

CLASSIS HURON
of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

AGENDA

January 13, 2010 – 9:00 a.m.

**Christian Reformed Church
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.

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2. Constituting Classis

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

3. Devotions for the Day

Opening – Listowel
Pre-lunch – Waterloo
Post –lunch – Gareth Harker
Pre-supper – Collingwood
Post-supper – Exeter
Closing – Chair

4. Officers of Classis

Chair: Rev. Bill Hoogland
Vice chair: Rev. John Vanderburgh
Stated Clerk: Keith Knight

5. Opening of Classis

Officers of Classis take their positions
Welcome: New members and guests

6. Stated Hour

10:45 a.m. -- Jake Hiemstra, All Ontario Youth Convention
11 a.m. -- Form of Subscription Committee and table discussions, Rev. James Dekker
1 p.m -- Gareth Harker, examination for licence to exhort
2:30 p.m. -- Discussion on stronger connection with deacons
3 p.m. -- Approve Ministry Associate position, Synodical Deputies present

7. Committees for the Day

Credentials Committee – Maitland River and Vanastra
Balloting Committee – Listowel and Guests
Overtures Committee – Blyth and Clinton

8. Classis Ministry Committee -- Rev. John Vanderburgh

8.1 Committee Report

The committee met on November 4, 2009. The following represent their respective committees:

Chair, Rev. John Vanderburgh
Vice-chair, Willie Andrews
Home Missions Committee – Janet Ryzebol
Huron Campus Ministry – Ray Vanderkooij
Diaconal Conference – Len Bakelaar
Safe Church Committee – Atie Ott
Youth Committee – Pete Janssens
CMLT – Bill Hoogland
Financial Resources Team – Clarence Louter
Prayer Coordinator (ex officio) – Jack Quartel
Stated Clerk (ex officio) – Keith Knight

1. CMC affirmed that Rev. Jack Quartel should sit as a member of the CMC.
2. The various committee liaisons provided highlights of their work.

3. The CMC chair and the Diaconal Conference chair will develop a framework for discussion at the January meeting of classis on the relationship between the diaconal conference and classis.
4. The Financial Resources Team, in keeping with its mandate, will provide fundraising for specific projects within classis to be identified by CMC.
5. At the next (March) meeting of CMC, the three-year Ministry Plan will be reviewed. It needs to come up for discussion and renewal at classis during 2010.
6. CMC had a peek at the major items which will occupy the January agenda. The agenda will be approved by AdCom (the Administrative Committee) when it meets on December 10, one day after the deadline for materials.
7. It was pointed out that the January classis meeting usually has a Visioning focus, May has the Huddle, and September is Skills Development.
8. It was also pointed out that CMC has a visioning role rather than an oversight role when it comes to the ministries that are being carried out within classis, and that space should be created within the agenda to facilitate that visioning role.
9. **REVISED RULES OF CLASSIS HURON.** The Revised Rules of Classis Huron were presented as information to the September meeting of classis. Committees were asked to review the document and to present any changes to the Stated Clerk. Changes were made to two appendices: Guelph Campus Ministry (to reflect their incorporation) and the inclusion of the mandate of the Financial Resources Team (formerly Finance Committee).

MOTION: That the Revised Rules of Classis Huron be adopted as amended and posted on the classishuron.ca website.

8.2 AdCom (Administrative Committee)

The committee met in October and in December. It approved the process to deal with the renewal of licenses to exhort for Stan Puklicz and John Den bok as well as the examination at classis of Gareth Harker.

The committee approved the appointment of Rev. Ralph Wigboldus as counselor for Palmerston, replacing Rev. John Vanderburgh who is serving as counselor for Orangeville.

The committee approved the list of speakers for the January classis meeting.

The agenda for the January classis meeting was approved at AdCom's December 10 meeting, one day after the deadline for materials.

The committee approved the transfer of Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis's ministerial credentials to Classis Chatham. Their church membership was transferred from Kincardine CRC to Redeemer CRC in Sarnia.

The committee accepted the transfer of Rev. Ralph Wigboldus' ministerial credentials from Classis Chatham. Rev. Wigboldus is firmly planted in Bethel CRC, Listowel.

8.3 Stated Clerk's Report

There doesn't seem to be a 'quiet time' in the life of the church within Classis Huron. Since the September meetings of classis – both the regular one and the special one to deal with Kincardine's request – the stated clerk has been engaged in about 200 email and telephone conversations. The former average of devoting about five hours per week to the work of classis has crept up to an average of seven hours per week.

