

CLASSIS HURON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN NORTH  
AMERICA

**Minutes of January 9, 2008 – 9:00 am**  
At Bethel CRC - Listowel

**OUR PURPOSE IS:**

To support, equip and encourage our churches in the ministries  
As God has called us

**OUR VISION IS:**

The churches of Classis Huron will foster deeper relationships with the Lord and each other through community and accountability as we support, encourage and equip one another to reach the lost, gather those made alive in Jesus Christ and disciple all his people, through the ministries of our individual churches and the joint ministries of Classis.

**1) Officers for the Day were**

- a) Chair: Rev. Darren Roorda
- b) Vice chair: Rev. Jack Vande Hoef
- c) Stated Clerk: Rev. Ed Den Haan

**2) Constituting of Classis**

Mr. Bill Loss, Listowel Elder, called Classis to order

**a) Devotions:**

Bill Loss, elder in Listowel welcomed us and led us in devotions:

- 1) Reading from Isaiah and asking us to sing # 453 – Let All Things Now Living.
- 2) He spoke words of encouragement for ministry in today's world. He referred to Campus Ministry as a model for doing so.
- 3) He asked us to sing # 508 Jesus With Your Church Abide
- 4) Concluding with prayer

**b) Credentials Committee report**

- 1) All congregations were reported present except the Journey. Rev. Van Giessen was away celebrating his father's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- 2) The Committee reported attendance as follows::

<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Pastor's or Elder's Name</b>	<b>Elder's Name</b>	<b>Deacons</b>
Acton	Ray Vande Kooij	Peter Hesselink	
Blyth	John Kuperus	Luke Bouman	Brian Wiersma
Cambridge Maranatha	Tony Salverda	Janette Bos	Rynie Bakelaar
Clinton	Ron Luchies	Clarence Dekens	Gerald Van Wyk
Collingwood	Chris Pool	Gerry Grootendorst	Adam Cherry
Drayton	John Vander Burgh	Larry Brouwer	Jane Geerlinks
Exeter	Harry Frielink	Clifford Knip	Mark Den Hollander
Goderich	Stephen Tamming	Gilbert Vanden Heuvel	Nick Heykoop
Guelph Campus	Jamie Vander Berg		
Guelph First	Jack Vande Hoef	Keith Knight	Bill Terpstra
Guelph New Life	Jack Tacoma	Gary Van Arragon	
Journey			
Kincardine	Allard Eisen	Stuart Vandervaart	Ruth Dorey
Kitchener	Darren Roorda	Hylke Faber	
Listowel	Cor Reinink	Bill Los	Robert Lee
Lucknow	Ken De Boer	Richard Askes	Eric Exel
Maitland	Peter Janssens	Jack Wilkes	Doug Kuyvenhoven
Orangeville	Roger Gelwicks	Carl Van Harten	Barb Buikema
Owen Sound	George Holthof	John Van Dorp	Greg Longheed
Palmerston	Wiebe Van Zwol	Kevin Walker	
River City	Darrell Bierman		
Stratford	Bill Hoogland	W. De Weerd	
Vanastra	Siemen Speelman	Alf Dykstra	Audrey Roozeboom
Waterloo	Vicki Cok	Pieter Looyenga	

Waterloo Campus	Graham Morbey		
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Delegates attending Classis for the first time signed the form of subscription.

**c) Classis constituted**

- 1) Classis was declared constituted.
- 2) The Executive was seated...

**d) Welcome**

- 1) Rev. Darren Roorda assumes the chair and offers introductory comments about our task. He mentions Rita Klein-Geltink's exam and the discussion of Campus Ministry for this afternoon as important in the life of classis.
- 2) Campus Ministers Revs. Graham Morbey and Jamie Vander Burg were welcomed
- 3) Church Plant Minister Rev. Darrell Bierman was welcomed.
- 3) The Synodical Deputies, Revs. Henry Katerberg, Dirk Miedema and Jack Kerkhof were welcomed as they arrived.

