

AGENDA

September 19, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.

Collingwood Christian Reformed Church

Collingwood, ON

The PURPOSE of Classis Huron

We will foster the Kingdom through shared resources toward spiritual renewal

The VISION of Classis Huron

The congregations, ministries, missional communities and people of Classis Huron will surrender to the work of the Spirit of Mission of Jesus, to embody the Kingdom of God. Recognizing the urgency of the times, we stand on the foundation laid for us by previous generations and step forward in the same faith we have been taught.

Index of Agenda Items and the day's schedule

Timeline	Report/Item	Presenter/Reporter	Page
9:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening of Classis & Officers take seats <i>Chair: Rev. Martin Dam</i> <i>Vice Chair: Rev. Henry Steenbergen</i> <i>Stated Clerk: Sharon Van Kampen</i> Comments from Chair Credentials Committee attendance summary Constituting of Classis 	Rev. Martin Dam → Acton/Guelph New Life	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome & announcements Opening Devotions & Worship 	Collingwood CRC & HMC: Rev. John Vanderstoep	
9:30 a.m.	Examination for Classical Licensure of Tom Mosterd	Rev. Victor Laarman Rev. Tim Leferink Rev. Stephen Tamming	
10:15	Home Missions Committee re: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) "Site" plant in Exeter by Classis Chatham b) Missional Catalyzer position proposal 	Rev. Henry Steenbergen	6 7 & 8
11:00 a.m.	Refreshment Break		
11:15 a.m.	River City Church Organization	Rev. Darrel Bierman Rev. Martin Dam	
12:00	<i>Christian Stewardship Services</i> Presentation	Mr. Maynard Wiersma	
12:20 p.m.	Pre-lunch prayer Lunch Break [Credentials Committee Meets]	→ Kitchener	
1:00 p.m.	Post-lunch devotions Credentials Committee Report	→ Listowel → Acton & Guelph New Life	
1:15 p.m.	2019 Proposed Budget for Classis Huron	Treasurer John Bell	9-14
1:30 p.m.	CMC/AdCom/Stated Clerk report	Rev. Stephen Tamming	3 & 4
1:45 p.m.	The Bridge (Fergus Church Plant)	Rev. John Vanderstoep	
2:15 p.m.	Ministry Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterloo Campus Ministry CMLT Guelph Campus Ministry (brief update) Safe Church Youth Ministry Synod 2018 	Rev. Brian Bork Rev. Brian Bork Rev. D. Tigchelaar/Rev. R. Vander Kooij Atie Ott Amy Baarda Rev. John Medendorp	16-18 19&20
2:45 p.m.	<i>World Renew: Disaster Response Services</i>	Marguerite Ridder	21-23
3:00 p.m.	Refreshment Break		
3:15 p.m.	CRC National Gathering May, 2019 (Edmonton, AB)	Canadian Ministries Director Rev. Darren Roorda	
3:45 p.m.	Adjournment		
Rec'vd for info	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diaconal Ministries Canada Redeemer University College Calvin Theological Seminary 	-copies attached	24-30

1.1 Constituting Classis: Call to Order, Welcome by host church, Credentials Committee attendance report, Classis declared constituted.

1.2 Devotions for the Day:

- Opening – Home Missions Committee
- Pre-Lunch – Community [Kitchener] CRC
- Post-Lunch – Bethel [Listowel] CRC

- 1.3 Committees of the Day:**
- Credentials Committee: Bethel [Acton] CRC / New Life [Guelph] CRC
 - Balloting Committee: Palmerston CRC
- 1.4 Opening Devotions** (Home Missions Committee: Rev. John Vanderstoep)
- 2. Examination for Classical Licensure of Tom Mosterd**
 Practica and Reformed Doctrine & Ethics: examiner Rev. Victor Laarman
 Sermon Critics: Rev. Tim Leferink & Rev. Stephen Tamming
- 3. Home Missions Committee** (Home Missions Committee: Rev. Henry Steenbergen)
- 3.1 "Site" Plant in Exeter by Classis Chatham**
 - 3.2 Missional Catalyzer Position proposal**
- 4. Refreshment Break**
- 5. River City Organization** (Rev. Darrel Bierman & Rev. Martin Dam)
- 6. Christian Stewardship Services** (Mr. Maynard Wiersma)
- 7. Lunch Break** (pre-lunch prayer by Community [Kitchener] CRC)
- 8.1 Post-Lunch Devotions** (Bethel [Listowel] CRC)
- 8.2 Credentials Committee Report** (Bethel [Acton] CRC/New Life [Guelph] CRC)
- 8.3 Appointment of Counselor** to First [Owen Sound] CRC due to pastoral vacancy
- 8.4 Request [letter] from Bethel CRC Listowel** to grant Classical Licensure to Commissioned Pastor Bart Eisen. (Bart sustained commissioned pastor examination in February, 2018)
- 9. Proposed Budget for 2019 for Classis Huron** (Treasurer John Bell)
- 10. AdCom/CMC/Stated Clerk Report** ([outgoing] Chair: Rev. Stephen Tamming)
- 10.1 The Classis Ministry Committee (CMC)** consists of representatives of all ministries/committees within Classis: Chair, Rev. Stephen Tamming; Vice-Chair, Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok, Member at Large: Rev. Martin Dam: Classis Ministry Leadership Team, Rev. Brian Bork; Home Missions Committee, Rev. Henry Steenbergen; Safe Church Committee, Atie Ott; Huron Campus Ministry (Guelph), Rev. David Tigchelaar; Diaconal Ministries, Mary Blydorp; Huron Campus Ministry (Waterloo), Rev. John Medendorp; Youth Ministry, Amy Baarda; Treasurer John Bell, ex-officio, and Stated Clerk, Sharon Van Kampen, ex officio.
- Following are a number of administrative matters provided for your information.**
- a]** release of the 'new' Classis Huron website pending.
 - b]** The issues raised in the Credentials submitted to the May 2018 Classis Meeting, have been dealt with by AdCom/CMC.
 - c]** In keeping with the governing structure of Classis [as per the incorporation process] Rev. Stephen Tamming will retire as Chair/President effective this month. Rev. Vicki Cok will take on the role of Chair/President, at that time; Rev. Martin Dam will take on the role of Vice Chair/Vice President. A new 'Member at Large' will be appointed & approved by Classis at this September meeting.
 - d]** Regional Pastor positions: model, proper and effective manner to undertake supportive ministry, filling of role by active versus retired pastors, etc. will be considered by AdCom with a view to present with proposed names to CMC & Classis accordingly.
 - e]** Church Visitor position: status/role/function also for future consideration by AdCom.
 - f]** honorariums for Classis positions to be processed [effective immediately] for employment expenses with annual T4's issued accordingly.

In addition to these administrative matters, the following recommendations are submitted for Classis' approval:

R11 In view of the positive feedback received from the May, 2018 session (held on a Saturday): to proceed with holding the annual winter session on a Saturday, thus recommending Saturday, February 23, 2019 [rather than Wednesday, February 20] with Bethel CRC Listowel still serving as the venue. (please note: *Family Day long weekend is February 16-18, 2018*)

R21 acceptance of the proposed 2019 budget with inclusion of the Missional Catalyzer position and its respective salary.

R31 inclusion of a time of discussion on the "Renegotiating Faith" report [follow up report to "Hemorrhaging Faith" & to be made available via *Faith Formation*] for a 'significant' block of time at the February 2019 session of Classis.

10.2 The Administrative Committee (AdCom) works on behalf of classis between meetings. AdCom consists of Rev. Stephen Tamming, [chair], Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok [vice-chair], Rev. Martin Dam, [Member] and Stated Clerk Sharon Van Kampen, ex-officio. Since the last meeting of classis, AdCom has met to respond to issues raised at the last meeting of Classis, and also to address a number of new matters, which have subsequently been referred to CMC and are addressed above.

