

Agenda for Classis BC South-East

October 17-18, 2023



willoughby
church

20525 72 Ave, Langley, BC

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*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.*

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Information for Delegates

Date: Tuesday & Wednesday, October 17-18, 2023

Place: Willoughby CRC, Langley

Registration & New Delegate Orientation: 11:30 am

Welcome to Classis!

Classis ordinarily consists of three delegates from each member congregation—a pastor, an elder and a deacon. Delegate Credentials are completed by the church council and sent by the council clerk to the BCSE Stated Clerk by email prior to classis. Delegates to classis are seated at the first session after a roll call is held. Delegates affirm their agreement with CRC beliefs by rising at the beginning of the first session.

Duration of Classis Meetings

- Classis BCSE meets twice per year, from late morning Tuesday until—typically—noon on Wednesday, a bit longer if necessary.

Classis Agenda:

- The Classis Agenda will, ordinarily, be in the hands of church councils five weeks prior to the meeting date of classis. This is done to allow each church council to review the agenda prior to sending delegates.
- Delegates should familiarize themselves with the classis agenda. The assumption is that the agenda has been reviewed by member councils and delegates prior to meetings.

Executive of Classis

- Consists of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and the Stated Clerk.
- Appointed by the Classical Ministry Committee prior to the meeting of classis.

What May I Expect to Happen at Any One Classis Meeting?

- The Classis Agenda will, ordinarily, be in the hands of church councils five weeks prior to the actual meeting date of classis.
- Delegates may be requested to serve in the following capacities:
 - **Prayer:** for the ministries of classis, concerns of classis and/or for individuals.
 - **Committee work:** Delegates may be asked to serve on one of its advisory committees (Credentials, Expenses, Nominations, or Overtures & Appeals; and come with recommendations regarding the same to the floor of classis). From time to time an advisory committee will have to meet prior classis. For this reason it is beneficial for the CMC to know who will be delegates well ahead of time.
- Though there is a degree of flexibility, classis abides by its own *Rules of Procedure* together with the rules of the CRCNA *Church Order* in conducting its meetings.



What are Classis's Expectations of Me?

- Be on time and attend the sessions of classis. You are expected to remain at classis until the meeting is formally adjourned. If for some reason you *must* leave, you are to seek the permission of the chair.
- Dress code is casual.
- Be familiar with the agenda of classis.
- Listen carefully to the discussions and deliberations.
- Be prepared to make contribution to the discussions and deliberations with words of advice, encouragement and/or questions.
- Delegates are expected to share the thoughts of their council on any particular agenda item but are not obligated to vote according to their council's wishes. Classis is a deliberative body and the freedom needs to remain for delegates to vote on the basis of the best information or perspective presented at classis.
- Refrain from speaking until the chair acknowledges your turn to speak.
- Your privilege of the floor is at the discretion of the chairman.
- You may speak one to three times on any particular agenda item but no more than that.
- Do not repeat comments or observations that have already been shared.
- Be aware that classis is a deliberative body and may make decisions from time to time that you do not necessarily agree with.
- Strong objection to a decision of classis may be voiced by stating your objection. If you wish to have your objection recorded, you will have to submit a written statement (within 24 hours) indicating your objection and reason(s) why.

Lodging:

- If you are in need of overnight lodging, please **contact the stated clerk**.
- If you choose to use a hotel/motel, **reimbursement is not supplied**. You will have to seek reimbursement from your home church.



Fall 2023 Meeting • 80th Session

Dates: October 17-18, 2023

Meeting at: Willoughby CRC
20525 72 Ave., Langley, BC

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Appointments

(pending approval by classis)

Chairperson: Chris deWinter (Immanuel CRC, Langley)

Vice Chair: Steve Berkenpas (Living Hope CRC, Abbotsford)

Clerk: Len Batterink

Committees of Classis

Credentials Committee: Ladner and Cornerstone, Chilliwack CRC delegates

Expense Committee: Kelowna CRC and Riverside CRC delegates

Advisory Committee for Cornerstone Overture (p. 43): Fleetwood & Trinity CRCs

Classis Examination:

Candidate: Jonathan Hwang (see profile, pp.)

Sermon Critics: Erik DeLange and Elder Brad Driesen (Cornerstone CRC, Chilliwack)

Practica: Nick Bierma (Kelowna CRC)

Biblical Theological Position: Todd Statham

Synodical Deputies: Andrew Beunk (Classis BC North West)

Bryan Lanting (Classis North Cascades)

Matthew Borst (Pacific North-West)



Agenda: Tuesday-Wednesday, October 17-18, 2023

Willoughby CRC, Langley, BC

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 Willoughby 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 Chris deWinter assumes the chair.

2.5 Welcome: Delegates, Reporters & Guests

2.6 Public Declaration of Agreement with the Beliefs of the CRCNA (see pp. 9-10)

2.7 Approval of Appointments (p. 5)

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

2.8 Approval of Agenda (pp. 6-8)

Motion: That Classis approve the Agenda for Classis BCSE for October 18-19, 2022

3. Classis Ministry Report & Stated Clerk • 1:00 p.m. (pp. 11)

Recommendation: That classis approve the work of the CMC and stated clerk.

4. Classis Examination • Jonathan Hwang • 1:30 p.m.

4.1 Introduction of the Candidate (see profile pp. 13-14)

4.2 Practica • Examiner: Nick Bierma

Delegates and synodical deputies are given the opportunity to ask questions.

MOTION: To proceed to the next area of inquiry.

4.3 Sermon Evaluation: Erik DeLange and Elder Brad Driesen (Cornerstone, Chilliwack)

Delegates and Synodical Deputies are given the opportunity to ask questions.

MOTION: To proceed to the next area of inquiry.

(Synodical Deputies must concur.)

4.4 Biblical and Theological Position • Examiner: Todd Statham

Delegates and synodical deputies are given the opportunity to ask questions

4.5 Deliberation and Balloting



The chairperson of Classis declares executive session.

MOTION: That Classis BCSE admits Jonathan Hwang to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament in the Christian Reformed Church of North America.

Prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Synodical deputies leave to prepare their recommendation.

Classis votes by ballot and results are reported.

The synodical deputies return and report.

4.6 Candidate and guests are welcomed back into the meeting.

Appropriate remarks by the chair and prayer.

4.7 MOTION: To destroy the ballots.

5. Release under Church Order, Art. 17a: Grant Vander Hoek from Mission Hills CRC.

6. Supper Break:

Deacon delegates are invited to a “Deacons’ Connection” supper with Rachel Vroege, Regional Ministry Developer and David Hornor, Diaconal Coach.

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Evening Session • 7:00 pm

7. CRCNA Ministries

7.1 Transitional Executive Director, Canada: Al Postma (see pp. 15-16)

7.2 Thrive: Lesli van Milligan

7.3 Resonate: Kevin DeRaaf

8. Classis BCNW/BCSE Ministry Reports

8.1 Chaplain and Refugee Support Mobilizer: Dena Nicolai (pp.17-18)

8.2 Ministry to Seafarers: Gary Roosma (pp. 19-20)

8.3 Safe Church: Faye Martin (pp. 21-28)

Note: Faye’s report to classis indicates that she will be retiring after many years of service as the Safe Church – Abuse Prevention & Response Coordinator for BCNW and BCSE. Many thanks to Faye for her years of services dedicated to making our churches safe places for children and all vulnerable persons.

8.4 1 Life: Liz Tolkamp

8.5 Liz Tolkamp Retirement: The Willoughby CRC council informs classis that Liz Tolkamp has retired as Children’s Pastor after more than twenty years. The council requests that Liz be granted the title “Commissioned Pastor Emerita.”

Motion: That Classis grant the request of Willoughby Council.

9. Closing and Prayer

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Wednesday Morning Session

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

- 10. Opening Devotions:** by • 9:00 a.m
- 11. Classis BCSE Ministry Reports**
 - 11.1 Classis Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT)**
 - 11.2 Restorative Practices Task Force**
 - 11.3 Student Fund Committee**
 - 11.4 UBCO Campus Ministry** (pp. 29-30)
 - 11.5 Children & Youth Task Force**
- 12. Finances**
 - 12.1 Auditor's Report** (p. 31)
 - 12.2 Classis BC South-East 2024:** BCSE Treasurer Russ Vroege (pp. 32-36)
 - 12.3 Penticton Fund Discussion** (pp. 37-38)
 - 12.4 Director, Advancement Canada:** Roshani Morton (pp. 39-41)
 - 12.5 Ministry Shares Discussion** (p. 42)
 - 12.6 Overture:** Support for King's University (p. 43)
- 13. Classis Response to Willoughby CRC Communiqué, March 2023**
- 14. Diaconal Ministry Reports**
 - 14.1 World Renew** (pp. 44-45)
 - 14.2 DMC** (pp. 46-48)
- 15. Schools**
 - 15.1 Calvin Seminary** (p. 49-51)
 - 15.2 The King's University** (p. 52-53)
 - 15.3 Redeemer University College** (p. 54-55)
- 16. Classis Appointees**
 - 16.1 Church Counselors**
 - 16.2 Church Visitors**
 - 16.3 Regional Pastors**
- 17. Classis Advisory Committees**
 - 17.2 Credentials Committee**
 - 17.3 Expense Committee**
- 18. Closing Remarks. Adjournment**

Thank you for your service. Drive carefully.

August 29, 2023

Dear Council Chairs, Clerks, and Pastors in Classis BC South-East,

I pray that this letter finds you grateful for Christ's love and eager to serve according to God's Word and Spirit.

The Classis Ministry Committee is aware that there have been mixed reactions to the decisions of Synod over the past two years regarding human sexuality. The purpose of this letter is to reiterate expectations regarding the Agreement to the Covenant of Officebearers for all classis meetings. They are as follows:

- All persons delegated to classis are expected to affirm their agreement with the Covenant of Officebearers.
- If a person cannot show their agreement with the Covenant of Officebearers, they will not be seated as a delegate.
- Persons who have had any gravamens processed by their council may be properly delegated to classis pursuant to the decisions of the local council.
- Officebearers who have been properly delegated by their congregation to classis will be seated, assuming the above items have been met. The CMC, the State Clerk of Classis, or the classis executive will not second-guess or object to the proper delegation of officebearers by the local council to classis.

Please note that this is not a new policy. This has been standard policy and procedure. See CRC Church Order, art. 5 supplement.

If you or your council has questions or objections to what is noted above, please communicate them to our Stated Clerk, Len Batterink, or to the CMC Chair, Michael Vander Laan.

May God bless the ministry of the good news of Christ through his people.