**3) Devotions for the Day were assigned as follows**

- 1) Opening - Listowel
- 2) Pre-lunch - River City
- 3) Post –lunch - Guelph Campus
- 4) Pre-supper – Acton
- 5) Post-supper - Wingham
- 6) Closing – Chair

**4) Committee Appointments were assigned as follows**

- 1) Credentials Committee – Orangeville and Collingwood
- 2) Balloting Committee – Goderich and Guests
- 3) Overtures Pre-advice Committee – Maitland and Cambridge

Note: The first church listed reports to Classis on behalf of the Committee and submits a written report to the Stated Clerk

**5) Interim Committee Report**

Rev. Jack Vande Hoef reported and the committee's work was approved.

**6) Stated Clerk Report**

- 1) Rev. Ed Den Haan reported and his work was approved
- 3) The chair thanked Rev. Ed Den Haan for his work of the past three years and prayed for God's blessing on the work and person of Rev. Den Haan.
- 4) A revised Pulpit Supply: Schedule beginning January 13, 2008 was received as information.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lucknow</b>	<b>Kincardine</b>	<b>New Life Guelph</b>	<b>Palmerston</b>
Jan. 13, 08	Vanderstoep	Van de Hoef	Roorda	Kuperus
27	Speelman	Freilink	De Vries	Hoogland
Feb. 10	Tamming	Gelwicks		Holthof
24	Luchies	Holthof	Cok	Gelwicks
March 9	Van de Hoef	Hoogland		Freilink
30	Vander Kooij	Vander Burgh	Roorda	De Vries
April 13	Vanderstoep	Kuperus	Janssens	Cok
27	Pool	Van de Hoef		Speelman
May 11	Roorda	Speelman		Vander Kooij
25	Vander Burgh	Tamming		Janssens

## **7) Rita Klein-Geltink's Exam**

### ***i) Sermon Report***

- 1) Rev. Ron Luchies reported on his and Rev. George Holthof's sermon reviews
- 2) Rita's sermon content and delivery was well done.
- 3) He made a motion to continue the examination, it was seconded and adopted.
- 4) The Synodical deputies concurred in this decision of Classis.

### ***ii) Practica examination***

Rev. Vicki Cok interviewed Rita on the practice of ministry.

## **We recessed for refreshments**

### ***iii) Biblical Theology Exam***

Rev. Ray Vander Kooij interviews Rita Klein-Geltink in Bible and Theology. Following the interview and discussion from the floor Rev Vander Kooij leads Classis in prayer for the decision on Rita's exam.

### ***iv) Executive Session***

- 1) A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve Rita for ministry of the Word in the CRC.
- 2) The Synodical Deputies concurred in this decision of Classis.

### ***v) Recognition and Blessing of Rita Klein-Geltink's Candidacy***

- 1) The Chairman congratulated Rita on passing the examination. Also, he congratulated the Lucknow CRC on its new life with a minister and wished it God's blessing.

- 2) All ordained church officers present were invited to gather around Rita and join in laying-on of hands. Rev. Jack Quartel then prayed for Rita from Scripture for God's blessing on her and her ministry.
- 3) Motion was made, seconded and adopted to destroy the ballots regarding the vote on Rita's examination.

#### **8) Home Mission Committee Report**

Marguerite Ridder's report on Classis Home Missions was received as information

#### **9) *George Holthof reported the Youth Ministry of Classis***

- 1) Trillium League activities were reported and accepted as information.
- 2) The Youth Ministry Staffing Study proposal as presented in our agenda item 16.02 was adopted.

#### **10) Ministry Share Development**

Rev. Holthof reported on behalf of the Owen Sound congregation on its development of meeting ministry shares. He challenged Classis to develop practical steps and intentions to improve meeting ministry share goals.

#### **11) Report on Safe Church**

Rev. Stephen Tamming reported on Classis' Safe Church program.

