincing and convicting! I just wish that in a letter I could capture the spirit (and Spirit) at work in those times and share with you the way I experience them. Perhaps you can invite me to your Classis meeting sometime, and I'll give you a heart-full!

Shalom and abundant blessings to you,



Rick Mast

Campus Minister at the University of Alberta, on behalf of Classis Alberta North



Indigenous Christian Fellowship

*Incorporated as Indian Metis Christian Fellowship
Building an urban community serving spiritual and social needs.
In Treaty 4 Territory and the traditional homeland of the Metis.
3131 Dewdney Avenue, Regina, SK S4T 0Y5 Canada
Fax: 306.359.0103 Tel: 306.359.1096*

2020 Annual Report to Our Supporting Churches

The ministry of Indigenous Christian Fellowship continues within the context of the city in Canada with the highest proportion of Indigenous people within the province (Saskatchewan) with the highest number of Canadian Indian Residential School survivors. North Central Regina our home neighbourhood continues to exhibit symptoms of violence, addictions, racism, and poverty. Within this context the ministry persists in presenting the good news of Christ the Creator using the gifts of Indigenous people.

The ministry's connection with the Indigenous community was confirmed by support from Indigenous students of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies in April 2019. Led by Sylvia Worm, a group of students fund-raised more than \$2,000.00 for ICF through their 'Indigenous Empowerment Project'. She noted the ministry's support for grieving families through its hosting of wakes and funerals as a factor in that fundraising initiative. (Over the years, more than 200 wakes and funerals have been held at ICF.)

In October, the ministry held its first fund-raising gala. More than 250 people attended and many were introduced to the work of the ministry for the first time. Stories from speakers highlighted ICF's work through the theme of 'Hurt, Healing and Hope'. A film by Don List, of Birdsong Communications underscored the Gala's theme; a copy is available from ICF upon request

The past year has seen an increasing amount of violence in the ministry's neighbourhood. Indeed, the last three deaths in Regina occurred within one block of ICF's front doors. ICF seems like a bubble of peace and sanctuary within what too often can feel like the valley of the shadow of death.

In 2019, in collaboration with Eastside United Church, the ministry's Home Fires Family Youth program initiated a performing arts evening – 'INI Café'. The INI title refers to the hosting of an Indigenous performer and a Non-Indigenous performer in an evening of entertainment. The response to a positive evening of entertainment on a Friday evening led to the organizing of karaoke nights, movies and game activities on other Friday evenings. Thanks to Wilfred Dieter, ICF's past Family Youth Worker and Russell Mitchell-Walker, Eastside's Diaconal Minister for their collaboration in developing the INI Café.

In 2019, the ministry's week-day drop-in hospitality hosted more than 4,000 visits; the Saturday morning Family Breakfast served more than 1,700 people, the Wednesday noon Soup and Bannock meal was served to more than 1,600 people. More than 2,800 'customers' chipped in a token entry fee of \$3.00 to help themselves to furniture, clothing, small appliances, mattresses and more through the weekly Community Sharing Time held on Thursday afternoons.

All of the activities of 2019 and our hopes for 2020 are possible because of the support you provide through your time, prayers, and donations. We trust that we can count on your support in 2020!

On behalf of the Council, staff and community of Indigenous Christian Fellowship,

Bert Adema, Executive Director

Life at ICF in 2019 in Photos



Demand for recycled bikes from ICF remains strong.



Feeding family relationships and stomachs!



Community Sharing Time: Inside our hall and outside for the 'showroom'

7.9 – Kings University

Report to Classis AB South/Saskatchewan of the Christian Reformed Church: January 2020

Greetings from The King's University! We are celebrating our 40th anniversary this year, while looking forward to what the next 40 years has in store. We continue to be thankful for the community that walks alongside us as we serve our Lord through all that we do at the university.

It has been another year of increasing student enrolment. This fall, we set a record high once again with 850 students enrolled. We are incredibly thankful for continued growth in our student population and continue striving to reach our goal of having over 1,000 students. We continue to covet your prayers and continued support in encouraging prospective students in your community to pursue their Christian university education at King's.

