



# Agenda for Classis BC South-East

March 7-8, 2023



Langlely  
Immanuel

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

21713 50th Ave, Langley, BC

*Classis British Columbia South East  
is a community of Christian Reformed Churches  
bound together by a shared confession, and by this common calling:  
to pray and worship together  
to plant new churches  
to share, celebrate and encourage each other in our ministries  
to provide training for church ministry programs  
to study and deliberate on matters of mutual concern  
to support and supervise classis approved and denominational ministries  
to fulfill the governance functions assigned by the Church Order.*

## Contents

The material in this agenda follows the schedule for the meeting. In other words, during the two days of classis we will work from the first page to the last. The list below has a different order and separates the reports by source.

Several committees will be reporting orally and not through the published agenda. Look for summaries of those reports in the minutes of classis.

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## Summary Information

### Spring 2023 Meeting of Classis BC South-East • 79th Session

**Dates:** March 7-8, 2023

**Meeting at:** Immanuel CRC  
21713 50th Ave., Langley, BC

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## Appointments

*(pending approval by classis)*

### Officers:

**Chairperson:** Justin Carruthers (Gateway CRC, Abbotsford)

**Vice Chair:** Chris deWinter (Immanuel CRC, Langley)

**Clerk:** Len Batterink

### Committees of Classis

**Credentials Committee:** East Hill, Vernon & Riverside, Agassiz delegates

**Expense Committee:** Mission Hills & Cornerstone, Salmon Arm delegates

**Overture Advisory Committee:** Trinity, Abbotsford & Sahali Fellowship, Kamloops delegates

**Logistics:** Joanne Meyles

### Colloquium Doctum

**Incoming Pastor:** Jason Truell (Ladner CRC)

**Examiner:** Wout Brouwer (Hope Community Church, retired)

**Synodical Deputies:** Andrew Beunk (Classis BC North West)

Bryan Lanting (Classis North Cascades)

Matthew Borst (Pacific North-West)

**Agenda: Tuesday-Wednesday, March 7-8, 2023**

**Tuesday Afternoon Session:**

**1. Gathering and Worship**

**Registration** • Begins at 11:00 a.m.

**First-Time Delegate Orientation** • 11:30 a.m.

**Lunch** (available upon arrival)

**Worship:** Led by Pastor Chris deWinter, Immanuel CRC • 12:00 p.m.

**2. Opening of Classis • 12:30 p.m.**

**2.1 Call to Order:** Classis Ministry Committee Chair Michael Vander Laan

**2.2 Territorial Acknowledgement:** *"We acknowledge that Classis is meeting in the shared traditional ancestral territory of Katzie, Kwantlen, Semiahmoo and other Coast Salish Peoples."*

**2.3 Credentials/Roll Call:** Stated Clerk Len Batterink

**2.4 Classis is constituted. Chairman Justin Carruthers Assumes the Chair**

**2.5 Welcome:** Delegates, Reporters & Guests

**2.6 Public Declaration of Agreement with the Beliefs of the CRCNA** (p. 8)

**2.7 Approval of Appointments** (p. 3)

**Motion:** That Classis approve the roster of Officers, Examiners and Committees

**2.8 Approval of Agenda** (pp. 4-7)

**Motion:** That Classis approve the Agenda for Classis BCSE for March 7-8, 2023.

**3. Classis Ministry Report & Stated Clerk • 1:00 p.m.**

For the report and recommendations see pp. 9-12

**4. Balloting: During classis delegates will cast ballots for the following:**

**4.1 Delegates to Synod:** During the meeting Classis will elect delegates to Synod 2023, preferably one pastor, one elder, one deacon and a fourth delegate. Synod rules do not permit three delegates of the same office (for example, three pastors).

**4.2 Calvin University Board of Trustees:** Trustee for Western Canada.

**5. Classis BCSE Ministry Reports**

**5.1 1Life: An Equipping and Learning Collective**

**5.1.1 1Life reports on its work.** See pp. 14-15

**5.1.2 1Life recommends that classis approve the formation of an **oversight committee** to provide visionary leadership, develop policies and procedures, oversee budgeting and other duties assigned by the classes.** See pp. 16-18

**Motion:** That Classis approve the Terms of Reference of the Bi-Classical 1Life Oversight Committee



- 5.2 Chaplain and Refugee Support Mobilizer: (pp. 19-20)
- 5.3 Classis Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT)
- 5.4 Restorative Practices Task Force (RPTF)

## 6. Break for Refreshments

## 7. Colloquium Doctum • Jason Truell, Ladner CRC • 3:00 pm

**Background:** Jason Truell has been pastor at Ladner CRC since 2020 and also working with the CRC Candidacy office to facilitate the transfer of his ordination from the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) to the CRC. Jason and his wife as missionaries in Taiwan for nine years, then as English language pastor at Immanuel CRC in Richmond, then made the move across the Fraser River to Ladner. He will now submit to a colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) as an avenue into ordination in the CRC.

Article 8c of the Church Order states that *“ministers ordained outside of the CRCNA who desire to become ministers in the Christian Reformed Church shall be required to complete a learning plan endorsed by the Candidacy Committee.”* The supplement to Article 8 adds: *“At the completion of the affiliation process the classis, with authorization from the Candidacy Committee, shall conduct a **colloquium doctum** inquiring into the applicant’s soundness of doctrine, sanctity of life, and knowledge and appreciation of Christian Reformed practice and usage. Synodical deputies must be present, and a successful examination will require the approval of classis and the concurrence of the synodical deputies... The approved nominee or applicant may [then]w be called or declared eligible for call, as the case may be...”*

**7.1** Doctrinal Conversation: Led by Wout Brouwer

**7.2** Delegates are invited to ask questions.

*Classis moves into executive session.*

**7.3 Motion:** That Jason Truell be declared eligible for call to the office of Minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church.

*Synodical Deputies are excused to prepare their report.*

Prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Classis votes by ballot. Upon receiving the results...

*Synodical Deputies report on their concurrence/non-concurrence.*

**7.4 Motion:** To destroy the ballots.

Executive session ends.

**7.5** The candidate returns. Appropriate remarks by the chair. Prayer.

## 8. BCSE Safe Church Report (Faye Martin). See pp. 21-27

## 9. Break for Supper • 5:00 pm



## 10. Training Session on Addressing and Preventing the Abuse of Power • 6:00-9:00 pm

**Dr. Amanda Benckhuysen** of the CRCNA Safe Church Ministry will lead a workshop called “The Power to Do Good: The Use & Misuse of Power in the Church.”

Participants will learn about:

- the gift and responsibility of power and spiritual authority
- stewarding authority in ways that lead to the flourishing of others
- understanding the abuse of power and how to prevent it
- the importance of establishing healthy boundaries for oneself and others
- learning to cultivate a goodness culture in your congregation

**Councils are requested to encourage ALL staff, council members and leaders to participate in this training.**

## 11. Closing

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## Wednesday Morning Session

Arrival & Continental Breakfast • 8:30 a.m.

## 12. Opening Devotions: Led by Dennis DeGroot, World Renew BCSE Rep. • 9:00 a.m

## 13. CRC Ministry Reports

**13.1** World Renew • Dennis DeGroot reporting (pp. 28-29)

See also the World Renew press release (pp. 30-31)

**13.1** Council of Delegates • Bev Bandstra Reporting (pp. 32-33)

**13.2** CRC General Secretary and Acting Executive Director of Ministries Canada

Zachary King and Al Postma

**13.3** Diaconal Ministries Canada (pp. 34-36)

**13.4** Resonate

## 14. BC South-East Ministry Reports

**14.1** Ministry to Seafarers

**14.1.1** Chaplain Gary Roosma reports on pp. 37-39.

**14.1.2** The Ministry to Seafarers Committee has a recommendation for classis: that it be authorized “to incorporate and operate as a charity... and change the name to ‘Ministry to Seafarers Vancouver.’” See p. 40.

**14.2** Student Fund Committee (p. 41)

**14.3** UBCO Campus Ministry (pp. 42-44)

**14.4** Children & Youth Task Force (p. 45)



- 15. Report of the Overtures Committee • 10:00 am**

Nick Loenen, a member of Ladner CRC in Delta, presents an overture relating to the decisions of Synod 2022 and the Human Sexuality Report.  
See pp. 46-47 of the agenda and materials provided by the advisory committee.
- 16. Classis BC South-East Annual General Meeting • 10:45 am**

Chair: Michael Vander Laan, Classis Ministry Committee  
Treasurer: Russ Vroege  
Clerk: Len Batterink  
*The AGM agenda will be sent separately—not less than fourteen days prior as per bylaws.*
- 17. Conversation: Ministry Share Pledges:** See Stated Clerk’s Report, # 9.
- 18. Schools and Affiliated Organizations**
  - 18.1** Calvin Seminary (p. 48-49)
  - 18.2** The King’s University (pp. 50-51)
  - 18.3** Redeemer University (pp. 52)
  - 18.4** Calvin University (p. 53)
  - 18.5** Cascade Christian Counselling (p. 54)
- 19. Classis Appointees**
  - 19.1** Church Counselors
  - 19.2** Church Visitors
  - 19.3** Regional Pastors
- 20. Committees of Classis**
  - 20.1** Credentials Committee
  - 20.2** Expense Committee
- 21. Closing Remarks. Adjournment**

Thank you for your service. Drive carefully.

## Public Declaration of Agreement with the Beliefs of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

We are assembled as delegates to Classis British Columbia South-East of the Christian Reformed Church in North America to deliberate and decide on the issues presented in the Agenda for Classis. We promise to do this work in obedience to the revealed will of our Lord Jesus Christ and in full agreement with what the congregations of the Christian Reformed Church in North America confess.

We believe that the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, the only infallible rule for faith and life. We affirm three creeds—the *Apostles' Creed*, the *Nicene Creed*, and the *Athanasian Creed*—as ecumenical expressions of the Christian faith. 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.

Along with these historic creeds and confessions, we recognize the witness of *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony*, adopted by synod as a current Reformed expression of the Christian faith.

As we deliberate and make decisions consistent with these beliefs, to the best of our ability and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we promise to seek the unity and well-being of the church of Jesus Christ, who prayed that all his own may be one in him (John 17:20-23).

*[After the reading of these words, delegates are asked to rise to indicate their agreement with the beliefs of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.]*

Adopted by Classis BC South-East, October 2019



## Classis Ministry Committee (CMC) & Stated Clerk's Report

The CMC is a servant of Classis BC South-East. It carries out assigned tasks, prepares agendas and make arrangements for meetings, reviews and approves minutes and appointments, and so forth. The committee meets every 4-6 weeks and currently has eight members who also serve as directors of the corporation of Classis BC South-East of the CRCNA. Here are matters for your information and, when necessary, your approval.

### Items Requiring Action:

- 1. Appointments:** CMC moves that Classis approve the following:
  - **Classis Ministry Leadership Team:** David Groen and Chris deWinter
  - **Mentor for Ben Wimmers:** Chris deWinter
  - **Church Counselor, Trinity CRC, Abbotsford:** Mike Koot
- 2. Andrew Vander Leek Retirement:** CMC Trinity CRC, Abbotsford, and Pastor Andrew Vander Leek send us word that Andrew intends to retire this summer after 36 years of ministry in the CRC. He has served congregations in Edson-Peers, AB, Prince George, BC, Emmanuel, Calgary, AB, East Hills Community, Vernon, and since Trinity CRC. He requests that classis approve his retirement effective June 30, 2023.

**Motion:** That Classis approve the retirement of Andrew Vander Leek from ministry in the CRCNA effective June 30, 2023 and express thanks for his years of service to congregations, classes, synod and agencies of the denomination.
- 3. Nominee for CRCNA Council of Delegates:** Classis has been asked to nominate a person to serve on the CRNA Council of Delegates. Our current member, Bev Bandstra (Ladner CRC) will complete her term with this year's synod. At the time of this writing, the search for her replacement is ongoing. If we have a name by the time classis meets, we will present that to you and ask for your approval.
- 4. Classis Home Missions and Ministry Plan:** The CHMC will ask classis to disband the committee at its spring 2022 meeting. In light of that information, classis approved the following motion: *"That the CHMC and CMC dialogue regarding the proposal the Classis BCSE disband the CHMC while continuing to enable and support the evangelistic mission of member churches. CHMC/CMC are to present a joint proposal in March 2023."*

The report and recommendations of the CMC-CHMC working group are on p. 12.

