

Minutes of Classis Huron of the CRCNA

Meeting at the Waterloo CRC
September 20, 2006

1 Constituting of Classis

- 1) Rev. Vicki Cok as host minister welcomed Classis and called us to order
- 2) Vicki and choir then led us powerfully to humility in God's grace.
- 3) Credentials Committee reported on attendance
 - a) All credentials were in order except for Guelph First. This congregation's delegates forgot to bring their credentials. They were seated by motion and will submit their credentials by mail to the clerk.
 - b) Delegate attendance was reported as follows:

Congregation	Minister and Elder
Acton	Rev. Ray Vander Kooij, Harry Kerkhof
Blyth	Rev. John Kuperus, Hans Boonstoppel
Cambridge	Rev. John Vander Stoep, Clarence Louter
Clinton	Bert Renkema, Frank Rozendal
Collingwood	Rev. Chris Pool , Hazns Vera
Drayton	Markus Frey, Maurice Veldhuis
Exeter	Rev. Harry Freilink, Ken Boersma
Goderich	Rev. Stephen Taming, Fred Bruinsma
Guelph 1	Rev. Jack Van de Hoef, John Ridder
Guelph New Life	Rev. Henry Lunshof, James Vande Berg
Kincardine	Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis, Rick Luymes
Kitchener Community	Rev. Darren Roorda, Andrew Van Muyen
Listowel	Rev. Jack De Vries, Ray Heeres
Lucknow	Bob Damsma, Ken De Boer
Orangeville	Rev. Roger Gelwicks, Ben Ryzenbol
Owen Sound	Rev. George Holthof, Greg Lougheed
Palmerston	Rev. Chris Schievink, John Vander Kooy
Stratford	Rev. William Hoogland, Henry De Young
Vanastra	Rev. Siemen Speelman, Henry Boot
Waterloo	Rev. Vicki Cok, Jacinda Rietsma
Campus Ministry - Guelph Campus Ministry - Waterloo	Rev. Graham Morbey
The Journey	Rev. Adrian Van Giessen
River City	

- 4) First time delegates were asked to sign in agreement with the form of Subscription. The following persons attending these Classes for the first time signed indicating their

agreement: Greg Lougheed – Owen Sound, Frank Rozendal – Clinton, Darren Roorda – Community CRC Kitchener.

- 5) Classis was declared constituted by Rev. Vicki Cok.
- 6) Officers of Classis, Speelman (Chair), Cok (Vice chair) and Den Haan (Stated Clerk) took their places
- 7) The chair welcomed visitors and new members of Classis:
 - a) Rev. Darren Roorda - new minister at Community CR in Kitchener
 - b) Rev. Bruce Adema - new Director of CRCNA Canadian Ministries
 - c) University Chaplains Revs. Graham Morbey and Jamie Vander Berg
 - d) Rev. Adrian van Giessen - Minister of The Journey
 - e) Rev. Jack Quartel – Prayer Coordinator. for Classis
 - f) Rev. Richard Van den Berg – Grand River Hospital chaplain
 - g) Clarence Louter Ontario Alliance of Christian School
 - h) Rev. John Postuma Director of Ministry Development of World Wide Christian Schools - Canada

2 Workshop by Hilda Vander Klippe

1. Hilda was introduced by Fred Van der Sterre as speaker for the morning.
2. Hilda led us in developing our personal and congregational prayer life.
3. Hilda asked us to implement her suggestions immediately in small prayer groups of three people.
4. The session was well received by our delegates.

3 Committees and Appointments of the Day

- 1) Credentials
 - a) Acton and Blyth
 - b) Pre-Advice on Lucknow's overture, pre-appointed and mandated by CIC Members, Lunshof, van Dalen and Den Haan
- 2) Devotions
 - a) Start of the Day - Waterloo
 - b) Pre- lunch First Guelph
 - c) Post Lunch - Collingwood
 - d) Pre – Supper- - Owen Sound
 - e) Pre – evening - Orangeville
 - f) End of Day - Chair of Classis
 - g) All fulfilled their appointments.

