

CLASSIS HURON

of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

MINUTES

May 13, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.

**Christian Reformed Church
243 Princess Street East
Clinton, Ont.**

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

Mark Damsma of Clinton welcomed delegates and guests. Hymns 453 and 566 are sung. Rev. Ron Luchies, pastor leads in opening devotions.

Credentials Committee reports on attendance. All churches are present. Rev. Darrell Bierman sent his regrets. Deacon Bob Vandenbroek of Guelph First is seated by motion. Listowel and Vanastra have only one delegate. Harry Frielink of Exeter will be absent from 12 noon until 2:30 p.m. and the alternate will be seated.

There are five first-time delegates and they signed the Form of Subscription. Classis is declared constituted.

2. Officers of Classis

The officers of Classis take their positions: Chair: Rev. Darren Roorda; Vice-chair: Rev. John Vanderstoep; Alternate Stated Clerk: John Hofstee

3. Delegates

Congregation	Pastor's Name	Elder's Name
Acton	Ray Vander Kooij	John Bassie
Blyth	John Kuperus	Calvin Bakelaar
Cambridge (Maranatha)	Liz Vreugdenhill	Annette Rignerus
Cambridge (River City)		
Clinton	Rick Kaptein	Mark Damsma
Collingwood	Chris Pool	Hans Verra
Drayton	John Vanderburgh	Markus Frei
Exeter	Harry Frielink	Ben Vanstraten
Goderich	Stephen Tamming	Sid Bruinsma
Guelph (Campus)	Jamie Vanderberg	
Guelph (First)	Jack Vande Hoef	Deacon Bob Vandenbroek
Guelph (New Life)	Janet Ryzebol	Jamie VanderBerg
Kincardine	Stuart Vandervaart	Bill Hogeveen
Kitchener	Darren Roorda	Rinze Vanderwerff
Listowel	Louis Lise	
Lucknow	Rita Klein-Geltink	Lawrence Uyl
Orangeville	Roger Gelwicks	Gus Buss
Owen Sound	Leo Haak	Gerry TerSteege
Palmerston	Roel Van Zandwyk	John Mohle
Stratford	Bill Hoogland	Tim Vandekemp
Vanastra	Siemen Speelman	
Waterloo	Vicki Cok	Rudy Eikelboom
Waterloo (Campus)	Brian Bork	
Waterloo (The Journey)	Adrian Van Giessen	
Wingham	Peter Janssens	Cathy Ritsema

4. Committees for the Day

Credentials Committee – Blyth and Goderich
Balloting Committee – Clinton and Guests
Overtures Committee – Guelph First and Vanastra

5. Classis Ministry Committee – Jack Vande Hoef reporting

Rev. Vande Hoef reported that he will be moving to Bethel CRC Brockville at the end of the summer. He considers it a privilege to have been able to serve classis.

5.1 Stated Clerk's Report – Jack Vande Hoef reporting

The stated clerk reported that the volume of e-mails has grown exponentially. Churches are reminded that many of the enquiries can be answered by checking the index to the Manual of CRC Government.

MOTION: That the work of the Classis Ministry Committee and of the stated clerk be approved. - Carried.

5.2. Resolutions pre-advice committee – Jack Vande Hoef reporting.

Request from Kincardine CRC to receive permission to call a full-time minister. Rev. Vande Hoef reviewed the history of the pastor-church relations, and stated that the conditions set by Classis on September 19, 2007 had now been met.

MOTION: That Classis Huron grant permission to the Kincardine CRC to call a full-time Minister of the Word. - Carried.

A prayer of support was offered.

6. Classis Ministerial Leadership Team – Bill Hoogland reporting

Currently this team is made up of Revs. Hoogland, Frieling and Klein-Geltink

The motions listed as 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3 were introduced.

MOTION 1: To approve the revised mandate, guidelines, and agreement and contract of the Classis Ministerial Leadership Team as presented.