To kick off our 40th anniversary year, we themed our annual community banquet accordingly and welcomed 438 guests to the party. We gathered together as a community to celebrate all that King's has become, look forward to what our future plans are and to raise funds to help students in need. The evening was a remarkable celebration. In addition to raising over \$50,000 for student scholarships, we had the pleasure of celebrating with the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, two members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, one Member of Parliament, and all of our former presidents. Joining Dr. Henk VanAndel, who resides in Edmonton, Dr. Sidney DeWall flew up for the celebrations from Texas, and Dr. Harry Fernhout made the trip from Brampton, ON. It was wonderful to be together celebrating God's faithfulness through the years.

The Alumni Relations office, in conjunction with other faculty and staff, have been travelling throughout western Canada to celebrate King's 40th anniversary with our supporting community. This past fall, events were hosted at Emmanuel CRC in Calgary, Maranatha CRC in Lethbridge, Victoria CRC and Neerlandia CRC. It's been wonderful to reconnect with so many people who have played integral roles in King's becoming what it is today while also giving participants an opportunity to engage with one of our faculty members and learn more about their teaching and research at the university. In the coming months, we will be at Fleetwood CRC in Surrey, various Christian schools throughout the lower mainland, as well as Smithers CRC and Terrace CRC. We have enjoyed meeting some of you at our past events and look forward to connecting with more of you throughout 2020.

In conjunction with our 40th anniversary, we launched Alumni Achievement Awards at King's. King's has countless alumni around the world accomplishing amazing things each and every day. These alumni are a wonderful testament to the return on your investment into the university over the past 40 years and we were honoured to celebrate three alumni at our 40th Anniversary Banquet this Fall. Dr. Christa Aubrey (BSc '08) was named our Accomplished Young Alumni for her work in the field of medicine. In addition to becoming a medical doctor and currently serving as a clinical fellow in gynecological oncology at the age of 32, Christa is a mother to two children, an active researcher, and has attained a Master of Science degree in Public Health. Jesse Edgington (BSc '00) was the deserving recipient of the first Servant Leader Award, recognizing his work with the Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference, his passion for creation care, climate justice, and reconciliation with indigenous people, and his engagement with his church and neighbourhood. Jesse is also currently pursuing a Micah Certificate at the King's Micah Centre. Dr. Robert Greidanus ('89) was our inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. Robert is a family physician and surgeon in Peace River, Alberta where he serves the local rural community and surrounding First Nations communities. Robert has not only committed his life to serving the underserved and underprivileged in Canada, he has made this commitment globally. Robert and his family spent seven years in Africa where Robert served as a medical missionary. Robert has demonstrated remarkable service to others and is committed to building a more humane, just, and sustainable world. We are so thankful for all King's alumni who are living out our mission in their communities. If you would like to nominate someone for the 2020 Alumni Achievement Awards, complete the nomination form at www.kingsu.ca/alumni/alumni-achievement-awards.

Recent shifts in the provincial government and a continually depressed economy in Alberta have resulted in some significant alterations in the post-secondary government funding model. We are thankful to have been spared funding cuts mid-fiscal year this fall, but are preparing for a decrease in our provincial operating grant this spring. This presents a significant challenge for King's and other independent institutions in the province as we are already working with significantly less government funding to begin with. The government's desire is to have all post-secondary institutions receive between 28-35% of their total revenue from tuition. This has been part of the impetus behind their cuts to funding. Last year, King's derived 47% of its revenue from tuition and fees. There is significant concern that funding cuts will put further strain on students who desire a Christian university experience. Please pray for wisdom for our elected officials, that their decisions will be made in a way that preserve the diversity of choice within the post-secondary sector in Alberta. The financial support from our community is as important today as it was 40 years ago when the institution was in its infancy. Please continue to support King's and our students to ensure that Reformed Christian university continues to be available and accessible for generations to come.

