

CLASSIS HURON
of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

AGENDA

May 13, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.

**Christian Reformed Church
243 Princess Street East
Clinton, Ont.**

The PURPOSE of Classis Huron is to

Support, equip and encourage our churches in the ministries as God has called us.

The VISION of Classis Huron is

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 our individual churches and the joint ministries of Classis.

1. Agenda for the Day

Report No.	Reporter	Page
2. Constituting Classis		2
3. Devotions for the Day		2
4. Officers of Classis		3
5. Opening of Classis		3
6. Stated Hour		3
7. Committees for the day		3
8.1 Classis Ministry Committee	Jack Vande Hoef	3
8.2 Stated Clerk	Jack Vande Hoef	4
8.3 Family of Churches 'huddle'	Jack Vande Hoef	5
8.4 Ministry Share story	Acton	
9. Safe Church Committee – oral report	Atie Ott	
10. Classis Home Missions Committee	Marguerite Ridder	5
11. Classis Ministerial Leadership Team		5
12. Nominations		8
13. Waterloo Campus Ministry	John Mohle Brian Bork	8
13.3 Guelph Campus Ministry	Ray Vander Kooij	12
Church Counselors: Oral reports Kincardine – Pete Janssens Owen Sound – Chris Pool Listowel – Paul Stadt Guelph New Life -- Ed Den Haan Palmerston – John Vander Burgh Pending vacancies: Guelph First (July 30) -- Orangeville (August 31)--		
14. Reports: Regional Pastor -- East Redeemer University College		12
15. Treasurer's Report	Cindy Tamming	14
16. Future Classis meeting dates	Stated Clerk	14

2. Constituting Classis

Call to Order by Clinton CRC at 9:00 am.
 Welcome by Clinton CRC
 Devotions
 Credentials Committee Report on attendance
 Classis is declared constituted.

3. Devotions for the Day

Opening - Clinton
 Pre-lunch – Blyth
 Post –lunch – Lucknow

Pre-supper – Orangeville
Post-supper – Bill Hoogland
Closing – Chair

4. Officers of Classis

Chair: Rev. Darren Roorda
Vice chair: Rev. John Vanderstoep
Stated Clerk: Keith Knight

5. Opening of Classis

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

6. Stated Hour

11 a.m. Rev. Gerald Dykstra, CRCNA Executive Director
1 p.m. Ms. Ida Kaastra Muitoigo, director, CRWRC- Canada

7. Committees for the Day

Credentials Committee – Blyth and Goderich
Balloting Committee – Clinton and Guests
Overtures Committee – Guelph First and Vanastra

8. Classis Ministry Committee -- Jack Vande Hoef

8.1 Committee Report

The newly constituted and enlarged CMC met on March 11.

Its membership includes: Janet Ryzebol (Home Missions), Ray Vander Kooij (Campus Ministry), Atie Ott (Safe Church), Bill Hoogland (Ministerial Leadership Team), Len Bakelaar (Diaconal Conference), Pete Janssens (Youth Ministry), two at-large members, Jack Van de Hoef and Willie Andrews, and Stated Clerk Keith Knight. There is also an opening for a Finance Committee representative but that currently remains unfilled.

The Administrative Sub-Committee consists of Jack Van de Hoef (chair), Willie Andrews (vice-chair), one member to be appointed by CMC, and the stated clerk. Jack Van de Hoef has accepted a call to Brockville and will be leaving classis by the end of summer so CMC will need a new member at large.

CMC's focus: The new structure focuses on vision while the old structure focused more on administration and maintenance. It is not an oversight committee of the *ministries* of classis; it oversees *vision*.

The committee expressed a need to connect various classis events and conferences to the Ministry Plan, and to become more intentional when planning events so that they connect to each other, to the vision of classis, and, perhaps, follow an annual theme. It was suggested that dates and details of various conferences for the 2009-2010 year be in place by September 2009 and placed on the website so that church leaders can plan participation in those events well in advance.

CMC reiterated that committees of classis will continue to report directly to classis, not to CMC, but that it is still important for CMC to be made aware of the activities and 'vision' of the committees. This will happen through the liaison members on CMC.

