



**CLASSIS HURON**  
**of the Christian Reformed Church in North America**

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

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**AGENDA**

**May 12, 2010 – 9:00 a.m.**

**New Life Christian Reformed Church  
400 Victoria Road North,  
Guelph**

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**The PURPOSE of Classis Huron**

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

**The VISION of Classis Huron**

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 individual churches and the joint ministries of Classis.

*Each classis meeting has a specific focus: VHS – Visioning (January), Huddle with Family of Churches (May), Skill development (September).*

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## 2. Constituting Classis

Call to Order, welcome, devotions by New Life CRC at 9:00 am.

Credentials Committee report on attendance  
Classis is declared constituted.

### **3. Devotions for the Day**

Opening – Guelph New Life  
Pre-lunch – Goderich  
Post –lunch – Jan Zwart  
Pre-supper – Vanastra  
Post-supper – Collingwood  
Closing – Chair

### **4. Officers of Classis**

Chair: Rev. John Vanderburgh  
Vice chair: Rev. Darren Roorda  
Stated Clerk: Keith Knight

### **5. Opening of Classis**

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

### **6. Stated Hour**

10:00 a.m. – Examination of Jan Oorebeek, license to exhort  
11 a.m. – Approve Ministry Associate position at New Life CRC  
11:45 am – World Missions, Rev. Derek Bouma, regional representative  
1 p.m – Examination of John Zwart, license to exhort  
2:15 -- Eastern Canada Leadership Development Network, Jack Tacoma  
2:30 p.m. – Examination of Rick DeGraaf, ministry associate  
3:30 p.m – CRCNA Board of Trustees, Gary Van Arragon

### **7. Committees for the Day**

Credentials Committee – Acton and Orangeville  
Balloting Committee – Guelph New Life and Guests  
Overtures Committee (if needed) – Listowel and Owen Sound

### **8. Classis Ministry Committee -- Rev. John Vanderburgh**

#### **8.1 Committee Report**

The Classis Ministry Committee met on March 25, welcoming two new members: Rev. Ralph Wigboldus representing Youth Ministry and Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink representing CMLT. Rev. Klein-Geltink will represent CMC on AdCom (the Administrative Committee). The committee devoted considerable time reviewing the 2007-2010 Ministry Plan and determined that, by and large, the plan was followed and most items accomplished. At the June meeting, CMC will develop a

visionary focus for ministry within Classis Huron until 2013 with the view to presenting it to classis in September for approval. All committees of classis are urged to discuss their visionary focus for ministry prior to that June CMC meeting.

Most committees of classis have gone through a review and revision of their respective mandates.

It was suggested that, at classis meetings, there be a stronger connection between church visit reports and 'ministry stories' and that church visitors identify potential ministry stories which could be shared at classis.

CMC reviewed matters from the January classis credentials that were referred to CMC.

- privacy laws and pastoral care. Someone from Robertson Hall Insurance will be asked to speak at the September classis meeting on Safe Church issues as part of our focus on skills development.
- children at Lord's Supper. Significant related material exists within the Acts of Synod and in publications on this issue.
- baptism vs dedication. The church has spoken clearly on the covenant significance of baptism.
- results of evaluations. Highlights of the evaluation: the lack of an intimate meeting space for the January meeting (hard pews, missed face-to-face conversations), not enough time for Jim Dekker's presentation on the Form of Subscription, the strong exam of Gareth Harker, the strong focus on prayer.

### **Extending Rev. Jack De Vries' service to the CRC in Australia**

Rev. Jack De Vries, formerly from Bethel CRC in Listowel and on loan to the Christian Reformed Church of Australia for a two-year term since December 2007, requests an extension for a further two years, until December 2011. Such a request requires the approval of classis and the concurrence of the synodical deputies.

In a letter dated Jan. 20, Rev. De Vries writes:

In September 2007 I received and accepted a call from the Christian Reformed Church of Australia (CRCA) to the position of Ministry Training Coordinator. Since then I have partnered with the CRCA in assisting them in the pursuit of their vision: "A church reforming to reach the lost for Christ". Since my arrival to Australia in December 2007 I have engaged the CRCA in an ongoing implementation of this vision. I have attached a section from the report of our committee to the CRCA Synod 2009 which highlights aspects of my work.