10.3 Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk serves as secretary of Classis Huron, its Classis Ministry Committee [CMC], and Administrative Committee (AdCom). The Clerk continues to respond to ongoing requests for information and direction from individual members, church leadership, classis committees, and denominational offices. Since late June to the time of writing this report, the Clerk has:

- dealt with/responded to a handful of conversations and requests for information.
- dealt with/responded to some 135 email messages and requests for information from Denominational agencies, Classis Huron churches, Classis Huron members, and more.
- participated in a 'zoom' video conference in late June with Canadian Ministries Director Rev. Darren Roorda, and other Canadian Stated Clerks.
- attended, prepared agendas for, wrote minutes for, and did follow-up work and correspondence for one AdCom meeting and one CMC meeting: this is in addition to meetings and conversations with CRCNA/pastors/members and others re various issues dealing with matters relative to Classis and its member churches.
- on behalf of Denominational agencies, para-church organizations, and others, forwarded a number of announcements and other information to the Classis Huron churches.
- filed the May 5, 2018 minutes and agendas of Classis meetings with both CRCNA Canada and the Denominational office.
- responded to a number written and verbal requests for opportunities to address Classis at this meeting, and upcoming meetings.
- prepared the agenda and attachments for Classis Huron meeting of September 19, 2018

11. The Bridge (Fergus Church Plant) (Rev. John Vanderstoep)

12. Ministry Reports

12.1 Waterloo Campus Ministry (Rev. Brian Bork)

12.2 Classis Ministry Leadership Team (Rev. Brian Bork)

12.3 Guelph Campus Ministry (Rev. Dave Tigchelaar/Rev. Ray Vander Kooij)

12.4 Safe Church (Atie Ott)

12.5 Youth Ministry (Amy Baarda)

12.6 Synod 2018 summary

(delegates: Rev. John Medendorp/Rev. Kevin teBrake/deacon Jim Vanderleeuw/elder Rev. Rick DeGraaf)

13. World Renew: Disaster Response Services (Marguerite Ridder)

14. Refreshment Break

15. Denominational Ministry Updates & the CRC National Gathering (May, 2019; Edmonton, AB)
(Rev. Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director)

16. Closing/Adjournment

Future Classis Meetings

DATE	LOCATION	REPORTS DUE	CHAIR	VICE CHAIR
February, 2019	Bethel CRC Listowel	January 9, 2019	Henry Steenberg	Amanda Bakale
May 15, 2019	Clinton CRC	April 3, 2019	Amanda Bakale	Vick Verhulst-Cok
Sept. 18, 2019	Drayton CRC	August 14, 2019	Vicki Verhulst-Cok	Ralph Wigboldus
February, 2020		January, 2020	Ralph Wigboldus	
May, 2020		April, 2020		
September, 2020		August, 2020		

Delegates are reminded that you are expected to stay for the entire meeting. .If you must leave before adjournment, please consult with the chair of the day. The Classical Rules of Procedure state: "While Classis is in session, it is not permissible for any member to withdraw or to return homeward without consent of the chair."

July 26, 2018

Dear Classis Ministry Committee and Classis Huron

Over the past couple of months the Classis Huron Home Missions Committee (CHHMC) has been in discussion with Pastor Ron Baker of Forest City North Community Church (FCN – also see <http://myfcn.church/>). On April, 29, 2018 FCN made an announcement that as part of the church's vision, they will be initiating a multi-site church in Exeter. Please note that the language is a "multi-site" rather than a "church plant."

The Classis Huron Home Missions Committee (CHHMC), met with Pastor Ron Baker on May 16 where he shared this vision and kingdom initiative. We had a good discussion of the Lord's leading in his personal life and the corporate life of the church. Ron specifically shared about a calling that the Lord has placed on his heart for FCN to create a multi-site in Exeter. Ron shared with us what led up to this decision, and the conversations and prayer that has gone into this decision. This multi-site will launch in Fall 2019, and will include some core members of FCN with the intention of connecting with people who have no church affiliation.

At this meeting, CHHMC prayed with Ron, and we were encouraged to see where God will grow His kingdom with this. There is excitement in a decision with this, and we all recognize that there would be challenges and potential tension as well. As a committee, we shared what our role might be in this initiative. We talked in the sense of how we can best partner in this relationship, and what that partnership would look like. Our partnership will be in terms of community, encouragement, prayer support and financial support. The extent of this support has not been determined. We discussed how to create relationships that are mutually rich, and that can mutually bless each other. It is important for others to hear the story that led to this decision, and we have the opportunity to provide clarity to other groups about this multi-site initiative.

In addition to meeting with CHHMC, Ron has also met with Kevin DeRaaf, Regional Mission Leader with Resonate, to discuss their mission. Ron has also met with the Exeter and Area Ministerial. The ministerial discussion was one of encouragement anticipating where God will use each of us as local churches to mutually bless each other in Exeter and the surrounding community. The CHHMC has also been in contact with Exeter CRC recognizing there could be concerns and tensions relating to this decision, and wanting to be sensitive to this. Exeter CRC has made the FCN announcement known to the congregation, and by the time of the September Classis meeting, would have met with Pastor Ron. There will wonder as to what God is up to.

The Exeter multi-site has been initiated solely by FCN. The Home Missions committees of Classis Huron and Classis Chatham and Resonate Missions are aware of this initiative, and as impacted organizations have made a decision to come along side of and encourage this new project. FCN is a church plant of Forest City Community Church (South London), and FCN is a non-organized congregation within the CRCNA. FCN is aware that they are under the supervision of Classis Chatham, and became aware that they are crossing boundaries into Classis Huron. It has been made clear that although this multi-site is in Exeter (Classis Huron), it will function under the leadership and supervision of FCN and as a result, within Classis Chatham.

In addition, FCN appears to not have close ties directly with Classis Chatham and with the denomination. We see that this could be an opportunity as well to foster a closer relationships with FCN and the CRCNA.

As more discussions and decisions occur, CHHMC will continue to be in communication with Classis Chatham Home Missions committee, FCN, and Pastor Ron Baker. We ask that you keep this initiative in prayer.

In His Service,

Henry Steenbergen

Henry Steenbergen
Chairperson, CHHMC

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Classis Huron Mission Catalyzer:

Purpose: To support a missional movement in Classis Huron by empowering Christian Reformed churches and key leaders to engage in God's mission.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Encourage vision casting, strategies and goals for mission-shaped ministry in the region. Work in collaboration with the Resonate Canada East Regional Mission Team and Classis Huron Home Missions Committee (CHHMC). Includes regular meetings with the Resonate Team and CHHMC.
2. Equip, encourage and empower congregations with resources and training to develop further mission-shaped ministries and/or birth new church plants and missional projects.
3. Stimulate the intentional discipleship and growth of missional leaders in the local context by identifying, recruiting and equipping potential leaders, especially ethnic and younger leaders, so that each individual is equipped to participate and lead in God's mission.
4. Connect with local mission networks that unite God's people locally and globally who work for spiritual and social transformation of their communities.
5. Develop relationships with partners, such as other ecumenical groups, mission organizations and denominational partners- that support the development of mission-shaped congregations and leaders for local and global engagement.
6. Work with Resonate and other partners to provide tools and resources for cross-cultural competencies to assist local congregations in connecting with their diverse communities.
7. Strengthen the connection between the churches and ministries of Classis and their global Resonate missionaries and partners.
8. Serve as a significant liaison/communication link between Resonate and our local churches and ministries.
9. Work with advancement leaders of Resonate as well as Classis Huron leaders to develop capacity and strategy for resourcing mission in Classis Huron.
10. Other duties and tasks as assigned by chair of CHHMC and/or Regional Ministry Leader as the role of Mission Catalyzer evolves and develops.