- 1) A Safe Church conference for Classis Huron will be held on March 1, 2008 at the Waterloo CRC. Our Insurance agent will speak on insurance needs.
- 2) Classis does not yet have liability insurance for abuse. Several of our churches still have not reported their insurance. This lack keeps us all at risk.

#### **12) OACS report**

Clarence Louter spoke words of appreciation for the support of OACS by the churches of Classis.

#### **13) Kincardine Oversight Committee**

Rev. Ron Fisher reported on the Oversight Committee's work with Kincardine and Rev. Tenyenhuis.

- 1) A question arose about the Church Order propriety of the remuneration of Rev. Tenyenhuis.
- 2) A committee was appointed to review this matter and report back to Classis. The committee was composed of: Revs. Bill Hoogland, Stephen Tamming, Ron Fisher, Ed Den Haan and elder Allard Eisen.
- 3) Rev. Stephen Tamming reported orally on behalf of the committee that it found the remuneration arrangements with Rev. Tenyenhuis improper and recommended to Classis that they be corrected as soon as possible.
- 4) Classis moved and adopted the following motion:

- 5) That the Oversight Committee be mandated to clarify and properly align with our Church Order the payment policy made with Rev. Tenyenhuis and report to our Interim Committee as soon as possible.

Grounds

- i) The current agreement is misdefined.
- ii) Compassion and Church Order require it be corrected.

**We recessed for Lunch**

**14) Jamie Vander Berg opened the afternoon session with prayer.**

**15) Report on the Board of Trustees.**

Mr. Garry Van Arragon expanded on his written report; it was received as information.

**16) Deacons returned to the meeting at 1:50**

**17) Deaconate Report**

- 1) Hilda Van Gyssel, chair of the Diaconate Conference reported
- 2) The diaconate wish to remain delegated to the meetings of Classis and will work out the relationship with CIC.

***Rob Terpstra – Operation Manna Representative Reporting:***

Matthew 25 verses 34-36 states “Come you blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you took me in, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and in prison and you visited me”.

As of right now Classis Huron has four projects going with a fifth being added this year. THE JOURNEY in Kitchener was a new project last year, which is dealing with the many immigrants that come to the Kitchener area. Solom Miranda has been hired as a Community Connections Director, and he is busy building up connections with partners in the community who deal with immigrants and refugees.

Also at this time we have two maternity homes being supported in Classis Huron. Sara’s Place in Stratford and Cara’s Hope in Cambridge provided homes for unwed young mothers and their babies, often until proper housing can be found and some of the issues facing them can be dealt with. In the last two years alone, between the two homes 40 young mothers with their children have been cared for. The sad part of this story is that about 30 calls came in looking for a place for other young moms but had to be turned away.

Two other projects being funded are classes being offered through the Youth for Christ organization. The first is in its third year of funding. This one works out of the Upper Deck youth drop in center, here in Listowel. During the past three years the director there has offered classes to young moms to give them many of the basic skills we take for granted. Cooking, finances, and child care are offered, with many mentors

helping, ladies from local churches helping the young moms as they work right along side of them. Many of the young fathers also become involved

The fifth project we hope to fund this year is a new project, also working with the Youth for Christ organization in the Wingham area. The director there hopes to follow in the footsteps of the Listowel program, and offer the same type of program there, also working with the dads as well, to help them complete their high school education, or an equivalent.

One thing I would like to ask of everyone here today. Please make the members of your congregation aware of the needs. The need is out there, in the small town of Wingham, young pregnant teens, actually have been living on the streets, eating out of dumpsters, sleeping wherever they can. As the local deacons and Operation Manna continue to work together with these worthy projects, we ask for your continued prayers and financial support. On behalf of the Operation Manna Committee, those involved with the day to day running of these causes, and the many, many people that these programs reach out to and touch, Thank You.

