



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

MINUTES

February 17, 2016 – 9:00 a.m.

Bethel Christian Reformed Church

345 Elizabeth Street

Listowel, Ontario

The PURPOSE of Classis Huron

We will foster the Kingdom through shared resources toward spiritual renewal

The VISION of Classis Huron

The congregations, ministries, missional communities and people of Classis Huron will surrender to the work of the Spirit of Mission of Jesus, to embody the Kingdom of God. Recognizing the urgency of the times, we stand on the foundation laid for us by previous generations and step forward in the same faith we have been taught.

Delegates to Classis

	Minister	Elder	Deacon
Acton	Rev. Ray Vander Kooij	Simon Feddema	Walter Kroezen
Blyth	Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen	Dave Passchier	Fred Vander Sterre
Cambridge Mar.		Carrie Van Lingen	Cathy Cranbury
Cambridge River City	Rev. Darrell Bierman		
Clinton	Rev. Ron Luchies	Bert Van Maar	Jeff Van Wyk
Collingwood		Jeff Beck Harry Dykxhoorn	Dwight Kers
Drayton	Rev. Paul Droogers	Jake Vandenberg	Candace Burnett
Exeter	Rev. Keven te Brake	Leo Weverink	Shawn Yearley
Goderich	Rev. Stephen Tamming	Peter Bos	Carol Bruinsma
Guelph – New Life		Jack Tacoma	Eve Mazereeuw
Guelph – First	Rev. David Tigchelaar	Marguerite Ridder	Mary Blydorp
Guelph – Campus	Chaplain Jamie Vandenberg		
Kitchener Community	Rev. John Medendorp	Anita Hoekstra	Carolyn Drost
Kitchener Journey			
Listowel	Rev. Ralph Wigboldus	Steve Vogel	Tim Hiemstra
Lucknow	Rev. Tim Leferink	Stuart VanderVaart	Stacey Wellstead
Orangeville	Rev. Andrew Vis		Peter Ryzebol
Owen Sound	Rev. Harry Zantingh	Bruce de Boer	Ada Haasnoot
Palmerston	Rev. Andrew de Gelder	Albert Hovingh	Trudy Stroetinga
Stratford	Rev. Martin Dam	John Olbach	
Vanastra	Rev. Paul DeWeerd	Henry Boot	Fran Kuntz
Waterloo	Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok	Peter Looyenga	Annette Dandyk
Waterloo – Campus	Rev. Brian Bork		
Wingham	Rev. Henry Steenbergen	Karen Bridges	

Rev. Ralph Wigboldus of Bethel CRC, Listowel, welcomed delegates.
 Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen reported on attendance on behalf Credentials Committee.
 Classis is declared constituted.

Officers of the Day

Chair: Rev. Ralph Wigboldus
 Vice- Chair: Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok
 Stated Clerk: Rev. Vic Vandermolen

1. Opening Devotions

Wilma Hiemstra of Trinity CRC, Goderich, led in devotions with a message based on Luke 4:1-13 which was also part of her examination for Licensure to Exhort. After the devotional Wilma was examined as per the Rules of Classis Huron regarding her knowledge of Scripture, Reformed doctrine, practica, and ability to exhort. The Chair declared 'executive session' as the delegates reflected on the examination and responses to the questions. After a ballot vote was completed, 'executive session' was declared ended. The Chair advised Wilma that she had been granted licensure to exhort in Classis Huron, and in a time of prayer, Classis prayed that God would bless her in this new endeavor.

2. Denominational Update/Information

Rev. Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director, shared with Delegates information about the CRCNA ministry plan, including specific information about ministry activity in Canada, and also about the new directory that outlines and provides information about ministry in Canada [see www.crcna.org/Canada]. He stated that it is important for Canadian churches to be aware of what is being done denominationally and also what is being done to further the overall ministry of the CRCNA. Lis Van Harten and Derek Atkins informed Delegates about a new opportunity available to churches and church leaders in light of a \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment for a project called 'Connections' that focusses on available resources to the Churches. Connections will invite church leaders from various regions [involving 12 classes] to participate in gathering and learning communities focussed on ministry, or on a project they would like to see take place in their ministry context, or that will enrich what is currently taking place in their church. The overall purpose of this being to help CRC Churches connect with, have access to, and identify the various ministries of the CRCNA. They also reported on the Better Together Project.