Qualifications and Skills

- Be a member of a Christian church and agreement with the Statement of Faith documents listed in the Covenant for Officebearers for the CRC.
- A proven, mature Christian leader in their community of faith

- Wholly committed to the mission of God through His church, with a heart for the lost and a passion to reach people with the Gospel and be part of the Kingdom movement of God
- Spirit led person of prayer and discernment who can lead others in this discernment process
- Awareness of and willingness to continue learning about the missional context in North America and around the world
- Catalytic leader, with demonstrated ability in vision casting, leadership, team building, coaching, collaboration, and networker, active and influential in their local setting
- Creative, adaptive and flexible, able to be a non-anxious presence amidst diversity and ambiguity
- Personally motivated and a self-starter, with demonstrated ability to accomplish goals and produce results with little direct oversight/management
- Works across systems and partnerships with ease, building trusting relationships with a variety of partners to build synergy, significant consensus and communal identity
- Demonstrates commitment to diversity and to racial reconciliation and to enfold and empowering members of racial and ethnic communities within and outside the CRCNA.
- Able to use technology effectively and consistently in order to contribute to the health of a distributed staff network
- Effective oral and written communication skills
- Strong interpersonal and relational skills with a servant heart

Education and Experience

- Bachelor's degree preferred with some academic engagement on missional topics
- A minimum of three years ministry leadership experience with demonstrated fruitfulness in global and/or local missions and ministry where they are currently serving
- Coach training, or willingness to participate in coach training, required

Physical Demands

- The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions

Work Environment

- The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job
- This employee will work from home as part of a distributed team and so, must have access to reliable internet for video conferencing and be able and willing to travel as needed to meet duties

Hours and Re-imbursement

This position is expected to total 16 hours per week for a total of \$24,000 plus mileage expenses.

Budget for Classis Huron

For The Year Ending December 31, 2019

2018 Yearbook # of members

4079

	2017	2018	2018	2019	2019
	Actual	Budget	Jan-Jun YTD	Budget	Ministry Shares
Classis - General Fund					
Receipts					
43000 · Ministry Shares from Churches	40,887	45,450	33,777	38,000	9.32
43200 - Miscellaneous Income					
43250 - Safe Church Grants	195				
43300 · Interest Income	2,821		1,467		
Total Receipts	43,903	45,450	35,244	38,000	
Disbursements					
61101 · Delegates Travel	2,549	3,000	417	2,500	
61103 · Classical Ministry Committee	8,123	5,000	922	5,000	
611031 - Bridge App			6,000		
61104 · Church Visitation Travel		500	252	500	
61105 · Home Missions Committee	402	750		500	
61106 - Classis Administrators Day	1,241			1,500	
61107 · Host Church Expenses	2,630	4,500	2,280	3,000	
61108 · Special Committ Expenses	2,007	1,000		500	
611081 - Regional Pastors	360		580	700	
61109 · Delegates and Appointees	244	500	253	500	
61110 - Classis Leadership Development	350	1,000		750	
61111 · Stated Clerk Expenses	2,355	1,000	403	1,000	
61112 · Treasurer Expenses	803	1,000	395	1,000	
611121 · Treasurer Software	737	800	448	800	
61113 · Insurance Premiums	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	
61115 · Honorariums/Professional Fees	14,000	15,000	7,500	18,500	
61117 · Pastors' Retreat	700	1,000		1,000	
61118 · Safe Church Team	1,183	1,400	450	1,200	
61119 · Diaconal Conference	-		120	200	
61122 - Website	95	500	95	300	
Total Disbursements	40,279	39,450	22,615	41,950	

Budget for Classis Huron

For The Year Ending December 31, 2019

Classis Huron Youth Ministry Team	2017	2018	2018	2019	2019
	Actual	Budget	Jan-Jun YTD	Budget	Ministry Shares
Receipts					
44110 Ministry Shares	18,797	19,550	16,567	17,850	4.38
44144 Fall Leadership Studio	2,928		1,714		
44146 Fall Retreat	46,206		765		
Total Receipts	67,931	19,550	19,046	17,850	
Disbursements					
61142 Spring Leadership Studio	- 565			500	
61144 Fall Leadership Studio	5,955	1,700	1,210		
61146 Fall Retreat	50,484	10,500	2,753	10,500	
61148 Bursary		1,000		500	
61150 Youth Leadership Support	5,666	5,750		5,750	
61160 General Administration	-	600		600	
Total Disbursements	61,540	19,550	3,963	17,850	
Classis Home Missions Committee	2017	2018	2018	2019	2019
	Actual	Budget	Jan-Jun YTD	Budget	Ministry Shares
Receipts					
43010 Min. Shares Church Plants	33,889	35,000	29,729	35,000	8.58
43020 Min. Shares Creative Ourteach				-	
Total Receipts	33,889	35,000	29,729	35,000	
Disbursements					
61210 Church Plants	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	
61220 Creative Ourteach	-		1,000		
Total Disbursements	35,000	35,000	36,000	35,000	
Classis Huron Student Fund	2017	2017	2018	2019	2019
	Actual	Budget	Jan-Jun YTD	Budget	Ministry Shares
Receipts					
43230 Student Fund	43,583	45,000	38,177	45,000	11.03
Disbursements					
61121 Student Fund	43,583	45,000	38,177	45,000	

Budget for Classis Huron

For The Year Ending December 31, 2019

Huron Campus Ministry - Guelph Campus

	2017	2017	2018	2019	2019
	Actual	Budget	Jan-Jun YTD	Budget	Ministry Shares
Receipts					
43100 · Donations (Incl. Receiptable)	20,817	16,990	6,306	11,500	
43130 - CRCNA Resonate	8,000	8,000	9,940	8,000	
43150 - Grants	2,500	2,000	2,500	2,000	
43160 - University	10,000	10,000		10,000	
43180 - Interest Income			54		
43500 · Conferences/Winter Retreat Fees	1,300	2,000	1,060	2,000	
43550 · Ministry shares from Churches	89,337	86,000	73,241	93,000	22.80
43600 - Classis Huron Balance Transfer			4,754		
Total Receipts	131,954	124,990	97,855	126,500	
Disbursements					
610 A - Administration					
61010 - Office Services	10,000	10,000		10,000	
61020 · Fundraising/Partnership	75	1,000	925	1,000	
61030 · Telephone	1,000	600	200	1,200	
61040 · Automobile	996	2,000	223	2,000	
61050 · Liability Insurance	864	900	890	900	
61060 · CRCMA & CCCC Dues	255	200		200	
61070 · Miscellaneous	657	200	286	200	
61080 · Computer/Software/Services	457				
610801 - Website Development					
61100 · Transportation & Parking	471		515		
620 M · Ministry Areas					
62010 · Faith Formation	2,499	3,500	2,168	4,000	
62020 · Hospitality	2,492	1,000	616	1,500	
62030 · Worship	411	1,000	15	1,250	
62040 · Social Justice	25	500	-	500	
62050 · Leadership Development	1,187	2,000	367	2,000	
62060 · Caring/Fellowship			170		
62070 · Conferences					
630 P · Personnel					
63010 · Salaries & Housing	68,648	78,090	33,210	79,350	
63020 · Payroll Expenses/Benefits	18,571	22,000	9,837	20,000	
63030 · Training and Conferences	930	2,000	537	2,400	
63040 · Housing Allowance	15,733		5,619		
Total Disbursements	125,271	124,990	55,578	126,500	

Budget for Classis Huron

For The Year Ending December 31, 2019

Huron Campus Ministry - Waterloo Campus

	2017	2018	2018	2019	2019
	Actual	Budget	Jan-Jun YTD	Budget	Ministry Shares
Receipts					
47000 · Ministry Shares from Churches	97,437	93,000	72,985	93,000	22.80
47100 - CRCNA Resonate	8,100	8,000	4,000	8,000	
47300 · Donations (Incl. Receiptable)	12,488	14,000		14,000	
47305 · Donations - Church Offerings			250		
47400 - Grants			6,384		
475000 - University	10,000	10,000		10,000	
Total Receipts	128,025	125,000	83,619	125,000	
Disbursements					
613 P · Personnel					
61300 · Salaries & Housing	53,160	78,080	27,540	56,182	
61301 · Payroll Expenses/Benefits	19,972	22,000	10,900	22,440	
61307 · Training and Conferences	1,130	1,750	983	1,750	
61311 · Housing Allowance	22,000		11,500	23,000	
633 A · Administration					
63302 · Office Supplies & Expenses	114	250		250	
633021 - Office Services					
633022 - University Services	10,000	10,000		10,000	
633031 - Publicity	500	1,000		1,000	
63306 · Telephone	430	480	160	480	
63316 · Automobile	186	500	503	500	
63317 · Liability Insurance	864	1,000		1,000	
63318 · CRCMA & CCCC Dues	250	400		400	
63323 · Computer/Software/Services	1,610	500	30	500	
633 M · Ministry Areas					
63309 · Faith Formation	124	5,000	607	5,000	
63310 · Hospitality	1,399	1,000	424	1,000	
63312 · Worship		100		100	
63321 · Caring/Fellowship					
63322 · Events	4,741	1,500		1,500	
63324 · Conferences					
Total Disbursements	116,480	123,560	52,647	125,102	

