

Minutes of Classis Huron

Meeting of September 21, 2005

By: Ed Den Haan

1 Opening and welcome

Rev. Harry Frielink of Exeter CRC calls us to order and welcomes on behalf of the host church, Exeter CRC. He...

- a. Leads us in prayer scripture and sermon based on
- b. Calls for the credentials committee report on attendance
- c. Credentials committee reports attendance as follows:

Congregation	Delegate	Delegate
Acton	Rev. Ray Vander Kooij	Richard van der Wall sr.
Blyth	Rev. John Kuperus	Ron Wilts
Cambridge	Rev. John Vanderstoep	Lina Zylstra
Clinton	Herman Greidanus	Bill Gerrits
Collingwood	Pieter De Groot	Harry Hofstede
Drayton	John Deen	Hank Thalen
Exeter	Rev. Harry Freilink	Mike Zandwyk
Goderich	Rev. Steven Tamming	Jake Hiemstra
Guelph NL	Rev. Henry Lunshof	Jack Tacoma
Guelph First	Rev. Jack Vande Hoef	Ann Loopers
Guelph Campus		
Kincardine	Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis	Rick Luymes
Kitchener	Rev. A. Van Meyen	Clarence Damsma
Listowel	Rev. Jack De Vries	Ray Heeres
Lucknow	Rev. Peter Janssens	Jack Wilkens
Orangeville	Rev. Roger Gelwicks	Charlie Zietsma
Owen Sound	Rev. George Holthof	Len Zevenbergen
Palmerston	Rev. Chris Schievink	Bill Van Anandel
Stratford	Rev. Bill Hoogland	Stan Pucklicz
Vanastra	Rev. Siemen Speelman	Ken De Weerd
Waterloo	Rev. Vicki Cok	Peter Looyenga
Waterloo Campus	Rev. Graham Morbey	
The Journey		
River City	Rev. Daryl Bierman	

- d. Several new delegates to sign our Form of Subscription
 - i. Rev. Vicky Cok

- ii. Jeff Beck
- iii. Ron Wilts
- iv. ?????
- v. Jack Wilkins
- e. Mr. Clarence Damsma, a former elder is seated by Classis
- f. Collingwood deacon is seated is seated by vote of Classis
- g. Classis is declared constituted.

2 Seating of the Executive

Chairperson, Rev. George Holthoff, Vice Chair, Rev. Chris Schievink and Stated Clerk of Classis, Rev. Ed Den Haan, are seated.

Chair congratulates Rev. Chris Schievink on his recent marriage and welcomes the delegates. Special welcome is offered to new members and guests:

- i. Vicky Cok – new minister at Waterloo CRC.
- ii. Trevor Payton – Intern at Listowel CRC
- iii. Jack Quartel – Prayer Coordinator
- iv. Clarence Louter - OACS
- v. Tania Whyte - CRC World Mission
- vi. Darrell Bierman – River City Church
Graham Morbey – Waterloo Campus Ministry
- vii. Jamie Vander Berg – Guelph Campus Ministry
- viii. Fred Vander Sterre. – Diaconate and Nominations Committee member.

3 Church Visiting Discussion

3.1 Jack Tacoma Introduces Rev. Jack De Vries to lead a discussion on Church Visiting and introduce our new format.

- i. Jack De Vries gives an overview of church visiting practices including our new format and asks us to break into groups Families of Churches for a discussion in our new format.
- ii. The delegates break out into Families of Churches for a time of discussion and were asked to report back at 11:15. This was a practice run of how Classis would like church visits to be done in the future

3.2 Group reports

3.2.1 Shari Oosthoek for the Guelph Family of Churches

(First, New Life, Campus, Acton)

- ix. Similar challenges in their ministries
- x. Same anchor to hold them steady – Jesus Christ
- xi. Looking forward to build stronger inter-relationships

3.2.2 Fred Vander Sterre

(Goderich, Blyth, Lucknow, Kincardine)

- i. Powerful presence of the Holy Spirit in these churches
- ii. Restlessness among the members

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- iii.* Need of a new vision among the churches
- iv.* Openness to develop new programs and drop old ones
- v.* Eagerness to connect with the surrounding culture

3.2.3 Bill Hoogland

(Stratford, Exeter, Vanastra, Clinton)

- i.* Vanastra, the smallest congregation, had the most intriguing insights. They are forced to meet their context. Doing outreach in their programs works well. They have a defined geographic ministry area.
- ii.* Harmony in councils is strong
- iii.* Talents in leading worship has developed vibrant worship services
- iv.* Enfolding and reaching out are challenges

3.2.4 John Vander Stoep

(Kitchener, Journey, Waterloo, Campus, Cambridge, River City)

- i.* Some congregations are celebrating, others being vacant are needy
- ii.* Cambridge's challenge is to maintain unity especially with the older generation
- iii.* Volunteers are a great help in River City Church
- iv.* It was agreed that we must do this kind of discussion again

3.2.5 Roger Gelwicks

(Owen Sound, Collingwood, Orangeville)

- i.* The group needed more time
- ii.* There is great concern for young people; they need to be encouraged to profess their faith
- iii.* Loss of youth is painful in these churches
- iv.* Are we truly open to people from different cultures? We are known as the Dutch church.

