



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

MINUTES

February 12, 2014 – 9:00 a.m.

Christian Reformed Church

88 Main Street East

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.

1. Delegates to Classis

	Minister	Elder	Elder
Acton	Rev. Ray Vander Kooij	Victor Bresett	
Blyth	Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen	Luke Bouman	
Cambridge – Maranatha	Rev. John Vanderstoep	Len Bakelaar	Andrew Johnson
Cambridge – River City	Rev. Darrell Bierman		Janet Rysebol (not a deacon)
Clinton	Rev. Ron Luchies	Al Durrer	
Collingwood		Len Noordegraaf	Jeff Beck
Drayton		Doug Sikkema	Tony Mulder
Exeter		Arend Otten	Leo Waverink
Goderich	Rev. Stephen Tamming	Nick Heykoop	
Guelph – New Life		Mike Hellinga	Jack Tacoma
Guelph – First	Rev. David Tigchelaar		Elly Skarratt (deacon)
Guelph – Campus	Jamie Vandenberg		
Kitchener – Community	Rev. Carel Geleyne	Harry Oudman	
Kitchener – The Journey	Rev. Andrew Zantingh		
Listowel	Rev. Ralph Wigboldus	Bill Elisen	
Lucknow		Stuart Vandervaart	Peter Buma
Orangeville	Rev. Andrew Vis	Keith Oussoren	
Owen Sound	Rev. Harry Zantingh	Simon DeBoer	
Palmerston	Rev. Andrew de Gelder		Trudy Stroetinga (deacon)
Stratford		Ken VanderWal	Steve Hiemstra
Vanastra		Harry DenHaan	Andrew Katerberg
Waterloo	Rev. Vicki Cok	Shannon Marcus	
Waterloo – Campus	Rev. Brian Bork		
Wingham	Rev. Henry Steenbergen	Murray Ritsema	

2. Opening worship

Elder Doug Sikkema of Drayton welcomed delegates and led in opening worship.

Rev. Ron Luchies reported on attendance on behalf of the Credentials Committee. Three delegates were seated by motion: Janet Rysebol (River City), Elly Skarratt (Guelph First) and Trudy Stroetinga (Palmerston)

Classis is declared constituted.

3. Officers for the day

Chair: Rev. Ralph Wigboldus

Vice-chair: Rev. John Vanderstoep

Stated Clerk: Keith Knight

4. Discipleship – A Classis Conversation

Rev. Stephen Tamming provided a devotional on the theme of discipleship: *How do you build disciples of Jesus Christ?* Lesli Van Milligen introduced questions for table discussions that help the groups deal specifically with discipleship.

Table groups dealt with five questions:

- a. How did Christ model disciple-making?
- b. Who is responsible for discipleship and faith formation?
- c. When might discipleship/faith formation begin? When might it end? What are milestones that occur during the

discipleship journey?

d. What defines/ makes a disciple/ follower of Christ? Complete the following statement: A disciple/ follower of Christ...

e. Where should/ might discipleship take place?

A sheet with resources on discipleship was handed out to delegates: Books, videos, seminars, etc

5. 2014-2017 Classis Huron Ministry Plan – Rev. John Vanderstoep, Lesli Van Milligen

Rev. John Vanderstoep and Lesli Van Milligen, on behalf of the Classis Ministry Committee, presented a draft outline of the initiatives which will be reflected in the 2014-2017 Classis Huron Ministry Plan. Since the committee received very little input from councils, delegates were asked to reflect for a few moments on each of the themes and briefly discuss them in table groups. The PowerPoint presentation was handed out in print to delegates.

Two questions were asked about each of the themes:

a. What is exciting about each of the themes of the Ministry Plan?

b. What should we address before presenting for approval in May?

Delegates looked at these initiatives: Ministry Clusters, Church Plants and Congregational Renewal, Expand our Creative Funding, Campus Ministry.

Delegates were asked to spend time at a future council meeting to reflect on these initiatives (expanded at the end of the minutes) and to provide input soon to either Rev. John Vanderstoep or Lesli Van Milligen so that they can be included in time for consideration at the May classis meeting.

6. Delegates to Synod -- June 12 – 19, Pella, Iowa

Minister delegates: Rev. Darrell Bierman, Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen

Alternates: Rev. Carel Geleynse, Rev. Andrew Zantingh

Elder delegates: Murray Ritsema (Wingham), Bill Elisen (Listowel)

Alternates: Richard Golby (Collingwood), Richard Vanderwal (Acton)

LUNCH

Afternoon devotions were offered by Rev. Andrew DeGelder.

