



**CLASSIS HURON**  
**of the Christian Reformed Church in North America**  
[www.classishuron.ca](http://www.classishuron.ca)

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**MINUTES**

**Classis Meeting of February 11, 2015**

**Christian Reformed Church**  
**400 Whites Road**

**Palmerston**

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**The PURPOSE of Classis Huron**

*We will foster the Kingdom through shared resources toward spiritual renewal*

**The VISION of Classis Huron**

*The congregations, ministries, missional communities and people of Classis Huron will surrender to the work of the Spirit of Mission of Jesus, to embody the Kingdom of God. Recognizing the urgency of the times, we stand on the foundation laid for us by previous generations and step forward in the same faith we have been taught.*

## Delegates to Classis

	Minister	Elder	Elder
Acton	Rev. Ray Vander Kooij	Richard Vander Wal	
Blyth	Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen	Raymond Wilts	
Cambridge – Mar.		Colin McGregor	Jason Dykstra
Cambridge–River City	Rev. Darrell Bierman	Janet Ryzebol	
Clinton	Rev. Ron Luchies	Alfred Dykstra	
Collingwood		Pieter de Groot	Martin Veldhoen
Drayton	Rev. Paul Droogers	Markus Frei	
Exeter	Rev. Kevin te Brake	Rick Branderhorst	
Goderich	Rev. Stephen Tamming	Rob Terpstra	
Guelph – New Life		Tom Bruuselma	Jack Tacoma
Guelph – First	Rev. David Tigchelaar	Mary Blydorp [Deacon]	
Guelph – Campus			
Kitchener–Community	Rev. Carel Geleynse	Gord Harrison	
Kitchener–The Journey	Rev. Andrew Zantingh		
Listowel	Rev. Henry Meinen	Steve Vogel	
Lucknow	Rev. Ken de Boer	Stuart VanderVaart	
Orangeville	Rev. Andrew Vis	Paul Bakker	
Owen Sound	Rev. Harry Zantingh	Herman Posthumus	
Palmerston	Rev. Andrew de Gelder	Jack Vos	
Stratford	Rev. Martin Dam	Stan Puklicz	
Vanastra		Leo Greidanus	Andrew Katerberg
Waterloo	Rev. Vicki Verhulst-Cok	Rev. Paul Stadt	
Waterloo – Campus	Rev. Brian Bork		
Wingham	Rev. Henry Steenbergen	Murray Ritsema	

Rev. Andrew de Gelder of Palmerston CRC, welcomed delegates.

Rev. Ray VanderKooij reported on attendance on behalf Credentials Committee.

**Moved and seconded to seat Deacon Mary Blydorp [Guelph First] as a delegate.  
CARRIED**

Classis is declared constituted.

### Officers of the Day

Chair: Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen

Vic-Chair: Rev. Henry Steenbergen

Stated Clerk: Rev. Vic Vandermolen

### 1. Devotions for the Day

Rev. Andrew de Gelder of Palmerston CRC read an email from Rev. Harry Bierman regarding the cancer that his wife Clara responding to, entrusting her and her family to the providence and care of God, and asking for His healing presence.

He then led in a time of devotions focused on Jonah 2 and how it reveals God's grace in the lives of His people, and then led in prayer asking for God's blessing on the meeting.

## **2. Classis Ministry Committee Report**

CMC Chair Rev. Ralph Wigboldus reported on the work of both AdCom and CMC, as well as that of the Stated Clerk. He reviewed the information in the report, noting that it is quite self-explanatory and reflects the extensive work that is done between Classis meetings. It was noted that Redeemer asked that Dr. Hazel Lynn be appointed to take on a full 3 year term as the Classis Huron representative on the Redeemer Board. Delegates voiced their appreciation for the commitment and dedication of the work of the Committees and Stated Clerk.

**Moved and seconded that Classis Huron appoint Dr. Hazel Lynn as its representative on the Redeemer Board for a full three year term, effective October 2015. CARRIED**

**Moved and seconded that Classis approve the work of CMC, AdCom and the Stated Clerk. CARRIED**

## **3. Election of Synod 2015 Delegates**

The Chair noted that this was the first meeting of Classis Huron for Rev. Kevin te Brake [Exeter CRC] and Rev. Paul Droogers, [Drayton CRC] and welcomed them. He advised that all ministers are eligible to serve as Synod delegates. A number of ministers indicated their inability to serve as delegates due to other commitments. Classis voted by ballot and selected the following Synod 2015 delegates:

First Minister Delegate: Rev. Brian Bork  
Second Minister Delegate: Rev. Henry Steenbergen  
First Minister Alternate: Rev. Carel Geleynse  
Second Minister Alternate: Rev. Andrew Zantingh

Only two Elder nominees were submitted by the Churches for consideration as Elder Delegates:  
First Elder Delegate: Marguerite Ridder [Guelph First CRC]  
Second Elder Delegate: Richard Van Der Wal [Acton CRC]

## **4. Rev. Darren Roorda, Director Canadian Ministries**

Delegates heard from Rev. Darren Roorda, Director Canadian Ministries, regarding his role at CRCNA and the work currently being done. He indicated that the current role of this position is *to cultivate and nurture a shared and vibrant vision for the mission of the CRCNA with churches and agencies in Canada*. He shared how the relationship between USA and Canadian churches is positive and strong, and stressed that his personal goal and vision is to focus on serving the local churches. He also discussed briefly a report dealing with the question of how CRC agencies and partners can better communicate and 'connect' with the local churches, indicating that he will be closely involved in interpreting the report and its findings, turning its finding into actions and applications for the benefit of the local church. He also encouraged Classis to make use of the numerous denominational/agency/partner web sites available and see those as 'tool boxes' to be used by the churches as excellent resources.

