

# AGENDA

## FOR CLASSIS HURON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 18, 2019 | 9:00 A.M. | DRAYTON CRC  
88 Main St. E | Drayton, ON N0G 1P0

### 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.*

[www.classishuron.ca](http://www.classishuron.ca)

### OFFICERS OF THE DAY

**Chair:** Rev. Henry Steenbergen (Wingham)

**Vice-Chair:** Rev. Ralph Wigboldus (Listowel)

**Stated Clerk:** Rev. John Medendorp (Kitchener, alternate)

### DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER

**Opening:** Drayton CRC

**Pre-Lunch:** Home Missions Committee

**Post-Lunch:** Bethel CRC (Acton)

### COMMITTEES FOR THE DAY

**Credentials:** Stratford CRC and Collingwood CRC

**Balloting:** First CRC (Guelph)

### GUESTS & PRESENTERS

(TIMES ARE TENTATIVE, FINAL TIMES ARE DETERMINED BY THE CHAIR)

9:15 am Canadian National Gathering

Classis Huron Delegates

10:15 am Ministers' Pension Fund

Keith Oosthoek

3:30 pm Infant Baptism & Covenant Dedication

Lyle Bierma & Sid Hielema

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

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**Standing Committees of Classis Huron:** ... .. 5

Classical Ministries Committee (CMC) and Administrative Committee (AdCom)  
*Report from CMC/AdCom/Stated Clerk* ..... 6

Diaconal Conference Committee—no reports

Financial Resources Team  
*Proposed 2020 Budget* ..... 9

Guelph Campus Ministry—no reports

Home Missions Committee—no reports

Ministry Leadership Team  
*Report* ..... 16

Safe Church Team—verbal report

Waterloo Campus Ministry  
*Report* ..... 18  
*Request for Surplus Funds* ..... 21

Youth Ministries Team—no reports

**Ecclesiastical Matters:** ... .. 22

**Requests from Churches** ..... 23

Bethel CRC  
*Request for Extension of Article 13-c Loan of Rev. Jack DeVries to the Christian Reformed Church in Australia*

First CRC (Guelph)  
*Request for Extension of Article 43-b License to Exhort for Mr. Jim Williams to September 2024*

Trinity CRC (Goderich) and Rev. Stephen Tamming  
*Request for Article 17-a Release from Active Ministry for Rev. Stephen Tamming (supporting materials to be distributed in executive session)*

Church Counsellors—verbal report

Church Visitors—verbal report (in executive session)

Mentors & Mentees—no reports

Regional Pastors—no reports

Synodical Delegates—verbal report

The Bridge (Fergus)—verbal report

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Mr. Peter Bulthuis, Church Relations, World Renew  
*World Renew Classis Report* 25

Dr. Robert Graham, President, Redeemer University College  
*Report to Classis Huron* 27

Rev. Dr. Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director, CRCNA  
*Fall 2019 Letter to Canadian Classes* 30

Mr. Ron Vanden Brink, National Director, Diaconal Ministries Canada  
*Fall Report to Classis* 37

**Tentative Schedule for the September 18, 2019 meeting of Classis Huron**

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Report/Item</b>	<b>Presenter/Reporter</b>
<b>9:00a.m.</b>	Welcome/Announcements Opening Worship Credentials Committee: Attendance Summary Constitution of Classis	Chair Drayton CRC Stratford/Collingwood Drayton CRC
	Canadian National Gathering Report/Exercise Pension Fund	CNG Delegates Keith Oosthoek
<b>10:30a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Refreshment Break (15 min)</b>	
	Executive Session 2020 Budget Presentation Waterloo Campus Ministry	Church Visitors John Bell Brian Bork
	Pre-Lunch Worship	Home Missions Committee
<b>12:15p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch Break (45 min)</b> <i>(Credentials Committee meets)</i>	
	Post-Lunch Devotions	Bethel CRC (Acton)
	Credentials Committee Report AdCom/CMC/SC Report Church Counsellors Report Ministry Leadership Team Safe Church Committee The Bridge Synod Delegate Report	Stratford/Collingwood Vicki Cok Church Counsellors Brian Bork Atie Ott John VanderStoep Synodical Delegates
<b>3:15p.m.</b>	<b>Afternoon Refreshment Break</b>	
	Infant Baptism & Covenant Dedication	Lyle Bierma/Sid Hielema
	Adjournment	Chair & Vice Chair

*\*\*Classis delegates are reminded that they are expected to remain seated at classis for the entire session until it is adjourned. Please refrain from scheduling evening appointments on this day as classis may unexpectedly continue through the supper hour. Delegates who need to leave prior to adjournment (i.e., due to an emergency) may do so only with permission of the Chair, who will then advise classis of their absence. Names of delegates who leave early will be recorded in the minutes.*

# **STANDING COMMITTEES**

**OF CLASSIS HURON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

CLASSICAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE  
DIACONAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE  
FINANCIAL RESOURCES TEAM  
GUELPH CAMPUS MINISTRY BOARD  
HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE  
MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM  
SAFE CHURCH TEAM  
WATERLOO CAMPUS MINISTRY BOARD  
YOUTH MINISTRIES TEAM

**FALL 2019 REPORT FROM THE  
CLASSICAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE, ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE, AND STATED CLERK**

**The Classical Ministry Committee (CMC)** consists of representatives of all ministries/committees within Classis: Ministry Leadership Team, Rev. Brian Bork; Home Missions Committee, Rev. Kevin te Brake; Safe Church Committee, Ms. Atie Ott; Guelph Campus Ministry, Rev. David Tigchelaar; Waterloo Campus Ministry, Mr. Bill Van Anandel; Diaconal Ministries; Ms. Mary Blydorp; Youth Ministries Committee, Ms. Amy Baarda; Treasurer, Mr. John Bell (*ex officio*); and Stated Clerk, Rev. John Medendorp (*ex officio*).

**The Administrative Committee (AdCom)** is appointed by the CMC and works on behalf of Classis in between meetings. AdCom consists of Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok (chair)

**The Stated Clerk** serves Classis Huron by keeping accurate records of the proceedings, decisions, and rules of Classis as per *Church Order*, Article 32-b. The Rules of Classis Huron also task the Clerk to serve as a resource to the churches of Classis on matters of order and procedure, maintain the records and website of Classis, and serve as a central point of communication for Classis, among other responsibilities.

**The Administrative Committee** met on July 24, 2019 in Stratford to 1) establish the stated supply schedule for the fall, 2) assign classical representation for the retirement service of Rev. Ron Luchies and the installation service of Rev. Sid Couperus, 3) update the list of Licensed Exhorters, 4) draft the agenda for the September meeting of Classis, and 5) process the licensure renewal request for Mr. Jim Williams. A number of other tasks were assigned which are ongoing, detailed below.

**The Classical Ministries Team** met on August 21, 2019 in Waterloo to 1) review the proposed 2020 budget, 2) receive initial reports and vet requests from standing committees, 3) approve Kathy Wassink of Community CRC to review the 2019 finances for Classis Huron, 4) finalize the agenda for the September meeting of Classis, and 5) set the tentative schedule for the September meeting of Classis. Rev. Henry Steenbergen attended as a guest.

**The Alternate Stated Clerk** 1) met with Sharon Van Kampen to handoff materials and files, 2) managed the website ([www.classishuron.ca](http://www.classishuron.ca)) and email account ([classishuron@gmail.com](mailto:classishuron@gmail.com)). 3) attended two meetings of Stated Clerks of Classis via video chat (Jun 26-Canadian and Sept 5-CRCNA), 4) prepared and distributed agendas, minutes, and supporting documents for the meetings of AdCom and the CMC, 5) prepared and distributed a monthly newsletter for churches and pastors beginning in August, 6) prepared and distributed the agenda with supporting documents for the September meeting of Classis, and 7) secured synodical deputies for the September meeting of Classis.

