



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

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# **MINUTES**

**September 18, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.**

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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.*

Note: due to COVID the attendance to this session of Classis Huron was restricted to two delegates per church.

**Delegates to Classis**

<b>Church</b>	<b>Minister delegate</b>	<b>Elder Delegate</b>	<b>Deacon Delegate</b>
Acton Bethel		Nick Kuipery	Barbara Kerkhof
Blyth		Douwe Top	Robert Bisschop
Cambridge Maranatha	Norm Sennema	Annette Regnerus	
Cambridge River City		James Carroll	James Burmaster
Clinton	Ray Vander Kooij	JoAnne VanMaar	
Collingwood	Victor Laarman		Rob Noordegraaf
Drayton		John Zwart	Ed Kraal
Exeter	Kevin teBrake	Tim DeWeerd	
Fergus The Bridge			
Goderich Trinity	Tim Keep	Andrea Kramer	
Guelph Campus Ministry	Sara DeMoor		
Guelph New Life	Ed Jager		
Guelph Water Street	David Tigchelaar	Marguerite Ridder	
Kitchener Community	Tom Bomhof		Graham Barraclough
Kitchener The Journey			
Listowel Bethel	Ralph Wigboldus	Rev. Henry Meinen	
Lucknow Community	Tim Leferink	Margaret VanderVaart	
Orangeville	Andrew Vis	Henry Jansen	
Owen Sound	Sid Couperus	Marinus Noordemeer	
Palmerston		Ken Mohle	Irene Drost
Stratford	Elder Ed Talsma	Henry DeYoung	
Vanastra Community			
Waterloo	Vicki Cok		
Waterloo Campus Ministry	Brian Bork		
Wingham Maitland River			

**Guests and presenters:**

Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen, CMC;  
 Joan Brady, Mission Catalyzer;  
 Albert Hovingh, Technical Assistant;  
 Pastor Nick Metivier, Drayton CRC.

Atie Ott, Safe Church;  
 Evert Nagel, Classical Treasurer;  
 Neil Klapwyk, Technical Assistant;

Officers of the day: Chair: Rev. Victor Laarman Vice chair: Rev. Ralph Wigboldus  
Stated Clerk: Fred Vander Sterre

Devotions for the Day: Opening: Marguerite Ridder – Water Street CRC, Guelph  
Closing: Vice chair Rev. Ralph Wigboldus – Bethel CRC, Listowel

Committees of the Day: Credentials: Blyth CRC & Clinton CRC.  
Balloting: Water Street CRC & First CRC, Owen Sound

## 1. Welcome, Devotions & Opening:

- 1.1 Rev. Dave Tigchelaar welcomed all in attendance.  
Marguerite Ridder led us in devotion focusing on being genuine fruit-bearers of God.  
By being fruit bearers we are witnessing to our neighbors and to the next generation.  
Marguerite opened Classis with prayer.

**Note:** The chair granted delegate Henry DeYoung leave for medical reasons.

- 1.2 **Classical Credential Committee** reported that the classical credentials were in order. The credential of the Waterloo CRC was not received. The chair ruled the Rev. Vicki Cok, pastor of Waterloo CRC, be seated as delegate.  
Classis Huron was declared constituted.  
Delegates were informed of the proper procedure in case any delegates may be in Conflict of Interest during the meeting.  
Pastors Nick Metivier (Drayton), Tim Keep (Trinity Goderich) and Tom Bomhof (Community Kitchener) were introduced and welcomed.

## 2 Classis Huron Ministries Reports

- 2.1 **Classical Ministries Committee:**  
Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen reported for CMC and AdCom.  
The report included:
- 2.1.1 The approval of the May 12, 2021 session of Classis Huron
- 2.1.2 Seeking nominations of clergy persons for a first term of three years for the board of Calvin Seminary. (Please, submit nominations by October 13).
- 2.1.3 **Motion** to nominate Will Bakker for the board of Redeemer University *Carried*
- 2.1.4 **Motion** to reappointment Ms Lopers-Sweetman for a second term to the board of Calvin University *Carried*
- 2.1.5 **Motion** that Rick DeGraaf be granted the title Commissioned Pastor Emeritus, according to Article 23e of the church order and that with this title he be given the same authority to perform official acts of ministry within Classis Huron as were given to him upon his ordination as Commissioned Pastor. His church council recommended his request. *Carried*  
His emeritus status will go into effect December 1, 2021.
- 2.1.6 **Motion** to approve the work of the CMC, AdCom and the Stated Clerk. *Carried*

- 2.1.7 **Motion** to approve the 2021 Classis Huron Handbook Carried  
It was noted that the official Ministry Plan needs to be developed yet, and will be added to the Handbook once ready and approved by Classis.

