

CLASSIS HURON
of the Christian Reformed Church in North America
MINUTES

May 14, 2008 – 9:00 am

**Senate Chambers,
Wilfrid Laurier University
University Avenue
WATERLOO**

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

Waterloo CRC hosted Classis Huron in the Senate and Board Room at Laurier University, Waterloo, Ont. The host church led classis in a time of worship, devotion, meditation and prayer. Devotions were led by Rev. Vicki Cok and prayer was offered by Rev. Jack Quartel. The Credentials Committee report on attendance. Rev. Cok declared constituted.

Congregation	Pastor's or Elder's Name	Elder's Name
Acton	Ray Vander Kooij	Ron Terpstra
Blyth	John Kuperus	Bert Reinink
Cambridge (Maranatha)	John Vanderstoep	Marsha Timmerman
Cambridge (River City)	Darrell Bierman	
Clinton	Elder John Hoogendoorn	Dick Steenstra
Collingwood	Chris Pool	Merton Veldhoen
Drayton	John Vander Burgh	Markus Frei
Exeter	Harry Frielink	Ben Van Straten
Goderich	Elder Gerard Hoftzyer	Fred Bruinsma
Guelph (Campus)	Jamie Vander Berg	
Guelph (First)	Jack Vande Hoef	Anne Lopers
Guelph (New Life)	Janet Ryzebol	Jamie Vanderberg
Kincardine	Rick Luymes	Stuart VanderVaart
Kitchener	Darren Roorda	Rob Wiersma
Listowel	Hilbert VanAnkum	Bill Los
Lucknow	Rita Klein-Geltink	Bob Damsma
Maitland	Peter Janssens	Mike Hill
Orangeville	Roger Gelwicks	Deacon Barb Buikema
Owen Sound	Elder Greg Lougheed	Gerry Tersteeg
Palmerston	Elder Albert Hovingh	
Stratford	Bill Hoogland	Tim Van de kemp
Vanastra	Siemen Speelman	Leo Greidanus
Waterloo	Vicki Cok	Cara DeHaan
Waterloo (Campus)	Graham Morbey	
Waterloo (The Journey)	Adrian Van Giessen	

.1 Officers of Classis

Chair: Rev. Adrian Van Giessen

Vice chair: Rev. Peter Janssens

Stated Clerk: Keith Knight

.2 Opening of Classis

The officers of classis took their seats. Chair Adrian Van Giessen welcomed new delegates and special guests, including campus ministers Graham Morbey and Jamie Vander Berg; Rev. Adrian Van Giessen from The Journey and Rev. Darrell Bierman from River City; and Rev. Mark Stephenson, director of Disability Concerns, located in Grand Rapids, Mi. Synodical deputies from classes Hamilton, Toronto and Chatham arrived at 11:30 p.m.

.3 Stated Hour

11:10 a.m. Mark Stephenson, Disability Concerns
11:30 a.m. Recognition of Rev. Graham Morbey
1:30 p.m. Rev. Andrew Van Muyen's ministerial status

.4 Committees for the Day

Credentials Committee – Drayton/Kitchener
Balloting Committee – Waterloo and guests
Pulpit Supply Committee report and recommendations
Note: The first church listed reports to classis on behalf of the committee and submits a written report to the stated clerk.

2. "Effective Pastoral Care" – Classis Ministries Committee (CMC)

Fred Vande Sterre led classis through a focus on pastoral care by having churches meet in their 'families of churches'.

Church councils were asked to consider two questions:

1. What constitutes, in your church's understanding, effective pastoral care?
2. With regard to your understanding of effective pastoral care in your congregation:
 - a. what is working well?
 - b. what isn't working well?

3. Classis Interim Committee (CIC)

Rev. Jack Vande Hoef presented the report of the CIC.

a. MOTION: That Classis Huron approve the formation of the multi-classis Ontario Youth Ministry Team (with the responsibilities that that entails) and endorse the three items of its mandate.