Budget for Classis Huron

For The Year Ending December 31, 2019

Ministry Shares

	2018 Members 4098	2018 Ministry Share Per Member	2019 Members 4079	2019 Ministry Share Per Member	
			Change		% Change
Classis - General Fund		11.10	(1.78)	9.32	-16.04%
Youth Ministry Team		4.77	(0.39)	4.38	-8.18%
Student Fund		10.98	0.05	11.03	0.46%
Huron Campus Ministry					
Guelph Campus		20.99	1.81	22.80	8.62%
Waterloo Campus		22.69	0.11	22.80	0.48%
Classis Home Missions - Church Plants		8.54	0.04	8.58	0.47%
Creative Outreach					
Total		79.07	(0.16) Increase	78.91 (0.16)	-0.20%

2019 Ministry Shares in \$

	2018	Change	2019
Classis - General Fund	45,450	(7,450)	38,000
Youth Ministry Team	19,550	(1,700)	17,850
Student Fund	45,000	-	45,000
Huron Campus Ministry		-	
Guelph Campus	86,000	7,000	93,000
Waterloo Campus	93,000	-	93,000
Classis Home Missions - Church Plants	35,000	-	35,000
Creative Outreach	-	-	-
	324,000	(2,150)	321,850

Budget for Classis Huron

For The Year Ending December 31, 2019

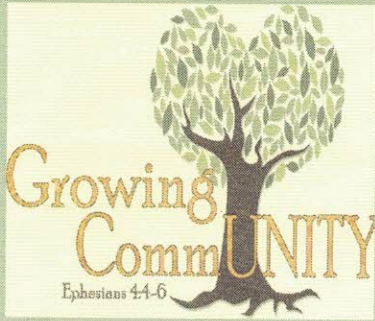
Potential Impact of adding the Mission Catalyzer position:

Ministry Shares

	2018 Members 4098	2018 Ministry Share Per Member	2019 Members 4079	2019 Ministry Share Per Member	
			Change		% Change
Classis - General Fund		11.10	(1.78)	9.32	-16.04%
Youth Ministry Team		4.77	(0.39)	4.38	-8.18%
Student Fund		10.98	0.05	11.03	0.46%
Huron Campus Ministry					
Guelph Campus		20.99	1.81	22.80	8.62%
Waterloo Campus		22.69	0.11	22.80	0.48%
Classis Home Missions - Church Plants		8.54	0.04	8.58	0.47%
Creative Outreach					
Mission Catalyzer				7.73	
Total		79.07	(0.16)	86.64	-0.20%
			Increase	7.57	

2019 Ministry Shares in \$

	2018	Change	2019
Classis - General Fund	39,450	(1,450)	38,000
Youth Ministry Team	18,550	(700)	17,850
Student Fund	45,000	-	45,000
Huron Campus Ministry		-	
Guelph Campus	86,000	7,000	93,000
Waterloo Campus	93,000	-	93,000
Classis Home Missions - Church Plants	35,000	-	35,000
Creative Outreach	-	-	-
		31,500	31,500
	317,000	36,350	353,350



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Bethel Christian Reformed Church

"Growing CommUNITY" Ephesians 4:4-6

August 11'18

Classis Huron,

We the council of Bethel Christian Reformed Church, Listowel, have one more request regarding Bart Eisen. We would like you to issue him a license to exhort in Classis Huron. At the February 2018 Classis meeting, Bart was examined and approved to become a commissioned pastor at Bethel CRC. Since then he has received requests to preach within our Classis. By issuing him a license to exhort he will be more compliant with church order when he accepts these offers to preach. We would like this to proceed at your earliest convenience (September Classis meeting). Please forward to the appropriate committee.

Yours In Christ's Service,

Wil Bakker

Chair of Council, Bethel Christian Reformed Church

Waterloo Campus Ministry // Report to Classis Huron, August 2018
Rev. Brian Bork (bbork@wlu.ca)

Greetings from a soon-to-be-bustling campus in Waterloo! These late summer days always put me in a contemplative mood regarding the campus ministry; I've been reflecting lately on the previous ministry year, and anticipating the opportunities that will come my way starting in September. I thought I'd share a bit of that reflection with you; what follows are some ministry highlights from the past year, and a few thoughts about where the ministry is headed.

Some highlights from the last ministry year:

- In September, we hosted a **Veritas Forum** at U Waterloo. It was a collaborative effort between this ministry and two others: Power To Change (formerly Campus for Christ), and FaithTech, a great local initiative for Christians in the tech sector. We invited **Dr. Matthew Dickerson**, a professor of Computer Science from Middlebury College in Vermont, as our keynote speaker. Dr. Dickerson participated in two events: in an afternoon session, he spoke about the mythological and theological roots of JRR Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, insightfully illustrating how the Christian story deeply informs that work. In an evening session, Dr. Dickerson participated in a discussion/debate with Dr. Jeff Orchard, a local professor, on the question "**Is the Mind a Machine?**" About 100 folks turned out for that lively conversation. This was the fifth Veritas Forum I've participated in on campus.
- In November I spent a weekend with three students at the **Leadership Studio** in **Muskoka Woods**. The Studio is an excellent organization created to help people discover and develop their gifts for leadership. Its core convictions are rooted deeply in the Gospel. For the past two years, this November weekend retreat has been organized for young adults by the CRC's Faith Formation ministry, and I'm hoping that this will become a yearly tradition for the campus ministry. The students I brought with me relished the opportunity to get away from campus for a weekend to spend some time with other young adults reflecting on the ways God has called them.
- I enjoyed many lively discussions at **Fermented Faith**, which is the pub discussion group the ministry hosts at Laurier each week. Every Monday afternoon, 10-15 students gather to munch on **nachos** and **reflect on aspects of faith and university life**. We'll often throw a topic out for discussion at the beginning of the event, though occasionally we'll spend a few weeks on a thematically-related series. This year, we've reflected on the theological implications of procrastination, of the possibilities/limits of churches making themselves attractive to outsiders, on the tv show *Stranger Things*, on free speech and campus crises, on how we should treat the creative work of people who've done awful things, and on and on and on.
- Once a month 12 to 15 students gather at **Knox Presbyterian** in UpTown Waterloo for our **Collective Kitchen** program. We cook up big batches of food to take home and eat throughout the month, and we close out the evening with a shared meal, too. Collective Kitchen really seems to attract graduate students, including many who don't really have any church background or experience. Over the three years we've been hosting this program, I've been able to develop a closer relationship with Knox church itself. I was blessed to preach there (and to share about CRC Campus Ministry) in November, to speak at their student ministry **Food for Thought** in January, and we've been discussing a couple other projects, too. Ecumenical collaboration is a big part of what I do, and I'm grateful for this deepening relationship.
- At the **Breakfast Book Club**, UW and Laurier faculty discussed Rod Dreher's *The Benedict Option*, Alan Jacobs' *How To Think: A Survival Guide for a World At Odds*, and Marilyn McEntyre's *Caring for Words in a Culture of Lies*. The books all explore the possibilities for Christians to be salt, light, and a faithful presence in a world that's politically agitated and fraught with cynicism and despair.

