



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

MINUTES

September 15, 2010 – 9:00 a.m.

Drayton Christian Reformed Church
88 Main Street E,
Drayton

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.

*Each classis meeting has a specific focus: VHS – Visioning (January),
Huddle with Family of Churches (May), Skill development (September).*

1. Constituting Classis

Call to Order, and welcome was extended by Rev. John Vanderburgh, pastor of Drayton CRC, at 9:00 a.m.

Ken De Boer of Lucknow delivered his message, based on Psalm 22: 1-5 as part of his examination later in the morning for a license to exhort.

Credentials Committee reported on attendance. All first time delegates signed the form of subscription.

Congregation	Minister	Elder	Alternate
Acton	Rev. Ray Vander Kooij	Machteld Kollenhoven	
Blyth	Rev. John Kuperus	Mark Sjaarda	
Cambridge – Maranatha	Rev. John Vanderstoep	Tony Salverda	
Cambridge – River City	Rev. Darrell Bierman		
Clinton	Rev. Ron Luchies	Jack Kroes	
Collingwood	Rev. Chris Pool	Harry Bierman	
Drayton	Rev. John Vanderburgh	Jake Vandenberg	
Exeter	Rev. Harry Frielink	Ben Van Straaten	
Goderich	Rev. Stephen Tamming	Bill Jongejan	
Guelph – New Life	Rev. Tom Van Milligen	Janet Ryzebol	
Guelph – First	Marguerite Ridder	Jetty Vanderkamp	
Guelph – Campus	Jamie Vandenberg		
Kitchener	Rev. Darren Roorda	Jim Van Elswyk	
Kitchener – The Journey	Rev. Andrew Zantingh	Toyosi Awesu	
Listowel	Rev. Ralph Wigboldus	John Vandonkersgoed	
Lucknow	Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink	Lawrence Uyl	
Orangeville	Sid Ryzebol	Diane Johnston	
Owen Sound	Rev. Harry Zantingh	Len Zevenbergen	
Palmerston	Rev. Andrew de Gelder	John Mohle	
Stratford	Rev. Bill Hoogland	J Oosterom	
Vanastra	Jake deKoning	Bill Embling	
Waterloo	Rev. Vicki Cok	Amanda Bakale	
Waterloo – Campus	Rev. Brian Bork		
Wingham – Maitland River	Rev. Peter Janssens	Deacon Jack Wilkins	

Classis is declared constituted.

2. Officers of Classis

Chair: Rev. Darren Roorda

Vice chair: Rev. Ralph Wigboldus

Stated Clerk: Keith Knight

Classis Huron

3. Opening of Classis

The chair, Rev. Darren Roorda, welcomed delegates and visitors.

Classis has received three new ministers – Rev. Harry Zantingh (Owen Sound), Rev. Andrew Zantingh (The Journey) and Rev. Andrew de Gelder (Palmerston). Classis will examine Candidate Andrew Vis (Orangeville) at the January meeting.

Classis will welcome the three area synodical deputies later in the meeting: Rev. Ralph Koops (Hamilton), Rev. Dirk Miedema (Chatham), and Rev. Herman Praamsma (Toronto).

4. Classis Ministry Committee -- Rev. John Vanderburgh

4.1 Committee Report

MOTION: That a Saturday training event be planned for Spring, 2011 for all those classes in southern Ontario who have a license to exhort.

-carried

MOTION: That the 2010-2013 Ministry Plan be approved and that its progress be reviewed annually by CMC.

-carried

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

-carried

4.2 Examination for license to exhort of Ken de Boer:

Assigned text: Psalm 22: 1-5. Ken delivered his sermon as part of opening devotions. Rev. Ron Luchies examined him in practica; Rev. Ralph Wigboldus, in his biblical/theological knowledge. A question and answer period followed, and then executive session.

MOTION: That Classis Huron grant Ken de Boer a license to exhort within its boundaries for one year.

-carried

Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink offered prayer for Ken and Jocelyn De Boer as they continue this journey.

5. Home Missions – Rev. John Vander Stoep

Church plant in Milton. This is a joint church plant involving Classes Huron and Toronto. The Home Missions Committees advertised for two part-time church planters; several quality candidates have applied. It is hoped to have the first staff person in place this fall. The second one will be in place early in 2011. Meadowvale, Georgetown and Acton CRCs are all involved in the church plant. Classis Huron helps initiate the church plant with three years of funding, but the Milton church plant is primarily accountable to Classis Toronto.

Rev. Vanderstoep talked about cluster groups – A group of pastors met for eight weeks, going through the book, *Tangible Kingdom*. *Tangible Kingdom Primer* is a new book with an eight-week program. He invited clergy and lay leaders within classis to join him for this eight-week study.