Much of the work is administrative and organizational:

- processing the ministerial credentials for Rev. Jack Vande hoef, Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis and Rev. Ralph Wigboldus
- organizing the process for the renewal of the licenses to exhort as well as organizing the examination for a new application to exhort
- receiving and distributing minutes of neighbouring classes, and other routine correspondence
- dialogue with the denominational office concerning nominations and the upcoming meeting of synod
- remaining in regular contact with the vacant churches within classis concerning their pulpit supply needs
- revising the pulpit supply schedule
- preparing the agendas for the Classis Ministry Committee meeting in November and AdCom meetings in October and December, with subsequent minutes
- preparing the agenda for this classis meeting
- information-sharing with stated clerks of other classes.

An increasing amount of time was more pastoral or informational in nature:

- discussions with the Kincardine CRC leadership
- status of Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis' ministerial credentials
- conversations with recently vacant churches about interim ministry
- issues around licenses to exhort

The stated clerk attended the first meeting (in recent years) of the Financial Resources Team, formerly the Finance Committee. This is a small but vibrant committee which will provide support to the treasurer and will also take on fundraising tasks within classis should a special need arise.

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

8.4 Renewal of license to exhort:

Stan Puklicz: Sermon evaluation was conducted by Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink and Rev. John Vanderstoep.

John Den Bok: Sermon evaluation was conducted by Rev. Darren Roorda and Rev. John Vanderburgh.

Their reports, together with congregational evaluations, were sent to the Exhortation Licence Review Committee (ELRC): Rev. Peter Janssens and Rev. Harry Frielink. The ELRC will present its report and recommendations to classis.

8.5 Examination of Gareth Harker for license to exhort:

Assigned text: Jeremiah 31: 33-34

Biblical/theological exam – Rev. Ron Luchies

Practica – Rev. Ray Vander kooij

MOTION: That Classis Huron grant Gareth Harker a license to exhort within the boundaries of Classis Huron for one year.

8.6 Request to declare Ministry Associate Position

Maranatha Christian Reformed Church of Cambridge requests that Classis Huron affirm that the following position is consistent with the requirements of the Church Order, Article 23a and accordingly schedule* an examination of Mr. Rick DeGraaf for the position of Ministry Associate serving as with Christian Reformed World Relief Committee as Country Consultant in Cambodia under the supervision of Maranatha's elders.

**the scheduling of the examination would need to be at either the May or September 2010 Classis meeting, depending on when Rick is able to travel back from Cambodia.*

Grounds:

- a. Rick DeGraaf's role in Cambodia is leadership. He leads a team of two expatriate and 13 national workers. A key component of his leadership is building a biblical and wholistic foundation for CRWRC's ministry through teaching and training from the scriptures daily with his staff. As well, he coaches three senior staff members and supervises a missionary couple from Norway (seconded by the Norwegian Mission Alliance). Rick is regularly called upon to lead large group meetings (community and partner) and invited to lead worship services where he has the privilege to proclaim God's word (see attached Position Description to understand the various components of his role).
- b. Being ordained as a Ministry Associate would facilitate Rick to preach and lead worship, especially while on home service (at Maranatha and other congregations), and, as an ordained missionary/leader of CRWRC's work in Cambodia, he would feel less hesitant to accept opportunities to preach or lead worship by CRWRC church partners or even the International Christian Fellowship of which the DeGraafs are members. Being ordained sends a clear message that Rick has been properly examined and is accountable for conduct and life to a sending congregation where his credentials are held.
- c. Although Cambodia is geographically distant from Cambridge, Rick will be supervised by the pastor and elders of Maranatha according to the spirit of Article 24b. He has served as a deacon at large for more than 20 years and his current relationship – a mixture of email, Skype, and face-to-face communication built on a foundation of a longer term working relationship with pastor and elders in a variety of key leadership roles – is a strong, on-going relationship in which real accountability and support can take place despite the distance.
- d. Rick has substantial ministry experience in a variety of roles – cross-cultural missionary, stewardship education coordinator as supervised by a joint committee of Christian Stewardship Services and the CRCNA, preaching (as requested by several CRC and a few non-CRC congregations), deacon, administrative elder, council chair (Mountainview Grimsby), vision team – and has recently graduated from the denomination's own *Eastern Canada Leadership Development Network* three-year program. He has demonstrated not only a high degree of skill in preaching, care, and leadership, but more importantly a passionate love for Jesus and heartfelt calling to the mission of the church in a full wholistic manner.
- e. Rick's present contract with CRWRC has a regular 'home service' commitment that requires Rick to give account for the work of CRWRC in Cambodia to supporting churches and individuals – by both written and verbal when on home service. CRWRC workers are typically not ordained or trained for proclamation ministry, even though in field practice they are often called by local churches and partners to lead worship and preach. However, when on home service, because they are not ordained, the opportunity to preach is either not offered or when it is the CRWRC worker feels unqualified because