I am aware that the decision of Classis Huron in October 2007 to approve the loaning of my ministerial services to the CRCA was for an initial period of two years, after which extensions of not more than two years each may be granted if circumstances warrant. I am now requesting Classis Huron to approve an extension of another two years of myself being loaned temporarily to serve the CRCA while retaining my ministerial status in the Christian Reformed Church (CRCNA).

The grounds for this request remain the same:

1. This is in keeping with the regulations of Church Order Article 13b.
2. The CRCA is a denomination in ecclesiastical fellowship with close ties to the CRCNA.
3. The duties of the Ministry Training Coordinator are spiritual in character and directly related to the ministerial calling and do not conflict with Rev. De Vries' commitment to the faith and practice of the CRCNA.
4. Rev. De Vries' ministerial credentials will remain with Bethel CRC.
5. The regulations regarding the CRC Pension fund will be upheld. The CRCA will continue to contribute the determined annual amount to the minister's pension fund and will channel these funds through Bethel CRC.

I have also forwarded this request to the council of Bethel CRC requesting that they endorse this request. Thank you for considering this request and I await your response.

Jack De Vries

Ministry Training Coordinator

Christian Reformed Churches of Australia

**MOTION:** That Rev. Jacob (Jack) De Vries be granted a two-year extension to be loaned temporarily to serve the CRC of Australia while retaining his ministerial status within the Christian Reformed Church in North America, until October 2011.

## **8.2 AdCom (Administrative Committee)**

AdCom met once since January and is scheduled to meet at the end of April to determine the day's schedule of the May classis meeting.

The committee serves as the administrative arm of CMC and puts together the details of the classis meeting.

At its March 3 meeting it received a request from Rev. Jack De Vries to extend his two year term on loan to the CRC of Australia. This matter was processed through CMC and appears on the agenda for the May meeting. The synodical deputies also need to concur with classis' decision.

AdCom went over the minutes of the January classis meeting to determine which items need to be dealt with by CMC at its March 25 meeting.

With the departure of Rev. Pete Janssens as a member of AdCom, CMC will be asked to endorse a suggestion that Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink represent CMC on AdCom.

## **8.3 Stated Clerk's Report**

The stated clerk engaged in more than 300 email conversations and about a dozen telephone conversations since the January meeting of classis.

He arranged for the various text assignments and other details for the examinations for licenses to exhort, renewal of license to exhort, the examination of ministry associate, the documentation to approve a ministry associate position, and correspondence with the synodical deputies concerning the ministry associate position.

He arranged and help set the agenda for meetings of AdCom, Classis Ministry Committee and the classis meeting and corresponded with those wishing to address the May meeting of classis.

He responded to various requests from ministers and others throughout classis.

The stated clerk corresponded with Rev. Jack De Vries concerning his ministerial status with the Christian Reformed Church in Australia, and facilitated his formal request for an extension through Bethel CRC in Listowel, AdCom and CMC.

He processed documentation to renew annual liability insurance coverage for the directors (ie CMC) of Classis Huron, processed the ministerial credentials for Rev. Tom Van Milligen at Guelph New Life, and corresponded with other stated clerks across Canada, exchanging minutes of classis meetings and process information. During the course of conversations, he passed on names of ministers who would consider a call to appropriate search committees and provided orientation to new church clerks with respect to their connection to classis.

**MOTION:** That the work of the Classis Ministry Committee, AdCom and Stated Clerk be approved.

## **8.4 Examinations for license to exhort:**

Jan Oorebeek (Orangeville).

Assigned text: Isaiah 11: 1-9. Rev. John Kuperus, practica; Rev. Harry Frielink, biblical /theological.

**MOTION:** That Classis Huron grant Jan Oorebeek a license to exhort within its boundaries for one year.

John Zwart (Drayton).

Assigned text: Acts 1: 1 – 11. Rev. John Vanderstoep, practica; Rev. Stephen Tamming, biblical/theological.

