



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

MINUTES

September 17, 2022 – 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		Dave Steckley	Rob VanderLaan
Blyth	Gary Van Leeuwen	Calvin Bakelaar	
Cambridge Maranatha		Karl DeVries	
Cambridge River City	Darrell Bierman	James Burmaster	
Clinton	Ray Vander Kooij	Andy Uyl	Marg Kroes
Collingwood	Victor Laarman	Gerry Noordegraaf	Rob Noordegraaf
Drayton		Albert Scholten	
Exeter	Dan Vanderlaan (elder)		Leo Weverink
Fergus The Bridge	John Vanderstoep		
Goderich Trinity	Tim Keep	Nick Heykoop	Laura Duckworth
Guelph Campus Ministry	Sara DeMoor		-
Guelph New Life	Ed Jager	Angela Nywening	Rebecca Bokma (pastor)
Guelph Water Street		Webb Kamminga	Mary Blydorp
Kitchener Community	Laura de Jong	Isaak Bokma	Pete Driezen
Kitchener The Journey	Toyosi Awesu		
Listowel Bethel		Marcel van Leeuwen	Alfred Devries (elder)
Lucknow Community		Ronda deBoer	Lou Jurgens
Orangeville	Andrew Vis	Charles Zietsma	
Owen Sound	Sid Couperus	Bruce DeBoer	Laura Taylor
Palmerston			
Stratford	Martin Dam	J Oosterom	-
Vanastra Community	Alida Van Walderveen (elder)	Leo Greidanus	
Waterloo		Pam Joosse	
Waterloo Campus Ministry	Brian Bork		
Wingham Maitland River	Bart Eisen	Cathy Ritsema	Bill Cooper

Officers of the day: Chair: Rev. Darrell Bierman Vice chair: Rev. Ed Jager
Acting Clerk: Rev. Victor Laarman

Devotions for the Day: Opening: Sean Saunders – CRCNA Endorsed Worship Coaches
Pre-lunch: Emily Josee, Waterloo CRC
Post-lunch: Toyosi Awesu, Journey Church
Closing: Vice chairman Rev. Ed. Jager

Committees of the Day: Credentials: Water Street CRC, Guelph & Bethel, Listowel.

1. Welcome, Devotions & Opening:

- 1.1 Rev. Martin Dam welcomed all in attendance and opened in prayer. Sean Saunders led us in worship and opening devotions based on John 4:19-24. True worship engages both minds and hearts (or spirit). Corporate worship is more about *presence* with Christ and his people, not *preference* of music style. It's about *passion* for God; our particular *practices* are secondary.
- 1.2 The chair reminded all the purpose of classis. The Credentials Committee reported that all credentials are submitted and in order. All churches are represented at the classis except for Palmerston CRC. The chair read the covenant of Office Bearers, that is to be signed by all first-time delegates.
- 1.3 The chair declared that Classis Huron was Constituted.
- 1.4 The Declaration of Conflicts of Interest was explained.

2 Sean Saunders

- 2.1 Sean explained the relatively new ministry of the CRCNA: Endorsed Worship Coaches. Some churches are struggling with resourcing and equipping worship teams. EWCs serve congregations to be resourced and grow in their worship ministries. Sean helps specifically with tech challenges, song 'diet' of the congregation, 'inductive worship', and developing worship arrangements to fit the number of musicians you have. Sean challenged us identify three growth areas and so submit them via a form he handed out, or to him via email. sean.g.saunders@gmail.com. Rev. Ed. Jager prayed for Sean and Endorse Worship Coaches.

3 Examinations of Dorothea Vuyk

- 3.1 Dorothea was examined both in 'Practica' (examined by Rev. Andrew Vis) and Theology (examined by Rev. Darrell Bierman) as part of the examination process to grant her a license to exhort in Classis Huron. Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen presented an evaluation of a sermon Dorothea preached in Bethel CRC (evaluation by Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen and Rev. Henry Meinen). After the examination 'Executive Session' was declared. Classis voted by ballot to grant licensure. After declaring Executive Session ended, Rev. Ray Vander Kooij led in a prayer of thanksgiving for Dorothea's gifts and abilities and prayed for God's blessing in her ministry.
- 3.1.1 **Motion** to grant licensure to Dorothea Vuyk for one year. (voting was done by ballot). Carried.

4 Stephen Tamming's ordination

Motion: that Stephen Tamming's ordination to be extended for one year according to Article 17c of the Church Order. Carried

His supervisory committee recommended the extension.

Synodical Deputies concurred with this decision.

- 4.1 AdCom tasked by Classis to work diligently to get 1-2 new members for Oversight Committee working with Rev. Tamming, and that classis can be expecting an in-person report from the Oversight Committee at the February 2023 Classis Huron meeting.
Rev. Tim Keep prayed for Rev. Stephen Tamming.

