

Summer 2024 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, Atie Ott/Rev. Carel Geleynse; Waterloo Campus Ministry, Carolyn Kleefman; Treasurer, Evert Nagel (ex officio); 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 met on June 18, 2024, to review the proceedings of the May 15, 2024 session of classis, including reviewing the responses on the Evaluation Sheets. It was noted that the concert of prayer at the start of the meeting was well received.

AdCom also discussed the agenda and its particulars for the September 25, 2024 session of classis and to appoint individuals to various classical positions.

CMC met on August 28, 2024, and presents the following report to classis:

1. Reports:

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

- 1.1 The Classis Huron Mission Team needs members who are excited about promoting and stimulating church revitalization, community engagement, and development. Please, prayerfully consider joining this exciting team!
- 1.2 The two campus ministries are gearing up for the new season. Melissa Burmaster will continue to serve as interim pastor for the Waterloo Campus Ministry. Sara DeMoor will continue to serve as Guelph Campus minister.
- 1.3 Classical Ministerial Leadership Team (CMLT): Wes Collins reported that they are supporting five students.
It is encouraging that our classis has this many students committed to going into ministry.
- 1.4 Diaconal Committee: Mary Blydorp reported on the Heart Stories event in Kitchener (at St Mark's Place, an Indwell building).

- 1.5 Financial Resources Team (FRT): Evert Nagel presented the proposed 2025 budget.
CMC accepted the motion to recommend the 2025 budget to classis Huron.
- 1.6 Classis Huron Missions Team (CHMT): Jane Vander Velden introduced a Jumpstart initiative.
Rev. John Vanderstoep will report on the Bridge in Fergus.
- 1.7 Safe Church – Atie reported that this is her final CMC meeting. Rev. Carel Geleynse is learning the role of the (transitional) coordinator.

2. **Items discussed:**

- 2.1 CMC reviewed the results of the evaluation of the May session of classis.
- 2.2 CMC reviewed and approved the minutes of the May 15, 2024 session of classis.
- 2.3 CMC discussed the implementation of the actions of Synod 2024 and accepted the following motion:

Synod 2024 has called for some changes in Classis decorum.

- *When Pastors, Elders and Deacons are installed in their local congregations, they are required to sign The Covenant of Office-bearers. Those who have submitted a Gravaman in their local congregation will not be eligible to serve as a delegate to Classis. We ask local Councils to honour that request.*
- *For the September 25th, 2024 session of Classis Huron, we will continue to ask first-time delegates to sign the Covenant for Office-bearers at Classis. Synod is asking all delegates to sign the Covenant of Office Bearers once a year. Adcom and the Classical Ministry Committee (CMC) will have further conversations around the timing of fulfilling this request and other Synod 2024 decisions related to classis meetings. At this time, we only request first-time delegates to sign.*
- *Waterloo CRC brought a Protest to Synod 2024 and communications of protest were deemed voices of non-compliance with Synod's decision. Those churches became churches placed under discipline. They have a year to either retract their protest or begin the process to disaffiliate. Waterloo delegates are welcomed and invited to participate in the deliberations at the September 2024 meeting, however, their delegates will have no voting privileges.*

- 2.4 CMC decided to table a discussion on "Toward CRC Canada".
- 2.5 CMC plans to have a Round Table discussion at the classis meeting, focusing on sharing stories of connecting with those outside the church.
- 2.6 A discussion on the proposed Classis Huron Ministry Plan was tabled as Joan Brady was not able to attend the meeting.
- 2.7 CMC acknowledged the transition of the Safe Church Coordinator position from Atie Ott to Rev. Carel Geleynse, who will serve in a transitional role.
CMC thanked Atie for her many years of work as Coordinator.
- 2.8 CMC recommends that classis renew the license to exhort for Frank Folkema for five years. In May the Exhortation Review Committee reported that Frank's sermon was received and reviewed, however, several documents were still missing. Those documents, including a recommendation from his

church council, have now been received.

Motion to renew Frank Folkema's license to exhort for five years.

2.9 The examination of Tyler Kirkbride is planned for the September session.

2.10 The request for Art 12-c received from the Exeter CRC was reviewed.

3. **CMC approved the following actions and recommendations from AdCom**

3.1 Appointed as classical counsellor for Orangeville: Rev. Victor Laarman.

3.2 Rev. Ray Vander Kooij for a second term as Regional Pastor. Thrive (Pastor Church Resources) approves this renewal.

Pastor Ray agrees to serve a second term.

3.3 AdCom reviewed and accepted the Stated Clerk's Activities Report.

4. **A Note from AdCom**

During the February session of classis, we will be electing delegates to Synod 2025.

We typically send two ordained pastors, one elder and one deacon as delegates.

It has become a challenge to elect elder and especially deacon delegates (and their alternates) to synod.

AdCom encourages the church councils to start to talk about nominations early, preparing elders and deacons to serve as delegates to synod. To wait until January or February is too late!

Connect with delegates of the previous synod and ask what their experience was.

This winter we will again use the "Nomination Form for Synodical Delegates", for the nomination process.

Synod gave some additional recommendations for delegation:

- Choose delegates who are thoughtful, spiritual, concise, and decisive.
The more delegates we have who are gifted at discernment, the faster discernment will usually happen.
Send synod your best people and you will get the best results from synod.
- Inspire a diverse group of people to allow their names to stand as delegate nominees.
Synod 2019 encouraged that "each classis **includes at least one woman or one ethnic minority person** in its delegation".
- Synod 2019 also encouraged classes "to send one or more delegates to synod for two consecutive years, if possible, to build continuity from synod to synod (*Acts of Synod 2019*, pp. 809-10).

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

-submitted by Fred Vander Sterre, Stated Clerk