Insurance coverage for directors and officers: All members of CMC (identified as officers) and all committee members serving on behalf of classis are covered through the Robertson Hall group insurance policy. We are covered for general liability.

Revised Rules of Classis: The revised rules are now available in electronic form. Once CMC discusses and approves the document, it will appear on the Web site. If it is to be posted on the Web earlier, it will be marked as a draft.

8.2 Stated Clerk's Report

Since the January meeting of classis, I have engaged in 170 email conversations involving sending and receiving more than 500 emails. This is the nature of our communication in 2009. I have received perhaps a half dozen telephone calls. I continue to devote, on average, five hours per week on Classis Huron issues. Here are some of the 'highlights' of conversations.

- Keith Knight

Jan 15	Kincardine and Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis, declaring him eligible for a call, related action. CMC concerning evaluation sheets of the January classis meeting.
Jan 16	Denominational office, Ministry Report
Jan 20	Organizing and arranging CMC meeting.
Jan 22	Corresponding with several new church visitors about training.
Jan 22	Received minutes of Classis Toronto.
Jan 30	Numerous pulpit supply schedule questions, both from vacant churches and assigned ministers.
Feb. 2	Processing denominational pension information for Rev. Brian Bork.
Feb. 4	Amanda Makale seeking summer assignment.
Feb. 4	Received minutes of Classis Chatham.
Feb. 6	Processing synodical delegate forms.
Feb. 6	Processing material for March CMC meeting.
Feb. 9	Redeemer College board of governors appointee for Classis.
Feb. 10	Extensive correspondence with Robertson-Hall re: liability insurance.
Feb. 10	Extensive correspondence to add content to the classishuron.ca website.
Feb. 10	Reformed Worship available online.
Feb. 11	Received minutes of Classis Hamilton.
Feb. 16	Received minutes of Classis Eastern Canada.
Feb. 17	Belhar Confession correspondence received and disseminated.
Feb. 18	Bulletin announcements concerning leadership training conference, Pascal Lectures.
Feb. 23	Faith alive News update.
March 3	Insurance discussion on bonding of classis treasurer.
March 4	flurry of pulpit supply requests and responses.
March 4	Updated Servants of Classis document.
March 4	Classis Northcentral Iowa – Honorable release of Rev. Charles Walton.
March 5	License and Ordination of Toyosi Awesu.
March 10	highlights of Board of Trustees meeting.
March 10	Revised Rules of Classis Huron in electronic form.
March 13	Howard Vanderwell, Faith Formation Committee request to visit classis.
March 16	Clinton CRC, expectations of a host church.
March 17	Kincardine CRC advice re: search process.
March 20	Classis report from Redeemer University College for May agenda.
March 22	Notice of decline of Rev Michael Abma to Listowel.
March 24	Missional Leadership Conference promotion
March 25	From Cindy Tamming, letter about campus ministry shortfall.
March 26	Denominational office, update of Stated Clerks mailing list.
March 27	Rev. Gerald Dykstra, executive director, request to visit classis.
April 2	Faith Alive newsletter

April 3 Survey of stated clerks concerning use of Banner advertising.
April 6 Appeal from Rev. Ed Gerber for assistance to fund his PhD program.
April 6 Correspondence to all churches re: April 8 deadline for material

8.3 Family of Churches ‘huddle’

When the family of churches gather after lunch to ‘huddle’, much of the focus will be a reaction to Rev. Jerry Dykstra’s before-lunch presentation. Each church will be asked to share one or two joys and one or two struggles. The huddle can be a time of celebration and support.

9. Safe Church Committee

10. Classis Home Missions Committee

Prayer Ministry:

The prayer planning team decided to have a Classis Huron Day of Prayer every other year which means that the next one should be in 2010.

For 2009 the team is planning an Advent Prayer event which would be done in all the Classis in Ontario.

This could be a great movement of prayer in the CRC in Ontario that helps us have a sense of unity, to prepare the way for renewal, to encourage all those 50+ churches that are struggling etc. Leadership Conference:

Held Saturday, April 4 in Listowel with the title: “The Missional Leader”. The conference was a good day of looking at the challenges that God puts before us. The speaker for the day was Allen Likkel, Ministry Teams Director for Christian Reformed Home Missions. A quote of the day says: “Leadership is more about BEING instead of DOING” and “The condition of your heart will determine the expression of your leadership”.