The following **TASKS** are underway: 1) securing a Classical Counsellor for Drayton CRC, 2) securing an Alternate Synodical Deputy for Classis Huron, 3) updating the website to a new format, 4) updating the Rules of Classis Huron, 5) updating the Classical Ministry Plan, 6) updating the “Servants of Classis” list, and 7) processing licensure to exhort renewals for Wilma Hiemstra (Goderich) and John Zwart (Drayton).

The following **RECOMMENDATIONS** are presented to Classis for approval by AdCom and CMC:

1. **That Jim Williams be granted a renewed 5-year License to Exhort within Classis Huron.**

*Grounds:*

1. *The Council of First CRC (Guelph) has recommended Mr. Williams’ License to Exhort be renewed.*
2. *Mr. Williams desires to continue exhorting within Classis Huron.*
3. *Mr. Williams has successfully completed the renewal process according to the Rules of Classis Huron.*

2. **That Classis Huron approve the 2-year extension of the loan of Rev. Jack DeVries to the Christian Reformed Church in Australia (CRCA).**

*Grounds:*

1. *The Council of Bethel CRC (Listowel) has requested an extension of Rev. DeVries’s loan.*
2. *Rev. DeVries desires to continue his work with the CRCA.*
3. *A 2-year extension is in accordance with Church Order, Article 13-c.*

*\*Note: This decision of Classis requires the concurrence of Synodical Deputies.*

3. **That Classis Huron approve the request of the Waterloo Campus Ministry Board to earmark \$5,000.00 of the WCM reserve to hire an intern for the 2019-2020 ministry year.**

*Grounds:*

1. *There is a need to develop an alumni/donor database to lay the groundwork for future ministry expansion.*
2. *Surplus funds are available and making use of them will not burden the members of Classis Huron with higher ministry share rates.*
3. *\$5,000.00 ought to be sufficient to cover costs for an intern position.*

4. **That Classis Huron approve the requests of the Ministry Leadership Team to use \$3,000.00 of CMLT funds to support the proposed retreat for women ministers and candidates in the CRCNA and \$3,000.00 of the CMLT surplus for registration costs for young adults to attend the Leadership Studio in Muskoka Woods.**

*Grounds:*

1. *CMLT has excess funds in its budget this year as well as a \$27,000.00 surplus, and believes these two causes to fit within the larger mandate of Ministry Leadership, making support of them a stewardly use of excess funds.*
2. *Women ministers and candidates face unique challenges in the CRCNA and have few denomination-specific venues to establishing mentoring relationships and collegial connections with other CRC women in ministry.*
3. *While the Leadership Studio is not specifically for young adults who are considering ministry, it has been an important piece for many young people in planting a seed that has the potential to grow into a calling to ministry.*
5. **That Classis Huron continue to fund the Bridge App for the 2020 budget year and schedule time at the May 2020 meeting of Classis for a discussion about how churches are using the Bridge App and whether to fund it as a classis or as individual churches in the future.**

*Grounds:*

1. *Allowing for an additional year of funding provides churches with additional time to explore the substantial recent updates to the app and assess the app's value and use for their congregation.*
2. *Having an intentional time of conversation set aside at a Classis meeting will allow churches to share ways in which the app has been a valuable and useful resource in a structured setting, as well as frustrations with the app, which can be sent on to the developer via the denomination.*
3. *Setting aside time at a May meeting gives the Financial Resources Team important feedback in time for the budgeting process which takes place in the summer.*
6. **That Classis Huron approve the proposed 2020 budget presented by the Financial Resources Team.**
7. **That Classis Huron thank Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok for her three years of faithful leadership on the Administrative Committee.**
8. **That Classis Huron affirm Rev. Martin Dam as Chair and Rev. Gary VanLeeuwen as Vice-Chair of the Administrative Committee.**
9. **That Classis Huron hold a vote to elect the At-Large appointee to the Administrative Committee from the list of nominees presented in the supplemental agenda.**
10. **That Classis Huron approve the work of the Classical Ministries Committee, the Administrative Committee, and the Stated Clerk.**



**Budget for Classis Huron**  
**For The Year Ending December 31, 2020**  
**2019 Yearbook # of members 4004**

<b>Classis - General Fund</b>	<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>	<b>2019 Jan-Jun YTD</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2020 Ministry Shares</b>
<b>Receipts</b>					
43000 · Ministry Shares from Churches	41,802	38,000	23,089	30,000	7.49
43200 · Miscellaneous Income					
43250 · Safe Church Grants	442				
43300 · Interest Income	3,799		2,065	3,500	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>46,043</b>	<b>38,000</b>	<b>25,154</b>	<b>33,500</b>	
<b>Disbursements</b>					
61101 · Delegates Travel	1,724	2,500	1,221	2,000	
61103 · Classical Ministry Committee	1,405	5,000	158	1,000	
611031 - Bridge App	12,000			6,000	
61106 · Classis Administrators Day	-	1,500		1,500	
61107 · Host Church Expenses	3,516	3,000	2,100	2,500	
61108 · Special Committ Expenses	-	500			
611081 - Regional Pastors	657	700	1,402	1,500	
611083 - Church Visits	252		456	500	
611085 - Disability Concerns	300			200	
61109 · Delegates and Appointees	253	500		250	
61110 - Classis Leadership Development	798	750	200	500	
611110 - Bank Charges - CIBC			90	150	
61111 · Stated Clerk Expenses	624	1,000		750	
61112 · Treasurer Expenses	542	1,000	355	750	
611121 · Treasurer Software	821	800	343	800	
61113 · Insurance Premiums	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	
61115 · Honorariums/Professional Fees	15,000	18,500	8,625	18,500	
61117 · Pastors' Retreat	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	
61118 · Safe Church Team	1,163	1,200		1,450	
61119 · Diaconal Conference	120	200	218	250	
61122 - Website	95	300	93	200	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>41,770</b>	<b>40,950</b>	<b>18,761</b>	<b>42,300</b>	
<b>Reserve - December 31 2018</b>	<b>64,553</b>				

## Budget for Classis Huron

### For The Year Ending December 31, 2020

<b>CH Home Missions Committee</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Jan-Jun YTD</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Ministry Shares</b>
<b>Receipts</b>					
Min. Shares - Home Missions Committee		500		500	
43010 Min. Shares - Church Plants	36,265	35,000	21,237	35,000	14.86
43020 Min. Shares - Creative Ourteach				-	
43030 Min. Shares - Mission Catalyzer				24,000	
43040 Resonate Global MC				5,000	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>36,265</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>21,237</b>	<b>64,500</b>	
<b>Disbursements</b>					
61105 - Home Missions Committee	51	500	674	500	
61210 Church Plants	35,000	35,000	-	35,000	
61220 Creative Ourteach	-				
61206 Mission Catalyzer Salary			2,000	24,000	
61206 Mission Catalyzer Expenses				5,000	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>35,051</b>	<b>35,500</b>	<b>2,674</b>	<b>64,500</b>	
<b>Reserve - December 31 2018</b>	<b>126,693</b>				
<b>Classis Ministry Leadership Team</b>					
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Jan-Jun YTD</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Ministry Shares</b>
<b>Receipts</b>					
43230 Student Fund	46,570	45,000	27,309	35,000	8.74
<b>Disbursements</b>					
622200 Student Tuition Support	19,196	45,000	16,849	35,000	
622200 Women Ministers/Candidates				3,000	
	19,196	45,000	16,849	38,000	
<b>Reserve - December 31 2018</b>	<b>27,374</b>				