of the ordination requirements (compare this to CRWM missionaries). By virtue of both training and experience, Rick seeks the opportunity to share from the Word from the pulpit and other opportunities to motivate Christians to use all their God given gifts to bring God's Kingdom near – especially from the context of CRWRC ministry. He is passionate about connecting his overseas and other life experiences with scriptural teaching to bring a message of hope and excitement for God's Kingdom enterprise! Being ordained would facilitate more opportunity to do so.

Background: (in Rick De Graaf's own words)

In September of 2006, I applied and was accepted as a student in the Eastern Canada Leadership Development Network (ECLDN) beginning a journey that helped prepare and shape me to be better equipped for ministry in the church. That journey of discovery and learning as part of the ECLDN ended with my graduation this past June. I am so thankful for those Saturdays spent in training sessions, the sessions with my coach (thanks to Pastor John), and the in-depth study of many resources that now are a part of my library. It has prepared me well for my work in Cambodia. God is stretching and using me in ways that I personally would not dare – but do so because I am willing to submit to his guidance and leading. The words of 1 Peter 5: 2-3 of great comfort and inspiration to me especially as I present you with this request to be ordained in the CRC: *“Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.”*

Fellow elders and deacons, I want you to know that I seek ordination as a Ministry Associate – because I am willing – by God's help. It is not out of selfish ambition or seeking greater honour or prestige, but rather out of a sense of call and readiness to follow where God leads me and to be willing to submit to a higher level of scrutiny. Humanly speaking, it would be easier to simply retire and take life a bit easier – but it would not satisfy me when there is so much to be done in God's Kingdom.

... I am willing – willing to serve and serve under a higher level of scrutiny as a workman gifted and prepared by God to serve. Whether that means in Cambodia for a time or Maranatha or wherever the Lord leads me.

Therefore, I request you as council to endorse and support my request to be a Ministry Associate in the Christian Reformed Church. In order to do so, a Ministry Associate needs to be installed in a local CRC congregation. I ask you to do so, commissioning me as a Ministry Associate assigned to Cambodia on behalf of Maranatha CRC. I would be part of the Maranatha CRC staff team, even though my commission is far away.

With your agreement and support, I would have to appear before a meeting of Classis Huron to present myself and give an account of my faith conviction, preparation for ministry, biblical understanding and personal conviction as a Ministry Associate candidate. At this time, I am not sure when that will be. It depends a lot on the timing of the home service assignment or termination of my CRWRC colleague at CRWRC Cambodia. It may be as soon as May 12, 2010 or later on September 15, 2010.

MOTION: That Classis Huron affirm that CRWRC's Country Consultant position in Cambodia is consistent with the Ministry Associate requirements of the Church Order, Article 23a.

MOTION: That an examination of Mr. Rick DeGraaf for the position be arranged for either the May or September meetings of classis, depending on the time of his home service assignment.

8.7 Correspondence

8.7.1 All Ontario Youth Convention, “One Life”,

May 21-24, 2010, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo

The All Ontario Youth Convention would like to make a presentation at each of the Classis in Ontario. Together with Bruce Adema and the Ontario Youth Board it was recommended to do this in order to inform all church leaders of this youth ministry. Each classis is represented on the Ontario youth board with two representatives.

The All Ontario Youth Convention has been held on the May long weekend for the past 35 years. This past year 850 youth and youth leaders gathered in Waterloo (see Banner article, October 2009 pg. 13) Over the years, thousands of youth have been impacted by this event. Their testimony tells the importance of the ministry that takes places for youth in Ontario each May long weekend.

We wish to share the convention information with all the Classis in Ontario, by giving a brief presentation on behalf of the planning committee. This would take about 10 minutes, along with a time for questions.