There were 25 men and women in attendance representing 8 churches in Classis Huron.

New Members: The Home Missions committee is still looking for new members. If you know of a person in your congregation with a heart for local mission, please contact Marguerite Ridder, chair HM committee, at 519-822-0897 or Keith Knight, Classis Stated Clerk on the Nominations Committee, at 519-837-9172.

- Marguerite Ridder

11. Classis Ministerial Leadership Team

11.1 Mandate

DRAFT, April 6, 2009

1. Membership:

It shall consist of three or four members who have a passion for the church’s ministry, who are knowledgeable about ordination issues, and who reflect the diversity of classis. No fewer than half of the members shall be Ministers of the Word in the CRCNA.

2. Consultation:

The CMLT will be a consultation and advisory resource to the member congregations of Classis Huron, to Classis itself, and to other interested parties (for instance, Leadership Development Networks) regarding matters related to ministerial candidacy in the CRC.

3. Information:

The CMLT shall provide information and advice to the member congregations of Classis Huron, to Classis itself, and to other interested parties (for instance, Leadership Development Networks)

concerning the candidacy process.

4. Encouragement:

The CMLT shall encourage the member congregations of Classis Huron to be pro-active in identifying possible candidates for ministry in the CRC and offer resources to help people discern their calling.

5. Ministry Readiness Profile:

The CMLT is to provide counsel that will help councils, classis, and those preparing for the ministry in the completion of the individual's Ministry Readiness Profile. Such profiles will be progressive documents testifying to the candidate's development and growth in areas of character, knowledge, and skill. Reference: http://www.crcna.org/pages/ordination_art6profile.cfm

6. Endorsement:

Upon receiving a positive recommendation to enter the candidacy process from an individual's council, the CMLT will interview the individual and work with them to prepare a Financial Plan, as well as a Study Plan or Learning Covenant. The CMLT will then forward their endorsement to the SMCC. In the case of individuals entering the candidacy or affiliation process through Article 7 or 8, the CMLT will also request licensure on behalf of the individual to the SMCC.

7. Financial Assistance:

Students applying for acceptance into a Master of Divinity program, as well as students already in such program may apply to the CMLT for classical financial support. The CMLT will recommend to classis and administer the distribution of appropriate financial resources to assist those preparing for minister, following the guidelines of the Classis Huron CMLT.

8. Celebration:

Assist the church and classis that initiated the study/candidacy process in appropriately celebrating the progress of those preparing for the ministry under its care, giving thanks to God for his provision of faithful and gifted leadership for his church.

11.2 Financial Assistance Guidelines for Churches and Students

DRAFT – April 6, 2009

1. Only students who intend to study for ordained ministry in the Christian Reformed Church in North America, and who pursue such studies at a synodically approved seminary, may apply for aid from the Classis Huron Student Assistance Fund. Amounts awarded will be determined by Classis Huron upon the advice of the CMLT; priority will be given to students attending Calvin Theological Seminary. Those who pursue studies for the ministry in the CRCNA at seminaries other than Calvin, may apply for aid by way of exception when sufficient and acceptable grounds for their doing so are presented.

2. Student aid shall ordinarily be granted via the underwriting of interest free student loans. Should a student discontinue the studies for the ministry of the CRCNA or, once ordained, leave the ministry in the CRCNA within 5 (five) years after their ordination, the student shall repay such grants in accordance with the terms set down in the Agreement and Contract of the CMLT of Classis Huron.

3. All monies granted to students shall be paid out in Canadian funds.

4. Annual re-applications for aid must be submitted by the student to the secretary of the CMLT by March 15. This should be accompanied by a transcript of his/her academic record covering the period since his/her last application. Forms may be obtained from the secretary of the CMLT or from the CRCNA website.

5. It is the student's responsibility to keep the secretary informed about changes of address and changes in vocational goal and approved course of studies.