Sincerely,

Rev. Michael Vander Laan, Chair of the BCSE Classis Ministry Committee

revdadsing@gmail.com

250-320-1660

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 & Stated Clerk's Report

Many of the activities of the Classis Ministry Committee and Stated Clerk are incorporated into the classis agenda. Here are some notes to provide additional background and explanation:

- 1. Penticton Fund:** The Penticton Fund was put in place for the purpose of supporting church planting and other evangelistic efforts in the BCSE region. For some time, however, the fund has been minimally utilized and classis has been asked to consider changes to more effectively make us of it. Changes to restrictions on the fund require approval of classis, and since our last meeting, the stated clerk contacted councils to ask for suggestions for change. Churches that responded said that they had no suggestions other than to maintain the evangelistic focus on the fund. CMC now asks for a period of time at classis where delegates can consider options and make recommendations.
- 2. BC South-East Home Missions Fund:** With the dissolution of the Classical Home Missions Committee, the task of approving grants from the Home Missions Fund has been delegated to the CMC. The term for the fund will now be the "BC South-East Home Missions Fund," and grant applications should be directed to the stated clerk.
- 3. Willoughby CRC Communiqué:** In March, classis received a communiqué from Willoughby CRC raising concerns about the process followed in an Art. 17a release from that congregation. Classis tasked the CMC with forming a committee to review the communiqué and report back to classis. The CMC conferred with members of the advisory committee appointed in the spring of 2022 and was advised that, rather than assemble an entirely new committee, it act as a "committee of the whole" to review events at Willoughby and provide recommendations. CMC concurred with that advice and will report later at this meeting.
- 4. East Hill CRC, Vernon and Pastor Daryl DeKlerk:** The March classis meeting was alerted to the possibility of a special meeting to facilitate the release of Pastor Daryl DeKlerk from East Hill CRC. We have since been informed that Daryl has found a new ministry as a chaplain in a Kelowna care home with the Good Samaritan Society, a faith-based service group. We are grateful for this open door to continuing service. Given these events, an release from ministry will be unnecessary; rather classis will have to affirm that his position with the Good Samaritan Society is consistent with the office of Minister of the Word. This will be an item on a future Classis BCSE agenda.
- 5. Synod 2023:** In the week prior to synod 2023, we were informed that the BCSE delegation was not in good order. The Church Order requirement still in effect for this year was that each classis send a pastor, elder, deacon and fourth. (A change ratified for future synods will permit four delegates per classis with no more than two from any office.) As a result of the confusion, one of our pastor delegates, Jason Crossen, was obliged to sit as an observer rather than a voting delegate, and BCSE was one of nine classes with an incomplete synodical delegation.

6. **Licence to Exhort:** John Zuidhof (Riverside CRC, Agassiz) requests renewal of his licence to exhort in BCSE churches for a period of two years.

7. **Classis Positions Open:**

CMC: John Zuidhof has resigned after four years on the CMC to pursue other ministry challenges. Our chair, Michael Vander Laan, is currently completing the final year of his second term and will need to be replaced. **The CMC urges active pastors (preferably two) as well as laypersons to consider service on the committee.**

Synodical Deputy Alternate: Bill Tuininga has asked to be replaced.

Regional Pastor (Lower Mainland): With Grant Vander Hoek's release, this position is open.

Student Fund Committee: One new member needed.

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Attachments:

Disability Advocate: See p. 56

Historical Committee: See pp. 57-58



Name: Jonathan Hwang (Juhun)

Current Place of Residence: Langley, BC, Canada

Education:

Columbia Bible College,
Abbotsford, BC, Canada
BA in Biblical Studies 2013

Regent College,
Vancouver, BC, Canada
MDiv, 2023

Calvin Theological Seminary
Grand Rapids, MI
EPMC, 2023

Internships and Experience:

Smyrna Presbyterian/Ekklesia CRC
Langley, BC, Canada
2010-2013

Handong International School
Pohang, Korea
2013-2018

Hope Community Church
Surrey, BC, Canada
2020-2022

Languages: Fluent in English and Korean

Contact:

778-980-6221
jonathan.hwang@hopecommunity.ca

Faith Journey

I believe that God has shaped the person of God I am today through my faith journey. I would say that my initial stages of spiritual growth came to place without my intention. Having grown up in a Christian family and being a pastor's kid (PK), I was given a lot of expectations to be a role model Christian. Being a PK in a more traditional Korean Christian background did not help the cause in me finding my own identity as a child of God. Much of my faith journey in the early years of youth was religious. I had tried to dig deep into faith, but it was overwhelmed with much "doing" rather than "being." As I was doing so much in the church I realized later on that I did not spend much time living into the being that I am as a child of God. It is ironic and amazing how God used this time to teach me about the emptiness of ministry without really being in a deep, meaningful relationship with Him.

This trend continued on until I entered bible college. As I shifted from volunteer leadership at church to a more "official" position as a children's pastor, then eventually as a youth pastor, I was forced to wrestle with my identity even more. To add on top of that, I was now given responsibility to help and guide the younger generation in their search for faith! In this life stage, I was able to dig deeper into who God was and who I was in relation to him. As God further equipped me in and by his living Word, I was given an opportunity to work overseas as a teacher in a Christian school in Korea. In the six years of my life in my native country, I was able to experience the journey that many Koreans were going through, which was surprisingly different from the Korean-Canadian journey that I went through. I actually wrestled a lot with what it means to be a Christian, especially when it looked so different in Korea. I remember being very judgmental at some of the traditions that I thought were unhealthy in the Korean church in general. I was both humbled and challenged as I formed relationships with various Christians in different walks of life. In this stage, God really broadened my own lens, with which I viewed my faith. I was taught a very clear message, that I do not hold all the answers to the questions about my faith and Christianity in general. God works in mysterious ways and it is prideful of me to think that only my way and my tradition is the right one.

With such a humbling and shaping time in Korea, I am now back in Canada studying at Regent College, furthering my understanding about God and my faith. Ironically, through my studies I was introduced to a Christian Reformed Church, which was not Korean! I realized in recent years that I had been so confined in a narrow lens, which was somewhat widened in my years in Korea. It is now being further widened as I enjoy fellowship with sisters and brothers from diverse cultural, ethnic, and generational backgrounds. I am amazed and thankful that our God does not fit into my box of thinking and that he is so much bigger and creative than I am! I look back on my faith journey and am thankful for all God has taught me. God has spoken directly through the study of his Word (in bible college and now seminary) and also through life experiences. With a loving wife and two awesome sons, I continue to make every effort to be humble and attentive to what God is teaching me. They have been my source of joy and energy as we seek to be ready and obedient to his calling to serve in ministry together.

Jonathan Hwang

Statement of Reason

I seek to become a minister of God's Word because I believe that God can even take my words and efforts for his Kingdom and glory. I believe that he has called me to participate in his ministry to disciple his people in faith. I seek to be obedient to my calling in humility and faithfulness as I play a small part in unveiling God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. I pray that God continues to guide and strengthen me to be faithful to his Word and teaching so that I may guide his church, his people, closer in relationship to Him.

Jonathan Hwang



Dear Classis Leaders of the Christian Reformed Church:

Greetings in the name of Christ.

Jesus loved seeds. He wove them into his teaching, and especially, into his parables. During this new ministry year, God has laid on our hearts Jesus' parable of the wheat kernel (John 12:24): "Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

Jesus was talking about his death and resurrection. but he was also talking about discipleship – that God calls his followers to die to themselves, and rise with Christ to a life of abundant fruitfulness. These are challenging words for us as disciples and leaders. We suspect they also challenge you. And yet, we want you to consider what God may be calling you to "surrender and bury," as classes and church leaders, so that your ministries may grow and bear more fruit for the Lord. And, as you think about that for the coming ministry year, we also want to provide you with a few quick updates.

Synod 2023

Last June, Synod 2023 met in the chapel at Calvin University. We are thankful for the fruitful prayer and worship that characterized the advisory committees and the plenary sessions. Synod 2023 had a heavy agenda that resulted in the delegation of many ministry tasks to the classes, the Council of Delegates, and the general secretary. Like Synod 2022, there were also challenging discussions around human sexuality. In order to serve the classes and congregations with the best information, the Office of General Secretary has carefully crafted a Frequently Asked Questions document about Synod 2023 and posted it [here](#). Our aim is to post the *Acts of Synod 2023* electronically on or around September 1 and share summaries with the classes and congregations soon thereafter. Hardcopies of the Acts will take some more time to get to you! Please encourage churches and leaders in your classes to use these resources in their conversations and reflections about synod.

Celebrating Our Growing "One Family"

One important soil that God is calling the classes and congregations to sow into is the engagement of our ethnic minority leaders and churches. Did you know fully one-fifth (and growing) of the CRC's churches are predominantly non-White? Unfortunately, these leaders are greatly underrepresented in most of our classis meetings. The Council of Delegates has instructed the Office of General Secretary to assist classes during the 2023-24 ministry year in holding structured conversations (called "One Family Conversations") during their classis meeting to learn to better celebrate and support their entire family. The conversation plan can be accessed [here](#). If you need assistance in planning and implementing these conversations, please reach out to your [regional catalyzers](#) who would be happy to assist you. We know your

classis agendas are very full, but these conversations could be the most important way your classes join the Spirit in “planting for kingdom growth” in the coming years.

Thank You for Your Generous Planting

Christian Reformed members, churches, and classes sow generously in giving of their time and treasure to serve congregations, neighborhoods, and the world through ministry shares. In 2022-23 you gave \$10,030,000 USD and \$5,609,000 CAN to the agencies and institutions of the Christian Reformed Church. In addition to supporting the governance of CRCNA, we used these funds to form future ministry leaders, share the gospel through media and the work of our international and domestic missionaries, and to support your CRC congregations in their discipleship, education, worship, and mission. This fall we will be sharing more about changes and updates to the ministry shares program with classis treasurers that were approved by Synod 2023. We give thanks to and to God for this generous sowing and the harvest it has produced for the Kingdom!

Thrive Pastors Conference

We are excited to draw your attention to our newest agency, [Thrive](#), which drew together 9 former congregational ministries under one new name. Thrive was officially recognized by Synod 2023 and charged with providing expertise, wisdom, and compassionate support to CRC congregations while remaining attentive to a wide range of opportunities and challenges facing the church today. Thrive is offering a conference for parish pastors, Regional Pastors, and chaplains to rest and grow in Albuquerque, NM on November 14 through 16. This event’s goal is to offer active CRC parish pastors and regional pastors a safe place in which to gather for support, encouragement, learning, worship and fellowship. Please sign up as soon as possible as registration is limited.

Canadian National Gathering

Over 150 Christian Reformed people gathered May 25-28, 2023 in Ottawa, Ontario on the campus of Algonquin College for the Canadian National Gathering. Representatives from every classis across Canada participated as we focused on *Hearts Exchanged* and the work of reconciliation with Indigenous brothers and sisters. Those who attended from your classis have been asked to discern next steps that they can take in your region. Please make space for them on your classis agendas to report on their experience and share their ideas for the future.

We do not make the seeds nor do we make them grow. Through the Spirit’s power, our calling is to plant and nourish the seeds (1 Cor 3:6). Planting is difficult as it involves the dying of the old and the coming to life of the new. But most of all, planting is an act of faith. May the God of the harvest give you the strength to plant well in this new ministry year.

Your partners in ministry



Rev. Dr. Zachary King
General Secretary



Rev. Albert Postma
Transitional Executive Director



Dan DeKam
Director, US Ministry Operations

Chaplain
and Refugee Support Mobilizer

Dena Nicolai

Phone: 604-928-3094

Email: dnicolai@firstvan.ca

www.crcbrefugeewelcome.ca



The “Garden of Eatin’” community garden at First CRC of Vancouver, where - through your support - a number of former newcomers from Syria and Sudan have garden plots this year

Classis Report: Fall 2023

This report comes with gratitude to Classis BCSE, and all of the churches and people it represents, for your generous support of the Chaplain and Refugee Support Mobilizer (CRSM) Ministry over the last many years.

