



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

MINUTES

May 5, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.

Maranatha Christian Reformed Church

Cambridge, Ontario

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	Elder	Deacon
Acton	Rev. Ray Vander Kooij	Rob Vander Laan	
Blyth	Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen	Karl Boven	Cheryl Bakelaar
Cambridge Mar.	Rev. Norm Sennema	Derek Frank	Rynie Bakelaar
Cambridge River City	Rev. Darrell Bierman	Jim Martin	
Clinton	Elder John Hoogendoorn	Terry Kaastra	MaryAnn Hathaway
Collingwood	Rev. Victor Laarman	Richard Golby	Harry Hofstede
Drayton		Rita Koster	Clara Stevens
Exeter	Rev. Kevin te Brake	Mike Branderhorst	Sylvia Heyink
Fergus 'The Bridge'			
Goderich- Trinity	Rev. Stephen Tamming	William Williams	Tiffany Craig
Guelph – New Life	Rev. Ed Jager	Paul Adema	
Guelph – First	Rev. David Tigchelaar	Shane Zevenbergen	Bob van den Broek
Guelph – Campus	Chaplain Sara DeMoor		
Kitchener Community	Rev. Carel Geleynse	Larry Lutgendorff	Annette Nusselder
Kitchener Journey			
Listowel - Bethel	Rev. Henry Meinen		Maria Krabbe
Lucknow	Rev. Tim Leferink	Greg Stuart	Ronda DeBoer
Orangeville	Rev. Andrew Vis	Fran Oussoren	
Owen Sound	Rev. Harry Zantingh	Tom Bergstra	
Palmerston	Rev. Andrew de Gelder		Tilda Bosman
Stratford	Rev. Martin Dam	Max Van Till	
Vanastra	Rev. Paul DeWeerd	Sonya Wubs	
Waterloo	Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok	Grace Ferguson	Sylvia Rossel
Waterloo – Campus	Rev. Brian Bork		
Wingham - Maitland River			

Devotions for the Day

Opening: Home Missions Committee
 Pre-Lunch – Maranatha [Cambridge] CRC
 Pre-Afternoon Session – Orangeville CRC

Committees of the Day

Credentials Committee: Community [Lucknow] CRC / Trinity [Goderich] CRC
 Balloting Committee: Maranatha [Cambridge] CRC

Special Guests

Mark Wallace, Leader of Missional Leadership Development, Resonate Global Mission
 Amy Baarda, Classis Huron Youth Champion
 Atie Ott, Classis Huron Abuse Response Team

3. Opening: The Credentials Committee reported it had no information from The Journey in Kitchener or Maitland River CRC in Wingham, but that all other churches were represented. Pastor Norman Sennema of Maranatha CRC welcomed Delegates and shared a number of announcements. Classis is declared constituted. Rev. Carel Gelyense of Community CRC, Kitchener, is Chair, Rev. Martin Dam of Stratford CRC is Vice Chair, Rev. Vic Vandermolen, Stated Clerk. The Chair reviewed the Agenda that had been circulated, welcomed Delegates and guests, and invited Rev Norman Sennema and Rev. Kevin te Brake to lead in opening devotions.

4. Opening Devotions Rev. Sennema led Classis in a time of worship and praise as delegates sang and listened to the reading of various Scripture passages. Rev. te Brake led in an opening prayer and read from John 20:19-22. In ensuing comments, he noted the need for the Church-at-large is to be 'missionally' focused and be actively engaged in sharing the Gospel in the world. He encouraged Classis to remember that God gathers His church so it can be "scattered" to be a light within the world, and that it must not only BE disciples but also to GROW disciples – that we are the hands, feet, voice and heart of Jesus in reaching into the world. Delegates then gathered into small groups to reflect on the current realities and blessings being experienced in the Church. Groups concluded with a time of prayer.