11.3 Agreement and Contract

This agreement made and entered into, this ____ day of the month of _____ of the year _____, by and between CLASSIS HURON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH (in North America), party of the first part, and (name of the student) _____, party of the second part;

WITNESSES:

1. That the said Classis Huron grants to the said student _____ such financial assistance as may be awarded upon the recommendation of the Classis Ministerial Leadership Team.
2. That the said Classis Huron promises and grants this sum of money for but one (1) year at a time. In order to receive continued financial assistance, the student shall renew their application annually during the month of March on an application form to be requested from the Secretary of the CMLT of the said Classis Huron, which form shall be returned not later than the 15th day of March.
3. That the party of the second part promises and hereby agrees that (s)he will not, while pursuing his/her studies, participate in any activities detrimental to the successful pursuance of his/her studies; that (s)he will, without reservations, submit to the regulations and discipline of the school (s)he attends, and will at all times answer inquiries by the school authorities or by the CMLT of the said Classis Huron concerning his/her studies, daily conduct or spiritual life.
4. The party of the second part furthermore promises and hereby agrees to make full and complete repayment to the said Classis Huron of all monies received, should (s)he discontinue his/her studies for the Ministry of the Word in CRC.
5. The party of the second part furthermore promises and hereby agrees to make repayment if (s)he should leave the ministry in the CRCNA within 5 years after his/her ordination; such repayment will be proportionate to the duration of his/her ministry of the Word in the CRCNA.
6. When repayments under this term and stipulations shall be required, the party of the second part promises and hereby agrees to make repayments at the rate of 20% per year of the original amount owing, which repayments shall begin not later than one year (1) after discontinuing studies for the ministry or leaving the ministry of the CRCNA.
7. Appeal from these stipulations may always and at any time be made to the said Classis Huron, which shall judge whether exceptions shall be allowed and made.

For Classis Huron of the Christian Reformed Church:

Chairman of the CMLT _____

Secretary of the CMLT _____

Applicant _____

11.4 Motions:

The CMLT would like to make three motions at the May classis meeting. We ask that the members of the CMLT, Harry Frielink, Bill Hoogland, and Rita Klein-Geltink be given the privilege of the floor when these motions are presented.

Motion 1:

To approve the revised mandate, guidelines, and agreement & contract of the Classis Ministerial Leadership Team as presented.

Motion #2:

To award funds to the Classis Huron seminary students listed below at the levels indicated, contingent upon their compliance with the CMLT guidelines.

Nick Bierma: \$8,000 (CTS, 4th year)
Gareth Harker: \$3,000 (Tyndale, 1st year)
John Moelker \$10,000(CTS, 2nd year)
Melinda Saunders: \$3,000 (Knox, 3rd year)
Joshua Tuininga \$2,000 (CTS, ThM)
Michelle Van Harten \$3,000 (Regent, 2nd year)

Motion 3:

To dispense the awarded funds in two instalments.

- Rita Klein-Geltink

12. Nominations Committee

12.1 Synodical Deputy

The Nominations Committee recommends Rev. Ron Fisher to serve as synodical deputy to replace Rev. Jack Vande hoef.. Nomination by classis to be approved by Synod 2009.

12.2 Classis Ministry Committee.

The Nominations Committee recommends Rev. John Vander Burgh to serve as member at large, replacing Rev. Jack Vande hoef.

12.3 Calvin Theological Seminary

Region 4 – Classes Chatham, Hamilton, Huron and Niagara

(Vote for one nominee.)

_____ *Mr. Hank Vander Laan* is a member of the First CRC in London, Ontario, where he has served as an elder and deacon. Currently he is serving as a corporate board adviser to the Ontario Ministry of Trade and Economic Development.

_____ *Mrs. Petronella (Nell) Vanturenout* is a member of the Ancaster CRC, Ancaster, Ontario, where she has served as an elder. She is a former junior high school teacher who worked with children with special needs in primary and junior divisions.

(Total votes for each person will be forwarded to denominational office)

13. Waterloo Campus Ministry

13.1 Board Report

As a committee we continue to experience passion for our Lord's campus ministry work at Wilfrid Laurier University and University of Waterloo. Presently the committee has the following members: Art Timmerman - Community CRC Kitchener

Bill Los - Bethel Listowel CRC(Classis rep)
Brian Bork - Chaplain
Greg Sennema - Faculty Rep
Melissa Brunsting - Waterloo CRC
Rudy Eikelboom - Faculty Rep
John Mohle - chair

At this point we are looking for student members on the committee. As Brian becomes more familiar with students on the two campuses we expect to fill these positions over the summer. Over the next few years we will be looking for more members from the broader classis so if you have a passion for God's work on the campus please speak with us.