Would you kindly allow us a time slot on the Agenda of your next classis meeting? Please let us know the date and location and a suitable time.

We thank you for the opportunity to share about this ministry among our youth and their leaders with our church leadership. We praise God for His faithfulness, and may we continue to be His faithful servants.

Jake Hiemstra, AOYC Planning Committee

8.8 Form of Subscription Committee presentation – Rev. James Dekker

The synodical committee to study the Form of Subscription will make a presentation to classis. First, there will be a brief introduction, then small groups for discussion, then plenary. We will be using a conversation guide (attached to the agenda), which is also useful for individual councils and congregational groups.

Attached to the agenda mailing were three documents that will be helpful for councils and delegates before the classis meeting and for the actual conversation at classis itself. They are: a background document, a draft Covenant, and Conversation Guide for Classis Huron.

9. Safe Church Committee – Atie Ott (oral report)

10. Classis Home Missions Committee – Marguerite Ridder

Prayer Ministry: As I am writing this report, we are well underway with the 40 Days of Prayer initiative in all CRC churches across Ontario and the Maritimes. It has been quite the undertaking and we pray that the result may have been a blessing to all.

Leadership Clusters: Leadership clusters for Classis Huron were held during the Fall of 2009 in Clinton and Guelph both studying the material by Reggie McNeal “This Present Future”. The Clinton cluster had approximately 10-12 people in attendance. Their first meeting was during an evening where very quickly was decided that the group wanted to meet during the day. Thus every other week they gathered during lunch time and have expressed a desire to continue as a cluster with another study.

The Guelph cluster had 5 participants and was held in the evening. A few pastors had indicated that they would attend if it were a daytime gathering and thus the Guelph facilitators decided that another group would start some time in the New Year.

A verbal report will be given to Classis in January by one of the pastors attending the Clinton Cluster.

Church Plant Milton: A verbal report will be given to Classis in January 2010.

Classis Huron Church Plantings: We will spend some time at this Classis meeting to celebrate the work of the two church plants - River City Church in Cambridge and The Journey in Kitchener. Both church planters: Darrell Bierman as well as Adrian VanGiessen will be reporting to Classis. John Kuperus will lead us through this celebration.

11. Classis Ministerial Leadership Team – Rev. Bill Hoogland (oral report)

12. Classis Youth Ministry Team – Jamie VanderBerg

The Classis Huron Youth Ministry Committee has taken on a new name. It's not a radical change, but it's still significant. We are now calling ourselves the "Classis Huron Youth Ministry Team". This small change is significant because it arises out of a visioning process that came to completion this past year, and which shapes the type of work that we're doing within this Classis. In past years, there were effectively two teams that met regularly, namely our committee and the Trillium League Lead Team. The first consisted of pastors and lay leaders, and the second was largely a gathering of youth and youth leaders. We've decided to bring the two together, focusing on five areas:

- Leadership Development
- Communication and Resource Development
- Worship and/or Special Event Planning
- Fall Retreat
- Young Adult Ministry

Our meetings are now gatherings of interested youth, youth leaders and pastors. We break into sub-teams, focusing in on each area, and we spend time doing some work collectively. It's been a good and smooth transition, and it's been a joy to have the youth more fully integrated into all aspects of our work.

There are a number of events that are worthy of note this year. The Fall Retreat was held at Muskoka Woods again and gathered together over 300 youth. It featured Jeff Klein as a speaker, and the music was led by Relevant Worship. One significant (and appreciated) change: Each youth group had the opportunity to meet with their own group during the small group discussion times, instead of having everyone mixed up together. This meant that the youth leaders could intentionally use this retreat as an opportunity to build up their own youth group.

In addition to the Fall Retreat, we hosted Brett Ullman on Nov. 18 in Waterloo. This Wednesday night event gathered together over 200 youth and included follow-up study material that youth groups could use after the event. A similar event will be held this spring, with J.R. Pittman joining us, likely in Stratford.

As a team, we've also been encouraging the youth leaders in our Classis to take advantage of a leadership development opportunity. Youth Unlimited, together with our neighbouring classes, is hosting "Soul Care"—a retreat for youth leaders in January. All your youth leaders have been invited, and we'd like to encourage you, as churches, to encourage your leaders to attend.

And finally, we're looking to reinvigorate young adult ministry in our region. Trying to get our finger on the pulse of this generation, an invitation is being extended to each church. We'd like to host a roundtable discussion with interested young adults on Feb. 7. Together, we hope to establish a vision for ministry for, and with, this generation.

