



CLASSIS HURON
of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

www.classishuron.ca

AGENDA

September 15, 2010 – 9:00 a.m.

Drayton Christian Reformed Church
88 Main Street E,
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.

*Each classis meeting has a specific focus: VHS – Visioning (January),
Huddle with Family of Churches (May), Skill development (September).*

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1. Constituting Classis

Call to Order, welcome, devotions by Drayton CRC at 9:00 am.
 Credentials Committee report on attendance
 Classis is declared constituted.

2. Officers of Classis

Chair: Rev. Darren Roorda
Vice chair: Rev. Ralph Wigboldus
Stated Clerk: Keith Knight

3. Opening of Classis

Delegates and visitors are welcomed.

Classis has received three new ministers – Rev. Harry Zantingh (Owen Sound), Rev. Andrew Zantingh (The Journey) and Rev. Andrew de Gelder (Palmerston). Classis will examine Candidate Andrew Vis (Orangeville) in October.

Classis welcomes the three area synodical deputies: Rev. Ralph Koops (Hamilton), Rev. Dirk Miedema (Chatham), and Rev. Herman Praamsma (Toronto).

4. Devotions for the Day

Opening – Drayton
Pre-lunch – Maranatha Cambridge
Post –lunch – Wingham
Pre-supper – Listowel
Post-supper – Acton
Closing – Chair

5. Committees for the Day

Credentials Committee – Waterloo and Guelph New Life
Balloting Committee – Drayton and Guests
Overtures Committee – Cambridge and Acton

6. Stated Hour

10:00 a.m. – Examination of Ken de Boer, license to exhort.
11:30 a.m. -- Dr. Hubert R. Krygsman, president of Redeemer University College.
1 p.m.–2 p.m. – Presentation: *Safe Place: Effective Abuse Prevention for Churches and Christian Charities*, Ken Hall, Robertson-Hall Insurance, the Classis Huron insurance provider

7. Classis Ministry Committee -- Rev. John Vanderburgh

7.1 Committee Report

The Classis Ministry Committee met on June 15, welcoming one new member: Rudy Eikelboom represents Campus Ministry.

a. CMC discussed a recommendation from AdCom to create a Saturday training session for those with license to exhort within classis. During the course of the discussion, it was suggested that this become an intra-classis event and that someone like Dr. John Rottman from Calvin Seminary be invited to lead that session. CMC recommends to classis that:

MOTION: That a Saturday training event be planned for the fall/winter for all those within classis who have a license to exhort.

b. CMC also discussed the status of church plants that have graduated from Home Missions grants and have not yet become organized. Representatives from both River City and The Journey will be invited to the next CMC meeting on October 19 to share their vision for ministry in their respective communities.

c. 2010-13 Ministry Plan. At its March meeting, CMC reviewed the current plan (2007-2010) and determined that, by and large, it was followed and most items accomplished. Some of the items will be reworked to reflect new realities. Each committee is creating its own goals and objectives for its work. CMC's ministry plan should reflect its broad goals and objectives, and it should be reviewed regularly. CMC brings the following motion to classis for approval:

MOTION: That the 2010-2013 Ministry Plan be approved and that its progress be reviewed annually by CMC.

d. Telling our story. Churches within Classis Huron have wonderful stories to tell: stories of God's faithfulness, blessing and growth. CMC will tie in story-telling with church visit reports. There will be sufficient time within each agenda of classis for one church to tell one good story. AdCom will contact church visitors in advance of the classis meeting to arrange for such a story to be told.

e. Examination of Ken de Boer of Lucknow. CMC discussed 'need' as per the Church Order and determined that there is a need geographically within classis for exhorters. Churches in the west, especially, have a difficult time finding local exhorters whenever there is a need for pulpit supply. CMC approved Mr. de Boer's request to be examined by classis in September.

f. Jan Oorebeek, who applied for a license to exhort at the May classis meeting but who was turned down, has accepted an offer to be mentored by three ministers within classis. Meetings have already taken place this summer.

7.2 AdCom (Administrative Committee)

AdCom serves as the executive of the Classis Ministry Committee and it meets regularly to set the agendas of the CMC and classis meetings and also deals with routine administrative matters such as processing the ecclesiastical credentials of ministers who leave or enter classis. AdCom consists of Rev. John Vanderburgh, chair; Willie Andrews, vice-chair; Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink, and Stated Clerk Keith Knight. Members regularly stay in touch by email, processing routine requests and serving as a sounding board and support system for the stated clerk. It met on August 12, the day after the deadline for materials for the September classis meeting. The executive met with Rev. Darren Roorda, the chair of the classis meeting. AdCom processed the ministerial credentials of Rev. Harry Zantingh (Owen Sound) and Rev. Andrew de Gelder (Palmerston) and set the date (October 14) for the special meeting of classis to examine Candidate Andrew Vis (Orangeville).

At the August 12 meeting, it also accepted an invitation from Dr. Peter Borgdorff to lead a discussion on the Belhar Confession at our January classis meeting.

AdCom will meet in October to act on matters which will emerge from the September classis meeting and also prepare the agenda for the Oct. 19 meeting of the Classis Ministry Committee.

7.3 Stated Clerk's Report

Keith Knight engaged in more than 300 email conversations and about a dozen telephone conversations since the May meeting of classis.

