

CLASSIS HURON

Of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

AGENDA

January 14, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.

**Christian Reformed Church
88 Main Street East
Drayton, Ont.**

The PURPOSE of Classis Huron is to

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

The VISION of Classis Huron 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.

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2. Constituting Classis

Call to Order by Drayton CRC at 9:00 am.
 Welcome by Drayton CRC
 Devotions
 Credentials Committee Report on attendance
 Classis is declared constituted.

3. Devotions for the Day

Opening - Drayton
 Pre-lunch – Cambridge
 Post –lunch – Kitchener
 Pre-supper – Goderich
 Post-supper – Vanastra
 Closing – Chair

4. Officers of Classis

Chair: Rev. Jack VandeHoef
Vice chair: Rev. Darren Roorda
Stated Clerk: Keith Knight

5. Opening of Classis

Officers of Classis take their positions
Welcome: New members and guests
Guests:

6. Stated Hour

10 a.m. Examination of Toyosi Awesu, Ministry Associate.

7. Committees for the Day

Credentials Committee – Wingham and Orangeville
Balloting Committee – Drayton and Guests
Overtures Committee – Acton and Waterloo

8. Classis Ministries Committee – Fred VanderSterre

Transition to the new structure: At the September 2008 Classis meeting a new structure for the Ministries committee of our classis was introduced, and accepted by classis. Therefore, this will be the final report of the current (old) Classical Ministry Committee. A transition is in place to move towards the new structure, which should be fully in place, with members of the various classical committees sometime during this winter.

This may be a good time to list the volunteers who gave of their time, abilities and enthusiasm while serving on the Classical Ministry Committee faithfully during those nearly ten years: Rev. Jack Quartel, who served as chair from 1999 to 2004, and who generously hosted many of our meetings at his house; Rev. Kevin De Raaf; Ms. Atie Ott; Mr. Wayne Skarratt; Mr. Wayne deJong, (CRWRC) denominational liaison; Ms. Eldean Kamp; Mr. Jack Tacoma; Rev. Gary Bomhof; Mr. Len Bakelaar; Rev. Jack DeVries; Rev. Pete Janssens; Rev. George Holthof; Ms. Janet Ryzebol; Mr. Fred Vander Sterre.

This committee was supported by three “Classis Coaches”, members of the denominational Classical Renewal Ministry Team: Rev. Al Hoksbergen, Rev. Thea Leunk, Mr. Frank Engelage.

Our Gathering session: This January session we hope to introduce the Congregational Life Cycle. This is a tool that was developed by George Bullard some years ago, that will help us understand our congregational health and the kind of leadership that is required in our individual churches. Jack Tacoma, from Home Missions, will introduce us to the four essential components of congregational vitality.

Fred Vander Sterre, chair

9. Examination of Toyosi Awesu, Ministry Associate at The Journey

Assigned text: Romans 5: 1-5
Sermon evaluation: Ed Den Haan,
Practica: John Vanderburgh
Biblical-Theological – John Vander Stoep

10. Classis Interim Committee -- Jack Vande Hoef

10.1 Interim Committee Report

1. The CIC met on December 4, 2008 to plan the agenda for the January 14, 2009 meeting of Classis Huron.
2. CIC requests clarification on the matter of pulpit supply for vacant churches which have an interim pastor or stated supply. Classis is asked to consider the following recommendation:
That Classis consider a church that hires an interim pastor/stated supply to not be a vacant church and therefore does not qualify for pulpit supply.
3. CIC met with the newly restructured Classis Ministries Committee on December 18. Jack Van de Hoef and Willie Andrews, from the current CIC, have agreed to let their names stand for nomination for the members-at-large, to serve on the new administrative subcommittee. Peter Janssen has moved from CIC to serve on the Youth Committee of Classis. A report of the new CMC structure will be sent as an addendum to this agenda.

