

**CLASSIS HURON**  
**of the Christian Reformed Church in North America**

**MINUTES**

**January 14, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Christian Reformed Church  
88 Main Street East  
Drayton, Ont.**

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**The PURPOSE of Classis Huron is to**

Support, equip and encourage our churches in the ministries as God has called us.

**The VISION of Classis Huron 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. Constituting Classis

Rev. John Vander Burgh, pastor of Drayton CRC, welcomes delegates and guests, and leads with opening devotions.

Credentials Committee reports on attendance. Deacon Gerrit VanWilderveen of Vanastra is seated by motion. There are nine first time delegates. They signed the Form of Subscription when registering.

Classis is declared constituted.

## 2. Officers of Classis

The officers of Classis take their positions: Chair, Rev. Jack VandeHoef; Vice-chair: Rev. Darren Roorda; Stated Clerk: Keith Knight

## 3. Delegates

| <b>Congregation</b>       | <b>Pastor's Name</b>   | <b>Elder's Name</b>         |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Acton                     | Ray Vander Kooij       | Barbara Kerkhof             |
| Blyth                     | John Kuperus           | Ken Shortreed               |
| Cambridge<br>(Maranatha)  | John Vanderstoep       | Mark Klein-Geltink          |
| Cambridge<br>(River City) | Darrell Bierman        |                             |
| Clinton                   | Elder Alfred Dykstra   | Mark Veenstra               |
| Collingwood               | Chris Pool             | Tim Leferink                |
| Drayton                   | John Vanderburgh       | Markus Frei                 |
| Exeter                    | Harry Frielink         | Ben Vanstraten              |
| Goderich                  | Stephen Tamming        | Gilbert Vanden Heuvel       |
| Guelph<br>(Campus)        | Jamie Vanderberg       |                             |
| Guelph (First)            | Jack Vande Hoef        | John Ridder                 |
| Guelph<br>(New Life)      | Jamie Vanderberg       | Janet Ryzebol               |
| Kincardine                | Stuart Vandervaart     | Rick Luymes                 |
| Kitchener                 | Darren Roorda          | Martin Oldengarm            |
| Listowel                  | Elder Cor Reinink      | Steve Vogel                 |
| Lucknow                   | Rita Klein-Geltink     | Bob Dansma                  |
| Orangeville               | Roger Gelwicks         | Peter Ryzebol               |
| Owen Sound                | Elder Simon De<br>Boer | Pete Van Zyverden           |
| Palmerston                | Elder John Mohl        | Henk Van Steenberg          |
| Stratford                 | Bill Hoogland          | Art Boekee                  |
| Vanastra                  | Siemen Speelman        | Deacon Gerrit VanWalderveen |
| Waterloo                  | Vicki Cok              | Paul Stadt                  |
| Waterloo<br>(Campus)      | Brian Bork             |                             |
| Waterloo<br>(The Journey) | Adrian Van Giessen     |                             |
| Wingham                   | Peter Janssens         | Jack Wilkins                |

#### **4. Committees for the Day**

Credentials Committee – Wingham and Orangeville  
Balloting Committee – Drayton and Guests  
Overtures Committee – Acton and Waterloo

#### **5. Classis Interim Committee – Jack Vande Hoef reporting**

##### **5.1 Pulpit supply for vacant churches.**

**MOTION: That Classis considers a church that hires an ordained interim pastor/stated supply to not be a vacant church and therefore does not qualify for pulpit supply, effective March 1. -carried**

**MOTION: That the work of the Classis Interim Committee be approved. – carried.**

#### **6. Safe Church Committee Report – Atie Ott reporting**

A training event for all churches, dealing with safe church issues, will be held on March 7 from 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. in Waterloo CRC. There will be six speakers. It is especially important for elders, deacons and pastors.

Each church should have a representative on the Safe Church Committee. There are still a few churches who have not appointed a representative.

#### **7. Home Missions – Marguerite Ridder reporting**

About 100 people attended the prayer conference in November in Listowel.

The committee is looking for two people to join the committee, preferably someone with an interest in church plants.

Upcoming events include a Home Missions conference in Georgetown on Jan. 24.

There will be a leadership conference on April 4, led by Allen Likkell. This conference is for elders, deacons, ministers and other leaders.

#### **8. Youth Ministry – Jamie Vandenberg**

The Classis Huron Youth Ministry Committee (CHYMC) is going through a visioning process.

The fall retreat attracted 350 youth from across classis. This is a growing event.

The committee is providing small group and leaders training and is also coordinating youth group resources.

The committee is re-establishing a connection between young adult ministry and campus ministry.

It is offering a leaders' retreat for any and all youth leaders/youth elders across classis on Feb. 27 and 28.. Youth leaders have already been informed of this retreat. Youth elders are also encouraged to attend.

