



**CLASSIS HURON**  
**of the Christian Reformed Church in North America**  
[www.classishuron.ca](http://www.classishuron.ca)

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**AGENDA**

**February 11, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Christian Reformed Church**  
**400 Whites Road**

**Palmerston**

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**The PURPOSE of Classis Huron**

*We will foster the Kingdom through shared resources toward spiritual renewal*

**The VISION of Classis Huron**

*The congregations, ministries, missional communities and people of Classis Huron will surrender to the work of the Spirit of Mission of Jesus, to embody the Kingdom of God. Recognizing the urgency of the times, we stand on the foundation laid for us by previous generations and step forward in the same faith we have been taught.*

## Index of Agenda Items and the day's schedule

<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>REPORT NUMBER AND NAME</b>	<b>REPORTER</b>	<b>Page</b>
9:00 a.m.	Welcome, announcements	Palmerston	
	Constituting Classis: Report of the Credentials Committee		
9:10 a.m.	Opening of Classis: Officers take their seats, opening comments by Chair, Committees for the day,		
9:15 a.m.	Worship/Devotions		
9:30 a.m.	CMC/AdCom/Stated Clerk Reports	Rev. Ralph Wigboldus	3
9:45 a.m.	Campus Ministry Waterloo	Rev. Brian Bork	4
9:50 a.m.	Campus Ministry Guelph	Rev. David Tigchelaar	4
9:55 a.m.	Youth Ministry Committee	Lesli Van Millgen	5
10:00 a.m.	<b>REFRESHMENT BREAK</b>		
10:15 a.m.	Safe Church Committee	Atie Ott	5
10:20 a.m.	Home Missions Committee – Ridder Process	Rev. Andrew Vis	5
10:40 a.m.	Church Counselors Verbal Reports Collingwood – Rev. Harry Zantingh Guelph New Life – Rev. Bernard De Jonge Vanastra – Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen Maranatha [Camb] – Rev. Vic Vandermolen		
10:50 a.m.	Nomination Committee Report	Atie Ott	
11:00 a.m.	Election of Synod Delegates		
11:15 a.m.	Rev. Steve Timmermans/Rev. Darren Roorda		
12:00 p.m.	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>  <b>Credentials Committee meets</b>		
1:00 p.m.	Credential Committee Report		
1:30 p.m.	Ordination Exam of Paul DeWeerd		
3:45 p.m.	<b>REFRESHMENT BREAK</b>		
4:00 p.m.			
	16.Reports 16.1 Disability Concerns 16.2 World Renew 16.3 Redeemer University College 16.4 Elders/Deacons Report 16.5 "Classis Primer" for New Delegates 16.6 Aboriginal Ministries 16.7 Service Link	Information attached Information attached Information attached Information attached Information attached Information attached Information attached	
	18. Future Classis meeting dates	Agenda Item #17	
<b>5 p.m.</b>	<b>SUPPER</b>		

### 1. Constituting Classis

Call to Order, welcome by host church  
 Credentials Committee reports on attendance.  
 Classis is declared constituted.

### 2. Classis constituted

Chair: Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen  
 Vice-chair: Rev. Henry Steenberg  
 Stated Clerk: Rev. Vic Vandermolen

### **3. Devotions for the Day**

Opening – Palmerston *This will be led by Pastor Andrew de Gelder of Palmerston CRC.*

Pre-lunch – Drayton

Post –lunch – Acton

Pre-supper – Chair

### **4. Committees for the Day**

Credentials Committee – Acton and Cambridge [Maranatha]

Balloting Committee – Palmerston and Guests

Overtures Committee – Goderich and Clinton

### **5. Special guests**

Synodical deputies: Rev. Jack Kerkhof, Rev. Henry Kranenburg, Rev. Herman Praamsa

CRCNA Executive Director Rev. Steve Timmermans

CRCNA Canadian Ministries Director Rev. Darren Roorda

### **6. Classis Ministry Committee**

#### **7.1 CMC Report**

The Classis Ministry Committee consists of representatives of all ministries/committees within Classis Huron: Chair, Rev. Ralph Wigboldus; Vice-chair, Rev. Amanda Bakale; Classis Ministry Leadership Team, Rev. Stephen Tamming; Home Missions, Rev. Andrew Vis; Safe Church Committee, Atie Ott; Financial Resources Team, Clarence Louter; Huron Campus Ministry (Guelph), Rev. David Tigchelaar; Huron Campus Ministry (Waterloo), Bill Los; Youth Ministry, Lesli Van Milligen; Treasurer John Bell, ex-officio, and Stated Clerk, Rev. Vic Vandermolen, ex officio.

