



CLASSIS HURON
of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

www.classishuron.ca

MINUTES

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).

1. Constituting Classis

Call to Order, welcome, and devotions were offered by Elder James Koetsier of Bethel (Listowel) CRC.

Credentials Committee reported on attendance, and deacon Bill Terpstra of Guelph First and deacon John DeVries of Palmerston were seated by motion.

Classis is declared constituted.

Congregation	Minister	Elder	Alternate
Acton	Rev. Ray Vander Kooij	Jack Druif	
Blyth		Eric Nonkes	Walter Eigenheer
Cambridge – Maranatha	Rev. John Vanderstoep	Arnold De Pooter	
Cambridge – River City	Rev. Darrell Bierman		
Clinton		Rob Kootstra	Bert Van Maar
Collingwood	Rev. Chris Pool	Jeff Beck	
Drayton	Rev. John Vanderburgh	Jake Vandenberg	
Exeter	Rev. Harry Frielink	Albert Hummel	
Goderich	Rev. Stephen Tamming	Sid Bruinsma	
Guelph – New Life	Rev. Tom Van Milligen	Mark Wallace	
Guelph – First		Marguerite Ridder	Deacon Bill Terpstra
Guelph – Campus	Jamie Vandenberg		
Kitchener	Rev. Darren Roorda	Keith Oosthoek	
Kitchener – The Journey			
Listowel	Rev. Ralph Wigboldus	Koos Wilting	John Vandonkersgoed
Lucknow	Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink	Lawrence Uyl	
Orangeville		Peter DeLange	Paul Bakker
Owen Sound	Rev. Harry Zantingh	Bruce De Boer	
Palmerston	Rev. Andrew de Gelder		Deacon John DeVries
Stratford	Rev. Bill Hoogland	Rick Van Meurs	
Vanastra	Rev. Siemen Speelman	Henry Boot	
Waterloo	Rev. Vicki Cok	Amanda Bakale	
Waterloo – Campus	Rev. Brian Bork		
Wingham – Maitland River	Rev. Peter Janssens	Bill Cooper	

2. Officers of Classis

Chair: Rev. Ralph Wigboldus

Vice chair: Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink

Stated Clerk: Keith Knight

3. Opening of Classis

The chair, Rev. Ralph Wigboldus, called the meeting to order and welcomed guests. The synodical deputies from Classes Chatham, Hamilton and Toronto was present for the examination of Candidate Andrew Vis.

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

4. Classis Ministry Committee -- Rev. John Vanderburgh

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

– carried.

(Rev. Harry Frielink of Exeter reported that Hank was admitted to the hospital and was transferred to palliative care where he is currently resting.)

Classis Huron currently has seven people with licenses to exhort, and several retired pastors, ministry associates and others who are available to preach. CMC has determined that there is no need at this time for additional exhorters within classis. Some delegates, however, asked CMC to review its decision and to encourage the use of gifts within classis. CMC as asked to review the decision.

CMC is initiating the creation of a spring training session on the May long weekend, 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. Further details will be circulated as they become available.

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

-- carried.

5. Request for renewals of license to exhort:

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

– carried.

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

– carried.

6. Safe Church Committee – Atie Ott

Beth Swagman will continue as denominational Safe Church coordinator until March 2011. Her replacement is being sought.

Atie reported that there are several vacancies on the classis committee and churches are asked to appoint representatives to the committee.

Elder Arnold DePooter of Cambridge raised the concern that, in his estimation, asking for police checks and fingerprinting of those working with children and youth “is this Satan’s way of fighting the church.”

7. Examination of Candidate Andrew Vis:

Practica – Examination led by Rev. Ray Vander kooij. Delegates were given the opportunity to ask questions.

MOTION: That classis proceed with further examination. –carried.

Sermon evaluation: Led by Rev. Paul Stadt and Rev. Ed Den Haan and reported to classis by Rev. Stadt. Delegates were given the opportunity to ask questions.

MOTION: That classis proceed with the examination. –carried.
The synodical deputies concurred.

Biblical/Theological – Examination led by Rev. Brian Bork. Delegates were given the opportunity to ask questions. Executive session was held.

Following executive session, the following motion was presented:

MOTION: That Andrew Vis be admitted to the ministry of the word and sacraments in the Christian Reformed Church. –carried.

The synodical deputies concurred with classis' decision.

The chair of classis invited the candidate and his wife to the front of classis at which time a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing was offered. Delegates congratulated Candidate Vis.

Installation: Andrew Vis will be installed on Friday, January 28 at 7 p.m. in Orangeville CRC.

LUNCH

8. Belhar Confession – Dr. Peter Borgdorff

Rev. Dr. Peter Borgdorff, former executive director of the Christian Reformed Church of North America, provided a one-hour presentation on the Belhar Confession, beginning with an overview of the history of confessions. He indicated that this was his 44th presentation on Belhar and he was about half way through the series of presentations. He said that he was there to “encourage a conversation, not a sales job.”

Synod 2009 introduced a motion to adopt the Belhar Confession as the fourth standard of unity within the CRC. At that time they approved a three year study and broad consultation with the church. It is scheduled to go to Synod 2012 (meeting at Redeemer University College) for discussion and ratification.

