



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

MINUTES

May 17, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

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		David Burgess	Angela Burgess
Blyth	Gary Van Leeuwen	Bert Reinink	Lisa Baarda
Cambridge Maranatha	Norm Sennema	Ed Dyk	Philippe Rodrigue
Cambridge River City	Darrell Bierman		Melissa Burmaster
Clinton	Ray Vander Kooij	Nick Geleynse	Carolyn VanDorp
Collingwood	Victor Laarman	John VanderSter	Gerry Noordegraaf
Drayton	Wes Collins	Dave Koster	Rita Koster
Exeter		Bert Visscher	Leo Weverink
Fergus The Bridge	John Vanderstoep		
Goderich Trinity	Tim Keep	Fraser Kuyvenhoven	
Guelph Campus		Melissa Burmaster	-
Guelph New Life	Ed Jager	Sharon Buisman	Dirk Kroon
Guelph Water Street	Marguerite Ridder (E)	Ed Kuipery	Mary Blydorp
Kitchener Community	Tom Bomhof	Alyanne Colyn	Peter Driesen
Listowel Bethel	Henry Meinen	Cor Reinink	Jacqueline Meijering
Lucknow Community		Margaret VanderVaart	Linda Bisset
Orangeville	Andrew Vis	Charlie Zietsma	
Owen Sound	Sid Couperus	Jim Jansen	Laura Taylor
Palmerston	Ken Labbé	Garth Bierma	Marg Stevens
Stratford	Martin Dam	Henry DeYoung	-
Vanastra Community	Leo Greidanus (elder)	Alida Van Walderveen	
Waterloo		Ron Fisher	Betty Slothouber
Waterloo Campus	Brian Bork		
Wingham Maitland		Mike Hill	Doug Kuyvenhoven

Officers of the day:

Chair: Rev. John Vanderstoep
 Vice-chair: Rev. Tim Keep
 Stated Clerk: Fred Vander Sterre

Committees of the Day:

Credentials: Vanastra Community & Waterloo CRC.
 Overtures: Stratford CRC & Palmerston CRC
 Balloting: Trinity & Bethel, Listowel

1. Welcome, Devotions & Opening:

- 1.1 Rev. Tim Keep opened with devotions, focussing on the fact that it is Christ who is leading the church. It is not about us.
- 1.2 Alida Van Walderveen, a Vanastra Community Church delegate, reported for the Credentials Committee. All churches were represented.
- 1.3 The chair declared Classis Huron Constituted.
- 1.4 Several guests were introduced.

2 Round Table Discussion

Rev. Sid Couperus led a round-table discussion: "An Invitation to Prayer".
He led the classis through three 20-minute prayer sessions, 1 – What do I need for personal renewal, 2 – what 3-5 things do we want our members to pray for, and 3 – prayer for Synod 2023.

3 CMC/AdCom/Stated Clerk report brought by Albert Hovingh:

He introduced the written report and highlighted the newly developed "Delegate to Synod Information Form" that will be used during the February sessions of classis.

Motion to approve the actions of CMC & AdCom

Carried

4 Annual General Meeting

Evert Nagel, classis' treasurer introduced the financial statements.

The presented report was still a draft version.

The official audited report will be posted on the website once available.

Motion to receive the 2022 financial statements

Carried

Motion to appoint MAC LLP in Waterloo for an official review of the 2023 Financial Statements.

Carried

Motion: to endorse Rev. Victor Laarman (Collingwood) as Chair, and Rev. Amanda Bakale (Community, Kitchener) as Vice-Chair of the Classis Huron Corporation.

Carried

Election of new Board member:

Motion: to elect Mr. Nick Geleynse (Clinton CRC) as Member at Large.

Carried

The term of the Board member shall commence at the next meeting of the Board of Directors (June 27, 2023)

5 Financial Resources Team presented two recommendations in response to an overture submitted to classis at its February session:

- 5.1 The Finance Resources Team recommended to Classis Huron that classis implements the mileage reimbursement at the current year's rate per kilometer as approved annually by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). The rate for 2023 is \$0.68 per km.
This mileage reimbursement is paid directly to the pastor who is travelling to the respective church.

Motion: That Classis Huron adopts this recommendation.

Carried

- 5.2 The Finance Resources Team recommended that Classis Huron have a set rate for pulpit supply of \$200.00 per service.

Notes for reimbursement:

When a minister is from another church, the church supplying the pastor will be reimbursed directly, not the pastor.

When a campus minister is preaching the campus minister will be reimbursed along with the mileage.

Motion: That Classis Huron adopts this recommendation. Carried

Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen led classis in prayer for AdCom, CMC and those involved in running the classis.

6 Final report on the closure of *The Journey*:

The books are closing and pastor Toyosi has been well taken care of through ongoing giving.

There will be no assets or debts when the books are closed at the end of June.

Darrell Bierman led in prayer celebrating the ministry of The Journey over the past 19 years and for the former members and their ongoing spiritual journeys.

7 Council of Delegates

Peter Meerveld submitted a written report on the work of COD and the Canada Corporation.

He also responded in his report to some questions leftover from the February session of classis.

Peter has been invited to the September session of Classis Huron.

8 Safe Church Report.

Atie Ott, the Classis Huron Safe Church coordinator, introduced the new Classis Huron Safe Church Policy.

Motion: That Classis Huron adopts the Classis Safe Church policy. Carried

Safe Church training is a requirement for ALL church leaders. A video will be made available by the Safe Church Team and will be posted on the Classis Huron website once available.

Rev. Victor Laarman led classis in prayer for the Safe Church team.

9 Rev. Edward Jager presented Classis Huron with the official request for retirement from the Ministry of Word in the Christian Reformed Church in accordance with Church Order Article 18, effective August 31, 2023, because of his age.