Adopted

- 3) Throughout the day we were led by various members of Classis in prayer for our ministries and Classis' actions.
 - a) Rev. Chris Schievink prayed for Calvin College and students
 - b) Rev. Jack Vande Hoef prayed for the work of chaplaincy and the Canadian Ministries Director
 - c) Rev. Vicki Cok prayed for the Journey and its ministry
 - d) Rev. Henry Lunshof Prayed for Lucknow and Wingham church developments

4 Stated Clerk's Report

1. Both the report in the agenda and its supplement were adopted and approved.
2. Specific action was taken as follows:
 1. A form sent to congregations by Jeanne Kallemeyn, Staff Specialist in the Pastor-Church Relations Office of the CRCNA, was mentioned and members were asked to fill it out.
 2. Future meetings of Classis Huron were set as follows
 - a. January 10, 2007 at Listowel - Bethel CRC Revs. Vicki Cok Chair and Ray Vander Kooij Vice-chair. Reports due Dec 4, 2006
 - b. May 16, 2007 at Stratford CRC Revs. Ray Vander Kooij Chair and John Kuperus Vice-chair. Reports due April 4, 2007
 3. Leo Blydorp requested his license to exhort be extended.
 - a. A motion was made not to grant the requested extension.
 - b. Grounds
 - i. Leo no longer attends the Orangeville CRC. He now attends a Baptist Church in Orangeville. This breaks the normal membership connection required of our exhorters.
 - ii. Leo's application needs full and timely documentation for us to process.
4. Both the communication report and its supplement were adopted and approved.
5. A Back to God Hour Board nominee was requested; none were offered.

Adopted.

5 Pulpit Supply Schedule

1. The Pulpit Supply list was sent out June 9, 2006 to the various churches and ministers to facilitate their planning for the fall was adopted.
2. Notice was given that Classis set the rate for a service at \$80.00 and the rate per KM refund at \$ 0.45.
3. Lucknow applied for pulpit supply and will be granted that as soon as possible.

6 Interim Committee Report

Rev. Jack Van de Hoef reporting

The report was adopted and approved in general with specific action as follows:

6.1 Drayton Counsellor;

It was recommended that Rev. Chris Schievink be appointed Counsellor for Drayton as requested by Drayton.

Adopted

6.2 Financial

1. The following honorariums and remuneration recommendations were presented.

That the honorarium for the Stated Clerk to be \$2,500.00 for the coming year.
2. That travel be remunerated at \$0.50 per km as paid by CRCNA this year.

Adopted

6.3 *The date and place of next CIC meeting*

Our next CIC meeting was set for September 27, 2006 noon at the Listowel CRC was given as information.

7 Ministers/Spouses Retreat

Rev. Jack Van de Hoef reporting

Classis Huron Ministers and Spouses Retreat will be held at Crieff Hills, Feb. 13-15, 2007 with Dr. John Suk as our speaker. Yes, this includes Valentine's Day.

Councils, this is a great way to tell your pastors that you love them. Send your pastor and spouse to this relaxing and inspiring retreat. Further details will be coming in November."

Received as information

8 Rev. Richard Vanden Berg

Rev Vanden Berg reported on his ministry at Grand River Hospital as Co-ordinator of Chaplaincy. He serves in a multi-faith setting and applies his Christian faith particularly in ethical questions.

The report was received as information and Rev. Vanden Berg was encouraged in his ministry.

9 Rev. John Postuma

He reported on the work of World Wide Christian School, thanks us for our support and urged us to continue to do so.

The report was received as information and Rev. Postuma was encouraged in his ministry

10 Clarence Louter

Clarence thanked Classis for its financial support to the Ontario Alliance of Christian schools. This was received as information.

11 Rev. Adrian Van Giessen – The Journey

He reported on the multi-faith ministry of the Journey and its vibrant life. This report was late in the meeting of Classis.

The report was received as information and Rev. Van Giessen was encouraged in his ministry

12 Huron Campus Ministry at Waterloo

1. Mr. John Mohle reported they are working on third stream funding to complement their income from Classis and Home Missions. Campus Minister Graham Morbey desires to retire in 2008. The committee is developing its strategy facing this staffing matter.
2. Rev. Graham Morbey reported on behalf of the ministry as well.

- a. He thanked Classis for its ongoing support.
- b. He mentioned the Student Clearing House he operates to connect students and the various Campus Ministries in Ontario.
- c. He has 30+ students on his ministry list so far this year.
- d. We are invited to attend the upcoming Pascal lecture on Oct 11, 2006.

The report was received as information and Rev. Morbey and Mr. Mohle were encouraged in their ministry

13 Treasurer's Report

1. The treasurer, Mr. Bert Fluit, introduced his report and proposed budget. Various changes were made to the proposed budget by Classis. The final shares allocation will be sent out by the treasurer as adopted.
2. Mr. Bert Fluit was thanked for his services. His announced retirement at the end of this year 2006 was noted.
3. It was moved and seconded to remove the website expenditures from the proposed budget. Passed
4. It was moved and seconded to change the \$5,000.00 for youth ministry to \$2,500.00. Defeated
5. It was moved and seconded that delegates not submit travel expenses to Classis for refund. Defeated.
6. It was noted that this piece-meal activity on the budget is unwise. That we best wait for the new Financial Resources Team to lead is in sound budgeting. The chair so ruled.
7. Mr. Fluit was thanked for his diligent work.