As this work and ministry continues, we wanted to offer a brief snapshot:

- 1) Ministry of Presence:** As a chaplain, Dena seeks to be a hospitable and welcoming presence for newcomers in their first weeks and months in Canada, especially those who are living at or using the services of the [Immigrant Services Society of BC \(ISSofBC\) Welcome Centre](#), next door to First CRC of Vancouver. She does this through home visits and one-on-one meetings as well as through facilitating a drop-in “Tea and Conversation” program (accompanied by English classes taught by volunteer teachers) and other welcoming events out of the First CRC space.
- 2) Practical and Material Support:** The generosity of BC churches helps to maintain a benevolence fund that allows Dena to support newcomers with grocery gift cards, assistance with emergency housing and medical bills, transit tickets, and Welcome Boxes of basic food and hygiene items. With the help of volunteers, Dena also runs a “Clothing Bank” out of the balcony space at First CRC.
- 3) Long-Term Relationship Building:** While Dena maintains numerous long-term relationships with former newcomers, including a number who

have become volunteers in the ministry, her hope remains to encourage more long-term connections between churches and newcomers in the neighbourhoods (often outside of Vancouver) to which newcomers are moving. Requests for these connections come both from organisations such as ISSofBC as well as from newcomers themselves.

- 4) Training and Equipping:** Empowering our communities towards welcome has included collaboration with other local organisations serving newcomers (including [Kinbrace](#) and the [Journey Home Community](#)) as well as with agencies of the CRCNA including the [Centre for Public Dialogue](#) and [World Renew](#).

The newcomer refugees Dena meets continue to arrive from many different countries across the world, and the last few months have seen particularly high numbers of arrivals from Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan, Congo, Mexico, and Colombia. Each person she meets arrives with deep grief for what they've lost but also deep hope for their future, and as she has shared before, she faces the (good) challenge of not having enough volunteer opportunities for all of the ways they wish to get involved in their new lives in BC.

Dena, and the CRSM Advisory Group, remain greatly encouraged by the support of churches and people across BC – support not only for the work of the CRSM but also for your support of the newcomers entering your communities and knocking on your doors. We remain in prayer for you in your welcome and ask for your prayers for us and the ministry of the CRSM as well.

Lastly, the CRSM Advisory Group recently had two members step down for personal reasons. While both of these members represented Classis BCNW and so we are looking for further members from that region, we are also always happy to grow this group with more members from BCSE as well and would be glad to hear from you if you know of anyone interested in serving in this way.

Thank you again,

Dena Nicolai

On behalf of the CRSM Advisory Group:

Brian Woudstra (Fleetwood CRC), Chair

Martin Contant (Willoughby Church)

Trevor Vanderveen (First CRC Vancouver)



The Ministry to Seafarers

401 East Waterfront Rd.

Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6A 4G9

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CLASSIS REPORT: Fall 2023

1. In years past it was relatively easy to bring visitors on board ships, including groups of people, even children. Many people I meet in churches share memories of ship visits with their youth groups or cadets/calvettes. Those days are, however, long past. Port and terminal security has steadily increased over the years, especially after 9-11. Now bringing guests on board a ship is much more challenging.

But not impossible, and this past Spring we facilitated an unusual visit. Josh is a



bright young man who lives with cerebral palsy. Our son, Tim, has worked with him for several years. Josh also owns a 2-way radio and loves listening to chatter happening in the harbour. Tim and I arranged a port tour with Josh. And on one of the ships, we were able to bring him on board for a tour around the deck. Tim carried him up the gangway while seafarers carted up his wheelchair. Josh was over the moon to be on board, and the crew were excited to have him on board too.

2. Prior to Covid, it was not uncommon to receive requests for a worship service to be held on board. The pandemic put a halt to those kinds of services; the most we could manage were occasional prayers with an individual or small group on deck at the gangway, and even those opportunities were rare. What a joy and relief to see things open up again. I can once again pray often with groups, and even hold short prayer/worship services on board, as time allows. Here is a photo of one such service held at the request of some of the crew.



3. The Ministry to Seafarers was officially incorporated on July 10, 2023. Next steps will be discussed at the (now) board's September meeting. At present we have 6 board members. A 7th has been newly appointed, and we would like to up that to 8 members. We would appreciate additional candidates for board membership from the classes – especially Classis BCNW.

4. In contrast to the previous year, and even earlier this year, since this past Spring we have seen a real downturn in ship traffic in the Port of Vancouver, especially with container cargo. I'm hearing that this is a world-wide trend. Several times in recent months there have been days with no ships at Deltaport, for example, which is very unusual.



The situation was exacerbated by the near 2-week ILWU strike at the start of July. Things ramped up again following the strike in the effort to catch up with backlogs, and we were relieved to hear of the final contract approval. But the strike situation also underscored our challenging position as seafarers' ministries who work both with the longshore workers as well as

with the employers, shipping companies, and with the Port of Vancouver. When these groups are at odds, we have to navigate working with all of them while not taking sides.

5. We were hopeful that we would be able to resume visits to cruise ships this year. However, in the end the company backed down on allowing us on board, citing crew busyness while in port here and the inability to source an "escort" for us while on board. This was a disappointing turn of events, but the Mission to Seafarers staff are working to resolve the issues.

6. I am planning to take a 3-month sabbatical in early 2024. Much of that time will likely be spent in Malaysia, where we hope to reconnect with many friends and churches there. The dates will be from mid-January until mid-April.

Respectfully submitted,

John Bandstra, Board Chair

Gary Roosma, Port Chaplain

BC Safe Church equips churches to cultivate safe communities for all people.

Through a trifold mandate of education, support, and Advisory Panel response, we help churches to develop and implement procedures that reduce the risks of abuse.

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.

Safe Church Ministry - merged the *Safe Church Ministries* of both BCNW & BCSE classes into one ministry. A joint executive committee has worked to oversee & support the work of the **Abuse Prevention & Response Coordinator (APRC)**, contributing to decision making, ministry planning & responses to situations. This team consists of Pastor Andrew VanderLeek, Frank Van Ryk, Sylvia Welfing, & Judy Vanderpol from BCSE, Kathy Smith & Marilyn Heinen from BCNW.

CRCNA Safe Church Ministry is now officially named Thrive.



CRCNA Safe Church has joined with eight Christian Reformed ministries to better equip & encourage congregations - new name is **Thrive**. While the name has changed, Safe Church Ministry remains as committed as ever to equip congregations in abuse awareness, prevention & response



Rev. Dr Amanda Benckhuysen
Safe Church Advisor

"Being safe & healthy communities is foundational to the ministry of CRC congregations. I'm so excited that as Thrive, staff with expertise in various aspects of ministry will now work together to provide more integrated and comprehensive support for congregations and Safe Church Coordinators to help them cultivate safe environments in every area of ministry"

***The APRC continues to consult with & receive support from this office.**

1. What's NEW in BC Safe Church Ministry?

A.

Trauma Informed Response in the Church

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

It takes knowledge & skill to support/help those who experience pain & trauma.

Presented in partnership



Stacey Stolte

Program Lead Bible Based Trauma Healing
Canadian Bible Society



Faye Martin

Abuse Prevention & Response Coordinator
BC CRC Safe Church Ministry

Fleetwood CRC – Monday Oct 23, 2023

9165 160th St Surrey BC V4N 2X7

2 options - 12:30 – 3pm **OR** 6:30 – 9pm

Register www.bcsafechurch.com

Participants will learn about trauma, what the Bible says about it, recognizing symptoms in self & others, gain understanding of the 3 most common ways trauma presents itself & responding in non harmful & practical ways that may help.

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.

BC Safe Church

B.

B. cont... **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 ***

Presented in 2 churches in April & May-scheduled for Oct in another church

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 Feb 13, 2023.

***The next (& 6th) training opportunity is available Monday Oct 23, 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 Oct 23 2023

@ 7:30pm via Zoom

REGISTER

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



Watch
Circle of Grace
introduction video

B. Leadership Conference - Training



Sat Sept 16, 2023

BC CRC Safe Church APRC facilitated the following 2 breakouts

1. What's with Power?
2. Leadership Conduct - what's the big deal?

C. **Council/Leadership Training** - this workshop focuses on the council's role in responding to abuse in ministries and leadership misconduct. *This workshop content meets Synod's directive to train church councils.* **5 church councils** have scheduled this training for the fall. It was presented to **1 requesting church council** in spring.

D. Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Training -

Equips Churches & Leaders for Safe Child & Youth Ministries

This workshop for all child and youth ministry leaders was presented in **5 churches** in late winter & spring 2023. *NOTE: workshop meets insurance training requirement.* One additional church requested a *customized Annual Safe Church training* that included social media use. *At time of writing 6 CAP training sessions are scheduled for the fall.*

***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.*

E. Our Church: A Safe Place



Shining the Light on Domestic Violence

workshop held in 1 BCNW church

3. Further APRC support, work & ministry engagement

- A. ***Safe Ministry Policy Assessment & Discussion Tool for Councils** was developed & sent to all church council clerks in February 2022 for use in a council meeting discussion to help support councils/churches to ensure
- safe ministry policies are updated, established and consistently implemented &
 - the renewing or development of Safe Ministry Teams to support/oversee that process.
- 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.

***Copies of this tool continue to be available by contacting the APRC.**

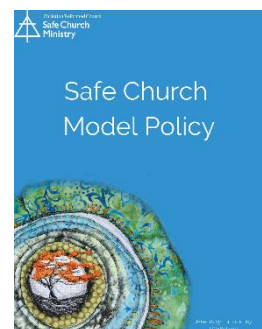
Insurance, legal & moral requirements all tie into councils' roles & responsibility to ensure & oversee the necessary policies & procedures are both in place & implemented.

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.

- B. **Safe Ministry Teams - support/training & meetings** - The APRC continued to attend in person & facilitated Zoom meetings supporting the development of new teams and providing orientating/training/information for the members. Email and Zoom mtg support was also provided to several additional Safe Ministry teams. Renewing, developing & supporting these teams in our Post Covid churches is a critical step towards supporting/ensuring Safe Ministries in the local church.

C. **Safe Ministry Policy Reviews-**

As churches are restarting ministries they are also updating/revising safe ministry policies. **The APRC provided support by reviewing policies & held discussions for revisions with teams/ reps via Zoom for 2 churches. CRCNA Safe Church has also now provides a model policy that can be accessed at www.bcsafechurch.com website or requested of the APRC.**



- D. **APRC 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 involved & pornography use related situations.
- E. **APRC support/Leadership conduct – the APRC has supported staff and councils in numerous churches addressing leadership conduct issues.** There are many lessons learned in addressing these difficult types of situations. *Its important to note that key pastors, staff & leaders have been diligent in embracing both their responsibilities and follow up prevention steps in these situations.