10.2 Stated Clerk's Report

- 117 e-mail conversations since the last classis meeting.
- Prepared and sent out minutes of the September 2008 classis meeting.
- Sent 'Expectations of a Host Church' document to Drayton CRC, host of January classis meeting.
- Notified the denominational office re: decisions of classis – faxing synodical deputies' concurrence that Ministry Associate position meets Church Order requirements, and their concurrence to the approval for Candidate Brian Bork into the ministry of the CRC.
- Corresponded with Owen Sound and Kincardine churches re: pulpit supply needs and schedules
- Regular correspondence with the CRCNA denominational office requesting information, or offering updated information.
- Received and filed electronic minutes of all classes across Canada.
- Working with Peter Johnson, a web developer, to create and produce a new Classis Huron website.
- Made arrangements for classical exam of Toyosi Awesu as ministry associate at The Journey.
- Sent out correspondence informing the churches of the ordination of Brian Bork.
- Received overture from Stratford CRC concerning ministry status of Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis.
- Regular correspondence with Classis Interim Committee, Stratford, Rev. Tenyenhuis and others concerning the January classis meeting.
- Met with Classis Interim Committee.
- Met with Rev. Tenyenhuis and Rev. Ron Fisher.
- Met with Nominating Committee.

- Received reports from various committees of classis for inclusion in the January classis agenda.

10.3 Update on Rev. Tenyenhuis

Background:

At the May 9, 2007 meeting of Classis Huron, Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis and Kincardine CRC requested classis to release Rev. Tenyenhuis from ministry in the Kincardine congregation. (Per article 17.a of CO). In consultation with the synodical deputies – Revs. Dirk Miedema, Gord Pols and Jack Kerkhof – this matter was referred to the September meeting of classis because more material was needed, particularly about “the Kincardine congregational life and its intentions.”

At the September 19, 2007 meeting of Classis Huron, the following action was taken regarding Kincardine’s and Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis’ request for separation:

“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.

“And, in order to be eligible for a call, Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis agrees to participate in a six-month or two-term program of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE).

“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 Synodical Deputies concurred in the decision of Classis.

At the September, 2008 meeting of Classis Huron, a request came from the floor to have Rev. Tenyenhuis declared eligible for a call but it was deemed not to be properly before classis.

At this January, 2009 meeting of Classis Huron, Stratford CRC comes with an overture asking “that Classis Huron remove the requirement that Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis, formerly Minister of the Word at the Kincardine Christian Reformed Church, complete two Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) courses before being declared eligible for call as Minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church.”

Meeting with Rev. Tenyenhuis:

Keith Knight, on behalf of the Classis Interim Committee (CIC), and Rev. Ron Fisher, representing the Oversight Committee, met with Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis on December 4, 2008. A lengthy discussion was held to determine if Rev. Tenyenhuis should be considered ready to return to the active ministry.

Rev. Tenyenhuis spoke of his spiritual journey since May 2007 when he formally left the Kincardine congregation. He spoke of his ministry years while there.

He enrolled in his first CPE course in the winter of 2007, taking the course daily from April 28 2008 until July 18 2008. He showed his certificate of completion and shared his supervisor’s thorough report on his CPE experience. That report reflected growth as he dealt with a wide range of issues.

The process to enrol in CPE has changed considerably in recent years. It is no longer possible to register for more than one course at a time. One needs to apply in February and hope that you are one of the chosen 10 students to take part in the April to July program. If one is not chosen, one needs to wait an entire year before re-applying.

Rev. Tenyenhuis indicated that he learned a lot in his CPE course: that it was tough and challenging but worthwhile. He also indicated that he intends to apply for the next CPE course and that he will know in February 2009 whether or not he is accepted for the course which will run from April until July 2009.

He indicated that he, too, requests classis to declare him eligible for a call at the January classis meeting so that he can begin to entertain calls. He said that he would make participation in a CPE course a condition of accepting a call. If a call came in the spring, he would prefer not to start his ministry in that congregation until after completion of his course.

Rev. Tenyenhuis has preached in many churches, most of them outside of classis – Sarnia, Chatham, and Wallaceburg among them. He says that he has also received enquiries about his availability for a call.

Rev. Tenyenhuis says he feels called to the ministry and that he loves the preaching experience. He is ‘ready to go.’ He has a strong mentoring relationship with a senior pastor and he is also eager to continue to grow in developing ministry skills.

We concur that he seems ready to return to the ministry and to an active church. We also concur with Rev. Tenyenhuis’ own determination to pursue a second CPE course.