3. Credentials Committee Report:

Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen reported on behalf of the Credentials Committee:

- a] Clinton CRC advised Classis that Pastor Ron Luchies will be on sabbatical for the months of June and July 2016.
- b] Guelph First CRC asked for assistance in dealing with families who participate in congregational life and are 'members' in all but name, and so remain ineligible to assume certain leadership positions. How can they be more fully integrated into the life of the Church? Classis was also asked how the issue of physician assisted death should be addressed in their church community. **Referred to CMC.**
- c] Orangeville CRC expressed concern regarding Classis ministry shares, and in light of the decline in membership are discussing the means of limiting their ministry shares to 10% of their 2017 budget. **Referred to CMC**
- d] Vanastra CRC requested prayer support for as they deal with the possible suspension or deposition of an office bearer. [Classis took time to pray]
- e] Stratford CRC had prepared a statement explaining their reasoning why they will not be sending a Deacon delegate to Classis meetings. That statement was read for the information of the Delegates. **Referred to CMC**
- f] Bethel CRC, Listowel, requested that Classis make time to discuss small group ministry at a future meeting of Classis.
- g] Bethel CC, Listowel, asked for the support of Classis for an overture to encourage Synod to accept the minority report [Provide Pastoral Guidance re Same-Sex Marriage]. The Credentials Committee declared that this request is not validly before Classis at this time and in this format. Because the Chair is a member of Bethel, he passed the gavel to the Vice Chair, who rules in support of the Credentials Committee decision, and is challenged. Upon a subsequent vote being taken, the ruling of the Vice Chair is sustained, and the request of Bethel CRC is not granted.

4. Classis Ministry Committee

Classis Ministry Committee Chairman Rev. Ralph Wigboldus reviewed the report that was part of the Agenda. Concluding the report it was **moved and seconded that:**

1... Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok be appointed to the AdCom and CMC committees to replace Rev. Amanda Bakale. **CARRIED**

2...That the following resolutions be approved regarding the incorporation process:

A...Resolved that Rev. Ralph Wigboldus, Rev. Stephen Tamming and Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok are hereby directed and authorized to take steps to apply to Canada Revenue Agency for charitable status, and to take whatever steps necessary to complete the application and to obtain charitable status

B...Resolved that Rev. Ralph Wigboldus, Rev. Stephen Tamming and Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok are hereby directed and authorized to take steps to apply for Articles of Incorporation in the manner of the attached Form 4001;

C. Resolved that the by-laws called By-law 2016-1, as sent out to all Classis Huron Churches on January 4, 2016 be approved in principle;

D... Resolved that upon incorporation and receipt of charitable status Rev. Ralph Wigboldus, Rev. Stephen Tamming and Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok, or their replacements, may enter into an Asset Transfer Agreement to transfer all assets and liabilities of the unincorporated Classis Huron to the incorporated Classis Huron and upon that together with signing this Agreement, they may sign a complete Release for the benefit of the Trustees of the unincorporated Classis Huron.

CARRIED

E...That Rev. Ralph Wigboldus, Rev. Stephen Tamming and Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok, or their replacements, may sign whatever documents may be necessary and may take whatever steps or actions are necessary to accomplish the above resolutions.

CARRIED

F... That FORM 4001 re Articles of Incorporation, as attached to the Agenda, be approved as being part of the documents to be used in the incorporation process.

CARRIED

3... That Classis Huron nominate to Synod 2016, the appointment of Rev. Ray Vander Kooij as a Synodical Deputy for a term of 3 years effective July 1, 2016, and nominate Rev. Stephen Tamming as Alternate Synodical Deputy for a term of 3 years effective July 1, 2016.

CARRIED

4... That Keith Knight be appointed as Alternate Stated Clerk of Classis Huron

DEFEATED

5... That Classis Huron approved the following process/procedure for the election and selection of Classis Huron Delegates to Synod 2016:

A...The minister delegate and his/her alternate be selected through a free-vote process from a list of all eligible Ministers of the Word currently serving active ministries in Classis Huron.

B... The elder delegate and his/her alternate be selected by vote from a list of approved elder nominees presented to Classis Huron for delegation to synod.

**C... The deacon delegate and his/her alternate be selected by vote from a list of approved deacon nominees presented to Classis Huron for delegation to synod.
D... The fourth delegate and his/her alternate be selected by vote from a list of approved nominees from any of the four offices presented to Classis Huron for delegation to synod.**

CARRIED

It was moved and seconded that Classis approve the work of AdCom, CMC and the Stated Clerk.

CARRIED

5. Treasurers Report: John Bell

There was no report made.

