

CLASSIS HURON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN NORTH  
AMERICA

Minutes of September 19, 2007 – 9:00 am.  
At First CRC Guelph

**OUR PURPOSE IS:**

To support, equip and encourage our churches in the ministries  
as God has called us.

**OUR VISION IS:**

The churches of Classis Huron will foster deeper relationships with the Lord and each other through community and accountability as we support, encourage and equip one another to reach the lost, gather those made alive in Jesus Christ and disciple all his people, through the ministries of our individual churches and the joint ministries of Classis.

**1. Officers**

- a. Chair: Rev. Jack Vande Hoef
- b. Vice chair: Rev. Darren Roorda
- c. Stated Clerk: Rev. Ed Den Haan

**2. Constituting of Classis**

- a. Call to Order by the host church. Rev. Jack Vande Hoef called the September 2007 meeting of Classis Huron to order and welcomed the delegates
- b. Devotions –
  - i. Rev Jack Vande Hoef asked Classis to join in singing 2 hymns
  - ii. The John Calvin Christian School Tone Chimes group played “Holy, Holy, Holy” for Classis.

- iii. Rev. Ed Den Haan led Classis in a devotion entitled “Humble Servants” based on John 13: 1-17. And led Classis in prayer
- iv. We concluded with singing the Servant Song.

### **3. Credentials Committee Reported as Follows**

<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Pastor’s and Elder’s Name</b>	<b>Elder’s Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Acton	Ray Vande Kooij	Grace Silvis - new	
Blyth	John Kuperus	Hans Boonstoppel	
Cambridge Maranatha	John VanderStoep	George Eelkema	
Clinton	Alf Dykstra – new	Dick Steenstra - new	
Collingwood	Chris Pool	Richard Golby	
Drayton	John Vander Burgh	Larry Brouwer	
Exeter	Harry Freilink	Clifford Knip	
Goderich	Stephen Tamming	Fred Bruinsma	
Guelph Campus	Jamie Vander Berg		
Guelph First	Jack Vande Hoef	John Ridder	Credentials late.
Guelph New Life	Jamie Vander Berg, Jack Tacoma	Peter Schuurman - new	
Journey	Adrian Van Giessen -new		
Kincardine	Rick Luymes	Stuart Vander Vaart	
Kitchener	Darren Roorda	Hank Stronks -new	
Listowel	Louise Lise	Cor Reinink	
Lucknow	Ken De Boer	Dick Askes	
Maitland	Peter Janssens	Jack Wilins	
Orangeville	Roger Gelwicks	David Johnston - new	No credentials
Owen Sound	George Holthof	Simon de Boer	
Palmerston	Albert Hovign	Wiebe van Zwol - new	
River City	Darrell Bierman		
Stratford	Bill Hoogland	Charles Vander Heide - new	
Vanastra	J Stryker	Allen Wyga	Rev. Speelman away at very ill sister’s side, no credentials
Waterloo	Vicki Cok	Jacinda Reitsma	
Waterloo Campus	Graham Morbey	George Eelkema	

1. The delegations from First Guelph, Orangeville and Vanastra lacked credentials; Classis seated them by vote.

2. All new delegates signed the form of subscription.
3. The 2007 CRC Synod's authorization of church plant delegations enables Classis to seat delegates from The Journey and River City CRCs. The pastors of these congregations, Revs Adrian Van Giessen and Darrell Bierman, were seated by vote.
4. CIC was mandated to develop an appropriate procedure for credentialing and seating of future delegations from our church plant congregations.

#### **4) Classis constituted.**

Rev. Jack Vande Hoef declared Classis Constituted.

#### **5) Opening of Classis**

1. Welcome of New Members and Guests
2. Campus Ministers Revs. Graham Morbey and Jamie Vander Burg
3. Church Plant Ministers Revs. Darrell Bierman and Adrian Van Giessen
4. Rev. John Vander Burgh, new minister in the Drayton CRC, was welcomed to Classis.

#### **6) Devotions for the Day were assigned as follows**

1. Beginning – First Guelph
2. Pre-lunch – Kitchener
3. Post-lunch – Lucknow
4. Pre-supper and end of meeting by Rev. Jack Vande Hoef

#### **7) Committee Appointments were**

1. Credentials Committee – Waterloo and Listowel
2. Balloting Committee – First Guelph and Guests
3. Kincardine separation request Pre advice Committee, Rick Luymes, Rev. Ron Fisher(convener) and George Eelkema,

Note: The first church listed reports to Classis on behalf of the Committee and submits a written report to the Stated Clerk.

#### **8) Classis Ministry Committee Development program,**

Rev. George Holthof introduced the morning program and speaker - Rev. John Kuperus.

John Kuperus spoke on fasting as a spiritual exercise and provided a handout. He encouraged Classis to develop fasting as a spiritual exercise and provided suggestions for doing so.

