



CLASSIS HURON
of the Christian Reformed Church in North America
www.classishuron.ca

AGENDA

February 12, 2014 – 9:00 a.m.

Christian Reformed Church

88 Main Street East

Drayton

The PURPOSE of Classis Huron

To support, equip and encourage our churches in the ministries as God has called us.

The VISION of Classis Huron

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 individual churches and the joint ministries of Classis.

1. Index of Agenda Items and the day's schedule

Timeline	Report No. and Name	Reporter	Page
9 a.m.	Welcome, announcements	Drayton	
	Constituting Classis: Report of the Credentials Committee		
	Worship	Rev. John Vanderstoep	
9:20 a.m.	Opening of Classis: Officers take their seats, opening comments by chair, committees for the day, devotions for the day.		
9:30 a.m.	7. Presentation and table discussion: <i>Discipleship</i>	Rev. Stephen Tamming Lesli Van Milligen	3
10:30 a.m.	Break		
10:45 a.m.	2014-2017 Classis Huron Ministry Plan	Rev. John Vanderstoep	14
11:30 a.m.	9. CMC/ AdCom/ Stated Clerk	Rev. Ralph Wigboldus	3
12 noon	Lunch Credentials Committee, Overtures Committee meets		
1 p.m.	10. Examination of Candidate Ken DeBoer		5
1:40 p.m.	11. Extend Commissioned Pastor status for Rick DeGraaf		5
2 p.m.	12. Protest decision of Classis – Rev. Siemen Speelman	Overtures Committee	5
2:30 p.m.	Nominations Committee: Delegates to Synod, Elections to various committees.		6
2:45 a.m.	Overtures: 1. The frequency of classical appointments 2. Reimbursement for classical appointments	Overtures Committee	6
3 p.m.	Coffee Break		
3:15 a.m.	15. Campus Ministry – Guelph	Rev. David Tigchelaar	7
3:25 p.m.	16. Youth Ministry Committee		7
3:35 p.m.	17. Safe Church Committee	Atie Ott	8
3:45 p.m.	18. Home Missions Committee	Rev. Andrew Vis	9
3:55 p.m.	Credentials Committee		
4 p.m.	Church Counselors: verbal reports Collingwood – Rev. Harry Zantingh Drayton – Rev. Dr. Les Kuiper as interim pastor Exeter – Rev. Ron Luchies Guelph New Life – Rev. Bernard De Jonge Stratford – Rev. Carel Geleynse Vanastra – Rev. Vic Vandermolen		
	20. Reports		
	20.1 CRCNA Board of Trustees	Information	9
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	20.3 Disability Concerns	Information	12
	20.4 Canadian Aboriginal Ministries Committee	Information	12
	21. Future Classis meeting dates	Information	13
5 p.m.	SUPPER		

2. Opening worship -- Drayton

3. Constituting Classis

Call to Order, welcome by host church
Credentials Committee reports on attendance.
Classis is declared constituted.

4. Classis constituted

Chair: Rev. Ralph Wigboldus
Vice-chair: Rev. John Vanderstoep
Stated Clerk: Keith Knight

5. Devotions for the Day

Opening – Drayton
Pre-lunch – Owen Sound
Post –lunch – Palmerston
Pre-supper – Chair

6. Committees for the Day

Credentials Committee – Clinton and Guelph First
Balloting Committee – Drayton and Guests
Overtures Committee – Waterloo and Kitchener (Community)

7. Special guests

Synodical deputies: Rev. Jack Kerkhof, Rev. Ralph Koops, Rev. Herman Praamsma

8. Discipleship – A Classis Conversation

- Introduction and devotional on Jesus calling us to follow him. Jesus inviting all of us to be his disciples
- Round tables. People will be given specific questions to answer on discipleship. This time will easily be able to be reproduced at local churches.
- Resources on discipleship. Books, videos, seminars, etc

9. Classis Ministry Committee

9.1 CMC Report

The Classis Ministry Committee consists of representatives of all ministries/committees within Classis Huron: Chair, Ralph Wigboldus; Vice-chair, Amanda Bakale; Classis Ministry Leadership Team, Stephen Tamming; Home Missions, Andrew Vis; Safe Church Committee, Atie Ott; Financial Resources Team, Clarence Louter; Huron Campus Ministry (Guelph), David Tigchelaar; Huron Campus Ministry (Waterloo), Bill Los; Youth Ministry, Lesli Van Milligen; Ministry Plan Team, John Vanderstoep; Stated Clerk, Keith Knight, ex officio.

CMC has spent considerable time over the past year working on a draft Classis Huron Ministry Plan. Classis in September approved the core values, mission and vision statements. CMC held a special session in January to approve the final version of the draft plan to be considered by this meeting of classis. Unlike past plans, this one has specific goals and objectives.