3.2.6 Ray Heeres

(Drayton, Listowel, Palmerston)

- i.* Ladies' groups are thriving in outreach
- ii.* Challenge to enfold people
- iii.* Youth are taking more ownership and serving.
- iv.* Trillium League is active and vibrant.
- v.* Unity is a problem.
- vi.* Living together before marriage is more prominent than in previous generations

3.2.7 Jack Tacoma concludes the program with comments and prayer

- i.* There was not enough time to cover the material.
- ii.* Prayer was cut short for lack of time.
- iii.* Fellowship such as this increases our understanding of each other and has made our meetings more efficient

3.3 Guest Reports

3.3.1 John Hofstee reported on Service Link.

- i.* Please print the hot opportunity list for all to see.

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- ii. A late teen work session with the Back To God Hour is planned. Those interested should apply to the Burlington office of the CRC.

3.3.2 Clarence Louter on OACS

- i. They now have 75 member schools in Ont.
- ii. Curriculum development is a priority and has wonderful results
- iii. They have a new \$60,000.00 curriculum project and request offerings for that cause...

3.3.3 Tim Wolfert on Redeemer

- i. Reports on behalf of Dr. Cooper
- ii. Redeemer is a thriving learning centre with the students back on campus.
- iii. Redeemer is the only credited Christian teacher training program. The program is full with people eager to teach in Christian ways.
- iv. The cultural mix of Redeemer students is growing. It offers a wonderful stimulant of various worldviews as they meet Redeemer's reformed world view.
- v. Faculty research is ongoing, especially during the summer.
- vi. Various conferences at faculty level are a blessing as well.
- vii. 46 students attend Redeemer from Classis Huron.
- viii. Thank you for your offering towards student tuition support.
- ix. Please continue to pray for Redeemer. The Lord's blessing is indispensable.

3.4 Pre Lunch Devotions

Ray Vander Kooij leads in closing devotions for the morning reading from Mark 10:35-45 and praying for God's blessing on our work and food.

3.5 Classis breaks for lunch

3.6 Classis resumes

3.7 Classis moves to examine Leo Blydorp for exhorting license

- i. Rev. Chris Schievink introduces Leo Blydorp.
- ii. Leo leads us in worship as part of the examination.
- iii. Rev. John Vander Stoep interviews Leo on practica and theology.
- iv. Members of Classis are given the opportunity to question Leo and some do so.
- v. Classis moves to executive session.
- vi. Classis leaves executive session, guests re-enter and Leo is congratulated by the chair.
- vii. Classis decided to grant Leo Blydorp his license to exhort. The exact wording is found in Executive minutes.
- viii. Classis recesses so members may congratulate Leo on his achievement.

3.8 Classis reconvenes

3.9 New Life CRC's request to ordain James Vander Berg as Ministry Associate for the Guelph Huron Campus Ministry.

- i. It is moved that we bypass examining James for ordination as Ministry Associate in Classis Huron

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Grounds:

- a. The synodical deputies have declared the position ministerial in status.
 - b. Past exam and work record indicate that examining requirements have been met by James Vander Berg. Adopted
- ii. Moved that Classis Huron declare James Vander Berg approved to be ordained in Classis Huron as Ministry Associate.

Grounds:

- a. New Life CRC has called James Vander Berg to Campus Ministry at the University of Guelph.
- b. James has met all necessary requirements in order to be ordained as Ministry Associate.

Adopted

3.10 Keith Oosthoek speaks on behalf of the CRCNA

- i. Keith reports on Dr. Calvin Bremer's resignation
- ii. Dr. Peter Borgdorff continues as Executive Director during this staffing difficulty.
- iii. Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee will release criteria for entering our ministry in the near future
- iv. The 150th anniversary of the CRC will be held in 2007. Plans for the celebration are well on the way. Themes for the events have been adopted and will be released in good time.

3.11 We break for recess and to congratulate James Vander Berg on his achievement

3.12 We reconvene

3.13 The Stated Clerk Reports

- i. The Clerk's correspondence is recognized and approved
- ii. The pulpit supply schedule is adopted. Classis is informed that congregational preferences will need to be dealt with by each congregation and the people involved.
- iii. Our Clerk represented Classis at Rev. Vicki Cok's installation
- iv. It was noted that the ministerial credentials of Rev. Greg Girard are not with the CRC but with the Reformed Church of America.