Thank you, Classis AB South/Saskatchewan, for your faithful and generous commitment to support King's through prayers and financial gifts. King's would not exist without the critical support that we receive through Ministry Shares and other offerings. The alumni who we honoured through this year's Alumni Achievement Awards, and the thousands of others who are faithfully serving the Lord in their life and work owe you a debt of gratitude. Thank you for helping us grow from 76 students in 1979 to 850 students in 2019. I hope that you have felt the impact of King's in your community as profoundly as we have experienced the impact of your support within this institution. On behalf of the entire King's community, thank you!

In His service,

Melanie Humphreys, PhD

President

7.10 – Redeemer University College

Report to Classis Alberta South of the Christian Reformed Church: Winter 2020

As the first semester of 2019 draws to a close, Redeemer is pleased to see the positive impact that tuition and fee restructuring has had on enrolment. A recent student expressed her gratitude in being able to attend this fall. "My mom works part-time, and my dad runs a non-profit, so sending four girls to university has become a difficult task for them. The only reason I was able to come to Redeemer was because of the drop in tuition. I'm here because I want to open a Christian women's shelter in my hometown. This is the only school that would allow me to do Non-Profit Management in hand with Social Work. It has been a lot of work, but it is going to be so worth it!"

February 2020 will feature Gratitude Week once again where students thank a large community of donors who support Redeemer. Redeemer students are thankful for these generous contributions that make their Christian university education possible.

The campus theme for this year is "Come and See" from John 1:39, where Jesus calls to the disciples to see where he lives and who he is. Faculty, staff, and students have been blessed by the chapel services, held every Wednesday during the year, centred around this theme led by Rev. Josiah Bokma and many guest speakers.

Redeemer is blessed with a faithful faculty and staff, and this fall, we were pleased to welcome Kevin Johnson as the new Dean of Students and June Hulbert as the Associate Vice President-Human Resources. These are key roles as members of the leadership team that will help Redeemer's mission move forward in God's service.

This fall, Dr. Jim Vanderwoerd, Professor of Social Work, spoke on "Sex After the Revolution: Called to be Faithfully Comprehensible" for Redeemer's bi-annual Pastor Professor Exchange. There was a time for questions and discussion following the talk, considering ways to bring these conversations back to churches. This winter, the Pastor Professor Exchange will run on February 26, 2020 with Dr. David Beldman, Associate Professor of Religion and Theology, speaking on "Reading Judges for the 21st Century." Redeemer looks forward to hosting this event and connecting with pastors in the surrounding community.

For the past two years, Redeemer has been denied Canada Summer Jobs program funding. Redeemer has two cases before the Federal Court of Canada with respect to these denials. Please pray for those involved and for a timely and just resolution of these cases.

As the Re Campaign ends, and we see all that has been accomplished through it, we look forward to Redeemer's new strategic plan which will be announced in early 2020. Redeemer is blessed and grateful for a community of believers who support the mission of preparing the next generation of Christians to bring the gospel's transformative power to all kinds of careers and vocations. Your contribution through offerings and ministry shares is vital in keeping Redeemer an excellent liberal arts and sciences university that is unabashedly Christ-centred. May God's blessings be evident in your work with your church families and in your broader community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Graham

President

7.11 – World Renew

Classis Alberta South and Sask Report – fall, 2019

Submitted by Peter Bulthuis, Associate Director of Church Relations

Thank you, **Classis Alberta South and Saskatchewan**, for your support of the work of World Renew. Your thoughtfulness, your prayers and your financial engagement have all made impacts on people's lives, for the glory of our God. I want to thank you for your incredible generosity of your gifts of **\$241,890.00** across the past fiscal year (July 1/18-June 30/19). Thank you for choosing World Renew as your partner in your own churches' global ministries.

A. General Updates:

There are quite a few general updates that are important here:

1. The cross-country Jeremy Benjamin I AM NOT MY OWN tour wrapped up at the Inspire Conference in Windsor, during the first weekend of August. Jeremy, Lara and their family went from coast to coast (and then all over southern Ontario) to share God's story, and God's work. Besides raising funds for local organizations, the tour raised funds for World Renew's work in Nigeria. All told, the tour raised (when one includes the 4:1 match through CFGB) more than \$1/2M. God is good!