Motions:

- 1. That Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis be declared eligible for a call, effective immediately.**
- 2. That Classis Huron expects that Rev. Tenyenhuis will continue to pursue a second Clinical Pastoral Education course as part of his ongoing personal growth.**

Grounds:

Elzo has found the CPE beneficial in preparing him to return to active ministry.

Elzo has indicated his intention to enrol in a second CPE session

Keith Knight, Classis Interim Committee

Rev. Ron Fisher, Oversight Committee

11. Overtures

Overture 1 – Remove Second CPE Requirement

The Consistory of the Christian Reformed Church of Stratford, at its session on Nov. 18, 2008, approved the following overture to Classis Huron:

That Classis Huron remove the requirement that Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuis, formerly Minister of the Word at the Kincardine Christian Reformed Church, complete two Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) courses before being declared eligible for call as Minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church.

The grounds:

1. When Classis, at its September 2007 meeting, decided that Rev. Tenyenhuis should take two CPE courses before being eligible for call, no one, including Rev. Tenyenhuis, knew that the courses were only available at certain times.
2. As a consequence to date, Rev. Tenyenhuis has only been able to complete one course. He will not be able to complete the second course before July 2009. This means that the matter of his eligibility for call would await the September 2009 Classis meeting.
3. This lengthy delay, which has already occurred and which will be two years if nothing is done, imposes an unreasonable hardship upon Rev. Tenyenhuis, which Classis could never have intended.
4. We understand that Rev. Tenyenhuis is willing to complete the second course but in view of the further delay its completion entails, its completion should not stand in the way of his being declared eligible for call at the January meeting of classis. Fairness and justice to Rev. Tenyenhuis calls for the requirement to be removed.

Henry de Young, Clerk, Stratford CRC

12. Classis Home Missions Committee

Prayer: Home Missions is thankful and praises God for another well-attended “Day of Prayer”, which was held Saturday, November 22, 2008. Glen Soderholm, as speaker/worship leader, was enjoyed by many. Someone said of Glen’s presentation: *“It was a beautiful corporate experience that enabled me to be in the Lord’s presence with others.”*

Yes, God was exalted and people were blessed. The organizing team included: Diane Leferink, Grace-Emma VanTil, John VanderStoep, Jack Quartel, and Marguerite Ridder.

Missional Churches: To help established churches become more mission focused, Home Missions has organized a missional leadership conference for April 4, 2009 at Bethel CRC, Listowel. We are fortunate to have Allen Likkel, director of ministry teams, Christian Reformed Home Missions, to be the keynote speaker. The theme of the day is missional leadership. We encourage all elders, deacons, ministry leaders and those interested in leadership to attend this exciting and valuable day in Listowel. This day is being organized by Fred VanderSterre, Jack Tacoma and John Kuperus.

New Churches: The Home Missions committee is looking for someone to join the team with a heart for, interest in and expertise to help in the area of new church plants. If you know of such a person in your congregation, please contact Marguerite Ridder, chair HM committee, at 519-822-0897 or Keith Knight, Classis Stated Clerk on the Nominations Committee, at 519-837-9172.

Campus Contact: With the development of a new CMC/CIC structure and the participation of Campus Ministry in that new structure, it would seem redundant to have CM report to HM. Therefore, we decided that for now Campus Ministries would report to the new CMC to be reviewed in a year.

Marguerite Ridder, Chair

13. Youth Ministry Committee

It is with renewed energy that the CHYMC has started to work on its vision for youth ministry within this classis. Though the proposal to hire a classical youth director was turned down at a previous classis meeting, our committee heard an expressed desire to invigorate our youth programs and recognized the need to do this in a way that fits with the context of today’s world. We are happy to report that we have begun a visioning process that we hope to see completed early in this new year.

In our visioning sessions, certain themes have already come to the surface, namely a desire to:

- Train and mentor our local youth leaders;
- Resource our local youth groups;
- Celebrate our unity in Christ, worshipping together even across denominations;
- Establish a connection between our youth ministries and our campus ministries; and
- Work in service together and expand Biblical literacy.