Key lessons learned include –

- the importance of training all our pastors, staff, councils & leaders regarding their responsibilities in *every aspect of their roles in safe ministries.*
- councils/staff need to ensure the above is happening and the correct safe ministry policy measures are *both in place and implemented.*
- ***youth ministry leaders need training in appropriate boundaries** for ministry with the youth & minors they serve, as well as council & staff support/accountability in maintaining those appropriate boundaries in their youth leadership positions.

- F. **APRC Youth Ministry Support:** On May 25, the **APRC met in Abbotsford with youth pastors & directors** from the lower mainland churches. Time was given to discuss each church leaders' current ministry challenges & concerns.

* In this meeting the APRC encouraged all those present to schedule a **Safe Ministry Boundaries training** facilitated by Safe Church for all youth leaders.

Safe Church understands this training is an important pro-active preventative measure that is part of the responsibility of the churches in reducing risks to both youth participants and youth leaders.


- G. **Restorative Listening Circles** -The APRC supported a church council and leaders by facilitating multiple restorative listening circles to process the impact of a congregant/leader charged with sexually related offences involving children/minors. Included was gathering input regarding important safety action steps for the council & church.
- H. **APRC support** was provided to a church leadership/pastors to address boundary concerns & implement an agreed upon contract for safe boundaries & expectations of behaviors of an individual. This contract works towards safety for the church and all parties involved.


I. The APRC...

- met bi-monthly with CRCNA Canadian Safe Church Coordinators and denominational staff for discussion and our 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 now called THRIVE - Safe Church) that was held at both BCSE & BCNW classis meetings.
- participated in online training webinars through the CRCNA Safe Church Ministry.

J. APRC continues to

- adapt to meet the needs of the churches, ministries & congregants.
- seek input/feedback from area professionals/church members on workshop materials and presentation.
- Meet with new pastors/youth ministry directors etc.
- Proactively communicate with local church safe ministry teams & contacts providing pertinent information and support availability for local church Safe ministry teams, staff & leaders.

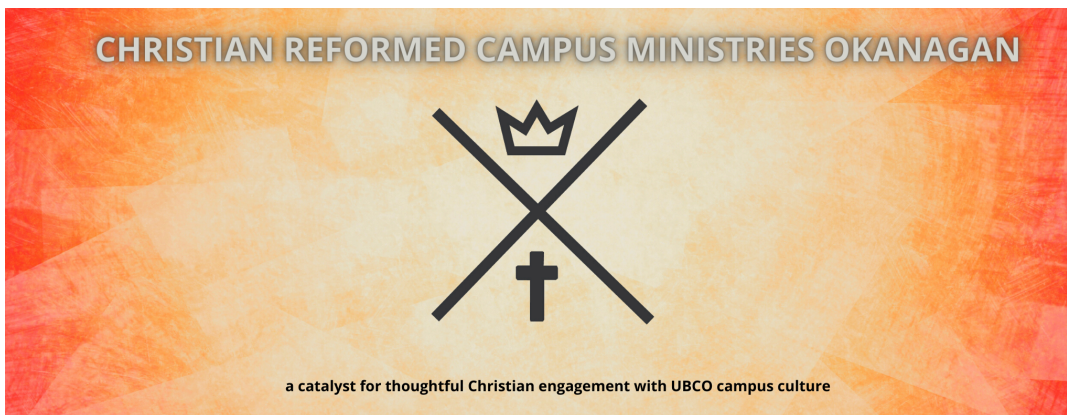
K.  BC Safe Church **Website** – continues to be updated for *ease of access to resources*. New additions/changes include the [Criminal Record Review Process](#) for BC volunteer organizations/churches & the [CRCNA Sample Safe Church Policy](#) & training offered to the churches

L.  BC Safe Church **APRC position:** At time of writing an ad has gone into church bulletins seeking applicants for the SAFE CHURCH - ABUSE PREVENTION & RESPONSE COORDINATOR position. The start date for this position is flexible and training will be provided by the current APRC, working alongside/with the new hire over the coming church year. **Councils are encouraged to think of persons who might be a good fit for this position and encourage them to apply.**

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

www.bcsafechurch.com

Contact APRC Faye Martin: Faye@bcsafechurch.com 604-850-5137



CRCMO Chaplain's Report to Classis BCSE Fall 2023

I always spend a good deal of time in the spring and summer visiting various congregations to preach and share about our Classis's mission to UBCO. This season I visited nine congregations (mostly in BCSE but also Presbyterian and Lutheran). And yes, frankly, one of the reasons behind these visits is to ask for money for the campus ministry budget (e.g. through a secondary offering). This summer, however, I actually got to spend money! And better yet it's not even *our* money. One of the big tasks on my plate was to be part of the development team charged with a \$40,000 project to create a "Spirituality and Multifaith Space" for UBCO that is attractive, functional and spiritually-accommodating for the many religious groups and clubs on campus. It was a fantastic challenge. The very fact this project happened shows how far we've come in the past fourteen months: from non-entity to a growing Multifaith program that UBC is even putting money behind. Thank God. Another task I had this summer as the coordinating chaplain of UBCO's new Spirituality & Multifaith Chaplaincy was to create UBC's first ever Calendar of Religious Days of Significance, which aims to raise religious literacy on campus and provide a resource for exam scheduling, etc.

Of course, the new relationship I have with UBC carries a lot of responsibilities and also poses some inevitable ethical and spiritual challenges as I become proximate with the university's ethos and priorities. Please continue



You might have seen this recent profile in *The Banner* of the Campus Ministry's Student Leader for 2022. Jacqueline did a fantastic project!

to pray for me for wisdom, discretion and faithfulness.

As we launch into a new school year I'm excited by what lies ahead:

- one-on-one conversations and **pastoral care** with students and staff, including the many new students I'll meet in the Fall term;
- bringing Prof. **Iain Provan** (Regent College) to Kelowna to speak on campus and lead a weekend conference on Christian ethics in October (in cooperation with the the local Presbyterian Church);



Springtime event with Chinese/Hong Kong international students

- planning a **weekly small group/** Bible study for the Winter Term;
- **speaking** at the Power to Change and UCM student clubs, as well as a guest lecture (Psychology 380: Psychology of Death and Grief);
- leading biweekly liturgical **morning prayer** and hosting bimonthly **faculty research** cluster;
- preparing and designing a new, first-year UBC course entitled **“Introduction to World Religions”** for the Winter Term. The course I taught last winter (The Bible in

Literature) was very well-received by students, for which I'm thankful. I'm hopeful that having **two** courses to offer the university will let me 'keep my foot in the door' for lecturing for years to come;

- and, of course, we're thrilled to welcome **Curtis Meliefste to the Campus Ministry as an associate campus pastor**. This year Curtis will be spending 8 hours per week (September to May) at the Okanagan College campus in Kelowna, meeting with students and staff and establishing a Christian presence there. Please pray that God blesses this extension of the campus ministry into a new mission field. We are also grateful to God that through extensive fundraising we are able to finance this venture without asking Classis for additional funding.

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Todd Statham

Peter Ronda, BA CPA CGA
46885 Eric Drive
Chilliwack, BC V2P 3M5
Tel: (604)792-7611

AUDITOR'S REPORT

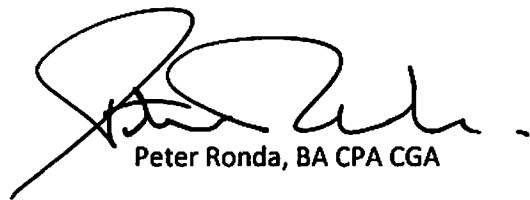
Classis British Columbia South-East
Christian Reformed Church

I have examined the financial statements of Classis British Columbia South-East as at December 31, 2022 and statement of receipts and disbursements for the year then ended.

My examination of the records included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Classis British Columbia South-East as at December 31, 2022 , and the summary of receipts and disbursements for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding years.

Chilliwack, BC
August 28, 2023



Peter Ronda, BA CPA CGA

CLASSIS BRITISH COLUMBIA SOUTH-EAST
of the
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
SCHEDULE OF MINISTRY SHARES

2024

1. Classical Ministry Budget Share for Each Church

		2024	2023	2022	2021
		Budget	Budget	Actual	Actual
Abbotsford	Gateway Community	\$ 29,000	\$ 27,100	\$ 27,050	\$ 28,500
	Hillside	1,400	2,000	3,000	1,000
	Living Hope	22,200	22,800	-	26,300
	New Life	24,700	28,800	25,150	22,600
	New Life Korean *	-	-	-	-
	Trinity	15,500	17,600	16,400	19,400
	Zion	3,100	3,800	-	3,900
Agassiz	Riverside	3,900	3,800	5,000	6,100
Chilliwack	Cornerstone	19,900	22,500	22,700	23,500
	Heartland Fellowship	4,200	4,100	5,000	5,100
Delta	Ladner	12,300	11,700	11,000	11,400
Kamloops	Korean San-Rang *	-	-	-	-
	Sahali Fellowship	2,100	2,200	2,400	2,200
Kelowna	Kelowna	5,100	7,400	8,591	7,960
	The Well *	-	-	-	-
Langley	Bridge Community	3,400	3,800	-	-
	Immanuel	14,800	14,800	13,900	18,275
	Willoughby	18,000	21,800	5,560	22,510
Mission Hills	Mission Hills Community	4,400	6,200	6,400	6,400
Salmon Arm	Cornerstone	5,600	6,400	6,700	5,500
Surrey	Fleetwood	20,700	24,200	-	24,700
	Hope Community	15,500	15,300	15,100	11,500
	The Good Shepherd *	-	-	-	-
Vernon	East Hill Community	11,800	10,600	11,000	11,100
Williams Lake	Cariboo Community	3,700	4,700	5,000	5,000
		<u>\$ 241,300</u>	<u>\$ 261,600</u>	<u>\$ 189,951</u>	<u>\$ 262,945</u>
Change over prior year budget		<u>-7.8%</u>	<u>1.1%</u>		

* Indicates emerging church.

**CLASSIS BRITISH COLUMBIA SOUTH-EAST
of the
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
SCHEDULE OF MINISTRY SHARES**

2024

2. Classical Ministry Shares

The Classical Ministry Shares for 2024 are subject to approval by Classis British Columbia South-East on October 17 and 18, 2023.

3. Ministry to Seafarers

The amount budgeted of \$26,600 is subject to approval by Classis British Columbia South-East on October 17 and 18, 2023. This is in accordance with the Standing Committee's budget request.

4. Home Missions Fund

The \$0 budget amount is subject to approval by Classis British Columbia South-East on October 17 and 18, 2023. The ministries previously undertaken by the Classis Home Missions Committee are now done by the 1Life Collective. The only exception is that \$10,000 will be contributed to the work of the Chaplain and Refugee Support Mobilizer from the Classis Home Missions Fund, which is now overseen by the Classical Ministry Committee. The Fund is projected to be \$50,000 by December 31, 2023.

5. Classis Expense Fund

The amount provided for the Classis Expense Fund is to support ongoing programs.

