



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

MINUTES

Classis Meeting of May 13, 2015

Waterloo Christian Reformed Church

**209 Bearinger Road
Waterloo**

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	John Little	
Blyth	Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen	Douwe Top	
Cambridge – Mar.		Rick de Graaf	Sandra Nonkes
Cambridge–River City	Rev. Darrell Bierman	Janet Ryzebol	
Clinton	Rev. Ron Luchies	Phil Dykstra	
Collingwood		Jeff Beck	Richard Golby
Drayton	Rev. Paul Droogers	Markus Frei	
Exeter	Rev. Kevin te Brake	Rick Branderhorst	
Goderich	Rev. Stephen Tamming	Gilbert VandenHeuvel	
Guelph – New Life		Sharon Buisman	Jack Tacoma
Guelph – First	Rev. David Tigchelaar	Marguerite Ridder	
Guelph – Campus			
Kitchener–Community	Rev. Carel Geleynse	Rebecca Cunningham	
Kitchener–The Journey	Rev. Andrew Zantingh		
Listowel	Rev. Ralph Wigboldus	Bill Elisen	
Lucknow	Rev. Ken de Boer	Stuart VanderVaart	
Orangeville	Rev. Andrew Vis	Randy Groen	
Owen Sound	Rev. Harry Zantingh	Jim Jannssen	
Palmerston	Rev. Andrew de Gelder	John Katerberg	
Stratford	Rev. Martin Dam	Steve Hiemstra	
Vanastra	Rev. Paul DeWeerd	Andrew Katerberg	
Waterloo	Rev. Amanda Bakale	Evelyn Zwart	
Waterloo – Campus	Rev. Brian Bork		
Wingham-Maitland River	Rev. Henry Steenbergen	Murray Ritsema	

Rev. Amanda Bakale of Waterloo CRC, welcomed delegates, and led Classis in a time of devotions focused on singing, speaking, and praying praise to God, and in reading from Mark 6, allowed Delegates to hear God’s Word speak to them.

Rev. Carel Geleynse reported on attendance on behalf the Credentials Committee.

Moved and seconded to seat Deacon Randy Groen [Orangeville CRC] as a delegate.

CARRIED

Moved and seconded to seat Janet Ryzebol of River City as a Delegate [C.O. S40a]

CARRIED

Classis is declared constituted.

1. Officers of the Day

Chair: Rev. Henry Steenbergen

Vice Chair: Rev. Amanda Bakale

Stated Clerk: Rev. Vic Vandermolen

2. Devotions for the Day

Pre-lunch – Drayton CRC

Post –lunch – Acton CRC

3. Committees for the Day

Credentials Committee – Kitchener [Community] and Listowel

Balloting Committee – Waterloo CRC and Guests

4. Special guests

Mr. Sovann Neth of CRCNA's Cambodian Ministry

Rev. Adrian Van Giessen, CRCNA Home Missions

Mr. Wytze van Dijk, Calvin College BOT

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

The Chair noted a special welcome to Mr. Sovann Neth of the CRCNA's Cambodian Ministry. Delegate Rick de Graaf introduced Mr. Neth, who shared words of thanks for the ongoing support and encouragement being extended to *brothers and sisters in Christ* in Cambodia. He asked for continued support and prayer from the North American churches for the Cambodian ministry.

5. Classis Ministry Committee

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 it is quite self-explanatory and reflects the extensive work that is done between Classis meetings. He pointed out that at the September meeting Rev. Jack Vos will lead a discussion on 'Discipling/Discipline' within the Church. Delegates voiced their appreciation for the commitment, dedication and work of the Committees and Stated Clerk.

The following motion was moved and seconded:

- **That the amended job description of the Stated Clerk, as attached to the Agenda be approved, and replace the existing Section 3.3 of the Rules of Classis Huron. CARRIED**

The following motions were moved and seconded, receiving also the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies:

- **That Classis Huron approve the request from Rev. Tom Van Milligen for a one year extension of eligibility for call [to May 2016] as per C.O. Article 17c. CARRIED**
- **That Classis Huron approve the request from Rev. Chris Pool for a one year extension of eligibility for call [to May 2016] as per C.O. Article 17c. CARRIED**
- **That Classis Huron approve the request from Rev. Jack De Vries for a two year extension [from Dec. 1, 2015 to Nov. 30, 2017] of him being loaned to the CRC in Australia, as per C.O. Article 13. CARRIED**

The next meeting of CMC will be on June 16, 2015, to be held at Waterloo CRC.

6. **Waterloo Campus Ministry:** Delegates were referred to the report as attached to the Agenda.
7. **Youth Ministry Committee Report:** Delegates were referred to the report as attached to the Agenda.
8. **Finance Committee Report:** Treasurer John Bell referred the Delegates to the 2014 Financial Statements as attached to the Agenda, and responded to a number of questions;

It was moved and seconded that the 2014 Financial Statements of Classis Huron be approved **CARRIED**

9. Church Counsellors

Collingwood CRC: Rev. Harry Zantingh reported that the Calling Committee is actively seeking a new pastor, and that there is a good spirit within the church family.

Guelph New Life: Jack Tacoma indicated that there was no report. He requested that Classis approved the appointment of Rev. Ed Den Haan as their Counsellor during their ongoing vacancy.

Maranatha [Cambridge]: Rev. Vic Vandermolen reported that Rev. Ed Visser has agreed to act as an STM in Maranatha and that he will begin his ministry there in August 2015.

10. **Nominating Committee:** Committee Chair Atie Ott presented the name of John Barink of Orangeville CRC as a new member of the Safe Church Team.