3.14 CIC reports in the person of Rev. Jack van de Hoef

- i. Classis approves to appoint a three person committee for advice on Website development. This committee is responsible to the Interim Committee and its mandate is to advise Classis on website design, cost and implementation.
- ii. Stratford "Overture"
 - a. CIC position on the "overture" from Stratford as stated in the agenda was communicated to Stratford.
 - b. CIC apologizes to Rev. Henry Lunshof and New Life CRC for the wrongful release of the Stratford "overture" in the agenda of Classis
 - c. Rev. Henry Lunshof speaks
 - i. Upholding his allegiance to the CRC and its positions and doctrine.
 - ii. Express his hurt in that the CIC has failed to protect him in publishing the Stratford "overture" in the agenda.
 - iii. That he welcomes anyone to talk with him about his statements or beliefs.

- d. Stan Pucklicz, elder from Stratford addresses Classis saying:
 - i. The Stratford CRC believes Classis must provide occasions to discuss and understand differing opinions and their orthodoxy as they arise on the floor of Classis. Stratford believes we pledge to do so when we sign the Form of Subscription.
 - ii. Stratford admits that naming people as it did in its “overture” was incorrect.
- e. Classis approves the CIC report

3.15 Fred Vander Sterre presents the nominations for various positions in Classis

3.15.1 Classis voted the following people into office.

- i. Church Visitor North – Rev. Roger Gelwicks
- ii. Church Visitor East – Mr. Ralph Van Dalen
- iii. Classical Ministry Committee – (Representing the Youth Committee) Rev. George Holthof
- iv. Classical Youth Ministry Committee – Mr. James Vander Berg
- v. Waterloo Campus Ministry – Mr. Bill Los
- vi. Classical Interim Committee – Rev. Jack De Vries
- vii. Church Visitor West – Rev. Stephen Tamming

3.16 Deaconate representative

Fred vander Sterre reports on the day of encouragement to be held Oct. 15, 2005 in Hamilton as usual. All invited to attend this stimulating day for church members.

3.17 Stephen Tamming reports for the Exhorter Review Committee

- i. That Jack Tacoma’s license be renewed for five years – accepted
- ii. Dr. John Van Dorp, because of the lack of one sermon review, is granted an extension of his license to exhort till January 31, 2006 to be processed then.
- iii. Hank Den Hollander and John Den Bok are granted an extension of their license to exhort till January 31, 2006 and then be processed.
- iv. The review committee recommends that a mentoring program for our exhorters be developed. Exhorters could be encouraged to attend seminars and preaching groups.
- v. The Interim Committee is asked to look into improvements.

3.18 Our Treasurer, Bert Fluit, reports

- i. That travel remuneration is set at \$0.45 per km. - adopted
- ii. That honorariums for both the Stated Clerk and the Treasurer be increased by \$400.00 per year. This sets the honorariums per year at \$ 2,200.00 for the Stated Clerk and for the Treasurer at \$2,500.00. – adopted
- iii. The entire budget proposals were adopted as presented.

3.19 Jack De Vries reports on the Ministry Committee

- i. On November 2 -3, 2005 three members of the CMC will attend a planning meeting for the upcoming conference in Pontiac, MI. This conference is to be held May 1-3, 2006 with Dr. Graig Van Gilder as

main a resource. We ask that Classis cover the cost of registration at \$125.00 per participant and their travel costs. – adopted

- ii. For the past five years Classis Huron has participated in the Classis Renewal Ministry Team. We ask Classis to renew this partnership with the CRMT for an additional three (3 years at the cost of \$1,000.00 annually. Adopted

3.20 Home Missions Committee Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis reporting

- i. Our church plants are going well with hard word by its leaders. Please keep praying for them.
- ii. The tough issue of how to engage our culture today is their big question
- iii. The Committee requests \$2,000.00 for support of the Leadership Development Program in the 2006 budget year - defeated.

The discussion leading to this defeat of the motion raised the need for reporting on time.