	Budget 2023	Budget 2023
Auditor	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,250
Canadian Ministries Office	1,000	5,450
Canadian Ministries Office - Bridge App	7,155	6,890
Classical Ministerial Leadership Team	-	-
Insurance	6,100	6,000
Legal **	1,000	1,000
Meetings	7,000	5,000
Office	1,500	1,000
Stated Clerk	7,400	7,300
Travel	5,500	5,000
Treasurer	9,200	9,100
	48,155	48,990
Addition to Classis Expense Fund surplus *	7,045	-
Use of Classis Expense Fund surplus	-	(6,990)
	\$ 55,200	\$ 42,000

The amount budgeted is subject to approval by Classis British Columbia South-East on October 17 and 18, 2023.

* The Classis Expense Fund is projected to have a December 31, 2023 balance of \$3,800. \$7,000 will be added to that surplus in 2024.

CLASSIS BRITISH COLUMBIA SOUTH-EAST
of the
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
SCHEDULE OF MINISTRY SHARES

2023

6. CRCMO Campus Ministry

The amount budgeted of \$83,000 is subject to approval by Classis British Columbia South-East on October 17 and 18, 2023. This is in accordance with the budget request from the CRCMO Campus Ministry, and is the same amount as their 2023, 2022 and 2021 budget requests.

7. Student Fund

The amount budgeted of \$20,400 is subject to approval by Classis British Columbia South-East on October 17 and 18, 2023. This is in accordance with the budget request from the Student Fund Committee. None of this amount is anticipated to come from the Penticton Fund.

8. Safe Church Team

The amount budgeted of \$11,000 is subject to approval by Classis British Columbia South-East on October 17 and 18, 2023. This is in accordance with the \$33,000 budget request from the Safe Church Team, less \$12,000 to decrease the Safe Church Team surplus from the estimate of \$48,000 at December 31, 2023. An additional \$11,000 will also come from Classis BC North-West, as the Safe Church Team's expenses for both classes run through Classis BC South-East, as per the June 8, 2022 Grant Agreement between the two classes.

9. Restorative Practices Task Force

The amount budgeted of \$100 is subject to approval by Classis British Columbia South-East on October 17 and 18, 2023. This is in accordance with the \$3,000 budget request from the Restorative Practices Task Force, less \$2,900 to decrease the Task Force's surplus from the estimate of \$20,000 at December 31, 2023.

10. Children and Youth Ministry Task Force

The \$0 budget amount is subject to approval by Classis British Columbia South-East on October 17 and 18, 2023. A budget request for 2024 was not received from the Task Force, and the Task Force's surplus is projected to be \$12,000 at December 31, 2023.

11. 1Life Equippers Collective

The amount budgeted of \$45,000 is subject to approval by Classis British Columbia South-East on October 17 and 18, 2023. This is in accordance with the budget request from the 1Life Equippers Collective, and is in accordance with their budget request.

**CLASSIS BRITISH COLUMBIA SOUTH-EAST
of the
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
SCHEDULE OF MINISTRY SHARES**

2024

I. DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES - JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024

Note that under the new Ministry Shares Reimagined system, denominational ministry shares follows the denomination's fiscal year, which ends on June 30.

		2023 - 2024	2022 - 2023	
		Pledge	Pledge	% Change
Abbotsford	Gateway Community	\$ 50,000	\$ 100,000	-50.0%
	Hillside	4,900	5,700	-14.0%
	Living Hope	25,000	47,559	-47.4%
	New Life	55,000	60,000	-8.3%
	New Life Korean *	-	1,000	-100.0%
	Trinity	10,000	50,000	-80.0%
	Zion	-	-	0.0%
Agassiz	Riverside	18,000	10,000	80.0%
Chilliwack	Cornerstone	75,000	90,000	-16.7%
	Heartland Fellowship	8,130	7,886	3.1%
Delta	Ladner	30,000	30,000	0.0%
Kamloops	Korean San-Rang *	-	-	
	Sahali Fellowship	2,500	2,500	0.0%
Kelowna	Kelowna	-	8,200	-100.0%
	The Well *	-	-	
Langley	Bridge Community	-	-	0.0%
	Immanuel	53,235	47,383	12.4%
	Willoughby	50,000	88,703	-43.6%
Mission Hills	Mission Hills Community	5,000	5,000	0.0%
Salmon Arm	Cornerstone	26,400	25,535	3.4%
Surrey	Fleetwood	23,352	52,700	-55.7%
	Hope Community	21,600	19,435	11.1%
	The Good Shepherd *	-	-	
Vernon	East Hill Community	11,550	11,000	5.0%
Williams Lake	Cariboo Community	6,000	-	
		\$ 475,667	\$ 662,601	-28.2%

* Indicates emerging church

II. CLASSICAL MINISTRY SHARES - 2024

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
	Budget	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual
Ministry to Seafarers (Note 3)	\$ 26,600	\$ 29,100	\$ 34,815	\$ 34,815	\$ 31,272
Home Missions Fund (Note 4)	-	20,000	28,890	28,890	25,635
Classis Expense Fund (Note 5)	55,200	42,000	38,435	38,435	36,444
Leadership Development Network	-	-	21,620	21,620	18,983
CRCMO Campus Ministry (Note 6)	83,000	83,000	80,408	80,408	63,608
Student Fund (Note 7)	20,400	22,000	17,792	17,792	17,879
Safe Church Team (Note 8)	11,000	21,000	22,833	22,833	18,697
Restorative Practices Task Force (Note 9)	100	1,000	7,104	7,104	6,650
Children and Youth Ministry Task Force (Note 10)	-	1,000	2,482	2,482	2,541
1Life Equippers Collective (Note 11)	45,000	42,500	8,566	8,566	-
TOTAL	\$ 241,300	\$ 261,600	\$ 262,945	\$ 262,945	\$ 221,709

Each church (See III) will remit its share of the Classis Ministry Budget as detailed in Note 1.

	Members	Budgeted	Collected	Collected %
2024	3,292	\$ 241,300		
2023	3,617	\$ 261,600		
2022	3,605	\$ 258,750	\$ 189,951	73.4%
2021	3,618	\$ 268,400	\$ 262,945	98.0%
2020	3,717	\$ 255,800	\$ 221,709	86.7%

**CLASSIS BRITISH COLUMBIA SOUTH-EAST
of the
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
SCHEDULE OF MINISTRY SHARES**

2024

		<u>Professing Members</u>	<u>Inactive Professing Members</u>	<u>Professing Members under 18</u>	<u>Number of Active Members</u>
III. MEMBERS PER CHURCH					
Abbotsford	Gateway Community	410	12	2	396
	Hillside	28	9	-	19
	Living Hope	326	23	-	303
	New Life	392	55	-	337
	New Life Korean *	-	-	-	-
	Trinity	288	76	-	212
	Zion	58	14	2	42
Agassiz	Riverside	82	29	-	53
Chilliwack	Cornerstone	311	39	-	272
	Heartland Fellowship	68	8	3	57
Delta	Ladner	178	8	2	168
Kamloops	Korean San-Rang *	-	-	-	-
	Sahali Fellowship	31	3	-	28
Kelowna	Kelowna	125	54	1	70
	The Well *	-	-	-	-
Langley	Bridge Community	46	-	-	46
	Immanuel	275	70	3	202
	Willoughby	245	-	-	245
Mission Hills	Mission Hills Community	60	-	-	60
Salmon Arm	Cornerstone	92	15	-	77
Surrey	Fleetwood	296	14	-	282
	Hope Community	228	16	1	211
	The Good Shepherd *	-	-	-	-
Vernon	East Hill Community	174	7	6	161
Williams Lake	Cariboo Community	62	6	5	51
		<u>3,775</u>	<u>458</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>3,292</u> **

Source: Christian Reformed Church Yearbook 2023.

* Indicates emerging church.

** The Classical Ministry Shares outlined in Note 1 on Page 1 are prorated based on the Number of Active Members.

PENTICTON FUND

Policy for the Penticton Fund is covered in two different sections of the BCSE Rules of Procedure, under the Home Missions (pp. 23-24) and the Student Fund (pp. 28-29). The fund is currently under-used and Classis may want to consider changes to the Rules of Procedure—while maintaining the missional focus of the fund.

§

CLASSIS HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE: PENTICTON FUND

Funds [\$200,000] are to be used in the development of a *church multiplication movement* rather than simply providing funding for *a single church plant* by encouraging the development of multiple church planting proposals designed in partnership with denominational Home Missions, Classis (as per ministry share), a parent church and the “Penticton” church planting fund.

Guidelines:

- 1) That \$25,000 be made available on a no-interest loan basis to emerging churches who need some assistance with a first permanent facility (including possible lease hold* improvements) (*10 year lease). These funds would be available on a short term loan basis, with the amount to be repaid within 5 years, in order to become available to other church plants with similar needs.
- 2) That \$10,000 be set aside and made available to existing church plants in the way of small grants for technical support (not to exceed \$2,000 per church).
- 3) That a maximum amount amount of \$40,000 per new church plant be made available for salary and general support of a new church, with the balance coming from Classical ministry share support, denominational grant support and possible support of a parent church. This maximum amount would only be allotted in partnership with other funding sources and not as a promised lump sum up front. The funds would be dispersed upon recommendation of the CHMC pending a review process and an annual application process. While funding formulas and dispersement rates might vary according to need, we would ordinarily see the amount dispersed over a three year period. Eligibility for funding includes a variety of church planting models including:
 - a) A church plant with fully credentialed, full time church planter would be eligible for the maximum amount.
 - b) A church plant lead by a bi-vocational church planter (part-time) would be eligible for up to 50% of the maximum amount.
- 4) That the CHMC recommend to Classis that this Penticton fund be set aside as a separate restricted fund within the Classis treasury, to ensure a maximum sustainability of this fund.

§

STUDENT FUND: PENTICTON FUND

Funds [\$50,000] gifted by the Penticton CRC to the Classis Student Fund Committee have been set aside to be used by students for the purpose of attending a special conference, seminar, training event, etc. that will help them better determine their particular area of calling (e.g. – church planter, cross-cultural, missions, foreign missions, etc.) or that will better prepare them for the particular area of ministry to which they feel called. Students enrolled in Calvin Theological Seminary's *Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy* (EPMC) program are eligible to apply for grants from the fund...

1. Guidelines to use... (See *BCSE Rules of Procedure*, pp. 28-29)
2. Money from the Penticton Fund may be borrowed from at any time during a fiscal year to fund the regular Student Fund commitments when there is a time lag between the funds needing to be disbursed and the receipt of funds from classical Ministry Shares in that year. When funds are received through Ministry Shares in that fiscal year, the Penticton Fund shall be reimbursed. If insufficient Ministries Shares are received in that fiscal year, monies received through Ministry Shares in the following fiscal year shall be allocated to the Penticton Fund to make-up the shortfall from the previous fiscal period.

Canadian Advancement Report

Fall 2023

Wow, time flies! It's hard to believe that it's been just five months since I assumed the role of Canadian Director of Advancement. Meeting all of you, our incredible Canadian churches, has been an absolute joy! Let's tackle a question that many of you have been curious about:

What exactly is Advancement?

Advancement is not just a buzzword or a mere fundraising function. It's a dynamic process that involves leveraging our collective resources, talents, and passions to propel God's kingdom forward.