6. Classis Ministerial Leadership Team – Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink

Bill Hoogland asked the committee to consider where students go to study. Are there seminaries where we would not want our students to go? CMLT will consider that question.

7. Nominations

The Board of Trustees of the CRCNA

BOT requires two or more clergy nominees from Classis Huron. **Rev. Brian Bork and Rev. Darren Roorda** were nominated. Names will go to the BOT which will present two names to Synod in 2011. Synod will select one nominee and the new term will begin in September, 2011.

Calvin Theological Seminary board of trustees

Calvin Seminary is looking for a clergy nominee from Classis Huron. This person will become a regional representative (Classes Chatham, Hamilton, Huron and Niagara). All four classes are asked to present one name. Classis nominated **Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink**. Her name will be forwarded to the denominational office which will present two names to Synod next summer. Synod will select one nominee and the new term will begin in September, 2011.

8. Campus Ministries – Rev. Brian Bork

Presented his report on the work of the campus minister at University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University. His report is found in the Agenda.

9. Redeemer University College – Dr. Hubert Krygsman

Dr. Krygsman is the newly appointed president of Redeemer. He reported that more than 900 students are enrolled in the fall semester, a record enrolment.

He anticipated that, with this record enrolment, the college should be able to meet its budget.

Redeemer has renovated the office building, a soccer complex is going up, the campus is going green with solar panels, has hired new faculty and staff, and is adding programs. Board of governors developed the beginnings of a strategic plan. The four strategic goals are: strengthening Reformed programs, expanding international engagement and credibility, developing co-curricular program around spiritual formation, and an emphasis on living out our Christian faith in campus life.

Redeemer will host CRC Synod in June 2012.

In the 2009-2010, churches within classis donated \$132,798 to Redeemer; 53 students have registered from Classis Huron, compared to 55 last year.

Dr. Krygsman cited a number of concerns:

1. Declining giving from CRCs as a whole. About five churches gave up to 90 per cent of recommended Ministry Share but a number of churches are substantially below the recommended amount.
2. Redeemer is having a difficult time getting information about prospective students. They would like a list of names of prospective students from local churches.

Support for Christian education from CRCs is always strong. The kinds of students that Redeemer is graduating have served as pastors and leaders within the church. Redeemer has a contribution to make to the organized church.

The concern was expressed by a delegate that CRC students attending a Christian university tend to drift or become detached from local congregations.

Jamie Vandenberg suggested bringing Redeemer students and students from secular universities together

for joint interaction and possible action.

10. Devotions

Rev. John Vander Stoep of Cambridge offered devotions before lunch. He read a meditation from the *Tangible Kingdom Primer*.

LUNCH BREAK

11. Devotions

Rev. Peter Janssens of Wingham offered opening devotions.

12. Church Counsellors

Rev. Chris Pool reported that Owen Sound installed Rev. Harry Zantingh as their new pastor on Aug. 6. Rev. John Vanderburgh reported that Orangeville has received a new pastor, Candidate Andrew Vis, who will be examined at the January 2011 classis meeting.

Rev. Ray Vanderkooy reported that Guelph First has a search committee in place which is working diligently.

Rev. Ralph Wigboldus reported that Palmerston installed Rev. Andrew de Gelder on Sept. 7.

13. Synod delegates

Rev. Darren Roorda and Rev. Harry Frielink reported on their involvement as delegates to synod. The denominational office will send a communication to each church council, asking them to adopt their own process as to how people come to the communion table. What is the process; is profession of faith required?

14. Safe Church Presentation – Ken Hall, Robertson Hall Insurance

Atie Ott, chair of the Safe Church Committee, introduced Ken Hall.

Robertson Hall specializes in insurance for churches, representing 6,000 churches in Canada, including 100 CRCs.

Physical and sexual abuse is the number one concern for organizations such as churches.

Why are churches vulnerable? We are a community of trust so we tend to think that abuse won't happen.

When you run a program for your own children and for others in the community, there is often a desperate need for volunteers. A church is a pretty good target for law suits.

More children are sexually abused in Protestant churches by volunteers than by priests in Roman Catholic institutions.

Ken Hall reported that his firm is aware of 48 multiple or individual cases of documented abuse at churches within evangelical Christian circles in Canada; 38 of these have occurred in smaller congregations or at churches in rural communities. "This isn't a big city/big church problem."

Abuse Prevention Plan checklist:

1. Statement of Policy
2. Define Abuse: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, child neglect, improper touching
3. Screening procedures – criminal record checks: screen all staff, volunteers working with youth, elders and deacons.

4. Have operational procedures in place
5. Ensure safe premises
6. Have a policy in place to respond to abuse
7. Train workers

Ken Hall handed out brochures to each church with further information on abuse policies. He was thanked by the chair for his presentation

15. Request from Rev. John Kuperus to be released from ministry in Blyth CRC

The chair declared executive session.