**Budget for Classis Huron**  
For The Year Ending December 31, 2020

<b>Classis Huron Youth Ministry Team</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Jan-Jun YTD</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Ministry Shares</b>
<b>Receipts</b>					
44110 Ministry Shares	19,541	17,850	10,848	9,000	2.25
44144 Fall Leadership Studio	1,714				
44146 Fall Retreat	38,855				
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>60,110</b>	<b>17,850</b>	<b>10,848</b>	<b>9,000</b>	
<b>Disbursements</b>					
61142 Spring Leadership Studio	-	500			
61144 Fall Leadership Studio	12,625				
61146 Fall Retreat	36,680	10,500	7,096		
61148 Bursary		500			
61150 Youth Leadership Support	1,210	5,750	813		
61160 General Administration	395	600			
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>50,910</b>	<b>17,850</b>	<b>7,909</b>	<b>-</b>	
 <b>Reserve - December 31 2018</b>	 <b>43,269</b>				

## Budget for Classis Huron

### For The Year Ending December 31, 2020

#### Huron Campus Ministry - Guelph Campus

	2018	2019	2019	2020	2020
	Actual	Budget	Jan-Jun YTD	Budget	Ministry Shares
<b>Receipts</b>					
43550 · Ministry shares from Churches	86,206	93,000	74,665	94,600	23.63
43100 · Donations (Incl. Receiptable)	15,685	11,500	11,741	13,500	
43130 - CRCNA Resonate	14,940	8,000	5,797	8,000	
43150 - Grants	3,350	2,000	1,000	2,000	
43160 - University	10,000	10,000		10,000	
43180 - Interest Income	399		161		
43500 · Conferences/Winter Retreat Fees	1,060	2,000	95	2,000	
43600 - Classis Huron Balance Transfer	4,753				
43700 - Miscellaneous Income			170		
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>136,393</b>	<b>126,500</b>	<b>93,629</b>	<b>130,100</b>	
<b>Disbursements</b>					
610 A - Administration					
61010 - Office Services	10,000	10,000		10,000	
61020 · Fundraising/Partnership	952	1,000	10	1,000	
61030 · Telephone	1,186	1,200		1,200	
61040 · Automobile	471	2,000	110		
61050 · Liability Insurance	890	900	924	900	
61060 · CRCMA & CCCC Dues	250	200	175	200	
61070 · Miscellaneous	1,459	200		200	
61080 · Computer/Software/Services	38		170		
610801 - Website Development					
61100 · Transportation & Parking	1,447			2,000	
61110 · Office Makeover	297				
61111 · Office Supplies	76		170		
620 M · Ministry Areas					
62010 · Faith Formation	2,376	4,000	35	4,500	
62020 · Hospitality	2,561	1,500	924	1,500	
62030 · Worship	443	1,250	11	-	
62040 · Social Justice/Partnership Events	126	500	245	1,250	
62050 · Leadership Development	503	2,000		4,000	
62060 · Caring/Fellowship	1,637		533		
62070 · Conferences	27		1,096		
630 P · Personnel					
63010 · Salaries & Housing	68,851	79,350	38,792	80,950	
63015 · Honorarium	3,520	-	1,500		
63020 · Payroll Expenses/Benefits	20,760	20,000	4,835	20,000	
63030 · Training and Conferences	597	2,400	180	2,400	

**Budget for Classis Huron**  
**For The Year Ending December 31, 2020**

63040 - Housing Allowance

6,748

**Total Disbursements**

125,215

126,500

49,710

130,100

**Reserve - December 31 2018**

**25,083**

## Budget for Classis Huron

### For The Year Ending December 31, 2020

#### Huron Campus Ministry - Waterloo Campus

	2018	2019	2019	2020	2020
	Actual	Budget	Jan-Jun YTD	Budget	Ministry Shares
<b>Receipts</b>					
47000 · Ministry Shares from Churches	90,330	93,000	56,231	94,600	23.63
47100 · CRCNA Resonate	8,000	8,000	4,891	8,000	
47300 · Donations (Incl. Receiptable)	-	14,000		14,000	
47305 · Donations - Church Offerings	9,180		585		
47400 - Grants	6,384		202		
475000 - University	10,000	10,000		10,000	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>123,894</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>61,909</b>	<b>126,600</b>	
<b>Disbursements</b>					
613 P · Personnel					
61300 · Salaries & Housing	50,490	56,182	16,473	57,305	
61300 · Salary Intern				5,000	
61301 · Payroll Expenses/Benefits	22,288	22,440	10,290	22,889	
61307 · Training and Conferences	-	1,750		1,750	
61311 · Housing Allowance	22,000	23,000	11,500	23,460	
633 A · Administration					
63302 · Office Supplies & Expenses	-	250		250	
633021 - Office Services					
633022 - University Services	10,000	10,000		10,000	
633031 - Publicity	-	1,000		1,000	
63306 · Telephone	480	480		480	
63316 · Automobile	862	500		500	
63317 · Liability Insurance	889	1,000	924	1,000	
63318 · CRCMA & CCCC Dues	150	400	100	400	
63323 · Computer/Software/Services	705	500		500	
633 M · Ministry Areas					
63309 · Faith Formation	1,913	5,000	1,200	5,000	
63310 · Hospitality	1,776	1,000		1,000	
63312 · Worship		100		100	
63321 · Caring/Fellowship					
63322 · Events	-	1,500		1,500	
63324 · Conferences	1,215				
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>112,768</b>	<b>125,102</b>	<b>40,487</b>	<b>132,134</b>	
<b>Reserve - December 31 2018</b>	<b>20,777</b>				

## Budget for Classis Huron

### For The Year Ending December 31, 2020

#### Ministry Shares

	2019 Members 4,079	2019 Ministry Share Per Member	2020 Members 4,004	2020 Ministry Share Per Member	2020 % Change
			Change		% Change
Classis - General Fund		9.32	(1.83)	7.49	-19.64%
Youth Ministry Team		4.38	(2.13)	2.25	-48.63%
Student Fund		11.03	(2.29)	8.74	-20.76%
Huron Campus Ministry					
Guelph Campus		22.80	0.83	23.63	3.64%
Waterloo Campus		22.80	0.83	23.63	3.64%
Classis Home Missions		8.58	6.28	14.86	73.19%
Creative Outreach					
Total		78.91	1.69 Increase	80.60 1.69	2.14%

#### 2019 Ministry Shares in \$

	2019	Change	2020	% Change
Classis - General Fund	38,000	(8,000)	30,000	-21.1%
Youth Ministry Team	17,850	(8,850)	9,000	-49.6%
Student Fund	45,000	(10,000)	35,000	-22.2%
Huron Campus Ministry		-		
Guelph Campus	93,000	1,600	94,600	1.7%
Waterloo Campus	93,000	1,600	94,600	1.7%
Classis Home Missions - Church Plants	35,000	-	35,000	0.0%
- Committee	500	-	500	0.0%
- Mission Catalyzer	-	24,000	24,000	0.0%
	322,350	350	322,700	0.1%

**CMLT report for Classis Huron  
Fall 2019**

Chair: Brian Bork  
Kevin TeBrake

*Current Students:* Classis Huron's CMLT is pleased to support four students this academic year: Sam Kamminga, Bart Eisen, Tom Mosterd, and Rebecca Bokma.

*Past students:* We celebrate with Cara DeHaan as she has completed her training at Calvin Seminary and has accepted a call to Faith CRC, in Burlington, ON.

*Current finances:* Thus far in 2019, only \$17,000 has been loaned to students. There currently exists in our account leftover funds from 2018: \$27,000 to be exact.

In order to use this surplus, we have reduced our budget request for 2020 to \$35,000. In addition, we have two other requests for support we consider to be a stewardly use of the excess funds in our budget:

**Funding Request #1 | Retreat for CRCNA Women Ministers and Candidates for Ministry**

Dear CMLT members,

I am writing you to **request \$3000 from CMLT funds** to support the launch of a 3 day retreat for women ministers and candidates for ministry in the CRCNA to be held in 2020.

As I understand the current budget and funds of CMLT, there are funds available beyond the needs of currently enrolled seminarians.