He shared with classis about his time as pastor of New Life

His request has the support of the council of New Life CRC in Guelph.

This request was granted by Classis Huron, with thanks for his years of service.

Rev. Ed Jager, of New Life CRC, Guelph led the delegates in prayer, followed by a good lunch provided by the ladies of the Trinity CRC.

Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen of Blyth CRC led in prayer before the afternoon session.

Rev. John Vanderstoep prayed for Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen and his new opportunities in Nobleford, AB.

10 Waterloo Campus Ministry: – Rev. Brian Bork reported on his work in campus ministry for 15 years. The years during covid were challenging but also opened up new doors. He also reflected on 50 years of campus ministry in Classis Huron, at the universities in Guelph and Waterloo. The world is coming to Canada, particularly to the university campuses.

Rev. Tom Bomhof gave an update on the Waterloo Campus Ministry and thanked Brian for his work. An interim pastor will be hired to carry on the work at the Waterloo campus.

He also thanked the churches for their ongoing support.

Rev. Ron Fisher lifted Brian and the ministry up in prayer and gave him the blessing.

11 Overture Committee Report: The chair explained the process of this discussion.

Rev. Martin Dam spoke on behalf of the Overture Committee. The concern was about the lateness of the overture and the load of overtures presently already on the agenda of synod.

Rev. Ron Fisher spoke on behalf of Waterloo CRC.

Motion to accept the Waterloo overture:

Defeated.

12 Classis Ministry Reports:

12.1 Classical Credentials – Rev. Ron Fisher reported for the committee.

First CRC in Owen Sound invites classis to have the September session in Owen Sound to celebrate 75 years of ministry. They also ask for the submission of prayer items for that session.

12.2 Mission Catalyst – Joan Brady reported

12.2.1 The youth ministry: the planning team likes to see a robust youth ministry coordinator position to launch the youth ministry efforts.

12.2.2 Classis Huron Ministry Plan is in the works.

12.2.3 Joan also reminded the delegates that she is available to the local churches as a resource person.

12.2.4 Classis Huron Mission Team needs additional members.

12.2.5 *Witness, Equipped to share the Good News* a publication from Resonate, was promoted.

This is also available online: [Witness \(resonateglobalmission.org\)](https://www.witnessglobalmission.org)

Rev. Tom Bomhof led in prayer for the Classis Huron Mission Team

12.2.6 Rev. Sid Couperus reported on his role as Prayer Catalyst. He is challenging local churches to identify local prayer catalysts. He suggested that each church posts several prayer requests on the wall for an entire year. "What are we praying for as elders and deacons?"

12.3 Diaconal Committee/DMC – Mary Blydorp reported on the NewGround campaign, listing some of the ministries launched through the support of NewGround.

Rev. Ed Jager prayed for Diaconal Ministries and NewGround.

12.4 Oversight Committee – Rev. Tom Bomhof reported on the committee's meeting with Rev. Stephen Tamming. The committee recommends that classis approve his early retirement according to Art 18, effective September 1, 2023, as he then reached the age of 55 years. An executive session was called.

Motion to approve early retirement to Rev. Stephen Tamming as he reached the age of 55 years, effective September 1, 2023.

Carried

A letter of approval from the council of Trinity CRC is still to be received.

This completes the work of the Oversight Committee.

Rev. Tom Bomhof lifted both Stephen Tamming and Ed Jager in prayer, with blessings on both their retirements.

13 Classical counsellor reports: The counsellors of Bethel (Acton), Exeter, Water Street (Guelph), Community (Kitchener) and Lucknow reported no updates.

Bethel, Listowel has Cameron Oegema, who is serving as an intern.

Vanastra Community has extended a call to a pastor and is waiting for the result of the call.

Rev. Martin Dam led in prayer for the churches seeking a pastor.

14 Denominational Ministries.

- 14.1 Correspondence received: Victor Laarman introduced a letter from Scott DeVries (Director of Synodical Services) related to a Gravamen appeal submitted by several council members. AdCom responded with a letter with clarifications to be sent back to Synod.
- 14.2 Rev. Victor Laarman and Rev. Henry Meinen as Synodical delegates, listed the main items on the agenda of Synod 2023. Some of those items are: responses/overtures to the HSR, the new Code of Conduct for church leaders and reports from the various denominational agencies. Gary Van Leeuwen led in prayer for the delegates and synod.
- 14.3 Calvin University representative Rosanne Lopes reported on the University. She shared about the introduction of a new president. The number of Canadian students has been steadily declining. The international student body is growing. Their involvement in prison ministry is changing cultures within the local prison system. Some concerns about Calvin Universities were raised and AdCom will ask for clarifications.
- 14.4 World Renew: A printed report was included in the agenda.
- 14.5 Redeemer Universities: A printed report was included in the agenda. John Vanderstoep prayed for the denominational ministries.

Deacon Angela Burges prayed for the communities the delegates are returning to.

15 **Evaluation** sheets were made available by Menti.

16 **Motion** to adjourn was made and passed at 3.45 PM.

Carried

17 **Closing prayer** presented by Rev. Ed Jager.

Minutes were approved by CMC, _____, 2023

**Next Session: D.V., Saturday, September 16, 2023, First CRC, Owen Sound.
The deadline for agenda items is August 12, 2023.**

Future Classis Meetings (tentatively)

DATE	LOCATION	REPORTS DUE	CHAIR	VICE-CHAIR
Saturday, Sept.16, 2023	First CRC Owen Sound	August 12, 2023	Rev. Tim Keep	Albert Hovingh
February 21, 2024	Bethel, Listowel	January 17, 2024	Albert Hovingh	
May 15, 2024		April 10, 2024		