- The other confessions are the Heidelberg Catechism (1563), Belgic Confession (1561) and the Canons of Dort (1619).
- There have been no new confessions for 400 years.
- He spoke about why Reformed Churches have confessions and that there is a renewed interest in confessions and confessional heritage.
- The current confessions have different purposes: The Heidelberg was written for the common folk; the Belgic as an apologetic, designed for kings, the church bureaucracy and government; and the Canons were written to deal with heresy.
- Belhar is a suburb of Cape Town, South Africa. The Dutch Reformed Mission Church Synod met there in 1982 and it came up with the essence of the confession – as a statement – as a direct result of global pressure by Reformed churches to declare apartheid a sin.
- There were minor amendments to the statement in 1986.
- The global body of Reformed Churches – the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and the Reformed Ecumenical Council – have encouraged all Reformed churches around the world to adopt the Belhar Confession as a confession of the church. It has come to the CRC as a

recommendation from that global body, representing 80 million Reformed Christians in about 230 denominations.

- The Belhar Confession has three themes: unity, reconciliation and justice.

Delegates expressed concerns and raised questions about the importance of adopting Belhar as a confession rather than a testimony, as the CRC's Contemporary Testimony.
Dr. Borgdorff was thanked for his presentation by the chair, who offered prayer.

9. Guelph Campus Ministry (www.guelphcm.ca) – James Vandenberg, Ray Vanderkooij, intern Jenn McIntyre

Campus minister Jamie Vandenberg and his leadership team showed a DVD and talked about the ministry being carried on on the campus of the University of Guelph and beyond. They reflected upon student life, ministry activities, their trip to Kenya and the Vandenberg family's three month sabbatical in Kenya. Four students plan to go to Kenya in May with Jamie and student intern Jenn McIntyre.

10. Youth Ministry Committee – Jamie Vandenberg

Fall retreat. 300 young people and leaders were in attendance. Churches should be sending enough leaders to accompany youth going to the retreat.

All Ontario Youth Convention. More than 900 youth attended in May, 2010. There are reps from classis on the planning team. Church councils are encouraged to consider subsidizing youth to attend the convention.

The All Ontario Convention will be in Waterloo for the next two years.

Churches are encouraged to host youth services throughout Trillium League. Only two classis-sponsored youth services are planned within classis, in spring and fall.

Revamped website for Trillium League is available at www.trilliumhuronyouth.com .

Trafina Deboer of Palmerston spoke about initiatives for young adults in classis. A young adult leadership team plans events which attract 40 – 100 young adults. Churches are encouraged to inform young adults within their congregations to take part in events.

11. Credentials Committee – Stephen Tamming

Goderich – If you have a community needs ministry, please connect with Goderich.

Kitchener – Rev. Carel Geleynse has arrived as new pastor of pastoral care.

Stratford will not send delegates to the May meeting of classis “as an expression of protest” since that meeting will be chaired by a woman.

New Life – they like the new Form of Subscription, responding on the Faith Formation committee.

Orangeville – while they appreciate Dr. Borgdorff coming to speak about the Belhar Confession, they would also like to hear someone speak against it.

Listowel asks for classis' position regarding children at the Lord's Supper as reflected in the Faith Formation document.

Cambridge encourages a future meeting of classis to spend time discussing the role of the church in community outreach.

12. Nominations Committee – Atie Ott

Minister and Elder delegates to Synod:

Minister delegates: Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink and Rev. Ralph Wigboldus. Alt.: Rev. Hary Frielink, Rev. Brian Bork

Elder delegates: Keith Oosthoek and John Vandonkersgoed. Alt.: Amanda Bakale, Marguerite Ridder.

Nominations for Classis committees and boards.

Gary Van Arragon as church visitor for East Team. – carried.

Rev. Harry Zantingh as church visitor for North Team. – carried.

Reappointments:

Keith Knight to second term as stated clerk. –carried.

Janet Ryzebol to second term on Classis Home Missions Committee. -carried

13. Overtures Committee – Ron Luchies

Owen Sound presented an overture/ correspondence in which it responds to reports on Faith Formation, Form of Subscription, and three confession revisions.

MOTION: That classis not endorse the overture from Owen Sound CRC. – carried.

14. Diaconal Conference – Fred Vander Sterre

Fred Vander Sterre facilitated an hour-long presentation on the work of deacons, both within classis and beyond.

Mary Blydorp spoke on the work of Diaconal Ministries Canada and offered a closing story on community outreach.

Fred spoke about the diaconal conference.

Len Bakelaar talked about the Community Opportunity Scan; learning to listen to the community.

Rob Terpstra reported on Operation Manna and the various projects throughout the classis.

15. Miscellaneous

15.2 Church counsellors: Guelph First continues to be served by Pastor Bernie de Jonge as interim pastor.

15.3 Ron Luchies was approved as counselor to Blyth. Blyth has the services of Rev. Gary Klumpernhouwer as interim pastor.

15.4 Church visitor: Stephen Tamming reported that the denomination’s Pastor Church Relations Office have been called in to meet with Drayton council.

15.5 Bill Elisen reported on the work of the Financial Resources Team.

15.6 A Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program will be held in Listowel with a focus on Leadership on March 3 and 4. Pastors are encouraged to attend.

15.7 The kitchen staff was thanked for their work and food.

15.8 Closing prayer was offered by the chair.

16. 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