### 5. Classis Advisory Committees, Willoughby CRC Article 17 Release:

#### 5.1 Committee for Ed Gerber:

**CMC Note:** At its October meeting, Classis approved the following motion: *"That Ed Gerber be permitted to entertain a call pending a satisfactory report from his counselor."* The CMC can confirm that a satisfactory report has been received. In that light,

# Classis British Columbia South-East Christian Reformed Church

per decision of classis, Ed Gerber is now permitted to entertain a call to ministry in the CRCNA.

**5.2** Along with its recommendation related to Ed Gerber, this advisory committee presents the following advice to the churches and councils of classis:

1. We remind churches to seek help before a situation deteriorates to the point that a pastor feels he or she needs to resign. The help may be through a request for the church visitors to have a visit or to seek resources through denominational Pastor Church relations.
2. We encourage church visitors to make their church visits. This is an important ministry, and we can be the outside voice to help discern when troubles are arising, and help seek an outside voice or resources to assist a church through a difficult time.
3. We encourage our regional pastors to visit or talk with the pastors to see how they are doing and help them seek the help they need before the situation is out of control.
4. We encourage pastors to encourage one another, and stay connected to each other and make use of regional gatherings and retreats so that we can be of support to one another. And pastors if you know of someone in a difficult space, ask if you can be a voice for them.

Submitted by: Andrew Van der Leek, Justin Carruthers, Peter Van Huizen

**6. Willoughby CRC Advisory Committee:** The committee advises that Willoughby CRC be permitted to extend a call to a new pastor when the need arises. It notes that the Willoughby council has responded to the committee's assistance and advice "with understanding and wisdom and has indicated its desire to move forward with excellent planning and visioning." The advisory committee's assistance has been well-received and much appreciated.

**Recommendation 1:** That Willoughby CRC be permitted to extend a call to a new pastor when the need arises.

**Recommendation 2:** That Classis BCSE dismiss its Advisory Committee with thanks.

Submitted by: Nathan Elgersma, Rudy W. Ouweland, Anne Trudeau

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### Items for Information:

**7. Classis BCSE Website:** The new website is up and operational. Overall, the response has been positive. In fact, by the time you attend this meeting, you will have been registered online. It is our hope that this will provide more efficient communication and more complete information to the Credentials Committee and stated clerk.

Several members of classis responded with suggestions for improvement. These have been incorporated into the site. We welcome the feedback as this is a collaborative effort.

## Classis British Columbia South-East Christian Reformed Church

8. **Calvin University Board of Trustees:** At the Alumni office's suggestion, Ed Gerber has allowed his name to stand as a member of the Calvin U. BOT, Region 1. As there will be other nominees from Region 1, Ed may or may not be on the final ballot.
9. **CRC Ministry Share Pledges:** The denominational office asks each classis to have a "conversation" about these pledges—how they were determined, how they are weighted alongside other budgetary commitments—local, classical, denominational, etc. The intent is not to embarrass or generate anxiety but to share experience, wisdom and best practices. This item has been included on the agenda. At the time of this writing, the format for this "conversation" is still under review.
10. **Pulpit Supply Rate:** Len had an inquiry about the BCSE public supply rate, which, according to our current Rules of Procedure, is \$150. CMC considers but does not adopt a new rate of \$200. Delegates at the March classis will be asked for their in-put.

## **Report of Joint CMC/CHMC Ad Hoc Committee**

**Classis BC South-East: March 7-8, 2023**

At the October 2022 BCSE classis a motion was made that the Classis Home Missions Committee (CHMC) be disbanded. The feeling of the committee was that its role has been reduced in recent years and that its members ought to be freed to take on other roles in classis and member churches. Classis was informed that many Canadian classes are already functioning without a CHMC.

Classis did not adopt the motion but approved this one:

*That the CHMC and CMC dialogue regarding the proposal the Classis BCSE disband the CHMC while continuing to enable and support the evangelistic mission of member churches. CHMC/CMC are to present a joint proposal in March 2023.*

Members of the CMC and CHMC met in December 2022 and January 2023 and now present the following recommendations to classis:

- 1) that the Classical Home Missions Committee be disbanded and its members thanked for their service
- 2) that CHMC's role of approving grants for evangelism projects be transferred to the CMC
- 3) that CHMC's missional teaching and equipping role be transferred to 1Life
- 4) that CHMC's role in church planting, new church development, and church revitalization be referred to Resonate's Western Canada team
- 5) that Classis invite a member of Resonate to report to its meeting a minimum of once per year

Submitted by: Jennifer Burnett, David Groen, Marten Van Huizen, Jay Crossen, John Zuidhof, Michael Vander Laan, Len Batterink

<b>Church Visitor Appointments</b> <b>Classis BC South-East (2022-2023)</b>		
<b>Church</b>	<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Church Visitor</b>
Abbotsford, Gateway	Justin Carruthers	Mike Koot
Abbotsford, Hillside		Jason Crossen
Abbotsford, Living Hope	Steve Berkenpas	Justin Carruthers
Abbotsford, New Life	Nathan Elgersma	Steve Berkenpas
Abbotsford, New Life Korean	Hyeon (Tony) Bang	Young Man Kwon
Abbotsford, Trinity	Andrew Vander Leek	Nathan Elgersma
Abbotsford, Zion Chinese	Joseph Chen	
Agassiz, Riverside	Jason Crossen	Mike Koot
Chilliwack, Cornerstone	Mike Koot	Andrew Vander Leek
Chilliwack, Heartland		Grant Vander Hoek
Delta, Ladner	Jason Truell	Willoughby Pastor
Kamloops, Sahali Fellowship	Michael & Jana Vander Laan	Paul Lomavatu
Kamloops, Sa Rang		
Kelowna CRC	Nick Bierma	Clarence Witten
Kelowna, The Well	Jenn Burnett	Daryl DeKlerk
Langley, The Bridge		David Groen
Langley, Immanuel	Chris deWinter	Willoughby Pastor
Langley, Willoughby	Jenna Fabiano (on leave)	Chris deWinter
Mission, Mission Hills	Grant Vander Hoek	David Groen
Salmon Arm, Cornerstone	Clarence Witten	Daryl DeKlerk
Surrey, Fleetwood	Joan DeVries (Interim)	Nathan Elgersma
Surrey, The Good Shepherd	Young Man Kwon	Hyeon (Tony) Bang
Surrey, Hope Community	David Groen	Jason Truell
Vernon, East Hill	Daryl DeKlerk	Nick Bierma
Williams Lake, Cariboo Comm.	Paul Lomavatu	Michael & Jana Vander Laan



an equipping and learning collective

## VISION

That BC CRCs be whole-hearted, vibrant communities of Christian worship, discipleship and mission.

## MISSION

To connect individuals, congregations, and the broader community to a curated curriculum of resources and gatherings that:

- Enhances and brings coherence and theological depth to the existing local, classical and denominational or ecumenical equipping resources available.
- Encourages the theological reflection, leadership, and faith-filled practice needed for a post-Christian world.
- Encompasses the five callings of ministry of the Christian Reformed Church: Faith Formation, Global Mission, Mercy and Justice, Servant Leadership, and Gospel Proclamation and Worship.



## VALUES

- Prayerful dependence on the indwelling Trinity.
- Hospitable space, hospitable pace.
- Holistic learning through action and reflection in community.
- Authentic, charitable conversation and story-sharing.
- Timely theological reflection with a Reformed accent.
- Covenantal relationships with classes and denomination.

## THE 1LIFE BI-CLASSICAL EQUIPPING AND LEARNING HUB REPORT TO CLASSIS BCSE AND BCNW

### COORDINATION



1Life will work towards greater cooperation and coordination of both the classical and denominational equipping ministries that serve our local CRC churches. It will work to articulate and visualize how these varied training ministry efforts can be more deeply connected and coordinated via the 5 callings of the CRCNA.

### REPORTING



1life will provide a comprehensive written report to each Classis which includes highlights from the work of the 1Life curation team.

### COLLABORATION



1 Life will, by its bi-classical make-up, promote a greater sense of unity between the two BC classes and suggest ways to fellowship and work together.

### EXPLORATION



1life will continue to explore, develop, and curate a learning hub as the formal expression of its efforts.

## 1LIFE TEAM MEMBERS

**LIZ TOLKAMP**  
CHAIR,  
FAITH FORMATION CURATOR

**JOHN ZUIDHOF**  
BCSE, GOSPEL PROCLAMATION  
& WORSHIP CURATOR

**ANNE DUIFHUIS**  
ADMINISTRATOR

**WILMA VAN DER LEEK**  
SERVANT LEADERSHIP CURATOR

**TIM SHERIDAN**  
GLOBAL MISSION CURATOR

**SARAH LEE**  
COMMUNICATIONS  
COORDINATOR

**RACHEL VROEGE**  
MERCY & JUSTICE CURATOR

**NOAH STOLTE**  
1LIFE PODCAST EDITOR

**RICH BRAAKSMA**  
RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION

**ERIK DELANGE**  
1LIFE PODCAST HOST



At the 2022 fall Classes meetings, 3 motions were passed impacting the work and oversight of 1Life, namely:

- 1) to dissolve the current LDN committee and mandate and move LDN as a servant leadership intensive under 1Life,
- 2) to create a new standing committee with oversight for 1Life and re-name the current equipping committee as the 1Life curation team and,
- 3) to delegate the new standing committee to revise the terms of reference to reflect these changes.

In response to these changes, the 1Life curation team reports the following:

- We have written **Terms of Reference** for this new, (not yet established) 1Life Oversight Committee.
- We are actively seeking out suitable persons to serve on this committee and hope to have these appointments presented and ratified at the October 2023 classes meetings.
- We are actively exploring what leadership training, formerly mandated to the LDN, will look like as a Servant Leadership Intensive under the umbrella of 1Life and in the particular context of the BC CRCs at this moment.



## COORDINATION

Desiring to live out our vision that BC CRCs be *whole-hearted, vibrant communities of Christian worship, discipleship, and mission*, we continue to curate a curriculum according to the five callings of the church named by our denomination: Faith Formation (FF), Gospel Proclamation and Worship (GPW), Servant Leadership (SL), Justice and Mercy (JM) and Global Mission (GM). Since the fall classes, a focus has been on planning two significant offerings we hope will be catalysts to deeper participation of the churches in 1Life.

The first is an online introduction to 1Life's five-callings curriculum called **Foundations**. This year, 13 churches are participating in these six monthly conversations.

Second, we are planning and hosting the first-ever **1Life Foundations conference** *Will there be Faith?* on May 12 - 14 with Andrew Root as our keynote speaker. Andrew's significant research on secularism and the church dovetails beautifully and provocatively with 1Life's mission and vision. We are glad for the support of Vibrant Congregations, in hosting this conference.



## REPORTING

Last fall 1Life hosted a combined classical ministry fair for all delegates from across the 41 BC CRC churches at the Tapestry Church in Richmond. Following a shared meal, an evening of worship, prayer, and reporting shaped around the 5 callings, encouraged all who were there that the kingdom of God is near. Our desire is to continue hosting combined BC classes evenings to hear reports from all the CRC ministries serving the BC classes.



## COLLABORATION

We continue to foster and strengthen our covenantal relationships with the classes and the denomination through conversation and networking with both Classes and denominational equippers. Both Classis clerks have joined us for prayer and to debrief the fall evening session. In addition, we have encouraged participation in both classical and/or denominational offerings such as:

- The *Circle of Grace* training held in October. (JM - Safe Church)
- The *Prepare* conference held in Nov. (GPW)
- The *Becoming a Restorative Congregation* training for the northern churches in Nov. (JM & SL)
- My Body is not a Prayer Request book study in January '23. (JM - Disabilities Concerns)
- The *Calvin Symposium on Worship*. (GPW)



## EXPLORATION

We have created a learning and equipping hub and continue to enhance both its physical and online space and presence.