**MOTION:** That Classis Huron grant John Zwart a license to exhort within its boundaries for one year.

## **8.5 Renewals of license to exhort**

Jack Tacoma (Guelph New Life).

Sermon evaluation by Vicki Cok, Darrell Bierman.

**MOTION:** That a license to exhort for Jack Tacoma be extended for a five-year term, ending September, 2015.

John Den Bok (Collingwood).

**MOTION:** That the tabled motion from the January classis meeting concerning John Den Bok's renewal of his license to exhort be considered.

**MOTION:** That John Den Bok's renewal of his license to exhort be denied.

Ground:

1. Collingwood CRC council does not endorse his request since he has been worshipping elsewhere for the past three years and is not an active member in the CRC.

## **8.6 Examination of Rick De Graaf as Ministry Associate:**

Rita Klein-Geltink, practica; Bill Hoogland, biblical/theological

**MOTION:** That Classis Huron approve Rick De Graaf as Ministry Associate with Christian Reformed World Relief Committee until Jan. 31, 2012 to coincide with his term of service as country consultant in Cambodia. (Approval can be extended to subsequent terms with concurrence of CRWRC and Maranatha CRC in Cambridge.)

## **8.7 Request to declare Ministry Associate position at Guelph New Life CRC.**

New Life CRC requests Classis Huron that it approve a new Ministry Associate position, details of which are outlined below and, if approved by classis and the synodical deputies, that the examination of Pastor Lesli Van Milligen to fill this position be waived because of her appropriate theological education and her past experience as Ministry Associate in Classis Lake Erie.

The Work

New Life Church has called Lesli and her husband Tom to jointly fill a full time pastoral leadership role in our congregation and community. As such, she will be part of and give leadership to the preaching team, administer baptism and the Lord's Supper, give leadership to youth ministry and children's ministry, direct the Pastoral Elders (as well as conduct visits and funerals), and assist the Visionary Elders. In other words, she will be performing the work that the Church Order directs to Ministers of the Word.

Educational Background

Lesli graduated from Calvin College with majors in Spanish and Education and a minor in Religion and Theology. She received an M.Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary with an emphasis in cross-

cultural ministry. She then attended Calvin Theological Seminary for two years; women were not admitted to the Special Program for Ministerial Candidates (SPMC) at that time, however, so she was not able to complete the candidacy process.

#### Ministry Background

While in seminary, Lesli interned at L.A. Community CRC (youth director), Woodlawn CRC (education director), and the Back-to-God Hour (English language listener response). She was ordained as an Evangelist by Classis Lake Erie in 1996 for her work as a co-pastor at North Hills CRC in Troy, MI, where she participated in preaching, administering sacraments, leading education programs and assisting the diaconate. She continued in the capacity of an Evangelist in her work at Crosspoint CRC (Cincinnati, Ohio) from 1999-2005, when Crosspoint merged with a non-denominational church (Four Corners Church). She continued to serve on the staff of Four Corners as a preacher, teacher and outreach coordinator, but her ordination lapsed because this church was not in denominational fellowship with the CRC. From 2008-2010 she served as pulpit supply for Church By the Woods (Presbyterian Church, USA) in Sharonville, Ohio; she planned and led worship services and funerals, and worked with various committees.

**MOTION:** That the Ministry Associate position description at New Life CRC in Guelph is in accordance with the guidelines for Ministry Associate.

**MOTION:** That the examination of Lesli Van Milligen to fill that position be waived.

Grounds:

1. Article 43 Commentary 3b, page 200 allows for that possibility, given the candidate's theological education and past experience as Ministry Associate.
2. Pastor Church Relations Committee in Grand Rapids agrees that it would be appropriate to waive the examination in this instance.

(These motions require the concurrence of the synodical deputies)

### **8.8 Huddle as Family of Churches**

Delegates will spend time in their Family of Churches clusters for discussion and sharing.