Some tangible steps have already been taken; most notably, we are planning a mini-retreat for all the youth leaders in Classis Huron on February 27-28, 2009. This will be an opportunity to encourage our youth leaders, share best practices and offer training sessions. As a committee, we’d like to encourage all the churches to send their youth leaders to this valuable opportunity, even making money available to them to cover the cost of the retreat.

All this renewed energy and strategizing has begged the question: Do we need to establish a better working relationship between the CHYMC and the Lead Team, and what would that look like? The question of restructuring these two teams will be dealt with early in the new year.

While all this is being done, we continue to celebrate God's faithfulness in our youth ministry endeavors. At the Fall Retreat, we saw 347 youth gather together to deepen their faith, experience being part of the body of Christ and enjoy a great weekend up north. Attendance at our youth services has been strong these past few months. And we celebrate the fact that 50 young adults and chaperones are serving in the Dominican over the Christmas break. As a committee, we have also been asked to share with you some exciting denominational news. There is now a new board of directors that oversees CRC youth ministry in Ontario. Two existing ministries and their leadership teams now serve under this board, namely the Ontario Youth Convention and the Young Adult Conference. The board is affiliated with the CRC office in Burlington and has the support of Director Bruce Adema. Through this affiliation, the board now has charitable status, which will save money [GST refund] and provide an avenue to receive donations, maintaining or reducing convention costs. Please continue to pray for all of these endeavors and celebrate with us!

14. Nominations Committee

Synod 2009

Synod 2009 will be held at Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, from June 13 to 20. Two minister delegates and alternates, and two elder delegates and alternates are required.

Waterloo Campus Ministry nominee:

Melissa Brunsting: Melissa is a member of Waterloo CRC, and has recently graduated from the University of Waterloo with a co-op degree in Actuarial Science. While attending UW, she was involved in Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, serving in various forms of leadership throughout her 5 years there. Melissa was also on the search committee for a new chaplain to serve at the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University. She is blessed with a caring introspective spirit. She is now working full-time at a local insurance company and is engaged to Chris Ramsey, a graduate student at the University of Waterloo.

Nominees to Committees

A list of nominees to various committees, both to fill vacancies and to re-elect for another term, will be presented to classis for approval.

15. Huron Campus Ministry Guelph

15.1 Board of Directors Report

The Guelph Campus Ministry (GCM) Board of Directors serves with a strong and prayerful commitment to *guard* the vision, *guide* the campus ministry, and *guarantee* sustainability. We pursue these purposes in an atmosphere of support and encouragement of the campus minister, Jamie VanderBerg, and of celebration of God working in and through this ministry. We meet on a monthly basis and here are some highlights of an intensive and extensive season of ministry:

1. Charitable status and new website: We celebrate that we were approved by the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) as a registered Canadian charity! We thank God for this fruit of an extensive application process and time of patient waiting. We can now process donations directly from individuals, businesses, foundations, and churches beyond the CRC denomination.

Charitable status increases our opportunities to pursue the minimum of \$9,000 of additional funds needed this fiscal year, beyond the funding we gratefully receive from Classis Huron and Christian Reformed Home Missions. We are also registering with *CanadaHelps*, which will allow us to receive secure donations by credit card via a donation link on our own website. Check out our new website at www.guelphcm.ca .

2. Partnership dinner: The new fellowship hall of the Drayton CRC provided a wonderful venue for our first ever “Partnership Dinner,” a combined effort of the Guelph and Waterloo campus ministries. The purpose was both to grow our partnership with the churches of Classis Huron by sharing about the ministry, and also to raise funds. This was an evening of good food, sharing, and celebration, with about 60 people gathered. We rejoice that over \$6,000 was raised at this event for the two campus ministries. We’re together exploring future direction for partnership dinners and also the possibility of other events, like dessert and sharing evenings, in various places in Classis Huron. Stay tuned . . .

3. Alumni and ‘Friends of the Ministry’ networking: We are growing our network that we began a year ago, including student leader alumni, alumni of the Guelph Campus Ministry Board (committee in the past), and others who contribute to the ministry. Our most recent newsletter mailing included a donation appeal, possible with our new charitable status. In the newsletter we also share some of the exciting things happening in the ministry and ask for input. We will continue to diligently grow this network, both for direct contact and also to potentially access funding through businesses and other organizations where alumni and friends of the ministry have involvement or connections. If you’re interested in being added to this network and newsletter mailing please let Ray Vander Kooij know at pastoray@sympatico.ca .