The stated clerk followed up with various actions that flowed out of the May meeting of classis: corresponded with Rev. Jack De Vries concerning his ministerial status with the Christian Reformed Church in Australia, and informed him of the approval of his formal request for a two year extension; corresponded with all those who had applied for licenses to exhort or a renewal of their license. He maintained regular contact with vacant churches and answered numerous questions about calling process, minister's compensation, and requirements around ministerial credentials. He provided Church

Order options to Blyth CRC and their pastor as they sought an amicable separation, in consultation with the regional pastor and Calvin Seminary.

He engaged in conversations with the synodical deputies about the Article 17 release from ministry and the examination of a candidate for the ministry.

He arranged for details for the examination for license to exhort as well as details for the examination of Candidate Andrew Vis in October.

He arranged and helped set the agenda for meetings of AdCom, Classis Ministry Committee and the classis meeting, and corresponded with those wishing to address the September meeting of classis.

He responded to various requests from ministers and others throughout classis.

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

7.4 Examination for license to exhort:

Ken de Boer of Lucknow has applied for a license to exhort within Classis Huron. Lucknow council has endorsed the request, and Classis Ministry Committee, at its June 15 meeting, determined that there is a need within the western section of classis to have licensed exhorters.

Assigned text: Psalm 22: 1-5. Rev. Ron Luchies will examine him in practica; Rev. Ralph Wigboldus, in his biblical/theological knowledge.

MOTION: That Classis Huron grant Ken de Boer a license to exhort within its boundaries for one year.

7.5 Correspondence:

7.5.1 Request from Rev. John Kuperus to be released from ministry in Blyth CRC

Dear Classis Huron,

The council of Blyth Christian Reformed Church received a formal request from our pastor, Rev. John Kuperus, to be released from ministry at Blyth CRC (Article 17a), effective September 30, 2010. He plans to pursue further study and then discern where he may be led in ministry. Council seeks Classis Huron's approval of his request as well as the concurring advice of the synodical deputies.

Rev. Kuperus is enrolled in a mission-focused course with Youth With A Mission totaling 20 weeks. He and his family will move to Hawaii while he takes this course. Rev. Kuperus has indicated that he feels called to some sort of mission endeavour and will spend the next several months discerning God's leading.

In recent months, Rev. Kuperus and council have sought the advice of the regional pastor – Rev. Paul Stadt, the stated clerk – Keith Knight, and Dr. Henry DeMoor of Calvin Seminary to discern the best possible path to take to facilitate this separation. We deeply appreciate their advice.

Rev. Kuperus has been a blessing to the Blyth congregation and the Blyth community during his seven years of ministry, and he will leave with the congregation's blessing. We covenant to keep him and his family in our prayers as he discerns God's leading.

Council, in a meeting held on August 3, 2010, passed the following motions:

MOTION 1: Council accepts with regret the resignation of Rev. John Kuperus as minister of the word and sacraments at Blyth Christian Reformed Church, effective September 19, to pursue studies and to wait upon the Lord to seek his leading beyond his 20-week course.

MOTION 2: Council gives thanks to God for Pastor John's seven years of ministry among us and offers its ongoing prayer support for Pastor John as he discerns the Holy Spirit's leading in his journey as a minister of the word and sacraments.

MOTION 3: Council agrees to continue to pay the CRC Minister's Pension Fund contributions until the conclusion of Pastor John's study leave on February, 2011.

MOTION 4: Council asks Classis Huron, in session on September 15, 2010, to release Rev. John Kuperus from active ministerial service in Blyth CRC, through action initiated by Rev. Kuperus, as per Article 17a, effective September 30, 2010.

Grounds:

1. Rev. Kuperus has indicated that he feels that his ministry in Blyth CRC is concluding.
2. Rev. Kuperus feels called to be engaged in some sort of mission outreach, the nature of which has not yet been determined. He has registered for a 20-week course with Youth With A Mission to help him discern his sense of calling.
3. Blyth council offers its continued prayerful support to Rev. Kuperus during this time of discernment.

David Werkema,
clerk

MOTION: That Classis Huron approves of the release of Rev. John Kuperus from active ministerial service in Blyth CRC, through action initiated by Rev. Kuperus, as per Article 17a, effective September 30, 2010.

Grounds:

1. Rev. Kuperus has indicated that he feels that his ministry in Blyth CRC is concluding.
2. Rev. Kuperus feels called to be engaged in some sort of mission outreach, the nature of which has not yet been determined. He has registered for a 20-week course with Youth With A Mission to help him discern his sense of calling.
3. Blyth council offers its continued prayerful support to Rev. Kuperus during this time of discernment.

NOTE: Synodical deputies are asked to concur with the decision of classis.

7.5.2 Overture from CRC of Stratford

The Christian Reformed Church of Stratford, Ontario overtures classis that Classis Huron not schedule women to chair classis meetings.

Grounds:

1. 1 Timothy 1:12-13 – "I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, she must be silent. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner." (NIV)
2. There is no overwhelming need for a woman to chair a classis meeting.
3. CMC has put Stratford in an unnecessary predicament.

The above was adopted in council on June 1, 2010.

Stan Puklicz, clerk of council.