2. In January of this year, several churches in Edmonton in the Classis “up north” hosted a *Helping without Harming* workshop. There have been about 10 workshops presented across the country (including one in Etobicoke Ontario in June, and one planned for Georgetown in the fall). It’s possible that there are some churches in Alberta South and Saskatchewan who might like to learn more, and/or hold such a workshop in the next few months. Do call the World Renew office to arrange that.

3. There is a new toll free number: **1-888-WRLD-RNW**. (How cool is that!?) It will be appearing soon in various mailings, as well as the Gift Catalogue. The after-hours call answering now allows callers to dial an extension by extension number or by first name.

4. Global Affairs Canada (GAC) – Application #1: We received notification that our application under GAC’s Volunteer Cooperation Program call has passed the first round of assessment (project parameters and required project experience). The proposal is now being reviewed under GAC’s merit assessment, which will determine if the program will be funded.

Global Affairs Canada (GAC) – Application #2: We received notification that our preliminary proposal under GAC’s Women as Agents of Change in the America call has passed the first round of assessment (project parameters and required project experience). The proposal is now being reviewed under GAC’s merit assessment, which will determine if we are invited to submit a full proposal.

5. **CRWRF (Canadian Reformed World Relief Fund)**: Since 2007, CRWRF has been supporting our local partner in Mali, AMAFEP, and their work in women’s health, abuse prevention and Christian family life, focusing not only on the complex consequences of child abuse, but also on the importance of communicating with children about these issues. After the training, the women know how to establish an environment that is conducive to child safety; teach children to protect themselves and to expose abuse; and talk about sexuality. Work is also being done to improve the relationships between husband and wife (e.g., by better communication, respect for one other, addressing domestic violence, understanding the roles and responsibilities of husband and wife, and managing finances) and between parents and their children (e.g., discipline, open communication). CRWRF has recently approved another **CAD\$51,460** to continue the programming for 2018-2020.

CRWRF is also supporting our local partner in Senegal, SLDS, with support for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), newborns without a mother, and people living with HIV/AIDS with nutrition education and training on kitchen gardens, nutrition kits, school tuition, and home visits. CRWRF is currently providing **CAD\$20,000** for this one year project. A 6-month for the adolescent health and security programming is currently being prepared and will be submitted at the end of May.

We are extremely grateful for this partnership!

The point of all of this information, is to apprise you of just a bit of the work done by many people, on your behalf. Again: thank you, **Classis Alberta South and Saskatchewan!** God is good!

B. Upcoming Offering Dates

There are several Synodically-designated offerings coming up through to the end of this year. These are:

Oct. 14 (Thanksgiving): for World Renew generally. There will be devotional booklets, and a variety of resources to help understand how World renew can assist your prayerful support of hungry people.

Nov. 3: for world hunger; this is part of the World Hunger Campaign.

Dec. 25: This is for World Renew generally; often folks connect with the Gift Catalogue for this time of the year. MUCH more on that later.

C. Community Development: Stories of Transformation:

There are so many stories of community transformation, I hardly know where to start. Let me do this: please (!) check out our website, and read some for yourself. Do start [here](https://worldrenew.net/stories): <https://worldrenew.net/stories>. God is good!

D. Disaster Response

Update International: I had the opportunity to visit Lebanon several months ago, to see for myself what God is doing through His people, for the 10s of 1000s of Syrian refugees. There will be a longer article about what I saw, on the website in a month or two, but let me just say this: Through your support, the people of God in Lebanon are helping to establish learning centers for Syrian refugee children, because there are no schools for them; the people of God are helping to provide medical assistance, because there is little health care for them; the people of God are helping to teach sewing to the women who want that, because there is little support for them.



A pastor in another one of the congregations in the Bekaa Valley (there are over 10,000 refugees within a 3 km radius of the church) said: “God opened the doors, and no one has closed them”. The food was the first step, food given with no conditions. Now the learning centers of the church welcome 415 out-of-school children.