14 Nominations Committee

1. **Introduction**
With the pending retirement of our Classical Treasurer, Bert Fluit, the Nominations Committee makes the following recommendation to Classis Huron:
2. **Recommendation:**
That Classis Huron establish a "Classis Huron Financial Resources Team," with the following mandate, accountability and membership:
3. **Mandate**
Management and scrutiny of all financial resources entrusted to its stewardship by the member churches of Classis Huron as well as the development of other funding sources to augment the ministries of Classis or individual member churches.
Specifically, this team will support and oversee the work of the Classis Treasurer, who is an ex-officio member of this team and is its primary bookkeeper, comptroller and auditor of the expenditures of Classis Huron. As well, this team will have a visionary role to develop the funding for new Classis wide initiatives in training and ministry i.e., funding from foundations for leadership training.
4. **Accountability**
This team is accountable to Classis Huron. The team shall report three times a year in time for the agendas of Classis
5. **Membership**

At least three (but not exceeding six) persons including the bookkeeper/treasurer. The other two persons should have gifts in the areas of fundraising/donor development/public relations and have a passion for effective stewardship of these resources.

Adopted

During the discussion our treasurer indicated he would help with the staffing change and assure the needed treasurer work was completed.

15 Classis Huron Home Missions

Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis reporting

The report was adopted as information with specific action as follows:

15.1 Prayer

1. November 4, 2006 has been set as a Day of Prayer for all members of our churches to join in prayer for the Lord's vision. The Committee urges Classis to support this year's program, recommending:
2. That Classis support expenses of the annual Day of Prayer for Classis up to a limit of \$3000.00 for 2007. *Grounds:*
 - a. *Grounds:*
 - i. We value what we pay for –
 - ii. If it's free, we'll tend to undervalue the need and the process.

Adopted

15.2 Leadership

The Committee also recommended:

That Classis support the annual \$2000.00 cost of participating in Leadership Development Network.

Grounds:

1. Quality demands a price
2. Classis already approved this item for the 2007 budget, at the May 2006 session.

Action was withheld.

15.3 Membership

The Home Missions Committee has recently lost its Chairperson, Rev. Gary Bomhof, and Treasurer, Mr. Peter Postma. This loss significantly changes the committee's strength and energy level. Rev. John Kuperus was nominated and agreed to stand.

Classis elected Rev. Kuperus to the committee as requested.

16 Classis Huron Ministries Committee

Rev. George Holthof reporting

Their report was adopted as information with specific action as follows:

Regarding the Ugandan Partnership Proposal

CMC requests Classis to allocate preliminary funding of \$10,000 in the 2007 budget to continue developing the Uganda partnership.

This proposal was referred back to the committee for more definition and development.

17 Overture from Lucknow Community CRC to Classis Huron

17.1 Wingham Privilege of the Floor

The presence of the Wingham Steering Committee reps Jack Wilkins, Gary Gehiere, Eleanor Kuyvenhoven, Doug Kuyvenhoven, and Wayne Burgsma was recognised by the chair and the privilege to speak to the Lucknow overture was given to Doug Kuyvenhoven and Wayne Burgsma.

17.2 Overture

We, the Council of Lucknow Community CRC overture Classis Huron to approve the organizing of a new CRC congregation in the community of Wingham, with a proposed beginning in October, 2006.

17.3 Pre-advice Committee Report

Rev. Dr. Henry Lunshof (convener and reporter)

17.3.1 Introduction

Your committee was appointed by the Interim Committee of Classis and urged immediately to gain full understanding of the situation in developing its advice for Classis. As we began to understand the situation in the Lucknow CRC it became clear that a split was imminent and certain. Your committee decided we needed to act on behalf of Classis as well as advise Classis. The broken Lucknow CRC congregation needed our healing and corrective direction. All Lucknow CRC leaders asked for such help. Throughout our ministry with the Lucknow CRC we have been invited, welcomed and well accepted both in our persons and direction of advice. In the midst of terrible pain we have as committee and congregation come to the best possible direction.

17.3.2 Recommendations

- 1) That Classis acquiesce¹ to the overture of the Lucknow CRC to begin a new church in Wingham.