Since the last meeting of Classis, CMC continues to monitor and encourage the various ministries that are part of Classis. The discussion on Discipline as Healing as a follow up to the September classis discussion, with Rev. Jack Vos leading that discussion, has been postponed until September 2015 due to the various issues that need to be addressed. CMC approved the ordination examination of Paul De Weerd [Vanastra CRC] for the February 2015 meeting of Classis. It also approved the request from River City for a grant of \$1,000 to attend a worship symposium – funds to be drawn from the Leadership Development Fund. CMC also approved the attendance of the Clerk and the Vice-Chair of CMC to attend a Classis' leadership meeting in Burlington on January 20-21. The meeting was called by Canadian Ministries Director, Rev. Darren Roorda for the purpose of *discerning together how to strengthen the effectiveness of classis and its leaders in such a way that will engage local churches through to denominational entities*. In this regard CMC also approved the request that it provide \$400 to help defray costs.

CMC is continuing its review of the Stated Clerk's job description, as per the discussions at the September 2014 meeting, and anticipates presenting an updated description for Classis to consider at the May 2015 meeting. CMC agreed to address the Elder/Deacon Task Force report that was completed in November and have it discussed at the May 2015 meeting of Classis, that report is attached to this Agenda.

CMC discussed the matter of annual Church Visits, and has sent a letter to all churches encouraging the practice of church visits, and also encouraging that there be an atmosphere of openness and frankness in these discussions.

In reviewing the decisions made re locations of future Classis meetings it was agreed to hold the February 2015 meeting in Palmerston and the May 2015 meeting in Waterloo [see additional information re Classis meeting dates and locations in Article 17 of this Agenda.

The next meeting of CMC will be in April 2015

## **7.2 Administrative Committee (AdCom)**

The Administrative Committee of Classis (AdCom) works on behalf of classis between meetings. AdCom consists of Rev. Ralph Wigboldus (chair), Amanda Bakale (vice-chair), Rev. Stephen Tamming, and stated clerk Rev. Vic Vandermolen. Since the last meeting of classis AdCom has met to respond to issues raised at the last meeting of Classis, and also to address a number of new matters, which have subsequently been referred to CMC and addressed in its report above.

## **7.3 Stated Clerk**

The Stated Clerk serves as secretary of Classis Huron, its Classis Ministry Committee and its Administrative Committee (AdCom). His job description, [set out in the Rules of Classis] is undergoing a comprehensive review that will likely result in CMC recommending some changes for Classis to consider. In that regard, the Clerk has gathered substantial information regarding the role of a Stated Clerk, including varying job descriptions. At the direction of CMC he is in the process of preparing a draft job description, to be presented to CMC, and subsequently to Classis, hopefully at the May meeting for final approval.

The Clerk continues to respond to ongoing requests for information and direction from individual members, church leadership, classis committees, and denominational offices.

In the period of September 17 to the time of writing this report, the Clerk has:

- dealt with/responded to some 107 telephone conversations and requests.
- attended, prepared agendas for, written minutes for, and did follow-up for three AdCom meetings, two CMC meetings, and one Classis meeting. This is in addition to meetings and conversations with others re various issues dealing with matters relative to Classis and its member churches.
- completed the scheduling/coordinating of one ordination examination.
- completed the pulpit supply schedule for one-half of the church year [January-May 2015].
- at the invitation of Canadian Ministries Director, Rev. Darren Roorda, attended a two-day meeting of all Canadian Stated Clerks at the CRCNA offices in Burlington, along with CMC Vice Chair Rev. Amanda Bakale [see CMC report]
- responded to and been involved in the needed follow-up work regarding more than 240 email conversations

