

**Winter 2025 Report:
Classis Ministry Committee (CMC), Administrative Committee (AdCom) & Stated Clerk**

*The **Classis Ministry Committee (CMC)** consists of the Administrative Committee and the representatives of the ministries/committees within Classis: Safe Church Team, Rev. Carel Geleynse; Waterloo Campus Ministry, Carolyn Kleefman; Financial Resource Team: Treasurer, Evert Nagel (ex officio); Classis Huron Mission Team, Jane Vander Velden; Mission Catalyzer, Joan Brady; Diaconal Ministries & World Renew, Mary Blydorp; Guelph Campus Ministry, Sara DeMoor/Rev. Carel Geleynse; Ministerial Leadership Team, Rev. Wesley Collins; Prayer Catalyzer, Rev. Sid Couperus, Youth Champion, (currently vacant).*

The duties include: Nurturing vision and planning within Classis, Providing accountability, guidance, and support for existing ministries of Classis, Provide governance support for Classis Huron.

***Administrative Committee (AdCom)** consists of Sara DeMoor (Chair), Nick Geleynse (vice), and Rev. Henry Meinen (at-large). Fred Vander Sterre (Stated Clerk, ex officio).*

AdCom takes care of all matters between Classis meetings and is empowered to act in an administrative capacity, and is accountable to CMC.

*The **Stated Clerk** serves Classis Huron by keeping accurate records of the proceedings, decisions, and rules of Classis as per Church Order, Article 32-b. The Rules of Classis Huron also task the Clerk to serve as a resource to the churches of Classis on matters of order and procedure, maintain the records and website of Classis, and serve as a central point of communication for Classis, among other responsibilities.*

AdCom's regular meeting was on October 22, to review the proceedings of the September 25, 2024 session of classis, including the review of the responses on the Evaluation Sheets.

It was noted that the psalm of lament at the start of the meeting was a good experience.

AdCom had an additional meeting on November 12, 2024, to discuss items for the February 19, 2025 session of classis and also plan a special meeting of classis, a Listening Circle session, organized on January 8, 2025.

On January 6, 2025, AdCom met with the Church Visitors and Regional Pastor via Zoom, to receive updates on the separation of the Vanastra CRC and pastor Robert Hoekstra.

CMC met in a special meeting on November 20 to plan the special Listening Circles session of classis Huron. The regular meeting of CMC was spread over two sessions, due to the high number of agenda items, on January 22 and 28, 2025.

CMC presents the following report to classis:

1. Ministry Reports:

The classis Huron ministry representatives serving on CMC gave their reports/updates.

1.1 The Classis Huron Mission Team (CHMT): reported on a Pastors' retreat that is planned for March 3-5 in Crieff covering five classes. The new Ministry Plan and Youth Champion position will be reported on in May.

The Creative Outreach Venture Fund was reviewed/revised/updated

1.2 The two campus ministries reported on a good season, with several new initiatives. Melissa Burmaster will continue to serve as interim pastor for the Waterloo Campus Ministry. Sara DeMoor continues to serve as Guelph Campus minister.

- 1.3 Classical Ministerial Leadership Team (CMLT): Rev. Wes Collins reported that the team could use (an) additional member(s).
Motion: that classis appoints Rev. Cam Oegema to this team.
Additional nominations are welcome.
- 1.4 Diaconal Committee: Mary Blydorp reported on a diaconal conference planned for April 3, with a focus on Stewardship and Justice.
- 1.5 Financial Resources Team (FRT): Evert Nagel reported that several churches did not pay their full Classical Ministries Shares in 2024.
- 1.6 Safe Church Team: Rev. Carel Geleyne is the transitional coordinator.
The Annual inter-Classis Safe Church conference is planned for March 1, at Waterloo CRC.