Please continue to pray for all of these endeavours and celebrate with us!

13. Nominations Committee – Atie Ott

Classis will be voting for minister and elder delegates to attend Synod in June in Chicago. The names of minister and elder nominees should appear on the back of the credentials.

14. Campus Ministry – Guelph (www.guelphcm.ca)

14.1 Board report – Rev. Ray Vanderkooij

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 2010 -- We were involved in interviewing and selecting two student leaders and up to twelve participants for the Tumaini faith, hope, solidarity experience in Kenya for August 2010.

SABBATICAL -- We approved an extensive sabbatical plan for campus minister Jamie VanderBerg that fits with our sabbatical policy in our "Employment Covenant", which entitles and encourages the campus minister to take one month of sabbatical for every year served in Guelph Campus Ministry (GCM), to a maximum of seven months, after four years of service. Jamie has served GCM for four years and we approved a requested sabbatical of two months, which is being combined with study leave and encompasses mid April – June (outside the academic year at the University of Guelph). During this time Jamie will take one or two academic courses locally, yet to be confirmed and approved by the board. We consider such regular profession development essential to serving well in ministry in an academic setting. For the sabbatical portion Jamie will travel to Kenya to visit several campuses and their Christian ministries that are part of FOCUS, a campus ministry organization that operate out of a distinctly Reformed perspective. He will spend the majority of his time there sitting in on lectures and also lecturing on the interplay of faith and postmodernity and on campus ministry in North America at the Reformed Institute for Theological Training. Jamie's family will be travelling with him and they will have their vacation in July in the village of Butula, which is where Tumaini 2010 will primarily serve in August, with both Jamie and Elaine as leaders. We consider that this sabbatical will provide for important rest and change of pace, profession development here and abroad, and exposure to campus ministry in a different context. Together this will contribute to Jamie's wellbeing and growth, and bless the GCM with its full ministry on a multicultural campus where social justice, sustainability, and international development are key points of interest. We are also encouraged that this sabbatical will provide opportunity to explore further connections and partnership between CRWRC and the GCM, as CRWRC is increasing its involvement in Kenya as a key point of contact with Africa.

THIRD STREAM FUNDING -- We continue to pursue funding for the \$10,000 beyond Home Missions and Classis Huron support that we need to raise this year for the 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 concert by the Guelph Male Choir for which we thank them so much for their preparation and performance as a fundraiser for the GCM that also allowed us to reach people beyond our typical support community.
- A regional evening service in the Vanastra CRC in which student and campus ministers from both Guelph and Waterloo shared in leading the service. We hope to host another such Sunday evening event in another region of classis in early 2010.
- We are developing a promotion brochure that we can share when we have the opportunity and can include with other materials at events and in specific promotions.

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!

14.2 Campus Minister's Report – Jamie VanderBerg

Four years ago, I could not have imagined the community that God has brought together here on Guelph's campus. Four years ago, I didn't know anyone on campus. Our first Community Dinner was attended by a handful of students. And now, I can honestly say that the strength of the community fills me with joy and causes me to marvel at God's goodness.

This could not have been more evident than at a baptism service held at the close of the summer. Joseph Upfield had been a student leader with us for a couple of years. It was Joe who concocted the idea of our first winter retreat; it was Joe who took Community Dinners to the next level; it was Joe who practiced the art of hospitality. Though he started going to church in high school, it was more his parents' spiritual home than his; and so, he opted not to be baptized. Guelph Campus Ministry (GCM), together with New Life CRC, has become his spiritual home. Early in the summer, he approached me and asked to be baptized into the body of Christ.

So, we gathered. Over 50 students surrounded him, and several families from New Life joined us out at Guelph Lake. As we sat together in the pavilion, I took the opportunity to look around the circle. I saw couples that had come into my office for counseling; I saw a student who nearly went home because she was homesick during those opening weeks of school; I saw students who had planned entire trips to Kenya with me and student leaders who served faithfully on our worship team. As a community, we witnessed Joe's baptism, and we broke bread together. As we did so, I was struck by the beauty of what God has brought together—an authentic, supportive, outward-focused, mission-minded community.