7. Examination of Candidate Ken De Boer

The chair welcomed the three synodical deputies: Rev. Jack Kerkhof (Chatham), Rev. Ralph Koops (Hamilton), Rev. Hendrik Bruinsma (Toronto).

Ken De Boer is serving as part-time interim pastor in Lucknow for a two-year term. He was examined by Rev. Carel Geleynse (practica).

MOTION: To continue with the examination.

–carried

The Synodical Deputies concurred.

Ken De Boer was examined by Rev. Vicki Cok (biblical/theological).

Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen read the report of the sermon evaluators prepared by him and Rev. Harry Zantingh.

MOTION: That Ken De Boer be admitted to the ministry of the word in the Christian Reformed Church.

-carried

MOTION: That classis approve the bi-vocational ministry of Ken De Boer at Lucknow for a two-year term.

- carried

The Synodical Deputies concurred with the action of classis.

8. Protest Decision of Classis Huron

MOTION: That Classis uphold the protest by Siemen Speelman.

Grounds:

1. The rule of thumb for severance agreements used almost universally in the CRCNA in the past decades is one month of compensation for every year served.
2. At the May 8, 2013 meeting, synodical deputies illegitimately entered into the deliberations of classis and sought to persuade the delegates in a prejudicial manner. The mandate for synodical deputies is either to concur or not concur in a decision of classis, not to inject themselves into the classis' deliberative process.
3. If the classis had agreed upon a twelve month compensation package and the synodical deputies had not concurred, the matter could have been decided at Synod 2013 by having it approve or not approve of the work of the deputies. As it is, Synod 2013 received my objection and its officers ruled it out of order, advising me that a protest of the decision is the way to proceed. Thus Synod 2013 was not advised of my objection and could not decide on whether to approve the work of the Synodical Deputies in full awareness of what occurred at the meeting of Classis Huron on May 8, 2013.

-carried

MOTION: That a committee be struck to look at Rev. Siemen Speelman's compensation and report to the May Classis meeting.

-carried

9. Request to extend Commissioned Pastor's status for Rick DeGraaf

Maranatha (Cambridge) CRC requested classis consider an extension to Rick DeGraaf's designation as commissioned pastor until June 2014. Mr. DeGraaf's work with World Renew as the Cambodia country consultant is coming to an end. He has left the field and is currently fulfilling home service obligations. His designation as commissioned pastor normally concludes when his position ends.

The chair declared this request out of order.

10.1 Overture 1: The frequency of classical appointments

Trinity Christian Reformed Church of Goderich overtures Classis Huron to change the classical appointment (pulpit supply) to one Sunday per month.

Grounds:

1. The reason for Classical appointments is to allow vacant churches to celebrate the sacraments. This could be accomplished through one classical appointment.
2. Classical appointments require a pastor to be gone from their home church which creates a lack of continuity on the pulpit. This lack of continuity is especially difficult in churches that have many new people attending.
3. Technology allows for churches to use a pre-recorded message which creates less of a need for pulpit supply.

MOTION: That classis adopt the overture.

- defeated

10.2 Overture 2: Reimbursement for classical appointments

Trinity Christian Reformed Church of Goderich overtures Classis Huron to reevaluate the rate in which sending churches are reimbursed for classical appointments.

Grounds:

1. The rate at which the sending church is reimbursed does not cover their actual cost.
2. The vacant (receiving) church does not have to support a pastor and therefore can afford to pay the actual cost that is incurred by the sending church.

MOTION: That classis adopt the overture to re-evaluate the current procedure.

-carried

10. Classis Ministry Committee

MOTION 1: That Rev. Vic Vandermolen be appointed Stated Clerk for a three-year term, effective April 1, 2014.
-carried

MOTION 2: That Rev. Andrew De Gelder of Palmerston be appointed counselor for Drayton CRC.
-carried

MOTION 3: That the work of the Classis Ministry Committee, AdCom and Stated Clerk be approved.
-carried

11. Youth Ministry

Lesli Van Milligen reported on youth ministry leadership training opportunities. Two summer courses at Redeemer University College are available for youth leaders. Young Adult Leadership Studio is filling up quickly.

12. Nominations Committee

The following were affirmed by ballot.

Classis Ministry Committee

Rev. Ralph Wigboldus, chair, 2nd term

Len Bakelaar, Diaconal Ministries 4th term

Lesli Van Milligen, Youth Ministry, 2nd term

Church Visitors

North: Rev. Andrew de Gelder

13. Guelph Campus Ministry – Jamie Vandenberg

Jamie reflected on 40 years of ministry on the University of Guelph campus. He began his ministry 9 years ago. He indicated that his planned sabbatical should not impact the ministry on campus because other part-time staff and student leaders are filling the gap.