The chair declared executive session over.

MOTION: That Classis Huron approves of the release of Rev. John Kuperus from active ministerial service in Blyth CRC, through action initiated by Rev. Kuperus, as per Article 17a, effective September 30, 2010.

Grounds:

1. Rev. Kuperus has indicated that he feels that his ministry in Blyth CRC is concluding.
2. Rev. Kuperus feels called to be engaged in some sort of mission outreach, the nature of which has not yet been determined. He has registered for a 20-week course with Youth With A Mission to help him discern his sense of calling.
3. Blyth council offers its continued prayerful support to Rev. Kuperus during this time of discernment. –carried.

The synodical deputies did not concur. A committee involving the synodical deputies and church visitors (John Vanderburgh and Ralph Wigboldus) met with the Blyth delegates. They reported back to classis that Blyth council will consider options other than Article 17.

The motion was then rescinded.

16. CRWRC – Mary Both

Mary reported on the work of CRWRC in Haiti since the earthquake, and in Pakistan where 3,288 stoves and kitchen sets were recently distributed.

17. Financial Resources Team – Cindy Tamming, Treasurer

MOTION: That the 2011 Budget for Classis Huron be adopted.

-carried

MOTION: That Classis adopt the following for 2011:

1. That the rates for pulpit supply be held at \$80 per service.
2. That the driving expense reimbursement be kept at the rate of \$0.50 per kilometer .
3. That a church hosting classis be reimbursed \$500.
4. That the remuneration for loss of wages while conducting the business of Classis (eg delegates to synod, synodical deputies, work on classis committees) remain at \$150 per day for up to five (5) days per week.
5. That the honorarium for the Stated Clerk be set at \$3,250 and for the Treasurer at \$3,250.

- carried.

A full list of Classical and Denominational Ministry Shares will be sent to all churches of Classis Huron.

18. Orangeville's Ministry Story – Diane Johnston

Diane Johnston, an elder at Orangeville CRC, said: "Pastors don't realize how much they affect people in the congregation. She thanked former pastor Rev. Darrell Bierman for leaving a lasting impression on her. She said that church members once witnessed the church being so full that chairs filled the aisles.

In recent years, there was a loss of members through transfers, marriage and a lack of interest. “We all shed tears over our children or grandchildren.”

She said that “Orangeville got busy by enhancing worship, trying new programs, organizing prayer meetings where we prayed for our church and church families, and holding each other accountable in council, being involved in NCD and committing ourselves to stay involved. We have turned the corner. People are becoming excited. We have a new, young pastor. Our young people are very active. Prayer fellowship team visits the shut-ins. There is more joy than challenges.”

Rev. Darrell Bierman offered prayer for Orangeville CRC.

19. Credentials

Drayton asks that time be given at a future meeting of classis to ministry to special needs in the local church and community. Referred to CMC for a future ‘huddle’.

Listowel asked for a discussion on baptism practices at River City. Representatives of the two church plants are meeting with CMC on Oct. 19. The January classis meeting will hold a discussion about church plants.

Waterloo’s credentials noted this: Denominational Ministry Shares are based on the number of professing members who are 18 years or older. Perhaps not long ago, 18 years was an age when a substantial number of youth were gainfully employed and contributing to their church budgets. This is no longer the case. The youth of today are attending colleges and universities and unable to support church budget commitments. Perhaps students should be exempted from being counted towards denominational ministry shares, or the age increased to 22 years to more properly reflect the norms of today. We request that this be discussed at classis. Waterloo says they will consider writing an overture to bring this matter formally before classis.

16. Overture from CRC of Stratford

The Christian Reformed Church of Stratford, Ontario overtures classis that Classis Huron not schedule women to chair classis meetings.

Grounds:

1. 1 Timothy 1:12-13 – “I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, she must be silent. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.” (NIV)
2. There is no overwhelming need for a woman to chair a classis meeting.
3. CMC has put Stratford in an unnecessary predicament.

MOTION: That classis adopt this overture.

–defeated.

MOTION: That classis postpones having women as chair of classis until September 2013.

-defeated.

17. Devotions

Closing devotions were offered by Rev. Ralph Wigboldus using Psalm 67.

18. Future Classis Meetings

Date	Place	Reports due	Chair	Vice-chair
Jan. 12, 2011	Listowel	Dec. 1, 2010	Ralph Wigboldus	Rita Klein-Geltink
May 11, 2011		April 6, 2011	Rita Klein-Geltink	
Sept. 14, 2011	Vanastra	Aug. 10, 2011		John Vanderstoep
Jan. 11, 2012		Dec. 2, 2011	John Vanderstoep	