

Classis Huron: Who, What, When, Where, Why

Welcome to this meeting of Classis Huron! We are glad that you have been delegated by your congregation for this upcoming meeting. This Classis Primer is intended to help you navigate your experience (especially if it's your first time). You'll find an explanation of all the various committees that you see on the agenda. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to ask the one of the officers of the day, or the stated clerk.

Classis Huron is a regional association of Christian Reformed Churches from Owen Sound to Exeter, to Cambridge, to Acton, to Orangeville, to Collingwood, and all the areas in between. We are one of 49 classes that comprise the CRCNA.

We meet three times each year, in February, May and September, to spend time together worshipping and learning, discussing and making decisions on our shared ministries, examining candidates for ministry, hearing reports from our denominational ministries, as well as other ministries with ties to the CRC, and more.

In general, our meetings are governed by the Church Order of the CRCNA, the Rules of Classis Huron, and Robert's Rules of Order. At the time of registration for the meeting, all first time delegates are asked to declare their agreement with the Covenant for Office-bearers.

Each church is invited to send three delegates to each classis meeting: one minister, one elder, one deacon. Sometimes elders are delegated in the absence of a pastor. If you are an elder or deacon delegate, we encourage you to participate fully in the discussion. Don't assume that your pastor will speak on your behalf. Our meetings are deliberative meetings. This means that you are not merely a representative of your council [and please be aware that your council should not/cannot instruct you how to vote]. The point of the meeting is to hear all discussion before deciding how to cast your vote. **If something is unclear, please ask** – if you are not sure about something, chances are good that there are more people who are unsure and need clarification as well.

If you need assistance, please don't hesitate to approach the Stated Clerk. The Classis Huron website is also a good resource. We hope you enjoy your time at classis!

Classis Primer- Especially for First Time Delegates

Commonly Used Acronyms at Classis

ADCOM	→ Administrative Committee	GCM	→ Huron Campus Ministry for the University of Guelph
FRT	→ Financial Resources Team	WCM	→ Huron Campus Ministry for Wilfred Laurier & the University of Waterloo
CHMT	→ Classis Huron Mission Team	RGM	→ Resonate Global Mission
CMC	→ Classis Ministry Committee	RU	→ Redeemer University
CMLT	→ Classical Ministerial Leadership Team	SC	→ Stated Clerk
COD	→ Council of Delegates	SCT	→ Safe Church Team
CRCNA	→ Christian Reformed Church in N.A.	Thrive	→ Congregational Ministries
CHYMT	→ Classis Huron Youth Ministry Team		
DMC	→ Diaconal Ministries Canada		

The following Committees exist only for the duration of classis, or for a specific time frame: *If your church is assigned to one of these committees, the delegates from your church (including you!) make up the committee*

- **Credentials Committee:** Credentials are the forms that each church's delegates must bring to classis verifying that they are the duly appointed delegates from their church. The credentials committee is the committee that makes sure all credentials are duly received, and that issues raised on the credentials are brought to the attention of classis.
- **Overtures Committee:** A formal request from a congregation (sometimes a committee) usually comes in the form of "overture," asking classis to do something. A committee (usually delegates from two churches) is assigned to study the overture and offer advice to classis on how it might deal with the overture.

Standing Committees of Classis

- **Administrative Committee [AdCom]** → This Committee takes care of all matters between Classis meetings and is empowered to act in an administrative capacity, and is accountable to CMC.
- **Classis Ministry Committee [CMC]** → This committee takes care of matters that cannot wait until the next classis meeting, as well as preparing/approving the agenda for classis meetings.
- **Classis Huron Mission Team [CHMT]** → This committee works with congregations to develop new churches/ministries, encourage outreach and leadership development.
- **Classical Ministerial Leadership Team [CMLT]** → Administers funds re: financial aid for, and works with, men and women studying to enter full-time ordained or non-ordained ministry within the CRC.
- **Classis Huron Youth Ministry Team [CHYMT]** → Assists local churches in the development of youth ministries and provide support for youth ministers and leaders. *Our Youth Champion is currently vacant.*
- **Financial Resources Team [FRT]** → oversees all matters pertaining to the budget of classis, including requests for new or increased ministry shares. *Our Treasurer is currently Evert Nagel.*
- **Huron Campus Ministry [U of Guelph; Wilfred Laurier & U of Waterloo]** → in keeping with the vision for campus ministry to promote gathering of God's people in context of higher education, and engage in holistic kingdom ministries.
- **Safe Church Team [SCT]** → Helps churches to develop safe church communities and administers the counseling fund. *Our Safe Church Coordinator is currently Rev. Carel Geleynse.*

Other roles in classis:

- **Classical Counsellors:** When a church does not have a pastor [is 'vacant'] the pastor from a nearby church is assigned as a counsellor to assist the council.
- **Church Visitors:** Each church and its council should be visited regularly by the "church visitors." The church visiting teams are made up of a pastor and an elder, and the churches are assigned to a team based on geography.
- **Regional Pastor:** A regional pastor is appointed to the west side and the east side of classis to help provide pastoral care and encouragement to the pastors in the region.

Church Order

Much of the work done by classis is regulated by the Church Order of the CRCNA. The Church Order contains the rules and procedures that, by common consent, all the churches in the denomination abide by. Only a synod (the annual leadership meeting of the CRCNA) can change the Church Order.

Basic Rules of Order

- **A main motion** → A motion that requests an action of Classis. It must be supported, or seconded, and discussed before a vote is held. It must be presented in written form at the request of chair or clerk.
- **A motion to amend** → A proposal to alter a main motion, in language or in meaning, before a final action is taken on the motion.
- **A motion to defer action, withhold action, or table** → When Classis deems it advisable, it may decide to table a motion temporarily. Tabling a motion implies that the meeting will resume consideration of it at a later hour.
- **Objection to a ruling by the chair** → If any member of Classis is not satisfied with the ruling of the chair he/she may 'challenge the chair' and the matter is then referred to the assembly for a final decision.
- **Right of protest** → It is a right of any member to protest any decision of Classis. Protests should be registered immediately, or at least during the session in which the matter was acted upon. Members may, if they desire, ask to have their negative vote recorded.
- **Call for the division of the question** → At the request of one or more members of Classis, a motion consisting of more than one part may be divided and voted upon separately.
- **A motion to reconsider/rescind** → If any member of Classis, for weighty reasons, desires reconsideration of a matter already decided upon at that meeting of Classis, one of the following methods may be used:
 - A motion to reconsider may be offered only by a person who has voted with the majority. The purpose of this motion is to propose a new discussion and a new vote.
 - A motion to rescind has as its purpose to annul or to reverse a previous decision.
- **Discussion** → To obtain the floor, a speaker must first be recognized by the chair and, when speaking, must stand, when possible, and address the chair. Discussion is always directed through the Chair, and may never become a 'debate' between delegates to the assembly.