On 11.3 it was suggested to substitute: “Students who are in contact with the denominational candidacy committee.”

MOTION 1: To table this motion until the September meeting of classis.
- Carried.

MOTION 2: To award funds to the Classis Huron seminary students listed below at the levels indicated, contingent upon their compliance with the CMLT guidelines.

Nick Bierma	\$8,000 (CTS, 4 th year)
Gareth Harker	\$3,000 (Tyndale, 1 st year)
John Moelker	\$10,000(CTS, 2 nd year)
Melinda Saunders	\$3,000 (Knox, 3 rd year)
Joshua Tuininga	\$2,000 (CTS, ThM)
Michelle Van Harten	\$3,000 (Regent, 2 nd year)

It was stated that these disbursements would be subject to the current guidelines.

Information on Gareth Harker was provided. - Carried.

MOTION 3: To dispense the awarded funds in two instalments. – Carried.

7. Retirement of Roger Gelwicks

MOTION: That Classis Huron grant honorable emeritation according to Article 18a to Rev. Roger Gelwicks, for reasons of age, effective August 31. - Carried. Jack Vande Hoef addressed Rev. Gelwicks, wished him all the best and offered prayer. John Kuperus, on behalf of the Blyth congregation expressed comments of love from the congregation of Blyth (Roger's first congregation). Rev. Gelwicks reflected on his work in Classis Huron. The Gelwicks will be moving to Chicago.

8. Classis Home Missions Committee – Marguerite Ridder reporting

The CHMC has sent a letter to all classes in Ontario with a suggestion of a 40 Days of Prayer initiative for Advent 2009. A committee of Ontario Classis Prayer Coordinators is meeting and promotional material, including a prayer guide booklet is being prepared. The cost of this effort is about \$800 per classis.

Ms Ridder reported on the "Missional Leader" conference held in April.

Rev. John Kuperus introduced the need to work for renewal of existing churches. He distributed an overview of *The Present Future*. He also handed out brochures and spoke about *Ignite II*, being offered through Blyth CRC by Dunamis Fellowship Canada on Oct. 2-3, 2009.

Ms Ridder spoke about a church plant being considered by Classis Huron and Classis Toronto in Milton. Churches involved are Acton, Georgetown, and Meadowvale. This was received for information in order to receive informal feedback. More formal information will be presented in September.

9. Safe Church Committee – Atie Ott reporting

Ms. Ott made a verbal update on the committee's work. An inter-classis training event was held in March. The committee is looking at Restorative Justice and Victims. Ms Ott reported that there are still some churches without Safe Church Committees, and/or are not sending representatives to the Classis Committee. Not having a Safe Church Committee may impact a church's liability insurance.

10. Presentation by Rev. Jerry Dykstra, General Secretary of the CRCNA

Rev. Dykstra spoke on healthy congregations, with a hand-out for delegates. He outlined what the objectives are of a healthy congregation, and the characteristics found in such a congregation. His presentation was followed by a question and answer period.

11. Treasurer's report - Cindy Tamming

Cindy handed out copies of the financial statements for 2009 as well as Ministry Shares statistics. They were received for information.

12. Pre-lunch devotions – Rev. John Kuperus

Rev. Kuperus briefly spoke on “Fire” (Holy Spirit) and led in prayer.

13. Opening devotions (afternoon)

Rev. Roger Gelwicks read from Colossians 1 and opened with prayer.

14. Huddle Groups – Families of Churches

The meeting moved to small groups to discuss Rev. Dykstra’s questions: Where do you see God at work in Christian Reformed congregations today? What does God want us to do to foster healthy congregations? After about an hour, classis reconvened in plenary session and the groups reported.

15. Campus Ministry Reports

Waterloo Campus Ministry (page 8 of agenda) – John Mohle reported.

Waterloo Campus Minister (page 9) – Brian Bork reported.

Guelph Campus Ministry (page 12) – Ray Vander Kooij reported.