4. Student Leadership Grants: We thank the Reid Trust for providing two student leadership development grants for this ministry year. The first grant allowed us to hire a student on a part-time basis during the summer. Jenn McIntyre worked in this position, putting in place extensive groundwork and networking for the Tumaini Project. An additional grant for the emerging leadership program of the GCM provides honoraria for student leaders in the Education/Discipleship and Worship ministry areas.

We thank the churches of Classis Huron for your support of this ministry prayerfully and financially through ministry shares and with above ministry share support through church budget line-items and offerings. Together, by God’s grace, we are making a difference at the heart of the life of a secular university that is influencing those who will shape our culture in years to come. There is so much more that can be done and we ask that you continue your partnership in growing an increasingly strong Christian presence that gives high-profile to Jesus Christ and His Lordship over all of life!

Board of Directors: Pastor Ray Vander Kooij, Chair; John Vaandering, Secretary; Judi Bell, Mark Wallace, Eve Mazereeuw

15.2 Campus Minister Jamie VanderBerg’s Report

Before our Partnership Banquet in October, I asked a number of our student leaders if they would be willing to speak about their experience in Guelph Campus Ministry. Jennifer McIntyre spoke of her involvement in planning our upcoming trip to Kenya with Children of Bukati. Michelle Uotilla spoke of the mentoring she received as she launched an anti-trafficking initiative within the sex trade. Joe Brunsting spoke of our monthly worship service, which goes by the name of

BASIC (Brothers and Sisters in Christ). But Arthur Churchyard couldn't make it out to Drayton on that particular evening.

Without soliciting any further comment from him, I received this note in a subsequent e-mail, "This is such a crucial ministry on campus. It totally revamps what the word 'ministry' means to me—community, instead of targets; creative growth, instead of prosperity-at-all-costs; trust and faith, instead of hierarchy."

Guelph Campus Ministry is a bridging, grassroots Christian community that is intent on being caretakers, justice-seekers and disciple-makers in God's world and on our campus. There's no executive that leads us forward, no growth model that we're following, no forced proselytizing, but we *are* serving our campus and reaching out with God's grace. We continue to see God's faithfulness in each of our four areas of ministry:

Worship: This year, BASIC (Brothers And Sisters In Christ) moved into "the living room" of campus or the Bullring, as it's technically called. During the week, the Bullring is the most visited coffee shop on campus. It's filled with the aroma of fair-trade coffee, and students sit on the worn out couches that give the place its living room feel. On the third Sunday of every month, though, the place is transformed from a coffee shop to a place of worship. The atmosphere (and the community) has changed the way we worship. There's nothing anonymous about our clustered seating arrangement, and we're no longer led in worship by a praise team. This community of students has chosen, instead, to sing together without using any instruments at all! Low-tech and intimate, student-led and story-driven (both God's and our own): these are the words I would use to describe our worship. Some things are changing with this generation of students: They've chosen a living room over a concert hall, clustered seating instead of chairs facing a stage, *acapella* worship instead of an enlarged soundboard. Some things, though, are not changing: They're still praising God and celebrating Christ's love.

Discipleship: Discipleship takes on many different forms. In addition to hosting lectures on campus, our community has taken several road trips this semester, attending the *Why Everything Must Change* Conference in September and the *Ordinary Radicals* event hosted by the CRC campus ministry in Toronto. Though we didn't agree with the perspective of every presenter, both of these road trips sparked some great conversation and fueled a desire for further growth. Small groups play an even more significant role in our discipleship ministry than road trips or lectures. This semester, our campus ministry had seven small groups woven through it. Four of these were led by students, two of which were weekly prayer groups. I led the other three in partnership with other student leaders. In one, we opened up the Old Testament and wrestled, intentionally, with some of the most difficult passages—passages about the sacrifice of children, the apparent genocide in Canaan, the strange prophetic practices of Hosea. In a second group, we made our way through a book by James K.A. Smith, *Who's Afraid of Postmoderism?* This book, written by a Calvin College professor, sparked much thought and discussion. One student remarked, "I finally have the ability and the vocabulary to formulate a response to my professor's dismissal of Christian thought." In the third of these groups, we entered the age-old debate concerning science and faith.