## **7. Campus Ministry**

- **Waterloo Campus Ministry [no report received]**
- **Waterloo Campus Ministry Committee Report [no report received]**
- **Guelph Campus Ministry [no report received]**

8. **Youth Ministry Committee Report [sent later]**
9. **Safe Church Committee Report [see attached]**
10. **Classis Huron Home Missions Report [see attached]]**
11. **Credentials Committee Report**
12. **Ordination Examination: Paul DeWeerd [sermon re assigned text is attached]**
13. **Nominating Committee Report [no report received]**
14. **Church Counselors Reports**
  - Collingwood: Rev. Harry Zantingh
  - Guelph New Life: Rev. Bernard De Jonge
  - Vanastra: Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen
  - Cambridge [Maranatha] Rev. Vic Vandermolen
15. **Election of Delegates to Synod 2015 [Dordt College, Iowa, June 12-18, 2015]**

16. **REPORTS**

**16.1 Disability Concerns: WHERE ARE YOU AT?**

We call ourselves a church family, each one of us has a place, each one of us belongs. Yet when we read the one article in the “Ministry Report to Classes and Councils” we see a different story. The article on “Disability Concerns” states “ A recent study showed that one-third of families who have children with disabilities left their congregation because they did not feel welcome. Some left the Christian faith entirely”. Surely this would not happen in our church, after all we are now a caring church. Much more caring now than we used to be when we more or less only showed pity to those with disabilities because they didn’t fit in with what we as church had to offer. Is that where your church is at, being a caring church? We now value them and help to provide for them. Isn’t that enough?

What does your “Church Policy on Disabilities” say? It probably has a sentence that says ....our church values people with disabilities like all other people. It probably will say....our church will do what it can to integrate people with disabilities into all programs and activities sponsored by the church. That states that we go beyond caring. That states that we will be intentional about including them in the life of the church encouraging them to participate, like all members of the church family, every-one using the abilities, the gifts, they have. Look at the parable of the Great Supper. The master, when he realized he had left-over food because the invited did not show up, did not tell his servants to take it out to the poor, and the maimed, and the lame, and the blind. Yes, that would have been caring for them. No, he sent his servants out to bring them in, to make them feel that they belong Maybe we need to open the door to look at the whole picture and see how disabilities impact our church. Disabilities come in many forms; Physical, Intellectual, Sensory and Mental. It touches the lives of quite a number of people in our congregations. It would probably be a good time to review our “Church Policy on Disabilities” to see if there are any gaps that need to be addressed. When we look at the “Position Description of the Church

Advocate”, we see that this ministry often is similar to the task of deacons. Working hand in hand with each other will create a strong ministry for those with special needs. The Ontario government legislation (AODA) supports what the denomination has been encouraging for many years. When we follow the Lord’s plan for His church and how to deal with those who have unique needs, we will likely be complying with most of the standards the government has in place. Plan to attend the conference this spring that explores what stage your church is at in regards to dealing with disabilities. Let’s walk ahead as a family where no one is left out, all are welcome and included.

Len and Rynie Bakelaar ( Regional Advocates for Disability Concerns)

- 16.2 World Renew Report [see attached]**
- 16.3 Redeemer College University Report [see attached]**
- 16.4 Elders/Deacons Report from CRCNA [see attached]**
- 16.5 ‘Classis Primer’ [see attached]**

**17. Future Classis Meetings**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>REPORTS DUE</b>	<b>CHAIR</b>	<b>VICE-CHAIR</b>
Feb 11, 2015	Palmerston	January 9, 2015	Gary Van Leeuwen	Henry Steenbergen
May 13, 2015	Waterloo	April 10, 2015	Henry Steenbergen	Amanda Bakale
Sept. 16, 2015	Guelph First	August 19, 2015	Amanda Bakale	Ralph Wigboldus
Feb. 17, 2016	Listowel	January 13, 2016	Ralph Wigboldus	Vicki Verhulst Cok
May 11, 2016	Guelph New Life	April 6, 2016	Vicki Verhulst Cok	