#### **9) Stated Clerk's Report**

An additional report as follows was presented:

1. The agenda for Classis Toronto's September meeting includes a report entitled: "Welcoming the Nations at Our Doorstep": Responding to Our Changing Communities. The report suggests we need to understand our growing multi-culture and its importance for our ministry.

2. Rev. Westerhof submitted a report on his work with the Lucknow congregation. I received the report on September 4, too late to include in our agenda. The report states that the congregation is looking ahead in a healthy way and that Rev. Westerhof's work with Lucknow has ended; his work was greatly appreciated by the Lucknow congregation.
3. Rev. Duane Visser of the CRCNA Pastor Church Relations Office informed us that Rev. Paul Stadt has been appointed as mentor to Rev. John Vander Burgh.
4. Two congregations have nominated their reps to the Safe Church Committee. This requires Classis to ratify their names for appointment to the Safe Church Committee. They are:
  - a. Tena De Way from Orangeville and
  - b. Alfretta Vander Heyden from Listowel.

**The nominations were ratified.**

5. Rev. Chris Schievink's credentials arrived on September 12; they have been processed and forwarded to Classis Chatham.
6. Rev. Darren Roorda offered to act as Vice Chair for this meeting of Classis and has been so engaged. He will chair the next meeting of Classis.

**The entire report was accepted and the work of the Stated Clerk Approved.**

## **10) CIC Report**

The report was accepted and the Committee's work approved.

## **11) Kincardine Tenyenhuis Separation**

1. Classis prayed for wisdom, sensitivity and God's guidance in this matter.
2. The following action was taken by Classis regarding Kincardine's and Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis' request for separation:
  - a. That Classis grant the separation requested by Kincardine and Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis. An all party agreed to severance package is to be provided by Kincardine.
  - b. And, in order to be eligible for a call Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis agrees to participate in a 6 month or 2 term program of Clinical Pastoral Education.
  - c. And, that the Kincardine congregation agrees to hire an Interim Pastor to assist the congregation in assessing its viability for future ministry. Kincardine also agreed not to call a regular pastor until the Interim Pastor reports to Classis on the congregation's viability.

**The motion was adopted**

3. The Synodical Deputies concurred in the decision of Classis.
4. Classis prayed for God's blessing on this decision, the Kincardine congregation, and Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis.

## **12) Ministry Committee Report**

### **A) CMC recommends to Classis:**

1. That the role of the stated clerk remains as it is currently mandated.

2. That the stated clerk refers any responsibilities outside of his mandate to CIC, church visitors, regional pastors or other appropriate classical committees.
3. That the stated clerk limits his classical involvement to the mandate of the stated clerk position.

Grounds:

- a. We believe that Classis Huron is not at this time ready to move to an expanded mandate and function for the Stated Clerk. This would involve a substantial increased financial commitment from the congregations of Classis Huron.
- b. The tasks of coordination and support can and should be picked up by other leaders within Classis Huron.

**The motion was adopted**

The chairman, Rev. Jack Vande Hoef, asked Classis for the names of congregations that would encourage their pastors to pick up the work not assigned by mandate to the stated clerk; none offered to do so. The chair then encouraged CMC to develop the Stated Clerk's mandate and other possible assignments or mandates to assure the welfare of Classis.

**B) The Classis Youth Committee**

Rev. George Holthof suggested that Classis reconsider the need of a Youth Ministry Director for Classis.

**C) Ministry Plan**

- i. CMC presented a re-visited – 3 Year Ministry Plan adopted by Classis Huron in 2001.

**The revised plan was adopted.**

The chair of Classis highlighted the closeness of the vote and encouraged the CMC to take that into consideration along with the comments made in the discussion as it continues its work on the ministry plan.

**13) Home Missions Committee Report**

Marguerite Ridder gave an overview of Home Missions primary strategies for 2007. Her report was amplified by:

1. Rev. John Vanderstoep spoke on Prayer/Spiritual formation and its impact in the Cambridge CRC.
2. A Classis-wide Day of Prayer is planned for Saturday, November 24 at the Listowel CRC on the theme "Lord, teach us to pray."
3. Rev. Darrell Bierman informed us on the River City church plant.

**The report was received as information.**

## **14) Treasurer's Report by Cindy Tamming**

1. The proposed budget and Ministry Share rates for Classis Huron were presented
2. The Youth Committee request for \$5,000.00 was deleted from the report as an editorial correction...

