

Fall 2021 Report:

Classis Ministry Committee (CMC), Administrative Committee (AdCom) & Stated Clerk

*The **Classis Ministry Committee (CMC)** consists of the Administrative Committee and the representatives of all ministries/committees within Classis: Ministerial Leadership Team, Rev. Brian Bork; Mission Team, Rev. Kevin teBrake; Safe Church Committee, Atie Ott; Guelph Campus Ministry, Brian Smith; Waterloo Campus Ministry, Bill Los; Diaconal Ministries & World Renew, Mary Blydorp; the Mission Catalyzer, the Youth Champion, (vacant) and Treasurer, Evert Nagel (ex officio).*

*The **Administrative Committee (AdCom)** works on behalf of Classis between sessions. AdCom consists of Rev. Gary VanLeeuwen (Chair), Albert Hovingh (vice), Rev. Victor Laarman (at-large), and Fred Vander Sterre (Stated Clerk, ex officio).*

*The **Stated Clerk** serves Classis Huron by keeping accurate records of the proceedings, decisions, and rules of Classis as per Church Order, Article 32-b. The Rules of Classis Huron also task the Clerk to serve as a resource to the churches of Classis on matters of order and procedure, maintain the records and website of Classis, and serve as a central point of communication for Classis, among other responsibilities.*

AdCom met on June 8, 2021, to review the proceedings of the May 12 session of classis and further discuss the agenda and its particulars for the fall session planned for Saturday, September 18, 2021.

CMC met in-person on August 25, 2021.

1. CMC accepted the following recommendations of AdCom:

- The September 18, 2021 session of Classis Huron will be in-person, at Water street CRC, Guelph, with the following guidelines:
 - Vaccinate: We strongly encourage our churches to send fully vaccinated delegates to the meeting.
 - Delegate Restriction: We are planning to reduce the size of the gathering, and therefore we regret that we must restrict churches to a maximum of 2 delegates only.
 - It may be a pastor and elder, pastor and deacon, or elder and deacon.
 - No Visitors: There will not be any visitors permitted at this meeting. It is restricted to delegates only, as well as any essential participants.
 - Face Masks: The wearing of face masks will be required by all, anytime when indoors.
 - Social Distancing: Please maintain social distancing as much as we possibly can.
 - Space and Grace: Lets extend grace and space to all.

While we do plan to meet in-person, we are prepared to change to a virtual meeting if necessary.

In that case, a communication will be send out not later than September 13.

The necessary screening questions will be used as delegates are entering.

- Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen to serve as the Classical Counselor for Maitland River Community Church, Wingham and to include that church in the pulpit supply schedule.

2. Other Actions

- The Classis Huron Mission Team is exploring ways to become more effective servants among the churches and ministries of Classis Huron.
- Reports/updates were provided by the ministry representatives serving on CMC. It was noted that World Renew has a webinar series available, titled *Welcome to the neighborhood*. This is a good resource for churches exploring ways to connect with their

neighbors. <https://worldrenew.net/uncategorized/welcome-to-the-neighbourhood>
Safe Church Committee is promoting a study of based on the book "TOV". Councils are using this as a resource/study book.

The following are individual items included in the agenda of the September classis meeting:

- Classis Huron is nominating Will Bakker, member of Bethel CRC Listowel, as the Classis' representative to the Board of Redeemer University.
- Classes (including Classis Huron) in the *proposed Calvin University Board Region 2** are asked to consider the current Board Rep for reappointment to a second term. If no reservations are raised re this nominee, Ms. Lopert-Sweetman's name will be submitted to Synod 2022 for reappointment
- Request for retirement and emeritus status for Rick DeGraaf, currently Commissioned Pastor at Maranatha, Cambridge.
Motion to present to classis: That Rick DeGraaf be granted the title Commissioned Pastor Emeritus according Article 23e of the church order and that with this title he be given the same authority to perform official acts of ministry within Classis Huron as were given to him upon his ordination as Commissioned Pastor.
- The Classis Huron Handbook and Rules of Classis Huron document was approved by CMC and recommended to classis.
- The 2022 draft budget for Classis Huron was presented and is recommended to classis.
- Rev. Jack deVries requests an extension of his loan to CRCA. Bethel (Listowel) endorses that request.
Motion to present to classis: That Jack DeVries be granted his request to continue to be loaned to the Christian Reformed Church of Australia for a period of up to two years, in accordance with Church Order, Article 13c.
Grounds: Rev. DeVries continues to serve faithfully with the CRCA and has the support and blessing of his calling church, Bethel CRC, Listowel to remain on loan to the CRCA.
This needs the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies.
- Rev. Stephen Tamming is requesting to extend his Art. 17 status for another 1 year.
Motion to present to classis: That Stephen Tamming's ordination be extended for one year according to Article 17c of the Church Order.
Grounds: The supervisory committee, in conjunction with Rev. Tamming has deemed that more time is needed before he is able to return to active ministry.
(Note: Article 17c limits extensions to one year, and should Rev. Tamming seek to continue his ordination status beyond September, 2022, he will be asked to request a further extension at that time.)
This needs the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies.
- Rev. Andrew Zantingh is not renewing his Art. 14 status.
Letter with grounded reasons is needed.
Motion to present to classis: That Andrew Zantingh be released from ministry according to Article 17c of the Church Order.
Grounds: Rev. Zantingh has indicated that he does not wish to continue his ordination and has not been serving in a congregation for a period longer than two years.
This needs the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies.

-submitted by Fred Vander Sterre, Stated Clerk