Advancement encompasses strategic planning, innovative thinking, and intentional collaboration to maximize the impact of our ministries and missions. It's about fostering a culture of growth, generosity, and Kingdom-mindedness within our churches. It's about embracing new opportunities, empowering leaders, and equipping our congregations to make a lasting difference in the world.

Perhaps you haven't realized it, but every one of you is already actively engaged in advancement work through your churches' participation in ministry shares. By contributing to ministry shares, you have made a powerful covenant—a promise to stand shoulder to shoulder with our fellow CRC churches as we collectively pursue the advancement of God's kingdom. This beautiful alignment of financial resources with a shared vision represents a united purpose to elevate God's kingdom at the very core of everything we do.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Our Canadian CRC Churches contributed **\$6.3 million dollars** in the last fiscal year to the ministry shares program. That staggering sum has been harnessed to propel God's kingdom forward! (*We are still awaiting the submission of certain classes, meaning the final figure will be even more!*)

Get excited about the impact and transformative work being accomplished with \$6.3M through Thrive, ReFrame, Resonate, Calvin and the Canadian Ministry Office! From spreading the gospel to uplifting church communities, empowering the marginalized, supporting missions, and

fostering spiritual growth, the reach and influence of such a substantial investment are boundless. Your church and your classis, are an integral part of this amazing work we're cheering for! Every single dollar you commit to our shared ministries brings these remarkable advancements in God's kingdom to life. It's your generosity and commitment in action!

EMPOWERING YOUR ADVANCEMENT JOURNEY

We're all about supporting and empowering your church as you steward God's resources. Being part of our CRC family comes with some incredible perks that you don't want to miss out on! We've got a whole bunch of denominational services, resources, and networks just waiting for you to tap into. Check out just a taste of what we have available for you:

- **Access Grant Opportunities:** If your church is undertaking something remarkable and requires additional funding, our advancement team can provide guidance on grant applications and help your church prospect partners.
- **Comprehensive Insurance Solutions:** Our denomination has worked tirelessly to provide robust insurance coverage tailored to the unique needs of our churches.
- **Giving Made Simple:** Revolutionize your church's giving experience with the Bridge App and Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). These innovative tools streamline the donation process, making it effortless for your congregants to contribute and support your church's mission.
- **Church Will Clinics:** Discover the power of offering your congregants thoughtful estate planning, ensuring that your church's vision and mission are carried forward for generations to come.

CHALLENGES TO ENGAGE

We find ourselves at a crucial juncture, where individual Canadian church contributions towards Ministry Shares have decreased slightly. Let's explore a few possible reasons:

- Your church might be going through a rough patch financially, like a rollercoaster with a few too many unexpected loops.
- There could be some unspoken tension between your church and the denomination over synodical decisions on human sexuality.
- Your church might not have emphasized the significance of tithing and Ministry Shares as a covenant relationship.
- Perhaps your church tends to focus more on local matters rather than global causes, like having a soft spot for the neighborhood ice cream truck instead of the exotic gelato from faraway lands.
- And sometimes, despite our best efforts, the offering plate simply doesn't overflow like a magical cornucopia of generosity.

It's essential to acknowledge and honor the validity of all the reasons that contribute to our current situation. Each challenge faced by our churches holds its own weight and significance. However, we cannot ignore the conundrum that lies before us. The need for Jesus is not diminishing, but rather growing at an exponential rate across North America and around the globe. As leaders in our churches, it's crucial that we adopt a growth mindset, a mindset that strategically embraces the expanding needs and opportunities for spreading God's love.

Do you believe in the CRCNA's ability to rise to this challenge? We possess a powerful system that is already in place: Ministry Shares. Now is the time to reignite the flame of excitement within our hearts and congregations. Let us remind ourselves of the profound impact we can have when we unite in purpose and commit to supporting Ministry Shares.

I am delighted to extend a warm invitation to each of you to scan the QR Code and schedule a one-on-one Zoom call with me. In the coming 12 months, I will be reaching out personally to each and every Canadian church. My goal is to gain a deeper understanding of your local church, its vision, needs, and opportunities to share God's resources strategically.

Using the QR code, you can take the initiative to book this meeting in advance and get a head start on our productive conversation. I genuinely look forward to connecting with each of your churches and exploring ways to advance God's Kingdom together.

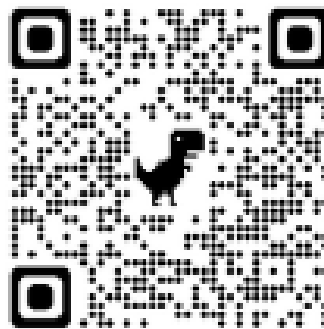
DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARE Fiscal July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 Financials are based on the funds received as of June 30, 2023 Number of churches includes both emerging and organized			
Classis	Total Given	# of churches who gave/ total # of churches	Number of gifts
Classis Alberta North	\$883,055	24/31	547
Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan	\$458,841	16/18	196
Classis B.C. North-West	\$222,420	16/19	155
Classis B.C. South-East	\$548,144	19/25	203
Classis Eastern Canada	\$441,200	19/19	361
Classis Hamilton	\$522,630	15/16	231
Classis Huron	\$835,417	20/22	393
Classis Lake Superior	\$132,488	7/8	87
Classis Niagara	\$620,937	12/14	366
Classis Ontario Southwest	\$624,076	23/28	435
Classis Quinte	\$553,123	17/20	320
Classis Toronto	\$502,697	20/22	356
Total	\$6,345,028	208/242	2650

Warmly in Christ,

Roshani Morton

Director of Advancement (Canada)

Email: rmorton@crcna.org





CRC Ministry Shares: Questions for Conversation

1. **How does your church handle denominational ministry shares? Are they:**
 - Integrated into your annual church budget?
 - Managed separately as a dedicated budget item?
 - Left as a voluntary contribution for members?
 - Or do you have another approach?

2. **Within your church budget, what emphasis do you place on denominational ministry shares compared to other priorities like local expenses (salaries, building maintenance, etc.) and classis ministry share? Do you highlight denominational ministry share through:**
 - Utilizing literature provided by the ministries?
 - Incorporating ministry-related videos?
 - Involving our deacons in promoting denominational causes?
 - Or do you employ another method?

3. **How did your church determine its pledge for the upcoming year? Approaches include:**
 - Continuing with last year's pledge while adjusting for inflation (e.g., a 5% increase)?
 - Allocating a percentage of your total budget to ministry shares (e.g. tithing—10%)?
 - Implementing a flat-rate per person (e.g., \$350 per person)?
 - Or did you adopt a different strategy?

4. **Has your church experienced a significant change in its pledge compared to the previous year? If so, could you provide insights into the reasons behind this change, which may include factors such as:**
 - A decrease in the number of members or attendees?
 - New ministry commitments within our congregation and community?
 - Dissatisfaction with CRC ministries?
 - Responding to local emergencies?
 - Or other factors that contributed to this change

5. **The CRC office has hired a new Canadian Director of Advancement (Roshani Morton) to lead initiatives related to the ministry share program, church and donor engagement, grants, planned giving, and more. The new Director would like to know:**
 - What do you like most about Ministry Shares?
 - What do you like the least?
 - What would you change if you were the Canadian Director of Advancement?

Classis BCSE Support for The King's University

The Council of Cornerstone CRC of Chilliwack overtures Classis BCSE to take appropriate action to help restore Classis BCSE's support of The King's University (TKU) to levels equal to or greater than those in the 2021/2022 Ministry Year (\$175,569.50)¹ by a combination of raising Classical Ministry Shares and strongly encouraging congregations to make giving to TKU a priority.

Grounds:

1. As per *The King's University Report to Classis British Columbia South-East of the Christian Reformed Church: January 2023* levels of support from Classis BCSE for TKU have fallen sharply since the 2021/22 Ministry year due to area universities and educational institutions being taken out of the Denominational Ministry Share formula.
2. Our Classis, indeed our entire denomination, has a long and strong history of birthing and supporting post-secondary liberal arts institutions in the reformed tradition. Moreover, we deeply believe that our world needs more thoroughly-Christian education, and educational institutions of this kind, not less.
3. We believe TKU continues to play an important role in "inspir[ing] and equip[ping] [students] to bring renewal and reconciliation to every walk of life as followers of Jesus Christ, the Servant-King,"² and is therefore worthy of continued support by Classis BCSE.
4. Clearly leaving support for TKU up to individual member churches of Classis BCSE has resulted in a significant drop in funding for TKU from pre-2021/22 levels.
5. By overturing Classis BCSE to meet TKU's need through a combination of Classical Ministry Shares and individual church giving (offerings or line items in church budgets), we ensure that KU is provided with a minimum level of support, while also raising awareness and responsibility in member churches.
6. In 2005 The CRCNA's Synod adopted a report on Christian education that recommends that churches, "diligently encourage . . . [their] members . . . to establish and maintain . . . good Christian schools in which the biblical, Reformed vision of Christ's lordship over all creation is clearly taught."³ We believe this mandate must extend to Christian University Education. Therefore, this means financial support of area Christian Universities with whom our denomination has long partnered, like TKU.

¹ This figure comes from *The King's University Report to Classis British Columbia South-East of the Christian Reformed Church: January 2023*.

² KU's Mission Statement - <https://www.kingsu.ca/about-us/about-kings/faith-commitment>

³ *Acts of Synod 2005*, pp. 765-75

Classis Report - Fall 2023

Climate and Conflict affect our work! July saw the hottest days recorded globally, and it followed the hottest June ever recorded. UN experts predict further temperature records to be broken over the course of the year. This severe weather will likely lead to increased displacement and needs around the world – including more weather-related disasters in the United States. The work of World Renew is essential! Despite these challenges, we continue to have hope and make a profound impact as we work with partners to respond. Thank you for your continued support!!

UKRAINE



World Renew has been continuing to support the work of partners by providing emergency relief to the numerous displaced people in Ukraine and the surrounding countries. This includes shelter reconstruction, emergency food and medical relief, cash transfers, and winterization support. Two staff members visited Ukraine this summer.

Thanks to our amazing constituents World Renew has been able to raise nearly \$3.4 million which has already reached over 585,000 participants in response to the crisis in Ukraine. Over 8,000 participants received cash transfers across multiple projects to promote the local economy amidst the conflict through purchasing from local vendors.

With the destruction of hundreds of thousands of homes across Ukraine, many people require rebuilt or repaired homes. World Renew is collaborating with partners, Integra and ZOA, to provide the most vulnerable households with access to safe housing. This includes winterizing homes, repairing 390 homes, and protecting 1,000 returnees from the destruction of homes and city infrastructures of Chernihiv Oblast with safe emergency shelter interventions helping to reduce the risk of disease and death.

Prayer Request: Russia has recently back out of the Black Sea Grain Deal, a deal that the UN and Türkiye approved allowing safe passage of food transportation to be exported from Ukraine. Many more will go hungry, and prices of food will rise. Please pray for guidance and grace for the leaders involved in the Black Sea Grain Deal.



BANGLADESH

Through our partner SATHI, we are responding to the needs of 175 households affected by Cyclone Mocha with shelter and latrine reconstruction. We are in the third year of a food security program that addresses the needs of 9,331 host community members who have been affected by the influx of Rohingya refugees. We are in the process of extending this project and starting another food security and livelihoods project with partner Faith in Action.