- In collaboration with a few people from **Conrad Grebel**, the Mennonite college at UW, I've been part of a monthly **Taizé Worship** event on campus. Our first service attracted nearly 70 people to the Grebel chapel, a mixture of on-campus and off-campus folks. Taizé is a wonderfully slow, meditative kind of worship, the perfect antidote for a frenetic social-media and smartphone-dominated life. In the winter term, we held the services on Sunday afternoons in the basement the **Brubacher House**, one of the oldest buildings on campus and in Waterloo. It's a 168 year-old farmhouse with a giant hearth, room for lots of candles, and the singing sounds lovely reverberating off the old fieldstone walls.
- On the first Friday of the month, Amanda and I open up our house for **Friday Night Dinners**. We invite young adults from **Community CRC**, **Waterloo CRC**, and students from the campus ministry to join us for a home-cooked meal. We have a small house, but we usually have 15 folks around the dinner table, feasting on Baked Ziti and sharing stories. Ministry is about education and discipleship and prayer and Bible study, but I think it's also about inviting people — especially transient people who are often far from home — into a warm household to hang out with a toddler and a dog, too.
- I've been blessed to have a **mentoring relationship with three students at Laurier**. We meet one on one weekly for conversation, book discussion, and prayer. These meetings are the highlight of my week. It's a gift to be able to enter into the lives of these young men, to help nourish their faith, and help them see where God is leading them. I have to work hard to keep up with them! They often bring questions that I have no idea how to answer, but there's tremendous reward in doing some deep exploring with them.
- In the winter term, 7-10 of us met **each Friday morning for prayers** in the Chaplains' Office at UW. The group/program grew out of some conversations I'd had with students over the fall term, and I've got a feeling it might bloom into something bigger and better next year. The goal of the event was to create a quiet space where we could talk to God and to each other about our struggles and our celebrations, and it was neat to see the way the group started to feel more comfortable as the term went on. We always met at 9am, and sang and prayed for 45 minutes. Afterward there was coffee and croissants, and students would often stick around until noon.
- Over the past year or so, I've been feeling the need to reach out to churches some more and share with them some of the good fruit of the university. In early April, I hosted the first (of a series, hopefully) **Head & Heart Lecture** at Community CRC in Kitchener. I invited Milton Friesen, a PhD candidate in Urban Planning at UW and a fellow at Cardus, to give the talk. I prayed 50 people would show up, and 50 people did! (I should've been more audacious and prayed for more!). The crowd got to hear an accessible talk by a scholar who has one foot in the academy and one foot in the "real" world, and I received lots of encouraging feedback, especially from folks who were hungry for this sort of thing, and who miss their university days.

Some reflections on the road ahead:

My son Jakob was born on the last day of June! As with our first born, Amanda and I are sharing the parental leave. I'll be taking leave in December 2018, until the end of May, 2019. Last time, my leave occurred over the summer term, which is usually a much quieter time for the ministry. This time, it'll happen concurrently with the winter term, which will be a new challenge for the life of the ministry. A new opportunity, too, I think: I'm hoping the gap might provide some space before kicking off something new on the campuses in Waterloo.

The Classis' Waterloo Campus Ministry committee has been talking in earnest lately about expanding the staffing in the ministry. Things are still in a dream stage, but we're hoping to bring them down to earth over the next few months. There's a load of reasons for expanding the staff here, and what follows is a quick sketch of why we think it's prudent at this time to work toward doing so:

- Waterloo Campus Ministry serves **two campuses with over 50,000 students**, plus faculty and staff, and very different campus cultures. A team approach would better serve these two campuses.
- In today's culture, there cannot be enough emphasis on the **need for diversity in institutional settings**. Team ministry would allow for greater diversity of gender, ethnicity, etc., in leadership.
- The **fruit borne by team ministry is well-demonstrated in congregations and agencies that have moved to this model**. Team ministry and collaboration multiplies capacity, provides mutual accountability, and establishes deeper support. It seems apparent that this model is the future of ministry, and would bring **significant rejuvenation** to an already successful ministry.
- It makes sense to invest more personnel into campus ministry. **Campus ministry is something that we do well, both as a denomination and as a Classis**. Campus ministry serves as a **bridge** that mutually benefits both the campus and the church. It serves the campus by bringing the **good news of the Gospel, discipleship and mentoring, pastoral care, and a Reformed understanding of vocation** for students who are discerning their future. It serves the church by operating as an **experimental laboratory** for ministry, exploring how to do ministry in a secular, pluralistic, multicultural setting with ecumenical partners.
- Both the Waterloo Campus Ministry committee and the **Classis Huron Ministry Plan** have identified the expansion of campus ministry as a prioritized goal.

There's a lot more to say about this plan. A lot more to pray about too! We intend to do so earnestly this fall, and welcome your feedback and insight. Stay tuned for more.

Classis Huron has faithfully and generously supported a campus ministry in Waterloo for ~45 years! I've been here for ten of those now. I'm eagerly anticipating where God will lead this faithful outpost of his kingdom in the years to come. Many thanks to the churches of Classis Huron for their support!

In Christ,
Rev. Brian Bork

Classis Huron Safe Church Team Report, September 19, 2018

Mandate: The Classis Huron Safe Church Team is mandated to:

1. To function as an ART (Abuse Response Team) according to synodical guidelines.
2. To provide comprehensive and ongoing education.
3. To provide support to our churches in the prevention of, and response to abuse.

To fulfil such a mandate, your Classical Safe Church Team meets 3-times per year in order to share information, plan for the annual conference, and help any local Safe Church Team or congregation if the need arises.

The CHSCT is missing representation from Collingwood CRC, and Kitchener The Journey. We would certainly encourage these churches to seek a representative to join the CHSCT. We are thankful for Carolyn VanderZwaag who has agreed to be the Safe Church Team's representative for the Cambridge Maranatha CRC.

Abuse is on-going as evidenced by the issues of sexual harassment and assault which have been much in the news over the last year. Victims have been empowered to tell their stories and we know that the church is not immune from such realities. You are invited to read story as told by the Washington Post. "Rachael Denhollander's college-aged abuser began grooming her when she was 7." For more of the story go to:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/posteverything/wp/2018/05/31/feature/the-epidemic-of-denial-about-sexual-abuse-in-the-evangelical-church>

In the face of it all we need to continue to ask ourselves some questions like: Would victims feel safe to come forward with a story in your congregation? Would your council know what to do if someone were to come forward with a story of "me too"? If you wonder how to respond we would encourage you to <https://www.crcna.org/SafeChurch> and follow the links to "Responding to Abuse – A Toolkit for Churches".

Safe Church is getting a new employee in Canada. We're so excited and blessed to have Miriam Spies begin work on July 31, working 10 hours/week for Safe Church Ministry and 20 hours/week for Disability Concerns. She is an amazing person and we are so looking forward to working with her.

Also, a reminder of the upcoming Abuse Awareness Sunday on September 23. Information has been sent out by the office of Abuse Prevention to all congregations with ideas and suggestions on how to make this a meaningful service.

Your classical team is working now already on the next **Annual Interclassis Safe Church Conference** scheduled for March 2, 2019 at the Waterloo CRC. The theme of the conference will be "Oh no, it happened here, now what?". Further details will follow.

Synod 2018 made some significant decisions concerning Safe Church matters that we would like to reiterate to the churches of classis. We would also encourage the churches of Classis Huron to take these matters seriously and adapt local policies and practices to reflect the denominational positions. They are as follows:

1. That synod reaffirm the action it took in response to the Abuse Victims Task Force (Agenda for Synod 2010, pp. 475-509; Acts of Synod 2010, pp. 862-66) and instruct the Executive Director to continue allocating resources to provide support for pastoral care and healing.
2. That synod also reaffirm the five goals that were approved by Synod 2014 (Agenda for Synod 2014, pp. 237; Acts of Synod 2014, pp. 559-60) to guide Safe Church Ministry, namely
 - A. Each church has implemented a written safe church/abuse prevention policy.
 - B. Each church includes abuse prevention in its church school and youth education. Programs such as Circle of Grace, which teach positive respect in relationships, are recommended.
 - C. Each church has protocols in place for responding to misconduct and is aware of the recommended "Guidelines for Handling Allegations of Abuse against a Church Leader" approved by Synod 2010.
 - D. Abuse is acknowledged as an important issue and can be freely discussed.
 - E. Leadership at all levels is supportive of Safe Church Ministry, and each church is represented on a Classis Safe Church Team.
3. That synod instruct the Executive Director to have Safe Church Ministry report annually through the Council of Delegates to synod regarding the number and names of classes with and without Safe Church teams, and the number of congregations with and without Safe Church teams and policies.
4. That synod lament the ongoing failure of some classes and congregations to implement Safe Church practices, and encourages all classes and congregations to learn from the best practices of others, and utilize the resources available through Safe Church Ministry.
5. That synod instruct the Council of Delegates, in consultation with the Executive Director, to appoint a small team to bring recommendations through the Council of Delegates to Synod 2019 regarding how the CRCNA can best address the patterns of abuse of power at all levels of the denomination.