The Synodical Deputies joined us by zoom and were welcomed: Henry Wildeboer (Classis Quinte), Dave Vroege (Classis Eastern Canada), Ed Visser (Classis Hamilton, vacationing in Nova Scotia).

- 2.1.8 **Motion:** That Jack DeVries be granted his request to continue to be loaned to the Christian Reformed Church of Australia for a period of up to two years, in accordance with Church Order, Article 13c. His request is supported by the council of his calling church, Bethel CRC, Listowel. Carried

The Synodical Deputies concurred with Classis Huron's decision.

Classis went into executive session.

- 2.1.9 **Motion:** That Rev. Stephen Tamming's ordination be extended for one year according to Article 17c of the Church Order. Carried  
His supervisory committee recommended the extension.  
The Synodical Deputies concurred with Classis Huron's decision.

- 2.1.10 **Motion:** That Rev. Andrew Zantingh be released from ministry according to Article 17c of the Church Order. Carried  
The Synodical Deputies concurred with Classis Huron's decision with an added note:  
in order to facilitate a smooth transition back into full-time ministry, should Andrew feels called to do so, individuals and the churches of Classis Huron are encouraged to remain open, supportive and welcoming to Andrew and to keep him in prayer.  
This release is effective immediately (September 18, 2021).

Norm Sennema lifted the three pastors in prayer, asking for ongoing blessings on their work.

Executive session was lifted.

### **3 Other Classical Committee Reports**

#### **3.1 Classical Counsellors:**

- 3.1.1 For Acton – Andrew Vis reported that the church is currently looking at a short list of potential pastors.
- 3.1.2 For Drayton – Rev. Henry Meinen reported that Pastor Wes Collin is has been installed. That concludes his work as Classical Counselor to Drayton CRC.  
He also noted the presence of Drayton CRC's interim pastor, Nick Metivier.  
Pastor Henry is thanked for his work with the Drayton CRC.
- 3.1.3 For Trinity Goderich – Rev. Tim Leferink reported that Rev. Tim Keep has been installed.  
That concludes his work as Classical Counselor to Trinity.  
Pastor Tim is thanked for his work.
- 3.1.4 For Kitchener Community – Rev. Vicki Cok reported that the church has installed Rev. Tom Bomhof.

As the church is still searching for an additional pastor, Pastor Vicki will continue to serve as Classical Counsellor.

- 3.1.5 For The Journey – Norm Sennema reported that he continues to be in conversation with the leadership team of The Journey. He was invited to take part in their discernment process.
- 3.1.6 For Maitland River CRC, Wingham – Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen reported that the church leadership has developed a church profile and is actively seeking candidates for the position of lead pastor.
- The Chair thanked the Classical Counsellors for their work.

### 3.2 **Classis Huron Ministry Team:**

Rev. Kevin teBrake reported. He highlighted some items of the printed report. Rev. Paul DeWeerd accepted to serve on the team. More members are welcome to join.

The World Renew webinar series titled *Welcome to the neighborhood*. This is a good resource for churches exploring ways to connect with their neighbors:

<https://worldrenew.net/uncategorized/welcome-to-the-neighbourhood> .

Councils are encouraged to read the report “Mission Catalyzer Position Re-Casting” (included in the classis’ agenda package).

The Mission Catalyzer is available as a resource to the local churches.

Joan Brady, the Classis Huron Mission Catalyzer, reported on her work with several churches in the classis. She mentioned various useful resources and tools she is connected with.

Joan responded to a question about the biggest issues our churches are struggling with. She identified this time of COVID as a period for churches to exploring new directions.

Tim Leferink lifted Joan in prayer.

### 3.3 **Financial Resources Team:**

Evert Nagel presented the 2022 Classis Huron Budget.

**Motion** to approve the 2022 budget as presented, with a per member Ministry Share of \$78.45 (assuming 3,964 members). Carried

Evert briefly explained the Denominational Ministry Shares Reimagined program.

### 3.4 **Classical Ministerial Leadership Team:**

Rev. Brian Bork reported on the work of the team and indicated that he is retiring from the team this year and pleads for new members to serve on the team.