All of this astounded us as visitors. Food distribution happens through many Christian Lebanese volunteers; these women and men have an amazing belief in grace: even as Christ forgave and accepted them, so they accept Syrians as people in need of support. Unconditionally. Overwhelmingly. Inspirationally. There is an article about this on the [website](#). Do have a look. YOU ARE DOING THIS IN LEBANON!

Update Domestic: Canada and US: There are so many opportunities for service on a “Disaster Response Services” team in North America; please check out the website [here](https://worldrenew.net/disaster-response-services): <https://worldrenew.net/disaster-response-services>. Alberta, Ontario, many states in the US.

E. Refugee Settlement Activities:

An update on what the Refugee Sponsorship Assistance program is up to:

On February 28, 2019, World Renew received 201 sponsorship spaces for our 2019 sponsorship allocation. With the confirmation of a BVOR sponsorship, our 2019 allocation increased to 206 sponsorship spaces. This was a special limited incentive initiative of the BVOR program. This is the largest allocation for World Renew since the inception of caps and allocations in 2012.

We are making good progress in submitting applications. As of June 30, 2019, we have submitted 55% of our spaces. Our target is to have all allocations used by September 30, 2019. This will be challenging given government changes and the increased expectations regarding ‘quality assurance’ and accountability placed on SAHs and sponsors.

As of July 10 2019, we have submitted 52 applications for a total of 123 individuals. As of this same date, 107 refugees have arrived in Canada through World Renew sponsorships since January 1, 2019.

Of the 52 (123 persons) applications submitted to date, 37 (92 persons) applications have been submitted by 19 Christian Reformed Churches, 8 (24 persons) applications have been submitted by 6 other Constituent Groups (beyond CRCs, associations, other faith groups) and 7 applications (7 persons) have been submitted from 3 different community partners.

As ever, we are extremely grateful for all the support we have received from the folks and the churches of Classis Quinte.

F. What else can the people and the churches of Classis ABSaS do?

Encourage your church to partner with a church or community outside North America. Call the office.

Contact Peter Bulthuis (pbulthuis@worldrenew.net; 800-730-3490, ext. 4237), or Maria Oliveira (moliveira@worldrenew.net, ext. 4319) for more ideas on how we can help you achieve your ministry objectives. To learn more about World Renew's ministry and/or to sign up for our regular newsletter, please visit www.worldrenew.net.

Blessings, and thank you!



Peter Bulthuis, Church Relations

7.12 – Ministry to Seafarers



The Ministry to Seafarers

401 East Waterfront Rd.

Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6A 4G9

Phone: 604-253-4421

Email: crcvanportchaplain@gmail.com

www.ministrytoseafarers.com

CLASSIS REPORT, SPRING 2020

- Christmas season meant another year of gift giving to seafarers – over 1500 gifts were distributed. On Christmas Eve we again went out by boat to distribute gifts to all the ships at anchorage in English Bay and the Vancouver inner harbour. We also held Christmas services at each of the centres – downtown and Roberts Bank.
- We have now hired a half-time intern for the first 6 months of 2020 – Rev. Vincent Ng was initially hired by the Anglican Mission to Seafarers for the latter half of 2019. He will continue his service now under our CRC Ministry to Seafarers. As an ethnic Chinese who speaks both Mandarin and Cantonese and one who has a true pastor's heart, Vincent is giving invaluable service to this ministry.
- 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of the Ministry to Seafarers. As such, we will be holding an anniversary celebration on the evening of May 3 at New West CRC.
- Gary has been appointed to the board of NAMMA (North American Maritime Ministry Association) as chair of the Ecumenical Affairs Committee. This is an initial one-year appointment and can be extended

to a full 3-year term. In addition to attending the board meeting held each year during the NAMMA Conference, Gary will also need to attend one other meeting during each year. The cost for attending the 2nd meeting will be covered by NAMMA.