We meet monthly to encourage each other and Brian in the ministry and at least one of us meets with Brian individually on a per month basis. We also spend time exploring new ministry ideas as well as checking in on ongoing ministry work. Close to a year has passed since Brian began with the Waterloo Campus Ministry and we rejoice in his gifts (to mention a few) of innovative thinking and wonderful writing. It is very interesting to see Brian interact with people at UW and WLU – two very different campuses – and develop ideas that are targeted to issues important to students in these universities.

We have been partnering with Guelph Campus Ministry on the telling of the campus ministry story. There is a concern about Home Missions funding over the longer term so we continue to explore individually and together ways to engender new lines of support for this ministry. As Waterloo Campus Committee ministry we plan a visioning time in the next month, reviewing where we have been this year, where we hope to go in the next, and provide feedback to Brian on this past year.

We give thanks for the prayer, encouragement and financial support Waterloo Campus Ministry receives from Classis Huron.

- John Mohle

13.2 Campus Minister's Report --Brian Bork

It hasn't quite been a calendar year since I started as campus minister at WLU and UW, but a whole academic year has passed. I have to admit that it seems a little strange to be reflective after what is a relatively brief amount of time; everything still feels new. I feel that whatever conclusions I can make will be tentative, scrawled in new cement, subject to change over the summer, or early next fall. I suppose that's the way it goes with this sort of work.

From the outset, I conceived of this year as a time to get to know the culture of the two campuses. Doing so has been a challenge, but also a great deal of fun. The two campuses are separated by a couple of kilometers on University Ave., but there's an even greater cultural divide between the two. Laurier is the politically-active school with a humanities and business focus, where students talk more about their volunteer work in various student clubs than they do about their school work. That's not to say they aren't studious, it's just that extra-curricular activity seems to drive them as much as their classes do. It's a smaller school, both in terms of the size of the campus, and of the student body (though from what I hear, the population has exploded as of late). That leads to a more intimate feel on campus – it's rare to walk across campus and not run into someone I know, even after spending just a few months here. Because of the small campus, there are also space concerns – my office is an old bedroom in a residence hall, shared with two chaplains and some coordinators from the Women's Centre. Occasional claustrophobia aside, working in close proximity with other people has been a great way to get to know the campus and its culture, and to participate in the work of other student organizations.

UW is a comparative giant. The campus is immense, and there is definitely a feeling of anonymity when I walk the halls. The students work really hard, and I get the sense from them that they all feel that a lot is riding on their performance. There's also this thing called the “Co-

op” program, where students spend one of their terms per year off campus, working in an industry or office related to their course of study. The Co-op program puts the student body in a constant state of flux, even more than the normal two semester/summer off schedule does. I met a lot of students this fall at UW; by winter quarter, more than two thirds of them were gone on Co-op. This will take some “getting used to” down the road.

I do have a great space on campus, though, in the Student Life Centre. It's a large office that I've been turning into something of a living room as of late (better lighting, comfier seating, coffee maker). Students stop by every Tuesday afternoon for tea and conversation, and it's been great to see how they feel welcome and comfortable there. Campus ministry can't bloom without strong relationships with students, and without generous hospitality, those relationships have little to support them initially.

When I started back in mid-August, I assumed that Laurier would be my “home base” of ministry. It was the home base of my predecessor, and I assumed that it made good sense to keep it that way (pledging equal allegiance to two campuses would be like doing so for two churches, or two families; not the easiest task). I found as of late that I'm feeling called to UW. It's easier to be visible presence at UW, especially since my office is in a highly trafficked area. There are great facilities nearby the office for group meetings, and that sort of thing. I've recently also begun to cultivate a relationship with David Johnston, the President of UW, and a devout Anglican who has a heart for campus ministry. I trust that the relationship will bear fruit down the road.