Current members are Rev. Kevin teBrake and Rev. Dave Tigchelaar.

The team is providing forgivable loans to students committed to minister in the CRCNA and walk along the students during their study.

One student is currently receiving a loan, while a second student is considering enrollment in the distance M.Div. program. Brian encouraged the delegates to challenge members in the congregations to consider going to seminary.

### 3.5 **Exhortation License Review ad-hoc committees:**

- 3.5.1 Rev. Brian Bork reported on Jack Tacoma’s sermon review.

**Motion** to extend Jack Tacoma’s license to exhort of 5 years. Carried

3.5.2 Rev. Dave Tigchelaar reported Stan Puklicz's sermon review.

**Motion** to extend Stan Puklicz's license to exhort of 5 years.

Carried

### 3.6 Church Visitors:

The church visitors report for First CRC Owen Sound was not presented, as the Church Visitors were not present.

### 3.7 Credential Committee report:

Comments on the credentials:

3.7.1 Drayton CRC thanks classis for the support during their vacancy. RFI

3.7.2 Bethel CRC, Acton is asking:

3.7.2.1 A way of sharing ideas; such as how others are coping with COVID, ideas to help other churches out.

The committee recommends that the clerk requests input and ideas for engaging in ministry in the context of COVID-19, to collate and share.

3.7.2.2 Also about mutual support on items to share i.e. LGBTQ, youth programs etc.

The committee recommends that AdCom consider youth ministry and LGBTQ / human sexuality reports, discussions and idea sharing for future Classis Huron meetings.

## 4 Denominational Ministries Reports

### 4.1 Council of Delegates:

Rev. Ralph Wigboldus reported on COD. It has been a busy season, due to COVID, the cancelation of Synod and the Canadian/USA relationship. He reported on the SALT (Structure And Leadership Task Force) report, (<https://www.crcna.org/news-and-events/news/structure-and-leadership-changes-pending>) that was accepted with some concerns.

He mentioned the removal of Rev. Darren Roorda as Canadian Ministry Director.

Ralph addressed some questions about the different visions that resulted in Darren's dismissal.

John Zwart led in prayer for the Canadian dynamics of our denomination and for Rev. Darren Roorda. He prayed for peace, joy and fellowship and for the staff of the Burlington office.

### 4.2 World Renew

Fred Vander Sterre introduced a video with updates on the earthquake in Haiti.

This video is available from the Classis Huron website to show in the churches

(<https://classishuron.ca/late-fall-meeting-2021/>).

### 4.3 Safe Church Ministry

Atie Ott showed a video on the work of the Safe Church Ministry and its work in the local churches. response and the prevention of abuse in the church (available on the Safe Church website <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3daCM9Fsns>). All webinars are on line.

September 26 is Abuse Awareness Sunday.

She promoted the book "A Church called Tov".

Some confirmations of positive experiences with Safe Church were shared.

### 4.4 Miscellaneous

- 4.4.1 A question was raised regarding the proper procedure of the collection of pledges of Ministry Shares Reimagined. What is the role of classis in the process? AdCom to follow up.
- 4.4.2 The meeting was declared adjourned at 12:48 PM.
- 4.4.3 The delegates were reminded to fill out the evaluation sheets.
- 4.5 Closing remarks were made by Rev. Ralph Wigboldus, with thanks to chairman Victor. Rev. Kevin teBrake closed in prayer.

Chair of Classis  
Rev. Victor Laarman

Stated Clerk of Classis  
Fred Vander Sterre

**Next Session: D.V., Wednesday, February 16, 2022, Bethel, Listowel.  
Deadline for agenda items is January 12, 2022.**

**Future Classis Meetings (tentatively)**

DATE	LOCATION	REPORTS DUE	CHAIR	VICE CHAIR
Wed., Feb. 16, 2022	Bethel CRC, Listowel	January 12, 2022	Rev. Martin Dam	Rev. Sid Couperus
Wed., May 18, 2022	Community CRC, Kitchener	April 13, 2022	Rev. Sid Couperus	Rev. Paul DeWeerd
Sat., Sept. 17, 2022		August 13, 2022	Rev. Paul DeWeerd	Rev.
Wed., Feb. 15, 2023		January 11, 2023	Rev.	Rev.
Wed., May 17, 2023		April 12, 2023	Rev.	
Wed.,Sept.16, 2023		August 12, 2023		