8. Classis Ministerial Leadership Team – Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink

Early this year the CMLT sent out bulletin announcements inviting potential candidates for the ministry in the CRC to take up contact with our committee in order to avail themselves of the support services Classis Huron offers to these students. That bulletin announcement, along with the information posted on the Classis Huron website, is raising awareness of the support available to those pursuing ministry in the CRC. This fall our classis will be awarding forgivable loans to four students. Paul deWeerd, Laura Guichelaar and John Moelker will be studying at Calvin Theological Seminary and Michelle Van Harten will be at Regent. We are also in conversation with Gareth Harker as he discerns God's calling in his life.

Throughout the year the CMLT communicates with these students in order to offer them encouragement and prayer. We have also been in contact with a few other students and we have invited them to make application for financial support should they meet the CMLT criteria.

The CMLT expresses its appreciation to Rev. Bill Hoogland as he completes his term on this committee. We welcome Michelle Vanderwal as our new member, joining Revs. Harry Frielink and Rita Klein-Geltink. This fall the members of the CMLT hope to participate in a "Live Meeting" conference call being arranged by the denominational Candidacy Committee. Our candidacy processes have changed in various ways in the past few years, and the Candidacy Committee wants to help those working at the classical level in understanding and implementing our current processes.

Please continue to pray that God will raise up men and women to serve in ministry in the CRC.

Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink

9. Nominations Committee – Atie Ott

Board of Trustees nominees

The Board of Trustees of the CRCNA requires a new representative from Classis Huron, replacing Gary VanArragon who is completing his second three-year term in 2011.

BOT requires **two or more clergy nominees** from Classis Huron. Names will go to the BOT which will present two names to Synod in 2011. Synod will select one nominee and the new term will begin in September, 2011.

Calvin Theological Seminary is also looking for a **clergy nominee** from Classis Huron to replace Rev. Jim Poelman who has completed his second three-year term. This person will become a regional representative (Classes Chatham, Hamilton, Huron and Niagara). All four classes are asked to present one name. Our nominee will be forwarded to the denominational office which will present two names to Synod next summer. Synod will select one nominee and the new term will begin in September, 2011.

This note from the denominational office: "Synod strongly encourages nominations of ethnic minority and women to obtain board membership that reflects the broad diversity of the CRC."

Councils are asked to consider nominating their minister to either of these positions if he/she is interested. Please include nominations on the credentials.

10. Waterloo Campus Ministry – Rev. Brian Bork

Committee Report – Rudy Eikelboom, chair

Thank you for your prayer and financial support of the Lord's work on the two campuses at Waterloo. As you can see from Brian Bork's report we have had an active, though very different, presence on the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University campus this past year. As we move into the fall academic term we turn to our Lord in prayer to maintain and sustain the work we do through the presence of Rev. Brian Bork in this marketplace for ideas and education that is the crucible for the leaders of tomorrow.

As a campus committee, which supports and encourages this ministry on the campus, we have had almost monthly meetings over the past year where we have reviewed the work, visioned into the future and prayed for the students and our Minister, that they might be safely held in his hand as they speak his Word on these campuses. We are thankful for the growth that Brian has experienced in this his second year at UW and WLU. We can feel the Spirit's presence in many of the activities that have grown over the past year. (Personally I have been sustained by the faculty/grad student book club that occurs at WLU. It permits me to look at things in ways that otherwise would never have been possible.)

There are a number of issues that we as campus committee would like to draw to the attention of the Classis, both for prayer and because they may have an impact on this ministry.

Brian mentions that at UW the ministry has come to be built around a solid CRC student core. This is, as he points out, unusual for CRC campus ministries and may be a function of the nature of the UW campus, which offers a mix of degree programs that are not generally fully available at our Christian institutions of higher learning. Thus Reformed students who come to UW may be more interested in a Christian presence. It may also be a function of the presence of multiple Christian communities on this campus, making it something that is acceptable. Regardless of why, we are thankful that we can provide a university home for the CRC and other Reformed students on this campus and pray that this nucleus may grow in strength and faith. If you know a student going to UW (and WLU) remind them of the community that exists on this campus.

As you have read in your newspaper, the President of UW, David Johnston, is leaving the campus to become our next Governor General. He was scheduled to retire in about a year or so, but it will now happen much earlier. What you should know is that as an active Anglican, David Johnston has been a positive "behind the scenes" support for this and other Christian ministries on the campus, back when Rev. Morbey served, and now with Rev. Bork. We should thank our Lord for his work on our behalf, both visible and hidden, and pray that he may serve in his new capacity as Governor General with wisdom. As a Christian GG he walks a complicated and difficult path which needs the support of all Christians in our land. We also need to pray that the next president at UW will be as supportive of the need to provide for the spiritual side of individuals on campus.

One of the issues that we are struggling with and seeking clarity in where our Lord is leading us regarding the two campuses we are charged to serve. As Rev. Bork makes clear in his report to this Classis meeting (and in his report last year), the two universities are very different and it is hard to see how one individual can have an effective presence on both campuses. Currently there seems to be more growth and potential at the University of Waterloo than at WLU. This raises the question: should we put most of our emphasis on the work at UW and scale back our time and energy at WLU? Given the difficulty of doing justice to the needs of each campus how should this ministry proceed? This is a question that Brian, the students, and the committee will need to prayerfully explore over the next year.