-CARRIED.

b. MOTION: That Classis Huron appoint Hilma Steenbergen and Jake Hiemstra as its representatives on the Ontario Youth Ministry Team.

-CARRIED.

c. Kincardine Oversight Committee. Rev. Van de Hoef, as chair of CIC, provided background to the work of the oversight committee as it relates to Kincardine CRC and Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis.

CIC made the following recommendations:

MOTION:

That Classis Huron pay Pastor Tenyenhuis 13 weeks' salary immediately.

Grounds:

- a. This is stipulated in CRC Church Order Supplement, Art. 17a, as an amount to be paid, following the official decision of classis. This amount has not yet been paid. The severance package paid by Kincardine does not satisfy the stipulation of the Church Order for an amount to

be paid “following the official decision of classis.”

b. Classis did not have the oversight recommendations in place for a May 2007 decision. Kincardine had its compensation package defined. Therefore Classis must take responsibility.

-CARRIED

MOTION: That these funds be raised through a special Ministry Share of \$2.00 per confessing member.

-CARRIED.

A letter will be sent to each council from the stated clerk in consultation with the treasurer, informing them of this decision.

4. Mark Stevenson, director of Disability Concerns.

Disability Concerns is a denominational ministry. Mark Stevenson became its two years ago. He said the church is made up of a wide variety of people. The body of Christ has members who may seem to be weaker but who are ‘indispensable’. Disability Concerns deals with “persons with disabilities, including those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”

5. Graham Morbey’s retirement celebration

Classis honoured Rev. Graham Morbey for his 28 years of service as campus chaplain at Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo. Graham took over from Dr. Remkes Kooistra as campus minister.

-Ed Den Haan recalled Graham’s denominational and academic background. Graham created the Pascal Lectures and regularly held book clubs. He was instrumental in developing young minds and interacting with faculty.

- Vicky Cok spoke on behalf of Waterloo CRC. She said that 6 of the 10 council members were former students, current students or a professor with Graham. She said Graham’s groups were willing to wrestle with tough questions involving spiritual stretching and spiritual growth.

-Rev. Doug Vandekamp, pastor of Orillia CRC, was an assistant to Graham in early 1990s. He spoke of ‘head, heart and hands’. The campus was a place for stretching, and noted his work with the faculty and staff, and Graham’s special connections within the academic community to bring in special speakers from broader community.

-Peter Schuurman spoke on behalf of Home Missions. He became a colleague of Graham’s. Graham was ‘playful and mischievous, resourceful and rich.’

-Graham Morbey. This was Graham’s last official classis visit. “My ministry was peopled so thickly that it is impossible to give attention to those who influenced me. I have greatly appreciated your continuing monetary and prayer support. You have been a consistent, sustaining and caring community of believers. Home Missions kept it covenant promise to support me financially. I have always considered Christian Reformed students as the jewels of the crown of my campus ministry.”

6. Classis Interim Committee (continued)

Seating of delegates from Church Plant congregations:

MOTION: That Classis Huron allow emerging churches to delegate their pastor to meetings of classis.

Grounds:

a. This is in keeping with the intention of the decision of Synod 2007.

b. This recognizes that only office bearers may be delegated to Classis. Since the only office bearer in an emerging church is the pastor, the emerging church can send only one delegate.
- CARRIED.

7. Huron Campus Ministry – Waterloo, Rudy Eikelboom reporting

Rudy Eikelboom, chair of the Huron Campus Ministry --Waterloo Search Committee reported that the committee recommends Brian Bork, a Calvin Seminary graduate, as new campus minister for Waterloo. Brian grew up in London, Ontario and served a summer internship at Covenant CRC in Edmonton. Brian briefly addressed classis.

MOTION: That Brian Bork be appointed as Huron Campus Ministry – Waterloo.

- CARRIED

Waterloo CRC will process Brian's request for ordination.