There's also the compelling fact that there are far more Christian Reformed students at UW. Calvin and Redeemer etc. are competition for Laurier in a way that they're not for UW (if you're interested in the humanities, Calvin is as good a place as Laurier. If you're interested in being an engineer or a physicist, UW is the obvious choice). I don't conceive of my ministry as being solely directed toward the CRC students, of course, but I am loyal to and commissioned by that denomination, so I feel I should be where its action is, so to speak.

It's been a great joy to get to know the Christian Reformed students at UW (and the handful I know at Laurier). I feel like there's a natural affinity between us – no doubt, shared world views and assumptions make good conversation possible. Of course, before the good conversation happens, I have to convince them that I'm not the grim pastor, checking into their lives and tallying up their church attendance so I can report it back to the home office. Once they know that that sort of thing isn't why I'm there, the relationship feels easy. I've had great conversations about theology (I've three students who want to study the Heidelberg Catechism with me this summer), about discipleship (the drinking culture of the U. comes up often), and the way that faith integrates with intellectual inquiry (and intellectual integrity). As of late, some students have sought me out for more pastoral issues, relating to the anxieties caused by the pressures of University life, or the perils of romantic relationships. Of course, I don't wish adversity on any of my students, but it does gladden my heart to know that the relationship I've developed with them is worthy of these sorts of conversations.

It's been a great joy to get to know the non-Christian students at Laurier. I've felt for some time that my work at Laurier is a bit of a “mission amongst the gentiles,” and it's been great to grow into that role, since prior to this, I wasn't exactly a model student of the Great Commission. I've had the opportunity to develop working relationships with people in the Office for Student Diversity, the WLU Student Union, the Women's Centre, and the student publications. I've had two students tell me that they “don't *get* this whole *young* chaplain thing.” I'm not exactly sure what they mean by this, but I assume that they're pleased that I'm not Jerry Falwell, and surprised that I'm not a vaguely-Christian Unitarian type. My opinion has been sought out in the pages of the Cord Weekly (the Laurier student paper – I was featured three times in one issue), and I was asked to be a founding member of LMAC (Laurier Men Advocating Change – a group that seeks to challenge the cultural assumptions of masculinity). I was even volunteered to be a part of a panel discussion on “Supporting Love at Laurier,” sponsored by the Rainbow Centre, just before

Valentine's day. I still don't know who volunteered me to be a part of the discussion, but I'm glad they did. The panel was composed of folks from nearly every alternative sexual expression you could imagine, and then there was Christian Reformed me, at the end of the table. It was actually a very profitable discussion – no doubt, there's a vast difference between a Christian sexual ethic, and the sort of ethic practiced and discussed at the university these days. But it was great to be able to articulate what I feel is so compelling about a Christian sexual ethic, and to be able to do so without relying on the authority of the church, or reverting to a suspicion about pleasure that seems to plague these sorts of conversations. Christian thought about sexuality was certainly a hard sell to the audience, but after the discussion I stuck around for nearly an hour, talking with students who wanted to tell me stories of being raised in Christian homes and struggling with faith as young adults.

I'm not sure what the summer will bring for the ministry. Laurier turns into a ghost town over the summer, but UW is more or less year-round, so I'm hoping to create some sort of fellowship over there, starting in May. I've big hopes for the fall, too, and I've a collection of plans, dreams and hopeful schemes that I'm praying will take off. I'm hoping to start a graduate fellowship between the two campuses, and I expect that my faculty/staff breakfast book club will continue. I've been working toward setting up a "Soup and Speaker" series at UW, where I can integrate food, faith and fellowship. Two students have signed on to help me with the project, and I hope to reward them with an "Emerging Leadership" grant from Home Missions. I'm also cultivating the discipline of remaining open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. It's been amazing to see the ways in which thoughts and dreams have popped into my head over the year, especially at times when I feel the ministry was stuck in a rut. I've taken to calling those bursts of inspiration "God moments." God is faithful, no doubt. But God is also apparently fond of surprises, showing up when you least expect him. And God often shows up with people in tow. There have been several occasions where I've started to feel a little lonely on campus, and it has often been the case that when I allow myself to feel that way for too long, someone pops by the office unexpectedly, or sends me an email, looking to set up a coffee conversation. A couple of weeks ago, I was walking around the Student Life Centre at UW, and a student came up to me: "hey, you're the new chaplain, right?" I didn't know who he was, but for some reason he recognized me. These things happen more often than I expected them too, and I'm grateful for each time they do.

