



CLASSIS HURON
of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

www.classishuron.ca

MINUTES

May 12, 2010 – 9:00 a.m.

**New Life Christian Reformed Church
400 Victoria Road North,
Guelph**

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. Attendance

Congregation	Minister/Elder	Elder
Acton	Rev. Ray Vander Kooij	Ann Adema
Blyth	Rev. John Kuperus	Rob Wilts
Cambridge – Maranatha	Rev. John Vanderstoep	Mark Klein-Geltink
Cambridge – River City	Rev. Darrell Bierman	
Clinton	Fred Mulder	John Hoogendorn
Collingwood	Rev. Chris Pool	Merton Veldoer
Drayton	Rev. John Vanderburgh	Jake Vandenberg
Exeter	Rev. Harry Frielink	Henry Post
Goderich	Rev. Stephen Tamming	Sid Bruilsma
Guelph – New Life	Rev. Tom Van Milligen	Janet Ryzebol
Guelph – First	John Ridder	Peter Krygsman
Guelph – Campus	On sabbatical	
Kitchener	Rev. Darren Roorda	Eugene Bradley
Kitchener – The Journey	Tuyosi Awesu	
Listowel	Rev. Ralph Wigboldus	Steve Vogel
Lucknow	Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink	Laurence Uyl
Orangeville	Jan Scheurwater	Paul Bakker
Owen Sound	Rev. John Veenstra	Henry Feenstra
Palmerston	Terry Roorda	Hank VanSteenbergen
Stratford	Rev. Bill Hoogland	Max Van Til
Vanastra	Rev. Siemen Speelman	Bill Embling
Waterloo	Rev. Vicki Cok	Bill DeHaan
Waterloo – Campus	Rev. Brian Bork	
Wingham – Maitland River	Rev. Peter Janssens	Cathy Ritsema

2. Constituting Classis

Rev. Tom Van Milligen, pastor of New Life CRC, welcomed members of classis and offered opening devotions and prayer.

Rev. Ray Vander Kooij of the Credentials Committee report on attendance, indicated that the credentials were in good order and that first-time delegates signed the Form of Subscription, and declared classis constituted.

3. Officers of Classis

Chair: Rev. John Vanderburgh; Vice-chair: Rev. Darren Roorda; Stated Clerk: Keith Knight

4. Opening of Classis

Officers took their positions.

The chair welcomed delegates and guests, including Rev. Tom and Lesli Van Milligen (new pastor couple at New Life CRC, Guelph), Jan Oorebeek and John Zwart (applications for licenses to exhort), Rick De Graaf (ministry associate at Maranatha CRC, Cambridge for service with CRWRC in Cambodia), Rev. Derek Bouma (World Missions), Gary VanArragon (CRCNA Board of Trustees).

5. Committees for the Day

Credentials Committee – Acton and Orangeville
Balloting Committee – Guelph New Life and Guests

6. Classis Ministry Committee -- Rev. John Vanderburgh reporting

6.1 Extending Rev. Jack De Vries' service to the CRC in Australia

MOTION: That Rev. Jacob (Jack) De Vries be granted a two-year extension to be loaned temporarily to serve the CRC of Australia while retaining his ministerial status within the Christian Reformed Church in North America, until October 2011.

– carried

(The synodical deputies of Classis Toronto, Classis Chatham and Classis Hamilton concurred with this motion in advance. Their concurrence is on file with the stated clerk.)

6.2 The work of the Administrative Committee (AdCom), Classis Ministry Committee (CMC) and Stated Clerk

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

- carried

6.3 Licenses to exhort

a. **MOTION:** That a license to exhort for **Jack Tacoma** be extended for a five-year term, ending September, 2015.

- carried

b. **MOTION:** That the tabled motion from the January classis meeting concerning **John Den Bok's** renewal of his license to exhort be considered.

– carried

MOTION: That **John Den Bok's** renewal of his license to exhort be denied.

Ground:

1. Collingwood CRC council does not endorse his request since he has been worshipping elsewhere for the past three years and is not an active member in the CRC.

- carried

c. Following a presentation of a sermon and examination in practica and biblical/theological, the following motion was presented:

MOTION: That Classis Huron grant **Jan Oorebeek** a license to exhort within its boundaries for one year.

