



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

MINUTES

May 7, 2014 – 9:00 a.m.

Trinity Christian Reformed Church

245 Mill Road

Goderich

The PURPOSE of Classis Huron

To 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.

1. Delegates to Classis

	Minister	Elder	Elder
Acton	Rev. Ray Vander Kooij	Judy Duivesteyn	
Blyth	Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen	Bert Reinhart	
Cambridge – Maranatha	Rev. John Vanderstoep	Denise Gibson	
Cambridge – River City	Rev. Darrell Bierman	Chris Hutton	
Clinton	Rev. Ron Luchies	Gerard VanWyk	
Collingwood		Rev. Harry Bierman	Len Noordegraaf
Drayton		Doug Sikkema	Jack Scholten
Exeter		Adrian Bakelaar	
Goderich	Rev. Stephen Tamming		
Guelph – New Life		Tom Bruulsema	
Guelph – First	Rev. David Tigchelaar	Ed Kuipery	
Guelph – Campus	Jamie Vandenberg		
Kitchener – Community	Rev. Darren Roorda	Greg Linnell	
Kitchener – The Journey	Rev. Andrew Zantingh		
Listowel	Rev. Ralph Wigboldus	Bill Elisen	
Lucknow	Rev. Ken de Boer	Stuart VanderVaart	
Orangeville	Rev. Andrew Vis	Tena DeWay	
Owen Sound	Rev. Harry Zantingh	Herman Posthumus	
Palmerston	Rev. Andrew de Gelder	Ken Mohle	
Stratford		Tim Van De Kemp	Henry DeYoung
Vanastra		Marg Dykstra	Henry Boot
Waterloo	Rev. Vicki Cok	Rev. Paul Stadt	
Waterloo – Campus	Rev. Brian Bork		
Wingham	Rev. Henry Steenbergen	Murray Ritsema	

Rev. Stephen Tamming of Trinity CRC, Goderich, welcomed delegates and led in opening worship.
Rev. Henry Steenbergen reported on attendance on behalf of the Credentials Committee.
Classis is declared constituted.

2. Officers for the day

Chair: Rev. John Vanderstoep
Vice-chair: Rev. David Tigchelaar
Stated Clerk: Rev. Vic Vandermolen

3. Youth Ministry Team

Brian Schouten, Chair of the Youth Ministry Team updated delegates regarding the activities of the Team, after which youth leaders left the plenary session to deal specifically with their mandate of equipping and supporting youth in their Kingdom work.

4. CMC Chair Rev. Ralph Wigboldus reported on the work of both AdCom, CMC and the Stated Clerk. Noted that CMC had granted a license to exhort to Rick DeGraaf since he had been previously examined by Classis and he had also been a Commissioned Pastor. Referred Delegates to the survey that CMC had sent out re Sunday evening services, asking Churches to complete it and return to the Stated Clerk. The compiled results of the survey will be forwarded to all Churches.

It was moved and seconded that Classis approve the *Five Year Ministry Plan 2014-2018, and the five initiatives that are part of the Plan.* **CARRIED**

Lesli Van Milligen updated Classis regarding the responses received to-date re the 5 Year Plan, in the areas of sustainability, flexibility, communicability, “resource-ability” and “missional clusters” [a copy of these comments is to be sent to all Churches].

Treasurer John Bell referred Classis to the Financial Statements that had been provided, and responded to a number of questions.

It was moved and seconded that the work of CMC, AdCom and the Stated Clerk be approved. **CARRIED**

5. The nominees for a Denominational Representative to CRWM [for Region 4], were Rev. Carel Geleynse and Rev. Benjamin Ponsen. Classis voted to support Rev. Geleynse.

It was moved and seconded that Classis appoint Eve Mazereeuw as its representative to World Renew. **CARRIED**

6. Rev. Andrew Vis updated Classis regarding the work of the Home Missions Committee, noting that the Committee is focusing on Fergus as a potential location for a ‘church plant’. Further information will be provided at future meetings. Both Classis Huron ‘church plants’ [River City in Cambridge and The Journey in Kitchener – reported on their joys and struggles. The Committee urged established churches to talk to the committee so that their stories of joys and challenges could also be shared at Classis.
7. Andrea Bootsma of the World Missions Board provided Classis insight into some of the activities of World Missions, and encouraged Classis to support CRWM in its many activities.
8. Rev. David Tigchelaar provided Classis with a brief overview of the Guelph University Campus ministry activities, noting that this ministry had recently celebrated its 40th anniversary of being part of that campus.
9. Lesli Van Milligen reported re the Waterloo Campus ministry, noting that new members were needed for the Committee, and that information regarding the Fall Retreat will be available soon.
10. Atie Ott reported on the work of the Classis Safe Church Committee, and recent Conferences and training opportunities. Almost 80% of Churches have representatives serving on this Committee.

It was moved and seconded that Derek Rozendal of Clinton be appointed to the Classis Safe Church Committee. **CARRIED**

LUNCH

Afternoon devotions were offered by Rev. Harry Zantingh. The Chair welcomed the Synodical Deputies: Rev. Jack Kerkhof [Chatham], Rev. Henk Bruinsma [Toronto], and Rev. Jim Dekker, [Niagara].