New this year to Guelph Campus Ministry is the introduction of a graduate student ministry. In fact, our initial attempt to reach out to graduate students yielded two distinct groups, one of which is situated on the main campus, the other of which grew out of the Ontario Veterinary College. The first time the veterinary students gathered, we had 16 of them at Elaine's and my house for a BBQ. And the group on the main campus has been particularly ambitious—they've met weekly all semester, usually with 10 or so of them gathered together.

This coming semester, we'll again be trying something entirely new. Instead of offering Alpha on campus, our community is going to offer a home-grown discipleship program called *Curious*

about Christianity? Discipleship is something we take very seriously on this campus, and we invite you to pray for this aspect of our ministry.

Speaking of prayer, you're invited to pray for the faculty and staff portion of this ministry. For various (and good) reasons, we've concentrated our efforts on growing a student community. Faculty and staff ministry has largely been in maintenance mode, and it's time that too changes. Please pray for a renewed sense of vision among our faculty and staff friends at the University of Guelph Christian Forum.

Hospitality: To be honest, our community had a serious issue at the beginning of the semester. While it seems like an odd thing to complain about, it was evident during the first few weeks that our community outgrew its own weekly dinners. During the first few weeks, we saw some 65 people join us every Wednesday for dinner. When we had 30-40 people present, we were crowded, but we could carry on good conversations and be intentional with our hospitality efforts. With 65 people, the volume of noise overwhelmed even the most extraverted among us. Thankfully, the problem seems to have taken care of itself—the students got busy and it got too cold to sit outside eating supper! I don't believe that we have any less people connected to the ministry—they've just found different ways of being a part of something much bigger than a weekly supper.

The growing involvement of our community, though, has had other consequences. While we still consider Collective Kitchens part of what we do on campus, we've actually been unable to incorporate these kitchens into our ministry this semester, at least not as much as we'd like to.

Social Justice: Our community here on campus is thirsty—thirsty to see faith translated into a way of life that cares for our planet and attends to the impoverished and the marginalized. We're involved in numerous social justice projects. As a community, we intentionally gathered various student groups this semester and started a coalition intent on profiling environmental stewardship on campus. As a community, we partnered with other student groups and planned Peace Week 2008. In fact, during that week, New Life CRC was invited to participate in a Places of Worship Tour that saw 50 students of varying faith traditions visit a church, a mosque and a synagogue in one day. As a community, we have also been involved in the Masai Project, continuing to raise funds for an AIDS clinic in Lesotho, Africa, and we have been raising awareness about the horrors of human-trafficking in the global sex industry through the I AM COMING campaign. Of all these efforts, though, it's our *Tumaini 2009* project that excites me the most. *Tumaini* is Swahili and it means faith and hope. In August of 2009, we will be traveling with 13 students to Butula, Kenya, standing in solidarity with that small village. Together, our two communities will be building an additional classroom, mostly because 514 AIDS orphans are now supported by that community and The Children of Bukati initiative (a local Guelph project). In addition, we'll also be staying with host families, interacting with the children and intentionally exploring the connection between the Christian church and the Kenyan culture. This last component of our solidarity experience will see us visiting RITT, the Reformed seminary there, worshipping with local churches, being led through various educational modules by CRWRC representatives and connecting with the Mennonite Central Committee. As a team, we are intent on learning much about the Kenyan culture and working together *with*, not simply *for*, the community in Butula.

Campus ministry at the University of Guelph is richly blessed with strong student leaders, a vibrant vision and a desire to grow in faith. Your support of this ministry is deeply appreciated. Please celebrate with us!

16. Reports

a. Regional Pastor Ron Fisher – Classis Huron East

In this past year I have continued to meet with pastors for breakfast at Crossroads in Elmira at 8 a.m., usually the fourth Thursday of the month with normally about four in attendance. There we agreed to listen to one another as we seek a safe place to be open and honest and pray with one another.

Through the year I met with various pastors, usually on a one to one basis, as well as with council members where necessary. I also continued my work as mentor, and, as classis requested, met with Andrew Van Muyen.

