

Nomination Form for Synodical Delegate.

Thank you for taking the time to provide the following information for the delegates of Classis Huron.

Nomination for

Delegate – Minister Minister

Delegate – Elder

Delegate – Deacon

First and Last Name: Rev. John Vanderstoep

The name of the church and its city that holds your CRC membership:

I am the pastor at The Bridge Church, a church begun by Classis Huron in 2015. As an emerging church, our memberships are held by New Life CRC in Guelph.

List years previously served as a delegate to synod:

I went in 2022.

List previous synod advisory committee experience, if applicable.

I served on the committee dealing with structure and we addressed and unanimously recommended the amended SALT report.

Of what denominational boards, standing committees, or study committees are you or have you been a member?

I have been a pastor in the US and Canada and a missionary to Haiti but have not served on denominational boards.

Of what classical and/or local committees or boards are you or have you been a member?

I was a member of the Classis Huron Mission Committee for approximately 10 years. I am volunteering to serve as a Synodical Deputy. Locally, I have been part of ministerials wherever I have served but especially here in Fergus have worked with churches of other denominations seeking to serve the community.

What is/were your present and/or previous occupation(s)?

I presently have two occupations – serving as Pastor at The Bridge and serving as a Broker at Keller Williams Home Group Realty. I have served as a missionary (facilitator, seminary teacher, ministry coordinator) in Haiti for one year and I have been the Buyer for Voortman Cookies (maybe you have heard of them?) for eight years before going back to school to become a pastor.

What are your church-related special interests?

1. Leading the Bridge - discipleship, mission, biblical understanding and living, ecumenical cooperation at the local level.
2. Serving the broader church by working with Toward CRC to host conversations across Canada to consider how the recent political/evangelical movements in the US are hurting our denomination and considering how to speak with humility and conviction to help salvage some of what is of value in our denomination in Canada.
3. Advocacy for LGBTQ+ people who seek to follow Jesus in a church culture which tends to make rash judgements before fully understanding either the biblical text or the plight of LGBTQ+ followers of Jesus.

What is/are the primary reason(s) you are willing to serve Classis Huron as a delegate to Synod?

Honestly, I believe that Jesus is calling me to make myself available. My first experience of Synod was a mix of positive (committee work) and traumatic (the floor of Synod). I do believe that, having recorded my negative votes on the decisions made in 2022, I am a unique voice can speak things others cannot (without fear of reprisal). So it is out of obedience, a belief that the Spirit can be at work at Synod, and a deep love for our denomination and sadness at the division we are living with right now.

Information indicated with * is for the clerk only.

The other information will be shared with the classical delegates.