It was moved and seconded that Classis approve this appointment. **CARRIED**

11. **Church Visitors:** Rev. Andrew de Gelder and Rev. Harry Zantingh, reported on Church Visits done with Bethel CRC in Listowel and with Drayton CRC. These visits had been made in response to invitations from the churches involved to allow for a time of sharing information, and about blessings being experienced. Both were characterized as very positive visits.

12. **Request for Licensure to Exhort:** Rev. Ray Vander Kooij referred Delegates to the written request received from Bethel CRC [Acton]. He shared information regarding Nick Kuiper, and asked that that Classis approve Acton's request to schedule the needed process and examination for licensure for Mr. Kuiper.

It was moved and seconded that Classis approve this request. **CARRIED**

13. **World Missions:** Rev. Carel Geleynse reported on the activities of World Missions, in particular noting the challenges that would be experienced in the joining together of Home Missions and World Missions as a single agency. He shared also that new missionaries are being sent out, and that the activities are World Missions are growing in scope and impact, highlighting the 'five global realities' that are facing missionaries today. Rev. Adrian Van Giessen shared about the joining of the two ministries pointing out that the work begun in 2008 was now coming to fruition, and expressing the conviction that despite potential challenges, this joining will have a positive impact in the work of missions.

14. Classis Huron Home Missions Report: Committee member John Zwart and Chairman Rev. Andrew Vis reported extensively on the work of the Committee, and its actions since the last meeting of Classis, referring Delegates to the comprehensive reports sent out with the Agenda. There was specific reference to the fact that the Committee remained supportive of establishing a “church plant” in Fergus, and that it recommended the appointment of Rev. John VanderStoep as the ‘church planter’.

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. CARRIED

LUNCH BREAK. Rev. Paul Droogers led Classis in a time of prayer, asking for God’s blessing on the decisions made and work that had been done in the morning session, and on the food to be enjoyed.

Prior to beginning the afternoon session, Rev. Ray Vander Kooij led in a time of prayer, asking for God’s continued presence and blessing on the afternoon’s agenda.

The Chair welcomed the Synodical Deputies to the meeting: Rev. Jack Kerkhof [Classis Chatham], Rev. Ralph Koops [Classis Hamilton] and Rev. Herman Praamsa [Classis Toronto]

15. Credentials Committee Report: Rev. Carel Gelyense reported on behalf of the Credentials Committee.

Guelph New Life asked that Rev. Ed Den Haan be appointed their new Counselor.

It was moved and seconded that this request be approved. CARRIED

Bethel CRC [Listowel] asked that the credentials of Rev. Jack de Vries be extended for a new two year term. [This was already dealt with – see Item #6, CMC Report, above]

Clinton CRC asks that Classis consider the use of lots in selecting Minister Delegates to Synod. Referred to CMC, and to report back in September 2015.

Cambridge Maranatha asks when River City will cease to be considered a ‘church plant’ and no longer be under the umbrella of Maranatha. The Chair ruled that this be referred to CMC for their discussions with Home Missions, and to report back at the September meeting.

First CRC Guelph addressed the concept of “membership” in the CRC, commenting that the traditional sense of being a member appears to be less important in the eyes of many, and asked Classis to consider how to address this issue. The Chair ruled that this be referred to CMC, with the intent of structuring a time to discuss this matter at a future Classis meeting.

16. Ordination Examination: John Medendorp, Tim Leferink

Candidate John Medendorp [called to Community CRC, Kitchener] and Candidate Tim Leferink [called to Lucknow CRC], were examined for ordination as a Ministers of the Word, openly sharing both their faith and highlights of their faith journeys. 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 both had sustained the examinations.**

The installation service for John Medendorp is set for Sunday, May 31, 2015 at Community CRC in Kitchener, at 10:00 AM.

The installation service for Tim Leferink is set for Saturday, May 30, 2015, at Lucknow CRC, at 1:00 PM.

17 CMC Report Addendum: CMC Chair Rev. Ralph Wigboldus asked Classis to approve the appointment of mentors for the new pastors.

It was moved and seconded that Classis appoint Rev. Ralph Wigboldus as mentor for John Medendorp **CARRIED**

It was moved and seconded that Classis appoint Rev. Henry Steenbergen as mentor for Tim Leferink. **CARRIED**

A question was asked regarding the status of Rev. Ken de Boer and his association with Lucknow CRC, now that Tim Leferink will become their pastor. Classis was advised that Rev. de Boer will take on the role/title of Associate Pastor for Lucknow CRC.

There was also discussion regarding the status of Rev. Siemen Speelman who had been separated from Vanastra in May 2013 as per C.O. Article 17. It was noted that he had not asked for an extension of his eligibility for call as the two year time period was expiring.

It was moved and seconded that Classis Huron approve Rev. Siemen Speelman for a one year extension of eligibility for call [to May 2016] as per C.O. Article 17c, subject to receiving a written request for that extension **CARRIED**

The Synodical Deputies indicated their concurrence with this decision, subject to the Stated Clerk receiving a written request from Rev. Speelman for that extension. [NOTE: That written request was received on Thursday, May 14, 2015]

16. CLOSING: Vice Chair Rev. Amanda Bakale expressed appreciation to both the Chair and the Stated Clerk for their work during the day. [Applause]

In closing the meeting Delegates were invited to gather around the Candidates, and also Karen Leferink, laying hands on them, as Rev. Andrew Zantingh led in a prayer of thanksgiving, asking also for the anointing power and presence of the Holy Spirit on their future ministries.

Classis was declared adjourned. The next meeting of Classis Huron will be held at Guelph First CRC on September 16, 2015, at 9:00AM.

18. 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 10, 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	