Rev. Vander Kooij stated that campus ministries are receiving less support from the denomination because of the shortfall in Ministry Shares income. He asked churches to remember the campus ministries with above-Ministry Shares collections.

There will be a campus ministries evening at Vanastra on June 27, and a benefit concert at First Guelph on September 26.

16. Acton Plan

Rev. Vander Kooij reported on the Acton plan which has seen Ministry Shares contributions by Acton CRC above the required amounts. He reviewed what has been done for the past five/six years.

17. Reports

The reports of the Regional Pastor and Redeemer College were received.

18. Nominations and balloting - Nominating committee

The following nominations were made:

Alternate Synodical Deputy – Rev. Ron Fisher.

Classis Ministry Committee, member at large – Rev. John Vander Burgh.

Finance Committee – Bill Elisen of Listowel.

Calvin Theological Seminary: (a) Mr. Hank Vander Laan, (b) Mrs. Nell Vanturenhout.

The ballot was conducted. The balloting committee reported that the first three were approved. Vander Laan received 25 votes and Vanturenhout, 16. The number of votes

for each of these two will be forwarded to the denominational office to be consolidated with the votes from Classes Chatham, Hamilton and Niagara

MOTION: That the ballots be destroyed. - Carried.

19. Credentials

Transfers of the credentials for Rev. Graham Morbey to Classis Toronto and for Rev. Ralph Koops to Classis Hamilton were approved.

19.1 Credentials Committee Report -- Rev. Steve Tamming reporting

Listowel asked about mutual censure. Rev. Tamming reviewed past practice and recommended current practices.

Orangeville asked for advice on how to deal with inactive members. A number of churches indicated they have dealt with this problem. Orangeville also reported on changes to their second service. They will need pulpit supply starting in the fall. New Life Guelph does not need pulpit supply.

20. Church Counselors

Chris Pool reported on Owen Sound. At present Rev. John Veenstra is interim pastor there. They have been assigned an intern for the summer, and Rev. Pool will be his mentor.

Peter Janssens reported on Kincardine. They too have been assigned an intern and Rev. Klein-Geltink will be the mentor.

John Vander Burgh reported on Palmerston. At present Tim Raakman is working there. They too have been assigned an intern and Rev. Vander Burgh will be the mentor.

John Hofstee reported on behalf of Rev. Paul Stadt on Listowel. They are in the calling process and have had one decline. They have an intern for the month of July.

Jamie VandenBerg reported on New Life.

21. Thanks

The meeting expressed its thanks to the women who served meals and refreshments.

22. Future Meetings

Attention was drawn to the schedule on page 14. The (vice-) chairmanship of Rita Klein-Geltink is under review by CMC.

23. Ida Kaastra Muitoiga, address

Ida is the director of CRWRC Canada and reviewed the work of CRWRC. She asked what is the CRC known for? The major goal is to change communities for Christ. She reported on the "GoatCanucksGoat" started in Langley B.C., in support of the Vancouver Canucks NHL team. This campaign resulted in more than 340 goats being contributed to

the CRWRC program. It has also given Ida and CRWRC national exposure on CTV and CBC Newsworld. She summarized her work.

Jamie Vandenberg will be taking a number of students from Guelph to Kenya and will tie in with CRWRC where possible. Jamie offered prayer for Ida and CRWRC.

24. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn. Carried.

25. Closing Devotions – Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink

She spoke on Who is Jesus, based on John 9., and led in prayer. A special blessing was asked on Rev. Jack Vande Hoef and Rev. Roger Gelwicks who are moving away.

PH 410 was sung.

26. Pulpit Supply

Classis Huron faces seven vacancies this summer. The stated clerk will check to see which churches require pulpit supply and then will create a schedule, hopefully early in June.

Based on a January 2009 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.

27. Future Classis Meetings

Date	Place	Reports due	Chair	Vice-chair
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	