**Safe Church Co-ordinator Report to Classis Huron**

**September 24, 2025**

**Mandate:** Classis Huron Safe Church Committee is mandated as follows:

**Advisory Panel:** To function as an Abuse Response Team according to Synodical Guidelines (as annotated for Classis Huron).

**Education:** To provide comprehensive and on-going education, training and resources to our churches in the prevention of and response to abuse.

**Support:** To provide support services\* to our churches, a victim of abuse, an offender of abuse and/or their family members.

\*Support services may include: consultations, resources and suggested written material, phone calls, visits, accompanying persons to civil or criminal legal proceedings, making referrals for treatment/counselling and/or being a prayer partner

**Safe Church Conference, March 7, 2026 – set the date aside and watch for more details.**

One of the remarks made following the last conference was that every office-bearer ought to be present at these conferences. Since most safe church polices do require people to keep up with their training and awareness, such a conference does fit the bill.

**Classis Huron Safe Church Committee Members:** Thank you to the churches who responded to the call to fill their vacancy on the CHSCC!

Here are the present members and church representatives:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Acton | Mykayla Schenk |
| Blyth | Giena Nonkes |
| Cambridge: Maranatha |  |
| Cambridge: River City | Melinda Saunders |
| Clinton | Angela Kaptein |
| Collingwood | Victor Laarman (acting) |
| Drayton | Dave Koster |
| Exeter | Jake Zantingh |
| Goderich: Trinity | Holly Dalton |
| Guelph: Water Street Church |  |
| Guelph: New Life | Tom Bruulsema |
| Kitchener: Community | Paula La Fontaine (Secretary) |
| Listowel | Ashley Zieleman |
| Lucknow | Tim Wellstead |
| Maitland River | Yolanda Ritsema |
| Orangeville |  |
| Owen Sound |  |
| Palmerston | Irene Drost |
| Stratford | Tom Scott |
| Vanastra | Albert Haak |
| Waterloo | Atie Ott |
| CHSCC – Co-ordinator | Carel Geleynse |

Representatives have a key role in contributing to the ongoing issues and events, ensuring that all churches in Classis Huron have a voice and are kept informed of upcoming training opportunities, webinars and resources. They also assist the coordinator with advice, support and encouragement.

If I can be of help to your congregation in the area of Safe Church, please don’t hesitate to contact me. Meanwhile, if you know of someone who may be gifted in this area and willing to commit to the work of Safe Church, please also let me know.

**Question to ponder:** Is your Council aware of the Code of Conduct and how to use it? It can be used as a study guide for your Council meetings: https://www.crcna.org/thrive/code-of-conduct

**Links for further information:**

[crcna.org/safe church](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CHealt%5CDownloads%5C250521%20-%20Report%20to%20Classis%20Huron.docx)

<https://classishuron.ca/safe-church-ministry/>

Humbly submitted,

Carel Geleynse

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