CMC worked on content for the classis discussion on Discipline as Healing as a follow up to the September classis discussion. Instead of bringing in a guest speaker it was decided to use in-house talent.

CMC acted on behalf of classis by granting a license to exhort for Lesli Van Milligen since it did not require a classical exam.

Grounds:

1. Classis approved her position as commissioned pastor at New Life (Guelph) CRC in 2010 which included preaching and administering the sacraments.
2. She has preached extensively across Classis Huron.
3. She is currently enrolled in Calvin Seminary's candidacy program and has such already has a license to exhort through Seminary.

The next regular meeting of CMC will take place on March 25.

9.2 Administrative Committee (AdCom)

The Administrative Committee of Classis (AdCom) works on behalf of classis between meetings. AdCom consists of Rev. Ralph Wigboldus (chair), Amanda Bakale (vice-chair), Rev. Stephen Tamming, and stated clerk Keith Knight. Since the last meeting of classis, Rev. John Kuperus (formerly pastor in Blyth CRC) requested that his family membership be transferred to Sussex (NJ) CRC. As a result, AdCom also processed the transfer of his ministerial credentials to Classis Hudson. That transfer was accompanied by a letter written by the stated clerk outlining Rev. Kuperus' desire to be separated from Blyth CRC and to pursue overseas mission. That journey continues for him but it is now up to Classis Hudson to oversee his spiritual care.

Within the past year, the work of two commissioned pastors has concluded. Lesli Van Milligen concluded her work as commissioned pastor at Guelph New Life and Rick DeGraaf concluded his work with World Renew in Cambodia.

Commissioned pastors are job-specific so they no longer hold that title. Cambridge (Maranatha) comes to classis with a request to extend the commissioned pastor designation for Rick DeGraaf until June.

Rev. Richard Vandenberg requested that he be granted retirement because of age. AdCom approved the following motion, acting on behalf of classis: "That Classis Huron approve the retirement of Richard Vandenberg, effective Oct. 15, 2013, because of age."

AdCom re-stated what has been Classis Huron policy with respect to pulpit supply: Any vacant church that has an interim pastor, even on a part-time basis, is not eligible for pulpit supply. This reflects stated policy in the Rules of Classis Huron. Classis in September 2013 approved the request to examine Ken De Boer as term pastor in Lucknow. That will take place at the February meeting. Rev. Ralph Wigboldus was asked to generate the assigned text and the following will be asked to take part in the examination: Rev. Vicki Cok (theological), Rev. Carel Geleynse (practica). Sermon evaluations by Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen and Rev. Andrew Zantingh.

The Stated Clerk concludes his second three-year term in office. We thank him for his years of service on behalf of classis. AdCom comes with a recommendation for the appointment of a new Stated Clerk at the conclusion of this report.

9.3 Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk serves as secretary of Classis Huron, its Classis Ministry Committee and its Administrative Committee (AdCom). He creates agendas and minutes of these meetings and is accountable to AdCom. He also creates pulpit supply schedules and revises them as necessary.

The past year has been particularly busy, processing three requests for Article 17 separations and organizing pulpit supply schedules for up to eight vacant churches.

Since the last meeting of classis, the Stated Clerk has engaged in more than 400 email and phone conversations. A log of those email conversations is available upon request. Among those requests, he

- processed, through AdCom, the transfer of ministerial credentials for Rev. John Kuperus to Classis Hudson.
- received the ministerial credentials for Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen.
- corresponded with Ken De Boer in preparation for his examination at classis.
- corresponded with Rev. Siemen Speelman in preparation for his protest at classis.
- invited synodical deputies from Classes Hamilton, Chatham and Toronto to attend this meeting.

Just prior to the deadline for the classis agenda, Drayton requested that Rev. Andrew De Gelder from Palmerston be appointed counselor during their vacancy. Classis is asked to approve that request.

The Stated Clerk is concluding his second three-year-term in office. As he steps down, he expresses appreciation for the

support and encouragement he has received from church leaders across classis.

MOTION 1: That Rev. Vic Vandermolen be appointed as Stated Clerk for a three-year term, effective April 1, 2014.

MOTION 2: That Rev. Andrew De Gelder of Palmerston be appointed counselor for Drayton CRC.

MOTION 3: That the work of the Classis Ministry Committee, AdCom and Stated Clerk be approved.

10. Examination of Candidate Ken De Boer

Ken De Boer is serving as part-time interim pastor in Lucknow.

He will be examined by Rev. Vicki Cok (theological) and Rev. Carel Geleynse (practica).

Sermon evaluations by Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen and Rev. Harry Zantingh.

MOTION: That Ken De Boer be admitted to the ministry of the word in the Christian Reformed Church. The Synodical Deputies are required to concur with the action of classis.