14. Safe Church Committee – Atie Ott, Rev. Carel Geleynse

Atie highlighted the denominational Safe Church Conference on April 25-26 at the Prince Center, Grand Rapids.

Churches that have not yet appointed a member to the Classis Safe Church Committee are reminded of classis' decision to have each church appoint a member to this committee.

The Shore 2 Shore motorcycle ride across North America takes place from June 28 to July 25. This event is supported by the Office of Abuse Prevention and focuses on the devastating effects of pornography in our families, churches and communities. A rally is scheduled for Redeemer University College this summer. Further details will follow.

15. Credentials Committee

- Rev. Ron Luchies reported on behalf of the Credentials Committee.
- Collingwood expressed appreciation for the pulpit supply it receives through classis.
- Cambridge (Maranatha) asked for a license to exhort for Rick DeGraaf. Referred to CMC.
- Exeter asked how they should deal with low attendance in the evening service. Referred to CMC.
- Cambridge (River City) has called Chris Hutton of Sarnia to serve as associate pastor.
- Listowel requests advice on how to restructure their council. Neighbouring churches indicated that they are going through a similar process.
- Lucknow is encouraging congregations to develop and encourage their people to share their gifts of ministry in light of the number of vacancies in Classis and a lower number of exhorters.
- Palmerston is offering to host a future meeting of classis. Referred to CMC.
- Vanastra asked that the ministerial credentials of Rev. Siemen Speelman be sent to Classis Eastern Canada so that the spiritual needs can be met since they live in Charlottetown, PEI. It was pointed out that the Speelmans are still members of Vanastra CRC so his ministerial credentials needs to remain with Classis Huron as long as the

membership is in Vanastra.

- Vanastra requests that Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen assume the role of church counsellor, given the fact that Rev. Vic Vandermolen has been appointed stated clerk.
 - o **MOTION: That Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen be appointed counsellor for Vanastra CRC.**
-carried.
- Acton suggests that classis be more attentive to the needs of guest presenters when they are scheduled to speak to classis, and that, during the course of classis meetings, ongoing discussions be deferred and guest speakers be allowed to speak at their allotted time. Referred to CMC.
- Waterloo requests an examination of Amanda Bakale, and that her position with World Renew be considered ordainable. This will be processed at the May classis meeting.

16. Closing comments

Rev. Wigboldus thanked the delegates for their wisdom and cooperation during this meeting. Vice-chair John Vanderstoep thanked him for his leadership. Rev. Wigboldus closed the meeting in prayer, followed by soup and buns provided by Drayton CRC.

17. Future Classis Meetings

Date	Place	Reports due	Chair	Vice-chair
May 7, 2014	Goderich	April 2, 2014	John Vanderstoep	David Tigchelaar
Sept.17, 2014	Listowel	Aug. 13, 2013	David Tigchelaar	Gary Van Leeuwen
Feb. 11, 2015	Kitchener	Jan. 9, 2015	Gary Van Leeuwen	Henry Steenbergen
May 13, 2015	Palmerston	April 10, 2015	Henry Steenbergen	

ADDENDUM

2014 – 2017 Ministry Plan – Five Initiatives

1. Foster Missional Clusters

Foster, not force. You can opt out. This is not about creating an organization but about stimulating movement along the mission wherever there is readiness and the need for mutual support. These groups will meet often and outside of regular classis meetings, seeking partnership in youth, mission, fundraising, celebration, leadership development. These groups can be geographical or interest-based. They can be within the denomination or within your town or city.

2. Plant Two Churches and Invest in Congregations Becoming Missional

We need to do more than ‘plant’ churches. We also need to ‘water’ them. Our experience with River City and The Journey recently has taught us that their becoming self-sustaining missional congregations which transform their city is not an automatic thing but can require re-investment of dollars. Rather than a two-tiered approach – one for church plants and another for established congregations – we need to establish one fund for the purpose of congregational renewal and missional effectiveness. Churches are able to apply for one-time funds for new initiatives.

3. Increase Creative Funding

Expand the mandate of the Financial Resources Team from managing the funds collected through congregational giving to including a significant fundraising component. Establish a separate project-based fund. Expand the Financial Resources Team to make this shift.

4. Consider Classis Ministry Staff

The Classis Youth Ministry Team is advocating for a paid staff person. What are our needs and our priorities as a classis? Paid staff requires a financial commitment shared by all the churches.

5. Campus Ministry at WLU and Conestoga

Current campus ministries focused on Waterloo and Guelph with an intentional shift away from Wilfrid Laurier University. Conestoga is growing. Universities and colleges are having campuses across the region.