



CLASSIS HURON
of the Christian Reformed Church in North America
www.classishuron.ca

MINUTES

May 12, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Virtual session

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.*

Delegates to Classis

Church	Minister delegate	Elder Delegate	Deacon Delegate
Acton Bethel	Elder Ken Kamminga	Calvin Dreise	Ane Adema
Blyth	Gary Van Leeuwen	Bert Sjaarda	Luke Siertsema
Cambridge Maranatha	Norm Sennema	Annette Regnerus	Len Bakelaar
Cambridge River City	Darrell Bierman	Andrew Johnson	Melinda Saunders
Clinton	Ray Vander Kooij	Fanny Geleynse	Paul de Lange
Collingwood	Victor Laarman	Jeff Beck	Case Roest
Drayton	Elder Andy Knetsch	John Zwart	Teresa Wikkerink
Exeter		Bert Visscher	Aaron deBoer
Fergus The Bridge			
Goderich Trinity	Elder Johanna Steegstra	Andrea Kramer	Steve Wynja
Guelph Campus Ministry	Sara DeMoor		
Guelph New Life	Ed Jager	Peter Schuurman	Peter Timmerman
Guelph Water Street	David Tigchelaar	Steven Nightingale	Mary Blydorp
Kitchener Community	Amanda Bakale	Larry Lutgendorff	Chris de Lange
Kitchener The Journey	Toyosi Awesu	Emily Vandonk	
Listowel Bethel	Ralph Wigboldus	Steve Vogel	Jacquelien Meijering
Lucknow Community	Tim Leferink	Ida Piel	Eric Van Hardeveld
Orangeville	Andrew Vis	Mike Kamphuis	
Owen Sound	Sid Couperus	Fred Veenstra	Derek DeVries
Palmerston	Andrew de Gelder	Ken Mohle	Joe Janeszko
Stratford	Martin Dam	Mark Sikma	
Vanastra Community	Paul De Weerd		Rob Dekens
Waterloo	Vicki Cok	Chantel Huinink	Wayne Miedema
Waterloo Campus Ministry	Brian Bork		
Wingham Maitland River	Henry Steenbergen	Stephen Vander Klippe	

Officers of the day:	Chair: Rev. Ralph Wigboldus Stated Clerk: Fred Vander Sterre	Vice chair: Rev. Martin Dam Technical Assistance: Albert Hovingh
Devotions for the Day:	Opening: Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen – Blyth CRC Closing: Vice chair Rev. Martin Dam – Stratford CRC	
Committees of the Day:	Credentials: Kitchener Community & Maitland River, Wingham Balloting: Google	
Special Guests:	Rev. Lesli Van Milligen, Regional Network Connector Canada East Rev. Ron Vanden Brink, Diaconal Ministries Canada Director.	

1. Opening & Devotions:

- 1.1 Chairman Rev. Ralph Wigboldus welcomed all in attendance.
Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen led us in devotion by reading from Acts 1: 1-11: the ascension of Jesus Christ. Clouds are always mentioned in the Bible in relation to the presence of God. The implication of the cloud reminds us of the presence and the victory of God. Our God is with us. Pastor Gary opened Classis with prayer.
- 1.2 As all churches submitted their classical credentials and all but two delegates were present, the chair declared classis instituted.
- 1.3 **Our Journey 2025**
Rev. Lesli Van Milligen of Faith Formation Ministries led classis in an interactive visioning/sharing exercise based on the denominational ministry plan *Our Journey 2025, Joining the good work begun in Christ* exercise.

2 Classis Huron Ministries Reports

- 2.1 **Classical Ministries Committee:**
Rev. Martin Dam reported for CMC and AdCom.
The report included:
 - 2.1.1 The approval of the February 10, 2021 session of Classis Huron
 - 2.1.2 The nomination of Rev. Victor Laarman as at-large member of AdCom.
Current chair Rev. Martin Dam will retire from AdCom, Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen will take on the position of chair and Albert Hovingh will serve as vice-chair.
The chair ruled to acclaim Rev. Victor Laarman as at-large member of AdCom.
Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen thanked Martin for his years of service.
 - 2.1.3 The nomination of Jane VanderVelde for the position of Alternate Stated Clerk of classis.
The chair ruled to acclaim Jane VanderVelde for the position of Alternate Stated Clerk.
 - 2.1.4 Guelph Campus Ministry nominates Brian Smith to serve as Classis Huron Representative on the Board of GCM. The chair ruled to acclaim Brian Smith for the position of Classis Rep on GCM.
Sara DeMoor thanked Rev. Ray Vander Kooij for his fourteen years of service on the GCM board, most of those years as chairman.
Rev. Ray reflected on some of his experiences as board member and how God showed his faithfulness.

