



CLASSIS HURON
of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

www.classishuron.ca

AGENDA

January 12, 2010 – 9:00 a.m.

**Bethel Christian Reformed Church
345 Elizabeth Street East
Listowel**

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 Bethel CRC at 9:00 am.
 Credentials Committee reports on attendance.
 Classis is declared constituted.

2. Officers of Classis

Chair: Rev. Ralph Wigboldus
 Vice chair: Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink
 Stated Clerk: Keith Knight

3. Opening of Classis

The chair calls the meeting to order and welcomes guests. The synodical deputies from Classes Chatham, Hamilton and Toronto will be present for the examination of Candidate Andrew Vis.

Rev. Dr. Peter Borgdorff will be present for the afternoon discussion on the Belhar Confession.

4. Devotions for the Day

Opening – Listowel

Pre-lunch – Owen Sound

Post-lunch – Diaconal Conference

Pre-supper – Acton

Post-supper – Lucknow

Closing – Chair

5. Committees for the Day

Credentials Committee – Goderich and Vanastra

Balloting Committee – Listowel and Guests

Overtures Committee (if needed) – Clinton and Collingwood

6. Stated Hour

10:00 a.m. – Examination of Candidate Andrew Vis

1 p.m. – Rev. Dr. Peter Borgdorff, Belhar Confession discussion

7. Classis Ministry Committee -- Rev. John Vanderburgh

7.1 Committee Report

The following represent their respective committees on CMC:

Chair, Rev. John Vanderburgh

Vice-chair, Willie Andrews

Home Missions Committee – Janet Ryzebol

Huron Campus Ministry – Rudy Eikelboom

Diaconal Conference – Len Bakelaar

Safe Church Committee – Atie Ott

Youth Committee – Rev. Ralph Wigboldus

CMLT – Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink

Financial Resources Team – Clarence Louter

Prayer Coordinator (ex officio) – Rev. Jack Quartel

Stated Clerk (ex officio) – Keith Knight

1. Hank Den Hollander's license to exhort expires in January. Hank has been struggling with serious health issues which has resulted in stem cell transplants. Hank has had occasion to preach now and then and requests permission to preach throughout 2011 as health permits. CMC recommends to classis that the usual requirements for renewal (submitting a sermon and providing evaluations) be waived and that his license renewal be extended until January 2012.

MOTION: That Hank Den Hollander's license to exhort be extended to January 2012.

2. CMC held a fruitful discussion with representatives of The Journey and River City, the two church plants within classis. The meeting explored ways to build a stronger connection between the church plans and congregations within classis. It also explored the challenges facing church plants: worship style, leadership development, financial sustainability and others. In a subsequent meeting, CMC appointed a committee of three pastors who will explore some of those challenges. They will also connect with the denominational Home Missions office about Home Missions' expectations when churches are planted. Those meetings will not begin in earnest until early in 2011.
3. Given the fact that Classis Huron currently has seven people with licenses to exhort, and that their services are used sparingly, CMC has determined that there is no need at this time for additional exhorters within classis. We are also blessed with several retired pastors, ministry associates and others who are available to preach.
Ordained ministers are able to take advantage of various learning opportunities, either through Calvin Seminary or elsewhere, but very few learning opportunities are available for those with licenses to exhort. CMC is initiating the creation of a spring training session, led by Dr. John Rottman of Calvin Seminary, intended for exhorters but open to ministers and other exhorters from neighbouring classes. It is hoped that this become an annual event.
4. The 2010-2013 Classis Huron Ministry Plan, approved in September 2010, will be discussed at the February meeting of CMC. All classis ministries and committees are asked to send a summary of their goals and objectives to the stated clerk so that they can be folded into the Classis Ministry Plan.

7.2 AdCom (Administrative Committee)

AdCom generally meets just prior to meetings of classis and of the Classis Ministry Committee. Its primary task is to set the agendas for both bodies, and to process administrative material that comes its way.

AdCom met in October to process various requests for renewals of licenses to exhort. It also met to provide a course of action for CMC with respect to discussions with the two church plants within classis.

The committee met on Dec. 8, along with Rev. Ralph Wigboldus, chair of the January classis meeting, to set the agenda for this classis meeting and discuss process. It also sat as the Licensure Exhortation Review Committee, examining the evaluations by congregation members to support applications for licenses to exhort by Dr. John Van Dorp and Gareth Harker.

AdCom also oversees the work of the stated clerk and provides advice when requested.

7.3 Stated Clerk

Stated clerk Keith Knight has engaged in more than 250 email conversations and a few phone calls since the last meeting of classis, and prepared agendas and materials for two meetings of AdCom and two meetings of CMC.