SYRIA



Despite the long-term presence and response, the needs of Syrians have only grown – with the recent earthquake and economic crisis only further magnifying the conflict-related needs. Through local church partners we continue to address the needs of displaced people, providing food, hygiene, and winterization support to over 43,200 highly vulnerable, crisis-affected individuals. The partners reported, “Their voices overflowed with gratitude for the support they received.” With the incredible generosity of World Renew’s supporters, we have been able to commit over \$1.5 million USD to the response.

WEST AFRICA

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has voted to conclude its peacekeeping mission in **Mali** following a request from the military government to withdraw the troops. Despite the political and diplomatic tension between the current military transitional authorities and the UNSC, the Malian government and humanitarian organizations are urging for heightened international support to address the escalating crisis.

Prayer Request: We are closely monitoring and praying for the instability and recent coup in **Niger**. All staff are safe. We pray for peaceful resolution that is best for the people of Niger.

NORTH AMERICA: Disaster Response

Over the summer DRS has worked on Needs Assessments in multiple Florida counties and hosted groups in Florida, Kentucky, West Virginia, Detroit, Michigan, and North Carolina. World Renew is closely monitoring the situation in Hawaii. We are holding the communities affected in prayer and discernment but are not launching a fundraising effort at this time. World Renew will continue to watch closely, connect with local partners, and join Fema related updates and discern how or when we will move forward.

Fall Volunteer Opportunities: Managed Reconstruction Sites: Contact Diana, 616-224-0701.

- Whatcom County, Washington, Boutte, Louisiana, Sarasota, FL

Group Trips: Contact Chris at cgibson@worldrenew.net.

- Southwest Florida & Daytona, Florida, Rolling Fork, Mississippi, Detroit, Michigan, Madisonville, Kentucky, Paradise, California, New Bern, North Carolina, Whatcom County, Washington

Refugee Sponsorship and Resettlement Program (RSRP) reports summer 2023 saw 42 refugees sponsored; 63 refugees who have arrived. The RSRP team is currently working with 69 CRCs and 52 churches from other denominations (waiting for refugees to arrive, currently resettling newcomers, currently working on refugee sponsorship applications to be submitted in 2023; these activities may extend over several years); 375 refugees who have applications submitted with the RSRP and who are waiting to arrive.

Global Engagement Learning Opportunities

Join a Look, Listen and Learn Trip: globalvolunteers@worldrenew.net

October 28 – November 6 – Malawi and Zambia – Look, Listen and Learn

April 22-27 – Lebanon. – Look, Listen and Learn

November 2024 – Cambodia – Look, Listen and Learn

July 2024 – Guatemala “Equipped to Educate” Educators Learning Tour

Fall Offerings: November 5 – World Hunger Sunday

For general information contact - Iona Buisman (ibuisman@worldrenew.ca)
Church and Community Engagement Canada

August, 2023

Fall Classis Report

Greetings to our partners in ministry!

Who is Diaconal Ministries Canada?

Believe it or not, [our roots](#) go back to the 1950s! From the Maritimes to British Columbia, deacons formed local and regional “conferences” and met to share experiences and resources, develop workshops and training events, and find ways to assist each other and their congregations. In these early years, World Renew (CRWRC at this time) worked closely with diaconates on both sides of the border.



Over the years, the number of Diaconal Conferences expanded and contracted as new ones formed, some merged and others folded. Then in 1998, at a Classis Renewal Gathering in Chicago, Canadian folks representing the various Diaconal Conferences, along with representatives from Home Missions (now Resonate Global Mission) and CRWRC, met over lunch and began dreaming about pooling their diaconal experiences, resources, and training materials into an “umbrella” organization which would oversee the training of

deacons right across Canada. Soon the napkins on that table (the only paper they had available) were filled with circles, triangles, and arrows pointing from east to west and north to south.

It was an exciting time and, after a few more years of discussions (and maybe some more napkin drawings), the boards of the existing Conferences jointly approved the formation of a new organization and **in 2001, Diaconal Ministries Canada was officially constituted!** Diaconal Ministries adopted the ministry share model that was part of an agreement that Canadian deacons made with each other in the 1960s and recommitted to in 2001. (Note: These are different from Denominational Ministry Shares and Classis Ministry Shares. Read more on our website about this:

<https://diaconalministries.com/how-were-funded/>).

What do we do?

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](#), service & [justice, benevolence](#), and [stewardship](#). Our staff includes two Regional Ministry Developers (one in Western Canada, one in Eastern) which oversee our team of Diaconal Coaches, approximately one per classis.



A few highlights from this past year...

Our online Stewardship Course has launched on the [CRCNA Learning Portal](#). Deacons have been asking for ways they can help their churches live more stewardly - so here it is! Modules cover the four "T's" of Stewardship: time, talents, treasures, and trees (God's creation) and offer a variety of practical tools and tips to implement their learning.



A new workshop called "Everyday Justice" will soon be offered on the CRCNA learning portal as a self-directed study for churches and deacons. This workshop can be facilitated in-person or online for deacon teams and groups. Contact our Justice Mobilizer, Cindy Stover, at cstover@crcna.org or Regional Ministry Developer, Rachel Vroege, at rvroege@crcna.org with your questions.

Our newly revamped **"Helping without Harming in Church Benevolence" workshop** has been run several times and deacons are loving it! Our Regional Ministry Developers and Diaconal Coaches are trained and ready

to lead this and other workshops, both in-person and online!

Did your church hold an offering for [NewGround](#) yet? NewGround Sunday was designated as **May 7, 2023**, this year! NewGround (*formerly called Operation Manna*) helps deacons and churches love their community by offering grants, coaching, and resourcing. What could YOUR church do with a NewGround partnership?

Are your deacons looking for help and support?

If your church or deacons ever have any questions or concerns or need assistance in any way, they are encouraged to reach out to us - see our staff listing on the next page. Deacons are also encouraged to 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

Encl (1)

Diaconal Ministries' current Staff, Board, and Diaconal Coaches

Staff:

Ron Vanden Brink, *National Director*; rvandenbrink@crcna.org

Chris Tollins, *Office Assistant*; ctollins@crcna.org

Bea Vlieg, *Financial Assistant*; bvlieg@crcna.org

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

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

Karla Winham, *NewGround Coordinator*; kwinham@crcna.org

Kathrin Veenstra, *Fundraising Coordinator*; kveenstra@crcna.org

Erin Knight, *Communications Coordinator*; eknight@crcna.org

Board Members & Diaconal Coaches (by Classis):

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

CTS Mission Statement

As a learning community in the Reformed Christian tradition that forms church leaders who cultivate communities of disciples of Jesus Christ, Calvin Theological Seminary exists to serve the Christian Reformed Church in North America and wider constituencies by preparing individuals for biblically faithful and contextually effective ministry of the Word and by offering Reformed theological scholarship and counsel.

Fall 2023 Ministry Highlights

Since 1876, Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) has worked on your behalf to faithfully prepare leaders who can nurture disciples and serve the church. Calvin Seminary is a vital and hospitable learning community in the Reformed Christian tradition. Our desire is not just to train pastors but also to form church leaders who can cultivate communities of disciples for Jesus Christ.

- Dr. Gabriela Tijerina-Pike has been affirmed by Synod 2023 as the new Director of Latino Ministries (DLM). Because of her education and training, she will also serve as an Associate Professor of New Testament. The Latino Ministry Program 2.0 is an online Spanish-language certificate program that can lead to a Master of Arts in Leadership Formation program while embodying values of hospitality, excellence and accessibility. If you have a person or church that wants to know more, please contact Dr. Tijerina-Pike at gabriela@calvinseminary.edu.
- Dr. Daniel (Danny) Daley was also affirmed to his calling to CTS by Synod 2023. He takes up service as Assistant Professor of New Testament. His areas of recent interest and writing are in the areas of the Gospel of Matthew, the Beatitudes and Discipleship. Individuals and churches are invited to get to know Dr. Daley and his email address is ddal231@calvinseminary.edu.
- In May of 2023, the CTS Board of Trustees conducted a tenure interview with Dr. Matthew (Matt) Tuininga (Associate Professor of Christian Ethics and the History of Christianity). We are glad to announce that Dr. Tuininga sustained that interview and we are glad for his ongoing work as a fully-tenured professor at Calvin Theological Seminary.
- In May, the Board approved the following Board Officer and Executive Committee positions – Mr. Dave Morren (Board Chair), Rev. Scott Greenway (Board Vice Chair), Ms. Susan Keesen (Board Secretary), Dr. Charles Veenstra (Chair of Academic Affairs Committee), Mr. Hessel Kielstra (Chair of Development and Finance), and Rev. Robert Drenten (Chair of Student Affairs Committee).
- The Board did approve the beginning of a faculty search in the area of Theology as we were advised of the upcoming retirement (in two years) of Dr. Mary VandenBerg. If you have persons you wish to nominate, please contact Ms. Karen DeYoung who serves as the CTS Director of Human Resources. She can be reached at kdyoung@calvinseminary.edu.
- Calvin Theological Seminary's new Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MCMHC) is launching this fall (2023). The professional and theologically grounded degree offers coursework in

CTS Mission Statement

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religious and theological foundations, clinical counseling, and clinical practice. Graduates from the program might consider using their knowledge and gifts serving as a clinical mental health therapist, a clinical mental health counselor, an addiction counselor, a behavior counselor, or in other mental health roles. The program director for this program is Dr. Danjuma Gibson. He provided the following summary of this program - The goal is “to train students who will be competent and skilled in the ethical integration of Christian faith, spirituality, and counseling in a way that promotes healing and shalom in the lives of individuals and communities.” If you would like to know more about this program, you can contact Dr. Gibson at dgg085@calvinseminary.edu.

- For the upcoming academic year, Dr. Yudha Thianto (Professor of the History of Christianity) was placed in the position of Chief Academic Officer. He will serve in a distributed leadership structure for the Academic Office that seeks to help students make even better connections with professors and their program directors. Many of you may know Dr. Thianto’s recent book [An Explorer’s Guide to John Calvin](#).
- Calvin Seminary received a renewed grant from the Grace & Mercy Foundation to continue the Public Reading of Scripture (PRS) series for students, faculty and staff. The Academic Office opened a half-hour in the schedule on Tuesdays at noon. From noon-12:30pm on Tuesdays the Seminary community gathers to hear readings from Genesis, Matthew, and the Psalms, and then enjoy a meal together. This has been well attended (35-50 each time) and well received. These events (and others for students such as Town Halls and Chapels) are live streamed so that distance students and others can participate. This year, we will follow a plan presented by the Institute for Bible Reading to work through Luke/Acts in this coming year. The goal of this spiritual practice is to:
 - Build community among students, faculty, and staff,
 - Create space for spiritual formation of students, staff, and faculty,
 - Provide experience with PRS for students who can then implement PRS in congregations, ministries, and non-profit organizations, and
 - Provide experience, training, and coaching for student leaders on the leadership team
- The Center for Excellence in Preaching (CEP), led by Director Scott Hoezee, received an additional grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to bring the total near to \$1.5 million for the Compelling Preaching Initiative. The Lilly Endowment grant will provide CEP with resources to explore how to “tune-up tried and true and to build new skills sets” in preaching and to develop resources for pastors to help them surmount communication challenges that have arisen as a result of the pandemic. The additional grant will help support our ministry in the Latino/a ministry for resources in Spanish.