### **9. Classis Home Missions Committee – Marguerite Ridder, oral**

### **10. Nominations Committee – Atie Ott**

#### *Calvin College Board of Trustees*

(Vote for one nominee)

*Dr. André F. Basson*, B.A., Johannesburg University (South Africa); B.D., University of Pretoria (South Africa); D.E.A., Université de Provence (France); Ph.D., Université de Provence. André Basson has served as a chaplain for the South African Navy and has taught classics and medieval and renaissance studies at the University of Zululand and the Rand Afrikaans University (South Africa), at Calvin College, at the University of Buffalo (New York), and at Brock University in St. Catharines (Ontario). He pastored the Rehoboth CRC (Niagara Falls) and is currently the CRC Campus Minister at Brock University. Dr. Basson has served on boards and committees in South Africa and Canada, including the Research Ethics Board,

Brock University, and the Youth Leader Support Team, Classis Niagara. He has been an elder in four churches: Townsview Dutch Reformed Church, Andrew Murray Dutch Reformed Church, the Dutch Reformed Military Congregation (in South Africa), and Niagara Falls CRC (Canada).

*Dr. Wytse van Dijk, B.S., M.A., and Ph.D., McMaster University.*

Wytse van Dijk has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in nuclear physics, teaching at Dordt College, Redeemer University College, and McMaster University. He has served on the church councils of Covenant CRC (Sioux Center, Iowa), Immanuel CRC (Hamilton, Ontario), and Fellowship CRC (Ancaster, Ontario). He has also been a frequent delegate to classis. Dr. van Dijk is currently serving on the presidential search committee for Redeemer University College and has a strong knowledge and appreciation for the Reformed Christian liberal arts colleges. His daughter, Deanna, is a professor of biology at Calvin College. He and his wife, Joanne, are members of Ancaster CRC.

### ***Guelph Campus Ministry Board***

Guelph Campus Ministry is seeking affirmation of two new board members to begin serving three-year terms in June 2010, as two current board members, Eve Mazereeuw and Ray Vander Kooij, are both completing their second terms.

*Andrew Elgersma*

Andrew is a graduate of the University of Guelph (U of G) with both a 2 year Diploma in Agriculture and a BSc. Agr. (Hon). Near the end of his degree he served in the Guelph Campus Ministry (GCM) as a student leader, through an emerging leader grant from Home Missions, and was mentored by then campus minister Pastor Ed Den Haan, attended the GCM board meetings and supported the overall campus ministry at the U of G. He completed his degree at the end of 2005 and started working in Mississauga for a communications agency focused on agriculture. A year later Andrew moved out West with BASF as a sales rep of crop protection products in the Peace River region of AB - about 5 hours NW of Edmonton. He then came back to the area 2 years later to accept a marketing role with BASF in Mississauga where he is today. Andrew lives in Rockwood and is a member of Bethel CRC in Acton. He originally comes from a farm north of Guelph.

*Miriam Koopman*

When they moved to Guelph in the summer of 2008, Miriam and her husband decided that they would be intentional in finding volunteer opportunities in the community where they could make a difference in their neighbours' lives. Currently, Miriam is a volunteer with Hospice Wellington as a grief care provider and as a training facilitator. As she says it – "I was also keeping an eye out for another opportunity where I could serve... when I was asked if I was interested in joining the Guelph Campus Ministry Board, I felt that this could be it." Miriam has a strong background in administration through her work and volunteer experience in the non-profit sector. Among her myriad of roles, she served as a director and officer of the Board of Trinity Christian School in Burlington for over six years, and she worked as the administrative assistant at Burlington CRC and at Hamilton District Christian High School. Presently, she works in the office at Ignatius Jesuit Centre in Guelph, which runs Loyola House Retreat & Training Centre. Miriam brings to the GCM Board her experience, skills, and an open heart and mind. She lives in Guelph and is a member of the New Life CRC.



## **11. Reports**

### **11.1 Board of Trustees of the CRCNA – Gary Van Arragon, oral report**

### **11.2 World Missions – Rev. Derek Bouma, oral report**

### **11.3 Calvin Seminary Board of Trustees**

This past year has seen significant changes to the way CTS structured its classes. In the past all learning was divided into three semesters (Fall, Winter and Spring). This year the academic calendar was divided into two semesters. The course outline for the Masters of Divinity (for ordination into the CRC) had to be adjusted but for the most part continued with the same core curriculum. The two semester structure allows the CTS community to participate in Calvin's January series of lectures culminating in the annual Worship Symposium.