- Our online space is located at [crc1life.ca](http://crc1life.ca)
- Our physical presence with meeting space and resource library is located on-site at Fleetwood CRC.
- The 1Life podcast will continue to explore the lives of individuals and communities in the BC CRCs.
- And finally, we urge you to sign up for our monthly newsletter as it is the primary way we communicate the offerings available to you.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### BI-CLASSICAL 1LIFE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

#### 1. Background (see Appendix for Mission, Vision and Values)

1Life (which now includes the Leadership Development Network) is a joint ministry of and for Classis BC Northwest of the Christian Reformed Church of North America (“Classis BCNW”) and CRCNA Classis Ministry Association of South-East British Columbia (“Classis BCSE”) to connect individuals, congregations, and the broader community to a curated curriculum of resources and gatherings. Classis BCNW and Classis BCSE are together referred to in these terms of reference as the “Classes”.

In accordance with the Grant Agreement signed \_\_\_\_\_ Classis BCNW assumes primary responsibility for 1Life and keeps its bank account. 1Life, however, is accountable to both classes as per these Terms of Agreement.

#### 2. 1Life Oversight Standing Committee

- 2.1 The Classes will jointly appoint a 1Life Oversight Committee (the “Committee”) in accordance with these terms of reference.
- 2.2 The Committee will be responsible for:
  - providing visionary leadership for the 1Life learning hub;
  - oversight of the mission for the 1Life learning hub;
  - developing policies and procedures related to the 1Life learning hub;
  - oversight of the operational and financial performance of the 1Life learning hub, including preparing an annual budget and
  - carrying out any other duties determined from time to time by the Classes.

#### 3. Composition of the Standing Committee

- 3.1 The Committee will be comprised of at least four and no more than eight persons
- 3.2 Members of the Committee will be recruited from member congregations of the two Classes, and confirmed at the semi-annual meetings of the Classes. Members will include:
  - at least 1 pastor per Classis
  - 1-2 members may be recruited from the broader membership of the CRC
  - 1-2 members of 1Life curation team
- 3.3 Members of the Committee will serve for terms of three years and may be re-appointed to consecutive terms.



- 3.4 The Classes may jointly terminate the appointment of any member of the Committee according to the procedures outlined in the Classes rules and procedures for the appointment of any member of the Committee.

#### **4. Meetings of the 1Life Standing Committee**

- 4.1 The Committee will meet as required.
- 4.2 The Committee may meet at any location, on any notice and in any manner convenient to the Committee.
- 4.3 The Committee will appoint its own chair and secretary.
- 4.4 Subject to any rules that the Classes may impose from time to time, the Committee may regulate its meetings and proceedings as it thinks fit.
- 4.5 The quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the Committee will be at least a majority of the members of the Committee.

#### **5. Accountability**

- 5.1 The Committee is accountable to the Classes. If the Classes jointly assign specific tasks to the Committee, the Committee will be responsible for discharging the work assigned. If a matter arises that the Committee determines requires immediate attention by the Classes, the Committee will advise the Classes.
- 5.2 The Committee will provide a written report to the Classes annually, or as otherwise requested by the Classes.
- 5.3 The Committee will keep and maintain adequate books and records to substantiate compliance with these terms of reference and will provide the Classes with any of the Committee's books and records immediately upon request.
- 5.4 The Committee will provide a copy of its Committee Meeting Minutes to the Stated Clerk of Classis BCNW and Classis BCSE after each Committee meeting.
- 5.5 The Committee will carry out its work in a manner consistent with the Christian nature of the Christian Reformed Churches and the constitution, bylaws and policies of the Classes.

#### **6. Review**

The Classes will jointly review these terms of reference annually.

Approved:

Reviewed:

## APPENDIX

### 1Life Equipping and Learning Collective

(Established March 2020)

#### Vision, Mission and Values

**Vision:**

That BC CRCs be whole-hearted, vibrant communities of Christian worship, discipleship and mission.

**Mission:**

To connect individuals, congregations, and the broader community to a curated curriculum of resources and gatherings that:

- enhances and brings coherence and theological depth to the existing local, classical and denominational or ecumenical equipping resources available;
- encourages the theological reflection, leadership, and faith-filled practice needed for a post-Christian world;
- encompasses the five callings of ministry of the Christian Reformed Church: Faith Formation, Global Mission, Mercy and Justice, Servant Leadership, and Gospel Proclamation and Worship.

**Values:**

In all our curating, connecting and collaborating, we aim to embody

- prayerful dependence on the in-dwelling Trinity
- hospitable space, hospitable pace
- authentic, charitable conversation & story-sharing
- holistic learning in community through action and reflection
- timely theological reflection with a Reformed accent
- covenantal relationships with classis and denomination

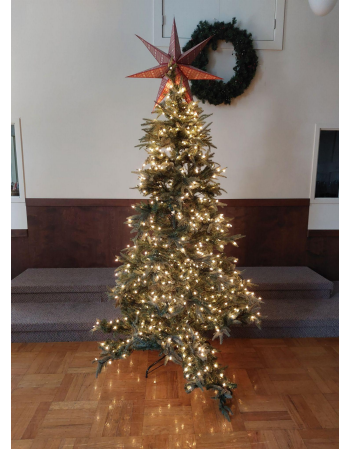
## **Chaplain and Refugee Support Mobilizer**

Dena Nicolai

Phone: 604-928-3094

Email: [dnicolai@firstvan.ca](mailto:dnicolai@firstvan.ca)

[www.crcbcrefugeewelcome.ca](http://www.crcbcrefugeewelcome.ca)



*The annual “First Christmas in Canada” party for newcomers-to-Canada was held at First CRC Vancouver on Dec 19*

## **Classis Report: Spring 2023**

### **Ministry of Presence**

I continue to host “Tea and Conversation” two times per week out of the First CRC Vancouver space as a place of hospitality for newcomers – while any newcomer is welcome, I focus particularly on inviting [Government Assisted Refugees \(GARs\)](#) living at the transitional housing at the [Immigrant Services Society of BC Welcome Centre](#) (next to First CRC) and [Refugee Claimants](#) accessing the Centre’s services (though the housing there is not available to them). The current top three home/ “source” countries for GARs are Afghanistan, Syria, and Sudan. Of the GARs arriving through Vancouver in the last 4 months, fewer than 5% moved to permanent housing in Vancouver, while over 50% settled permanently in Surrey and the rest throughout the lower mainland (e.g. around 13% to Coquitlam, 11% to Burnaby, and 5% to Langley). The current top three home/ “source” countries for Refugee Claimants are Iran, Mexico, and Colombia, but where they settle in the lower mainland is more difficult to track with accuracy.

“Tea and Conversation” is an important time for me to build relationships with newcomers, and also a place of English-language learning (with the assistance of two faithful volunteer English teachers) and community building. It’s also a time in which I’m able to refer and guide newcomers to other resources and services that they may not have heard of or have difficulty accessing on their own. Outside of these times on Mondays and Wednesdays, I connect more personally/one-on-one with families and individuals who desire greater support, conversation, and prayer. What often arises in these conversations is deep grief over all they’ve lost and family members they’ve left behind, as well as concerns around finances, mental health, and housing. But people also always share how much they want to get involved in their new communities, and request information on volunteer opportunities, employment, and places where they can – as many newcomers phrase it – “meet more Canadians.”

### **Practical and Material Support**

Practical and material needs remain a reality for many newcomers, particularly with rising food costs and the cost of rent in the lower mainland. When/as appropriate, I draw on a “Direct Refugee Support” fund that is part of this ministry to support newcomers with grocery gift cards, assistance with emergency housing and medical bills, and Welcome Boxes (of basic food and hygiene items) that I

deliver – with the assistance of volunteers – to GARs staying at the ISSofBC Welcome Centre. Sometimes these requests come directly from newcomers themselves, but they also come from employees at the ISSofBC Welcome Centre on behalf of their clients. I also run a “Clothing Bank” out of the balcony space at First CRC.

### **Long-Term Relationship Building**

The biggest factors that enable long-term relationship building between newcomers and churches are geography and capacity. If your churches have leads on affordable housing in your neighbourhoods, please let me know at any time – it is a constant and urgent need. Additionally, if your churches have further capacity to support newcomers, please be in touch and I would love to connect you with people moving into your communities.

### **Training and Equipping**

If you read this report prior to February 11, you are warmly invited to the following event I have been involved in organizing (and will be participating in) in partnership with [CityGate Vancouver](#) (you should also have received this note in your church bulletins and newsletters in early January):

***Refugee Claimants and your Church - Discovering Transformative Ways to Welcome:*** Join organizations and churches from across the lower mainland for a hybrid gathering on **Saturday, February 11** for an opportunity to engage and learn from people with lived refugee claimant experience, welcoming churches, and frontline communities. In-person and online registration available. Learn more and register [at this link](#).

While this event is important for many reasons, it is particularly relevant given the number of CRC churches in the lower mainland who, in the last year alone, have had people making/hoping to make refugee claims arrive at your doors. In each of these cases that I’ve learned about, it’s been deeply encouraging to hear about the welcome that your churches offered, but it was also clear from those I spoke with that you desire greater resources and understanding related to the refugee claimant process and what it looks like to welcome those seeking asylum in Canada.

As we move further into the seventh year of this ministry I am continually grateful for the support and encouragement of your churches and Classis BCSE as we work together to welcome and walk with those seeking refuge. I pray your communities will remain encouraged as well, and that Christ will continue to transform us through our welcome.

With thanks,  
Dena Nicolai, Chaplain and Refugee Support Mobilizer (CRSM)

*On behalf of the CRSM Advisory Group:*  
Brian Woudstra (Fleetwood CRC), Chair  
Martin Contant (Willoughby Church)  
Sonja Rietkerk (First CRC Vancouver)  
Neil Roos (The Tapestry Mundy Park)  
Trevor Vanderveen (First CRC Vancouver)

## What does BC Safe Church Ministry do?

Working with a **Mandate of Education, Support & Advisory Panel** (a CRC process to respond to allegations of abuse against a church leader) **SAFE CHURCH MINISTRY** continued its work in providing support for safe ministries in the BC Christian Reformed Churches. **SAFE CHURCH MINISTRY** works with/supports each church - meeting them where they are at.

## A CHANGE in BC Safe Church Ministry

20 years ago - January 2003 the 2 BC Classes began their work with an **Abuse Prevention & Response Coordinator (APRC)** - a position that served the churches in the above mandate. Since, there has been significant changes in our world, churches and ministries that contributed to new challenges resulting in Safe Church adapting to meet the needs of ministries & congregants.

In fall of 2022, the **BCNW & BCSE** classes merged the 2 **Safe Church** ministries into one, forming a joint executive that oversees & supports the work of the **APRC**, contributing to decision making, ministry planning and responses to situations.

## 1. What's NEW in BC Safe Church Ministry? - 2 Opportunities

a.

### Raising Kids in a Hyper-Sexualized Culture

This NEW workshop is available to area churches upon request

Safe Church Ministry  
partnership



**Marvin Bravo**  
MA RCC  
Mental Health Therapist



**Faye Martin**  
Abuse Prevention &  
Response Coordinator

#### WHO?

**PARENTS & CHURCH LEADERS**  
concerned about our kids' & teens' online activity & safety

#### WHAT?

**HELP PARENTS & LEADERS**  
*identify* - PROBLEMATIC SEXUAL EXPOSURES & BEHAVIORS  
*provide* - PRACTICAL WAYS TO RESPOND & SUPPORT RESOURCES.

## RAISING KIDS IN A HYPER-SEXUALIZED CULTURE *info...*

Safe Church Ministry has engaged in a **partnership with Marvin Bravo** (mental health therapist/counsellor in Abbotsford) in providing this education/workshop to the churches.

As promoted, this workshop is for families/parents/leaders who are concerned about their children's online activity. It's designed to help parents/leaders identify problematic sexual exposures & behaviours in children and provide practical ways to respond.

**If you want to learn ways and utilize resources to protect your child or teen's mind, eyes, & welfare this workshop is for you.**

### WHY is this education important?

Our rapidly changing world which includes internet use & social media communication has both benefits and risks.

Significant & real **risks to minors of sextortion** has rapidly increased for kids & teens

**No child or family is immune**

Children & Youth from ALL socio, economic & religious communities are at risk.

Did you  
know that ?

cybertip!ca

**CANADA'S NATIONAL TIPLINE FOR REPORTING  
THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN...**

Saw a 56% increase in youth being extorted between March & August of 2022

Cybertip.ca received 600+ SEXTORTION reports in July and August 2022.

77% OF SEXTORTION incidents occurred on Instagram or Snapchat.

87% OF SEXTORTION incidents reported to Cybertip.ca affected boys.

