

# AGENDA

for CLASSIS HURON of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Drayton CRC.**

**88 Main St E, Drayton, ON.**

---

## *C.O. Article 39*

A classis is a group of Christian Reformed churches that come together to:

- **seek, discern, and submit** to God's will;
- offer one another mutual **support** and **accountability**;
- find ways to **live out** a collective calling within their region;
- and allow for a healthy and sustained **connection** to the wider denomination.

---

<b>Officers of the day:</b>	Chair:	Rev. Martin Dam (Stratford CRC)
	Vice-Chair	Rev. Bart Eisen (Maitland River, Wingham)
	Stated Clerk	Mr. Fred Vander Sterre (Blyth CRC)
<b>Devotions &amp; Prayer:</b>	Opening	Drayton CRC
	Pre-lunch prayer	Collingwood CRC
	Post-lunch prayer	Lucknow Community CRC
	Closing	Rev. Bart Eisen
<b>Committees for the Day:</b>	Credentials	Palmerston CRC & Collingwood CRC
	Overture	Bethel, Acton CRC & Bethel Listowel CRC
	Balloting	Drayton & Trinity, Goderich.

---

**Welcome, new pastors:**

**Guests:**

- Isaac Stell – Redeemer University
- Chris Orme / Chidi Nwene – World Renew
- Tony Kamphuis – Calvin University
- Josh Sweetman – Canadian National Gathering
- Roshani Morton – Director of Advancement, Canada

**Synodical Deputies:**

- Rev. Phil Apol (Classis Ontario Southwest)
- Rev. Richard Grift (Classis Toronto)
- Rev. Michael Bootsma (Classis Hamilton)

## Schedule for the February 18, 2026, session of Classis Huron

Timeline	Report/Item	Presenter/Reporter	Doc #
8:30-9:00	Registration and fellowship		
9:00	<b>Art. 1 Welcome and Introduction:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome/Announcements</li> <li>Attendance Summary (credentials) Cornerstone CRC is requesting permission to send delegates to the sessions of classis.</li> <li>Covenant of Office Bearers</li> <li>Declaration of Conflicts of Interest</li> <li>Declaration of Classis Huron Constituted</li> <li>Classis Huron Primer</li> <li>The executive for the day takes the chair</li> </ul>	Drayton CRC Credentials Committee	1 1.1  1.2  1.3
9:10	<b>Art. 2 Opening Worship</b>	Drayton CRC	
9:30	<b>Art. 3 Round Table Discussion</b> Based on the Classis Huron Ministry Plan	Rev. Sid Couperus	3
10:30	<b>Snack break</b>		
10:45	<b>Art. 4 CMC Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Motion:</b> to acknowledge that Rev. William Steele can't be a CRC minister anymore, as he is no longer a member of the CRC.</li> <li>- <b>Motion:</b> based on legal advice:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We follow the decision of synod, affirm the Covenant for Office Bearers at every classis meeting.</li> <li>• The delegates of churches that are under suspension will have no voting rights at this time.</li> <li>• Individuals (delegates) who cannot affirm the Covenant for Office Bearers will not have voting rights.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>This is to take effect at the May 20 classis meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Motion:</b> to nominate Sharon Van Kampen (Bethel, Listowel CRC) as alternate stated clerk.</li> <li>- The Canadian Wide Gathering being presented by Classis Quinte (under church order Article 44) be concluded as inviable.</li> <li>- Cornerstone CRC letter               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Motion</b> to approve the actions of CMC &amp; AdCom.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	AdCom Member	4.1  4.2.1 4.2.2      4.3  4.4