5. Council of Delegates Report

Rev. Darrell Bierman [Classis Huron representative to the Council of Delegates] reported on the meetings he had attended recently, sharing that:

- The renovations at the Burlington CRCNA offices were now complete
- There is excellent support for the work of Canadian Ministries Director Rev. Dr. Darren Roorda.
- Social Justice is large part of COD activity: 3 Overtures on this topic are coming to Synod in June.
- The ratio of US/Canadian delegates on the COD executive is balanced at 50/50.
- Agencies are doing well and are remaining within their budget limits
- Giving to Ministry Shares has increased slightly [+/- 1%] across the Denomination
- COD is proposing a 1.5% increase in ministry shares

Rev. Bierman indicated he has completed his service on the COD. Rev. Ralph Wigboldus of Bethel CRC, Listowel, is being recommended to Synod to replace Rev. Bierman.

6. REFRESHMENT BREAK

7. Classis went into Executive Session and the Minutes of that session are in a separate file.

It was moved and seconded to destroy the ballots associated with the Executive Session.

CARRIED

LUNCH BREAK. Prior to enjoying a time of lunch and fellowship, Delegates gave thanks to God for His providence and prayed for a blessing on the lunch. To begin the afternoon session Rev. Andrew Vis led Delegates in prayer, asking for God's blessing on the matters remaining on the Agenda.

8. AdCom/CMC/Stated Clerk Report

Rev. Stephen Tamming

Rev. Tamming highlighted from the report circulated with the Agenda, noting that the September 2018 meeting of Classis will be held in Collingwood. He then referred Delegates to the information, and the recommendations being made for their consideration and approval:

R1 Rev. Chris Pool [served Collingwood CRC until May 2013] has indicated that he will not be seeking a further extension of his ministerial credentials. ***It was moved and seconded that Classis Huron declare Rev. Chris Pool to be honorably released from ministerial office.*** **CARRIED**

Synodical Deputies Rev. James Dekker [Niagara], Rev. Siebert Van Houten [Hamilton] and Rev. Herman Praamsma [Toronto] concurred in the decision of Classis.

R2 In keeping with the recommendation from the Denominational Safe Church offices, ***it was moved and seconded that Classis Huron approve the appointment of a Classis Huron Safe Church Coordinator with the following caveats:***

- A) that this position shall receive an honorarium of \$1,500 from CRCNA for the first year;***
- B) that for the second year and thereafter, Classis Huron shall pay at least the same amount annually for this position*** **CARRIED**

R3] In recognition of the level of work required/being done by the Classis Huron Youth Champion, it was ***moved and seconded that Classis Huron agree to pay an honorarium of \$1,500 annually for this position*** **CARRIED**

R4] Dr. Hazel Lynn of Owen Sound has completed her first term on the Board of Governors of Redeemer College University. ***It was moved and seconded that Classis Huron appoint Dr. Hazel Lynn for a second term of 3 years to the Redeemer University Board of Governors*** **CARRIED**

R5] Due to health issues, Rev. Vic Vandermolen had advised Classis leadership that he is not able to carry on as Stated Clerk. Rev. Tamming expressed the appreciation of Classis and its Committees for his work over the past 4.5 years, and presented him with a token of appreciation. [Applause]
It was moved and seconded that Classis Huron appoint Alternate Stated Clerk Sharon Van Kampen [Listowel Bethel CRC] as the new Stated Clerk, effective at the conclusion of this meeting. **CARRIED**

It was moved and seconded that Classis approve the work of AdCom, CMC and the Stated Clerk. **CARRIED**

9. Credentials Committee Report: Lucknow CRC / Goderich CRC

Goderich CRC Pastor, Rev. Stephen Tamming reported on behalf of the Committee, noting the following:

- Clinton CRC asked for a list of possible Minister candidates for Clinton, and was advised that Classis does not have such a list.
- Drayton CRC asked about other churches allowing professing members to vote if they are under 18. Where a church is incorporate it is required to follow rules regarding 'age of majority' regulations for legal and financial issues.
- Bethel CRC, Listowel, asked what other churches are doing to respond to the challenge of securing members who are willing to serve in the office of Elder. A number of churches offered comments: It was suggested that Bethel consult with its neighboring CRC's to determine what they are doing.
- Vanastra Community CRC reported that it has experienced an uplifting Church Visit with Rev. Andrew DeGelder and Rev. John Medendorp.
- A request on the Stratford CRC credentials asked for the scheduling of an examination of Tom Mosterd for classical licensure at the September session of Classis Huron. ***It was moved and seconded not to acquiesce to this request because Mr. Mosterd is enrolled in the EPMC distance education program as of this September, and the denominational preaching license will be given following completion of a course on preaching. [2020]*** **DEFEATED**
It was subsequently moved and seconded to proceed with an examination for classical licensure at the September 2018 meeting of Classis. **CARRIED**