- Exposing children and youth to sexually explicit materials/pornography is included in the definition of abuse?
- Statistics show the average child is first exposed to pornography by the age of 11 and many are already exposed by age 8?
- The part of the human brain impacting judgement is not fully developed until age 25?
- Social media use, the entertainment industry & pornography are most often the primary or only sex educator of children and youth?

**This \*NEW workshop is available to area churches upon request**

\*This workshop was presented as its pilot project to NACC on Wed Oct 25, 2022

b.

## The Power to Do Good:

### The Use & Misuse of Power in the Church

Presented by **Dr. Amanda Benckhuysen**  
*CRCNA Safe Church Ministry*

3-hour workshop at the **BC March Classis meetings**

**Langley Immanuel CRC\***

Tuesday, March 7: 5:50pm – 9pm

**OR**

**Burnaby Nelson Ave Community Church\***

Wednesday, March 8: 8:50am – 12pm



[REGISTER HERE](#)

Churches are meant to be places where people can worship God and grow in faith – free from harm. For many it's a place of pain, confusion, & hurt leading to profound emotional and spiritual wounding.

**How can we support churches to be places of healing and help prevent harm?**

ALL council members staff, leaders & congregants are invited to attend

### **The Power to Do Good: *The Use & Misuse of Power in the Church***

Participants will learn about:

- the gift and responsibility of power & spiritual authority
- stewarding authority in ways that lead to the flourishing of others
- deepening our understanding of the abuses of power and how to prevent it
- reflecting on the importance of establishing healthy boundaries for oneself and others
- learning to cultivate a goodness culture in your congregation

**Councils are requested to encourage ALL staff, council members & leaders to participate in this training.**

This workshop fulfills the recommendations of the *Addressing Abuse of Power Committee Report to Synod* that **all ordained pastors and office bearers participate in *Abuse of Power Training*.**

Click [HERE](#) to register. Registration is not required, but it would be helpful to know how many people to expect. *If you have not registered but can make it at the last minute please do join us!*

**LOCATIONS** \*Immanuel CRC: 21713 50 Ave, Langley V3A 3T2

\*Nelson Ave. Community Church: 5825 Nelson Ave, Burnaby V5H 3H6

**Contact:** Faye Martin - BC Safe Church: Abuse Prevention & Response Coordinator [Faye@bcsafechurch.com](mailto:Faye@bcsafechurch.com)

## 2. Continuing Education in BC Safe Church Ministry



### a. CIRCLE OF GRACE TRAINING

Was presented in partnership with Faith Formation, Faye Martin & Liz Tolkamp, via Zoom on Oct 12, 2022. The 5<sup>th</sup> session of this training is available Monday Feb 13, 2023.

#### **What is Circle of Grace?**

*Circle of Grace is a Christian safe environment curriculum used and promoted in the CRCNA that helps teach the value of positive relationships with God and others. The program helps church leaders as they teach children and youth how to:*

- Identify & maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spiritual & sexual boundaries;
- Recognize when boundary violations are about to occur;
- Demonstrate how to take action when boundaries are threatened or violated.

**Note:** *Circle of Grace is meant to supplement a church education curriculum for 1-4 weeks out of the year for grades Kindergarten through 12.*

Children's Ministry leaders in every church are sent the workshop info and invitation **via email to their church office**. *This workshop will continue to be made available via Zoom to support churches in the incorporation of this curriculum into its children's ministries.*

**Churches are encouraged to incorporate this curriculum into their child and youth ministries programs to help support personal safety for children and youth**

## CIRCLE OF GRACE TRAINING

Monday Feb 2023  
@ 7:30pm via Zoom

**REGISTER**

[Circle of Grace Training | BC Safe Church](#)



Watch  
[Circle of Grace](#)  
[introduction video](#)



## b. A Safe Ministry Policy Assessment & Discussion Tool for

**Councils** was developed & sent to all church council clerks in February 2023 for use in a council meeting discussion. **This tool is aimed at supporting councils in their role of ensuring updated safe ministry policies are established and consistently implemented** - steps which can be facilitated & supported by the council appointed **local church Safe Ministry Teams**. This tool includes the recommended mandate for **Safe Ministry Teams** & information around training and support for those teams by the BC Safe Church Ministry APRC. *Of particular note is the fact safe ministry policies must include internet & social media use by staff & leaders in ministry.*

**Insurance, legal & moral requirements all tie into councils' roles & responsibility to ensure & oversee the necessary policies & procedures are both in place & implemented**

**NOTE** - Numerous church councils engaged in conversation, utilized this tool & restarted or appointed new Safe Ministry Team members, who followed up with doing their safe ministry policy review & requested training & support from the APRC.

## 3. Further APRC training, workshops & ministry engagement

- a. **Safe Ministry Team Training, support/training & meetings** - The APRC attended in person meetings supporting the development of 3 new teams and providing orientating/training for the team members. Email and Zoom mtg support was also provided to several additional Safe Ministry teams.
- b. **Safe Ministry Policy Reviews**-as churches are restarting ministries they are also updating/revising safe ministry policies. The APRC provided support by reviewing policies and held discussions for revisions with teams/reps over Zoom for 3 churches.
- c. **Child Abuse Prevention Training** - this workshop for all child and youth ministry leaders was presented **14x** (Sept-Jan) in requesting churches - *NOTE: workshop meets insurance training requirement. One church requested a customized Annual Safe Church training that included social media use - with 2 presentation dates. (Total - 16 of these workshops completed at time of writing and more upcoming in Jan & Feb)*

**Ministry tidbit...** *1 church had about 83 leaders participate in the Child Abuse Prevention training and in total well over 300 leaders have attended this training since Sept.*

**NOTE to councils.** *For many churches in BC it's been 4 or more years (for some many more) since this training has been presented to your Child & Youth ministry leaders. This training is both a requirement of insurance companies and in the best interest of the ministries of our churches that leaders receive this training. Safe Church Ministry encourages your leadership to schedule this workshop with the APRC.*

- d. **Council/Leadership Training** – this workshop focused on council's role in responding to abuse in ministries and leadership misconduct. It was presented to 1 requesting church council. *This workshop content meets Synod's directive to train church councils.*
- e. **Domestic Violence** training/workshop - updating and further development for domestic training in preparation for a workshop in late January for a requesting church.
- f. **Support**- Multiple requests for support/consultation was provided via email, phone calls, Zoom & in person meetings to pastors, councils, safe ministry teams & leaders dealing with ministry & safety concerns for participants & congregants, allegations of possible abuse, care for families and individuals experiencing abuse & pornography use related situations.
- g. **Restorative Listening Circles** -Supported a council's request in facilitating *Restorative Listening Circles* with their congregation in both June & Sept 2022. The APRC, in consultation with the CMC & classis oversight committee requested a partnership with Pastor Martin Vellekoop in meeting this request and working as a team with this council & church.
- h. **CRCNA Safe Church Ministry.** The APRC...
  - met bi-monthly with the Canadian Safe Church Coordinators and denominational staff for discussion and of work in common.
  - engaged in Zoom mtgs with CRCNA Safe Church re Abuse of Power Training & CRCNA Code of Conduct content & discussions.
  - coordinated "**The Power to do Good**" workshop facilitated by Dr. Amanda Benckhysen (CRCNA Congregational Ministries - Safe Church) to be held at both BCSE & BCNW classis meetings.
- i. **CRCNA training webinars & other professional development**  
The APRC participated in...
  - Regular training webinars "**On Being a Safe Church**" offered through the CRCNA Safe Church Ministry.
  - Protecting kids well - education informing the RKIHSC workshop (see # 1.)

**NOTE:** **CRCNA Safe Church Office** has provided tech support to BC Safe Church Webinars and consultation with and to the APRC. As of January 2023 that tech support is now being facilitated by 1 Life.



- j. **Website** – continues to be updated for *ease of access to resources*. New additions/changes include the [Criminal Record Review Process](#) for BC volunteer organizations/churches & the [CRCNA Sample Safe Church Policy](#).
- k. **APRC miscellaneous:**
  - The APRC seeks input/feedback from area professionals/church members on workshop materials and presentation.
  - Meets with new pastors/youth ministry directors etc.

- Proactively communicates with local church safe ministry teams & contacts including a fall **BC Safe Church Ministry Newsletter** providing pertinent information and support availability for local church Safe ministry teams, staff & leaders.
- i. **BC Safe Church executive** meets almost monthly with the APRC to hear reports, plan and brainstorm the work of the Safe Church mandate & the work of the APRC.

### **BCNW & BCSE Safe Church joint executive team**

**Kathy Smith** joined the BCSE executive team as a BCNW rep last - starting Sept. Kathy is a member of Maple Ridge CRC, Calvin Seminary grad with a variety of missionary, ministry & leadership experiences. Kathy currently serves as the clerk of Classis BCNW. BCSE has already been blessed with Kathy's input into this ministry. In addition **Marilyn Heinen** joined the team in Dec 2022. Marilyn is a member of New West CRC, has served on the local church Safe Ministries Team, works for an area CRC and brings her knowledge and understanding of safe ministries and abuse prevention to the Safe Church executive. We welcome Marilyn to the team.

**BCSE Safe Church executive members** include: Pastor Andrew Vanderleek chairperson, Sylvia Welfing: secretary, Judy Vanderpol: treasurer, Frank Van Ryk, Marilyn Heinen & APRC Faye Martin: exofficio

**Submitted by:** Pastor Andrew Van der Leek - BC Safe Church Ministry Chairperson & Faye Martin - Abuse Prevention & Response Coordinator - Classis BCSE & BCNW

[www.bcsafechurch.com](http://www.bcsafechurch.com)

Contact APRC Faye Martin: [Faye@bcsafechurch.com](mailto:Faye@bcsafechurch.com) 604-850-5137

## Classis BCSE Report – winter, 2023

*Submitted by Peter Bulthuis, Canadian CORE Team Leader*

### A. General Updates:

Thank you for your continued prayers for God's children around the world. And thank you for supporting World Renew's efforts at putting those prayers into concrete action. From responding to disasters in more than 50 countries over the last several years, to transformational community development in 20 countries in 2022, to teaching, seeking and advocating for justice, you are making a difference in more than 1,000,000 people's lives.

Last year, World Renew became 60 years old; 60 years of being driven by the grace of Jesus to be a conduit for your prayers and support.

Last year, classis BCSE donated an **amazing \$375,030.66** for that work. **On behalf of those 1M people, thank you so very much.**

### B. Upcoming Synodically-Designated Church Offerings:

Some of the ways that churches can partner with and support the work of World Renew, are through the "Special Sunday" offerings below that Synod suggests CRCs use as opportunities for engagement. (Resources for these and all Special Sundays are ordered from FAITH ALIVE on a regular schedule, with reminders sent out.)

**Mar. 5:** CFGB Sunday, to support the work of this amazing organization, of which World Renew is a leading partner,

**April 2:** Refugee Sunday, to support World Renew as a "Sponsorship Agreement Holder" (SAH)

**June 25:** Justice for All Sunday, to help equip communities to overcome injustice.

**Thanksgiving, Oct. 9:** This day starts the **World Hunger campaign**, which culminates on Nov. 5. Many resources are available for order, and online.

**Nov. 5:** **World Hunger Sunday**, to support communities around the world as they walk their journeys of ending their poverty and hunger.

### C. Community Development:

The people in the Turkana South region of Kenya have endured a prolonged drought. Hunger and scarcity are on the rise and so too are feelings of hopelessness – especially for those living with a disability.

Wheelchair-bound Simon Lochor Amojong, a married father of three children, was born and raised in Shanti Village in Turkana South. A self-taught beader, Simon relied on what he earned selling necklaces, called shanga, that he made to generate income to support his family. But he just did not earn enough to meet his family's basic needs – and as the drought grew worse, so too did his financial woes. Eventually, Simon's family left him and he began to depend entirely on the kindness of his neighbors for survival. He shares, "I lived hand-to-mouth as the little I got from my beading was not enough for my very basic needs... my shanga-making business would barely



bring me 100 KES (\$1.10 CAD) per day." With funding from the **Canadian Foodgrains Bank**, World Renew implemented a food distribution program in Turkana focused on supporting people living with disabilities, the



elderly, orphans, and the most vulnerable. The project came at a time when Simon had lost all hope. He and other beneficiaries were given 50 kilograms of sifted maize flour, 10 kg of beans, 3 litres of vegetable oil, and 0.5 kg of table salt monthly for a period of 9 months.