While such a fund request would not be part of the regular financial obligations of the CMLT, **this request does fall within the mandate of CMLT to provide encouragement, leadership development, and support to candidates for ministry in the CRCNA.**

You may be asking: Why only women? Female candidates for ministry encounter unique opportunities and obstacles as they seek calls in the CRCNA. A retreat that brings together ordained women ministers and candidates for ministry provides a much-needed space for women candidates to explore, learn, and discern their own candidacy journey in this unique context with other women who have made the same journey.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Amanda Bakale  
Chair of the 2020 CRCNA Women In Ministry Retreat Planning Team



**Funding Request #2 | Funding for young adults/youth to attend the Leadership Studio retreat, October 4-6, 2019**

According to the its mandate, *“The CMLT shall encourage the member congregations of Classis Huron to be pro-active in identifying possible candidates for ministry in the CRC and offer resources to help people discern their calling.”* Though the Studio retreat isn’t just for those already considering ordained ministry in the CRC, we believe that it can be an important step along the way for such discernment. Even if that discernment doesn’t lead toward a call to ministry, the training of young adults is vitally important for the health and future of our churches, and for that reason we consider this a wise use of surplus funds.

The CMLT requests funds from the surplus be set aside to offset the registration cost for the Leadership Studio retreat for young adults and mentors in Classis Huron. Specifically we request \$3000 to be dispersed at the discretion of the CMLT.

Brian Bork & Kevin TeBrake

**Waterloo Campus Ministry // Fall 2019 Report to Classis Huron**  
**Rev. Brian Bork ([bbork@wlu.ca](mailto:bbork@wlu.ca))**

Greetings from Waterloo, from a campus minister who's eagerly anticipating what the fall term has in store!

Planning for the fall always makes me reflective about the academic year that's just passed. I'd like to share a bit about that, and also share some thoughts on where the ministry is headed as well.

First, this was a unique year for me. From December until the end of May, I had a different job entirely: caring for my son Jakob, who was born in June of last year. Parental leave was a wonderful and challenging gift. It's definitely not a sabbatical, though it did have some of the characteristics of a sabbatical! When I returned to work in June, I found that I was not only refreshed but that my appetite for work on campus had been renewed, too.

But let's talk last fall: What good things happened on or around the campuses in Waterloo?

Every Tuesday afternoon 10-15 students gathered at **Fermented Faith**, a pub discussion group at Laurier. We aimed to discuss the connection between faith and university life, to view our work on campus through a theological lens. The group that gathers in the Laurier pub is a pretty ecumenical one; all sorts of different Christian backgrounds are represented. Many of them are also in what I call a "liminal" place in their faith — between doubt and belief, between church and no church, between hope and cynicism — and to be able to enter into that complicated place around the table at the pub is a rich experience. I've found that sitting around a table in the pub is maybe the best place to do ministry with folks who aren't sure of where they sit theologically. While I was away, the Fermented Faith conversation was ably stewarded by a student leader from UW.

Every other Wednesday I gathered with faculty at Laurier for the **Breakfast Book Club**. We read Alan Lightman's *Searching for Stars on an Island in Maine*, David Bentley Hart's *The Experience of God*. While I was away over the winter term, my friend and chaplain colleague Fr. Christopher led the group as they discussed *Unsettling the Word: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization*, a collection of writings reckoning with the relationship between the church, its scriptures, and indigenous people.

On Thursday mornings 7-10 students gathered in my office at UW for **Morning Prayer**. We lit a candle, spent some time in silence, stored away our cellphones in the "sacred cell phone box," and met God with prayer rooted in the Psalms and the Celtic Book of Prayer. One student remarked to me "I have to confess that I kinda hate praying, but when I come here, I find I can pray."

On the first Friday of every month, my wife Amanda and I open our house for **Friday Night Dinner**. The invitation is open to students and young adults from Waterloo CRC and Community CRC in Kitchener. Sometimes I wish we had a bigger house: we can cram about 15 people around the table before it gets too crowded. And there's always a crowd! And much laughter, too. I'm amazed my kids can sleep through it all. While I was away over the winter term, we kept the program running, and it was a great way to stay in touch with students I hadn't seen very often. Over the summer, we've moved the dinner fellowship to our backyard where there's much more room; we had 25 folks sitting on blankets and lawn chairs at the beginning of July.

On the third Sunday of each month, in collaboration with colleagues, I helped lead **Taizé Worship** at various locations on campus. I love Taizé worship for numerous reasons, but especially because I think it's the Spirit-filled antidote to our culture of endless busyness, anxiety and frenetic activity. It's also a wonderful way to worship for students who don't feel they connect with the more typical youth-oriented praise and worship styles. We held our October gathering in the chapel at Conrad Grebel, the Mennonite college at UW, and singing with 70 other candle-holding people in a large circle was something to behold.

One Tuesday a month, we gathered at Knox Presbyterian in UpTown Waterloo for **Collective Kitchen**. We'd cook up big batches of food to take home and eat throughout the month, and we'd close out the evening with a shared meal, too. I should clarify: we gathered in September and October, but not in November. I had approached this ministry event with some trepidation in the fall, because the student leader who'd done so much to organize, plan, and invite people, had graduated the previous spring. I didn't know whether the program would succeed, but I was pleasantly surprised when 15 students came to the first Collective Kitchen in September. But then, in October only 2 came. And in November, no one. Such is the nature of campus ministry — events thrive for a season, and then lie fallow. There's something discouraging about this of course, but it does open up space and time to try new things, too.

In November, I joined the **multi-Classis retreat at the Leadership Studio in Muskoka Woods**, with two students in tow. I can't recommend this experience enough for young leaders in our churches! I've been three years in a row now, and plan to take four students with me this fall, too.

Over the past year I've also relished the opportunity to **connect with various constituencies that surround and support the ministry**. This happens in your churches via preaching (and I'll often take a presentation about the ministry with me too), but also in other organizations, too. Over the past year, I've given a talk to **Youth For Christ** leaders, and led a session at the **Equip Conference**, which was organized by the Classis' Youth Ministry Team. In August, I'll be giving the yearly kick-off talk to the Woodstock district **Edvance Christian Teachers' Association**, too. I write a column in **Christian Courier**, and campus ministry often comes up there, too. I love doing this kind of work; building — or being — a bridge between the campus and the church and other related organizations is so important, and the possibilities for collaboration are endless. I'd love to talk with you more about those possibilities!

In fact, there's lots more to say about Waterloo Campus Ministry in general. What I've sketched above is a look at the ministry from a rather high altitude. God is present in the ministry's programs, but it seems he moves most powerfully in the more intimate spaces: the pastoral connections, the mentoring relationships, the new connections with university administration, the opportunities to speak in classrooms... I'd love to share those stories with you too, and I hope to elaborate at the September Classis meeting. Don't hesitate to invite me out to your churches, either — I love being a guest preacher, but I'm also happy to meet with your youth groups and their leaders. I also hope to tell these sorts of stories in my newsletter, which you can have delivered to your inbox by signing up here: <http://tinyletter.com/WaterlooCampusMinistry>

Classis Huron has been a faithful, longtime, generous supporter of campus ministry in Waterloo, and that is great encouragement to me. Many heartfelt thanks. Please continue to pray for the ministry as the fall term kicks off!

In Christ,

Rev. Brian Bork  
August 14, 2019

**Request for Funds—Summer 2019  
Waterloo Campus Ministry Board**

At the June 26, 2019 meeting of the Waterloo Campus Ministry Board, the Board discussed the possibility of future ministry expansion. The purpose and rationale behind a future expansion were presented to Classis at its September 2018 meeting. The Board desires to make the CMC aware of our intention to make use of the surplus reserve WCM has accumulated over the last number of years as a “downpayment” on our ministry expansion plans to mitigate some of the cost to Classis.

This year, we hope to use up to \$5,000.00 of our earned surplus reserve to hire an intern to develop an alumni/donor database for the ministry.