Fourth, this past year it has become more evident that the longer term trend line for the support of this and other campus ministries is moving from Home Missions to more local support. Each year the support that Home Mission provides is reduced, for two reasons: first, Home Missions sees its task as establishing ministries, rather than sustaining them; second, the financial resources that Home Missions has available are not as large as needed and so Home Missions is making cuts in their support. Given that there are other places where campus ministries are needed their desire to emphasis establishing new ministries is a reasonable one. However this means that over the next number of year the cost of both campus ministries will more and more become a classical and local responsibility. Both campus committees are looking at this structural issue and determining how it can be addressed. In this year's budget, for example, the donation line item (raised outside of the normal Classical quota) has been increased. Classis should be aware that the financial cost of this ministry represents a long term substantial commitment of our churches. We appreciate the support provided over the last 30 plus years and look forward to it continuing into the future.

Finally, let me comment on the liturgical presence of this ministry which has blossomed since January. Rev. Bork, with the full support of the committee, and under the supervision of the Waterloo CRC, has been administering communion on the campus on Monday mornings. I have been blessed to be able to attend this Monday morning gift as a faculty member and it has enriched both my and the students' week. Waterloo CRC has been very supportive in this ministry and the campus committee is working with them to make sure that this sacrament is administered in a way consistent with our Reformed rules and practice. To see the impact of this joyful event on the students has been a rich blessing for me. If you have the opportunity to be on the UW campus early on Monday morning, please feel free to contact us so that you can join us in this gift our Lord has provided to his church as evident in this community on the university.

Campus Minister's Report – Brian Bork

The past year was my second year in Waterloo, but in many respects, it feels like it was the first year for Waterloo Campus Ministry. I understand that Classis Huron has sponsored the ministry here for nearly 30 years, but it was over the past year, that things really started to take shape, and that a stronger community started forming on campus. This report is a celebration of some of the wonderful things that happened last year, a reflection on the character of the ministry, and exploration of what the future of the ministry might look like.

Last fall, there were two additions to Waterloo Campus Ministry that changed the ministry as the year unfolded. First, we made use of the Home Missions "Emerging Leadership" grant, and "hired" two 4th year students to help out with various aspects of the ministry on campus. Working with these students was a great joy, as well as a bit of an experiment – I've never formally "mentored" anyone before, so there was a lot of foggy to terrain to cover, in terms of figuring out what that might look like.

Both students were very enthusiastic, however, and worked hard to help the ministry develop on campus. Their primary assignment was to help out with the other "new" thing in the ministry, which was a dinner fellowship called "The Soup and Speaker Series." Food and fellowship is the backbone of a campus ministry, and I figured WCM could form around a bi-weekly opportunity to gather for food and for a chance to hear from a visiting scholar about how their faith integrated with their learning. The series started off modestly in the fall, with 12 students gathering, and it grew steadily from there. By January, we had 40 students crammed into a room at Conrad Grebel to hear UW President (and new Governor General) David Johnston speak to us!

Other ministry programs blossomed out of this initial desire to see something organized happen on campus. The faculty/grad student book club continued to thrive at Laurier, attracting a number of new members. A prayer group formed – every Monday afternoon, a number of students gather and share what's happening in their lives, and pray for one another. Every Tuesday afternoon, I host an informal tea time in the office at UW, and rarely is there an empty seat, or a break in the conversation. A fledgling social justice/service component started, and a number of us volunteered some of our time working with Welcome Home, a ministry for refugees in the heart of Kitchener.

I've sought to make the ministry relevant and integrated to the University as an institution as well. In this effort, I've been involved on the committee for the Pascal Lectures at UW for the past two years, and hope to continue in this role. I've also been working with my chaplain colleagues at UW to organize a brown-bag lunch series which will bring scholars from various religious backgrounds together to discuss the ways in which they've been able to live faithfully into their academic and spiritual callings. We're also putting together an "Abraham Day," where representatives from Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths will share with each other the importance and significance of a person who figures prominently in all our traditions. In the midst of all of this activity, I realized that there wasn't really a worship component to the ministry, and that this had to change. After conversations with student leaders and a few other interested students, we decided that we wanted to begin the week in a sacramental fashion. In January, with the blessing of Waterloo CRC, we started hosting a communion breakfast. Basically, we gather first thing in the morning

for a small liturgy, prayer, and (occasional) singing. We break bread and pass the cup, and when the service ends we leave the Christ candle lit, and enjoy breakfast and conversation before we “go to work.” It's been an extraordinary way to begin the week – a way of having the worship of Sunday “spill over” into Monday, and having it frame and precede the work we do throughout the week. I'm looking forward to seeing how this part of the ministry will grow and shape the community over the next year.

A few notes about the character of the ministry:

The students who compose the WCM community are predominantly from a Christian Reformed background. Maybe that seems like a rather obvious thing to say, given the fact that WCM is a CRC ministry. However, the high involvement of CRC students is rather unique among CR campus ministries. The high representation of CR students is not something I've purposefully sought after, though, and I'm not really sure why they make up such a large part of the body. There are 12 or 13 other Christian groups at UW, which may mean that a lot of other Christian students have found more familiar niches. Or, it could have something to do with the fact that Waterloo CRC is a major source of students who participate in the ministry.