The food support was what Simon needed to lift his spirits and restore his hope for the future—there was enough to feed his family and he rejoiced when his children and wife returned home. Then, with the guidance of the project staff, Simon began to focus on his potential and his bead-crafting skills. He began to grow maize, tomatoes, green grams, cowpeas, and other crops on a half-acre of irrigated land that he had left unattended. And he revived his shanga

business. Now, with the money he earns farming and from shanga sales he is able to support his family, including paying for school fees for his children and buying school uniforms and household necessities.

*Simon says, "This project brought hope to my life".* Learn more at [World Renew.ca/community-development](https://www.worldrenew.ca/community-development). God calls us to respond in conditions like the ones that Simon finds himself in. **Thank you, Classis BCSE.**

## D. International Disaster Response (IDR)

As a result of the overwhelming current world food crisis, the prayers and generosity of God's people, and support from various organizations (like CFGB, Canadian federal government), World Renew is able to provide assistance for more than 400,000 people worldwide **right now**, with 42 programs in 22 countries.

The conflict in Ukraine has sparked a severe shortage of food worldwide, and World Renew is helping to ensure that impacted folks in parts of Africa, the Middle East and other areas in Asia are supplied with food. **Thank you.**



## E. Disaster Response Services (DRS)

In response to the devastating flood of November, 2021, World Renew's partnership with Gateway CRC in the Abbotsford community continues in 2023 through supporting the *Abbotsford Disaster Response Coalition (ADRC)*. Early in 2022, DRS gave the ADRC funds to walk along-side families who had lost part if not all of their homes; later in the year, and into this year, DRS is supporting the ADRC through funding the role of the coordinator.

Churches and individuals donated to recovery efforts from the effects of Hurricane Fiona on the east coast in late September, 2022. Those funds were split between assisting the [Maritimes Salvation Army](#) with food distribution, and the rebuilding of a youth-support building in Glace Bay on Cape Breton Island ([website here](#));

These two documents are descriptions of how each church and each reader can volunteer to continue that long legacy of making a difference: [Supporting Communities when Disaster Strikes](#), and [Volunteer! Repair Disaster-Damaged Homes](#). Learn more from the World Renew website [here](#). **Thank you.**

## F. Refugee Settlement Activities:

	# of Refugees Sponsored	# of Arrivals
<b>2022</b>	200	193
<b>2021</b>	115	96
<b>2020</b>	205	55
<b>2019</b>	226	224
<b>2018</b>	216	190

With unprecedented numbers of refugees in the world today, refugee sponsorship and resettlement is more urgent than ever. We are grateful for the churches that commit to providing safety, protection and hope for a better future through World Renew's Refugee Sponsorship and Resettlement Program (RSRP). We are a "Sponsorship Agreement Holder" (SAH) which enables and supports churches' desire to sponsor refugees; without a SAH, churches would be much less capable of sponsorship.

As well, World Renew, along with other SAHs across Canada have been advocating for a fair, consistent and equitable Canadian response to global crises through the development of a *Large-Scale Emergency Refugee Response Framework*, allowing for rapid and fair responses in times of crisis for all displaced persons, in addition the response offered to Ukrainian refugees in 2022. **Thank you.**

**Churches across Canada that have sponsored and resettled refugees: 73 (that's almost 1/3 of all the CRCs in Canada.)**

**Top three countries of origin in 2022: Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iraq.**

## G. What else can the people and the churches of Classis BCSE do?

-Donate for the ongoing disaster response work in around the world, especially in response to the *World Hunger Crisis*, on our website [here](#); use the **DONATE** button.

-Be open to the Spirit's leading, and connect with us to learn about a possible partnership with a program of project in an area outside of North America. Contact Iona Buisman ([ibuisman@worldrenew.ca](mailto:ibuisman@worldrenew.ca))

Blessings,

*P. Bulthuis*

Peter Bulthuis, Canadian CORE Team Leader, [pbulthuis@worldrenew.ca](mailto:pbulthuis@worldrenew.ca); c. 289-983-9293

**PRESS RELEASE**



**World Renew Canada**

Contact: Naomi Bula

Director of Marketing and Communications

[nbula@worldrenew.ca](mailto:nbula@worldrenew.ca)

Release date:

January 24, 2023

**Jamie McIntosh announced as new  
Executive Director for World Renew Canada**

BURLINGTON, ONTARIO, January 23, 2023 — On January 23, 2023, World Renew Canada Acting Board Chair Dennis DeGroot announced that the Canadian Board of Directors approved Jamie McIntosh to the office of executive director for Canada. McIntosh will be introduced to the Christian Reformed Church of North America's Council of Delegates in May and the decision will be ratified by the denominational Synod in June.



McIntosh has obtained an undergraduate degree in pastoral studies from North Central University, a graduate degree in International Human Rights Law from the University of Oxford, and leadership training through Genesis Fellowship, Arrow Leadership and Africa Board Fellowship.

McIntosh will transition into the Canadian directorship over two months beginning February 16. He succeeds Ida Kaastra Mutoigo, who held the role from 2006 until 2022, and Kenneth Kim (Director - International Disaster Response), who graciously stepped into the role in an interim capacity over the past year and will continue on for the transition period before returning to his previous role.

"We are excited to have a dynamic and inspired person such as Jamie McIntosh in this executive co-leadership role, leading us into what we know to be a challenging and exciting time in our world as we seek to meet the urgent needs for justice and mercy, reconciliation, and restoration, bringing to life Christ's Kingdom realities for the world's most vulnerable," said DeGroot.

McIntosh will be working alongside Carol Bremer-Bennett, Executive Director for World Renew, U.S. McIntosh's extensive experience in international humanitarian, development and justice work includes more than 25 years of organizational leadership in a variety of pastoral and executive positions in Canada and the United States. His professional activities also include board and advisory roles for child development, entrepreneurship, and community health organizations around the world. He is perhaps best known to many in the Christian Canadian community as founder of International Justice Mission Canada.

As Executive Director for World Renew Canada, McIntosh will provide overall direction to the organization, perform its executive and administrative functions, and support the Canada Board and US-Canada Joint Ministry Council.

"I'm excited to serve with World Renew, joining families courageously at work rekindling hope and reconciling lives in their communities, amidst rising volatility, vulnerability, and violence," said McIntosh. "The hallmarks of dignity and equality evident in World Renew's approach to local empowerment resonate deeply, as does the urgent imagination to see all God's creation, our battered planet, and our broken worlds beautifully restored. I am drawn to this expanding movement of souls seeking to live justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with all humanity, in the light of Christ's boundless love."

World Renew is a faith-based non-profit that works each year in more than 30 countries to address poverty, hunger, and injustice through development and disaster response programs in communities of poverty. These programs are carried out through local Christian partner organizations and churches and are supported by World Renew's generous constituents in North America and its alliances with well-established networks of government and non-government organizations worldwide.

###



# Christian Reformed Church

## Spring2023 Classis Report

Report to Classis BC South East

Date: January 5, 2023

By Bev Bandstra, Classis BCSE delegate to the Council of Delegates for the CRCNA

### Council of Delegates

The Council of Delegates (COD) exists to govern entities and activities of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA), acting as the intermediary between Synod and the denomination. The COD consists of 54 members, with senior staff in *ex officio* positions. Eighteen of the members of the COD are Canadian, with 36 being from the US.

The Council of Delegates met in person October 12-14, 2022. Some highlights of our meeting:

- Approving a process for filing an exception to the COD Statement of Agreement with the Beliefs of the CRCNA.
- Hearing a report from the newly established Dignity Team and the ongoing work to address the abuse of power.
- Discussing Ministry Shares Reimagined and considering additional responses from classes.
- Discussing revisions to the COD Governance Handbook which will reflect further delineation of *organizational* from *synodical* governance. These revisions will require Synodical approval.
- Appointing people to a search team for a new director of Resonate Global Mission.
- Acknowledging the co-directors for Congregational Ministries, which is a new model for these ministries. Lesli Van Milligen (Canada) and Chris Schoon (US) are the new co-directors.
- An *ad hoc* committee held a session on the first evening of our meetings to examine membership trends within the denomination. Each COD member was asked to prepare for this session by interviewing churches within their classis that are thriving and those that are struggling. We discussed these findings in small groups, and each group reported back to the entire COD in a plenary session. A full report on this important discussion along with analysis will be forthcoming, to be presented to the COD and to Synod 2023 for consideration.

The COD also met in November by Zoom to interview nominees for the positions of Director of Synodical Services and Chief Administrative Officer of the CRCNA. Rev. Scott DeVries was approved as the new Director of Synodical Services, replacing Dee Recker who is retiring after 22 years.

Shirley De Vries was approved as the Chief Administrative Officer of the CRCNA, a position recommended by the Structure and Leadership report. Shirley will replace the interim CAO Lloyd Vander Kwaak and will work out of the Office of General Secretary.

### CRCNA Canada Corp Board

All 18 Canadian members of the Council of Delegates (12 who represent the 12 classes in Canada and six at-large members) form the Canada Corporation Board, whose purpose is to be a strong voice for Canadian CRC interests on the COD, and to provide our Canadian CRCs with contextualized ministries.



On the whole, the Canada Corp Board is pleased with the decisions and direction of the Council of Delegates. As mentioned above, the COD Governance Handbook revisions will help to further delineate *organizational* from *synodical* governance. The Office of the General Secretary of the CRCNA will focus on synodical governance. Our joint ministry agreements with our US counterparts and our Ministry Leadership Team help to define those areas where we cooperate in shared ministries with both countries for optimal ministry effectiveness.

The Canada Corp Board, the Canadian ministries office in Burlington, and our transitional Executive Director of Canada, Rev. Al Postma, are now becoming better enabled to direct and encourage ministries unique to Canadian CRCs. It is not our intention in this restructuring to increase our administrative footprint in Canada, but to better develop our ministries and governance to reflect our Canadian context.

Our joint ministry agreements do not impact our shared theology or Reformed faith with the US CRCs. We will continue to share our denominational vision and mission statement, our five-fold calling, and our understanding of our place in God's world. We remain one denomination but recognize that we are made up of two separate legal organizations which direct the interests of the two distinct nations.

A Canadian Conversation was held last September. Representatives from each Canadian classis, the Canada Corp Board, many of our Burlington staff, and other guests gathering via Zoom to hear reports and to spend time listening to each other about what is happening in their churches and classes following the decisions of Synod 2022, especially as they relate to the Human Sexuality Report. The Canada Corp Board met in November to discuss this exchange of idea and concerns. In summary: 1. Participants expressed a need for their churches to have space and time to engage, 2. There is a desire to examine how Scripture functions in our lives and how we use Scripture, 3. There is a lot of focus right now on individual congregations, but we also need to see how each church fits into the broader denomination, and 4. Churches and classes are seeking practical guidance. The full report was sent to our stated clerks and chairs of councils on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

Further details from the Canadian Conversation report:

For those seeking practical advice, we remind you that the ministries of the CRCNA have a variety of resources available. This includes an [FAQ document about human sexuality](#), as well as a [toolkit](#) on how to have challenging conversations. Following Synod 2022, Pastor Church Resources also developed a [Next Steps Discernment Process](#) to help congregations figure out how to move forward.

The next Canadian National Gathering will be held May 25-28, 2023, in Ottawa, Ontario. Representatives from every classis across Canada will be invited to participate. A key area of emphasis will be on [Hearts Exchanged](#) and the work of reconciliation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. Your classis should have received a letter about this event in Fall 2022.

### Conclusion

Please pray for the Canada Corp Board and our staff, for the leadership of the denomination, for the Council of Delegates, and for Biblically grounded governance and wisdom so that this manifestation of Christ's Church can flourish.

January 5, 2023

## **Winter/Spring Classis Report**

*Greetings to our partners in ministry!*

### ***How does your church measure 'success'?***

Have you ever thought about this? Sometimes the word *success* feels a bit icky; it sounds prideful or boastful; we think of celebrities or the ultra rich perhaps. But isn't success really just a matter of accomplishing your desired aim(s) or purpose?

Each year we put out an [Annual Report](#); an accounting of what we've done in the previous fiscal year. By all accounts, we would say we had a successful year! Not because we became rich and famous, but because **we saw deacons and churches live into their calling to be the hands, feet, and mouth of Jesus whenever and wherever they went.** And we were there to help them.



