



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

MINUTES

September 23, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.

**Guelph First Christian Reformed Church
287 Water Street**

Guelph, Ontario

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.

1. **Opening:** Rev. David Tigchelaar, pastor of host Church Guelph First CRC, welcomed delegates to the meeting. The Credentials Committee reported that all churches were present except one [which arrived during the report being given]. Rev. Tigchelaar declared Classis constituted and turned the meeting over to Chairperson Rev. Amanda Bakale. Rev. Bakale also welcomed delegates to the meeting, especially the Deacons, who are attending for the 'first time' as full delegates, in keeping with the decision of Synod 2015 [applause].

Nick Kuiper of Acton, led Classis in a time of devotions, focusing on Mark 8:27-38.

2. **Examination for Licensure to Exhort:** Having led Classis in a time of devotions and reflection on the selected passage, Nick was examined both in Theology and 'Practica' as part of the examination process to grant a license to exhort in Classis Huron. After the examination, 'Executive Session' was declared. Classis voted overwhelmingly to grant licensure. After declaring Executive Session ended, The Chair led in a prayer of thanksgiving for Nick's gifts and abilities, asking for God's blessing in his ministry.

3. **Classis Ministry Committee**

CMC Chair Rev. Ralph Wigboldus reviewed the report of CMC to Classis. Concluding his report it was moved and seconded the following motions be approved: that

Rev. Martin Dam of Stratford be appointed as a Church Visitor. **CARRIED**

Clarence Louter be appointed to serve a further term of 3 years on the Finance Committee. **CARRIED**

Wilma Hiemstra [Trinity CRC, Goderich] be approved to be examined for Licensure to Exhort at the February 2016 meeting of Classis Huron. **CARRIED**

Mary Blydorp be appointed as the Diaconal Ministries representative to the Classis Ministries Committee of Classis Huron. **CARRIED**

As part of the CMC report Treasurer John Bell presented the proposed Budget for Classis Huron for 2016. In that report he asked Classis to consider holding meaningful conversations with 'emerging churches', discussing how they can find ways to raise their funding levels in support of Classis ministries.

It was moved and seconded that the Budget as proposed for 2016 be approved as presented. **CARRIED**

Commented [WV1]:

It was moved and seconded that Classis approve the work of the AdCom and CMC Committees, and of the Stated Clerk.

CARRIED

4. **Youth Ministry Report:** Classis heard about the activity of the youth and the developments in youth ministry, and how Classis Huron was providing a significant leadership role in youth ministry within the Denomination. The 'Fall Retreat' is set for October 2-4, and there will also be a 'multi-classis winter leadership studio' for high school students in February 2016. For further information about Classis Huron youth ministry contact Lesli Van Milligen at Ivanmilligen@crcna.org.

5. **Church Counselor Reports:**

- **Collingwood:** Rev. Harry Zantingh reported that all is well and that the Congregation is actively seeking a new pastor.
- **Cambridge Maranatha:** Rev. Vic Vandermolen reported that Cambridge has engaged STM Rev. Ed Visser to assist them in their transition to, and search for, a new pastor
- **Guelph New Life:** Rev. David Tigchelaar reported in place of Counselor Rev. Ed den Haan, on the work of the 'Oversight Committee' established in May 2013. He reported that the Committee is recommending that New Life CRC receive Classis approval to enter into the calling process for a new pastor. ***It was moved and seconded that Classis approve the following motion: that Classis bless the New Life CRC process to search for and call a pastor, and pray for its success in addressing the spiritual longings of the congregation.*** **CARRIED**

6. **Waterloo Campus Ministry:** Chaplain Rev. Brian Bork referred to his report as attached to the Agenda, indicating that this ministry is growing and experiencing blessing. He briefly described some of the actions being taken to broaden the impact of this ministry, including giving examples of how collaborative this ministry has become, citing among others the new/growing relationship with Knox Presbyterian Church in Waterloo.

7. **Reports of Synod Delegates:** Rev. Brian Bork and Rev. Henry Steenbergen reported on their attendance at Synod 2015 and reviewed some of the matters addressed there. Rev. Bork expressed appreciation for being delegated to Synod, and how this had encouraged him in being part of the CRCNA – a small denomination, that is in fact doing very much in God's Kingdom. Rev. Steenbergen commented on the various reports in the BANNER and on the Denominational website re structural/organizational changes that are coming [Board of Trustees, Home/World Missions, role of Deacons. etc.] and how these would have far-reaching impact. It was noted that Synod encourages the use of the 'Blanket Exercise' [a tool that literally walks participants through the history of relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Canada, in an effort to help participants understand why reconciliation is needed and how to take steps toward reconciliation and new relationships, with Aboriginal neighbours]. This will be part of an upcoming meeting of Classis Huron.

8. **Diaconal Ministries:** Mary Blydorp referred delegates to the report attached to the Agenda. She commented on the work being done, and the role of CRCNA in dealing with justice issues, so that there is indeed a true 'Shalom' in all relationships.

- 9. Credentials Committee Report:** Rev. Andrew Vis reported on behalf of the Committee. Community CRC [Kitchener] asked that Classis encourage the discussions with 'emerging churches' to have them become churches in their own standing/right as 'full' members of Classis Huron. Classis was advised that this will be further reported on in February 2016. Stratford and Maitland River CRCs both indicated they would not be sending Deacon delegates to Classis meetings [mainly because they could not find Deacons willing to be delegated]. Classis was advised that because there appear to be a number of questions about Deacons at Classis meetings that CMC will address this matter further through discussions with Denominational offices, and report back at the February 2016 meeting of Classis. Stratford Consistory wished to register its protest in allowing women to be seated as Delegates to Classis [Received for Information].
- 10. Home Missions:** Chairman Rev. Andrew de Gelder expressed the appreciation and the support of the Committee for Rev. John Vanderstoep as the new *church planter* in Fergus. Rev. Vanderstoep shared with Classis some of his desires, aims and goals as he undertakes the work needed to establish this new church. He concluded his report by asking Classis to pray for this ministry and for him as the pastor. At the end of the report, Classis shared in a time of prayer..
- 11. Safe Church:** Atie Ott shared information re Safe Church activities, indicating that next Sunday had been designated by the Denomination as 'Safe Church Sunday' under the theme *God hears their cries: do we?*
- 12. Closing:** Vice-Chair Rev. Ralph Wigboldus expressed the appreciation of Classis for Rev. Bakale's leadership as Chair [applause]. The meeting ended with Rev. Bakale leading in a prayer of praise and thanksgiving. The meeting closed with the singing of 'The Doxology'.

13. Future Classis Meetings

DATE	PLACE	REPORTS DUE	CHAIR	VICE-CHAIR
Feb. 17, 2016	Listowel	January 13, 2016	Ralph Wigboldus	Vicki Verhulst Cok
May 11, 2016	Guelph New Life	April 6, 2016	Vicki Verhulst Cok	
Sept. 14, 2016	Stratford	August 10, 2016		