- iv. The Committee plans a review of our Classis' ten year plan regarding new church plants in Classis. Rising costs will require an increase in future funding.
- v. Huron Campus Ministry of Waterloo reports
 - a. John Mohle, chairperson of the committee, enthusiastically tells of the impact of the reformed worldview on students as presented by campus ministry. Campus Ministry is exciting because students come with questions that the gospel has answers for through ministry.
 - b. Graham Morbey tells of his ministry as campus minister.
 - i. Graham thanks Classis for its support over the 25 years that he has been at Waterloo
 - ii. Our regional universities draw students from across the world to our area. This makes us a global mission outreach and creates a new openness for discussion of religion. It also brings a redefinition of Christian culture as diverse life styles come together.
 - iii. Laurier University has given the ministry a \$5,000.00 grant to sponsor conferences and lectures.
 - iv. Graham leads a new prayer program that invites researchers to explain their work and join to have Graham pray for their research. This is well received.
 - v. Though there is a growing apathy for institutional religion, personal spirituality is vibrant and many seek Graham's help in this area of their lives.
 - vi. Please pray for our work on campus.
 - c. Some questions were raised from the floor.
 - i. Are the students for whom names are given contacted? Yes, the students whose names we get are contacted although there are many students whose names we do not get. Some students on our list are not reachable.
 - ii. Can we get a new brochure that tells us of the various programs at universities for our students? We are working on it.
 - iii. Do the privacy laws prevent us from sharing the names of students? Yes we have to have the permission of parents and/or students.

3.21 We Recess for supper.

- i. Supper is ready and we were led in devotions by John Vander Stoep, reading from Acts 4 and leading us in prayer...
- ii. We break.

3.22 We Reconvene

3.23 Bert Langendyk from Exeter leads us in scripture and prayer.

3.24 Bert Fluit leads us in deciding on Classical Ministry Shares

That our ministry shares for Classis Huron is set as follows:

- i. Classical Expense \$6.65
- ii. Student Fund \$8.70
- iii. Huron Campus Ministry
 - a. Guelph \$11.33
 - b. Waterloo \$12.44
- iv. Home Missions
 - a. Church Plant \$8.00
 - b. Creative Outreach \$0.50
- v. *Total ministry share \$47.62 for Classis Huron - adopted.*

3.25 Synodical report

Classis was satisfied with the reports on Synod in our church's paper The Banner Jack Tacoma spoke of his inspiration from attending Synod.

3.26 No Church Visitor reports

3.27 Church Counselors Reports

- h. Rev. Bill Hoogland as counselor of Clinton CRC
 - i. Church School is up and running in the congregation
 - ii. Harmony has returned to council. Family visiting will try to build this harmony in the congregation.
 - iii. They are diligently searching for a pastor
 - iv. Rev. Jack Quartel is teaching their senior catechism
- i. Rev. Henry Lunshof reports Rev. Vicky Cook has been installed in the Waterloo CRC. He asks Classis to pray for this ministry.

3.28 Credential Committee Report by Peter Janssens re concerns raised on the credentials.

- i. Acton asks what constitutes diligent promotion of Christian Education.
 - a. Listowel has a position on this that they are willing to share
 - b. In essence it means to promote diligently with heart and mind in all of church life.
- ii. Listowel asks for concurrence in moving to the second step of discipline in two cases, a woman and man who have resigned from the church
 - a. Delegates respond with advice.
 - b. The question arises: "How can we deal with this in view of the newly introduced "privacy laws" we live with? It was obvious that we need a clear answer to that question in order to act wisely on it and avoid possible litigation.

- iii. Rev. George Holthof offers prayer in response the various matter raised on the credentials.
- iv. Stratford asks for a conversation to raise understanding and unity in Classis as related to varying opinions and positions. The Committee recommends the following:
 - a. That Classis not grant the request of Stratford as per credentials.
 Grounds:
 The required discussion needs a clearer focus of topic and process than now available
 - b. That Stratford first directly approach the individuals with whom they have concerns, in a dialogue for the purpose of clarification and understanding as per Matthew 18:15ff. The Galatians 2: 11 raises the need of a clear focus if public action is to happen.
 - c. That Stratford invite the church visitors to a future council meeting for the purpose of:
 - Gaining their advice
 - Defining the issues more clearly in helpful focus
 - Defining a proper process by which to present and discuss these matters in a healthy and constructive manner.
 - d. Classis adopts this proposal.
 - e. Rev. Andrew Van Muyen leads us in prayer re this matter.

3.29 Chairman George Holthof makes closing remarks

- i. The chair thanks Exeter CRC for hosting us so well.
- ii. The chair thanks the Stated Clerk of Classis for work done
- iii. The Chair thanks Rev. Chris Schievink for his support as VP

3.30 Elder Pieter De Groot from Collingwood leads us in closing devotions

- i. He reads 1 Corinthians 13
- ii. Asks us to sing a hymn
- iii. Led us inclosing prayer

3.31 The Chair closes our meeting

We sing the doxology, number 638 in the Psalter Hymnal

3.32 Notice of next meetings of Classes and report Deadlines

Meeting Date	Reports due
January 14, 2006 in Listowel	December 5, 2005
May 10, 2006 in Vanastra	April 5, 2006
September 20, 2006 in ?????	August 10, 2006

3.33 Current Exhorters or Preachers for Classis Are:

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