On Nov. 16 I represented classis in Waterloo CRC at Brian Bork's ordination as our new campus pastor. At Brian's request on Nov. 18, I appointed Rev. Pieter Pereboom as the mentor for Rev. Brian Bork and reported this to pastoral relations for their approval. Gerry and I continue to be available to listen to pastors and spouses. We will be gone south from Jan. 8 to early March.

b. Redeemer University College

As the first semester of the 2008-09 academic year is drawing to a close, we praise God for his many wonderful blessings. We have had an enrolment of 866 total students with an increase from 818 to 826 FTE (full-time equivalent) students. We were extremely pleased with the publication of the *Globe & Mail's* annual "University Report Card", in which our students gave Redeemer another "A" in overall student satisfaction and "A+"s in a number of categories. The full report is available on www.globecampus.ca if you are interested. At the same time, we are concerned about the decreasing levels of interest in Christian university education among our young people and would ask that you make a special effort to promote the value of a quality Christian university education.

Our faculty have thrown themselves with enthusiasm into their teaching and scholarship this fall term, and we look forward to the arrival of Dr. Darren Brouwer (Chemistry) and Professor Jonathan Kooiman (Business) in January 2009. Continuing education has been significantly invigorated with the award of a \$500,000 grant to fund the development of this strategic area. The funds will be used over a three year period to allow us to develop programs, workshops and courses that will extend the mission and purpose of Redeemer to new communities.

We are also forming a partnership with the new Paideia Centre for Public Theology and together are organizing an ambitious academic conference: "*Mission, Worldview, and the Christian University: Living at the Crossroads*" to be held from **7 - 10 January 2009**. The conference will feature some ten scholars with a strong reputation for Christian scholarship. On November 5 we enjoyed the fifth annual Bernard Zylstra Lectures, given by Dr Gideon Strauss, who led chapel, participating in a panel and spoke on "*Jesus and me ... and Everything*". We look forward to having many of you attend the annual Ministers' Conference on **Tuesday, March 3, 2009** with Dr Thomas Long, Bandy Professor of Preaching, Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta, as our speaker. More details will follow in a special letter of invitation.

On our campus, the archeological dig that was required on the site of the future second soccer field has finally been completed, having unearthed a 14th century first nations' village. We are now seeking to partner with the city and a local soccer league in order to cover the cost of a new field. We are also pleased to report that \$2.7 million of our \$3.3 million *Support our Students* campaign has now been raised, which is critical to our ongoing efforts to make a Christian university education accessible to more students. We have also decided to wind down the Redeemer Foundation, incorporating its membership and scholarship programs into the university and using this opportunity to increase the number of people who are supporting student financial

aid at Redeemer. This is one way we are seeking to address our ongoing challenge of balancing our annual budget.

As you probably heard, I will complete my presidency in June of 2010, giving me another 18 months to achieve a number of important goals to lay the basis for a new president. As we move forward, thank you again for your ongoing support of Redeemer through prayer and the financial giving of your congregations.

Dr Justin Cooper, President

17. Treasurer's Report

The following rates were approved for 2009:

1. That the rates for a church service be held at \$80 per service, no change.
2. That the driving expense reimbursement be kept at the rate of \$0.50, no change.
3. That the host church be reimbursed \$500, no change.
4. That the remuneration for loss of wages while conducting the business of Classis remain at \$150 per day for up to five (5) per week, no change.

18. Classis Huron Ministers and Spouses Retreat, February 10-12.

The annual retreat for minister's and spouses in Classis Huron will be held at Crieff Hills Community Retreat and Conference Centre, February 10-12. The speaker will be Syd Hielema, chaplain at Redeemer University College in Ancaster. His topic will be, "Ministry in a 'Facebook' World." Councils are encouraged to support their pastors by giving them opportunity to attend this retreat. Questions or comments can be directed to Siemen Speelman or Jack Van de Hoef.

19. Future Classis Meetings

Date	Place	Reports due	Chairperson
May 13, 2009	Guelph -- New Life	April 8, 2009	Darren Roorda
September 16, 2009		August 12, 2009	John Vanderstoep