- Fall 2019 we began presenting the Ministry to local Christian schools in a more intentional way. First, we hosted the grade 5 class from Vancouver Christian School (67 students) at the downtown centre to share about the ministry. Then Gary spoke at an assembly for Delta Christian School. We are now in discussion with at least 3 other schools in the area who have all expressed interest in learning more.
- Gary made a total of 463 ship visits during 2019, for an average of 38.6 visits/month. This compares with 478 visits in 2018. Total ship visits by our 3-agency partnership were 1,431, up from last year's 1,313. Having Vincent as intern for 6 months has aided in the increase in ship visits. Visits by seafarers to the downtown centre were 3,779, down from last year's 4,545. Ship visits at the Robert's Bank centre were also down, 9,209 in 2019 compared to 10,229 the previous year. My hunch is that the decrease in visits to the centres is primarily attributable to some decrease in ship traffic, as well as some ships staying in port for even shorter stays. Through the year we conducted a total of 24 worship services, both on board ships, and at the centres.
- Thank you for your continued support for this ministry through prayers, finances, and general encouragement. To God be the Glory!

Respectfully submitted,

John Bandstra, Acting Committee chair

7.13 – Salaam 2.0 Report

Classis Alberta South and Saskatchewan – February 2020

Acts 17:26-27 says "From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the exact times set for them and the exact places they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us."

That has been a guiding passage for me these past few months as Resonate Global Mission continues develop a new strategic priority focused on diaspora and ethnic ministry. Diaspora is defined as the large group of people, both Christians and unreached people groups, scattered around the world. We often encounter them in the form of international students, migrants, immigrants and refugees. This group also includes Muslim people groups that continues to be the focus of Salaam ministry.

This new strategic priority allows for a continued focus on Muslims, but also opens up potential teaching, witness and dialogue with other faith traditions. It also incorporates the growing minority ethnic Christian church as part of our mission partnership. Diaspora reaching out to diaspora is really our vision for the future in our new mission environment of "missions to everywhere from everywhere."

This is actually one of the reasons why Christian Reformed Missions and Christian Reformed Home Missions came together two years ago – so that we could pursue new and innovative types of mission work. Your support for Salaam 2.0 is helping your mission agency to follow God's will in a changing world.

Two other projects of note this past fall. I was involved in two interfaith student projects with Redeemer University students. One group mapped local Christian-Muslim dialogues across Canada. The other group started an interfaith dialogue with students of Muslim and Jewish traditions. In January Dr. Matthew Kaemingk, author of *Christian Hospitality and Muslim Immigration in an Age of Fear*, visited Redeemer and I moderated a panel with Matthew and Dr. Ken Herfst.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you in person at this Classis meeting and answering any questions you might have.

Addenda

Classical Functionaries

Completed

Stated Clerk

Rev. David J. Swinney (1st Term) 2022

Alternate

Rev. J. Cameron Fraser (1st Term) 2022

Classical Treasurer

Jerry Borst (3rd Term) 2022

Classical Ministries Committee

The Ministries Committee consists of all the members of the Interim Committee, the current Chair and Vice-Chair of Classis, and one representative from each of the Standing Committees of Classis. The Treasurer and the Clerk shall serve as advisory members.

Classical Interim Committee

Chair - Rev. Matt Vanden Heuvel (1st Term) 2021

Vice-Chair - Rev. Paul Van Stralen (1st Term) 2022

Treasurer - Jerry Borst (3rd Term) 2022

Clerk - Rev. David J. Swinney (1st Term) 2022

Standing Committees of Classis

Calgary Campus Ministry Committee

Chair – Rev. Layne Kilbreath (1st Term) 2021

Member – Arnold Zwart (1st Term) 2022

Member – Jerry Borst *Ex-officio*

Chaplain – Rev. Paul Verhoef *Ex-officio*

Chaplain – Pearl Nieuwenhuis *Ex-officio*

Chaplain – Jacqui Mignault *Ex-officio*

Classical Faith Formation Coordinator

Chris Vanderberg (2nd Term) 2020

Classical Ministerial Leadership Team

Rev. Ken Vanderploeg (1st Term) 2021

Nelly Eyk (2nd Term) 2021

Jerry Borst, Advisory Member (*ex-officio*)