8. Rev. Andrew Van Muyen

Rev. Andrew Van Muyen asked Classis Huron to extend his ministerial credentials for another year. He provided a formal request, with grounds, and Community CRC (Kitchener) provided supporting documents.

Synodical deputies Rev. Jacob Kerkhof, Rev. Henry Katerberg and Rev. Rich DeLange were present.

Classis met in executive session with Andrew Van Muyen present for the discussion but not for the vote.

MOTION: That Classis Huron extend Rev. Andrew Van Muyen's ministerial credentials.

-DEFEATED

The synodical deputies concurred with the decision of classis.

9. Nominations Committee

Delegates voted for the Classis Huron nominee to the World Missions board. This is a regional position, representing classes Chatham, Hamilton, Huron and Niagara). Our voting results will be combined with the voting results from the other classes. Vote results:

11 votes: Rev. Derek Bouma is the solo pastor at Riverside CRC in Wellandport, Ontario.

31 votes: Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink is pastor at Lucknow Community CRC, Lucknow, Ontario.

10. Treasurer's Report

Copies of the treasurer's report were made available to delegates.

11. Youth Ministry

11.1 Classis Youth and Young Adult Ministry Director

The Classis Huron Youth Ministry Committee submitted a proposal to hire an individual to serve as a fulltime Classis Youth and Young Adult Ministry Coordinator. Classis held a healthy discussion on youth ministry and the need for a classis-wide coordinator who would equip youth leaders.

MOTION:

That the churches of Classis, after having reviewed the Classis Youth and Young Adult Ministry Developer document, approve the job description and all that is contained within the proposal.
--DEFEATED

MOTION:

That the churches of Classis grant the Classis Huron Youth Ministry Committee permission to strike a search committee, post the position and receive applications, presenting the strongest candidate to the Classis at its September meeting of 2009.

-WITHDRAWN

11.2 Classis Huron Youth Ministry Committee

MOTION:

That the following be appointed to the Youth Ministry Committee: Dina Zomer, Ben Van Straten, Jake Hiemstra, Grace-Emma Van Til, Hilma Steenbergen and Jamie VanderBerg (chair).

-CARRIED

Jamie also said it is important to have an ordained minister on the committee. - Referred to Nominating Committee.

.3 Ontario Youth Ministry Team

MOTION:

That Classis Huron approve the formation of the multi-classis Ontario Youth Ministry Team (with the responsibilities that that entails) and endorse the three items of its mandate.

-CARRIED.

MOTION:

That Classis Huron appoint Hilma Steenbergen and Jake Hiemstra as its representatives on the Ontario Youth Ministry Team.

- CARRIED.

12. Pulpit Supply Proposal

At Classis Huron's January 2007 meeting, the Classical Interim Committee was mandated to create an ad-hoc committee to develop a modified proposal to the one overtured by Cambridge (Maranatha) council. This committee of three submitted this proposal.

MOTION:

To amend Classis Huron's pulpit supply policy as follows:

1. Limit the total number of supply Sundays per visiting pastor to three services per year.
2. Create a library of sermon DVD's (audio/video) to share with vacant churches.

Grounds:

1. The current classical appointment system puts significant strain on both the pastors and the sending churches (in terms of their preaching commitments and schedules) when the number of vacant churches in Classis Huron reaches five or more vacancies.
2. Under this proposed change, vacant churches will continue to receive one classical appointment per month (July and August excepted – as per current policy) as long as the number of vacant churches is four or less. In the rare event there are five vacant churches, each vacant church would receive nine classical appointments per year (instead of 10 under the current policy). In the still rarer event there are six vacancies, the vacant churches would receive seven classical appointments per year (instead of 10). In both of these situations, please note that each vacant church would still receive at least one classical appointment

every six weeks (summer months excepted) – enough to cover the need for an ordained pastor to administer the sacraments.