## **9. Examination of Toyosi Awesu, Ministry Associate at The Journey**

The chair of classis explained the position of ministry associate and how it is limited to his work at The Journey.

Rev. John Vander Burgh examined Mr. Awesu on practica.

Rev. Ed Den Haan read a written report evaluating the sermon, based on the assigned text: Romans 5: 1 – 5. The sermon was evaluated by Rev. Den Haan, and Elders Randy Zondag and Henk Stronks.

Rev. John Vander Stoep examined Mr. Awesu on biblical/theological.

The chair declared executive session. All non-office-bearers left the meeting. Questions and comments were received after which the chair offered prayer and a vote by ballot was conducted on the following motion.

**MOTION: That Toyosi Awesu be declared eligible for ordination as Ministry Associate at The Journey. – carried unanimously**

## **10. Classishuron.ca website**

Keith Knight presented the launch of the [www.classishuron.ca](http://www.classishuron.ca) website.

The website will contain minutes of meetings, all pertinent documents, provide space for all committees to house their minutes, reports and related documents, list all churches, provide links to valuable denominational documents and forms, and generally become the resource centre for classis.

The Agenda section will only be accessible by password since it may contain sensitive documents for upcoming meetings of classis. All officebearers within classis will have access to that password. The website is also capable of housing all of the websites of all churches within classis and can also host up to 500 email addresses.

## **11. Guelph Campus Ministry**

Jamie Vandenberg presented a PowerPoint presentation on the University of Guelph campus ministry. Keith Knight offered a prayer for the ministry.

## **12. Classis Ministry Committee**

Jack Tacoma, regional Home Missions representative, led delegates through a one-hour presentation in which he explained the natural cycle of human and organizational development, indicating that all churches need to have vibrant Vision, Relationship, Program and Management in order to be a healthy congregation.

## **13. Voting for Synodical Delegates**

Voting for delegates to CRC Synod in Chicago yielded the following results.

Minister delegates:

Jack Vande Hoef and John Vander Burgh

Alternates:

Harry Freilink and Darren Roorda

Elder delegates:

John Ridder and Albert Hovingh

Alternate:

Paul Stadt

#### **14. Elzo Tenyenhuis**

Materials: Overture, Advisory Committee, report from Classis Interim Committee.

The chair vacated the chair to present a recommendation from the Classis Interim Committee.

Vice-chair Darren Roorda presided over the meeting.

##### **Motions:**

1. **That Elzo Tenyenhuis be declared eligible for a call, effective immediately.**
  - **Carried.**
2. **That Classis Huron encourages Rev. Tenyenhuis to continue to pursue a second Clinical Pastoral Education course as part of his ongoing personal growth.**
  - **Defeated (seen as being redundant)**

The grounds:

1. When Classis, at its September 2007 meeting, decided that Rev. Tenyenhuis should take two CPE courses before being declared eligible for a call, no one realized that the courses were only available in the spring.
2. Rev. Tenyenhuis has completed one course. He will not be able to complete the second course before July 2009. This means that the matter of his eligibility for call would await the September 2009 Classis meeting.
3. This lengthy delay, which has already occurred and which will be two years if nothing is done, imposes an unreasonable hardship upon Rev. Tenyenhuis, which Classis never intended.
4. Rev. Tenyenhuis has expressed a desire to complete the second course. He will find out in February whether or not he will be accepted into the spring 2009 course. Only 10 people are accepted.

#### **15. Credentials Committee**

-Waterloo has second year seminary student, Amanda Bakale, spouse of Rev. Brian Bork, who is available to preach in neighboring congregations.

- First Guelph asked for assistance as to how to retain members. They were encouraged to contact Norm Thomas from Pastor Church Relations Committee.

- Collingwood asked for help in promoting the second service in the face of declining attendance. They were encouraged to ask other churches within classis for assistance.

- Kitchener called for a revitalization of the Cadet program. They were urged to bring it to the attention of the Cadet leadership within the region or at the international office. Cadets is not a CRC program but is part of Youth Unlimited, an organization located outside the CRC.

- Blyth requested a church visit. It's been a while. They were encouraged to contact the church visitor.

- Exeter requests a church visit. They were encouraged to contact the church visitor. They also request a training session on congregational giving. This was passed on to CMC for future consideration.

- Cambridge wanted to hear some best practices when hiring new staff. At what point do you consult the congregation? Cambridge will send an email to all churches within classis.

**MOTION: To approve the work and advice of the Credentials Committee.**

## **16. Ballots**

The following were approved by ballot to serve in various functions. Their names will be included in the new list of classis functionaries.