Classis took time to begin the process of electing/selecting Delegates to Synod as per the process approved under Item 4:5 above.

6. Youth Ministry Committee: Lesli Van Milligen, Amy Baarda

Lesli Van Milligen expressed her thanks to Classis for its support in her work with youth ministry, indicating that she had accepted a position with CRC's new Faith Formation Ministries and would be serving as the Regional Catalyzer for Eastern Canada, and that Cross Point CRC in Brampton would be her 'calling church'. She introduced Amy Baarda of Stratford CRC as the new youth ministry leader for Classis Huron. She reviewed the Youth Report as attached to the Agenda and also outlined the role of 'Classis Champion' that she will be assuming for Classis Huron in her new role. The Chair led in prayer, asking for God's blessing on both Lesli Van Milligen and Amy Baarda as they take on their new tasks and leadership roles.

7. Guelph Campus Ministry: Chaplain Jamie Vander Berg

Chaplain Vander Berg referred to the report as attached to the Agenda. He also highlighted some current activities and blessings being experienced on campus and by students. Classis was asked to remember to pray for the work of the Chaplain and for student leaders, as they seek to be a blessing in this campus ministry.

8. Regional Pastors: Rev. Paul Stadt, Rev. Ron Fisher

Rev. Paul Stadt commented on his ministry expressing appreciation for the opportunities it brings, that he is able to meet with all the pastors and that all appears to be going well. Classis was referred to the report, as attached to the Agenda, filed by Rev. Ron Fisher who was not able to attend Classis.

9. Classis Huron Regional Advocate: Len Bakelaar

Len Bakelaar shared with Classis some of the activities that are part of being a Regional Advocate, and spoke about the need to be accepting of each other for the persons we are, and to reach out and care for each other. He encouraged Churches to explore means whereby they can be a special blessing to those dealing with special needs challenges, so that all persons would be considered included, regardless of their abilities.

Classis took time to carry on with the process of electing/selecting Delegates to Synod as per the process approved under Item 4:5 above.

10. Church Counselors Reports [verbal]

Collingwood: Rev. Harry Zantingh; Classis was advised that this Church is working toward the calling of a new pastor and that all is proceeding well.

Guelph New Life: Rev. Ed den Haan. The Church is working diligently at staffing its position of ordained minister. Classis was asked to keep praying for New Life CRC as it seeks a new pastor. Cambridge [Maranatha] Rev. Vic Vandermolen. The Church continues to work with STM Rev. Ed Visser and is actively seeking a new pastor.

11. Election of Delegates to Synod 2016

Classis completed the process of electing/selecting Delegates to Synod with the following results

Rev John Medendorp of Community CRC as Minister Delegate [Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok as Alternate Minister Delegate]...

Elder Albert Hovingh of Palmerston CRC as Elder Delegate [Anita Hoekstra of Community CRC Kitchener as Alternate Elder Delegate]...

Mary Blydorp of First CRC Guelph as Deacon Delegate [no Alternate]...

Marguerite Ridder [Guelph First, Elder] as the 'fourth' delegate [Rev. Kevin te Brake as the 'fourth' delegate Alternate].

12. **Comment;** Elder Marguerite Ridder [Guelph First CRC] encouraged Classis delegates to remember/recognize the value of Denominational agencies and ministries, as well as Classis and Synod, and to share those convictions with the younger members of the Church. She asked especially that delegates pray for the upcoming meeting of Synod as it deals with some difficult issues.

13. Closing

The Chair indicated that there being no further business the meeting was at an end. The Vice Chair expressed the appreciation of Classis for the manner in which the Chair had led the meeting. The Chair closed in a prayer of thanksgiving. Classis rose to sing The Doxology, and was declared adjourned.

Future Classis Meetings

DATE	PLACE	REPORTS DUE	CHAIR	VICE-CHAIR
May 18, 2016	Guelph New Life	April 6, 2016	Vicki Verhulst Cok	Martin Dam
Sept. 14, 2016	Stratford	August 10, 2016	Martin Dam	Stephen Tamming
Feb. 15, 2017	Drayton	January 13, 2017	Stephen Tamming	John Medendorp
May 17, 2017		April 5, 2017	John Medendorp	Paul Droogers

Delegates are reminded that you are expected to stay for the entire meeting. .If you must leave before adjournment, please consult with the chair of the day. The Classical Rules of Procedure state: "While Classis is in session, it is not permissible for any member to withdraw or to return homeward without consent of the chair."