Included in those conversations was correspondence with Blyth CRC concerning the leave of absence of Rev. John Kuperus, the process to receive stated supply, and to arrange short-term pulpit supply. He processed requests for renewals of licenses to exhort for Dr. John Van Dorp and Gareth Harker, received a request for a license to exhort for Steve Vogel, and processed the request by Candidate Andrew Vis to be examined as a potential minister of the word at Orangeville CRC.

He processed numerous requests for information from the denominational office and took part in a conference call with stated clerks, synodical deputies and the denominational office. He shaped the agenda of this classis meeting for approval by AdCom and arranged for various speakers to upcoming meetings of classis.

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

7.4 Examination of Candidate Andrew Vis:

Practica – Examination led by Rev. Ray Vander kooij

MOTION: That we proceed with further examination.

Sermon evaluation: Led by Rev. Paul Stadt and Rev. Ed Den Haan

MOTION: That we proceed with the examination. This motion requires the concurrence of the synodical deputies.

Biblical/Theological – Examination led by Rev. Brian Bork

Executive Session

MOTION: That Andrew Vis be admitted to the ministry of the word and sacraments in the CRC.

This motion requires the concurrence of the synodical deputies.

7.5 Request for renewals of license to exhort:

Gareth Harker and Dr. John Van Dorp.

Sermon evaluations by Rev. Harry Zantingh and Rev. Chris Pool.

Individual evaluations sent to the Licensure Exhortation Evaluation Committee (ie AdCom).

MOTION: That Classis Huron renew the license to exhort for Gareth Harker for a five year term, ending in January 2016.

MOTION: That Classis Huron renew the license to exhort for Dr. John Van Dorp for a five year term, ending in January 2016.

8. Guelph Campus Ministry (www.guelphcm.ca) – James Vandenberg

8.1 Board Report

The Guelph Campus Ministry (GCM) Board of Directors serves with a strong and prayerful commitment to *guard* the vision, *guide* the campus ministry, and *guarantee* sustainability. We pursue these purposes in an atmosphere of support and encouragement of the campus minister, Jamie VanderBerg, and of celebration of God working in and through this ministry. We meet on a monthly basis and here are some board highlights:

Tumaini 2011 -- We affirmed our continued involvement in this ministry through 2012. We also interviewed and selected a leadership team and by early December are looking to have the entire team selected. The “Tumaini: Faith, Hope, Solidarity” experience in Kenya will likely take place in the month of May.

Campus ministry intern – As campus minister and board, we discerned the opportunity to grow the

ministry and develop emerging campus ministers through an intern serving part-time. We developed a position description and interviewed for the position. We are very pleased that Jenn McIntyre enthusiastically accepted the 6-month position that began November 1. More information on the internship and intern is found in the campus minister's report.

Third Stream Funding -- We continue to pursue funding for \$24,000 beyond Home Missions and Classis Huron support that we need to raise this year for GCM. These fundraising ventures also provide opportunity to promote the ministry and solidify existing and new partnership. Our funding, promotion and partnership events have included:

- A regional evening service in the Community CRC, Kitchener, in which students and campus ministers from both Guelph and Waterloo shared in leading the service.
- A morning service in Bethel CRC, Acton, in which students from GCM led worship and shared about the ministry, and campus minister Jamie VanderBerg preached. Morning worship opportunities like this are being explored for winter/spring 2011 in Owen Sound and First CRC, Guelph, in addition to more typical preaching opportunities for Jamie.
- We are developing a promotional portfolio with several components that we can use for funding applications to foundations and corporations, and to share our ministry needs with individuals, groups, and churches. The brochure has been finalized and a new DVD developed, and the final piece will be a booklet that provides an encompassing overview of the ministry.
- A "Friends of the Ministry" newsletter went out to a growing list of alumni and supporters of the ministry. If you would like to receive this bi-annual newsletter as e-mail or snail-mail, please contact Jamie at javander@uoguelph.ca

We thank the churches of Classis Huron for your support of this ministry prayerfully and financially through ministry shares and with above ministry share support through church budget line-items and offerings. Together, by God's grace, we are making a difference at the heart of the life of a secular university that is influencing those who will shape our culture in years to come. There is so much more that can be done and we ask that you continue your partnership in growing an increasingly strong Christian presence that gives high-profile to Jesus Christ and His Lordship over all of life!

8.2 Campus Minister's report

(See .pdf addendum)

9. Safe Church Committee – Atie Ott

The Classis Huron Safe Church Committee 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.

Since the September Classis meeting, the Classes Huron Safe Church Team has been involved in a number of activities:

Advisory Panel Training --On October 5 and 6, 23 reps from 6 different Classis registered for the Advisory Panel Training which was held at Bethel CRC and led by Beth Swagman, Director of the Office of Abuse Prevention. Classis Huron had five new team members participating in this two-day training event and as a result, Classis Huron now has 10 qualified members to serve on an Advisory Panel.