3. Limiting appointments to Sunday mornings only (instead of the entire day) recognizes the fact that sacraments (the main rationale for supplying ordained pastors to vacant churches) are seldom (if ever) administered twice per Sunday. They certainly don't need to be administered twice per Sunday. Requiring our pastors to sit around Sunday afternoons in a far away town, arrive home late in the evening, and miss an entire day with their family, imposes undue hardship on our pastors. This hardship far outweighs the more limited benefits (of a second appointment that same day) to the vacant congregation.
4. A video library of current sermons by pastors could assist vacant churches by providing regular sermons of the Classis Huron pastors. (Note: This project could be taken up by those churches that currently record their sermons – ideally video recording. Details of this can be worked out if this proposal is accepted by classis)

- REFERRED back to the committee for rewording.

13. Classis Ministry Committee

The report of the Classis Ministries Committee was presented by Fred Vander Steere.

14. Church Counselors

- Palmerston has extended a call to Rev. Ralph Wigboldus of Sarnia (Living Hope).
- Listowel, Guelph New Life and Kincardine are working through the discerning/calling process.
- A progress report by Kincardine CRC interim pastor Rev. Jack Westerhof, date March 24, 2008, was received.

15. Credentials Committee

The credentials were found to be in good order.

Waterloo CRC requested that classis process Rev. Graham Morbey's retirement.

MOTION: That Classis Huron approve the retirement of Rev. Graham Morbey, effective June 30, 2008, due to age.

-CARRIED

16. Classis Home Missions Committee

Janet Ryzebol presented the Classis Home Missions Committee on behalf of the committee.

River City: Rev. Darrell Bierman reported on the five-year history of River City. They will launch a Saturday evening service in the fall, more of a cafe-style service. This ministry is dependent upon school board policy. River City has been in three schools in five years. Leasing space is becoming very expensive. River City is looking for an interim step between renting a school and building a new facility. It is looking at renting warehouse space.

A year ago we were \$30,000 in debt. They ended the year with a \$15,000 balance and they are looking to add \$40,000 to \$60,000 to their budget next year.

17. Colleges and Universities

17.1 Redeemer University College

Written report received as information.

17.2 Calvin College

An oral report was given by Peter Schuurman. Peter has one year left in his six-year term on the board.

18. Classis Ministerial Leadership Team

Rev. Bill Hoogland presented the committee report. The committee is still operating under the old Student Fund Committee mandate. This will be revised in conjunction with the Classis Interim Committee.

MOTION: To approve dollar amounts for various students at theological colleges.

-CARRIED

19. Pulpit Supply

Date	Listowel	Kincardine	New Life Guelph	Palmerston
Sept. 14	Roorda	Holthof	Cok	Luchies
28	Hoogland	Pool		Gelwicks
Oct. 12	Freilink	Vanderstoep	Van de Hoef	Janssens
26	Speelman	Klein-Geltink		Tamming
Nov. 9	Holthof	Janssens	Freilink	Vander Kooij
23	Gelwicks	Hoogland		Roorda
Dec. 7	Vanderburgh	Luchies	Cok	Pool
21	VanderKooij	Speelman		Van de Hoef
Jan. 11	Kuperus	Tamming	Roorda	Hoogland
25	Janssens	Freilink		Speelman
Feb. 8	Luchies	Gelwicks	Vanderstoep	Holthof
Feb. 22	Van de Hoef	Vanderburgh	Klein-Geltink	Kuperus

20. Future Classis Meetings

Date	Place	Reports due	Chairperson
September 17, 2008	Collingwood	Aug. 6, 2008	Peter Janssens
January 14, 2009	Drayton	Dec. 3, 2008	

14 Closing

Adrian Van Giessen was thanked by Peter Janssens for his chairmanship.

Closing prayer was offered by Rev. Jack Quartel. The meeting concluded by singing the doxology.

Following the meeting, dinner was provided and the open house celebration for Rev. Graham Morbey continued.