*Overture to Classis Eastern Canada*

Church Order Article 75, Classis Ministry Plan

Background:

At the October 2019 Classis meeting, delegates to the Canadian National Gathering made a presentation during the Friday evening session. One of the suggestions or recommendations that came out of the Gathering was the importance of each Classis developing a Classis Ministry Plan.

In the Church Order of the CRCNA, Article 75a states: “The classes shall implement a ministry plan that advances evangelistic and diaconal witness to Christ and his kingdom in its specific region and, when necessary, assist those churches needing support to fulfill their mission.”

Reflecting on the October 2019 agenda and the contents of the meeting, it could be noted that there were a lot of reports from different ministries. While it is good to know what is going on, the extensive number of reports could give the impression of looking back at what has been happening, with little conversation taking place about a future plan for ministry.

While the ministries were required to present a 3 to 5 year plan along with their financial requests, there was no discussion on the floor of Classis about those individual plans and how they relate to a Classis Ministry Plan. Much of that connection may have been assumed, but it did not inform the discussion of Classis. The end result is that Classis listened to a number of individual ministry reports without a discussion about advancing our evangelistic and diaconal witness.

Therefore, Bethel Christian Reformed Church, Brockville overtures Classis Eastern Canada to take the steps needed to establish a Classis Ministry Plan.

Grounds:

1. This would follow the Article 75 mandate of the CRC Church Order, which states that Classis “shall implement a Ministry Plan that advances evangelistic and diaconal witness to Christ."

2. A defined Ministry Plan will give greater clarification to the place and purpose of the ministries of Classis.

3. A Ministry Plan that places a focus on advancing evangelistic and diaconal witness will provide more opportunity for delegates to engage in the ongoing ministry of Classis, rather than simply listen to reports

4. A Classis Ministry Plan can serve to guide and assist churches to prepare a local Church Ministry Plan that advances the evangelistic and diaconal  ministry to Christ in its local area.