Finances continue to be a challenge. We are thankful for the gifts which continue to support CTS. Thank you to the churches and individual contributors for your prayers and financial support. We do our best to ensure that your gifts are used to prepare students for the pastoral ministry and for the teaching ministry. It is our aim to assist students as much as we can financially during their stay at CTS. If you would like to create a scholarship fund for CTS students, please contact myself or the Seminary.

To help save costs the CTS Board of Trustees has met by way of conference calling. This provides a substantial savings but there is nothing like meeting together around the same table. We will meet together from April 22-23. A big item on our agenda has been searching for a new president to fill the vacancy to be left by President Neal Plantinga. Neal had originally promised to give ten years of leadership as president of CTS. He will step down as president in May 2011 but continue in his teaching position. He hopes to find the time needed to write a few more books and we do look forward to seeing his hopes made visible in print.

Neal has and is providing exceptionally good leadership. His leadership will be missed. The Board of Trustees has been very busy searching for a new president and we are confident we will be able to present people who will carry on CTS's ministry. To meet the time line of having a new president by May 2011 we have to present a prospective nominee(s) to Synod 2010. This will be (by the time you read this report, it will have been) the main item on our April Board meeting. I am sure you will read the results in the Forum or The Banner.

Thank you again for your prayers and support. We hope that CTS and the work of its Board of Trustees is being a blessing to you and your ministry. If I can be of further help in connecting you to CTS, please call. Rev Jim Poelman, regional representative

### **11.4 Redeemer College**

As I write this final report, I am pleased to announce that on February 22, the Board of Governors appointed Dr. Hubert R. Krygsman as Redeemer's third President. Dr. Krygsman is currently the Associate Provost and Director of the Andreas Center for Reformed Scholarship and Service at Dordt College in Iowa. His five-year appointment will take effect on June 14, 2010, as I conclude my service as President after sixteen years, and I am enthusiastic about his appointment. I will become the Executive Director of Christian Higher Education Canada (CHEC) on July 1, 2010 and also serve

as the part-time Executive Director of the Association of Reformed Institutions of Higher Education (ARIHE).

As the second semester of the 2009-10 academic year is drawing to a close, students continue to be busy with academic work, as well as many co-curricular activities. We have been blessed this semester with a number of speakers—Dr. Bob Goudzwaard speaking on international economics and hope for global poverty and Dr. Ted Malloch addressing us on the topic of spiritual enterprise, doing virtuous business. Having Dr. Stephen Lewis speak has been a divisive issue for some in our community, and we will be including an open letter in our next newsletter in order to clarify some misinformation that has been circulated about this. During reading break some students and staff members participated in mission trips to Mississippi. A number of students and Student Senate participated in and helped organize fund raisers for Haiti and were part of raising \$10,000 for earthquake relief.

So far this year, we have welcomed over 2000 participants to our C.L.E.A.R. programs (Continuous Learning & Education at Redeemer). Pending on approval from the Ontario College of Teachers we will be launching two new AQ courses: Special Education: Communication - Learning Disabilities and Special Education: Intellectual - Gifted. A feasibility study for a Master of Education program has been launched and we continue to work on plans to submit an application to the province to grant a Bachelor of Health Sciences degree program.

Redeemer's Athletic Department hosted the Ontario College Athletic Association (OCAA) Men's Volleyball Championship Tournament at Redeemer from February 25-27 and our men's volleyball team finished the tournament with a provincial bronze medal! We also had a good response to the Ministers' Conference held on March 2 with Dr. Paul Wilson, professor at Emmanuel College, University of Toronto. The Redeemer Alumni Mentoring Program (RAMP) hosted an alumni/student mentoring event in partnership with the Sociology Learning Community on March 4.

We are truly blessed as a Christian academic community and we are pleased with another year of exceptionally high scores in the Maclean's Student Satisfaction rankings. New student interest continues to be very encouraging and application numbers so far are well ahead of last year at this time, making us optimistic that we will exceed our enrolment projections for September. We have also engaged an international recruiting consultant who is building contacts throughout Asia and is committed to providing us with a number of new international students by September.