Atie Ott – chair

Carel Geleynse - secretary

Classis Huron Report – September 19, 2018

Submitted by Peter Bulthuis, Associate Director of Church Relations

In Christ's parable of the sheep and the goats in Matt. 25, "the righteous (will) answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" (vs. 37 – 40).

Thank you, Classis Huron, for your loving church donations of a total of \$211,932.83 from January 1, 2018 to July 1, 2018, partnering with World Renew in helping to feed, to clothe, to look after, to visit, to lift up and to support.

A. General Update

The Jeremy Benjamin cross-country I AM NOT MY OWN tour! Check out his website: iamnotmyown.org. Jeremy and his family have been travelling from Charlottetown to Victoria/Nanaimo from June 3 – end of October (bypassing southern Ontario, where he will hold his tour during the winter-time). The [blog](#) that Lara is writing is just amazing! The tour will culminate in May of 2019 at the CRC National Gathering, where he will be the worship leader, playing the I Am Not My Own audience/congregation-sung tracks which he will have gathered during his tour and lumped onto each other to create a virtual choir of over 10,000 voices! World Renew is supporting this worship and fund-raising tour with logistical and other forms of assistance. Among other things, Jeremy is raising funds and awareness for the work of World Renew and CFGB in Nigeria, in the areas of food security, peace building and justice, trauma healing, and development.

B. Upcoming Offering Dates

Here are World Renew's upcoming offering dates for the rest of 2018, as approved by Synod.

Thanksgiving, Oct. 8: Designated for the Free A Family® program, in which the donations help assist communities and families to break free from poverty and to live a life of renewed hope in Christ.

Sunday, Nov. 4: World Renew is inspired by the knowledge that Jesus, the Life of the world who grants abundant life to all who believe in Him, sustains His creation and is making everything new. For that reason, the theme for this year's World Hunger Campaign is UZIMA, the Swahili word for life that captures the essence of life as Jesus intended it to be.

Christmas Day, Dec. 25: Disaster response, development and peace-building and justice are the hallmarks of the core activities through which World Renew partners with communities worldwide. Your church's offering on this Christmas Day will help 1000s of people experience the love, mercy and grace of Christ.

C. Community Development: Stories of Transformation

There are many(!) stories of transformation in which World renew plays a part. This is one of them; from Honduras. (please, do wander through the website for more stories: www.worldrenew.net/stories).

When you think of a hardworking farmer, you may not think of a stay-at-home mother with seven children, but Pilar Martinez from Cañada Galana, Honduras, is both. She has her own plot of land that she works with the help of her husband to provide enough food for their five daughters and two sons. Though she works hard with great motivation, she has had her share of struggles in the past.

For farmers, grain storage is essential, but Pilar did not have an efficient way to store her seeds and grains. They often got wet and rotted, or were invaded by insects and mice. The seeds she planted, which



very season, resulted in poor yields. And, although she knew a sustainable farming practices.

World Renew and its partner organization, Diaconía Nacional, join in and has not looked back. "Since the beginning of the," she says. She now has a grain storage silo and is able to with bugs and rodents or losing it to mold and rot. She has access old. And, best of all, Pilar now has training in proper use of the of seed; and sustainable practices like using mulch as ground post.

as seen more success as a farmer. The silo allows her to store she knows how to harvest seeds from what she produces each seeds annually. Her crops are benefiting from the new es and she is enjoying higher yields.

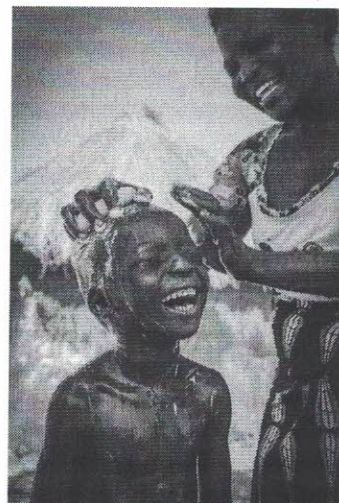
Pilar also recognizes changes in her own confidence and abilities. "In many cases," she says "I have been able to face different situations head on because I now have much more knowledge."

D. Disaster Response

Update International: Bangladesh (Rohingya): As you may know, we met the goal of \$100,000 for the *One Day's Wages* campaign to build community kitchens for Rohingya refugees. This is incredibly helpful as it allows our response to Rohingya refugees to continue. We're in the process of strategic planning for how best to move forward with future projects. August 25 marked the 1-year of the break out of violence against the Rohingya people by the Myanmar government. While we don't have any big updates planned, World Renew appreciates all that you as churches and individuals have done to help share about this enormous need over the last year.

Uganda (Latrines): The campaign for building latrines for South Sudanese refugees in Uganda is still ongoing, and we're excited at how things have been going so far. As of right now, we're at about \$65,000. Our goal was \$100,000 - so we're excited to see how close we'll get.

Syrian Civil War: We continue to provide food assistance every month to Syrian families in both Syria and Lebanon affected by the war. Since the Syrian war began (2012), we have received \$3.0 million in donations, which has been leveraged and matched to total \$16.3 million in support to over 204,000 people! *International Disaster Response* is necessarily fluid. For updates, please see www.worldrenew.net/idr



Update Domestic: Canada:

In British Columbia, World Renew (DRS) is:

- Partnering with Mennonite Disaster Services, World Renew DRS volunteers are in William's Lake repairing homes damaged by 2017 wildfires.
- Providing financial support to build new homes for three families who lost their homes to 2017 wildfires.
- Monitoring the wildfires currently burning across BC.

In Ontario, World Renew (DRS) is:

- Monitoring the wildfires in Northern Ontario.

Update Domestic: United States:

In California, World renew (DRS) is currently involved in these ways:

- Wildfires are burning throughout the state, covering over 230,000 acres. World Renew DRS has been on daily conference calls to monitor the situation.
- A needs assessment will take place in Santa Rosa/Sonoma County in September in response to past wildfires.

-There is a one week group in Lake County this month helping with some home repairs from past wildfires and caring for evacuees of the current wildfires.

....and working in 14 states and Puerto Rico with monitoring, needs assessments, rebuilding.

Disaster Response is necessarily fluid. For updates, see www.worldrenew.net/disaster-response-services.

E. Refugee Settlement Activities, January 1/18 to August 20/18 in your Classis:

Applications Submitted – 1 application (1 refugee) submitted by 1 church.

Newcomer Arrivals – None.

Applications in Process, Submitted before Jan. 1 / 18 – 6 applications (20 refugees) in process for 4 churches.

Totals for Canada:

Applications Submitted – 30 applications (84 refugees) submitted by 18 churches.

Newcomer Arrivals – 25 applications / 71 refugees welcomed by 14 churches.

Applications in Process, Submitted before Jan. 1/18 – 43 applications (98 refugees) for 21 churches.

F. What else can the people and the churches of Classis Huron do?

There are so many ways in which you can participate, to which the King can reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

- Learn about the **Global Engagement Opportunities** program and see how your church can become involved at <https://www.worldrenew.net/global-engagement-opportunities-churches>
- Check with your church or group, to see if a World Renew workshop/speaker would fit into your/their plans: <https://worldrenew.net/speakers-and-workshops>.
- Increase your church's involvement in justice and advocacy: <https://www.worldrenew.net/advocacy>.
- Tell your network about World Renew; suggest that they sign up for the newsletter: <https://www.worldrenew.net/enews>.

Contact Peter Bulthuis (pbulthuis@worldrenew.net; 800-730-3490, ext. 4237), or Chris Orme (corne@worldrenew.net, ext. 4319) for more ideas on how we can help you achieve your ministry objectives. To learn more about World Renew's ministry and/or to sign up for our regular newsletter, please visit www.worldrenew.net.