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- During the Fall 2023 semester, CTS will launch a competency based education (CBTE) program called Empower. The Empower program offers students the opportunity to earn a certificate or Master of Arts in Christian Leadership degree by demonstrating competence in program outcomes. This approach is designed to make ministry training more collaborative, flexible, integrated, accessible, and integrated. During our pilot phase, enrollment is initially limited to students participating through contextualized partnerships with Grand Valley State University Campus Ministry (Grand Rapids, MI) and Sunlight Community Church (Port St. Lucie, FL). Students work with a CTS faculty mentor and two partner mentors to complete learning experiences that develop competence - head, hands, and heart - for ministry. Our partners provide contextualized learning experiences, localized mentoring, and regular and substantive student support. If interested in learning more about CBTE as well as our new Life-Long Learning initiative, please contact Dr. Aaron Einfeld at ame084@calvinseminary.edu.
- Finally, we want to make sure you are aware of our appreciation for ongoing support through our denominational ministry shares. We know that the foundation of support that comes from the CRCNA is key. At the same time, we would like you to prayerfully consider how churches and individuals can step into an increasing gap due to the decline of ministry shares. For example, for FYE 2023, ministry shares were to come in at \$1.73 million (US) and for FYE 2024, ministry shares we were asked to plan for is \$1.39 million (US) which is a gap of \$340,000. Thank you for your consideration!

We invite your prayers for the Board, faculty, staff and students and thank you for your ministry of prayer, support and encouragement! We are glad that we are C.T.S. – Called To Serve!



Report to Classis British Columbia South-East of the Christian Reformed Church Fall 2023

Greetings from The King's University! We are looking forward to the upcoming 2023-2024 academic year and are thankful for the increase we are seeing in the size of our incoming student cohort compared to last year. We wrestled with the impact of lower enrolment numbers last year with a relatively small first-year intake, but it appears that this will turn around this year – a provision for which we are deeply grateful.

This fall we are excited to publicly launch the university's new strategic plan. Our *Handcrafted* plan builds on a legacy of delivering exceptional Christian education at an individual scale. Through launching programs, developing capital projects, expanding our reach, and resourcing our experts, this plan positions the university for continued growth and new ways of bringing hope to our world. As part of the plan, we already have two new program proposals submitted to the government for approval and have other program ideas in the development stage. This program growth will be coupled with a significant expansion of our facilities which is slated to begin in 2025. The full plan with additional details will be released in the coming weeks.

King's continues to refine the way that we serve and support our students so that they are able to thrive in their classes, labs, and assignments. Over the last several months, we have restructured the Centre for Teaching & Learning team and welcomed three new Learning Strategists. These individuals will provide direct and specialized student support ranging from help with writing, to international student programming, to engaging with Indigenous pedagogies.

We have lined up another year of public lectures to be hosted on-campus over this academic year. *Quandaries* will explore some of the most important questions of our time and the myriad of ways God is bringing renewal to our world. During this year's theme of "Collective Moral Conversations," our speakers will talk about how our collective goods relate to personal interests and how we navigate multiple, at times competing, moral priorities. We'll take seriously the idea that there are moral conversations and tough dialogues that need to be engaged with and offer guidelines for how to have these conversations well. These lectures will take place at King's on the first Tuesday evening of every month. They will also be available on Apple Podcasts and Spotify. More information can be found at www.kingsu.ca/quandaries.

King's recently launched a new certificate through King's Faculty of Education. The Leadership Quality Standard certificate (LQS) is intended for educators who wish to explore a call to leadership by moving into principal or vice-principal roles. The two three-credit courses required for the certificate are available to take online, making it easier for working teachers to access the program. Participants will learn how to lead sustainably and according to how students and school personnel might flourish.

Students at King's have new opportunities for Indigenous studies under Indigenous professors, thanks to a partnership with the North American Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies. "Introduction to Indigenous Studies" and "Colonization and De-Colonization," were two new virtual additions to King's course offerings last fall, with further opportunities on the horizon. Courses explore Indigenous cultures, peoples, and issues ranging from first origins in North America to present time. Topics include impacts of colonization, contemporary theories about colonization and decolonization, and how these realities intersect with Christian theology.

Despite the changes to the structure of Ministry Shares over the last few years, we are very grateful for the commitment of the churches in Classis BC South-East who continue to provide support for Christian university education at King's. Your financial investment is key in our efforts to keep a King's education an affordable option for anyone who is seeking a university degree, grounded in our Christian faith. Thank you for your continued partnership.

In His service,

Melanie Humphreys, PhD
President



Fall Classis Report 2023

August 4, 2023

Greetings from Redeemer University!

We are ramping up for the 2023-2024 academic year, and are so excited to once again welcome more than 300 new students to campus. This year's theme is "Learning in Christ," based on Colossians 2:6,7. We pray God will work powerfully in the lives of students through every class, chapel, conversation and experience so that they grow in Him!

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Peter Neumann as vice president, academic. Dr. Neumann brings a wealth of experience to the position with over 14 years in academic leadership. He has a track record of building collaborative teams, empowering people and engaging in visionary and relational leadership. I am thankful that God has guided him to us during a time when we must strengthen, innovate and further develop the university's programs and degrees, and I am confident he will successfully lead Redeemer's Reformed educational vision for learning and scholarship into its next chapter.

Like many organizations in the post-pandemic context, Redeemer has experienced higher than usual employee turnover. We continually praise God for the amazing and committed faculty and staff he continues to provide to serve Redeemer's mission! I specifically want to highlight the new role of the Faculty Chaplain. Rev. Dr. Bill DeJong '93 will be joining Redeemer on August 21 in this position. We are thankful that God has led him to this role, created to foster spiritual formation among faculty and staff as we desire to live more fully into the fruits of the Spirit, enhancing a culture of care and respectful engagement with one another. Rev. Dr. DeJong is currently a local pastor at Blessings Christian Church in Hamilton, and has been teaching part-time at Redeemer for several years.

As part of the *Learn. Forward.* strategic plan, many campus renewal projects are underway. This summer, we are renovating the Dining Halls and opening them up onto the Commons in Founder's Hall. This will allow for a more communal and relational space for eating meals and for spending non-class hours. The main reception area and student engagement spaces behind reception, are also undergoing renovations, with the goal of better serving guests, prospective

students and current students. The Career Centre and Innovation Centre also moved into their new office spaces in the Charis Live and Learn Centre.

We are also excited about the numerous events that will be taking place on campus this fall. In addition to regularly cheering on the Redeemer Royals varsity teams, we will be hosting a variety of student-centered, academic, and institutional events. The Career Centre is hosting the first annual Community Engagement and Volunteer Fair on September 8, where local organizations will be able to talk to students about volunteer, paid or future internship opportunities during the academic year and beyond. Alumni Week is happening the last week of September, where we will be celebrating the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award winner, Brian Dijkema '04 on September 26, and hosting a number of Royals vs. Alumni Homecoming Games, to name a few. The Wolters Centre is hosting a Social Sciences lecture on November 1, featuring Dr. Jordan Ballor, Director of Research at the Center for Religion, Culture & Democracy. Lastly, we are very excited to announce the Rend Collective Concert on November 3, and we hope your church members can join us that evening.

Redeemer University is thankful for the ongoing prayers, support and financial generosity. Students from the CRC churches represent the largest denominational group on campus and we remain committed to university education from a Reformed Christian perspective. Why? So that the next generation of Christian leaders are prepared to share the hope and love of Jesus wherever he calls them to live and serve! Thank you for your critical support of this Kingdom mission!

In Christ,

David Zietsma, PhD
President



Disability Concerns: A Thrive Ministry of the CRC

To Classis B.C. South-East:

- A) Your region doesn't currently have someone serving as a Regional Advocate. I'm wondering if there's anyone at your church who is a self-starter and connects with people easily who would consider this volunteer role? I'm hoping they might also step up to serve your congregation as a Church Advocate. One way to foster interest in these roles is to have a book club on Amy Kenny's book, *My Body is Not a Prayer Request*. We can send you up to 10 free books if those who read it commit to meeting at least once to talk about the book.

The Regional Advocate role has 3 main parts:

- 1) Train and learn so you gain expertise
- 2) Contact churches in your region who do not have an advocate and work with them encouraging them to find one
- 3) Connect with Church Advocates in your region to support them, encourage them, and help them make progress in their congregation.

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- B) Registration is open for our free virtual training. Would you please share this with your pastors, worship leaders, and other leaders? All in your church are welcome! This year's theme is: Nurturing Belonging: Hospitality, Disability and Theology and will be on October 11.

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Again, thank you so much for your financial support of Disability Concerns over the years. It really makes a difference and we're grateful!

Peace,
Lindsay

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Lindsay Wieland Capel, LMSW
Content Manager - Disability
crcna.org/disability

Historical Committee of the CRCNA
July 31, 2023

Classical Contact Persons
Historical Committee and Heritage Hall

Dear Contact Persons:

This communication is being sent to you to inform you of several organizational changes and to solicit your help.

Since the passing of Robert Bolt as the classes' contact person with the denominational archives, the committee and William Katerberg, the curator of Heritage Hall, have determined that it will be more efficient if classical and congregational minutes and other materials are sent directly to the Heritage Hall. The staff and curator also will continue the work of annually compiling the lists of congregational and ministerial anniversaries printed in the Historical Committee's annual report to synod. Here is contact and mailing information for Heritage Hall:

- Mail: Heritage Hall, Calvin University, 3201 Burton Street SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546-4402. For important documents, please use a trackable mailing option.
- General email: crcarchives@calvin.edu – 616-526-6313
- William Katerberg (curator): will.katerberg@calvin.edu – 616-526-6916
- Website: <https://library.calvin.edu/hh>

Stated clerks of classes have functionally been the contact persons with the archives in virtually every case. We herewith formally recognize them as such. However, in a half dozen cases we will continue to also involve non-clerks who have so functioned in the past and have consented to continue doing so as collaborators. We thank all who have worked with Professor Bolt in the past on archiving materials.

A final significant organizational change is that synod has approved expanding the Historical Committee and clarifying its work as a standing committee of synod; these changes appear in the two most recent acts of synod.

This letter also solicits your help in continuing to remind and urge congregations in your classis to submit their official records to be copied and archived at Heritage Hall; to inform your churches and their members of the resources available for their use via Heritage Hall (cf. its website); and to encourage Christian Reformed people and denominationally related organizations in your area to submit materials for archiving that contribute to a deeper understanding of congregational and denominational life. For more information about the kinds of material collected by the archives from congregations, please contact William Katerberg.

The committee is especially interested in gathering electronic copies of D.Min. theses and other scholarly research; please solicit information on such items and inform us of whom to contact regarding them.

Thank you for your valued involvement in the work of identifying, archiving, and utilizing important Heritage Hall materials for better understanding and appreciating the body of Christ known as Christian Reformed.

Sincerely, in Christ,

James A. De Jong
Secretary