11. The Chair declared Executive Session as Classis considered the report of the AdHoc Committee regarding the appeal of Rev. Siemen Speelman. [See decisions made, in Executive Session Minutes]

12. With the [pending, subject to Synod approval] appointment of Rev. Darren Roorda as the new Canadian Ministries Director, Classis was asked to declare that this position was in keeping with that of a minister of the Word [as per C.O. Art.12-c]. Based on the advice of the Synodical Deputies, the Chair ruled that this action was not necessary since this position would be approved by Synod. Classis gathered around Rev. Roorda for a time of prayer and committed him to the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit as he assumes this new role in the CRCNA.
13. Classis was asked by Waterloo CRC, supported by World Renew, to declare that the staff position of 'Program Coordinator' with World Renew be declared 'ordainable', in keeping with the provisions of C.O. Article 12-c [that it is consistent with the position of a minister of the Word].

It was moved and seconded that Classis declare the position of 'Program Coordinator' at World Renew to be consistent with that of a minister of the Word, as per C.O. Article 12-c. CARRIED

Upon their return to the meeting the Synodical Deputies indicated their concurrence with Classis.

The decision of Classis allows for the ordination of Amanda Bakale. Delegates gathered around her and offered prayers of thanks for Amanda, and also asking for God's wisdom and leading in her life.

14. Rev. Darren Roorda reported regarding the activities of the Board of Trustees. He referred to a number of issues, among them the fact that Canadian Churches will begin to meet every three years as a national body to deal with issues specific to Canadian Churches [first meeting to be in 2016]. He also noted that the new Executive Director of CRCNA, [pending approval of Synod] Dr. Steve Timmermans, will be interviewed at Synod. The position now open on the BOT with his leaving, will be filled at a later date.
15. Rev. Darrell Bierman and Elder Bill Elisen [Listowel] provided a brief overview of the Synod Agenda and some of the issues that will be dealt with at Synod [in Pella Iowa, June 12-19, 2015]. The Chair offered prayer for Synod as a whole and for the Delegates from Classis Huron.

In recognition of Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen being a representative to Synod, Blyth CRC requests that Classis appoint a pastor for Blyth for June 15, 2014 for both the morning and evening services. The ruling by the Chair that this matter was not in keeping with existing Classis policy, went unchallenged. The question of whether the current policy should be changed was referred to CMC.

16. Church Visitor reports were received for the following Churches: Clinton, Exeter, Vanastra, Maitland River-Wingham, Blyth, Goderich, Lucknow, Acton, and Cambridge [Maranatha].
17. Classis was referred to the Overture received from Community CRC [Kitchener] requesting that ***Classis Huron re-instate the reading of Church Visitor reports in such a way that it is helpful to the churches visited and to the entire body of Classis.*** The Overture Committee recommended that Classis take no action at this time, but it urged CMC to revisit the reporting function to make reports more helpful to all concerned, including asking Church Visitors to provide additional input into how the reporting function could be made better.
18. The Credentials Committee reported on the various issues raised on the Credentials forms.
- Community CRC [Kitchener] asks, with the leaving of Rev. Darren Roorda, that it receive Classical appointments beginning in September. The Credentials Committee recommends that where there is a second pastor in a Congregation, that Classis provide 50% support in this area. Classis did not support this recommendation. In keeping with current policy, the request from Community CRC was not granted because they already have an ordained pastor on staff.
 - Guelph First CRC asks that Classis evaluate and discuss the present and possible future situation re assisted suicide. It is felt that this topic may have an impact on our Christian Community. Referred to AdCom.

- Cambridge Maranatha asks that Classis grant authority to one of its Elders to administer Communion for their 'shut-ins' during their upcoming vacancy [as per C.O. Article 55]. **It was moved and seconded to approve this request. CARRIED.**
- Clinton CRC requests assistance in their efforts to reach out into the community. Encouraged to seek assistance from Home Missions Committee.
- Drayton asks that Classis pray for them to soon have their own pastor.
- Owen Sound asks for advice on how to encourage new members to take on the role of elder or deacon. This matter referred to AdCom for possible discussion at a future Classis meeting.
- Acton CRC asks Classis to help ensure that all Churches receive church visits, that these visits are in keeping with approved procedures, and that they are properly 'transparent'. This was referred to AdCom for further review and discussion.
- Acton CRC also requested that the matter of 'Safe Church Policy' be discussed at a future meeting of Classis. Referred to Atie Ott [Committee Chair] and AdCom.
- Stratford CRC expresses concern for the manner in which the Lords Supper will be celebrated at the upcoming youth convention [May 16-19 at Wilfred Laurier University]. This matter is under the supervision of Waterloo CRC, and Rev. Brian Bork will administer the Lords Supper. Stratford is encouraged to speak to Waterloo CRC and Rev. Bork regarding its concern.

19. Closing comments

Chairman Rev. John Vanderstoep thanked the delegates for their wisdom and cooperation during this meeting, and closed the meeting in prayer, thanking God for His grace, and asking His blessing on the actions and decisions of the day.

20. Future Classis Meetings

Date	Place	Reports due	Chair	Vice-chair
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	