The WCM Board recommends to the CMC:

**That \$5,000.00 of the Waterloo Campus Ministry surplus reserve fund be earmarked for the hiring of an intern for 2020 and that this be noted in the 2020 budget.**

*Grounds:*

- 1) There is a need to develop an alumni/donor database to lay the groundwork for future ministry expansion.*
- 2) Surplus funds are available and making use of them will not burden the members of Classis Huron with higher ministry share rates.*
- 3) \$5,000.00 ought to be sufficient to cover costs for an intern position.*

**The Waterloo Campus Ministry Board**

Mr. Seth Adema  
Ms. Darlene Bokma  
Rev. Brian Bork, chaplain  
Mr. Albert Hovingh  
Mr. Bill Los, chair  
Rev. John Medendorp, clerk  
Mr. Bill Van Andel

# **ECCLESIASTICAL MATTERS**

**OF CLASSIS HURON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

REQUESTS FROM CHURCHES  
CHURCH COUNSELLORS  
CHURCH VISITORS  
MENTORS & MENTEES  
REGIONAL PASTORS  
SYNODICAL DELEGATES

## REQUESTS FROM CHURCHES

1. **Bethel CRC (Listowel)** requested the extension of the Article 13-c loan of Rev. Jacob De Vries in the following email on Thursday, July 18, 2019:

Rev. Medendorp,

The purpose of this email is to inform you that the Council of Bethel CRC of Listowel has approved the extension of Rev. Jack De Vries' loan to the CRC-Australia for a period of two years.

Please let me know if you require anything further from me on this matter, such as a written request from Rev. De Vries for the extension, or any other paperwork.

Thank you,

Wendy van Leeuwen, Council Clerk, Bethel CRC Listowel

*\*This requires the approval of Synodical Deputies.*

2. **First CRC (Guelph)** requested the extension of the Article 43-b License to Exhort for Mr. Jim Williams be extended for five years to September 2024 according to the Rules of Classis Huron in the following letter on May 4, 2019

To Classis Huron,

The Council of First Christian Reformed Church of Guelph has adopted the following:

**THAT Council recommend Jim Williams for a renewal of his license to Exhort within Classis Huron.**

*Grounds:*

- a. Classis Huron will review his License to Exhort at its May meeting.*
- b. Jim Williams has requested a recommendation from Council.*
- c. He is a member in good standing at First CRC.*
- d. Williams shows commitment to Reformed theology.*
- e. He exhibits a desire to learn and share with those around him.*
- f. He is fully engaged in the life of the Christian Reformed Church.*
- g. He has demonstrated his gift for exhorting in our worship services.*
- h. There is a need as it is a challenge to fill our pulpit during our pastor's sabbatical.*
- i. He has been an active participant in our youth activities.*

Elbert van Donkersgoed, Clerk

3. **Trinity CRC (Goderich) and Rev. Stephen Tamming** requested an Article 17-a release from ministry for Rev. Tamming. Supporting documents will be distributed in executive session at the September 18 meeting of Classis Huron.

*\*This requires the approval of Synodical Deputies*

# COMMUNICATIONS

TO CLASSIS HURON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

MR. PETER BULHUIS, WORLD RENEW  
DR. ROBERT GRAHAM, REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
REV. DR. DARREN ROORDA, CRCNA  
MR. RON VANDE BRINK, DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA



## **Redeemer University College**

### **Report to Classis Huron of the Christian Reformed Church: Fall 2019**

The 2019-2020 school year is around the corner! Faculty and staff are working hard to get ready for the return of familiar faces and many new ones too. I am eager to share what has been happening at Redeemer.

The new tuition and fee structure announced in the spring is already having an impact; we are excited to welcome one of the largest incoming classes in Redeemer's history, with close to 300 new students!

We are seeing growth in staffing needs which have resulted in some new hires for the fall. We are also committed to a flourishing organizational culture and working environment and as such we determined that the human resources needs will be best served by the creation of a position of Associate Vice-President, Human Resources.

The Re Campaign has successfully created opportunities for Redeemer students. These changes can be seen in the fully operational Centre for Experiential Learning and Careers and many other initiatives. This May, the Re Golf Tournament proved to be a great day to connect with supporters and friends as we raised over \$65,000 towards the Re Campaign. We look forward to finishing strong this fall and winter as we approach the end of Redeemer 2020 Campaign.

Redeemer staff met with Ministry officials and elected representatives throughout the summer as we work towards a Charter Change. These meetings will continue into the Fall, and we feel Redeemer's requests are being favourably received.

Act Five is an exciting addition to Redeemer's roster of programs! We are proud to start this program at full capacity to 12 students joining in September. We secured a beautiful residence and are pleased that resident leaders are ready to lead the students through our inaugural year. Cardus and l'Arche will provide placements to Act Five students, along with other organizations, businesses and trades across the city. These students have an exciting and educational year ahead of them!

Changes continue across campus in building improvements. If you visit, you will see an improved reception that will welcome the growing number of visitors we anticipate throughout the year. The new Admissions reception area will allow us to serve students and visitors better.

On September 25, Redeemer's Centre for Christian Scholarship and CRC Faith Formation Ministries will welcome keynote speakers Tish Harrison Warren and Jen Pollock Michael, two distinguished speakers and thinkers contributing to faith in the public sphere. The conference

will include a chapel address, panel discussions and an evening address. We look forward to having them at Redeemer!

Redeemer is thankful to have partners in the Christian Reformed Church and in particular from Classis Huron. Thank you for your part in helping support Redeemer's mission of providing quality Christian higher education for today's young people. Many blessings as you continue serving your community in God's service.

Sincerely,

Robert Graham, PhD  
President



## Classis Huron Report—Fall, 2019

*Submitted by Peter Bulthuis, Associate Director of Church Relations*

Thank you, **Classis Huron**, for your support of the work of World Renew. Your thoughtfulness, your prayers and your financial engagement have all made impacts on people's lives, for the glory of our God. I want to thank you for your incredible generosity of your gifts of **\$407,155.00** across the past fiscal year (July 1/18-June 30/19). Thank you for choosing World Renew as your partner in your own churches' global ministries.

### A. General Updates:

There are quite a few general updates that are important here:

1. The cross-country Jeremy Benjamin I AM NOT MY OWN tour wrapped up at the Inspire Conference in Windsor, during the first weekend of August. Jeremy, Lara and their family went from coast to coast (and then all over southern Ontario) to share God's story, and God's work. Besides raising funds for local organizations, the tour raised funds for World Renew's work in Nigeria. All told, the tour raised (when one includes the 4:1 match through CFGB) more than \$1/2M. God is good!

2. Some while ago (April, 2017), several churches in the Woodstock/Ingersoll area hosted a *Helping without Harming* workshop. There have been about 10 workshops presented across the country (including one in Etobicoke Ontario in June, and one planned for Georgetown in the fall). It's possible that there are some churches in Classis Huron who might like to learn more, and/or hold such a workshop in the next few months. Do call the World Renew office to arrange that.

3. There is a new toll free number: **1-888-WRLD-RNW**. (How cool is that!?) It will be appearing soon in various mailings, as well as the Gift Catalogue. The after-hours call answering now allows callers to dial an extension by extension number or by first name.

4. Global Affairs Canada (GAC) – Application #1: We received notification that our application under GAC's Volunteer Cooperation Program call has passed the first round of assessment (project parameters and required project experience). The proposal is now being reviewed under GAC's merit assessment, which will determine if the program will be funded.

Global Affairs Canada (GAC) – Application #2: We received notification that our preliminary proposal under GAC's Women as Agents of Change in the America call has passed the first round of assessment (project parameters and required project experience). The proposal is now being reviewed under GAC's merit assessment, which will determine if we are invited to submit a full proposal.