I've not been here very long, but I'm already fairly certain that one of the perennial struggles of this ministry will be the way the academic terms are structured at UW. For a great many students, there terms on campus alternate with off-campus work terms. That means that a large number of students are part of the ministry in the fall, for example, and then part ways in the winter term. For instance, this summer I'd say 98% of the students who are part of WCM were on work term, which means they'll all be back in the fall. That's great, because it means there'll be a sizeable body of folks around to participate in the ministry. However, it does concern me that the community may be substantially diminished come Winter term. It will be interesting to see how this unfolds as the school year progresses.

Another challenge facing the ministry is its mandate to be present on two campuses. I feel that after a couple years I've got a fairly good handle on the culture and character of Laurier and UW, but I've also realized that it's very difficult to muster up the creative energy to be fully present on both campuses. As a result, the ministry has been heavily focussed at UW, and I feel like I've neglected Laurier a bit. There's a great deal of potential for a ministry at Laurier, and it might behoove Classis Huron, the Campus Committee, and Home Missions to reflect a little more on what it might look like to have a fully-dedicated ministry at Laurier.

11. CRWRC Report – Mary Both, classis rep

This past year has been an interesting one again for CRWRC--many cost cutting measures have been taken, mostly on our continent and not overseas, to adjust to economic downturns and face new realities of the "business" that we're in under God's direction to respond to disasters, and stimulate recovery and community development through all these trials. This is the challenge of our Christian journey wherever we are (!) but on the global scene, we have a lot to share as we bring hope, mercy and love to places and peoples of extreme suffering.

We cannot predict what is going to happen next on the world scene, and that was demonstrated so dramatically this past January with the earthquake that hit the Port-au-Prince capital hub of Haiti, making us all wonder how to deal with this in a country that already has so many difficulties. The economic upturn that occurred in funds to alleviate and rehabilitate from this disaster were overwhelmingly in the range of \$10 million for CRWRC. It is quite amazing that the 5 years had just expired for all the funds for the east Asia tsunami to be used in building homes (mostly) for the homeless of that disaster. And less than one month later, there is another disaster which is requiring much planning and rebuilding, for which all those in charge are continuing to ask for prayer and wisdom.

In the meantime, Haiti is definitely not the only spot suffering a grave stroke of flooding, famine and earthquake. As I write this, Pakistan is the recipient of flour, cooking oil, lentils, sugar, salt, and spices to

feed 8,000 families after or even during the current flooding in that country. We are working there with the Interfaith League against Poverty based in Islamabad, as it is a Muslim country, and we pray that the witness of Christian organizations without strings attached will be fruitful.

Also, in Niger, a country which does not hit the news that easily is experiencing an extraordinary drought, for which aid is being given through the network of churches that we work with there. CRWRC continues to work through Canadian Food Grains Bank and their policies for this type of food distribution. These are only a couple of examples of relief work going on, but so many inspiring stories and newsletters of ongoing community work can be found on the website.

There are also little videos that can be used in offering times that demonstrate powerfully how hope is being nurtured in lives of despair. These can all be found on the website at www.crwrc.org

One personnel note--our longtime International Relief Manager Jacob Kramer retired this year after many productive years in that demanding position. Now our former Executive Director Wayne De Jong has taken on that challenge, as he brings a lot of background and expertise to that job as well.

We continue to ask for prayer for those working the "front lines", to receive the vision, courage and stamina that they need as the Holy Spirit leads them. We ask that each church service will include these needs on the global scene for this work done in Jesus' name to be truly blessed.

12. Redeemer University College – Dr. Hubert Krygsman, president

Greetings from Redeemer University College! We trust that God has blessed and refreshed you during the summer. This year will be my first year as President of Redeemer University College. Already I am very excited to see the many wonderful ways that God is providing for and using Redeemer.

As September approaches, our new student application numbers remain well ahead of last year. We now project more than 890 full-time students and more than 420 students in residence for fall 2010. These record numbers are a tribute to the good work of our team of university representatives, the high quality of Redeemer's academic programs, and the positive response of growing numbers of students and their families to our calling to provide comprehensive Christian higher education.

God also has blessed us with gifted faculty and staff to lead in providing this education. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Karen Cornies has been appointed as Dean of Students to replace Fred Schat who has retired. We look forward to Karen's leadership of our student community. We have also appointed two new tenure-track faculty, Dr. Adam Barkman in Philosophy and Dr. Gwynn Park in Psychology.

Unfortunately it will not be possible to get the government authorization required to allow Dr. Gwynn Park to immigrate to Canada, which is a great disappointment to our Psychology Department and to Dr. Park. We have appointed Dr. John Bertone to a one-year sessional in Religion & Theology to replace Dr. Ryan O'Dowd. Dr. David Zietsma has been appointed Dean of the Arts and Foundations divisions to replace Dr. Doug Loney who has carried out the responsibilities of dean for more than a decade with great ability.

