

Minutes of Classis Huron

Meeting May 2005
At New Life CRC, Guelph On.
By: Stated Clerk Ed Den Haan

Article I. Officers

Chair – R. Gelwicks, Vice chair - G. Holthof, Clerk - E. Den Haan

Article II. Devotions

The host Church's Pastor, Rev. Henry Lunshof called the meeting to order, opened with reading Romans 12:1-2 and offered sermon reflection promoting transformation as ongoing reformation. He then led Classis in prayer.

Article III. Credentials

The credentials Committee reported all churches present with appropriate credentials.

Article IV. Seating of Delegates

Permission was asked by the Collingwood Congregation to seat a former elder, Mr. Hans Verra as delegate. Collingwood was unable to delegate a current Council member to Classis. Classis granted the request.

Article V. Classis Constituted

Rev. Henry Lunshof then declared Classis constituted. The Leaders for this meeting, Revs. Gelwick – Chair, Holthof Vicechair and Den Haan Stated Clerk were asked to be seated to lead Classis for the day.

Article VI. Congregational delegates

Congregation	Represented by
Acton	Pastor Ray Vander Kooij and Peter Duivesteyn
Blyth	Pastor John Kuperus and Henry Exel
Cambridge	Pastor John Vander Stoep and Rick De Graaf
Clinton	Jake Rylaarsdam and Bert Van Maar
Collingwood	Len Bette and Hans Verra
Drayton	Pastor Gerrit Bomhof and Jake Vanden Berg
Exeter	Pastor Harry Frielink and Mike Zandwyk
Goderich	Pastor Stephen Tamming and Gerrit Dykman
Guelph 1	Pastor Jack Vande Hoef and Ann Lopers
Guelph New Life	Henry Lunshof and Jane Dekking
Kincardine	Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis and Bill Luinstra
Kitchener Community CRC	Andy Van Muyen and Hilma Steenbergen
Listowel	John Van Donkersgoed and Ray Heeres

Lucknow	Peter Janssens and Murray Ritsma
Orangeville	Rev. Roger Gelwicks and Turner Roorda
Owen Sound	Pastor George Olthof and Henry Feenstra
Palmerston	Rev. Chris Schievink and Bill Van Andel
Stratford	Rev. Bill Hoogland and Stan Pucklicz
Vanastra	Rev. Siemen Speelman and Janet Stryker
Waterloo	Ralph Van Dalen and Steve Bootsma
Campus Ministry - Guelph Campus Ministry - Waterloo	James Vander Berg
The Journey	Adrian Van Giessen
River City	

Article VII. Break Out Session

Ed Den Haan led Classis in a break out session. The purpose of the session was to. The purpose of this exercise was two fold:

- to help know and understand campus ministry
- and secondly to develop frontier ministry awareness and skills.

Campus Ministry serves Jesus Christ in meeting religious needs on campus, a church frontier. It serves church members and the general public to develop knowledge and love of the Lord God in Jesus Christ. Our ministry is a daily interaction between gospel, the world of ideas and life. This frontier ministry is always challenging, seldom easy, ever fresh and vibrant. It differs dramatically from congregational life though it is rooted in established congregations and a ministry of our congregations and faces similar questions.

A shared service of our Lord Jesus, understanding of each other as congregations and campus ministry is essential. Eight ministry scenarios were discussed in light of the following questions:

1. What is our triune God doing on campus or in this world?
2. What does our triune God ask of us in redeeming the world?
3. What can I commit us to in the service of God on campus or in the world?

The plenary session brought out a lot of wonderful shared ministry wisdom and enabled Classis Huron to develop ministry for all.

Article VIII. Reports of Agents of Classis

Article VIII.1 The Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk's report was approved as presented.

Article VIII.2 Treasurer

The treasurer's unaudited report was adopted as presented.

The treasurer encouraged Classis to meet its ministry shares. Classis was also encouraged to send its share in regularly to Campus Ministry to overcome its financial stress because of irregular income over the year.