Abuse Awareness Sunday (September 26, 2010) -- We thank all these churches in our classis who held special services or otherwise promoted the cause of Abuse Prevention.

Annual Inter-Classis Training Event -- Planning is well underway for this annual event which is hosted by Classis Huron and is attended by church leaders/members from all 7 Classis in Ontario.

This year the Training Event will be held on Saturday, March 6, 2011 in the Waterloo CRC.

Brochures will be mailed out in the near future and we encourage councils to send leaders to this event.

Synod Updates

Here is a brief summary of some of the recommendations from Synod 2010:

- Church councils are urged to come up with a plan for offering financial assistance to cover the costs of abuse-related counseling.
- Church councils are to review their child safety policies annually.
- Church councils should use a restorative justice framework when considering restitution following allegations of sexual abuse sustained against a church leader.
- Church councils should receive yearly training on abuse dynamics, response procedures, steps toward healing, etc.

Resignation -- We were saddened to hear of the resignation of Beth Swagman, the first and only Director of Safe Church Ministries. This will take effect on January 1, 2011. Beth will continue to be available as a consultant for the next couple of months, however, her departure will be a huge loss not only to our denomination as a whole, but especially to our Safe Church Teams.

Team Reps -- We are still in need of representation for the following churches, Cambridge, Clinton, Drayton, Exeter, Guelph New Life, and Stratford.

It is our hope that councils will bring forward names of people who are willing to serve in that capacity to the nominating committee before our next Classis meeting.

We are thankful for the excellent presentation by Ken Hall from Robertson Hall at our last Classis meeting highlighting the need for having policies and procedures in place.

We are available for presentations to congregations to offer education on abuse-related issues, to explain the Advisory Panel Process and for any other request for support you may have. In addition, we have excellent resources available to help local Safe Church Teams in the education of your church leaders. We continue to meet four times per year and part of our agenda is education and the discussion of new resources.

We as a team continue to covet your prayers for our work. We pray with you that our churches will always be safe places for the vulnerable among us.

10. Nominations Committee – Atie Ott

- Nominations for Minister and Elder delegates to Synod (listed on back of credentials)
- Nominations for Classis committees and boards.

11. Financial Resources Team -- Clarence Louter

The Financial Resource Team has met a few times throughout the past year in order to review the budget and the work of the treasurer and the finances of the Classis.

It has come to the attention of the FRT that all committees and delegates need to be made aware of a few deadlines that are necessary to be abided by in order for the FRT to manage more effectively. There were

two requests for monies for 2011 brought to the attention of the FRT after the budget was included for approval for the September meeting. It is imperative that if committees, or you as a servant of Classis Huron, are aware of funding requests that you notify the FRT as soon as possible.

Here are two deadlines which the churches and delegates with Classis Huron should be aware of:

Jan. 10 – all previous year’s income and expenses must be received by the treasurer for inclusion in the appropriate year

Jun 30 – all funding requests/ considerations must be submitted to the FRC and/or treasurer for consideration in the next year’s budget

All churches are reminded that, as approved at the May 2010 classis meeting, all remittances for the fiscal year 2011 and following years are to be sent to the appropriate agencies directly. This means that Denominational Ministry Shares and Above Ministry Shares remittances are to be sent directly to the CRC of North America’s Burlington office. Remittances for Redeemer University College are also to be sent directly to the university. Remittance forms for the Denomination Ministry Shares and Other Denominational Causes can be found on the CRC of North America website – www.crcna.org . For the 2011 fiscal year and following years, the ONLY remittances that the Classical Treasurer will be accepting will be for Classical Ministry Shares and funds for the Guelph and Waterloo campus ministries. Please remind your church treasurer and/or bookkeeper and deacons of this change in order to avoid any unnecessary confusion during this transition. As always, feel free to contact Cindy Tamming, the Classis Treasurer, if further clarification is needed.

The following rates and fees for 2011 were adopted in September, 2010:

1. That the rates for a church service be held at \$80.00 per service, no change.
2. That the driving expense reimbursement be kept at the rate of \$0.50, no change.
3. That the host church for a classis meeting be reimbursed \$500, no change.
4. That the remuneration for loss of wages while conducting the business of Classis (ie a delegate to synod or representing classis on a denominational board or committee) remain at \$150 per day for up to five (5) per week, no change.

12. Future Classis Meetings

Date	Place	Reports due	Chair	Vice-chair
May 11, 2011	Palmerston	April 6, 2011	Rita Klein-Geltink	Darren Roorda
Sept. 14, 2011	Vanastra	Aug. 10, 2011	Darren Roorda	John Vanderstoep
Jan. 11, 2012	Drayton ??	Dec. 2, 2011	John Vanderstoep	Bill Hoogland