– defeated

Classis did, however, offer mentoring opportunities to him and encouraged him to continue to develop his theological education so that he may reapply at some point in the future.

d. Following a presentation of a sermon and examination in practica and biblical/theological, the following motion was presented:

MOTION: That Classis Huron grant **John Zwart** a license to exhort within its boundaries for one year.

- carried

His email address is johnzward@hsfx.ca Phone: 519 957-2462 Cell: 519 496-5607

7. Treasurer's Report -- Cindy Tamming reporting

The Financial Statements for 2009 and the auditor's report were presented to classis.

MOTION: That the work of the treasurer be approved. – carried

8. Classis Home Missions Committee – John Vanderstoep reporting

MOTION: That Classis Huron Home Missions Committee be authorized to provide \$25,000 per year for three years in support of the Milton church plant, beginning in 2010.

Grounds:

- a. It is the goal of Classis to continually set aside funds to initiate church plants.
- b. The money in the bank.
- c. Classis Home Missions Committee has already approved this request.
- d. Classis is on the cutting edge of something new; a partnership with Classis Toronto and Christian Reformed Home Missions.
- e. With the approvals of Classis Toronto (already obtained) and CRHM (pending), it is hoped that the search for a planter can begin this summer with a possible ministry start in the fall of 2010. - carried

9. World Missions – Rev. Derek Bouma, regional representative

The CRC of Nigeria is sending a missionary to Sierra Leone. CRWM has worked in Sierra Leone for many years. The church there has doubled in size.

There is a large Reformed Church presence in Hungary. Frank Sawyer has been teaching at the Reformed Seminary where more than 200 seminarians have graduated since he began his work.

CRWM has a thriving distance education program in Costa Rica. Almost 50 per cent of the graduates are heading off to Muslim countries to serve as missionaries.

In Haiti, churches are full. Many of the temporary tent villages have outreach and evangelism committees. Most of the international aid coming into the country goes to those who live in tents. Consequently, those who live in houses often move back into tents so that they can access free food. Local farmers can't sell their food because international aid meets the need.

Timothy Leadership Training program is training between 10,000 and 30,000 leaders. World Missions and Back to God Ministries and others are in partnership to present the Timothy program.

10. Pre-lunch devotions

Stephen Tamming offered closing devotions and prayer after which delegates enjoyed lunch.

11. Financial Resources Team Report -- Clarence Louter

Individual Church Giving

MOTION: That the treasurer's report of giving by individual churches includes only classical Ministry Share information, and that a report for each church containing only their denominational Ministry Shares giving to-date be made available upon request.

Grounds:

1. This eliminates negative comparison of one congregation against another.
2. This emphasizes how financially each congregation is working together to support the classical ministries. Classical information is reported for all at the classical level.
3. Not all churches are submitting their denominational Ministry Shares or other accredited causes information, which are paid directly, to the classical treasurer. This means that the current report does not accurately reflect that actual giving by each individual congregation.

- carried

Streamlining remittance procedure for the denominational Ministry Shares and accredited causes

MOTION: That, effective January 1, 2011, all churches within Classis Huron remit their denomination Ministry Shares and accredited causes directly to the causes. (ie. Denomination Ministry Shares remitted directly to the Burlington office.)

Grounds:

1. This reduces remittance time. Currently, a church remits to the classical treasurer and then the classical treasurer remits to the denomination. This will result in the funds received directly from the church to the cause.
2. Direct mailing to the causes would eliminate the need for the church treasurer to add in the Classical treasurer's remittance time requirements when making their remittances and possibly missing deadlines.
3. Classical treasurer's remittance procedure adds no real benefit at the classical level or denominational level. It is just one extra step.

- carried

12. Ministry Associate position at New Life CRC

MOTION: That the Ministry Associate position description at New Life CRC in Guelph is in accordance with the guidelines for Ministry Associate.

(The synodical deputies of Classis Toronto, Classis Chatham and Classis Hamilton concurred with this motion in advance. Their concurrence is on file with the stated clerk.)

carried

MOTION: That the examination of Lesli Van Milligen to fill that position be waived.