GCM is a student-led, Christ-centred ministry that seeks to grow in faith, build community and engage campus. There's no executive that leads us forward, no growth model that we're following, no forced proselytizing. We are simply serving our campus and reaching out with God's grace. Within our four areas of ministry, there are a number of highlights I'd like to share with you:

WORSHIP

- **BASIC:** Our monthly worship service continues to bring together all five Christian student groups on campus. We have moved back out of the "living room on campus" (otherwise known as The Bullring) and returned to worshipping in the University Centre. This year, we're exploring the Trinity together.
- **GCM Weekly Worship:** In September, a hunger was expressed. The students longed for an

additional time of worship, but they didn't just want another praise and worship event. They longed for an intimate setting, a quiet and reflective space, and an opportunity to break bread together. We gather around the Lord's Table every other week (under New Life CRC's supervision), with the Wednesdays in between serving as an opportunity to be in prayer together. Communion is both a thoughtful and celebrative event!

DISCIPLESHIP

- Small Groups: GCM officially has three small groups on the go this year, though there are a host of unofficial groups that are being led by the students themselves. Some of these meet weekly; others meet monthly. Of the three that are organized by GCM, I lead two, both of which are book studies—*Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview and Cultural Formation* (James K.A. Smith) and *The Twenty-Piece Shuffle: Why the Poor and Rich Need Each Other* (Greg Paul). The third group is for women only and is led by one of our student leaders, Julie Kikkert, and my wife, Elaine.
- Road Trip to The Sanctuary: Road trips have become a vital part of community life for us. We make a habit of worshipping with other communities and entering into dialogue with those in different corners of God's Kingdom. Early in December, we paid a visit to The Sanctuary, a downtown Toronto street ministry.
- Graduate Student Fellowship and Faculty Fellowship: Both our graduate student group and our faculty/staff Bible study continue to meet every week. Conversations are filled with boisterous laughter, good fellowship and genuinely serious engagement.
- Dr. James K.A. Smith Lecture: On January 21, 2010, GCM will be hosting a lecture by Dr. Smith. He's an associate professor at Calvin College and author of *Who's Afraid of Postmodernism?*. We're looking forward to this evening lecture (7:00pm, War Memorial Hall) and see this event as a significant opportunity to integrate our faith into the academic life of campus. His topic: "Rethinking the Secular and the Religious". (All are invited to this public lecture!)
- Winter Retreat: This year, over 50 people will be attending the winter retreat, which will be taking place on January 22-24, 2010. Dr. Smith will be joining us and leading a number of sessions, speaking about liturgies and spiritual formation.

HOSPITALITY

- Community Dinners: Our weekly dinners continue to draw 55-65 people. In many ways, this is the glue that holds our community together. Students are involved in GCM in different ways, but this is our one chance to be together.
- Jubilee Village: Over the past three years, a number of students have been living in houses that have been intent on opening their doors and being an incarnational presence in their neighbourhoods and within our campus community. Some have weekly suppers; some make their houses into study halls and invite others to join them; and others host weekly Bible studies. Together, these student houses form what we now call "Jubilee Village". They have their own blog site, and they regularly hold each other in prayer, using gcmprayer@gmail.com as a means to share requests with one another.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Agape Café, Run and Read, and the Clothing Closet: Within the area of social justice, our focus has shifted slightly. Though we still do deaconal work abroad, we also offer volunteer opportunities within the city of Guelph. Right now, we have over 20 students volunteering at these three local organizations.
- Peace Week and Faith Week: We continue to collaborate with other groups on campus, pulling together both of these weeks.

- Children of Bukati and Tumaini 2010: This past August, GCM sent 12 students with me to Butula, Kenya, where we worked in solidarity with a rural community that has opened up the door to primary education for over 500 AIDS orphans. We also visited a Reformed seminary, connected with a campus ministry organization and intentionally visited local churches. This trip is once again being planned for 2010, with two student leaders doing the bulk of the organizational work.

On that note, I want to end with a comment or two about student leadership. At GCM, we are richly blessed with strong student leaders. Our student leaders are not voted into office, nor are they hand picked. We wait upon the Lord, and I watch who naturally steps into a position of leadership in each of the four areas of ministry. As these students do so, I quietly invite them into a mentoring relationship. We agree to meet for an hour every week, praying together, reading scripture and reflecting on the leadership gifts that God has clearly given them. Student leadership is more than just a core value; it's one of the supporting pillars of our community. As supporting churches, I'd encourage you to hold these individuals in your prayers—Michelle Scheerer, Steffen Pentelow, Julie Kikkert, Maria Berends and Rosy Hayhoe.