God also has blessed us with resources to improve our campus facilities. The Academic Complex Renewal project, with funds from the federal government's Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP), has enabled us to renovate our administrative offices, and we hope to move into our new offices by the end of August. Construction has started on the soccer complex project, which will include the refurbishment of the existing field and installation of a new field, including a field-house and a dome. We have also received a special donation for the First Nations Garden, which will be located west of the soccer dome. We are planning for many exciting events this year at Redeemer. Our C.L.E.A.R. program, begun last year, will again introduce many fascinating topics to all interested (see <http://www.redeemer.ca/clear>). Our worship conference will take place on Sept. 25 with Dr. Syd Hielema as the keynote speaker (register at www.redeemer.ca/worship). During Nov. 4-6, in collaboration with our Reformed sister colleges, we will host an ARIHE (Association of Reformed Institutions of Higher Education) symposium on spiritual

formation with Dr. Jamie Smith as plenary speaker. This symposium will coincide with events of our presidential inauguration weekend, including a Faculty Artists Concert and Redeemer Sinfonia on Friday, Nov. 5 at 7:30 pm in the auditorium, Redeemer's annual general membership meeting on Saturday, Nov. 6 at 4 p.m., and the inauguration ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m. Please reserve these dates. Our 24th annual Ministers' Conference will be on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, with Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, general secretary of the Reformed Church of America, as our guest speaker (to register, e-mail advancement@redeemer.ca, subject line: Minister). Please check our website at www.redeemer.ca for updates about these and other events, lectures, and concerts.

We are thankful to the Lord for His continued provision and for your continuing support of Redeemer through prayer and financial giving. Christian Reformed churches gave \$772,482 in the past fiscal year, a slight decrease from 2008/2009. While we recognize these gifts as a tremendous blessing, we still have work to do with a number of churches in encouraging them to adopt the giving guidelines set out by Synod. These gifts are essential for our student financial aid program and make a Christian university education accessible to more students.

We praise God for His faithfulness and wonderful blessings, and we pray that we may continue to provide a powerful witness in His service.

13. Deaconal Ministry Developer – Len Bakelaar

This is the time of year when many of our deaconates are going through a major make-over, often adding new faces who have never been involved in the work of deacons and are facing the challenge of how to fit in. Many of our deaconates in Classis Huron have some great ministries on the go.

It is exciting to hear how some are involved with local agencies, helping them to reach out into their communities. Others are involved in community gardens, transportation services, youth programs, refugees and many more areas where they are interactive with their local church and with their neighbourhood. Many of these ministries lay the groundwork for building lasting relationships and thereby also bring opportunities to show that God cares for them-where and who they are.

When a deaconate is active, it is not surprising to see that the whole church is enthusiastic and supportive of the ministries that they are involved with. Also, the community is very much aware of what that local church is doing and how it works at being part of it. As the church is in the community, it will also often be sought out for its leadership capabilities in areas that will improve the quality of life for that neighbourhood.

Deacons may be the motivators or the helpers but certainly are a part of the body that the church cannot do without. You and the deacons are partners in service of the Lord.

How can you strengthen that partnership to make it more exciting and more God-glorifying? Have you prayed for them or with them lately? Have you encouraged them through some timely talks? Have you been willing to walk alongside them supporting them in one of their ministries? There are so many opportunities to do that.

One of the upcoming events of the deacons is the Deaconal Conference meeting on Sept. 23 in Drayton. This is a place where we often hear of some of the remarkable ministries that are happening in the classis and how God's love always shines through in those ministries. Make sure to set aside Oct. 16 for the Day of Encouragement. This year's theme is "Fanning the Flame". There will be workshops for all types of church leaders and interested individuals.

14. Financial Resources Team – Clarence Louter

The proposed 2011 budget is sent as a separate document.

The following are changes in the proposed budget:

1. The classis general expense ministry share reflects the total budgeted general expenses for 2011. The opening balance has been removed from this calculation to reflect the actual budget proposed for the year. In the past there has been a cash float maintained for the purpose of financially carrying the Huron Campus ministries when their expenses exceed their income. This need is due to the timing in which the monthly expenses such as payroll are incurred and the ministry shares, which are due April 1, are delayed. Should a large cash balance remain at the end of year, adjustments will be made to the required ministry shares per member in January. It has been suggested that the opening balance remain about \$25,000. There is an anticipation of more than needed opening balance due to the closing and transfer of the Youth Committee account and the additional late Fall Retreat registration fees received in the 2010 fiscal year for the 2009 retreat.
2. The Eastern Canada Leadership line item has been removed from the 2011 budget.
3. Diaconal Conference has been reduce to \$1,000 to more accurate reflect actual costs.

The Huron Campus Ministry budgets have been included for your information. The amount to be approved by classis is listed at the bottom of the classical budget. There is once again an increase in the classis contributions needed for the Campus Ministries. With the decline in Home Missions contributions, the financial burden of the ministries is resting more on the classis.

MOTION: That the 2011 Budget for Classis Huron be adopted.

The Rules of Classis Huron state that the following items be adopted annually.

MOTION: That Classis adopt the following for 2011:

1. That the rates for a church service be held at \$80 per service.
2. That the driving expense reimbursement be kept at the rate of \$0.50.
3. That the host church be reimbursed \$500.
4. That the remuneration for loss of wages while conducting the business of Classis remain at \$150 per day for up to five (5) per week.
5. That the honorarium for the Stated Clerk be set at \$3,250 and for the Treasurer at \$3,250.

After these have been acted upon, a full list of Classical and Denominational ministry shares will be sent to all churches of Classis Huron.

13. Future Classis Meetings

Date	Place	Reports due	Chair	Vice-chair
Jan. 12, 2011	Listowel	Dec. 1, 2010	Ralph Wigboldus	Rita Klein-Geltink
May 11, 2011		April 6, 2011	Rita Klein-Geltink	John Vanderstoep
Sept. 14, 2011	Vanastra	Aug. 10, 2011	John Vanderstoep	

**Classis Huron
Ministry Plan – 2010-13**

September 15, 2010



CORE MINISTRY VALUES

Classis is a community of congregations, just as congregations are communities of believers. As a classis, we value the following:

A. Regular Gathering Together:

Building an effective and meaningful community requires regular meetings of classis where there is mutual accountability, worship and prayer.