Grounds:

1. Article 43 Commentary 3b, page 200 allows for that possibility, given the candidate's theological education and past experience as Ministry Associate.
2. Pastor Church Relations Committee in Grand Rapids agrees that it would be appropriate to waive the examination in this instance.

(The synodical deputies of Classis Toronto, Classis Chatham and Classis Hamilton concurred with this motion in advance. Their concurrence is on file with the stated clerk.)

-carried

13. Examination of Rick De Graaf as Ministry Associate

Following an examination in practica and biblical/theological, the following motion was made:

MOTION: That Classis Huron approve Rick De Graaf as Ministry Associate with Christian Reformed World Relief Committee until Jan. 31, 2012 to coincide with his term of service as country consultant in Cambodia. (Approval can be extended to subsequent terms with concurrence of CRWRC and Maranatha CRC in Cambridge.) -carried

Prayer: Rev. Ray Vander Kooij prayed with Rick and Edith De Graaf and for their ministry in Cambodia.

14. CRCNA Board of Trustees – Gary Van Arragon, regional rep

The first 100 pages of the 2010 Agenda for Synod contains the report of the BOT. Gary has served on the BOT for the past five years. His term will conclude next year. He serves as vice-president of BOT, president of the Canada corporation of the CRCNA, and also on the CRCNA Foundation board. The BOT supervises the work of the denomination's executive secretary and oversees the ministries of the CRC. The board meets three times per year.

Highlights of the report: Dr. Julius Medenblik will be presented to synod as nominee for Calvin Seminary president. Ministry Shares will increase by 3 per cent; it has not increased for the past two years. The past 18 months has been a difficult time financially for the denomination. Giving is down. Western Michigan is one of the core giving areas and they have been hit hard with unemployment of between 15 and 18 per cent.

There was an interesting discussion at the last BOT about youth and faith formation. A lot of churches are experiencing a drain of youth from their pews. The BOT will encourage synod to devote time at a future synod to talk about youth ministry and declining membership. There are currently 265,000 members in the denomination. The median age is 52, and that has gone up by about four years, a reflection of the loss of younger members.

The Leadership Exchange was formed last year. It is an online forum for leaders to exchange ideas. The Network is also an online service to access various resources.

Gary pointed out that Oct 11 - 17 is Disability Week, designed to focus on ministry to those who are disabled. Resources will be mailed to the churches. There will be a discussion on May 29 of the Belhar Confession in London.

Prayer: Rev. Ron Luchies offered prayer for the work of the BOT and the denomination.

15. Eastern Canada Leadership Development Network. -- Jack Tacoma reporting

The Network is six years old and involves 40 churches across Ontario. It is designed for people in local churches who are thinking about being called to some kind of ministry. It involves devoting one Saturday a month for three years in intentional training. Acton has had six people involved in the network and Guelph First, Guelph New Life and Goderich have graduates from the network. Average age of the participants is

40.

The Classis Home Missions Committee is looking for people of prayer to continue that ministry within classis.

Prayer: Rev. Ralph Wigboldus prayed for Jack Tacoma and the Network.

16. Classis Ministerial Leadership Team – Rita Klein-Geltink reporting

MOTION 1: That funds be awarded to the Classis Huron seminary students listed below at the levels indicated, contingent upon their compliance with the CMLT guidelines.

John Moelker	\$12,000 (Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) 3rd year)
Paul DeWeerd	\$10,000 (CTS 1st year)
Laura Guichelaar	\$10,000 (CTS 1st year)
Michelle Van Harten	\$4,000 (Regent College 3rd year)

-carried

MOTION 2: That Amanda Bakale be awarded \$5,000 retroactively for the school year 2009/2010. She is completing her final year at CTS.

Grounds:

1. Amanda did not receive classical aid in the past.
2. Need has been established.

- carried

Prayer: Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink prayed for the students enrolled in seminary.

17. Nominations Committee – Atie Ott reporting

Calvin College – Regional rep for Classes Huron, Chatham, Hamilton

8 votes, Dr. André F. Basson, Brock University

33 votes, Dr. Wytse van Dijk, McMaster University

The vote totals will be forwarded to the denominational office which will tally results from all three classes.