## **5. Youth Ministry Report**

Classis was referred to the Youth Ministry Report as circulated with the Agenda, noting that there is a need for more representatives on the Committee, and encouraging Churches to call Lesli Van Milligen with recommendations/suggestions for nominees.

## 6. Church Counsellor Reports

**Collingwood CRC:** Rev. Harry Zantingh reported that all is going well and that there is an active Search Committee in place

**Vanastra CRC:** Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen reported that the Church is looking forward to having their own pastor upon completion of Paul de Weerd's ordination exam at this meeting of Classis.

**Cambridge CRC:** Rev. Vic Vandermolen reported that the Church is having ongoing discussions with Pastoral Relations re the finding of a suitable STM, and the hope that will happen soon.

**Lucknow CRC:** Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen reported that they have voted to call a candidate, who needs to complete some Seminary work in order to be declared a Candidate.

## LUNCH BREAK

Rev. Ray Vanderkooij, Acton CRC opened the afternoon session with a reading of the 'prayer' contained in Ephesians 3:14-21, and then led in prayer asking for God's blessing on the work of Classis for the Afternoon.

**7. Credentials Committee:** The Committee reported that all the credentials were in order, that there had been no questions/comments on the forms listing items for information, nor requests for advice. Drayton CRC asked for Church Visitors to meet with their Council in order to share changes in their Congregational life.

## 8. Reports

**8.1 Safe Church Committee:** Atie Ott highlighted from the report circulated with the Agenda. She noted that the training session that had been planned for 2015 has been postponed until 2016 and that further information on this will be forthcoming. She reiterated the need for ALL Classis Huron Churches to appoint a representative to the Committee, and encouraged Churches who do not have a representative to appoint someone as quickly as possible. She also indicated that members of the Committee would be willing to come to the Churches to speak about the Committee and its work.

**8.2 Nominating Committee:** Atie Ott reported that there will be a number of recommendations for consideration at the May meeting of Classis but there is only one recommendation now, for an addition to the Safe Church Committee.

**Moved and seconded that Chris Hutton [Associate Pastor, River City] be appointed as a representative to the Safe Church Committee. CARRIED**

**8.3 Ridder Church Renewal Process:** Rev. Andrew Vis presented an extensive report on the 'Ridder Process' which is an intentional learning process focusing on both personal and congregational transformation. Rev. Ray Vanderkooij shared from a very personal perspective regarding his involvement in the Ridder Process and how it had blessed him and impacted him, both personally and in his ministry. It was noted that there is an introductory event scheduled for Faith CRC, Burlington, May 1-2. See: <https://my.westersem.edu/2015--rcr-introductory-event-ontario>

## 9. Ordination Exam of Candidate Paul deWeerd

Candidate Paul de Weerd, called to Vanastra CRC, was examined for ordination as a Minister of the Word, openly sharing his faith and his faith journey. The Chair declared "Executive Session" as the delegates reflected on the examination and responses to the questions [see Executive Session minutes]. After the ballot vote was completed, Executive Session was declared ended. With the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies, Classis unanimously and appreciatively declared that he sustained the exam. The installation service is on Friday, Feb. 27 at 7:30PM at the Vanastra CRC.

- 10. Home Missions:** Rev. Andrew Vis referred delegates to the report that had been circulated with the Agenda and highlighted from it. He reported on extensive discussions with potential *partner churches*, and identified Guelph First CRC and The Journey as congregations committed to acting as partners. He went on to outline some of the questions that had been raised and the resulting discussions/answers in dealing with such matters as denominational support, location, budget, and more. At the conclusion of the report, it was

**Moved and seconded that Classis Huron approve the work of the Home Missions Committee and support its plan to plant a church in Fergus.**

After some considerable discussion an amending motion was

**Moved and seconded that this decision be deferred to the May 2015 meeting of Classis Huron, and that the Home Missions Committee be asked to bring 'hard information' regarding the variable issues discussed to that meeting.**

After further discussion this amending motion was

**CARRIED**

## 11. Closing

The Chair asked that delegates complete the evaluation forms on their tables before leaving, and also to return the name badges to the Clerk.

Vice Chair Rev. Henry Steenbergen thanked Chairman Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen for his good work in guiding Classis through the Agenda. [Applause]

There being no further business the Chair declared Classis adjourned and led delegates in a closing prayer of thanksgiving and praise for God's faithfulness in the meeting and to His Church

## 12. Future Classis Meetings

DATE	PLACE	REPORTS DUE	CHAIR	VICE-CHAIR
May 13, 2015	Waterloo	April 10, 2015	Henry Steenbergen	Amanda Bakale
Sept. 16, 2015	Guelph First	August 19, 2015	Amanda Bakale	Ralph Wigboldus
Feb. 17, 2016	Listowel	January 13, 2016	Ralph Wigboldus	Vicki Verhulst Cok
May 11, 2016	Guelph New Life	April 6, 2016	Vicki Verhulst Cok	