**AGENDA**

for CLASSIS HURON of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

**Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 9:00 a.m. Palmerston CRC, Palmerston.**

**400 Whites Rd, Palmerston, 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.

**Officers of the day:** Chair: Rev. Victor Laarman (Collingwood CRC)

Vice-Chair Mr. Peter Kingma (Water Street CRC, Guelph)

Stated Clerk Mr. Fred Vander Sterre (Blyth CRC)

**Devotions & Prayer:** Opening Bethel, Acton

Pre-lunch prayer River City CRC

Post-lunch devotions Stratford CRC

Closing Rev. Victor Laarman

**Committees for the Day:** Credentials Bethel, Listowel & New Life, Guelph

Overture Drayton, Exeter & Trinity, Goderich

Balloting Palmerston & Blyth.

**Welcome new pastors:**Rev. Craig Hoekema, Bethel, Acton; Rev. Jeff Vandermeer, New Life, Guelph

**Guests:**

* Shawn Brix (Calvin Seminary)
* Mary Blydorp (World Renew & Diaconal)
* Len Bakelaar (Disability Concerns)

**Synodical Deputies:**

* Rev. Phil Apol (Classis Ontario Southwest)
* Rev. Josh Tuininga (Classis Quinte)
* Rev. Michael Bootsma (Classis Hamilton)

Schedule for the February 19, 2025 session of Classis Huron

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| Timeline | Report/Item | Presenter/Reporter | Document # |
| 8:30-9:00 | Registration and fellowship |  |  |
| 9:00 | **Art. 1 Welcome and Introduction:**   * Welcome/Announcements * Attendance Summary (credentials) * Covenant of Office Bearers * Declaration of Conflicts of Interest * Declaration of Classis Huron Constituted * Classis Huron Primer * The executive for the day takes the chair | Palmerston CRC  Credentials Committee | 1  1a  1b  1c |
| 9:15 | **Art. 2 Morning Session**  Worship | Bethel, Acton |  |
| 9:35 | **Art. 3 Round Table Discussion** | Joan Brady |  |
| 10:15 | **Coffee break** |  |  |
| 10:30 | **Art. 4**  Guelph Campus Ministry | Sara DeMoor/Peter Schuurman | 4 |
| 11:00 | **Art. 5 CMC Report**  **Motion:** to nominate Rev. Sid Couperus as Synodical Deputy for a second term **Motion:** to nominate Rev. Victor Laarman as alternate for a second term.  **Motion:** that pastor Toyosi Awegu be honorably released from the office of Commissioned Pastor in Classis Huron (Art 24-d C.O.)  **Motion:** that Classis Huron grant Mr. Toyosi Awesu a license to exhort in Classis Huron.  **Motion** to approve the actions of CMC & AdCom. | Sara DeMoor | 5 |
| 11:30 | **Art. 6 Diaconal**  Diaconal Ministries Canada (15 min) | Mary Blydorp | 6 |
| 11:45 | **Art. 7 Classis Huron Mission Team**  Creative Outreach Venture | Joan Brady | 7 |
| 12:00 | Pre-Lunch Prayer | River City |  |
|  | Lunch Break & Deacons’ meeting | |  |
| 12:55 | Post-Lunch prayer | Stratford CRC |  |
| 1:00 | **Art 8 Vanastra Community CRC and Rev. Robert Hoekstra** Request for an Article 17-a release from ministry for Rev. Hoekstra.This will be done in executive session. (Synodical deputies will need to concur.) | Church Visitors | 8 |
| 1:45 | **Art. 9 Election of Delegates to Synod** |  | 9 |
| 2:00 | **Art 10. Overture Committee Report:**  **Overture** from Community CRC, Kitchener: asking Classis Huron to protect its authority and decide for itself who it will receive as delegates, how it will proceed, and who it will send to Synod.  **Overture** from First CRC, Owen Sound: overtures Classis Huron to overture Synod, that synod add the following caveat to the Covenant of Office-bearers:  *Notwithstanding any past synodical decisions, if a prospective office bearer cannot bring herself or himself to detest ~~or loath~~ same sex intimate relationships, such a person may nevertheless i) sign this covenant in good faith; and ii) still be considered eligible for church office.* | Drayton,  Exeter,  Trinity, Goderich | 10.2  10.3 |
| 3:30 | **Coffee Break** |  |  |
| 3:45 | **Art. 11 Credentials Committee report:** | Bethel, Listowel & New Life, Guelph |  |
| 4:00 | **Art. 12 Denominational Reports**   * Calvin Seminary (15 min + PP) * Council of Delegates (15 min) | Rev. Shawn Brix  Peter Meerveld |  |
| 4:30 | **Art. 13 Other Classical Ministries**   * Disability Advocate (15 min) * Safe Church (15 min) * Regional Pastors * Mentors & Mentees: Rev. Bart Eisen  Rev. Cam Oegema * Classical Counsellors * Blyth * Guelph, Water Street, * Lucknow Community * Maranatha, Cambridge * Orangeville * Stratford * Waterloo (Campus Minister) | Len Bakelaar  Rev. Carel Geleynse  Rev. Ray Vander Kooij  Rev. Martin Dam  Rev. Henry Meinen  Rv. Martin Dam  Rev. Bart Eisen  Rev. John Vanderstoep  Rev. Tim Keep  Rev. Vicki Cok  Rev. Victor Laarman  Rev. Darryll Bierman  Rev. Norm Sennema | 13.3  13.4 |
|  | **Art. 14 Other printed reports**:   * Advancement Report * Thrive Playlist * Redeemer University |  | 14.1  14.2  14.3 |
| 5:15 | **Art. 15 Evaluation Sheets** | by Menti |  |
| 5:30 | **Art. 16 Motion to Adjourn and Closing** | 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.