



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

MINUTES

September 16, 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		Ruth Becker	Andrea Kamminga
Blyth	Karl Boven (Elder)	Justin Baarda	Lisa Baarda
Cambridge Maranatha	Tim Wolfert (elder)	Will Nonkes	Teresa Wolfert
Cambridge River City	Darrell Bierman	James Carroll	
Clinton	Ray Vander Kooij	Mark Damsma	
Collingwood	Victor Laarman		Ron Jack
Drayton	Wes Collins		Rita Koster
Exeter		Dan Vanderlaan	Joy DeWeerd
Fergus The Bridge			
Goderich Trinity	Tim Keep	Rob Terpstra	Phil Dalton
Guelph Campus Ministry	Sara DeMoor		-
Guelph New Life		Peter Meerveld	Brenda Mak
Guelph Water Street	Kasey Van der Veen	Peter Kingma	Marguerite Ridder (Elder)
Kitchener Community	Laura De Jong	Janet Barry	Carling Luymes
Listowel Bethel	Henry Meinen	Adam Cosens	Dennis Greidanus
Lucknow Community		Ronda deBoer	Ethan Winterburn
Orangeville	Andrew Vis	Tena DeWay	
Owen Sound	Sid Couperus	Corrine Hummel	Vivian Huizinga
Palmerston		Jim Teune	Irene Drost
Stratford	Martin Dam	John DeWeerd	-
Vanastra Community	Robert Hoekstra	Jason Doble	Albert Haak (elder)
Waterloo	Vicki Cok	Pamela Josse	
Waterloo Campus Ministry	Melissa Burmaster		
Wingham Maitland River	Bart Eisen	Albert Teeninga	

Officers of the day:

Chair: Rev. Tim Keep
 Vice-chair: Mr. Albert Hovingh
 Stated Clerk: Fred Vander Sterne

Committees of the Day:

Credentials: Orangeville & MRCC CRC.
 Balloting: Menti and First CRC, Owen Sound.

1. Welcome, Devotions & Opening:

1.1 Rev. Sid Couperus (First CRC, Owen Sound) welcomed everyone and opened with devotions, focusing on God's faithfulness. He noted that the First CRC, Owen Sound is celebrating 75 years of God's grace.

Pastor Sid led us in a time of prayer focusing on 3-5 prayer items as were identified by the individual churches.

2 Rev Bart Eisen (Maitland River Community Church, Wingham) reported for the Credentials Committee. All churches were represented.

One delegate, Brenda Mak, not recorded on the classical credentials, was approved to be seated as a delegate for New Life.

Rev. Sid Couperus declared Classis Huron Constituted.

3 Examination of Candidate Cameron Oegema for Ordination.

The Synodical Deputies Rev. Joshua Tuininga (Classis Quinte), Rev. Michael Bootsma (Classis Hamilton) and Rev. Philip Apoll (Classis Ontario Southwest) were present via Zoom.

Rev. Victor Laarman (Collingwood) introduced Cameron.

1) Practica

Cameron was examined in the area of Practica by Rev. Victor Laarman.

The opportunity was given for questions and comments from delegates and the Synodical Deputies.

Motion was made and seconded to proceed to the next step. *Carried*

2) Sermon Evaluation

Rev. Martin Dam and elder John DeWeerd (Stratford CRC) reported on the evaluation of the sermon that was based on Deuteronomy 6:1-9. Cameron delivered that sermon at Bethel CRC, Listowel, on August 27, 2023. They were very satisfied with all 3 of Cameron's sermons and recommended proceeding to the next examination stage.

The opportunity was given for questions and comments from delegates and the Synodical Deputies.

Motion was made and seconded to proceed to the next step. *Carried*

The concurrence of the Synodical Deputies was received.

3) Biblical & Theological Position

Candidate Cameron was examined in the area of Biblical & Theological by Rev. Andrew Vis (Orangeville).

The opportunity was given for questions and comments from delegates and the Synodical Deputies.

Motion to close the examination was declared by the Chair.

The Chair declared Executive Session.

Motion was made and seconded to admit Cameron Oegema to the Ministry of the Word.

The opportunity was given for discussion.

The Synodical Deputies were directed to a break-out room to prepare their recommendations.

Classis voted on the motion by a combination of Menti and paper ballots for the admission of Cameron

Oegema to the Ministry of the Word.

Motion carried.

The Synodical Deputies returned and indicated their concurrence with the decision of Classis Huron. They would like to know if a mentor has been assigned to Cameron. Further, they would encourage that the assigned mentor will focus on covenant theology and missional sensitivity.

The Chair declared Executive Session ended.

Upon Cameron's return to the main session, the Chair extended congratulations to Cameron. Rev. Henry Meinen (Bethel, Listowel) led the delegates in prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and on Cameron's ministry at Bethel CRC in Listowel.

The Chair extended appreciation to all those involved in the examination.

The ordination service is scheduled for October 15, 2023, at Bethel CRC, Listowel.

4 The request of the Council of the Exeter Christian Reformed Church that Classis Huron declares that the work of the Director of Planned Gifts & Investments of the Christian School Foundation is consistent with the calling of the Minister of the Word per Church Order article 12-c. and that Classis Huron grant approval for Rev. Kevin teBrake to be called to this position.

Dan Vander Laan, a delegate from Exeter, presented a brief history of the journey of pastor Kevin.

Motion to grant the request of the Exeter CRC.

The opportunity was given for discussion.