Blessings,



Peter Bulthuis, Church Relations



*Relying on the Holy Spirit, Diaconal Ministries Canada exists to
Inspire, Empower and Equip Deacons, as they
animate congregations to join in God's transforming work in communities across Canada.*

Diaconal Ministries Canada Fall Report to Classis

August 1, 2018

Dear partner of Diaconal Ministries Canada,

Warmest greetings to you, your church and your Classis!

As you likely know, I have been the National Director of Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) for two years now – and it really has been a pleasure to serve the church in this way. During those two years however, I have noticed that there is some confusion regarding how DMC is funded and how our annual “Ministry Shares Invoices” came to be, so I have decided to dedicate this report to answering those questions.

First, it's important to point out that Diaconal Ministry Shares (formerly “Dues”) are not the same as *Denominational* or *Classical* Ministry Shares. In a nutshell, Diaconal Ministry Shares are part of the agreement that **Canadian** Deacons made with each other in the 1960s and recommitted themselves to in 2001 when representatives from every CRC Classis (and/or Diaconal Conference) in Canada met and approved the organization of DMC. Each year the DMC Board, made up of representatives from every Canadian Classis, reviews and approves the amount – and each year these amounts, along with audited financial statements, are presented at DMC's Annual General Meeting. (As an important side note, this year's AGM will take place on September 28 @ 7:30pm EST in the CRCNA Burlington office – and, for the first time, Deacons will also be able to participate via Facebook live. Stay tuned for more information!)

Still not sure what we're talking about? Here's a bit more history:

Believe it or not, all of this goes back to the 1950s. That's right – we've dug through our archives and discovered that the first “Diaconal Conferences” were formed and hosted meetings (organized *by* deacons *for* deacons) in the late 1950's. From the Maritimes to British Columbia, deacons formed “conferences” and met to share experiences and resources, develop workshops and training events, and find ways to assist each other and their congregations. These meetings were so popular that at one point there were as many as 10 different CRC Diaconal organizations (called Conferences) across Canada. **And our records show that in each region these Conferences were funded via a “Ministry Share” style of dues collection.** That is, already back then, Canadian Deacons covenanted together to pay a ‘per professing member’ amount to support their Conferences.

Over time, and with the help of the Canadian arm of the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC, now known as World Renew), the number of Diaconal Conferences expanded and contracted as the various local organizations merged and/or folded. Then one day, in 1998, at a Classis Renewal Gathering in Chicago, Canadian folks representing the various Diaconal Conferences, along with representatives from Home Missions (now Resonate Global Mission) and CRWRC, met over lunch and began dreaming about pooling their Diaconal experiences, resources and training materials nationally. They dreamed about forming a Diaconal “umbrella” organization which would oversee the training of deacons right across Canada. Soon the napkins on that table (the only paper they had available) were filled with circles, triangles and arrows pointing from east to west and west to east. Leaders' names were written in the various provinces and before long, a committee was formed with hope that one day their dreaming would evolve into reality.

It was an exciting time and, after a few more years of discussions (and maybe some more napkin drawings), all of the individual conferences (except one in Northern Alberta) were merged and in 2001, Diaconal Ministries Canada



was formally constituted. DMC soon hired a National Director as well as other staff, and began organizing training materials, a robust website and timely regional events. At the same time, ***the funding model which had served each regional conference so well for so many years was approved to be adopted by the national organization.*** So, in reality, this model has now been in place since the 1960s.

Over the years, this way of funding has proven to be a very stewardly and cost-effective way to ensure that DMC is able to fulfill its mission. Through these ministry shares (aka "dues"), DMC has been able to do the following:

- Hire a National Director and 2 full-time regional leaders, along with 17 part-time Diaconal Ministry Developers (DMDs) whose job it is to *Inspire, Empower and Equip Deacons as they animate congregations to join in God's transforming work in the communities across Canada*;
- Make personal contact with approximately 90% of diaconates every year;
- Develop new materials as requested, including devotions for deacons' meetings;
- Develop and maintain a robust website with resources available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The website includes information in the areas of *Community Engagement and Development* (including Community Opportunity Scans and Operation Manna Coaching and Grants), *Stewardship, Justice and Mercy*;
- Provide a monthly blog/e-newsletter called "e-Quip";
- Maintain a "just in time" learning presence on Social Media;
- Provide regional training in specialized areas as requested (including "Helping Without Harming" workshops);
- Provide oversight, advice and trainers for regional Days of Encouragement;
- Respond to every request it receives for information, encouragement and training.

I hope the above information has helped you understand how DMC is funded and how it manages to maintain its robust agenda. All in all, Diaconal Ministry Shares is a remarkably efficient system, with low overhead costs. It enables every CRC member in Canada to stretch their dollars further, and be involved in a variety of diaconal ministries more effectively and efficiently than any of us could do on our own. So, thank you! Thank you for partnering with us in fulfilling the vision which God has given us to inspire, equip and encourage Deacons (both ordained and non-ordained), churches and their partners across Canada as **together** we join in God's transforming work. Thank you for your time, your prayers, and your financial support – we could not do this without you.

For more information, please call us at the Burlington office (1-800-730-3490 ext. 4304) or contact one of the board members listed below. You can also visit our website www.diaconalministriescanada.com to become familiar with the vast array of resources available. Thanks again, and may God continue to bless and guide us all, as we carry out the ministries He calls us to.

DMC's Executive for 2017-18:

Chair – Erica Snippe-Juurakko (Thunder Bay, ON)
Vice-Chair – Martin Slofstra (Toronto, ON)
Secretary – Norm Hasyema (Leduc, AB)
Treasurer – Scott Plante (Hamilton, ON)

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Respectfully submitted:

ron vanden brink
National Director, Diaconal Ministries Canada



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 1, 2018

ANCASTER DAY OF ENCOURAGEMENT RETIRED

Burlington, ON/August 1, 2018 — In its early days, the Day of Encouragement (DOE) hosted by Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) each fall in Ancaster, ON, was designed with deacons in mind: a time to gather for worship, learning, and sharing best practices. It was also an opportune time to hold DMC's Annual General Meeting in order that deacons from across Canada could own and affirm the work of DMC.

Over the years, the annual Ancaster DOE evolved, offering a variety of themes and workshops to equip not only deacons, but other church and parachurch leaders as well. However, in recent years, the numbers had begun to wane significantly. Across Canada "mini DOEs" were initiated, usually within a particular Classis, in order to gather more local diaconates for a day of learning and networking. DMC Staff and partners typically became involved in these smaller gatherings in order to help train and resource deacons. All in all, it felt as though the time had come to re-evaluate the Ancaster DOE: to affirm its purpose and determine its significance to deacons across Canada.

After a year of careful evaluation and review involving DMC partners, stakeholders, staff and beyond, the decision has been made to no longer offer the annual Ancaster DOE.

Moving Forward

Please know that DMC remains committed to its mandate to inspire, empower and equip deacons as they animate their churches to join in God's transforming work in communities across Canada. For churches and Classes who wish to hold a local DOE, resources are available on the DMC website, and our staff is ready and eager to help you plan and prepare timely and relevant events. Some exciting new plans are being developed as well – please stay tuned for more information! In all of this, as always, we

Redeemer University College
Report to Classis Huron of the Christian Reformed Church: Fall 2018

At Redeemer, growth in Christ and education go hand-in-hand, fostering Christian leaders who make an impact in a rapidly changing world. This fall, the Redeemer community will continue to consider how we can offer ourselves wholeheartedly to God, waiving our conditions and saying, "Here I am." These words, taken from Exodus 3:4, are the theme on campus for the year.

As we consider the opportunities to serve that God has in store for us, we are also encouraged by God's faithfulness to Redeemer and his work through our students, faculty and alumni. Redeemer hit a number of milestones in 2017 and 2018, which we had opportunity to reflect on in our digital annual report, available at redeemer.ca/annual-report.