One 'success' worth mentioning is the upcoming launch of our online Stewardship Course. We know that deacons can often struggle with how they can help their church live more stewardly with their time, talents, treasures, and trees/God's creation. We hope this course will allow churches to see the impact they can have both locally and globally as they faithfully manage ALL of their gifts and resources for God's Kingdom. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks!



We are also celebrating two newly updated workshops for deacons; our Deacon 101 workshop and a "Developing Guidelines for Benevolence" workshop. Our Regional Ministry Developers and Diaconal Coaches are trained and ready to lead these learning events both in-person and online! This past fall, we already led 16 workshops across Canada! What a privilege it is to work with deacons, guide them through challenges, answer their questions, and celebrate the ways in which God is using them to transform communities for Christ.

**We ask that you also mark your calendars for our annual NewGround Offering (formerly Operation Manna) for Sunday, May 7, 2023.** NewGround helps churches love their community by offering grants and coaching support to start or grow community ministries. Ministries like Open Homes Hamilton (pictured here) who help newcomers to Canada find housing and resources!



As you may recall, in order for us to continue to do our work, we rely heavily on a **ministry share funding model**, which is both *stewardly* and *cost-effective*. Our Diaconal Ministry Shares (formerly “Dues”) are not the same as Denominational or Classical Ministry Shares and are part of an agreement that Canadian Deacons made with each other in the 1960s and recommitted to in 2001 when Diaconal Ministries Canada was officially formed. (You can read more on our website about this: <https://diaconalministries.com/how-were-funded/>).

It is our sincere hope and desire that your church has been impacted by the work that we do to equip and encourage deacons in the areas of community engagement, justice & mercy, and stewardship. If you ever have any questions or concerns or need assistance in any way, please reach out to one of us personally (see our staff listing on the next page) or at our office ([dmc@crcna.org](mailto:dmc@crcna.org)). You can also visit our website and start browsing our resources and tools there.

May God bless each one of you in your ongoing ministry!

Respectfully submitted,



**ron vanden brink**

National Director, Diaconal Ministries Canada

[rvandenbrink@crcna.org](mailto:rvandenbrink@crcna.org)

Encl (1)

For your information, we wanted to share a listing of our current Staff, Board, and Diaconal Coaches:

**Staff:**

Ron Vanden Brink, *National Director*; [rvandenbrink@crcna.org](mailto:rvandenbrink@crcna.org)

*Administrative/Financial Assistant*; [dmc@crcna.org](mailto:dmc@crcna.org)

Rachel Vroege, *Regional Ministry Developer (Western Canada)*; [rvroege@crcna.org](mailto:rvroege@crcna.org)

Mark Vanderwees, *Regional Ministry Developer (Eastern Canada)*; [mvanderwees@crcna.org](mailto:mvanderwees@crcna.org)

Karla Winham, *NewGround Coordinator*; [kwinham@crcna.org](mailto:kwinham@crcna.org)

Kathrin Veenstra, *Fundraising Coordinator*; [kveenstra@crcna.org](mailto:kveenstra@crcna.org)

Erin Knight, *Communications Coordinator*; [eknight@crcna.org](mailto:eknight@crcna.org)

**Board Members & Diaconal Coaches (by Classis):**

Classis	Diaconal Coach	Board Member
Alberta North	Helen Krol; <a href="mailto:hckrol@hotmail.com">hckrol@hotmail.com</a> Marg Hoogland; <a href="mailto:marghoogland@gmail.com">marghoogland@gmail.com</a>	Jesse Edgington
Alberta South/Sask.	Jean DeBeer; <a href="mailto:jeandb3@gmail.com">jeandb3@gmail.com</a>	vacant
British Columbia NW	David Hornor; <a href="mailto:hornpipe2022@gmail.com">hornpipe2022@gmail.com</a>	Cindy Verbeek
British Columbia SE	Gary Veeneman; <a href="mailto:gtveeneman@shaw.ca">gtveeneman@shaw.ca</a>	Liz Tolkamp
Eastern Canada	Chris Smid (ON churches); <a href="mailto:smiddy_c@yahoo.ca">smiddy_c@yahoo.ca</a> Rene Wall (Maritimes); <a href="mailto:wallrm@hotmail.ca">wallrm@hotmail.ca</a>	Peter Van Harmelen (Chair)
Hamilton	Helen Van Beilen; <a href="mailto:hvanbeilen56@gmail.com">hvanbeilen56@gmail.com</a> Alicia Hamming Navarette; <a href="mailto:alicia.hamming@gmail.com">alicia.hamming@gmail.com</a>	Marcia Mantel
Huron	Fred Vander Sterre; <a href="mailto:fvandersterre@gmail.com">fvandersterre@gmail.com</a> Jane Vander Velden; <a href="mailto:janevandervelden5318@gmail.com">janevandervelden5318@gmail.com</a>	Mary Blydorp
Lake Superior	Teda Heerema; <a href="mailto:tedaheerema@gmail.com">tedaheerema@gmail.com</a>	Yvonne Schenk
Niagara	Mark Vanderwees; <a href="mailto:mvanderwees5@gmail.com">mvanderwees5@gmail.com</a>	vacant
Ontario Southwest	John Klein-Geltink; <a href="mailto:john.kleingeltink@gmail.com">john.kleingeltink@gmail.com</a>	Jeff Robinson
Quinte	Bill Groot-Nibbelink; <a href="mailto:bill.grootnibbelink@gmail.com">bill.grootnibbelink@gmail.com</a>	Rose Saller (Treasurer)
Toronto	Carol Sybenga; <a href="mailto:sybenga@rogers.com">sybenga@rogers.com</a>	Jeff Fernhout



## **The Ministry to Seafarers**

401 East Waterfront Rd.

Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6A 4G9

Phone: 604-253-4421

Email: [crcvanportchaplain@gmail.com](mailto:crcvanportchaplain@gmail.com)

[www.ministrytoseafarers.com](http://www.ministrytoseafarers.com)

### **CLASSIS REPORT: Spring 2023**

1. In early January I visited a ship and found the crew generally down. Some were over contract, they had had no shore leave in months, and even now the captain would not allow it. When I brought Christmas gifts on board for all, their spirits lifted somewhat. But they begged me to speak with the captain about shore leave, which I did. Presenting the TC bulletin helped in a big way, I'm sure, and in the end he relented. I was enjoying lunch with them on board when the announcement came. They were ecstatic! "You are our angel," was how one seafarer put it. The local ITF director has been encouraging us as chaplains to be more forthright in confronting and challenging ship captains and other leaders with, what he refers to as, our "moral authority."



2. Our intern, Georgia Omwa, completed her service with us at the end of 2022. She was a big help for the work here and was appreciated by the entire team. She will be missed.
3. Gary attended the ICMA Ahoy! Training course in Manila in late February 2023. This course is designed to give a good introduction to Filipino culture as well as to how the system of hiring and employing seafarers in the Philippines works. Many of the seafarers we work with are from the Philippines.

4. Once again we delivered Christmas gifts. Our usual Christmas Eve delivery to all the ships anchored near Vancouver had to be postponed due to the heavy rain and then flooding at the downtown centre on that day. We eventually made those deliveries on New Year's Eve day. And we made regular deliveries to other ships all through the season. This year we coordinated with Lighthouse on a common Google Sheets spreadsheet with them to avoid duplication, which was helpful as they now give gifts as well. We prepared 1500 gifts, with another 66 gifts given from local churches.
  
6. Following on the advice of the consultant we contracted last Spring, the committee is moving forward with hiring a Communications Coordinator to serve half time. We have decided to hire Marissa Brown, who also serves with Mission Hills Community Church. She will begin on March 1<sup>st</sup>.
  
7. Some quotes from a recent Port Alberni update – Matt Gregory reporting:
 

“Not much to report here in Port Alberni; very quiet indeed. During 2022, we saw 14 ships visit our port. For many of these, the crews were allowed off and able to find their way to Walmart or wherever to do their own shopping. . . .

These fellows seemed to be pretty independent and would agree to what ever hospitality we could offer but they rarely asked for any help. I bumped into small groups in Walmart now and then and offer them rides to wherever they wanted to go. They seemed to know their way around town. They are pretty easy to spot anywhere in Port Alberni.

We haven't seen a log ship here since the middle of October.

I have made some inroads with our local Maritime Heritage Society. Their Board will permit visiting seafarers to access the Centre/LightHouse during the day without charge for use of their WIFI. ... We were hoping that the Port Authority would all access through their fence directly to the Heritage Society building but they will not give permission to open the gate. Nevertheless, the crew can go into the Heritage Building between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm. The Centre is not open in the evening. ... The Heritage Centre is open Thursday to Sunday.”

5. Stats for 2022:

**For Ministry to Seafarers:**

Total ship visits for 2022 were 518 for me; 114 for Georgia for the half year she was with us. Total visits then were 632, though about 20 visits were joint visits of Georgia and me together. It works out to an average of just over 50 visits per month by our Ministry to Seafarers “team.” In 2021 I made 574 ship visits (no intern in 2021).

For our partnership team and the seafarers centres downtown and at Roberts Bank, Rev. Peter Smyth of Mission to Seafarers (Anglican) has provided stats for the past couple of years as well as pre-Covid stats for comparison:

**SHIP VISITS 2022**

**Waterfront 1161**

**Roberts Bank 519**

**Port Moody 98**

**Total 1778**

NB: the 4-week strike at RB Sept/Oct, + ongoing Covid restrictions had continued impact.

### 2021 SHIP VISITS

Waterfront 1151  
Roberts Bank 573  
Port Moody 90  
Fraser Surrey 6  
Total 1860

NB: the severe flooding in Nov 2021 had an impact on the number of ships with rail lines washed out and congestion.

### 2018 SHIP VISITS

Waterfront 939  
Roberts Bank 479  
Total 1418

Note: no dedicated ship visiting at Port Moody

### SEAFARER CENTRE VISITS 2022

**Waterfront 1467**  
**Roberts Bank 2635**  
**RB 24 hr room 1159**  
**Total 5261**

Note- the 24hr # at RB may be have some included in RB that is a seafarer signs twice but we try to make sure they sign only once.

### 2021 CENTRE VISITS

Waterfront 533  
Roberts Bank 1994  
24hr room 789  
Total 3316

### 2018 CENTRE VISITS

Waterfront 4433  
Roberts Bank 10,195  
24hr 406  
Total 15034

*So ship visit numbers have increased since 2018 and were sustained through Covid into 2022. Covid had a big impact on the number of seafarers coming to the centres in 2022 (a third of 2018) and in 2021 (a fifth of 2018). Both centres closed from March 14th-July 18th 2020*

### Transportation

Waterfront - Total 417 includes 105 vaccinations  
Roberts Bank - Total 466 includes 209 vaccinations.  
Total 883 includes 314 vaccinations.

By comparison: In 2019 we transported 3,455 seafarers.



## **Ministry to Seafarers: Motion and Supporting Information**

For the March 2023 Classis Meeting

**The Ministry to Seafarer's Committee presents the following to Classis BC South-East:**

**Motion:**

That the "Ministry to Seafarers by the Christian Reformed Churches of British Columbia" be allowed to incorporate and operate as a charity using the Charitable Registration number obtained in 1972 and change the name to "Ministry to Seafarers Vancouver".

**Some History:**

The Ministry to Seafarers (MTS) was never separately incorporated, though it does have charitable status through the CRA. Since it has not used its charitable status, but rather has ministered under the umbrella of Classis BCNW, CRA is now pressing MTS to either cancel its charitable status or more actively use it; i.e., prepare the appropriate governing documents and move towards incorporation. Moving towards incorporation separate from classis would allow MTS to more easily open its own bank account and establish its own separate board. MTS could still receive support from the classes.



## Classis BCSE Student Fund Committee Report to Classis BCSE March 7-8, 2023

### Committee Mandate: To administer the Classis BCSE Student Fund:

**Purpose of the Fund:** “The Student Fund exists to provide financial support to students who are pursuing studies leading to ordination as a minister or ministry associate (commissioned pastor) in the CRC. Because Classis BCSE values well-trained, *full-time* \*servants in ordained leadership positions in the church, Classis makes the commitment to underwrite a portion of basic tuition fees for students training for *full-time*\*, ordained ministry. Classis may consider additional financial aid when a student’s expenses in a given year exceed all other possible sources of income.”