10 Safe Church Report Mrs. Atie Ott

Delegates were referred to the report circulated with the Agenda. Delegates were advised that a training session had recently been held, and also that representatives are needed to complete the Safe Church Team from the following churches: Cambridge Maranatha, River City, Collingwood, and The Journey. Mrs. Ott also advised Delegates that it is now mandatory to report suspected abuse cases involving anyone up to the age of 18.

11. Classis Huron Financial Statements for 2017 Treasurer John Bell

Treasurer John Bell reviewed the 2017 Financial Statements for Classis Huron and answered a number of questions regarding them. It was agreed to change the name 'Resonate Committee' in the statements to read Home Missions Committee. ***It was moved and seconded that the Classis Huron approve the 2017 Statements.*** **CARRIED**

12. Update re River City CRC, Cambridge Rev. Martin Dam Rev. Darrell Bierman

Rev. Dam shared a brief history of the development of 'church plants' and indicated that they need to become 'organized' in order to become full members of the CRCNA. He outlined the process to be followed, and provided an overview of the maturing process a church plant needs to undergo to be considered 'organized'. Rev. Bierman shared a verbal 'snapshot' of the current condition of River City Church, sharing both the joys and challenges it is experiencing. Delegates were advised that River City wishes to become 'organized', and heard information about what that new 'snapshot' might look like.

13. Classis Ministerial Leadership Team [CMLT]

Rev. Brian Bork shared about the work of CMLT noting that its focus is to be able to provide financial support for students studying to enter ministry.

14. Church Visiting Rev. Martin Dam

Rev. Dam reported on the survey that had been circulated last year about Church Visits noting that of the 9 replies received, the majority desired to engage in annual church Visits. The responses also indicated that some Elders would be willing to act as Church Visitors. Delegates were referred to the Church Visitors' reports for Vanastra Community CRC, Community CRC Kitchener, and Bethel CRC, Listowel.

It was moved and seconded to approved the work of the Church Visitors. CARRIED

15. Youth Ministry Amy Baarda

Classis Huron Youth Champion, Amy Baarda, encouraged Delegates to become aware of/and be engaged in the EQUIP Conference on November 17, 2018 at Bethel CRC in Listowel. For more information go to chymteam@gmail.com

16. Closing/Adjournment The Chair advised that the business of Classis was concluded. Vice Chair Rev. Martin Dam expressed the appreciation of the Delegates for the positive manner in which the Chair had led the meeting. The Chair indicated there were snacks available for Delegates before they left, and expressed the thanks of Classis Huron to Maranatha CRC for its hospitality. There being no further business the meeting was declared adjourned. In closing Delegates rose to sing *The Doxology*

Future Classis Meetings

DATE	LOCATION	REPORTS DUE	CHAIR	VICE CHAIR
Sept. 19 2018	Collingwood CRC	August 15, 2018	Martin Dam	Henry Steenbergen
February 20, 2019	Bethel CRC Listowel	January 9, 2019	Henry Steenbergen	Amanda Bakale
May 15, 2019	Clinton CRC	April 3, 2019	Amanda Bakale	Vicki Verhulst-Cok
Sept. 18, 2019	Drayton CRC	August 14, 2019	Vicki Verhulst-Cok	Ralph Wigboldus

Delegates are reminded that you are expected to stay for the entire meeting. If you must leave before adjournment, please consult with the chair of the day. The Classical Rules of Procedure state: "While Classis is in session, it is not permissible for any member to withdraw or to return homeward without consent of the chair."