Grounds:

- a) Both the old and new Lucknow CRC members support and or acquiesce to this.
- b) Not to acquiesce to this overture will severely complicate current developments and cause even more pain to all parties, including Classis.

¹ To accept or consent without protest while preferring a different solution if possible

c) It is the best and only route open to us.

Adopted

- 2) That Classis request and appoint a neighbouring congregation, possibly Bethel CRC of Listowel, to help the Wingham group develop its congregational status. Should Listowel CRC be unable to act in this capacity that we ask the Palmerston CRC to do so.

Grounds

Article 38 of the Church Order requires this and outlines the steps to be taken in this event.

Adopted

Postscript: The Listowel congregation agreed and acted as requested.

- 3) That Classis continue the availability of the Pre-advice Committee of Classis to Lucknow and Wingham developments for advice upon request as needed and possible.

Adopted

17.4 Conclusion

We pray that this painful development may be redemptive. Good people form both congregations. Healing and forgiveness is needed. Flourishing ministries in both Lucknow and Wingham can develop to honour our Triune God. Let's minister with that vision.

A Lucknow delegate also on behalf of Wingham thanked the Pre-advice Committee for its excellent and difficult work

18 Regional Pastor Report - Rev. Ron Fisher

I continue to meet for breakfast with a half dozen pastors once a month at Crossroads in Elmira. This gives them the opportunity to listen to one another, and often following the breakfast I have the opportunity to listen one on one. As well Gerry & I have made two visits to pastors & wives. I remain available to minister to pastors & their wives.

Received as information

19 CRCNA – ServiceLink Report

Mr John Hofstee reporting

Received with thanksgiving as information

20 Credentials Committee Report

Rev. Ray Vander Kooij reporting

20.1 Regarding Article 41 Question and response on the Credentials

20.1.1 Waterloo

Indicates “no” to 5b, not having informed other congregations on members who might have moved into other areas. When asked to explain Waterloo stated it did not want to do this in conflict with our privacy laws.

20.1.2 Blyth

Indicates “no” to 2, not having practiced discipline faithfully. When asked to explain they indicate difficulties of relating while facing privacy laws.

20.2 Concerns Raised on the Credentials

20.2.1 Blyth and Acton

Request information from the Stated Clerk why the Pastor-Church Consultation and Church Visitor reports mentioned in the Pre-advice Committee report were not attached to the agenda. The Clerk apologizes for this lapse and indicates they are available at this meeting.

20.2.2 Lucknow

Indicates they, because of their unusual circumstance were unable to fill out the Article 41 questions. The Credential Committee advises that under the circumstances this is understandable and be allowed.

20.2.3 Drayton

1. Requests clarification during the budget presentation on the sources of the increases for 2007.
2. Requests that ministries of Classis provide clear rationale for budget requests and creatively communicate the life of the ministries to the congregations of Classis.

20.2.4 Vanastra

Requests more open communication about the serious conditions and concerns in our sister churches so that we can uphold each other in prayer.

20.2.5 Bethel – Listowel

Asks as churches are dealing with the 3rd step of discipline they enter discussion with Bethel for mutual support in this matter. The current practice regarding the 3rd step of discipline seems inadequate or perhaps not practiced.

The ensuing discussion by Classis revealed various difficulties. Particularly, the difficulty with Canadian privacy laws as related to this matter. The hope was expressed that Classis might discuss this more fully at some time for support to our congregations.

The committee having completed its report was dismissed with thanks.

21 Early leaving

The following left Classis early and so notified the chair.

1. Rev. Harry Frielink – to join his wife in an important visit to the doctor.
2. Lucknow delegates – they were overly tired and no longer able to function.
3. New Life delegates – left to attend a scheduled meeting at home at 7 pm.

22 Closing

1. The Vice Chair – Rev. Vicki Cok, thanked the Chair, Rev. Siemen Speelman, for his good work in leading our meeting.
2. The Chair, Rev. Siemen Speelman, thanked the delegates for their diligent work and good spirit. He then led us in prayer for God's blessing on the day and asked us to join to praise God with the doxology.

Please note the following well:

Future meetings of Classis Huron will be as follows

- a. January 10, 2007 at Listowel - Bethel CRC Revs. Vicki Cok Chair and Ray Vander Kooij Vice-chair. Reports due Dec 4,2006
- b. May 16, 2007 at Stratford CRC Revs. Ray Vander Kooij Chair and John Kuperus Vice-chair. Reports due April 4, 2007