- Can be full and part-time: Wording change acknowledged at Classis BCSE in March, 2021; but will not be formalized until Synod meets in 2023.

**Committee Members:** Pastor Todd Statham; Peter Van Huizen (Secretary); Bev Bandstra.

**Occasional Guests:** CMLT: Chris deWinter, David Groen    **Classis BCNW:** Jesse Pals

1. Committee met on June 7, 2022 and January 10, 2023 to approve applications, changes if needed and to provide financial accountability. Classis Treasurer issues cheques for Fall and Winter semesters. We will meet again June 13, 2013
2. We had expected that Synod 2022 would have approved the “Bi-Vocationality” Report so we could have updated our purpose to include students who were looking to do their official Denominational Ministry part-time. In fact, the discussion on the Bi-Vocationality Report was deferred to Synod 2023.
3. Current Applicants who are receiving funding for 2022-23 season
  - a. Jonathan Hwang: \$3,636.00 (CMLT mentorship proceeding) Approved for winter funding Calvin EPMC Program
  - b. Kevin Lobert: \$4,500.00. Approved for winter semester funding at ACTS
  - c. Natasha Vedder: \$2,120.00. Winter Semester funding approved. Regent.
  - d. Curtis Meliefste: \$6000 approved. Transferred to Calvin Seminary On-line. (January 31)
4. Penticton Fund: Committee wants to challenge Classis BCSE to look at the Penticton Fund as a revenue source to fund the seminary education of student applicants. This will require legal expertise to set out criteria for appropriate use. We’ve deferred the matter to the CMLT for feedback and guidance.
5. Committee membership: Bev Bandstra’s last meeting will be June 2023. Need a replacement and preferably a female.

# CHRISTIAN REFORMED CAMPUS MINISTRIES OKANAGAN



a catalyst for thoughtful Christian engagement with UBCO campus culture

## CHAPLAIN'S REPORT to Classis BCSE March 2023 Rev Dr Todd Statham

[crccampusokanagan.ca](http://crccampusokanagan.ca)  
[crccampusokanagan@gmail.com](mailto:crccampusokanagan@gmail.com)

A few days before Christmas I gave a tour of the UBCO campus to a Roman Catholic bishop. One of my responsibilities as “coordinating chaplain” of the new Multifaith Chaplaincy at UBCO is to try to recruit new chaplains to the team. A Catholic chaplain is a *desideratum*, of course, and meeting with the bishop is the first step. The bishop, who is relatively new to the BC diocese, hadn't yet seen the campus. “I'm blown away,” he said as we had a coffee after the tour. “I never realized the campus was so large and active. There is a lot that God can do here.”



Indeed, as UBCO grows (fast), we want to see campus ministry grow along with it. In fact, we want to see campus ministry grow *into* the fabric of the university too so that the gospel can penetrate deeply. It's a blessing to have Classis BCSE's generous support for the CRC chaplaincy as we seek to grow along with and into the university...*solī deo gloria!*

It was an extraordinary first term for the CRC campus ministry and the winter term (January to April 2023) looks to be the same. Among the many activities and encounters that are planned (and unplanned!) for this term, pray especially:

- as I coordinate the emerging Multifaith Chaplaincy, which is a strategic initiative to support students and staff of faith at UBCO—this is a new and demanding role for me;
- as I teach for the very first time a UBC credit course on the Bible (33 students enrolled);
- as my student leader, Eliyah, and I organize and lead a weekly small group for Christian undergraduates: “Science and Faith in Conversation”;
- for my ongoing participation in a multi-disciplinary, faith-based faculty cluster that is pursuing funding for a research project related to suffering and MAID in the Canadian context;
- for the Christian-Muslim student dialogue planned for this term—specifically that God will give me wisdom as I facilitate the conversation;
- as I co-lead (early) Morning Prayer liturgy on a biweekly basis.



**Wednesday**  
**18 January**  
**UNC 316**  
**8 am**

**liturgical • ecumenical**

# **Morning Prayer**

**contact:**  
**Rev Dr Todd Statham**  
**[crccampusokanagan@gmail.com](mailto:crccampusokanagan@gmail.com)**

I want to also draw your attention (and prayers) to the plight of many international students at UBCO and elsewhere at present. Not only does the rising cost of living in Canada affect them more than local students, turmoil in their home countries makes it difficult to focus on studies. This was made clear to me in conversation with students as I took part in several campus



vigils this winter that were commemorating violence and injustices in Iran and China, respectively. Our campus ministry has a long-standing relationship with many Chinese students and faculty at UBCO, and I was impressed by the courage and resolve of several of these Christian Chinese students who organized their vigil.

***Finally, as spring rolls around I look forward to visiting some of your congregations to preach and share about the wonderful things that God is doing on the UBC campus through this ministry of Classis.***

**BCSE Children & Youth Ministry Task Force**  
**Classis Report – Spring 2023**

**Mandate:**

The Classical Children and Youth Ministry Task Force will strive to:

1. Give local faith formation ministries and initiatives a voice in Classis BCSE
2. To encourage and support local church's children and youth ministries through networking with ministry leaders both volunteer and professionals.
3. Maintain regular connection with all churches in classis via email, phone calls and face to face meetings.
4. Function as a listener/broker for ministry leaders and congregations (listen to the joys and struggles of youth ministry and connect them to places/resources for support as needed)
5. To promote intergenerational ministry, service, mission and justice opportunities and conventions.
6. Report to Classis meetings by way of written report

**Members:**

Curtis Meliefste: Youth Pastor - Willoughby Church

Kevin Lobert: Youth Pastor - Langley Immanuel CRC

Grant VanderHoek: Pastor – Missions Hills CRC

Erik DeLange: Pastor – Cornerstone Chilliwack

\*\*Still looking for a couple members: a children's pastor/coordinator, and a volunteer in either youth or children's ministry.\*\*

**Tasks:**

The task force has undergone some changes, mainly with (myself) resigning from Willoughby CRC and beginning full time studies at Calvin Theological Seminary. I remain committed to the task force and look forward to continuing serving the classis in this capacity.

Late in September of 2022, The task force and Langley Immanuel hosted a youth ministers luncheon where nearly all youth pastors/workers in the Fraser Valley (and in our classis) were able to attend. This proved to be a rich time of sharing, fellowship, and networking. We hope to do more of these in the future as there have been significant position changes within the churches and a lack of connection over the past 3 years.

One of the primary foci of the task force continues to be the Re:Activate conference. The team is committed to putting it together again this year because it is a highlight for many of the youth groups in BC. Planning will begin soon by the Re:Activate Leadership team which consists of Curtis Meliefste, Kevin Lobert, Natasha Vedder, and Erik DeLange.

Respectfully submitted,

Curtis Meliefste

Note to the Delegates of Classis BC South-East:

Nick Loenen, a member at Ladner CRC in Delta, BC, asks that Classis adopt the following overture at its March 7-8, 2023 meeting for submission to Synod 2023.

Note: This Overture was presented to the Council of Ladner CRC and considered at a recent meeting, but not supported.

Shalom,  
Len Batterink, Stated Clerk

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### **Preamble**

Synod 2022 recommended to the churches the Human Sexuality Report (HSR), including its findings that homosexual sex is always and under all circumstances sexual immorality, unchastity, and sin. But Synod did more than that. It went one step further by interpreting Heidelberg Q & A 108 to mean homosexual sexual relations are included in the definition of “unchastity.” This makes the HSR’s (and Synod’s) interpretation of the Bible and confessions regarding homosexuality binding on all CRC members. A significant segment of the membership understands the Bible’s teachings on homosexuality differently from that of the HSR and Synod. What happens to them? What is the status of their membership? Are they welcome at the Lord’s Table? Are they to be disciplined? If their membership status is to be diminished, what shape will that take and be effective when?

Decisions were made at Synod 2022, the implications of which are not immediately obvious and understood. If those decisions are to stand, the practical implications need to be worked out going forward. The denomination and its membership need time to do that responsibly.

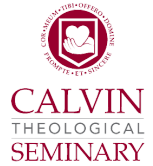
### **Overture**

Classis British Columbia South East overtures Synod 2023 to not implement or make effective Article 65, (2) Acts of Synod 2022, regarding the interpretation of Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 108, before Synod 2027, or for a longer period if deemed necessary, and to report back at the first meeting of classis following Synod 2023.

## Grounds

- While the CRC has a long history of believing that the church should not bind the consciences of believers more than Scripture does, Synod 2022 in its decisions did not address the matter of binding consciences.
- The denomination, its classes and local church councils need time to understand and work out the practical implications of binding the consciences of all its members on whether homosexual sex is always and under all circumstances sexual immorality, unchastity, and sin.
- As it stands, Synod 2022 decisions may invoke church discipline against a significant segment of the membership, pursuant to Article 81 of the Church Order.
- It is not prudent to make major decisions affecting a significant segment of the membership before understanding the practical implications.
- Settling the practical implications before implementation will avoid unnecessary speculation, suspicions, and mistrust.

# Calvin Theological Seminary Canadian Church Relations Liaison Report Winter 2023 Classis Meeting



## Major Initiative Brings **Tuition Parity** for Canadians

Tuition parity has arrived! At their October 2022 meeting, the Board of Trustees for Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) approved a bold initiative that will enable the seminary to accept tuition funds paid in Canadian currency “at par” with the American dollar. For students enrolled in either the MDiv or MA program, \$1 CAD will be considered equivalent to \$1 USD.

This exciting news means a savings for Canadian students of approximately 30% or more. Over the last five years, the exchange rate between the CAD and USD dollar has sometimes been as high as 45% but has averaged about 30%. In recent months, the rate has hovered in the 34-35% range. Historically, the rate has served as a huge hurdle for Canadians preparing for ministry in the CRCNA but, with this new decision, that obstacle has been removed.

Presently, CTS awards almost \$1.5 million in scholarships to students. It’s the hope of the seminary that these scholarships, coupled with parity, will enable students to graduate from the MDiv or MA program without having to incur any financial debt over the course of their CTS studies. It’s clearly a win for the students and their families, but it’s also a win for the churches and ministries that eventually support them as they finish their studies and launch into Kingdom leadership.

Of course, a vital part of the support students receive is also the support of their classis. THANK YOU for your ongoing encouragement and support for those preparing for ministry! In Canada, the majority of classes pay a significant portion of the tuition for students under their care who are pursuing ministry degrees at CTS. That kind of partnership between the Church and CTS is an essential part of our covenant commitment to work together to nurture and equip future leaders.

The parity initiative has been made possible by some generous Canadian donors. It’s their hope, and the seminary’s hope, that you won’t simply see parity as the opportunity to save the classis some money but rather, as an opportunity to provide additional kinds of support for your students. We encourage you to consider maintaining your budgeted support at its current level and, with the savings due to parity, seek other ways to walk alongside your student. Tuition is certainly not the only cost students face! Canadian students in the distance program, for instance, must bear the cost of a trip to the CTS campus once each semester. Students who choose the residential (on-campus) option for their degree face moving costs to Michigan. Students would be incredibly grateful if some of the monies that your classis saves from the parity initiative went to fund some of these kinds of additional costs. Speak to your students, determine their wide range of needs, and encourage them with your ongoing support above and beyond tuition! This new initiative now makes that possible!





## By the Numbers:

Canadians continue to be well-represented at CTS! The present academic year began with the following students from Canada:

- **MDiv (online distance program): 14**
- **MDiv (on-campus residential program): 5**
- **MA (online distance program): 3**
- **DMin (online distance program): 3**

In addition to these Canadians, of course, CTS continues to also serve a number of individuals in the EPMC program.

## Innovation:

Led by the Spirit, CTS is continuing to innovate in a variety of ways to better serve the Church:

- A new competency-based MA pilot program was launched this year with over 20 participants.
- The new MDiv curriculum was implemented this academic year with major implications for Canadians! The online (distance) MDiv degree can now be completed in four years instead of five! The on-campus (residential) MDiv can be completed in three years.
- Life-Long Learning opportunities for existing pastors and church leaders continue to grow. This past fall, for instance, CTS hosted a free retreat in Alberta called "Navigating The Storm: Maintain Your Emotional And Spiritual Health While Leading Through Turbulent Times." Other retreats, workshops, seminars, lectures, and cohort opportunities will be hosted throughout Canada in the near future. Watch for them!
- A Public Reading of Scripture (PRS) initiative was launched this year and has provided students with yet one more opportunity to develop and foster new disciplines toward their spiritual formation.