11. Request to extend Commissioned Pastor's status for Rick DeGraaf

Maranatha (Cambridge) CRC requests classis to consider an extension to Rick DeGraaf's designation as commissioned pastor until June 2014. Mr. DeGraaf's work with World Renew as the Cambodia country consultant is coming to an end. He has left the field and is currently fulfilling home service obligations. His designation as commissioned pastor normally concludes when his position ends.

Maranatha CRC is in the process of defining a Pastor of Congregational Life role at Maranatha but has not yet completed all of the necessary steps, including the creation of a job description. Maranatha believes that Mr. DeGraaf's involvement in this process will be very helpful during this time of transition as Rev. Vanderstoep prepares to leave for Haiti this summer. Maintaining his status as commissioned pastor will also ensure consistent leadership during this time of transition.

MOTION: That Classis Huron grant an extension of Rick DeGraaf's designation as commissioned pastor until June 30, 2014.

Ground: As a commissioned pastor he could play a significant role as part of the leadership at Maranatha during this transition period as Rev. Vanderstoep leaves for Haiti.

The Synodical Deputies are required to concur with this request.

12. Protest Decision of Classis Huron

At the September 2013 meeting of Classis Huron, delegates received a protest from Rev. Siemen Speelman over the decision of the classis at its May 8, 2013 meeting concerning the approved compensation package as a result of his Article 17 separation. Classis decided to hear the protest at the February 2014 meeting in the presence of the synodical deputies.

Background

At the May 8, 2013 meeting, classis dealt with the Article 17 separation of Rev. Siemen Speelman from Vanastra CRC. Classis approved the following motions:

MOTION 1: That Classis Huron grant the release of Rev. Siemen Speelman from ministry at Vanastra CRC for the following reasons:

- i. The council of Vanastra Community CRC believes the church has evolved since Rev. Siemen Speelman's original call and therefore a succession plan is needed.
- ii. Rev. Speelman feels that it is in the best interest of the Vanastra congregation for him to make room for another pastor to serve the congregation through the next phase of its journey.
- iii. Rev. Speelman is suffering from burnout and compassion fatigue, and is in need of recovery/healing.
- iv. This step is strongly recommended by the staff of Pastor-Church Relations.

- carried.

MOTION 2: That the termination agreement as amended between the pastor and council of Vanastra CRC, reflecting a six month compensation package, be approved. - carried.
The synodical deputies concurred with the decisions of classis.

Rev. Speelman is protesting the second motion dealing with the six month compensation package.
His grounds:

1. The rule of thumb for severance agreements used almost universally in the CRCNA in the past decades is one month of compensation for every year served.
2. At the May 8, 2013 meeting, synodical deputies illegitimately entered into the deliberations of classis and sought to persuade the delegates in a prejudicial manner. The mandate for synodical deputies is either to concur or not concur in a decision of classis, not to inject themselves into the classis' deliberative process.
3. If the classis had agreed upon a twelve month compensation package and the synodical deputies had not concurred, the matter could have been decided at Synod 2013 by having it approve or not approve of the work of the deputies. As it is, Synod 2013 received my objection and its officers ruled it out of order, advising me that a protest of the decision is the way to proceed. Thus Synod 2013 was not advised of my objection and could not decide on whether to approve the work of the Synodical Deputies in full awareness of what occurred at the meeting of Classis Huron on May 8, 2013.

13. Nominations Committee

Delegates to Synod: Two minister delegates and two alternates.
Two elder delegates and two alternates.
Appointments to various committees.

14. Overtures

14.1 Overture 1: The frequency of classical appointments

Trinity Christian Reformed Church of Goderich overtures Classis Huron to change the classical appointment (pulpit supply) to one Sunday per month.

Grounds:

1. The reason for Classical appointments is to allow vacant churches to celebrate the sacraments. This could be accomplished through one classical appointment.
2. Classical appointments require a pastor to be gone from their home church which creates a lack of continuity on the pulpit. This lack of continuity is especially difficult in churches that have many new people attending.
3. Technology allows for churches to use a pre-recorded message which creates less of a need for pulpit supply.

MOTION: That classis adopt the overture.

14.2 Overture 2: Reimbursement for classical appointments

Trinity Christian Reformed church of Goderich overtures Classis Huron to reevaluate the rate in which sending churches are reimbursed for classical appointments.

Grounds:

1. The rate at which the sending church is reimbursed does not cover their actual cost.
2. The vacant (receiving) church does not have to support a pastor and therefore can afford to pay the actual cost that is incurred by the sending church.

MOTION: That classis adopt the overture.