Patience is certainly a virtue in this line of work. If you don't have it from the outset, you'll quickly learn to develop it. A good deal of knowledgeable folks told me that it will take three years for this ministry to completely blossom. You'd think after hearing that several times that I'd get the hint. Still, I find myself wanting things to happen, to take off, and I get a little impatient when they don't. I've even jumped the gun on a couple occasions, I'm sure. Last fall I tried to start a book discussion group with some students, and it fizzled out in the new year. I should have waited a little bit – given a little while, the relationships I had with the students would have been stronger, and I think that would have given the endeavor a little more endurance. Campus ministry seems to be a weird mixture of waiting and action. I think I'm getting the hang of it. In the times that I feel a little impatient or anxious, I've found a lot of support. My committee has been wonderfully open and supportive of my ideas and my efforts, and I'm really grateful for that. I feel supported by Waterloo CRC, and have had warm receptions at every church where I've had the privilege to preach. If I haven't been around your way yet, I hope to drop by soon.

I've no doubt that I'm in the right place – campus ministry is where I ought to be, and a number of supporters, colleagues, and friends have told me so. But I'm also feeling the abiding presence of God when I'm on these campuses, and take much comfort in the knowledge that somehow this little fledgling ministry of mine is working into the mystery of God's providential scheme for these schools.

13.3 Guelph Campus Ministry – Interim Report

While we typically report at the January meeting of Classis, we felt it urgent at this time to alert you to some recent changes and current dynamics of the ministry. Ministry on the campus continues to flourish under the capable leadership of campus minister Jamie VanderBerg and the student leaders and ministry teams.

However, the financial base of the ministry is under increasing strain. We were recently informed by Christian Reformed Home Missions that their grant for the current fiscal year (July 2008 – June 2009) was reduced retroactively by 5%, resulting in our last quarterly grant being reduced by the full \$1,100 reduction, from \$5,500 to \$4,400. We already find ourselves focusing substantial time and energy on fundraising, needing to raise \$9,000 of “third stream” funding this fiscal year.

We are thankful to God that we have raised a substantial part of this additional funding, but it has been a challenge and will be a stretch to raise the full amount before the end of June 2009.

Adding the additional amount due to the Home Missions reduction feels very overwhelming. We do trust that God will provide for this flourishing ministry to continue to advance the Kingdom of God on the University of Guelph campus.

We are thankful for your part as Classis in providing substantial support for this Classis Huron ministry. We ask that you continue to come alongside this shared ministry by meeting or exceeding your ministry share commitment, and submitting it in a timely way. We also ask you to prayerfully consider an additional above-ministry share offering or gift to support the additional fundraising we are faced with, both in the short term and in the long term for this important ministry.

- Ray Vander Kooij

14. Reports

14.1 Regional Pastor

I am in the process of wrapping up my work as Regional Pastor for Classis Huron (northwestern half).

When I started, Anne and I visited with the pastor couples. Later I visited on my own, occasionally interspersed with some telephone calls. When preaching in Clinton, during their vacancy, I was able to make some visits between services on those Sundays.

I have been called by pastors as well as councils for advice on a few occasions. I have also set up a few pastoral relations committees. Part of the regional pastor’s task is to line up mentors for new pastors. I have found personal visits most beneficial. All the pastors in my area have been very cooperative in setting up appointments. I am grateful for the contacts that I have been able to have over the past years.

We continue to live in Cambridge, but my ministerial credentials, as well our church membership, have gone to Brantford (Classis Hamilton).

- Ralph Koops

14.2 Redeemer University College

Greetings from Redeemer University College. We trust that you had a very blessed Lenten and Easter Season as we celebrated the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As the second semester of the 2008-09 academic year is drawing to a close, students continue to be busy with academic work, as well as many co-curricular activities. The January Social Justice Conference had over 100 participants and was a very worthwhile event. We have enjoyed several art exhibits and choir concerts. In early February, the Theatre and Music Departments teamed up

in a performance of the musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, which played to full houses and was a resounding success. During reading break some students and staff members participated in mission trips to Mississippi and downtown Hamilton.