### Pastor Shawn Brix

Canadian Church Relations Liaison  
Calvin Theological Seminary  
srb08@calvinseminary.edu  
705-875-3566

### I Want to Serve You!

From my home office just east of Peterborough, ON, it's my privilege to continue strengthening partnerships between CTS and local churches, pastors, and ministries across Canada. Let me know how I can serve you!



## Report to Classis British Columbia South-East of the Christian Reformed Church: January 2023

Greetings from The King's University!

Many universities have experienced decreased enrolment this fall as some of the longer effects of the pandemic, like student preparedness, come into view. King's faces these realities too. We experienced a slight decline in our student enrolment this past fall but are very encouraged by the strong application numbers for this coming fall. We are confident that our enrolment will bounce back from the disruption we experienced over the last couple of years and despite the challenges we face, we are a people of hope and have seen time and time again, the faithfulness of our God and His people.

King's is currently in the process of developing two micro-credential programs in Financial Accounting and Sustainable Agriculture. Both programs will consist of six parts with a credential awarded to those who complete all six components of the program. These micro-credentials will provide a unique opportunity to access King's education in a bite-sized format and will equip participants with specific skills. We anticipate that the Financial Accounting program will be available by this summer and will be delivered online. The Sustainable Agriculture credential is in earlier stages of development and will include both online and experiential and hands-on learning opportunities.

Two King's professors have recently been awarded research grants from the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and Parks Canada. Dr. Ben Cameron received a highly competitive NSERC Discovery grant of \$90,000 and Dr. Darcy Visscher NSERC Discovery grant of \$30,000 and a Parks Canada grant of \$73,000. These grants will mostly be used to provide undergraduate research opportunities for King's students which sets them apart when applying for graduate or professional programs. Dr. Cameron's research is on network modelling theory, a mathematical study colouring of the structure of networks. Dr. Visscher's research includes the study of a zoonotic parasite, the impacts of the Roosevelt elk population on Vancouver Island and their conflict with farmers and local agricultural interests, and Edmonton's rabbit population.

This fall, we recognized the accomplishments and contributions of three of our alumni through our annual Alumni Achievement Awards.

**Dr. Colin Wiebe** is this year's Distinguished Alumni award recipient. With a heart of generosity and servitude, Colin has taken many opportunities in his career to teach, educate, instruct, and volunteer in the periodontal field. After receiving his Doctor of Dental Surgery from the University of Alberta he spent a summer volunteering at the Patan Hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal. Since then, he has been to over 30 countries and volunteered as a dentist in Ecuador, Nepal, China, Nicaragua, and Ethiopia. Colin continues to pursue his career with fervor, continuously researching and participating in ongoing periodontics projects around the world.

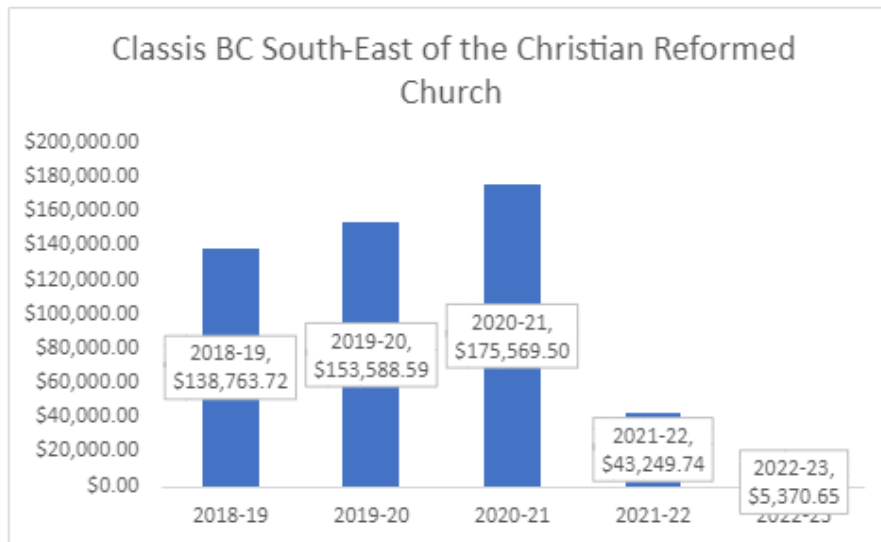
**Sydney Pauls** is this year's Servant Leader Award recipient. Sydney began Brilliance Global Mission, a non-profit which serves to provide education, meals, medical care, and employment to locals of Rakai Uganda, in 2012 when she was just 16 years old.

Since then, her work has been devoted to building community within Uganda and striving to help provide orphaned and vulnerable children with food, education, and medical resources. She has done all this while remaining focused on God and doing her best to emulate the servant leadership of Christ.

**Courtney Streu** is our Accomplished Young Alumni award recipient this year. Courtney completed her Doctor of Medicine at the University of Alberta and credits her time spent at King’s for her desire to pursue medicine and help others. After dealing with her own health challenges and working with wonderful physicians, she knew she wanted to be a physician so she could advocate for patients and empower them to advocate for themselves. Courtney continues to inspire others with her positive outlook, energy, and desire to help others, even amidst trying times.

We are so proud of the 6,000+ King’s alumni who are living out their calling and making a difference in the world. If you would like to nominate a King’s alum from your community for the 2023 awards, please visit [www.kingsu.ca/alumni/alumni-achievement-awards](http://www.kingsu.ca/alumni/alumni-achievement-awards) for more information.

Support from Christian Reformed Churches in Western Canada is an important part of providing university education that inspires and equips learners to bring renewal and reconciliation to every walk of life as followers of Jesus Christ, the Servant-King. Recent changes that Synod made to Ministry Shares has had a profound impact on King’s. The educational portion of Ministry Shares collected from Western Canadian churches that was previously distributed to King’s is now going entirely to Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary. Giving towards King’s is now up to individual congregations. We have experienced the impact of this change in a significant way, as illustrated through the graph below.



I pray that the churches in Classis BCSE will choose to continue to partner with King’s in providing students with university education that is underpinned by our Christian faith and preparing them for lives of service in your communities. Together we can ensure that Christian university education is available and accessible to all students. Thank you for continuing to entrust us with your gifts.

In His service,  
Melanie Humphreys, PhD  
President



November 23, 2022

Greetings from Redeemer University!

As we come to the close of this year, Redeemer University is tremendously grateful for the support received from the CRC churches in this 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Many of you have supported us from the very beginning in 1982 (and even before that when it was still a dream!) This support has been vital in sustaining Redeemer financially and spiritually.

Redeemer welcomed 1,089 students this year - the [highest enrolment ever](#) - continuing a trajectory of enrolment growth. The university also saw the successful launch of the Innovation Centre, an initiative emerging out of Redeemer's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan (Key Strategy 2). Its purpose is to allow for an environment where all students, regardless of discipline, are encouraged to think creatively about solutions to problems in ways that combine faith, knowledge and innovative thinking.

Redeemer introduced its fifth degree with the [Bachelor of Kinesiology](#), which will enhance graduate success by challenging students to honour God through a holistic study of human movement in sport, recreation, disease and fitness, while also preparing them for professional roles in kinesiology and related fields with a clearly recognized degree credential. This was the second new degree launched in the last couple of years, following the granting of the recent Bachelor of Business Administration, now in its third year.

The Albert M. Wolters Centre for Christian Scholarship will be hosting public lectures that will take place three times a year and highlight speakers who apply the Reformed scholarly tradition to their subject area. Annual lectures are rooted in the Arts, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences, respectively. Additionally, we launched an [Awards page](#) with a section dedicated to the Wolters Worldview Award, a directed award where donors may support Christian graduates who desire to deepen their practical understanding of what it means to have a Reformed worldview.

Finally, Redeemer offers a special thank you to CRC congregants who attended the [40th anniversary celebration weekend](#). It allowed the Redeemer community the chance to reflect on the many challenges God has faithfully helped the university to overcome and the tremendous support Redeemer has received over four decades.

The university remains committed to teaching and research in the context of the Reformed Christian worldview, preparing the next generation of Christian leaders to reflect the love and hope of Jesus wherever they are called.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Zietsma'.

David Zietsma, PhD  
President



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## News from Calvin University

The university inaugurated Dr. Wiebe Boer on October 26, 2023 as its 12th president, marking his official introduction to the university — though he has been serving in the role since July.

Dr. Boer was born and raised in Nigeria as the son of missionary parents. He is a '97 Calvin alum and went on to earn his PhD and two master's degrees from Yale. Dr. Boer and his wife, Joanna ('03) have four sons: Jehan, Stephan, Gerrit, and Markus.

In his inaugural remarks, Dr. Boer stated, for all to note:

“In a world more polarized than ever, divided by arguments – some pertinent and some petty, we need to be laser focused in our mission of equipping students to think deeply, act justly, and live wholeheartedly as Christ’s agents of renewal.”

The inauguration ceremony is available to be viewed online ( <https://calvin.edu/offices-services/president/inauguration/> ).

One really significant development is this...

- Renewed Commitment to Work Closely with CRC

As part of the inauguration and Board meetings, university leadership renewed its commitment to work closely with the CRC. Dr. Boer addressed this commitment in his inaugural address, pledging to “recommit to our engagement in our own church and our own community, showing that our mission is not just for Calvin or the CRC, but (the holistic well-being of souls) around the world.”

A HUGE sign of this commitment is that Calvin University is excited to announce the Canadian Exchange Rate Grant for residents of Canada. This grant helps you pay your US tuition bill in Canadian Dollars. Qualifying students will receive a grant from Calvin for the 2023–24 academic year ( <https://calvin.edu/offices-services/financial-aid/apply/incoming-students/canadian/> ).

Calvin University is united in the commitment to engage and collaborate with the CRC moving forward – being just one of our excellent options for a solid post-secondary Christian education.

On your behalf, in and through Christ alone,

Rick Mast  
Calvin University Regional Representative board member  
(rmast@ualberta.ca)

**REPORT TO CLASSIS BCSE and BCNW  
March, 2023**

A. YEARLY REVIEW

As I am writing and reflecting on our past year during the week after Christmas, our office is actually closed during this week as our Office Staff and Counselors take personal time to spend with their families. Yet, the important work of Cascade Christian Counselling Association continues unabated! The need remains great as witnessed by an ever increasing demand on the time of our counsellors and staff.

In the year 2022, Cascade has managed to maintain and even increase its level of service to our clients. Our counselors are meeting from home with those clients whom they could access using Zoom or other video conferencing options, but many clients have also been able to come into our offices in Surrey and Abbotsford for personal counselling. We have seen some change in counsellors as two members have left us and as three new members join our ranks. By God's grace we are able to meet the needs of our clients.

Our finances remain in very good shape, our counselling hours are generally increasing and our costs have been reduced. Our income has indicated the strong support we receive from our clients as well as the fact that we have been able to assist, with a reduced fee, many who have come to us in their time of need. The support from churches through collections held for us, and from the friends of Cascade through our Annual Drive has remained strong. In 2022 our Annual Drive again brought in around \$41,000 from our supporting Community.

Our web pages have been a steady source of new clients as we have over 1,000 hits per month on our site. Next to this our clients come from referrals from pastors or by word of mouth referrals from satisfied clients. We are able to keep our fees to a reasonable rate in comparison to similar services, and in many cases are able to assist those who have special financial hardship.

Our office staff continues to serve us well and our Board has been faithful in meeting on a monthly basis mostly via Zoom. We have had one meeting in person so that the Board members, Staff and Counselors could actually meet together. We were able to add two new Board Members after one of us had to resign, so our Board remains at full strength.

We give thanks to God for many years of faithful service to our communities by our Staff and Counsellors and Board. May God continue to bless Cascade Christian Counselling as we seek to serve him in our Christian and Reformed Communities in the years ahead.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

We ask for the following recommendations:

- a. That Classis encourage member churches to continue to remember our ministry in their pastoral prayers on a regular basis.
- b. That Classis continue to encourage member churches to hold two collections annually for the work of Cascade Christian Counselling Association.**

We pray for God's blessing on your deliberations in this Meeting of Classis.

Rudy W. Ouwehand, President  
Board of Directors, Cascade Christian Counselling Association.