5. **CRWRF (Canadian Reformed World Relief Fund)**: Since 2007, CRWRF has been supporting our local partner in Mali, AMAFEP, and their work in women's health, abuse prevention and Christian family life, focusing not only on the complex consequences of child abuse, but also on the importance of communicating with children about these issues. After the training, the women know how to establish an environment that is conducive to child safety; teach children to protect themselves and to expose abuse; and talk about sexuality. Work is also being done to improve the relationships between husband and wife (e.g., by better communication, respect for one other, addressing domestic violence, understanding the roles and responsibilities of husband and wife, and managing finances) and between parents and their children (e.g., discipline, open communication). CRWRF has recently approved another **CAD\$51,460** to continue the programming for 2018-2020.

**CRWRF** is also supporting our local partner in Senegal, SLDS, with support for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), newborns without a mother, and people living with HIV/AIDS with nutrition education and training on kitchen gardens, nutrition kits, school tuition, and home visits. CRWRF is currently providing **CAD\$20,000** for this one year project. A 6-month for the

adolescent health and security programming is currently being prepared and will be submitted at the end of May.

We are extremely grateful for this partnership!

The point of all of this information, is to apprise you of just a bit of the work done by many people, on your behalf. Again: thank you, **Classis Huron!** God is good!

## B. Upcoming Offering Dates

There are several Synodically-designated offerings coming up through to the end of this year. These are:

**Oct. 14 (Thanksgiving):** for World Renew generally. There will be devotional booklets, and a variety of resources to help understand how World renew can assist your prayerful support of hungry people.

**Nov. 3: for world hunger;** this is part of the World Hunger Campaign.

**Dec. 25: This is for World Renew generally;** often folks connect with the Gift Catalogue for this time of the year. MUCH more on that later.

## C. Community Development: Stories of Transformation:

There are so many stories of community transformation, I hardly know where to start. Let me do this: please (!) check out our website, and read some for yourself. Do start [here](https://worldrenew.net/stories): <https://worldrenew.net/stories>. God is good!

## D. Disaster Response

**Update International:** I had the opportunity to visit Lebanon several months ago, to see for myself what God is doing through His people, for the 10s of 1000s of Syrian refugees. There will be a longer article about what I saw, on the website in a month or two, but let me just say this: Through your support, the people of God in Lebanon are helping to establish learning centers for Syrian refugee children, because there are no schools for them; the people of God are helping to provide medical assistance, because there is little health care for them; the people of God are helping to teach sewing to the women who want that, because there is little support for them.

A pastor in another one of the congregations in the Bekaa Valley (there are over 10,000 refugees within a 3 km radius of the church) said: "God opened the doors, and no one has closed them". The food was the first step, food given with no conditions. Now the learning centers of the church welcome 415 out-of-school children.

All of this astounded us as visitors. Food distribution happens through many Christian Lebanese volunteers; these women and men have an amazing belief in grace: even as Christ forgave and accepted them, so they accept Syrians as people in need of support. Unconditionally. Overwhelmingly. Inspirationally. There is an article about this on the [website](#). Do have a look. YOU ARE DOING THIS IN LEBANON!

**Update Domestic: Canada and US:** There are so many opportunities for service on a "Disaster Response Services" team in North America; please check out the website [here](https://worldrenew.net/disaster-response-services): <https://worldrenew.net/disaster-response-services>. Alberta, Ontario, many states in the US.

## E. Refugee Settlement Activities:

An update on what the Refugee Sponsorship Assistance program is up to:

On February 28, 2019, World Renew received 201 sponsorship spaces for our 2019 sponsorship allocation. With the confirmation of a BVOR sponsorship, our 2019 allocation increased to 206 sponsorship spaces. This was a special limited incentive initiative of the BVOR

program. This is the largest allocation for World Renew since the inception of caps and allocations in 2012.

We are making good progress in submitting applications. As of June 30, 2019, we have submitted 55% of our spaces. Our target is to have all allocations used by September 30, 2019. This will be challenging given government changes and the increased expectations regarding 'quality assurance' and accountability placed on SAHs and sponsors.

As of July 10 2019, we have submitted 52 applications for a total of 123 individuals. As of this same date, 107 refugees have arrived in Canada through World Renew sponsorships since January 1, 2019.

Of the 52 (123 persons) applications submitted to date, 37 (92 persons) applications have been submitted by 19 Christian Reformed Churches, 8 (24 persons) applications have been submitted by 6 other Constituent Groups (beyond CRCs, associations, other faith groups) and 7 applications (7 persons) have been submitted from 3 different community partners.

As ever, we are extremely grateful for all the support we have received from the folks and the churches of Classis Huron.

## **F. What else can the people and the churches of Classis Huron do?**

Encourage your church to partner with a church or community outside North America. Call the office.

Contact Peter Bulthuis ([pbulthuis@worldrenew.net](mailto:pbulthuis@worldrenew.net); 800-730-3490, ext. 4237), or Maria Oliveira ([moliveira@worldrenew.net](mailto:moliveira@worldrenew.net), ext. 4319) for more ideas on how we can help you achieve your ministry objectives. To learn more about World Renew's ministry and/or to sign up for our regular newsletter, please visit [www.worldrenew.net](http://www.worldrenew.net).

Blessings, and thank you!

Peter Bulthuis, Church Relations

## **Fall 2019 Cross-Canada Classis Letter**

**Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director**

Last time you heard from me by virtue of a classis letter I quoted from James K Smith about one way a person can understand the goodness of institutions. Today, several months later I wish to write to you about some of the work of the institution, your institution, the CRCNA; specifically in Canada. You already receive much information about the binational CRCNA so let me focus in on the Canadian side of things. In this way, we can keep focused on that which is *material*: "the *primary responsibility of a board of directors is to describe the corporation to its stakeholders in precise, honest, practical, and useful terms.*" In this way, I believe it will allow "the truth to set us free."

### **Our understood mission and vision:**

In Canada, our key CRCNA agency leaders get together on a monthly basis for one particular reason. I want you to know the primary purpose of those leaders so that you are confident in the staff that serve you through the CRC. Our shared mission: *To be used by God to facilitate a gospel movement of healthy and vibrant Christian Reformed churches, ministries, and members throughout Canada, so that the renewing work of Jesus will transform the people we serve, the places we live, and connect to His work around the globe.*

### **Urban Indigenous Ministries:**

The Indigenous ministry component of our Canadian side of the church continues to foster and experience health and change. Of note for us all, is the name change that we may wish to incorporate in our own voices. That is, from 'Aboriginal' to 'Indigenous.' This seems to be the most gracious and common parlance. Our names will reflect this change moving forward.

As well, a few key items of note include the positive influence of Indigenous culture at the Canadian National Gathering and in Classis Hamilton as they develop a 'Community of Practice' in partnership with Resonate.

In Canada we are taking on a 'study' over the next year that fits within the binational realities of ministry in this area that essentially asks the question "What does healthy and appropriate ministry look like when it comes to Indigenous matters? As such, we will be able to marry our outcomes with the US side who is asking the same question and will be conducting their own study. In this case, the Canadian context matters and the question is likely answered differently. Hence the 2 national approaches.

### **Centre for Public Dialogue:**

This past year the Centre's steering group, the Committee for Contact with Government, celebrated 50 years of *seeking justice and speaking hope* in Canadian public affairs. In those 50 years we have been blessed by faithful members from Christian Reformed Churches across the country. This year we say a fond farewell to long time members Gary Vanloon, and Thyra VanKeeken. We also look forward to working with new members Lea Wilkening (Ontario) and Jacqui Mignault (Alberta). We have some current and expected vacancies on the committee and welcome inquiries from interested members in Classis Chatham and Classis Niagara.

Parliament is not expected to sit in advance of the election this fall (expected October 21). This parliament has been able to accomplish a number of important things that the Centre for Public Dialogue has been working on: Some progress has been made in fulfilling Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action 7-10 (equity in Indigenous education) but much more remains to be done.

We're also pleased that refugee sponsorship and settlement are made a little easier: we worked with partner organizations (World Renew, Citizens for Public Justice) to encourage the Federal government to make repayment of refugee travel loans much easier. In the coming election we'll be encouraging thoughtful public dialogue on these and other issues - for the sake of the good of all people who live in Canada.