B. Congregational Support:

A caring community also looks after its own members. Classis seeks to strengthen each other, build up the congregations and hold each other accountable for our faithfulness to the Lord, to His Word and to each other.

C. Community Involvement:

As a community of congregations we value our mandate to seek the lost, disciple the found, and impact the culture in which we live. By respecting our diversity Christ is more fully revealed.

D. Denominational Integrity:

We are a community that values its Reformed heritage and seeks to support and actively participate in the ministries and development of the Christian Reformed denomination.

15. *Sharing/Giving:*

Classis will work together to use our financial resources to help those who are hurt, marginalized, or are suffering in other ways.

PURPOSE

The purpose of Classis Huron is to:

Support, Equip and Encourage our churches in the ministries as God has called us.

VISION

The vision of Classis Huron is:

“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 our individual churches and the joint ministries of Classis.”

MINISTRY PLAN

<p>1. In order to increase the sense of community during the regular sessions of classis, the following items will be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A time for mutual accountability. - Support each ministry, committee and activity with prayer. - Receive classical and denominational ministry reports. - Regularly receive church visit reports and share congregation ministry stories through those church visit reports. - Nurture a caring community where ministry struggles are shared, and individuals and congregations are supported. - Examine candidates for the ministry, ministry associates and those applying for licensure to exhort. - Receive and process overtures. - Receive and process classical credentials. - Identify and encourage those with gifts of leadership.
<p>2. Prayer plays a significant role through which we seek God's presence at classis, share our concerns and build community.</p>
<p>3. Promote and sponsor opportunities for training, gift development, and sharing, at the classical and regional levels. These events should be open to church leaders and all God's people. These may include retreats, conferences, seminars, workshops, and speakers. Topics could include: spiritual gifts, church education, worship, prayer, and themes of mutual interest and concern.</p>
<p>4. Develop the "Families of Churches" and explore ways to make them more effective between meetings of classis.</p>
<p>5. Continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the sessions of Classis Huron by means of evaluation sheets, discussion, etc.</p>
<p>6. Assess the need for specific staff to carry out future ministry goals.</p>
<p>7. Actively promote the study, discussion, and support of the work of the denomination.</p>
<p>8. Encourage all established churches to pay full denominational and classical ministry shares.</p>

Summary of Synod 2010 Decisions for Classes

1. Form of Subscription Revision Committee II

That synod encourage the churches and classes to engage in earnest prayer and discussion on [how the Form of Subscription or its revision can help encourage officebearers to vitally engage with the Reformed confessions]. (Acts of Synod 2010, p. 804)

2. Historical Committee

1. That synod remind the classes and congregations that Synod 1912 instructed that all records from discontinued ministries be sent to the Archives. Archives staff will organize and sort the material to ensure that contents with legal or historical significance are preserved. (Contact the committee at crcarchives@calvin.edu.)

2.

That synod encourage classes to request that member churches more than ten years old submit copies of council minutes to the Archives if they have not yet done so. (Acts of Synod 2010, p. 810)

3. Board of Trustees Members at Classis

That synod encourage all classes to provide time upon request for BOT members to address each classis so that the churches may be informed about and can interact with BOT members regarding important denominational developments. (Acts of Synod 2010, p. 861)

4. Disability Week and All Nations Heritage Week

3. That synod encourage Christian Reformed churches, classes, ministries, and institutions to sponsor events to observe Disability Week from October 11 through 17, 2010, with a suggested focus on mental health issues.

Grounds:

a. As the covenant people of God, the Bible calls us to be a caring community. We recognize that our Lord Jesus Christ requires the involvement of all his people in the ministry of his church. We have not always made it possible for people with disabilities to participate fully in the community and have often isolated them and their families.

b. In 1985 we committed ourselves as a denomination to eliminate barriers of architecture, communication, and attitude “in order to use the gifts of all people in our life together as God’s family.” Although many CRC congregations, classes, ministries, and institutions have made significant progress in including people with disabilities in their work and ministry, much more can and should be done.

c. About 25 percent of the North American population experiences a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year. Like the population at large, members of Christ’s body struggle with a variety of mental health issues. A much smaller population, about 6 percent, live with a serious mental illness. Due to its prevalence among younger people, mental disorders are the leading cause of disability in the United States and Canada for people ages 15 to 44. Disability Week, with a focus on mental health issues, will provide opportunities to educate congregations of the prevalence and nature of mental illnesses and help congregations to learn better ways to minister to people with mental illnesses when they are in a season of suffering. Disability Concerns will make a variety of resources available to assist congregations in this.

d. Specific and intentional events that recognize the importance of breaking down barriers and including people with disabilities in congregational life will remind God’s people of the welcome our Lord gives to

all of his people (Luke 14:15-24) and will encourage them to press on toward becoming a community in which every member knows that he or she is indispensable (1 Cor. 12:12-27).

4. That synod encourage churches, classes, and CRC institutions to celebrate All Nations Heritage Week from September 27 through October 3, 2010, with an invitation to celebrate All Nations Heritage Sunday with special services on October 3, 2010.