We also had a good response to the Ministers' Conference held on March 3 with Dr Tom G. Long, Brandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. Next year the Ministers' Conference is again planned for the first Tuesday in March – March 2, 2010. Building on the success of our Autism course, Redeemer is planning a Mini-Conference for Autism Spectrum Disorders on April 25. The Chaplain and a planning group has begun planning on our second annual Worship Workshops on September 25, 2009. These events are encouraging us to offer more in the area of adult and continuing education to expand Redeemer's mission to a new audience.

It is encouraging to see that Christian university education is beginning to receive a higher profile in Canada through student survey results in national publications. This past October, Redeemer, along with The King's University College, received among the highest scores in Canada in a national survey of student satisfaction published by the *Globe and Mail* (see www.globecampus.ca). Redeemer was also featured in the *Maclean's Magazine* student satisfaction issue of February 2009 and again was first, second or third among 31 universities in all of the categories of the student satisfaction survey in which we participated. It is a new experience to have our mainstream media helping to build the reputation of Christian higher education.

Our applications and retention for the 2009-10 academic year continue to confirm our expectation of an overall enrolment of 840 FTE students. The Accounting Co-op program has been accredited by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario (ICAO) - one of only ten other universities in Ontario having an accredited co-op program. In the area of research, a major scholarly contribution to the academic study of the relationship between nature and Scripture, edited by Dr Jiste van der Meer, was published by Brill Publications. Dr Mark Bowald has been awarded the Colin Gunton Prize for an essay entitled, "The Character of Theological Interpretation of Scripture," that will be published as the lead article in a 2010 edition of the *International Journal of Systematic Theology*.

In the area of campus development, we have been in discussions with the Ancaster Soccer Club and the City of Hamilton about partnering to build our second soccer field, assuming we can gain access to federal funding for recreation projects. In addition, \$2 billion has been made available to universities for infrastructure funding in the federal budget, and we also have an opportunity to apply for these funds to upgrade, renovate and refurbish our research and teaching facilities. This could be a tremendous opportunity for Redeemer.

As I complete my presidency in another year, the Board has taken two steps. First, a strategic planning process has been launched to set the vision for Redeemer for the next ten years. And second, a Presidential Search Committee has been struck and will commence the search for a new President who can give leadership to fulfill this vision. Please remember these important initiatives in your prayers.

Finally, in the area of donations, we have been blessed thus far this year. A small group of donors offered to match every gift to the *GWI* Student Support campaign to a total of \$500,000 until the end of April. We are very pleased to report that to date almost half of the match has been raised. Church donations for this year are just over \$700,000 for which we are very grateful.

Please convey our thanks to your congregations for their prayers and financial support of Redeemer. Their partnership is crucial as we pursue our mission of lifting up the Name of Christ in university education through teaching, scholarship and service.

- Dr Justin Cooper, President

15. Treasurer's Report

The classical ministry shares were due April 1. To date there are thirteen churches from which no remittance has been made. It is imperative that the classical ministry shares be submitted in a timely manner. At present, the campus ministries are finding themselves with a cash flow problem. This is mainly due to the fact that the classical ministry shares are generally paid in the spring and later in the year while their expenses are incurred monthly. At the very least, the classical ministry shares for the Guelph and Waterloo campuses should be remitted as soon as possible.

A review of the 2008 financial statements for Classis Huron was completed on Mar 30, 2009. Sufficient copies of the statements will be made available at the classis meeting.

- Cindy Tamming, Treasurer

The following rates were approved for 2009:

1. That the rates for a church service be held at \$80 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, no change.
4. That the remuneration for loss of wages while conducting the business of Classis remain at \$150 per day for up to five (5) per week, no change.

16. Future Classis Meetings

Date	Place	Reports due	Chair	Vice-chair
Sept. 16, 2009	Kitchener	Aug. 12, 2009	John Vanderstoep	Bill Hoogland
Jan. 13, 2010	Listowel	Dec. 2, 2009	Bill Hoogland	
May 12, 2010	Guelph – New Life	April 7, 2010	Rita Klein-Geltink	