### **Staff, Culture and building of the Canadian workplace(s):**

In a recent survey conducted by Gallup about staff culture, the Burlington Office staff scored highest in the categories of: *Feeling cared for*; *Knowing their work is important to the mission and purpose of the church*; and *Being committed to quality*. Thank you for your support of our staff as we seek to serve you in every way. Part of the goodness of this result comes from being in a newly renovated building. If you ever wish, we would encourage you and your church/classis to stop by for a tour, support, and/or conversation there in Burlington.

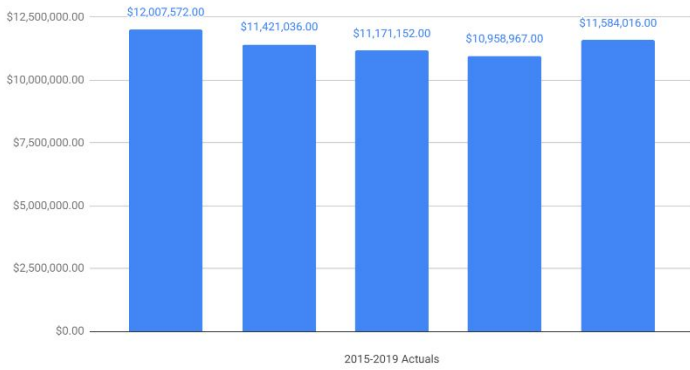
For your awareness, some staff changes may affect your interaction with the agencies and ministries of the CRCNA in Canada.

- Disability Concerns and Safe Church: Miriam Spies is departing as of Aug 31<sup>st</sup> to pursue a PhD. Interviews are underway
- Race Relations: Bernadette Arthur is leaving as of Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>. Interviews are underway.
- Advancement: Peter Elgersma is moving to full time and is ready, willing and able to serve your church in ways of financial support and ministry support through all of the Congregational Services
- Social justice/Centre for Public Dialogue: Victoria Veenstra comes to us by way of Peterborough, ON replacing Danielle Rowaan who has moved on as of this summer

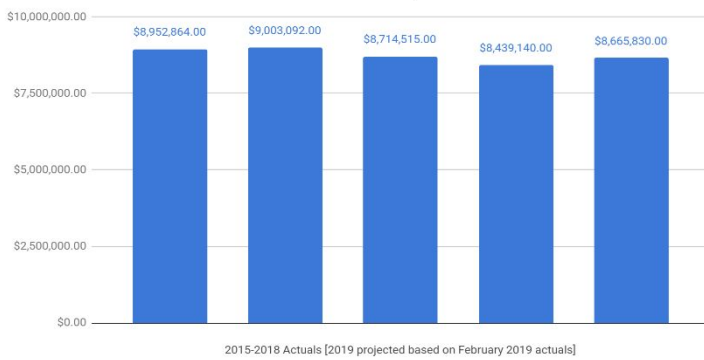
### **Financial Realities of the CON side of the denomination:**

With the ongoing challenge from the church felt around the conversation of ministry share, you are all likely aware of the proposed Ministry Share changes that we are encouraging you to speak about and respond to in an effort to be faithful together (to each other and to God). As such, a brief picture of the CRC in Canada and a bit of its financial history may be helpful.

Combined Total Ministry Share and Offerings in Canada (CDN\$) 2015-2019: includes World Renew



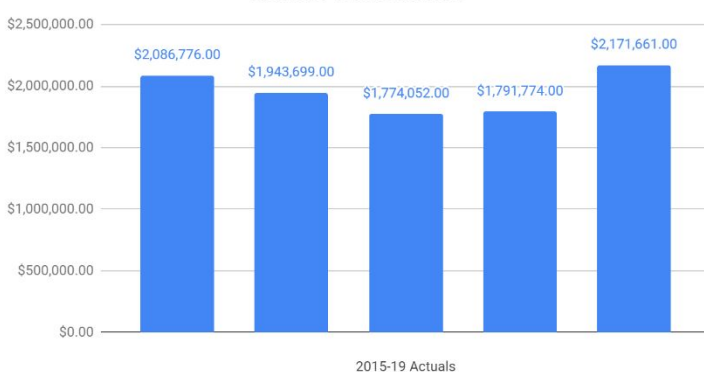
Combined Ministry Share and Offerings 2015-2019 in CDN\$: (does not include World Renew)



Total Church Offerings in Canada (2015-19) - includes World Renew [CDN\$]

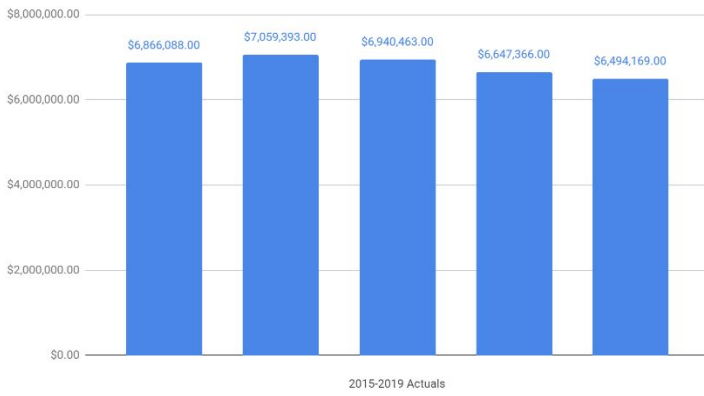


Total Offerings in Canadian Church (CDN\$) 2015-2019: does not include World Renew





Ministry Share Giving in Canada 2015-2019 in CDN\$



5-year Canadian Ministry Share giving by % of amount approved by Synod (Calendar year)

Year	March 31 data (%)	June 30 data (%)
2014	68.0	70.0
2015	70.4	71.2
2016	69.2	70.5
2017	71.0	72.4
2018	69.3	70.9

### **Board Governance of the Canada Corp (within the COD):**

Over the past several years, I have set my mind to the continued growth and strengthening of our Canada Corp.: it is the governing body of the CRCNA in Canada. I am delighted to work with such a fine group of so many capable leaders. Thank you for being attentive to who you nominate as a classis to this board as your rep. Keep up the good work! As such, this board is now ready to face a reality best summarized in the paragraph below (originally communicated to the Council of Delegates Executive Committee):

*As a result of at least one local church formally communicating their concerns (others have asked informally) about the status of CRC ministries and agencies within Canada, we [Canada Corp Executive] have come to learn from some of our early research and conversations that there may be some legitimacy to that concern. We do not have the full picture yet but are beginning to learn enough that we suspect that there is need to re-examine the nature of our bi-national partnership even at the governance level.*

*We are wondering about what the complete picture might reveal, moving forward. Our wonder extends even to consider the CRA's measure of our posture and practices. As such, we are taking this seriously and with intentionality.*

### **Direction Moving Forward (2019 Canadian National Gathering):**

The Canadian National Gathering was held in Edmonton in May. Your delegates to that Gathering will present at this classis meeting so you will have the pleasure of hearing from them about the goals for your region. Overall, it was a very good time of spiritual discernment and direction setting with a look toward the future. The summary outcomes are below:

#### **First, considering local congregations:**

1. Local churches are still the place where mission happens. Every part of the CRC needs to concentrate on local congregations and their missional (culturally diverse) settings.
2. Local pastors are critical leaders in our churches, but they are not always champions for the CRCNA. They need to be equipped for this task, and to properly understand the reasons why it is essential for them to become key supporters of CRCNA ministries
3. Resourcing congregations is critical, especially in a way that links them to national ministries like the Centre for Public Dialogue, Indigenous Ministry, Race Relations, Faith Formation Ministries, etc.
4. Direct in-person engagement with local churches (not just classis) is the best form of communication

#### **Second, for the National and Bi-national denominational Ministries of the CRCNA:**

5. We need to continue a strong focus on justice issues in Canada such as poverty, race, life issues, LGBTQ+, climate change, and the social needs arising from the digital era in which we live
6. There is an ongoing need to explore the binationality of the CRCNA and Canada's place within it. Is it healthy? Are reforms necessary?
7. Effective communication with local churches is critical
8. There is not enough denominational interaction with local congregations. Direct,

in-person engagement with congregations by CRC agency staff is critical

**Third, for every facet of CRC ministry:**

9. We need to keep the gospel at the core of every activity
10. The Spiritual disciplines need to be part and parcel of all our work. This is especially true for leadership in our churches
11. We need to make (local and personal) mission and evangelism our focus. This is a necessary and gigantic next era of ministry
12. It would be great to have regional champions for every CRCNA ministry
13. Youth and Young Adults need to continue to be a key focus of our ministry plans and efforts for some time to come

Please plan for a discussion of them at your council table. The Canadian Office has sent out a request for such so that we might receive feedback from your churches.