2. Items discussed:

- 2.1 CMC reviewed the results of the evaluation of the September session of classis.
- 2.2 CMC reviewed and formally approved the minutes of the September 25, 2024 session of classis.
- 2.3 CMC planned and organized a Listening Circles event, facilitated by Rev. Sean Baker of Thrive. A summary of the Circles is posted on the website of Classis Huron.
- 2.4 Joan Brady (Mission Catalyzer) presented the draft Classis Huron Ministry Plan. This will be formally presented to classis in May.
- 2.5 The request for a conversation at classis on *Toward CRC Canada "Declaration of Readiness for a Distinct Christian Reformed Church of Canada"* was tabled to the May session of classis.
- 2.6 Classis Quinte is organizing an assembly of Canadian Classes to discuss Canadian CRC ministry. They need to build a steering team that represents Canada from East to West. They request that each classis submit the name of one office bearer who can join the steering team for planning this gathering. (Document Art. 5.3)
CMC accepted a motion to follow up on the request of classis Quinte.
Also accepted was a motion to **request nominations** from the floor of classis to serve on this steering committee.
- 2.7 **CMC recommends to classis** to implement the annual re-signing of the Covenant of Office-bearers for all office-bearers at the May sessions of classis.
- 2.8 Maitland River CRC recommended to AdCom to grant a license to exhort for pastor Tyler Kirkbride. Pastor Tyler was examined in September 2024, for the ordination of Commissioned Pastor. It was assumed that Commissioned Pastors are also licensed, however, that is not the case.
AdCom approved the recommendation.
- 2.9 CMC noted that the process for the election of delegates to synod needs clarification during the February classis meeting.
- 2.10 CMC agreed to add the request for Art. 17, the separation of the Vanastra Community CRC and their pastor, Rev. Robert Hoekstra, to the agenda of classis.
- 2.11 **CMC nominates** Rev. Sid Couperus as Synodical Deputy for a second term and Rev. Victor Laarman as alternate for a second term.
The role of the Deputies will be explained at the meeting. (C.O. Art 48)
Other nominations from the floor are welcome.

(When the cooperation of the synodical deputies is required as stipulated in the Church Order, the presence of at least three deputies from the nearest classes shall be prescribed. Besides the duties elsewhere stipulated, the deputies shall, upon request, extend help to the classes in the event of difficulties in order that proper unity, order, and sound doctrine may be maintained. (Art 48))

2.12 Overtures from Community CRC in Kitchener and of First CRC Owen Sound were received and passed on to the Overture Committee for advice to classis.

2.13 Pastor Toyosi Awegu' Commissioned Pastor' status was extended for two years in February 2023. Pastor Toyosi decided not to pursue an extension of his Commissioned Pastor status at this time.

CMC recommends to classis that Toyosi Awegu be honorably released from the office of Commissioned Pastor in the Classis Huron (C.O. Art 24-d).

(Synod also instructs classes to make an appropriate declaration reflecting the status of any commissioned pastor who concludes service. These guidelines and options regarding status are the same as those for minister of the Word...)

2.14 CMC declares that there is a need in Classis Huron for additional exhorters.

CMC recommends to Classis Huron to declare the 2009 Commissioned Pastor examination to be sufficient for granting Mr. Toyosi Awesu a license to exhort in Classis Huron as was recommended by Community CRC, Kitchener.

2.15 Wilma Hiemstra indicated that she is not requesting the renewal of her license to exhort.

CMC accepted Wilma's decision and thanked her for her services.

2.16 CMC received the request from Water Street CRC, Guelph, to examine Joshua Sweetman for a license to exhort.

CMC declares that there is a need in Classis Huron for additional exhorters.

CMC recommends that the examination of Joshua Sweetman be scheduled during the May 21, 2025 session of classis.

2.17 The CMC of Classis Ontario SW informed us that classis acquiesce to Vitalpoint's decision to disaffiliate with the CRCNA. CMC of Classis Ontario SW is also accepting that Ron Baker be honorably released from the office of Commissioned Pastor in the CRCNA (Art 24-d C.O.)

3. One additional note: As Sara DeMoor's term as member of AdCom is ending in May, 2025, as for nominations to fill the vacancy.

4. **Motion** to approve the actions of CMC, AdCom and the Stated Clerk

-submitted by Fred Vander Sterre, Stated Clerk