5 CMC/AdCom/Stated Clerk report

Rev. Victor Laarman reported for CMC and AdCom. The report included:

- 5.1 **Motion** to classis to approve \$3950 for the support of the 2023 Canadian National Gathering. Carried
- 5.2 **Motion** to classis to cover the cost of \$500 for the Stated Clerk Gathering 2023 in Bellflower. Carried
- 5.3 **Motion** to classis to increase the honorariums of classis' servants by 5%. Carried
- 5.4 **Motion** to renew the Bridge App for another year at a cost of \$6300. Carried
It was noted that about 1/3 of the classis' churches are actively using this app. It is considered to be a useful tool.
- 5.5 **Motion** to accept the 2023 budget to classis Huron. Carried
- 5.6 **Motion** to elect Amanda Bakale as Member at Large to the Board of Directors. The term shall commence on November 1, 2022. Carried
- 5.7 **Motion** to classis to approve the actions of AdCom, CMC and the Stated Clerk. Carried

6 Ministry Reports:

- 6.1 Classis Huron Mission Team. No representatives of the CHMT were present, and Rev. Darrell Bierman encouraged Classis members to consider serving on this committee.
- 6.2 Mission Catalyzer report – written report received for information
- 6.3 Youth Ministry Retreat report – Leah Pronk (Youth Director at Bethel CRC) reported on the recent youth ministry leader retreat. They discussed many big (global) issues that are affecting youth of the churches. They reflected together on some priorities they have for youth ministry. 14 people in total attended the retreat, with 7-8 churches represented.
Rev. Bart Eisen prayed for the youth ministries of Classis Huron
- 6.4 Safe Church Committee – Rev. Victor Laarman reported on behalf of the Safe Church Committee. Vacancies on the Classis Huron Safe Church Team need to be filled from Bethel (Acton), Cambridge, Drayton, Lucknow, and Orangeville CRCs.

7 Other Classical Committee Reports

- 7.1 **Classical Credentials Committee**
 - 7.1.1 First CRC, Owen Sound – invites Classis Huron to schedule the September 2023 meeting in Owen Sound to celebrate their 75th anniversary
 - 7.1.2 Exeter CRC – is inviting council members from Classis Huron to attend a training event called Thriving Essentials on September 28-29, 7-9pm, at Exeter CRC.
 - 7.1.3 Bethel Listowel – requests no Saturday meetings in September because of weddings. Councils of each congregation are recommended to communicate with AdCom regarding how
 - 7.1.4 Community CRC – is wondering if and how churches are responding to HSR from Synod. Referred to AdCom.

- 7.1.5 Community CRC also recommends Larry Lutgendorff to attend the Canada-wide Conversation on Sept 24. It was reported that the delegates for this were already selected.

7.2 Classical Counselor reports:

- 7.2.1 For Bethel, Acton – no update.
 7.2.2 For Bethel, Listowel – no update.
 7.2.3 Exeter – no update.
 7.2.4 Kitchener Community – no update.
 7.2.5 Lucknow Community – no update.
 7.2.6 For Palmerston CRC -- Rev. Victor Laarman reported that they have a transition team in place, and they are investigating the possibility of calling a local minister from the RCA.
 7.2.7 For Vanastra Community - Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen reported that Vanastra is still working on creating a church profile, and they are seeking to find a Transition Pastor.
 7.2.8 Water Street, Guelph – no update.
 Rev. Victor Laarman prayed for the churches searching for a pastor.

8 Emeritus Status of Jack De Vries

- 8.1 **Motion** to accede to the request of Jack DeVries, endorsed by Bethel (Listowel) CRC to grant emeritus status in the CRCNA effective 1 January 2023, and communicate this to the CRCN and relevant agencies. Carried.

9 Denominational Ministries.

- 9.1 Code of Conduct – no input from Classis Huron.
 9.2 Canadian National Gathering (May 25-28, 2023). The chair opened the floor for any nominations for the Canadian National Gathering.
 Marguerite Ridder, Mary Blydorp, John VanderStoep, and Larry Lutgendorff were nominated by Classis Huron. If they do not accept the nomination, AdCom will find alternatives
 9.3 Delegates to synod report – Rev. Andrew Vis, Rev. John Vanderstoep and Young Adult representative Rebecca Bokma reported.
 Rev. Ed Jager prayed for the future of the denomination.
 9.4 Al Postma, Transitional Canadian Executive Director, reported on his new role. Part of Al's role is to rebuild trust after the departure of Darren Roorda as Canadian Ministries Director.
 He also promoted *Our Journey 2025*.
 9.5 Ministry Shares – Al Postma highlighted the necessity of ministry shares for how we support ministry together. Ministry Shares Reimagined has changed the way ministry shares are collected. Churches are encouraged to make a pledge to the denomination, and the denominational budget will be based on those pledges.
 Rev. Sid Couperus prayed for Al Postma and denominational leadership.
 9.6 World Renew – Mary Blydorp highlighted from the World Renew report the opportunity to give to *Free a Family* program on Thanksgiving. She also spoke on community development, international disaster response, and sponsoring refugees.
 Sara De Moor prayed for World Renew.

- 10 Vice-chair, Rev. Ed. Jager, thanked Rev. Darrel Bierman for his leadership during the meeting.

- 11** Motion to adjourn was made and passed at 2:45pm.
Classis Huron adjourned by singing the doxology.

Minutes were approved by CMC, _____, 2023

**Next Session: D.V., Wednesday, February 15, 2023, Palmerston CRC, Palmerston.
Deadline for agenda items is January 7, 2023.**

Future Classis Meetings (tentatively)

DATE	LOCATION	REPORTS DUE	CHAIR	VICE CHAIR
Wed., Feb. 15, 2023	Palmerston CRC	January 11, 2023	Rev. Ed Jager	Rev. John Vanderstoep
Wed., May 17, 2023	Trinity CRC Goderich (tentative)	April 12, 2023	Rev. John Vanderstoep	Rev. Tim Keep
Sat., Sept.16, 2023	First CRC Owen Sound	August 12, 2023	Rev. Tim keep	
Wed., Feb. 21, 2024		January 17, 2024		
Wed., May 15, 2024		April 10, 2024		
Sat., Sept.21, 2024		August 17, 2024		