**Focus on Ecumenical and other Partnerships:**

With the movement toward a more local-church focus, it has been important to establish support for churches to behave ecumenically. I offer a snippet from a recent CRC **News** article:

*Peter Elgersma, advancement director of the CRC in Canada, said the goal of the program [grants for local churches] is to award between \$300 and \$500 to churches seeking ways to bridge denominational barriers and to come together in various ways to celebrate and honor the Christian faith they all share.*

*Elgersma said they consider a variety of "reasons for receiving a grant, along with activities the grants can help to fund. Our hope is to create dialogue among churches... The grants go to CRC churches, who then work with other churches to break down differences. We have a huge common relationship with God, and we don't want to forget that."*

*The Canadian E/RC made the decision to set aside funds for this effort, which offers the support to CRCs in Canada. In the past year, said Elgersma, "it has been extremely encouraging to see the connections that are continuing to be made in CRC congregations and other churches across Canada."*

As well it should be noted, that the Ecumenical Charter has been changed to make it increasingly straightforward and thus easier to use for local churches, classes and agency ministry.

**Mission, Evangelism and Growth:**

Last year marked a mystical time throughout Canada in the CRC with the completion of the *I Am Not My Own Tour*. Thank you to all of the churches who participated. It was an opportunity to recast the Reformed mission/vision that holds us together. Monetary results from the tour are healthy with over \$300,000 raised (even before the 4:1 matching grants from the Federal government through the CFGB) that go to local ministries in towns and cities across Canada, and through World Renew to a project in Nigeria for refugees. THANK YOU!

As well, in many different venues, we are hearing and working toward a vision of the CRC in

Canada that includes an emphasis on evangelism and growth. God is the Lord of the Harvest and the people of our churches are telling us they wish to be even more integrated as workers! As such, some learnings, conversations and re-thinking about how our entire system can be oriented to emphasize this desire is a growing thrust in our agencies/ministries. This will most certainly include an emphasis on church planting and working with key partners. Expect to hear more as time goes on.

In terms of growth, there is this anecdotal evidence: the two classes that grew numerically in the year over year 2017-2018, are Classis BC North-West and Classis Niagara. They are also the first 2 classes that were early adopters of developing a robust Classis Ministry Plan. We suspect that there is something to learn there for us all; something like: "growth is more likely when churches work together regionally" or "churches in partnership with other churches foster a greater potential for growth."

### **Fostering Key 'Internal Relationships' for Strength:**

One of my key habits this year is to continue an even stronger reconnection with the partners of ministry who are part of our long established circles. For example, did you know that CRC members in Canada are the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest support group of donors for Gideons/Shareword International. I suspect that in the vein of evangelism, this is something we can/should leverage and thus some learning needs to happen by people as myself to re-establish those links and discover possibilities.

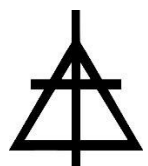
As well, even more internally, two of the most important relationships we continue to foster are the ones we have with Stated Clerks as well as New Pastors to Canada who are being invited to participate in the 'New Pastors Gathering' in January, 2020.

### **Upcoming Emphases that you may hear about:**

Regionalization; Classis Ministry Plan Development, Abuse of Power practices for the protection of our churches, Ministry Share Reimagined

**With great thanks to all of you for partnering together in ministry in the CRCNA. Feel free to reach out to me at any time,**

**Darren Roorda ([droorda@crcna.org](mailto:droorda@crcna.org))**





*Relying on the Holy Spirit, Diaconal Ministries Canada exists to Inspire, Empower and Equip Deacons, as they animate congregations to join in God's transforming work in communities across Canada.*

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## **FALL REPORT TO CLASSIS - 2019**

**August, 2019**

Warmest Greetings to each of our Partners in Ministry!

Diaconal Ministries is an organization created “**by** Deacons **for** Deacons”, with the vision to help Deacons fulfill their calling/mandate as spelled out in the Church Order (2016) and the Charge to Deacons as articulated in the form for the Ordination of Elders and Deacons (2016).

In order to fulfil this vision, our Diaconal Coaches and Regional Ministry Developers make personal contact with approximately 90% of diaconates every year – if you haven't been contacted please let us know. Here's a look at what else we've been working on since our last report to Classis in the spring:

- Operation Manna is now **NewGround**. NewGround will continue to offer everything that Operation Manna did and more! Building on more than 20 years of successfully helping churches love their communities, NewGround provides:
  - Deacon Scholarships
  - Help with conducting Community Opportunity Scans
  - Community Ministry Grants & Coaching
  - Youth Justice Initiative Grants & CoachingCheck our website for more information. <https://diaconalministries.com/newground/>
- A new **Website**. <https://diaconalministries.com/>  
In July we launched our new Website. It's overflowing with updated and relevant resources for Deacons. Our e-quip blog is also filled with inspiring stories, helpful tips and links. And our FAQ section is a great place for deacons to receive information, support and encouragement.
- Extensive work has been done in the area of **Stewardship** and **Benevolence** to better equip deacons and congregations:
  - A brand new collaboration with Christian Stewardship Services and the CRC in Canada has begun. Together we'll be launching a new **Stewardship Pilot Project** in the coming year. *Stay tuned to Diaconal Ministries for more information.*
  - We continue to offer a workshop entitled “**Helping Without Harming**”. These half- or full-day workshops teach the differences between *Relief* (offering temporary relief during a crisis), *Rehabilitation* (helping communities recover from a crisis), and *Community Development* (helping those in chronic poverty to support themselves and challenge systems that work against people fulfilling these callings.) This workshop has been very well received in cities like Edmonton, Nanaimo, and Toronto and a fall workshop is being planned for Thunder Bay.



To accomplish all of the above-mentioned work and more, we continue to be funded primarily through Diaconal Ministry Shares (dues) which are invoiced yearly to each Canadian CRC. It's important to note that these are NOT the same as *Denominational* or *Classical* Ministry Shares. Diaconal Ministry Shares are part of the agreement that **Canadian** Deacons made with each other in the 1960s and recommitted themselves to in 2001 when DMC was officially formed. Each year the DMC Board reviews and approves the amount – and each year these amounts, along with audited financial statements, are presented at Diaconal Ministries Annual General Meeting.

For your information, our **Board Executive** for 2019-20 consists of:

*Chair* – Erica Snippe-Juurakko (Thunder Bay, ON) ..... erica.snippejuurakko@gmail.com

*Vice-Chair* – Martin Slofstra (Toronto, ON) ..... martinslofstra9@gmail.com

*Secretary* – Norm Hasyema (Leduc, AB) ..... normhaayema@gmail.com

Thank you for partnering with us in fulfilling the vision which God has given us to inspire, empower, and equip deacons, churches, and their partners across Canada as **together** we join in God's transforming work. Thank you for your time, your prayers, and your financial support: we could not do this without you. May God continue to bless and guide us all as we carry out the ministries He calls us to.

Please don't hesitate to call or write if you have any questions.

***Respectfully submitted,***

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Vanden Brink".

ron vanden brink  
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1-800-730-3490 ext. 4304