



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

Classis Huron met on Wednesday, May 11 in Palmerston CRC. It was a sunny, warm day so lunch and coffee breaks were held outside under a big tent.

- There was a 90-minute panel discussion on young adult ministry. Panelists spoke about the need to include young adults in leadership, worship and education. Every church received a two-page handout containing quotes and a list of youth ministry committee members.
- There was a 90-minute discussion on the agenda for Synod, led by minister delegates Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink and Rev. Ralph Wigboldus. They focused on seven areas: Reformed confessions, young adult summit, reports on children at communion and infant dedication, a revised Form of Subscription, a study committee on homosexual orientation, ministers' pensions and the Board of Trustees' diversity report.
- Early retirement was granted to Rev Bernard de Jonge, effective June 30.
- John Zwart's license to exhort was extended for a five-year term.
- Rev. John Kuperus was released from active ministerial service in Blyth CRC, as per Article 17a. He is currently pursuing ministry with Youth With A Mission in Hawaii.
- Rev. John Bouwers, church planter in Milton, reported on his first 12 weeks in that city. The church plant is jointly supported by Classes Huron and Toronto.
- Churches within classis were encouraged to identify potential leaders and to encourage them to develop their skills through the Eastern Canada Leadership Network's two-year program.
- Calvin College Board of Trustees regional representative, Dr. Wytse Van Dijk, reported on declining enrolment at the college, especially among freshman students. There was also a discussion on two articles written by two Calvin profs dealing with biblical and theological issues. One of the profs, Dr. Scheider, has decided to retire as of June 30. Classis defeated an overture to "decry in the strongest possible terms the works of Calvin professors Schneider and Harlow."
- Gary Van Arragon offered his final report as he concludes six years on the denomination's Board of Trustees (BOT). There were several comments about the recent resignations of executive director Rev. Jerry Dykstra and director of denominational ministries Sandy Johnson. Delegates said that BOT's communication "has been cryptic and secretive" and classis expressed concern with the way the BOT has handled the resignations.
- Classis adopted a recommendation from Kitchener (Community) CRC that urges synod to create a task force to study the Board of Trustees report on ethnic diversity within the denomination.