Alternate Stated Clerk: John Hofstee  
Treasurer: Cindy Tamming  
Alternate Treasurer: Harry Den Haan  
Auditor: Ralph Bakker

Church visitors:  
East – Darren Roorda  
West – Fred Vande Sterre, Siemen Speelman, John Vander Burgh  
North – Chris Poole

Classis Ministry Committee:  
Home Missions – Janet Ryzebol  
Campus Ministry – Ray Vander Kooij  
Diaconal Conference – Len Bakelaar  
Safe Church Committee – Atie Ott  
Youth Committee – Pete Janssens  
Finance Committee –  
Ministry Leadership Team – Bill Hoogland  
Members at large – Willie Andrews, Jack Vande Hoef

Committees:  
Nominations – John Hofstee, Atie Ott  
Youth – Pete Janssens  
Home Missions – Maurise Koetsier  
Finance – Clarence Louter  
Ministry Leadership Team – Rita Klein-Geltink  
Waterloo Campus Ministry – Melissa Brunsting

Redeemer University board of directors – Dr. Henry Feenstra

## **17. Huron Campus Ministry Guelph – Ray Vanderkooij**

Highlighted his report and the increased opportunities that come with non-profit status where the ministry can provide tax receipts

## **18. Church Counselors**

Kincardine – Pete Janssens reported. Rev. John Kerssies is interim pastor.  
Guelph New Life – Ed Den Haan. No report.  
Owen Sound – Chris Pool reported. Rev. John Feenstra is stated supply until end of June. After that they intend to seek services of student pastor.  
Palmerston – John Vander Burgh reported. He is leading a preconfession class.  
Listowel – Paul Stadt reported. They have gifted leadership there. Rev. Gary Klumpenhower is serving as interim pastor until April. They are getting ready to call.

**19. Classis Ministerial Leadership Team (formerly Student Fund Committee)  
– Bill Hoogland**

Invitation to apply for funding is out to potential students. The church needs ministers. The CRCNA plans 30 church plants.

Classis still takes seriously the fact that Calvin Seminary as the official training ground for our ministers. Presently we have two students attending different seminaries. We provide grants to those in seminary programs. In past we gave loans to those in pre-seminary but we no longer do that. There are enough financial support programs to handle pre-seminary programs.

**20. Classis Ministry Committee**

Janet Rysebol reported on the transition from the old structure to the new structure. CMC will meet in February for its first official meeting.

**21. Announcements.**

***Classis Huron Ministers and Spouses Retreat, February 10-12***

The annual retreat for minister's and spouses in Classis Huron will be held at Crieff Hills Community Retreat and Conference Centre, February 10-12. The speaker will be Syd Hielema, chaplain at Redeemer University College in Ancaster. His topic will be, "Ministry in a 'Facebook'." Councils are encouraged to support their pastors by giving them opportunity to attend this retreat. Questions or comments can be directed to Siemen Speelman or Jack Van de Hoef.

**Ministers Conference on Tuesday, March 3 with Dr. Thomas Long at Redeemer Redeemer**

**22. Pulpit Supply**

Based on classis' decision: Vacant churches having interim ministers/stated supply are no longer deemed to be considered vacant and will not receive pulpit supply, effective March 1, 2009.

**NOTE:** Revised schedule: Please note changes in April and May.

| <b>Date</b> | <b>New Life Guelph</b> | <b>Palmerston</b> | <b>Owen Sound</b> |
|-------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Jan. 11     | Roorda                 | Hoogland          |                   |
| 25          |                        | Speelman          | Pool              |
| Feb. 8      |                        | Vanderstoep       |                   |
| Feb. 22     | Klein-Geltink          | Kuperus           | VanderKooij       |
| Mar. 8      |                        | Bork              |                   |
| Mar. 22     | Bork                   | Roorda            |                   |
| April 5     | Frieling               | Janssens          |                   |
| April 19    | Gelwicks               | Kuperus           |                   |
| May 10      | Cok                    | Vanderburgh       |                   |
| May 24      | Vande Hoef             | Luchies           |                   |

## 21. Future Classis Meetings

| <b>Date</b>    | <b>Place</b>      | <b>Reports due</b> | <b>Chair</b>     | <b>Vice-chair</b>  |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| May 13, 2009   | Clinton           | April 8, 2009      | Darren Roorda    | John Vanderstoep   |
| Sept. 16, 2009 | Kitchener         | Aug. 12, 2009      | John Vanderstoep | Bill Hoogland      |
| Jan. 13, 2010  | Listowel          | Dec. 2, 2009       | Bill Hoogland    | John Vandenburg    |
| May 12, 2010   | Guelph – New Life | April 7, 2010      | John Vandenburg  | Rita Klein-Geltink |