15. Classis' connection with Diaconal Conference

Classis will devote discussion time to explore the connection between classis and the diaconal conference. The decision to explore this connection was made at the September 2009 meeting of classis.

The 'purpose' and 'vision' of Classis Huron is to support, equip and encourage the churches in the ministries that God has called us. The result is that local churches will be able to reach the lost and gather those made alive in Christ, and to disciple all his people. In order for Classis to be effective/affective in this goal, the vision/purpose must be embraced by the local churches.

The first discussion question is: *How can Classis make this vision a local vision, and can/should the Diaconal Conference (deacons) have a role in this?*

If the answer is yes, then, *What is the role of the Diaconal Conference, and how can/should that be incorporated within our classical structure (meetings)?*

16. Reports

16.1 Redeemer University College ~ Fall/Winter

As the first semester of the 2009-10 academic year is drawing to a close, we praise God for his many wonderful blessings. Our total enrolment is 918 students (or 865 FTE—full-time equivalent), an increase of 52 students over last year. We were extremely pleased with the publication of the *Globe & Mail's* annual "University Report" in October. Redeemer did very well in many important areas, including an "A+" in overall student satisfaction, for which we can be thankful and rightfully proud.

We are encouraged by the spiritual, intellectual and cultural vitality on our campus. Our theme this year, "*The Truth Shall Set You Free,*" has been woven through our chapels and various other campus events. We have also launched a new adult education program called C.L.E.A.R. (Continuous Learning & Education at Redeemer), which is off to an amazing start this fall. Our students continue to show leadership in volunteering in various downtown ministries and participating in mission and service opportunities.

Work on the various projects around the Academic Building is well under way, while preparations for the Soccer Dome project are proceeding with a planned construction start date of March 2010 and a completion date of August. We hope to include a small native garden as part of the planning for the new soccer complex, in order to honour the presence of the First Nations village that was uncovered on the site last spring.

Our faculty have thrown themselves with enthusiasm into their teaching and scholarship this Fall term. We are working to fill two full-time faculty positions, in Philosophy to replace the late Dr. Theo Plantinga, and in Psychology to replace Dr. Charles Hackney who plans to leave at the end of the fall term to take up an academic position elsewhere.

On November 11 we enjoyed the sixth annual Bernard Zylstra Lectures, given by Dr. John Witte, Jr. who spoke on “*From Contract to Covenant: Rediscovering the Fundamentals of Marriage*”.

On January 13, 2010, Dr James Payton, Jr. will give an evening public lecture, jointly sponsored by the Association for Reformed Institutions for Higher Education (ARIHE), on the legacy of John Calvin. On January 22, Stephen Lewis will speak and be part of a panel on the topic of global health. Please see our website for more details on these and other events on campus. We look forward to having many of you attend the annual Ministers’ Conference on **Tuesday, March 2, 2010**. More details will follow in a special letter of invitation.

In this final year of my presidency, the *Legacy Campaign* fundraising initiative that are working on is showing results that continue to amaze us. We look forward to a balanced budget for this year and are more than halfway to our goal of eliminating our \$30 million long-term capital debt, with \$5 million in current gifts and \$12 million in planned giving. The farewell tour of 10 centres around the province (seven in Western Ontario and three in Eastern Ontario) has been completed. The Presidential Search Committee is on schedule with their process to find a new President, having interviewed a short list of candidates, and hopes to bring a candidate to the Board no later than early March. Your prayers for this process as they seek the person of God’s choosing are appreciated.

We thank you again for your ongoing support of Redeemer through prayer and the financial giving of your congregations. May the Lord bless you in your ministry.

Dr. Justin Cooper, President

17. Treasurer’s Report -- Cindy Tamming

Classis in September adopted the following for 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 be reimbursed \$500.00, no change.
4. That the remuneration for loss of wages while conducting the business of Classis remain at \$150.00 per day for up to five (5) per week, no change.

18. Future Classis Meetings

Date	Place	Reports due	Chair	Vice-chair
Jan. 13, 2010	Listowel	Dec. 2, 2009	Bill Hoogland	John Vanderburgh
May 12, 2010	Guelph New Life	April 7, 2010	John Vanderburgh	Adrian Van Giessen ??
Sept. 15, 2010	Drayton??	Aug. 11, 2010	Adrian Van Giessen?	
Jan. 12, 2011		Dec. 1, 2010		