15. Guelph Campus Ministry – Rev. David Tigchelaar

As the Board of Directors for Guelph Campus Ministry (GCM) we are tasked to ensure that the Lordship of Christ and the Kingdom vision for all of creation that arises from that claim is carried through staff, student leaders and into the work of this ministry. The Guelph Campus Ministry seeks to celebrate the life of Christ as they grow in faith, build community and engage the campus.

As a board we seek to prayerfully encourage and support the faithful work that is being done by Jamie VanderBerg (Campus Minister), Katie Brown (Church Liaison) and Becca MacDougall (Program Facilitator).

We are thankful that the Lord is at work through this ministry.

A main focus of our ministry staff is developing leaders for kingdom work.

The ministry is challenging itself to grow in the area of worship and is seeking to develop a worshipping community that is authentic and open to the probing questions of students who are at various points along their journey of faith.

With the departure of Jenn McIntyre the GCM board is trying to envision the future staffing needs for this ministry. In addition to our campus minister (Jamie Vanderberg) we have overseen the hire of two internship positions and an interim posting to fill Jenn's role.

Katie Brown has been hired to help facilitate relationships between our student body and the churches where they worship and serve.

Catherine Leggett has been hired as an intern to co-ordinate volunteer opportunities for those interested in community development within the Brant neighborhood of Guelph.

We have also hired Becca MacDougall as an interim program facilitator. Becca is a fifth year student who is able to come alongside the ministry of GCM because of her lightened academic load. We are excited by the good work that Becca is doing.

GCM hosted the annual Christian Reformed Campus Ministry Association's conference. The keynote speaker was Andy Crouch and we had almost 50 student leaders join campus ministers from across North America.

Looking forward: We are looking to hiring a program facilitator to work alongside Jamie. This will be a longer term solution to the vacancy left by Jenn.

During the 2013 calendar year we were thankful to receive \$74,643.17 through Classis Huron ministry shares and donations received from numerous churches within this classis.

Fundraising continues to be a key priority. GCM raised \$35,000 through private donations during the 2013 calendar year and has a fundraising goal of \$44,000 for 2014.

The board has approved a six-month sabbatical for Jamie from January-July 2015. Jamie's goals for this six-month sabbatical is to take his interest in the topic of forgiveness, which is a topic that he has a great interest in, and writing a book on forgiveness geared towards young adults.

GCM has been more intentional in its outreach efforts to local churches. We are thankful for a \$5,000 donation from Kortright Presbyterian Church. In past reports we have highlighted a number of churches and ministries that we cooperate with. In addition to our local Christian Reformed churches we have cooperated with Grace Community, Royal City, and Lakeside. We add to this list Two Rivers Church in downtown Guelph where students participate in their Sunday evening liturgy and discussion.

The Five Pillars of GCM: The ministry is built upon five foundations that shape our work: Worship, Discipleship, Justice, Hospitality, and Leadership Development.

As a board we would like to affirm that these pillars are clearly the driving force behind GCM's ongoing ministry activities as well as the new initiatives that are being undertaken by our staff and the GCM leadership team.

With numerous vacancies within our Classis, it hasn't been hard to fill Jamie's preaching schedule. He tries to reach half the churches within classis every calendar year. While this is a lofty goal, it is one that he continues to keep before him as this is the most effective way to communicate the vision and effectiveness of GCM's ministry. If you haven't seen Jamie in a while please don't hesitate to call him.

We thank the churches of Classis Huron for your support of this ministry. Together, by God's grace, we are shaping the spirit at a secular university to the glory of God and influencing those who will shape our culture in years to come.

16. Classis Youth Ministry – Verbal report

17. Safe Church Committee – Atie Ott

The Classis Huron Safe Church Committee's mandate is:

1. To function as an ART (Abuse Response Team) according to Synodical guidelines
2. To provide comprehensive and ongoing education and training.
3. To provide support to our churches in the prevention of, and response to abuse.

Denominational Update: From Bonnie Nicholas, Director of Safe Church Ministry

Over the past year we experienced a staffing adjustment, saying goodbye to Alisha, and hello full-time to Carol. We are also working more collaboratively with the office of Pastor-Church Relations to benefit both ministries. The office has recorded over a thousand interactions with individuals and churches in 2013. Some were about policy, some about situations, others were about team building and training. Many miles have been traveled for Safe Church presentations, training events, and continuing education. Some situations were resolved in one way or another; others are messy and remain unresolved. In all of these situations, I'm continually reminded of the need to build awareness and greater understanding of the impacts and dynamics of abuse. That will continue to remain our focus in 2014.