### **18) Discussion of Campus Ministry**

- 1) Fred Vander Sterre introduced the following panel of speakers:
  - a) Peter Schuurman as CRCNA Home Missions leader in Educational Ministry
  - b) Rudy Eikelboom as University Professor
  - c) Jamie Vander Berg as Campus Minister
  - d) Chantal Hunink as University student
  - e) Each spoke 7 – 10 minutes on their vantage point in Campus Ministry.
- 2) The panel presented positive stories on the life and impact of Campus Ministry. They indicated the ministry's impact is real and important shaping lives and our culture for Christ.
- 3) A discussion followed enhancing Classis' understanding of Campus Ministry.

### **19) Community Kitchener Overture**

The overture was presented and tabled to await the report of the Committee of Pre-advice.

#### **a) Pre-advice report**

The Pre-advice Committee recommended that Classis not accede to the Community CRC overture concerning Huron Campus Ministry at Waterloo

Grounds were:

- 1) While there can be better communication between the Waterloo Campus Ministry and Classis Huron, for example,
  - a) the job description of the new campus minister was distributed at this same meeting Classis was informed that a Calling Committee had been formed and activated in the search and calling process of a new minister.

- b) nevertheless, the Campus Ministry Committee did not act outside of its mandate, and Classis did approve the work of the Committee at the September meeting.
- 2) Given the afternoon's discussion at this meeting of Classis regarding Campus Ministry the questions stated in the overture have been adequately addressed.
- 3) The Community CRC overture asks in unclear terms to review and halt for now the work of the Waterloo Campus Ministry Committee. Due to its lack of clarity a properly focussed discussion by Classis as called for would be very difficult.
- 4) To our knowledge there is no record that Community CRC has engaged Huron Campus Ministry at Waterloo in discussion on these concerns. Such discussion ought to be held before Classis can discuss the overture.
- 5) This advice was tabled.

***b. Kitchener again presented its overture, Rev. Darren Roorda presenting***

After significant discussion the overture was tabled.

***c) The Pre-advice Committee Report was again presented.***

The Pre-advice Committee report was adopted.

**We recessed for refreshment**

**20) Credentials Committee Report on Concerns**

1. Committee Comment:

The committee reported it was difficult to understand various messages on the credentials. Many were too brief to be well understood. Congregations were asked to make future messages more clearer and complete.

- 2. The Council of Bethel CRC, Acton, is concerned about the movement to an expanded role of Classis, including movements toward staffing. We do not deny the value of shared ministry, Campus Ministry being one example of meaningful ministry that we share and that no single church could tackle on its own. However, coordinating ministry on a classis wide level seems neither realistic nor a stewardly use of time and money. Such ministry belongs primarily in the local church, and we already pay ministry shares to employ staff on the denominational level that is available both to deal with crises and with developing vision and ministry. As a church we have been committed to giving our ministry shares, but we would be very reluctant to get on board with expanding the role of classis and especially hiring staff to do so. We wish to raise these concerns, desiring to continue to support an effective and efficient classis with its current realistic and responsible role.

Received as information.

3. Blyth names Youth Ministry as concern

4. Cambridge

- a. Re: Abuse policy, Cambridge asks if they are to take specific action in the event of abuse; are they to report to the Classical Safe Church Committee or take specific action themselves to resolve the abuse.
- b. Cambridge is at the geographical limit of the Trillium League and is unable to host league events. Would Classis consider re-aligning Trillium League into smaller geographical areas?

Cambridge was referred to the Safe Church Committee for advice on this matter.



5. Clinton
  - a. Is concerned about developing pastoral care with the help of Classis.
  - b. Encourages the Huron Youth Committee to further their work and looks forward to hearing more specifics.
 Received as information
6. Drayton seeks help to increase passionate spirituality within its congregation.  
Received as information
7. Exeter asks if pastoral care teams are a good method of delivering pastoral care or what is best?
8. Listowel asked for a Counselor to facilitate its calling of a new minister. This was referred to CIC.
9. Lucknow
  - a. Request a revision of the total number of members for ministry share purposes. Our Clerk is to help with this.
  - b. Asks for a review of the church visitor process in Classis.
10. Orangeville
  - a. Asks for help to support Christian School in its congregation
  - b. Asks for wisdom on how to get Young People involved in its ministry and how to obtain younger council members.
  - c. Provides letter re: Ralph Bus lapsed membership.  
Received as information
11. Stratford
 

