



Bethel Christian Reformed Church
365 Queen Street East
Acton, Ontario L7J 2M6
www.actoncrc.com

May 04, 2022

Fred Vander Sterre
Stated Clerk of Classis Huron.

Dear Fred,

My name is Nick Kuipery and I'm the chair of the Pastoral Elders Board and on the Council Executive, the Ministry Board, at Bethel CRC in Acton.

Dorothea Vuyk is a member of our church and has demonstrated a desire to pursue a license to exhort within Classis Huron. As we are without a pastor at the present time, we inquired of Pastor Andrew Vis, who in turn requested of you, Fred, what the process was that we need to follow. Thank you for your response to Pastor Andrew as he forwarded your response on to us.

Our Council met last night for a regularly scheduled Council meeting and writing a letter of recommendation for Dorothea was on the agenda.

The motion was made, supported, and passed with a few conditions. The conditions were simply to make CMC aware of some of the concerns we have with forwarding this recommendation. These are as follows.

1. At the present time, we are without a pastor. Pastor Ray VanderKooij moved on to Clinton to serve their church, and we are not confident that we are qualified to accurately evaluate Dorothea's preaching abilities. Some felt we should consider waiting to make this recommendation until we had a senior pastor in place.
2. If we had a pastor, the pastor could serve as a mentor to coach her along if and when she would receive a license to exhort. We don't know the level of importance Classis would put on that, but we want you to be aware of that. As a side note, I did speak with Dorothea after the Council meeting, and she agreed that it would be wise for her to have a mentor. Not sure if another pastor in Classis would be willing to commit to that, just a thought.
3. Dorothea speaks very boldly about how the Holy Spirit leads her in her calling, in her prayer ministry and when she writes a sermon. Some people feel uncomfortable with that, especially as she comes across very confident in her position.
4. Dorothea can challenge some out of their comfort zone in her messages and as we consider Bethel to be more contemporary in worship style than some other churches, we have some concerns how her messages may be received. Again, on a side note, I did convey that to Dorothea, so she is aware of the concern.

Now, a little about Dorothea. Dorothea and her husband Dean came to Acton in 2009. They have five children. She was employed by our church as worship coordinator from 2010-2015 at which time she became quite ill and had to resign from that position. She worked through the Dunamis course where Pastor Ray VanderKooij was one of the presenters/teachers. She also participated and completed a preaching course in 2019, led by Pastor Ray VanderKooij.

Enclosed, you will also find a letter from Dorothea shedding a little more light on her journey to this point.

As council of Bethel CRC of Acton, considering the items above, we would recommend to Classis Huron that they consider granting Dorothea Vuyk a license to exhort.

We are aware that time is of the essence if Classis wishes to examine Dorothea at the September Classis meeting. Our hope is that we submitted our request in a timely fashion and we appreciate your consideration of our request.

On behalf of Council,

Nick Kuipery, Elders Board Chair

Acton Bethel CRC

CC: Ken Kamminga, Chair