Article IX. Peter Schuurman reporting

Peter Schuurman is Home Missions Educational Team Leader.

Article IX.1

Peter reported on the upcoming Bike Tour and his participation in it. He also informed Classis of a devotional booklet to be used by the tour participants and available to all.

Article IX.2

Peter as Educational Mission Leader for Home Missions in Canada and the U.S. encouraged us to support Campus Ministry well. He told us several Campus Ministry stories illustrating the importance of the leaders that have been developed in campus ministry.

Article IX.3 Calvin College Board of Trustees

Peter reported that cultural interpretation at Calvin is strong. David Lyon spoke on religion terrorism and surveillance recently and was well received. Peter invited us to come and see Petra and wonderful display of near east antiquities at Calvin College. President George Bush is to speak at Calvin's convocation this month.

Article X. Interim Committee—Jack Tacoma reporting

Article X.1

Classis accepted the recommendation from the Interim Committee that there is a need for more exhorters in Classis and such licensure.

Article X.2

Classes accepted to examine at the September 2005 meeting Mr. Leo Blydorp for licensure to exhort in Classis

Article X.3

The Interim Committee notified Classis that it is exploring both email and Website for improved communication in Classis.

Article X.4

Exhorters in Classis were notified to renew their license if so desired. The Clerk will send notices and information to the various exhorters.

Article X.5

The Interim Committee Report was adopted.

3/7 Minutes of Classis Huron meeting May 11, 2005 at New Life CRC in Guelph

Article XI. Ed Den Haan's Retirement Celebration

Classis recessed to celebrate Ed Den Haan's retirement from Huron Campus Ministry – Guelph.

Jack Tacoma spoke on behalf of Classis to both Ed and Willene Den Haan for the service to God in meeting religious needs on campus and in Guelph.

Ray Vander Kooij spoke on behalf of Huron Campus ministry –Guelph illustrating Ed's ministry and expressing appreciation for the blessing it was to the University of Guelph. Jack Tacoma then offered appropriate gifts to both Ed and Willene.

This was followed by a stand up reception with cake and refreshments.

Article XII. Elzo Tenyenehuis led us in devotions for lunch.

Article XIII. Judy Eising of the Host Church

introduced the lunch menu and a cooking program hosted at New Life. About 45 people are involved in cooking food and relating to each other with the gospel in community outreach.

Article XIV. Rev. Stephen Tamming

led us in devotions for the afternoon. By reading Scripture Acts 2: 42 - end and led us in prayer.

Article XV. Reports

Article XV.1 Tet Tacoma and Marguerite Ridder

informed us on the upcoming Sea To Sea celebration in Guelph. This will celebrate our denominations anniversary in Canada

Article XV.2 Stephen Bootsma Reported Re. Waterloo CRC

that Rev. Vicky Cok accepted the call to Waterloo. Stephen asked Classis to facilitate the Rev. Vicky Cok's entry into Classis.

Article XV.3 Gerrit Bomhof reported Re Home Missions and Classical Ministries Committee

(a)

on behalf of the Home Missions Committee of Classis Huron. He recommended a grant of \$2,000.00 to help First Guelph CRC start a Chinese Ministry in its congregation – adopted.

(b)

Gerrit introduced Adrian Van Giesen who updated us on The Journey. Currently about 120 people attend the services. Several of their ministry projects were introduced in which members serve God and their community.

(c)

Gerrit reported on behalf of the Classical Ministries Committee, introducing Thea Leunk. Thea spoke on her work of Classical renewal. She complimented Classis Huron on its vibrant work and ministry.

(d)

The Classical Ministries Committee plans to have an educational session in September on church visiting.

(e)

Gerrit reported on a survey conducted in Classis regarding the second worship service. A sheet of survey results was handed to the members of Classis.

Article XV.4 Youth Ministry – Hilma Steenbergen reporting

Hilma reported on the needs of our Youth Leaders in Classis. More leadership and mentoring training is desired. The League would like to have a Classis Youth Ministry Director.