Grounds:

a. The struggle against prejudice, discrimination, and racism needs to be balanced by celebrating and affirming God's gift of unity in diversity through our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ (cf. Ephesians 2). The congregations that also celebrate World Communion Sunday can find a meaningful Christian Reformed way of celebrating All Nations Heritage Sunday by combining both celebrations.

b. The financial support our ministry receives from the All Nations Heritage Sunday celebrations dramatically increases Race Relations' ability to award scholarships and grants to promote leadership of people of color in the life of our denomination. (Acts of Synod 2010, pp. 868-69)

5. Matters re Migration of Workers

That synod urge the Christian Reformed Church, through its assemblies and agencies, to affirm the need to reach out in hospitality and compassion to immigrant people, and that synod further encourage churches to display this ministry concern through actions that include but are not limited to the following:

a. Prayerful study and discussion of issues related to the causes that motivate people to immigrate to other lands so as to deepen understanding of the circumstances under which many people live.

b. Mindful attention to the plight of both documented workers and people without status and to reach out in love to those who seek assistance for themselves and for their children in terms of financial assistance, food, clothing, and shelter.

Ground: Scripture calls us to be mindful of the plight of aliens and strangers, offering compassion and love in Christ's name to those who find themselves marginalized and in need. (Acts of Synod 2010, pp. 877-78)

6. Church Order Revision

The following decisions related to the Church Order will be of particular interest to the classes:

1. That synod adopt the following revisions to the Church Order:

Article 42: Make extensive revisions to include appointments by classis for providing advice to churches. The proposed Articles 42-a and 42-c refer to the appointment and task of classical counselors, and Article 42-b clarifies the task of church visitors and combines sections b, c, and d of the present article.

Ground: The reference to a classical counselor in Article 9 currently has no corresponding statement regarding the duty of classis to appoint counselors for churches in the process of calling a pastor.

Article 42

a. The classis shall be responsible for appointing persons to provide counsel and advice to churches. The classis shall appoint church visitors to visit each church in classis on a yearly basis. The classis shall appoint classical counselors to provide advice to any church in the process of calling a minister of the Word.

b. The church visitors shall consist of one or more teams of officebearers chosen for their experience and counsel, with teams composed of two ministers or one minister and one elder. Their task shall be to ascertain whether the officebearers of the church faithfully perform their duties, adhere to sound doctrine, observe the provisions of the Church Order, and promote the building up of the body of Christ and the extension of God's kingdom. Churches are free to call on the church visitors whenever serious challenges arise that would benefit from their advice. The church visitors shall provide classis a written report of their work. —Cf. Supplement, Article 42-b

c. The classical counselor's task is to ensure that a church in the process of calling a minister of the Word observes ecclesiastical regulations and sound process. The counselor shall be an officebearer, normally a minister of the Word, whose ministerial credentials or membership resides in a congregation other than the church in the process of calling a minister. The classical counselor shall provide classis a written report during and after the calling process.

Article 43: Insert new Article 43-a (taken from Art. 21), identifying the responsibility of each classis to establish a student fund and a Classical Ministerial Leadership Team. Remove the word "urgent" from what is now proposed as Article 43-b.

Grounds:

a. The responsibility of classis to support and encourage individuals preparing for ministry should be included in the Church Order section on classis responsibilities.

b. The standard used to assess "urgent need" is unclear. The practice of classes currently is to assess whether granting the right to exhort is appropriate and will benefit the churches within the classes.

Article 43

a. Every classis shall maintain a student fund and a Classical Ministerial Leadership Team (CMLT) to provide support and encouragement for individuals preparing for ministry in the Christian Reformed Church.

b. The classis may grant the right to exhort within its bounds to persons who are gifted, well-informed, consecrated, and able to edify the churches. When the need for their services has been established, the classis shall examine such persons and license them as exhorters for a limited period of time. (Acts of Synod 2010, pp. 899, 902-903)

2. That synod adopt the following changes to the Supplement to the Church Order: Supplement, Article 40-b: Include reference to the following requirements for a classis contracta. Synod 2000 declared that any classical decision requiring the concurrence of the synodical deputies be made in the presence of delegates from all the churches which are members of the classis in which the action is being taken. If a classis contracta is necessary because of justifiable circumstances, to be determined in consultation with the deputies, a contracted classis shall never be convened with fewer than half the churches represented. A quorum for a classis contracta shall be half the churches of a classis plus one. (Acts of Synod 2000, p. 668)
Ground: Placing this information in the Supplement would give guidance to classes attempting to determine the appropriate course of action when not all the churches of a classis are able to be present for necessary business.

Supplement, Article 42-b: Add a new Supplement, Article 42-b indicating that the Guide for Conducting Church Visiting, as well as other resources related to church visiting, can be downloaded from the CRC website.

Ground: Synod 2009 reemphasized the importance of church visiting and encouraged use of the resources available as indicated in the following: That synod encourage classes to emphasize the importance of church visiting, thereby acknowledging its value for maintaining spiritual health and vitality in the member congregations of the classis, and encourage the use of the Guide for Conducting Church Visiting (found on CRC web: www.crcna.org) and/or other resources available from the Office of Pastor-Church Relations as effective tools to that end (II, A, 10). (Acts of Synod 2009, p. 596)
(Acts of Synod 2010, pp. 908, 910)