Classis Safe Church Team (CSCT)

At the January 9, 2013 meeting of Classis the following decision was made: "That Classis Huron encourage each congregation to have a representative on the Safe Church Team as soon as possible, and certainly by 2014. This will allow the team to truly fulfill the mandate given it by Classis Huron." (Article 18)

The response to that decision and encouragement has been underwhelming, to say the least. There has been very little movement on the part of the churches of Classis Huron to fulfill the January 2013 decision. As a team we are not quite sure what to do about that, other than to bring it to the attention of Classis once again. We would hope that representation from the churches would grow. After all, if there are issues of bullying or abuse in your congregation do you know what to do? If you are working on a social media policy do you know what may even look like or where to turn for help? Are you even aware of the importance of a social media policy? Are you aware of the destructive power of pornography and how readily available it is even to your children? Are you aware of the abuse awareness training opportunities in Classis Huron? What are you doing to safeguard the vulnerable adults and children in your congregation? As a member of council, are you aware of the sorts of things you are liable for? How safe is your church? Your Safe Church Team seeks to be up-to-date on the answers to these sorts of questions and many more.

Annual Inter-Classis Training Event, April 05, 2014

Planning is well underway for this annual event which is hosted by Classis Huron and is attended by church leaders from all seven classes in Ontario.

This year the training event will be held on Saturday, April 05, 2014 at the Waterloo CRC.

There will be sessions on pornography, Developing a Social Media Policy for your church, Restorative Justice approaches to trauma and others.

Advance notice has been sent out to all those who attended in previous years. Brochures will be mailed out in the near future. We invite all council members and encourage leaders, including those working with children and youth to attend.

Safe Church Conference 2014: April 25-26 at the Prince Center, Grand Rapids

The goal is to have at least three people from each Classis Safe Church team attend. Conference details will be available soon on the Safe Church website.

Who pays? Safe Church covers the costs for meeting rooms, materials, speakers, and meals during the conference.

Attendees are responsible for their own lodging and transportation, in most cases classis funds are used for this. If funds are the only thing keeping you from attending – please contact Safe Church. Scholarships are available

Who's invited? The conference is designed for all classis Safe Church team members. Up to one representative from each church is allowed to attend. Special arrangements may be made for representatives residing in areas where there is not an active Safe Church team.

Where is it? The conference in 2014 will be held at the Prince Conference Center in Grand Rapids.

Abuse Awareness Sunday September 22, 2013

We thank all these churches in our classis who held special services or otherwise promoted the cause of abuse prevention.

Upcoming Events:

Shore 2 Shore is a motorcycle ride across North America to address the devastating effects of pornography in our families, churches and communities. This event is supported by the Office of Abuse Prevention. It will be held from June 28 to July 25. More details will follow.

18. Classis Home Missions Committee – Rev. Andrew Vis

The Home Missions Committee continues to work to identify a church plant location in Classis Huron. One of the locations that is currently being considered is Fergus. To help explore this possibility, Home Missions has formed a subcommittee responsible for conducting background research, getting feedback from area churches, identifying a possible partner church, etc. The subcommittee will be composed of one member of the Classis Huron Home Missions Committee, one member of denominational Home Missions, and three others. The subcommittee will report back to Home Missions with recommendations, hopefully by the end of 2014.

One of the people who has expressed interest in being involved in church planting in Classis Huron is our committee chairperson, Rev. John Vanderstoep of Maranatha CRC, Cambridge. To avoid a conflict of interest, John asked to resign from the committee. We heartily thank John for his faithful and diligent work for many years!

19. Nominations Committee

Delegates to Synod: Two minister delegates and two alternates.
 Two elder delegates and two alternates.

20. Reports

20.1 CRCNA Board of Trustees

The Board is in the midst of several key tasks that will determine the future of ministry in the CRCNA. First, the Executive Director Search is taking place and all plans indicate that someone should be presented to Synod of this year to fill that role. The Search Team is delighted with the number of applicants as it is in the process of reviewing, interviewing and following up with potential candidates.

As well, the Board has also set a timeline to the work of the next Canadian Ministries Director. You will notice from the name that the emphasis is on “Canadian” and “Ministries” as opposed to previous years. The timeline is structured so that the bulk of the process comes immediately following the search for the Executive Director. The CMD is also expected to be presented before Synod of this year.

Both of these processes are items for which we would appreciate great prayer in the church over the next several weeks and months.

As for other significant matters, the BOT is also preparing for meetings in both February and May. Matters that are of interest to Classis Huron include a review of agencies, connection to Aboriginal Ministries, reports on Binationality, and the exercise of management through the Canada Corp. (the Canadian side of the BOT) and other significant matters will be before it.