Classical Safe Church Coordinator

(position vacant)

Addenda

Church Visitor Teams

Team # 1 – Brooks, Regina and Saskatoon

Rev. George Koopmans and a Medicine Hat elder.
Alternate: Rev. Cameron Fraser

Team # 2 – Covenant, The Road, River Park and The Lantern

Rev Henry Veldboom and a Granum elder.
Alternate: Rev. Dan Roukema

Team # 3 – Emmanuel, Maranatha (Calgary) and High River

Rev. Paul Van Stralen and a Maranatha elder.
Alternate: Rev. Frank Lanting

Team # 4 – Burdett, Iron Springs, Medicine Hat, Taber First

Rev. Matt Vanden Heuvel and a Covenant elder.
Alternate: Rev. John Vanderburgh

Team # 5 – Granum, Maranatha (Lethbridge), and Nobleford

Rev. David Swinney and a High River elder
Alternate: Rev. Rick Roeda

Classical Prayer Coordinator: Rev. Martin Boardman

Regional Pastor: Rev. Martin Boardman

Mentors

Rev. Cameron Fraser to mentor Rafik Kamel and Frank Lanting to 2022. Rev. Michelle Gritter to mentor Rev. Cari Fydirchuk till 2023. Rev. George Koopmans to mentor Rev. Rick Roeda to 2022

Church Counsellors

Rev. Paul Verhoef to Sonlight CRC, Regina, SK
Rev. Case Vink to River Park CRC, Calgary, AB

Licence to Exhort

Mr. Harry Valstar of River Park, Calgary. Licensed to Mar. 9, 2023 (Classis Mar. 9 2018, Item 12)
Mr. Josh Sweetman of Maranatha, Lethbridge to October 30, 2020

Historical Committee Contact Person: Rev. J. Cameron Fraser

Synodical Functionaries

Completed

Synodical Deputy:

Rev. David Swinney (1st Term) 2020

Alternate: Rev. John Vanderburgh (1st Term) 2022

REGIONAL DELEGATES

Council of Delegates: Western Canada Representative

Heather Cowie (1st Term) 2022

BOT, Calvin Seminary: Western Canada Representative

Frank Zee (1st Term) 2020

BOT, Calvin College: Western Canada Representative

Rev. Rick Mast (1st Term) 2020

Committee, Contact with Government: Western Canada Representative

CLASSICAL DELEGATES

World Renew: Classical Representative

George Lubberts (2nd Term) 2021

Canadian Aboriginal Ministries Board: Classical Representative

Lori Ransom (1st Term) 2019

Diaconal Ministries Canada: Classical Representative

Don Miedema, River Park, Calgary

Regional Disability Advocate

Cara Milne, River Park, Calgary

Regional Diaconal Ministry Developer

Jean deBeer, Bethel, Saskatoon; Jolyn Bolderheij, River Park, Calgary

Addenda

Churches of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan

(as of March 2020)

Alphabetical by Church Name

Church	Pastor(s)
Bethel CRC (Saskatoon)	Rev. Rafik Kamel
Brooks CRC	Rev. John Vanderburgh
Burdett CRC	Rev. Rick Roeda
Covenant CRC (Calgary)	Rev. Matt Vanden Heuvel
Emmanuel CRC (Calgary)	Rev. Dan Roukema; Rev. Cari Fydirchuk
Granum CRC	Rev. Henry Veldboom
High River CRC	Rev. David Swinney
Iron Springs CRC	Rev. Paul Droogers
Lantern Community Church, The (Calgary)	Rev. Ed Top
Maranatha CRC (Calgary)	Rev. Allan Kirkpatrick
Maranatha CRC (Lethbridge)	Rev. Paul Van Stralen
Medicine Hat CRC	Rev. George Koopmans
Nobleford CRC	Rev. Frank Lanting
River Park Church (Calgary)	
Road Church, The (Calgary)	Rev. Rich Braaksma; Pastor Heather Cowie; Pastor Jaqui Mignault
Sonlight CRC (Regina)	
Taber First CRC	Rev. Brian Kuyper