- 2.1.5 It was noted that Betsy DeVries will complete her term-call at Community CRC in Kitchener and will soon be available for call.
- 2.1.6 Martin also acknowledged that Rev. Henry Steenbergen has been granted his retirement, effective the end of July 2021.
Pastor Henry reflected on his years of ministry, serving in four different churches and the various people who were present to mentor him.
- 2.1.7 Pastor Ralph spend some time in prayer for the newly elected individuals, and the retirement of Pastor Henry.
- 2.2 **Waterloo Campus Ministry:**
Brian Bork shared about his ministry during the COVID restrictions. New opportunities of ministry opened up. His connections with campus administration remains strong, and his work as chaplain is well acknowledged.
Pastor Gary led in prayer for the campus pastors as they minister in different ways.
- 2.3 **Financial Resources Team:**
The Auditor's Report and the 2020 Financial Report were presented and were received by the members. Despite COVID-19 the giving to classis continue to be good.

3 Other Classical Committee Reports

- 3.1 **Classical Councilors:**
For Acton – Andrew Vis reporting. The church appreciates the pulpit supply. A search committee is in place as well as a good leadership team.
For Drayton – Ralph Wigboldus reporting. An intern is in place for the time being.
For Trinity Goderich – Tim Leferink reporting. Rev. Tim Keep is in the country and is in his two-week quarantine. Installation date is scheduled for June 26.
Kitchener Community – Vicki Cok reporting. Kitchener is moving along fine. They extended a call to Tom Bomhof, to fill their third position. Tom accepted their call.
The Journey – Norm Sennema reporting. No updates at present.
The Chair thanked the classical councilors for their work.
- 3.2 **Credentials committee:**
Pastor Amanda reporting:
- 3.2.1 Drayton expresses their appreciation for the support by means of pulpit supply and also the help provided by Pastors Henry Meinen and Bart Eisen.
- 3.2.2 Maitland River in Wingham is requesting a classical counselor for the time following pastor Henry's retirement, as well as pulpit supply, starting in September. Referred to the CMC.
The Credential Committee is thanked for the work.

4 Denominational Ministries Reports

- 4.1 **Council of Delegates:**
Rev. Ralph Wigboldus gave a short report on their most recent meeting.
- 4.1.1 He expressed the concerns in regards to harassment experienced by the staff of Race-Relations, Office of Social Justice, Indigenous Ministry and Centre for Public Dialogue.
- 4.1.2 All COD members are now to sign a code of conduct prior to becoming a COD member.

- 4.1.3 Safe protocol is being developed for the office staff, once they will be returning to work.
- 4.1.4 The Banner received several awards from the Associated Church Press.
- 4.1.5 Ralph also commented on the SALT report, available at <https://www.crcna.org/news-and-events/news/structure-and-leadership-changes-pending>
- 4.1.6 Denominational funds are coming in; expenses are down in part due to lack of travel expenses.
- 4.2 **Diaconal Ministries Canada:**
 Rev. Ron Vanden Brink, National Director of DMC shared some highlights of the DMC website: www.diaconalministries.com.
 DMC' role is to animate deacons, who then in turn animate congregations.
 DMC focusses on community engagement, stewardship and benevolence, mercy and justice, leadership development.
 Diaconal coaches are available to the deacons.
 New devotionals for deacons' and councils' meetings are posted, that are particularly useful for situations where councils or diaconates are struggling, or hitting road-blocks.
 Ron highlighted NewGround (formerly Operation Manna) and the annual offering in May. Last year's support for this ministry was considerably lower than in other years.
 Pastor Ralph thanked Ron for his work and the DMC's ministry in Canada.
- 4.3 **World Renew:**
 Mary highlighted some items of the printed report from Peter Bulthuis.
 World Renew also comes with a plea for the support of COVID victims in India.
 The chair led in prayer for World Renew and India.
- 4.4 **Safe Church Ministry**
 Atie Ott reported on the fact that COVID is bringing many challenges to families.
 Several webinars were held and more are planned.
 Links to those are included in the printed report.
 A reminder: September 26 is recognized as Abuse Prevention Sunday.
 Atie responded to some questions.
- 4.5 The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:32 PM.
 The delegates were reminded to fill out the evaluation sheets and send them in.
- 4.6 Closing devotions were led by Martin Dam with thanks to the chairman Gary.

Next Session: D.V., Saturday, September 18, 2021.
Deadline for agenda items is August 14, 2021.

Chair of Classis
 Rev. Ralph Wigboldus

Stated Clerk of Classis
 Fred Vander Sterre