The Strategic Planning Process for the CRCNA carried out: (as reported by Joel Boot, Executive Director, CRCNA)
The BOT’s Strategic Planning Team has been busy. SPACT (Strategic Planning and Adaptive Change Team) has been engaged now for a year and half in its work of developing a fundamentally reframed ministry plan, beginning in June 2012. Steps completed to date include:

- Development of an Extensive SCAN—an SCAN was compiled which deals with external, internal and interview data (work completed between June-December 2012).
- Initial Development of Key Challenges by MLC—the narrative versions of the SCAN materials were reviewed by the executive directors of the agencies, ministries and the administrative officers who serve on the MLC with an initial list of thirteen (13) key ministry challenges being identified (work completed between January-April 2013).
- Church Visits to Review SCAN Materials and Name Challenges—the SCAN materials were translated into a PP presentation with the members of SPACT teaming up to take the presentation out to nine (9) regions in the church to conduct both large group gatherings as well as specific focus groups for designated types of CRC constituents. Extensive feedback was collected of the naming of the key ministry challenges by those who participated (work completed between May-November 2013).
- Developing a Proposed Final List of Key Ministry Challenges—SPACT met to develop a proposed final list of nineteen (19) key ministry challenges based on all feedback received. They identified the fourteen (14) which need to be addressed by a fundamentally reframed denominational ministry plan; and they further classified these in terms of being: (a) primarily adaptive, (b) both technical and adaptive, and (c) primarily technical. They also reported their work to the joint meeting of MLC, TFRSC, CWG, and SPACT (work completed December 2013).

Next Phase in the Process—Developing Fundamentally Reframed Denominational Ministry Plan

SPACT will take the lead in developing the Denominational Ministry Plan and working closely with the MLC (Ministry leadership Council) as its primary partner in doing so. However, this process will also involve the participation of other denominational entities as well, such as the TFRSC (Task Force reviewing Structure/Culture, and CWG.

- Review proposed “final” list of key ministry challenges and finalize which are to be included in the plan
- Review current clustering of challenges as being adaptive, both technical and adaptive, and technical, making adjustments as needed
- Name the underlying adaptive challenge for all challenges listed as being adaptive or both technical and adaptive
- Design strategies for all the challenges which are technical or which have technical aspects to them
- Design initial experiments for all the challenges which are adaptive or which have adaptive aspects to them
- Draft an implementation design and time table
- Identify and convene any consulting with other partners which may be helpful and schedule it to take place, naming those who are to be involved

If you have questions about the work of the Board, please do not hesitate to ask me. I am blessed to serve the church in this way and more than happy to convey any thoughts you may have to the appropriate place. As a word of note, however, if you do have material you want to appear before the Board, it is necessary to address it to the Board of Trustees through Joel Boot’s office. Lack of attention to this small detail has created a few hiccups recently in some matters.

Darren Roorda

Classis Huron Board Rep., BOT Exec member, Vice-Chair Canada Corp, Member of SPACT

20.2 Redeemer College University

Greetings from Redeemer University College! As we approach the end of the Fall 2013 semester and also enter into Advent, we give thanks to God for His great gift of reconciliation and peace through Christ. Amid our intense busy-ness, we look forward to resting in this hope of Christ.

This academic year so far has seen both blessings and challenges for Redeemer. Our census day enrolment number for this year is 866 FTE, considerably short of our goal of 923 for 2013-14. This enrolment shortfall was partly due to flat growth in the number of university-age young adults that is affecting most universities across Canada, and was especially evident in the unusually small 2012-13 graduating classes of Christian high schools in Ontario. Many young people also feel uncertainty about job prospects, and consequently are choosing specialized programs that seem to promise career certainty. Despite our lower enrolment, however, our first-year class came with strong academic gifts, including an average GPA (81%), and most new students qualified for academic merit scholarships. We’re thankful for our students, and we have been blessed with a wonderful semester of excellent learning and exciting public events.

Especially in response to our reduced enrolment, we have devoted considerable time this Fall to planning for Redeemer’s future development. We have already made budget adjustments for this year to take account of our enrolment. The peculiar features of our enrolment trends – a small Year 1 class and a large Year 4 graduating class – also mean that our projected enrolment for the next three years will be in the mid-800’s. Accordingly, we will need to address significant challenges in our budget planning for those years.

In addition to financial sustainability, we also have been preparing Redeemer for continued excellence in carrying out its mission in the future. We have added staff to our Information Services Department, including a new Director, Len Moelker. We also welcomed Katlyn Guzar as our new Director of Institutional Research and Scheduling. And we continue to fill faculty positions, most recently with the appointment of Ms. Lindsey Short to the tenure-track position in the Psychology Department, to begin July 1, 2014. Lindsey is near completion of her Ph.D. from Brock University, and she will bring with her to Redeemer expertise in social, cognitive, and developmental psychology.