The following were affirmed as new members of their respective boards and committees:

Guelph Campus Ministry Board

Andrew Elgersma, Acton

Miriam Koopman, Guelph New Life

Elbert VanDonkersgoed, Guelph First

Eva Josey-Koops, Guelph New Life

Waterloo Campus Ministry Board

Colin VanNienhuis, Student representative

Kathleen Slofstra, Student representative

Carissa Bakker, Student representative

Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink, Lucknow, Classis representative

Classis Ministry Leadership Team

Michelle Vanderwal, Stratford

18. Credentials Committee – Ray Vanderkooij

Cambridge -- Gareth Harker, who has a license to exhort, indicated by letter that he is willing and available to serve as interim minister for any vacant church. His MDiv program at Tyndale Seminary requires that he serve a one-year internship. He hopes to be a candidate for the ministry by December 2011. Credentials Committee commended Gareth to the churches and urge vacant churches to prayerfully consider him as an intern. His letter will be forwarded to each church council for information.

Drayton – Drayton asks CMC to consider discussing ‘member enfolding’ and ‘church discipline’ at a future classis meeting. The Credentials Committee forwards this request to CMC.

Vanastra – Vanastra offers to host classis in September 2011.

Owen Sound – Asks for advice on how to contend with issues around human sexuality and Christian morals: teenage pregnancies, single moms, those living together. The church wants resources to help teach such guidelines and asks that classis devote time in the future to discuss such needs.

Credentials Committee recommends that it go to the CMC for consideration of a future presentation to a classis meeting from a gifted outside speaker. This is a significant issue that may require denominational resources or a denominational study.

Blyth – Blyth asks for classical appointments beginning September since Rev. John Kuperus plans a four month leave of absence. This was noted by the stated clerk.

19. Church Visitors

Palmerston has a minister: Rev. Andrew de Gelder of East Strathroy CRC will be arriving this summer.

Owen Sound has Rev. Harry Zantingh arriving in July.

Orangeville has an intern. Andrew Vis will be a candidate for the ministry this summer.

Guelph First. The search committee is under way. Rev. Bernie de Jonge is currently serving as interim pastor.

Guelph Campus Ministry. Mark Wallace from the committee was named the Home Missions Education Mission Specialist who will oversee campus ministries across the denomination, replacing the work formerly done by Peter Schuurman.

20. Church Visitor

The Journey, Waterloo – Rev. Darren Roorda reported on The Journey. Rev. Andrew Zantingh is being called to The Journey.

Clinton – Rev. John Vanderburgh reported on questions raised by Clinton:

What are we doing with pm worship services?

What do we do with ministers who do not send their children to Christian schools?

Goderich -- They feel isolated. Their concerns:

How do we as a classis get rid of that sense of isolation?

Pulpit supply for rural, remote churches is a challenge. Travel costs are huge in remote area.

Congregationalism is a growing trend within the denomination.

Featured Story – At each classis meeting, a church will be asked to share their ‘story’.

Lucknow’s elder Laurence Uyl pointed out that one third of their members, the entire church council and pastor left three years ago. The church was left with no Cadets and very few children. Since then, they have gained 30 new members, mostly from the community. They have gained a number of young couples, baptized seven children and one adult. “We now need people to create programs and run programs.” GEMS has 10 girls, all from the community. Boys club meets throughout the year for 10-12 boys, all from the community. Two community services a year are held involving all four churches in Lucknow. Anglican, United and CRC each provide one meal a month for those within the community who need food.

21. Closing

The vice-chair, Rev. Darren Roorda, thanked the chair for his leadership throughout the day, and thanked the stated clerk for his work.

The chair thanked New Life CRC for their excellent service as host church and offered closing prayer.

22. Future Classis Meetings

Date	Place	Reports due	Chair	Vice-chair
Sept. 15, 2010	Drayton	Aug. 11, 2010	Darren Roorda	Ralph Wigboldus
Jan. 12, 2011		Dec. 1, 2010	Ralph Wigboldus	Rita Klein-Geltink
May 11, 2011		April 6, 2011	Rita Klein-Geltink	John Vanderstoep
Sept. 14, 2011	Vanastra	Aug. 10, 2011	John Vanderstoep	

NOTE: Invitations are requested to host meetings of classis throughout 2011.