The synodical deputies leave to prepare their recommendation.

The classis voted by ballot.

The motion was defeated.

The Synodical Deputies were dismissed with thanks.

Rev. Ray Vander Kooij (Clinton CRC) led the delegates in pre-lunch prayer.

Classis broke for a lunch break.

Rev. Wesley Collins (Drayton CRC) led in post-lunch prayer.

5 CMC/AdCom/Stated Clerk report brought by Rev. Victor Laarman:

He introduced the written report.

CMC is asking for office bearers willing to volunteer to serve as church visitors.

Motion to accept pastors Ed Den Haan and Ron Fisher as new church visitors

Carried

Classis treasurer Evert Nagel introduced the 2024 Classis Huron budget.

Several delegates declared a conflict of interest and refrained from voting.

Motion to approve the 2024 budget

Carried

Motion to elect Sara DeMoor as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors.

The term shall commence immediately.

Carried

Motion to approve the actions of CMC, AdCom and the Stated Clerk

Carried

6 Classical Credentials Committee

On behalf of the committee, Rev. Bart Eisen reported on a communication received from River City in Cambridge about an alternate model for Classis meetings.

Motion to pass this on to AdCom as a discussion item for the February meeting.

Carried

7 COD Report

- 7.1 Roshani Morton, Director of Advancement, explained the current Denominational Ministry Shares.
She distributed a package for each church including videos and a collection of stories.
- 7.2 Peter Meerveld (Classis Huron's representative to the Council of Delegates) used a PowerPoint presentation to present practical steps on how the churches can be meaningful partners with the Ministry Shares, including the timeline for submitting the pledges. He challenged every church council to have a conversation about Ministry Shares.
Peter expressed an appreciation for how well the churches of classis Huron have supported Denominational Ministries.
- 7.3 Rev. Al Postma (Transitional Executive Director, Canada) talked about the Canadian Denominational structure. This is a work in progress and is developing well. Being a binational denomination brings unique challenges, including a sense of disunity.
Al responded to a few questions.

8 Other Denominational Reports:

- 8.1 Rev. Lesli Van Milligen reported on Thrive, a newly formed cluster of formerly small denominational agencies. She challenged the delegates to come up with three conversation items related to life, ministry and mission in their local churches.
Thrive's purpose is to respond more quickly to the needs of the local church.
- 8.2 Monica Couperus de Castillo reported for the Indigenous Ministry Committee. She challenged the delegates to sign up for the *Hearts Exchange* program at crcna.org/hearts-exchanged.

Rev. Sid Couperus led in prayer for denominational ministries

9 MAID

Dr. John Van Dorp and Dr. Fred Veenstra gave a presentation about medical assistance in dying for those who are in pain. Many suicide attempts are carried out by people who continue to live full, successful lives.

It is essential that churches need to reach out with compassion for those who are suffering.

Rev. Henry Meinen led in prayer.

10 Exhortation License Review Committee

Rev. Ray Vander Kooij reported for the committee.

Motion to renew Dorothea Vuyk's license to exhort for five years.

Carried

Dorothea will be encouraged to continue her mentorship with an ordained pastor.

Rev. Martin Dam led in prayer.

11 Classical Counselors

- 11.1 Rev. Bart Eisen reported on Blyth CRC: a profile is in place and a search committee is formed.
- 11.2 Rev. Martin Dam reported on Exeter CRC: their search committee is in place and has made a few contacts.
- 11.3 Rev. Victor Laarman reported on Guelph, New Life: as it was known that pastor Ed was retiring this summer, a team has been in place since the spring.
- 11.4 Rev. Tim Keep (Trinity, Goderich) reported on Lucknow Community CRC: a church profile is in

place and the search committee is formed.

12 Other Classical Ministries

- 12.1 Safe Church Report: Rev. Victor Laarman reported for Atie Ott.
Safe Church is now folded into Thrive, the new denominational agency.
The classis Huron Safe Church Team is searching for someone to take on the coordinator's position.
- 12.2 Classical Ministerial Leadership Team: Rev. Wesley Collins reported that four students are currently supported by the team. The tuition parity program at Clavin Seminary is good news for Canadian students. As the team currently consists of only two members, an invitation is extended for others to join the CMLT.
- 12.3 Mission Catalyzer Joan Brady reported on the development of a ministry plan for classis Huron. She reported also about her other activities among the churches of classis.
Her involvement with Resonate was explained including the various resources Resonate makes available to the churches.
- 12.4 Synodical Delegates Reports: Rev. Henry Meinen and Rev. Victor Laarman shared their experiences at Synod 2023.
- 12.5 Sara DeMoor and Melissa Burmaster reported on the exciting 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Guelph and the Waterloo campus ministries.
Rev. Bart Eisen led in prayer

13 Evaluation sheets were distributed by Menti.

14 **Motion** to adjourn at 4:07 PM.

Carried

15 **Closing prayer** presented by chairman Rev. Tim Keep.

Minutes were approved by CMC, January 24, 2024

**Next Session: D.V., Saturday, February 21, 2024, Bethel CRC, Listowel.
The deadline for agenda items is January 17, 2024.**

Future Classis Meetings (tentatively)

DATE	LOCATION	REPORTS DUE	CHAIR	VICE-CHAIR
February 21, 2024	Bethel, Listowel	January 17, 2024	Albert Hovingh	Rev. Victor Laarman
May 15, 2024		April 10, 2024	Rev. Victor Laarman	