We also have been unusually blessed in having our chaplaincy team this year include 5 part-time people. Syd Hielema, our full-time chaplain, also leads our Youth Ministry certificate program, and for this year he has been seconded for 20% to assist the CRCNA Faith Formation ministry. To support our chaplaincy program, Robb Powell serves two days per week as associate

chaplain, Mark deVos serves for this year as a part-time assistant chaplain, and two students who are working toward Master's degrees at McMaster Divinity College (Deborah Roberts and Cam Farquarson) are completing their unpaid ministry internships through our chaplaincy office.

Along with new staff, we also have renewed our efforts to ensure the quality of our programs and the collaboration of our curricular and co-curricular programs to provide excellent whole life education. This summer we renewed our Quality Assurance review of programs, and this Fall we have begun an extensive review of our Core curriculum, with the intention of having a new Core Program in place by Fall 2016. We also have submitted our draft report for applying for accreditation to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (which also accredits Harvard and Yale). Our Education department is working closely with the Ministry of Education and Ontario College of Teachers to develop our Teacher Education program to meet the requirements of the new provincial mandate of a 20-course B Ed degree. We continue preparations to apply for accreditation of our Business Co-op Program with the Canadian Association of Cooperative Education.

Mention of our Co-op program also highlights our efforts to connect our programs and student learning with experiential and service-learning, in partnership with our support community. In addition to our expanding Co-op opportunities, we are building Community Service-learning opportunities into growing numbers of programs. And we are strengthening our Career Services to help students identify how they will serve in the world after completing their time at Redeemer. This year, Redeemer will partner with McMaster University, Mohawk College and Workforce Planning Hamilton, in sponsoring "Connect to Careers" -- a large career fair in Hamilton on January 23, 2014 and we hope to attract 175 or more employers who are recruiting new employees. There are also new initiatives underway in student leadership development for our co-curricular student clubs.

Redeemer's students are well known for their participation in Hamilton's arts and community service. This year's student-lead Food Drive was a great success, with over 10,000 pounds of food collected for Neighbour 2 Neighbour. On September 21st a youth event called CrossCulture was hosted at Wentworth Baptist Church. CrossCulture is the fruit of some strong collaboration between Redeemer and TrueCity, and had 50 Redeemer students volunteering alongside 50 more high school aged students from TrueCity churches in order to learn more about Hamilton and God's call of service on their lives.

With such efforts, our students practice and demonstrate our theme for this year of bearing fruit that blesses the nations (Revelation 21:1-2). Redeemer's students and alumni are truly our best reflection of how a Redeemer education equips students for lives of leadership and service. After 31 years, Redeemer's alumni now number over 4,000, and our Alumni Council is now seeking nominations for our recently established *Distinguished Alumni Award*. More details can be found on: <http://www.redeemer.ca/alumni> .

Finally, we are excited to invite you to several truly exciting events during our Winter semester:

- This year's World and Our Calling Lectures will feature Andy Crouch. Andy will deliver two keynote lectures, give a talk at chapel, lead a faculty workshop, visit classes, and interact with students while he is here. The first keynote lecture will be held on Tuesday, January 14, at 7:30 p.m. and will be based on Andy's book *Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling*. The second keynote lecture will be held on Wednesday, January 15, at 7:30 p.m. and will be based on Andy's recent book *Playing God*. Both lectures will take place in the Auditorium. Andy will also be interviewed by Lorna Dueck in a live interview on Redeemer's campus for the television program "Context with Lorna Dueck."
- Our 27th annual Ministers' Conference on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, with Public speaker, author and pastor Darrell Johnson who will share insights on preaching: "Lo! I Tell You a Mystery! What Really Happens in the Preaching Moment?" Darrell is the author of *The Glory of Preaching; It is Finished*; and *Fifty-seven Words that Changed the World*. He is currently the Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church in Vancouver.
- The ARCU Lecture 2014 with Dr. Ryan McIlhenny will be held on March 19.
- Our closing Chapel is scheduled for April 9, 2014.

For more information on these and other events, see <http://www.redeemer.ca/> .

We thank you again for your ongoing support of Redeemer through prayer and giving. May God bless you in your ministry, and may you enjoy His joy and peace during this Christmas season as we celebrate the gracious gift of our Saviour and Lord.
Dr Hubert R. Krygman, President

20.3 Disability Concerns

Not long ago your church received a letter in which our director for Disabilities Concerns, Mark Stephenson wrote, “As you well know, between 17 – 20 percent of people live with a disability, including intellectual, physical, hearing and visual impairments and also mental health issues and “hidden disabilities”. Many of the people in your church with disabilities have long term, ongoing needs.” These persons are part of every church.

This year Synod took some time to hear a report on disability and made the following recommendation. (art.64 C) “That synod encourage all Christian Reformed churches to adopt a church policy on disability and to appoint at least one person in the congregation to serve as a Church Disability Advocate.” One of the grounds for this states, “Churches that have a policy and advocate are more likely to take the necessary steps to take their church beyond the minimum requirements of the law, and lead their communities in engaging people with disabilities.”