It is exciting to share with you, first, news of two new university leaders, who will begin their service in the 2018-19 academic year. Dr. Robert J. Graham has been appointed as the university's fourth president and officially starts on August 13. Graham, who holds a PhD in sociology from the University of Cincinnati and a Master of Gerontological Studies from Miami University, brings to Redeemer ten years of experience in senior leadership at two Christian universities. Learn more about Graham's appointment at redeemer.ca/redeemer-names-fourth-president.

Dr. Karen Dieleman has been named dean of humanities and also comes to Redeemer with a great deal of experience in Christian higher education. As a full professor of English, she currently holds three academic leadership roles at Trinity Christian College in Chicago: chair of the English department, area chair of the humanities and chair of Trinity's personnel committee. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Dieleman to campus in January 2019.

This summer, we celebrated these appointments and noted another significant milestone for the institution: the university has now launched all of its 2020 Strategic Plan initiatives. Together these initiatives — including the new Core curriculum, Centre for Christian Scholarship, Media and Communication Studies program, Centre for Experiential Learning and Careers and Urban and Intercultural program — are renewing Redeemer's academic program, raising the university's profile and securing a stable financial foundation for the future.

Redeemer's Centre for Experiential Learning and Careers (CELC), for example, has now met its 2017 launch goal and tripled the number of co-op programs that Redeemer offers. While supporting ten internship opportunities in a variety of programs, the career centre has established co-op programs in Kinesiology and in the new Urban and Intercultural Ministry program.

The Re Campaign, which funds the 2020 Strategic Plan, is nearing its \$20 million goal with over \$17.5 million raised. Thanks also to our generous campaign donors, Redeemer's long-term debt is now at \$18.6 million, down from over \$30 million in 2010. A reduction in interest expenses on long-term debt also frees up capital to invest back into the university — keeping the academic program relevant and tuition affordable.

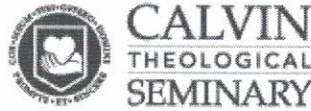
In addition to the initiatives of the 2020 Strategic Plan, Redeemer has expanded and renewed its health and life sciences labs and offered an intensive summer research fellowship for high school students. During the fellowship this past August, grade 11 and 12 students unpacked real-world questions in chemistry and the health sciences alongside Redeemer sciences faculty

and undergraduate students. At the end of the week, each group of student researchers had the opportunity to present their findings. The 16 high school students left the fellowship with practical lab skills, a deeper understanding of what it means to study science as a Christian and new connections with Christians in the sciences. It was a pleasure to be able to invest in these high school students as they prepare to make an impact as Christian leaders in the sciences.

For churches and ministry teams in particular, Redeemer kicks off the Pastor/Professor Exchange series on October 16. With events offered twice per year, the series brings pastors and Redeemer professors together to learn from one another. Each event will feature a keynote on topics important to church leaders, congregations and the classroom. Learn more about the inaugural October 16 event and the series at redeemer.ca/pastor-prof-exchange and see all upcoming Redeemer events at redeemer.ca/events.

As we look forward to what the coming academic year will bring, we are so grateful for the Christian Reformed Church's faithful financial support to Redeemer. Church members who believe in our mission continue to make a lasting impact on our students.

David Zietsma, PhD
Vice President, External Relations and Enrolment



Calvin Theological Seminary Communication Points – July 2018 Update

Commencement 2018: May 19, 2018, was a historic day for Calvin Seminary. On that day, we honored 60 graduates who received diplomas recognizing their work in programs ranging from certificate programs to the Ph.D. level. Six students received either a Certificate in Latino Ministry or a Certificate in Family Care through our Latino Ministry program where all courses are taught in Spanish. In addition, ten graduates earned their degree primarily through distance education.

As a global seminary, we were blessed with graduates coming from the following 12 countries: Canada, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, South Korea, and the United States.

From Across the Globe to Learn Together: August 20 is the date of International Student Orientation and it will reflect again how Calvin Seminary is a global seminary. Our incoming class has students entering from Brazil, China Indonesia, South Korea as well as Canada and the United States. We invite prayers for these international students as well as for all other students new to CTS this year or continuing their programs of study. The formal beginning of our new academic year will occur with Convocation on Wednesday, September 5, with Rev. Scott Hoezee (Director of the Center for Excellence in Preaching) marking the 143rd year of ministry service for Calvin Seminary from her beginning in 1876.

This academic year will also take place in the context of the 400th Commemoration Anniversary of the Synod of Dordrecht (1618-1619). Calvin College and Calvin Seminary are hosting a Canons of Dort conference on September 14-15, 2018. Dr. Karin Maag, the Director of the Meeter Center, editor of the Calvin Theological Journal and author of the book – Does the Reformation Still Matter? is organizing this conference.

Serving Latino/a Leaders Through Two New Online Courses in Spanish: In the fall, Dr. Mariano Avila will teach a completely online course in Spanish on Ephesians, followed by an Old Testament course, also in Spanish, in the spring. Online courses allow persons to live, work and minister where they are, while receiving a Calvin Seminary education through a cohort-based class model. Until now, our online and hybrid courses were only available in English. Institutional support allows us to offer the Spanish language courses at a significant discount. Register for these masters level courses by going to www.calvinseminary.edu/espanol

Loving Your Neighbor Conference: Ministry Among Migrants, Immigrants and Refugees: Two years ago, Calvin Seminary held a “Loving Your Neighbor” conference that was well received by those who attended or later viewed sessions. This summer, July 30-August 1, the conference returns with a focus on ministry among migrants, immigrants and refugees. Dr. Paul Lim from Vanderbilt University will be our keynote speaker, and will be joined by other prominent thinkers, including Dr. Matt Kaemingk who will share from his latest book, Christian Hospitality and Muslim Immigration in an Age of Fear. To still register, visit

calvinseminary.edu/neighbor We do anticipate that after the event that many of these presentations will be made available via video and even future Forum articles.

Why Attend a Seminary? Why Attend Calvin Theological Seminary? New Forum Issue!

What does it mean to be called to ministry? How does a seminary equip people for that calling? How do we connect the church and the classroom together in training leaders of the church? Those questions and more are the theme of a special edition of the Forum, a semi-annual magazine that addresses questions and themes being discussed at the local church by providing theological content and insights. The summer/fall 2018 issue will focus on the theme of “Church Discipline”. Browse archived versions of the Forum at <http://www.calvinseminary.edu/ministry-connections/publications/forum-archive/>

Center for Excellence in Preaching (CEP) – Not Just for Preachers! For thirteen years the Center for Excellence in Preaching, directed by Rev. Scott Hoezee, has sponsored seminars and workshops to help preachers and parishioners in their ministry. The CEP website is a wonderful resource to hear good sermons, find insights on Bible passages, and identify good books to read. While geared toward pastors, the site can be beneficial to anyone in the church. The site has had a recent spike in traffic. Through the first four months in 2018, we averaged 18,500 different visitors per month, had 125,000 visits overall, and saw over half a million pages of materials downloaded. Why not check it out yourself and see why the CEP website receives, on average, over 1,000 visits every day! <http://cep.calvinseminary.edu/>

Retirement of Professor Michael Williams: A few weeks before commencement, Dr. Michael Williams shared a “Last Chapel” as part of his retirement. His reflections were consistent with a life that loves the Word of God and desired to teach it well to the next generation. You can watch this presentation by going to <http://www.calvinseminary.edu/2018/05/03/professor-michael-williams-last-chapel/>

Please join us in giving thanks for Dr. Michael Williams’ years of faithful service to Calvin Theological Seminary (1995-2018) as Professor of Old Testament.

New Podcasts: We recently launched a new way for people to connect with the conversations at Calvin Seminary – our own podcasts. Please share the news and you can find out more by going to <http://resoundpodcast.com/episodes/>

Financial Outlook: We are blessed with looking back on a positive year for the budget of 2017-2018, but knowing that we are looking for our annual formation fund budget of needs beyond ministry shares of \$1.6 million dollars. We are deeply grateful for the faithful churches and individuals who invest their stewardship dollars in training and forming leaders for Christ’s church.

Prayer Request: Please continue praying for Calvin Seminary as we begin our 143rd academic year of study, welcoming students from around the world who have chosen Calvin Seminary for its hospitable learning community as well as biblical and theological depth of study!