Article XV.5 Church Visitor Reports

(a) Jack Tacoma reported

(i) Visit to Acton.

This congregation is alive and well with a strong understanding of its mission. They held a second Natural Church Development Survey which showed a significant improvement in congregational health.

(ii) On a visit to Waterloo

They are a unified gift based congregation. Viky Cok has accepted the call to join in its ministry

(iii) Visit to Stratford.

This congregation is building a new church plant and is very happy to do so. The second service is strong with about 50% attendance. The new location for the congregation will lead to some ministry adjustments.

(b) Church Counselors Reports

(i) Bill Hoogland

reported as counselor for the Clinton CRC. Bill reports that Greg Girard was paid a severance of \$53,000.00 in January 2005. It was hoped that the congregation could so move away from Girard matters and on to its ministry. Unfortunately, Girard wrote a letter to Clinton listing his grievances with Bill Hoogland and former council leaders. Girard has brought a law suit against Clinton for unlawful dismissal. Last Saturday Mr.

Girard, in person, informed the Clinton Council chairperson that he dropped the lawsuit. The hope is that this is the end of the matter. Bill complimented the Clinton delegates on their good leadership in facing this Girard matter and working through it. Bill raised the need to inform the denomination of Rev. Girard's current status.

A motion was adopted mandating the Interim Committee of Classis to develop a news release to clear up denominational awareness of Girard's status. This to be done in conjunction with Clinton and if needed with legal advise.

(ii) George Holthof

reports on his work with Collingwood. The Collingwood search committee is working well.

(iii) Henry Lunshof

reports as Counselor to Waterloo. Vicky Cok has taken the call to Waterloo and will be joining the congregation in late summer.

(iv) John Vander Stoep

reports on his work with Community CRC in Kitchener; they are working on calling.

Article XV.6 Credentials Committee.

Cambridge asks for information on the request from Huron Campus Ministry Guelph for financial support. Response was given by Ray Vander Kooij.

Palmerston asks for information on exhorting license renewal for Fred Tinholt license renewal. The clerk will do so for all exhorters.

Orangeville asks Classis to devote more attention to our Youth's Leadership.

Stratford asks about the second service survey. It was presented to all at this meeting of Classis.

Lucknow asks for information on the recent privacy legislation. The material will be provided from the Burlington CRCNA office.

Article XV.7 Student Fund Committee - Chris Schievink reporting

The student Fund Committee proposals were accepted by Classis requiring a budget allocation of \$8.70 to be adopted in September.

The committee asked for a person to fill a vacancy on their committee.

Article XV.8 Nominating Committee Fred Vande Sterre reporting

The committee nominated Peter Janssens to the Classis Ministry committee. Classis adopted this recommendation.

The committee notified Classis of several vacancies in Church visitors

Article XVI. Synodical Agenda

The chairperson offered Classis a time to discuss the agenda of our upcoming Synod to so share our wisdom on its material. No discussion took place.

Article XVII. Overtures

Article XVII.1 New Life's Overture

(a) The advisory committee

recommends that we not accede to the overture from New Life CRC. Though sympathetic to its intent, more info is required to decide on this matter.

(b)

New Life CRC is given the floor to table their overture and present it for a vote.
The overture was tabled
The entire matter was received as information
The entire matter was referred to the Interim Committee of classis to gather the needed information and report to the Jan 2006 meeting of Classis.

Article XVII.2 Kincardine Overture

The committee of pre advice recommends that we not accede to the overture.
Kincardine was given the floor to present its overture. The deferred to the Advisory Committee
The motion not to accede to the overture was reasserted and passed by Classis.

Article XVII.3 Vanastra Overture

The Advisory Committee recommends to Classis not accede to the overture.
Vanastra was given the floor to present their overture.
The overture was defeated by Classis.

Article XVIII. Chair's Closing and Comments

The chair thanked the hosting church for their hospitality and excellent service to Classis.
The chair thanked the clerk for personal support and his work.
The chair thanked the vice president for support.
The chair led us in closing prayer.

Article XIX.

Classis was adjourned.