Laws include the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) which was enacted in 2005 and imposed regulations on all institution open to the public, including churches. The requirements of this act have a gradual phase-in, with churches being required to comply. As of 2012, a *Customer Service Standard* is in force. It describes the way public organization, including churches, should be accessible to persons with disabilities. To be compliant, a church must “create and put in place a plan” that ensures it is accessible, and invite those attending its services and meetings to provide feedback. All persons who deal with those with disabilities using the church, must be trained. Are our Cadet and Gems councillors, our ushers and other church leaders able to handle persons with disabilities? We are to provide the goods and services we provide equally to all.

A good starting point is to follow the recommendation of synod and then have conversations not just on how we can comply, but how we can go beyond and truly be a place where “everyone belongs, everyone serves”. That’s what a church family is.

There are some resources available to churches. The province of Ontario provides an AODA Wizard on its website. Christian Horizons has produced good material on how to comply and you can contact Heather de Boer at the office of Disability Concerns in Burlington.

Len and Rynie Bakelaar,
Regional Disability Advocates for Classis Huron

20.4 Canadian Aboriginal Ministry Committee

Greetings from the Canadian Aboriginal Ministry Committee (CAMC)! Since our last report to you in September, our committee has met in person in Burlington and by phone in January. And as a committee, we are excited about our work and our mandate. For those who are unfamiliar with CAMC, we have been mandated by the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA to work with CRC congregations in the difficult task of reconciliation with our First Nations, Metis and Inuit neighbours.

We have approached this work in a number of ways. The Blanket Exercise: we continue to offer the Blanket Exercise (http://www2.crcna.org/pages/publicdialogue_blankets.cfm) to councils and Classes across Canada. If your Classis has not yet experienced this Exercise, please contact the Justice and Reconciliation Mobilizer, Shannon Perez (sperez@crcna.org) or myself, Yvonne Schenk at yvonne@tbccc.ca. Our committee received facilitator training for this exercise at our last meeting. This means that there are more of us across the country ready to host this exercise in different regions. If you are curious about this exercise, please visit the website listed above or contact either Shannon or myself. We would be happy to discuss this with you.

reForming Relationships art tour: CAMC continues to sponsor the exhibit of Kisemanito Pakitinasuwin , The Creator’s Sacrifice paintings - travelling across the country. (Painted by Ovide Bighetty, this series of art was commissioned by Indian Metis Christian Fellowship, an urban Aboriginal ministry supported by the Christian Reformed Church.) The purpose of this art tour has always been to mobilize CRC congregations in Canada to connect with their community in a new and different way. By hosting the art tour, congregations have been inviting community members, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal to work together to plan the event. This has led to discussions, relationships and, we pray, further travel on

the road to reconciliation. If you haven't yet seen the art work, or your church has not hosted the art tour, please feel free to connect with the committee for further information.

With the success of the art tour, we have had a lot of questions asking "what now?" The committee has been working on a toolkit which will hopefully answer this question in a variety of ways. The toolkit will include a book list, speaker list, resource list, ideas for group studies and exercises as well as many other ideas for CRC communities to use. This toolkit will be available before the end of this year, 2014.

Aboriginal Sunday will be June 15, 2014. Our committee will be preparing worship resources for this Sunday. We encourage you celebrate Aboriginal Sunday with us as we celebrate the anniversary of the Indian Family Centre in Winnipeg (<http://www.crcna.org/CanadianMinistries/aboriginal-ministry/indian-family-centre-winnipeg> or <http://www.ifcentre.ca/>). CAMC will be offering bulletin covers/inserts as well as worship suggestions of litanies and prayers for your worship service.

As we continue to grow in our work as a committee, we are developing further plans to mobilize congregations. We will continue to look at how CAMC can walk alongside congregations in their journey on the path towards reconciliation with the Aboriginal people of Canada – more specifically in each of our own communities.

Thank you for your continued interest in the work of this committee. We hope we can be a resource for you. And in return, any stories you may have regarding your community and reconciliation with your Aboriginal neighbours, would be welcome to CAMC as we are compiling stories for sharing with other CRC congregations.

Yvonne Schenk, chair

21. Future Classis Meetings

Date	Place	Reports due	Chair	Vice-chair
May 7, 2014	Goderich	April 2, 2014	John Vanderstoep	David Tigchelaar
Sept.17, 2014	Listowel	Aug. 13, 2013	David Tigchelaar	Gary Van Leeuwen
Feb. 11, 2015	Kitchener	Jan. 9, 2015	Gary Van Leeuwen	Henry Steenbergen
May 13, 2015		April 10, 2015	Henry Steenbergen	