**The amended report was adopted.**

## **15) Nominations Committee Report**

### **Promotion Proposal**

1. Purpose:  
To increase our members' awareness of and involvement in Classis Huron
2. Vision:  
That Classis be fully staffed to support, equip and encourage our churches in the ministries as God has called us.
3. Program  
A three stage communication program to reach and enlist our members for staffing Classis
  - a. Postcard
    - i. Purpose: to raise the awareness and interest of our members in the mission of Classis Huron
    - ii. A printed colourful postcard distributed to every congregational member
  - b. Brochure
    - i. Purpose: to inform our members of the exciting places in Classis Huron where they might serve God and neighbours.
    - ii. Brochures as needed and simply duplicated as needed by electronic means
  - c. Liaison or Coordinator
    - i. Purpose: to connect need with opportunity - members desiring to serve with specific opportunities to serve
    - ii. Who? A member in each of our congregations who is able to coordinate and promote staffing for Classis

**This proposal was adopted and funded as described in the budget**

## **16) CRCNA – ServiceLink**

**The report was received as information**

## **17) Campus Ministry Report**

On behalf of the Committee Waterloo CRC moved that:

The work of the Waterloo Campus Committee be approved, that the membership of the Search Committee be accepted, and that this committee be encouraged to carry out the task for which it is formed.

**The motion was seconded and adopted.**

### **18) Guest Speakers**

- a. Dr. Justin Cooper – Redeemer spoke of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Redeemer and the blessings of over 800 students from many denominations. He stressed that the kingdom vision in education is growing well in Redeemer. He thanked Classis Huron for sending over 50 students this year. Prayer is emphasised this year on campus. They believe they have a potential for a 1000 students.
- b. Sea to Sea Anniversary 150 year Anniversary and Bicycle Tour was reported on by Peter Schuurman. He reported on our denomination’s anniversary celebration in Grand Rapids which he attended. This report is attached to these minutes.

### **19) Future meetings of Classis**

Date	Place	Reports due	Chairpersons
Sept.19, 2007	First Guelph	August 8, 2007	Vande Hoef, Darren Roorda
January 9, 2008	Bethel Listowel	Dec.1, 2007	Darren Roorda, Jack De Vries
May 14, 2008	Wilfrid Laurier	April 9, 2008	Jack De Vries and Adrian Van Giessen
Sept 17, 2008	Collingwood	August 6, 2008	Adrian Van Giessen and

### **20) Updated Pulpit Supply**

**The updated schedule was adopted.** Classis was informed that Kincardine requires pulpit supply for morning services only.

### **21) Request for Church Counselors**

- a. Guelph New Life reported on its congregational life and requested a counselor.
- b. Palmerston also asked for a counsellor
- c. **CIC was instructed to act on these requests.**

### **22) Credentials Committee Report**

Credentials Committee Report  
Classis Huron  
September 19, 2007

1. Cambridge Maranatha requests instruction regarding transfer of Darrell & Barb Bierman’s membership to River City Church.

Membership cannot be transferred because River City is not an organized church. According to the Home Missions Church Order, Cambridge holds the Bierman membership so that Rev. Darrell Bierman can hold general congregational membership until the congregation is organized.

2. New Life requests a counselor.

Move to refer to CIC. Adopted

3. Palmerston requests a counselor (mentor)

Move to refer to CIC - Adopted

4. Kincardine asks Classis to discuss the possibility of an interim pastor.

We're not sure what they're asking, since they're free to hire an interim and don't need Classis approval. The matter will be dealt with by the Supervisory Committee.

5. Goderich requests continued discussion regarding the purpose and function of campus ministry.

We move that Goderich communicate more specific questions and concerns to the CMC.  
- Adopted

6. Palmerston asks for thoughts on Teen Alpha.

If any churches have experience with Teen Alpha, please chat with the delegates.

7. Stratford wishes to inform Classis that is has created a position (not an office) called "deaconess".

8. Waterloo wishes to inform Classis that we are using the denomination's discipleship program and exploring how to enrich our involvement with campus ministry as one step in discipleship.

9. Owen Sound would like to discuss ways and means to engage the community in the ministry of our church.

If churches have any ideas, talk to Owen Sound.

Owen Sound also wonders how other churches are using the discipleship program.

The Credentials Committee invites those using it to identify themselves and make contact with Owen Sound or vice versa.

10. Lucknow is concerned that the guidelines developed by the CIC regarding “respecting each other” are too narrow. Many times during our discussion at the May 9, 2007, Classis meeting it was pointed out that the issue of respect for each other was larger than the gender issue. By allocating 3 or 4 recommendations to gender, the CIC has made this an issue of gender. Lucknow feels that point number 1, if taken seriously, covers this issue well and will serve as other divisive issues emerge in the future.

Since we do not have the 4 recommendations in front of us, we refer Lucknow’s concern back to the CIC.

### **23) John Kuperus Conference Promotion**

He presented a brochure for the event to be held in Clinton...

### **24) Classis Adjourns**

Rev. Jack Vande Hoef closes the meeting with devotional words and prayer. He further complimented Classis for the good spirit that prevailed in our meeting, challenging Classis to develop the various initiatives that were mentioned for the good health of Classis...