We have appointed Dr. Adam Barkman in Philosophy to replace the late Dr. Theo Plantinga and are in the process of interviewing candidates for the Psychology position to replace Dr. Charles Hackney who took a position elsewhere. We are also searching for a new Dean of Students to replace Fred Schat, who is retiring. Dr David Zietsma will become Dean of Arts and Foundations, replacing Dr. Doug Loney, who is returning to full-time teaching.

Work continues to progress on the KIP (Knowledge Infrastructure Program) projects as is obvious to any campus visitors, and we are still hopeful that we will break ground for the new soccer field soon. By the fall, Redeemer's campus will be upgraded and the soccer dome complete, adding to our ability to serve our students and the wider community.

Planning for a number of farewell events are well under way. Closing Convocation on April 7 will be my opportunity to say farewell to our students. The supporting community celebration evening will be held on April 30 and May 12 will be the faculty and staff farewell, followed by a special reception for the broader Hamilton community on May 13 and a special choir concert at MacNab Presbyterian Church in downtown Hamilton on May 14. Check our website for details.

Donation revenues have continued to come in well and Church Support revenues have moved slightly ahead than last year at this time, which we trust will be sufficient to allow us to balance our budget for the first time in several years. We also project a balanced budget for 2010-11. Please convey our

thanks to your congregations for their prayers and financial support of Redeemer. Their partnership is crucial as we pursue our mission of lifting up the Name of Christ in university education through teaching, scholarship and service.

I finish my service at Redeemer with a real sense of thanksgiving for all that, by God's grace, has been accomplished, and I am confident that the Lord will continue to bless Redeemer under Dr.

Krygsman's leadership.

Dr. Justin Cooper, President

## **14. Financial Resources Team Report -- Clarence Louter**

### **Individual Church Giving**

**MOTION:** That the treasurer's report of giving by individual churches includes only classical Ministry Share information, and that a report for each church containing only their denominational Ministry Shares giving to-date be made available upon request.

Grounds:

1. This eliminates negative comparison of one congregation against another.
2. This emphasizes how financially each congregation is working together to support the classical ministries. Classical information is reported for all at the classical level.
3. Not all churches are submitting their denominational Ministry Shares or other accredited causes information, which are paid directly, to the classical treasurer. This means that the current report does not accurately reflect that actual giving by each individual congregation.

### **Streamlining remittance procedure for the denominational Ministry Shares and accredited causes**

**MOTION:** That, effective January 1, 2011, all churches within Classis Huron remit their denomination Ministry Shares and accredited causes directly to the causes. (ie. Denomination Ministry Shares remitted directly to the Burlington office.

Grounds:

1. This reduces remittance time. Currently, a church remits to the classical treasurer and then the classical treasurer remits to the denomination. This will result in the funds received directly from the church to the cause.
2. Direct mailing to the causes would eliminate the need for the church treasurer to add in the Classical treasurer's remittance time requirements when making their remittances and possibly missing deadlines.
3. Classical treasurer's remittance procedure adds no real benefit at the classical level or denominational level. It is just one extra step.

#### **14.1 Auditor's report – attached**

#### **14.2 Financial statements for 2009 -- attached**

Classis in September adopted the following for 2010:

1. That the rates for a church service be held at \$80.00 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 for a classis meeting be reimbursed \$500.00, no change.
4. That the remuneration for loss of wages while conducting the business of Classis remain at \$150.00 per day for up to five (5) per week, no change.

### 15. Future Classis Meetings

<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Reports due</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Vice-chair</b>
May 12, 2010	Guelph New Life	April 7, 2010	John Vanderburgh	Darren Roorda
Sept. 15, 2010	Drayton	Aug. 11, 2010	Darren Roorda	Ralph Wigboldus
Jan. 12, 2011		Dec. 1, 2010	Ralph Wigboldus	Rita Klein-Geltink
May 11, 2011		April 6, 2011	Rita Klein-Geltink	John Vanderstoep
Sept. 14, 2011		Aug. 10, 2011	John Vanderstoep	

NOTE: Invitations are requested to host meetings of classis throughout 2011.