As growing church we seek advice from classis as to what criteria or benchmarks we should use to determine if an additional ministry staff person is required and desirable for our congregation. Stratford was referred to various sources for information.
12. Waterloo
 

Waterloo CRC considers the overture of Community CRC (dated December 7, 2007) to be disrespectful of Rev. Graham Morbey, a faithful servant of the Lord for the past 25 years as University chaplain at Waterloo, one of our associate pastors, and a longstanding member of our congregation. In particular, it saddens us to read the expression “the workings of one gentleman” (first sentence) and the comment that the credibility (of the campus ministry position) has waned in the past” ground 3. Graham has expressed to us how he found these words hurtful, offensive and disrespectful. We ask the advice of Classis on how we can and should appropriately address this concern of ours. Waterloo was advised to approach Community CRC directly on this matter.

**21) Elections for various functions of Classis**

The results were as follows with blanks indicating vacancies that remain:

Office	Elected
Stated Clerk	Keith Knight
Alt. Stated Clerk	
Treasurer	Cindy Tamming
Alt Treasurer	Harry Den Haan
Finance Committee	
Finance Committee	

Auditor	Ralph Bakker
Nominations Committee	
<b>Church visitors</b>	
East Regular	Ralph Van Dalen
East Alternate	Ralph Koops
West Regular	
West Alternate	
North Regular	Roger Gelwicks
North Regular	Dr. John Van Dorp
Classical Interim Committee	Willie Andrews
CIC	Jack Vande Hoef
CIC Alternate	
Classical Ministry Committee	Fred Vander Sterre
CMC	Darren Roorda
Candidacy Committee	Bill Hoogland
Youth Ministry	Hilma Steenbergen
	George Holthof
	Jake Hiemstra
Home Missions Com	Maurice Koetsier
Syndical Deputies	Regulars
Primary Minister	
Second Minister	
Primary Elder	
Second Elder	
Safe Church Rep	Jeff De Ruyter

CIC = Classical Interim Committee

CMC = Classical Ministry Committee

## **22) Church Counselors report**

Rev. George Holthof reported on his work with Lucknow.

Rev. Ed Den Haan reported on his work with New Life CRC in Guelph.

Palmerston reported all is well.

## **23) Treasurer's Report**

Rev. Jack Vande Hoef reported on behalf of Cindy Tamming and provided a financial update. The 2007 books will be closed on January 15, 2008.

## 24) Synodical Delegates Election

1. First minister Jack Vande Hoef
2. Second minister – Vicki Cok
3. Alternate minister- Paul Stadt
4. First Elder – Robert Damsma
5. Second Elder – John Van Dorp
6. Alternate Elder John Ridder
7. Altternate Elder Clarence Damsma

## 25) Rita Klein-Geltink's Ordination and Installation

1. Lucknow informs us that the ordination and installation of Rita will take place on January 18, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in their church.
2. Rev. George Holthof is asked to represent Classis at Rita's installation/ordination and agrees to do so.

## 26) Closing of Classis:

1. The Chair thanked the ladies who catered our food.
2. The Chair closed our meeting with a reading from Revelation 22 and led us in prayer.
3. It was noted that the Clinton delegation had left earlier. Elder Larry Brouwer was called out as his aged mother was stricken seriously ill.
4. The chair thanked the clerk for his work as stated clerk over the past years.
5. Rev. Jack Vande Hoef thanked the chair for his efficient work.

## 27) Future Classis Agenda

Date	Place	Reports due	Chairpersons
May 14, 2008	Wilfrid Laurier	April 9, 2008	Van Giessen and Vander Kooij?
Sept 17, 2008	Collingwood	August 6, 2008	??

## 28) New Stated Clerk Address

Keith Knight  
Stated Clerk, Classis Huron  
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