floaters	<b>Art. 5 Guests:</b> Dave Den Haan – Thrive video (3.5 min) Josh Sweetman – Canadian National Gathering (5-7 min) Isaac Stell – Stewardship & Impact Specialist, Redeemer University (10 min) Chris Orme – World Renew (7 min) Tony Kamphuis – Calvin University (10 min)		5.1    5.4 5.5
	<b>Art. 6 Diaconal Story &amp; Diaconal Ministries Canada</b>	Mary Blydorp	6.1 6.2
	<b>Pre-Lunch Prayer</b>	Collingwood CRC	
	<b>Lunch Break &amp; Deacons' meeting</b>		
	<b>Post-Lunch prayer</b>	Lucknow Com. CRC	
1:00	<p><b>Art. 7 Ecclesiastical Credentials Committee</b></p> <p><b>Motion</b> that Classis agrees that the <u>position description</u> submitted by Water Street CRC is in keeping with the requirements of C.O. Article 23 and its Supplements and that AdCom shall schedule the classical examination of Josh Sweetman and secure appropriate examiners.</p> <p><i>A “Commissioned Pastor” is appointed at the local level with permission of the classis. They serve in a variety of positions as approved by the classis.</i></p> <p><i>A “Minister of the Word” involves a standardized theological education, including a Master of Divinity Degree</i></p> <p><i>(This needs Synodical Deputies' concurrence)</i></p> <p><b>Motion</b> to approve the work of the credentials committee..</p>	CMLT, serving as the Ecclesiastical Credentials Committee	7.1 7.2
1:30	<p><b>Art. 8 Overture Committee Report:</b></p> <p><b>Overture</b> from Drayton CRC, requesting Classis Huron approve the release of Rev. Duane VanderLaan from his active ministerial service with the Drayton Reformed Church as per Art. 17a, of the Church Order, effective immediately. <i>(This <u>may</u> need synodical deputies' concurrence)</i></p>	Overture Committee	8
1:45	<p><b>Art. 9 Examination of Jan Oorebeek</b></p> <p>For a license to exhort</p> <p><b>Examiners:</b></p> <p>doctrinal and biblical knowledge, character and practice</p> <p><b>Sermon review report:</b></p> <p><b>IN EXECUTIVE SESSION</b></p>	Rev. Wes Collins and Rev. Sid Couperus  Rev. Darrell Bierman	9.1 9.2 9.3

	<p><b>Motion:</b> to grant Jan Oorebeek a one-year license to exhort in Classis Huron. Voting by ballot Upon admission, the chair shall congratulate and bless Jan Oorebeek, and offer a prayer of thanksgiving. <b>Motion</b> to destroy the ballots.</p>		
3:00	<b>Snack break</b>		
3:15	<p><b>Art. 10 Election of Delegates to Synod</b> by ballot. <i>C.O. Art 45: Each classis shall ordinarily delegate one minister, one elder, one deacon, and one other officebearer to synod. A classis may send no more than two delegates bearing the same office. Commissioned pastors serving in emerging churches and associate staff positions may be delegated as elder delegates to synod.</i></p>		10
3:40	<b>Art. 11 Guelph Campus Ministry report</b>	Pastor Sara DeMoor & Rev. Carel Geleynse	11
4:00	<p><b>Art. 12 Mission Catalyst</b> Classis Huron Mission Team (15 min) Mission Catalyzer Recruiting of Youth Ministry Consultant Creative Outreach Venture 2.0</p>	Joan Brady	12.1 12.2
4:15	<b>Art. 13 Classical Credentials Committee</b>	Palmerston & Collingwood CRCs	
4:40	<p><b>Art. 14 Other Classical Ministries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe Church (10 min)</li> <li>Regional Pastors</li> </ul> <p>Mentors &amp; Mentees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers of the Word: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rev. Bart Eisen (2022-2027)</li> <li>Rev. Cam Oegema (2023-2028)</li> <li>Rev. Melissa Burmaster (2026-2031)</li> <li>Rev. Raymond Evans (2026-2031)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Commissioned Pastors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor Tyler Kirkbride (2024-2029)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Classical Counsellors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blyth</li> <li>Community, Kitchener</li> <li>Maranatha, Cambridge</li> <li>Orangeville</li> <li>Vanastra Community</li> <li>Waterloo</li> <li>Water Street, Guelph</li> </ul>	<p>Rev. Carel Geleynse Rev. Ray Vander Kooij Rev. Martin Dam</p> <p>Rev. Henry Meinen Rev. Martin Dam Rev. Jeff Vandermeer Rev. Tim Keep</p> <p>Rev. Tim Keep</p> <p>Rev. Bart Eisen Rev. Wes Collins Rev. Darrell Bierman Rev. Victor Laarman Rev. Tim Keep Rev. Greg Hoekema Rev. John Vanderstoep</p>	14.1 14.2

5:00	<b>Art. 15 Denominational Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calvin Seminary</li> <li>• Letter from Zach King</li> </ul>		15.1 15.2
	<b>Art. 16 Other printed reports:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Waterloo Campus Ministry</li> </ul>		16
5:15	<b><u>Art. 17 Evaluation Sheets</u></b>	by Menti	
5:30	<b>Art. 18 Motion to Adjourn and Closing</b>	Chair & Vice-Chair	

**\*\*A reminder that Classis delegates are expected to remain present at classis for the entire session until it is adjourned. Dates of classis sessions are known well in advance, so it becomes the responsibility of delegates to 'clear' their schedules so that they can remain at the 'table'. Please refrain from scheduling appointments on this day because, in some situations, classis may deliberate longer than expected. Delegates who need to leave before adjournment (i.e. due to an emergency) may do so with the permission of the Chairperson only who will then advise classis of his/her/their absence; names of delegates who leave early will be recorded in the minutes.**

---