



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

MINUTES

September 19, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.

Collingwood Christian Reformed Church

Collingwood, ON

The PURPOSE of Classis Huron

We will foster the Kingdom through shared resources toward spiritual renewal

The VISION of Classis Huron

The congregations, ministries, missional communities and people of Classis Huron will surrender to the work of the Spirit of Mission of Jesus, to embody the Kingdom of God. Recognizing the urgency of the times, we stand on the foundation laid for us by previous generations and step forward in the same faith we have been taught.

Delegates to Classis

Church	Pastor	Elder	Deacon
Acton – Bethel	Rev. Ray Vander Kooij	Harry Bloemendal	Rita Leferink
Blyth	Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen	Rick Steele	Henk Van Schaik
Cambridge – Maranatha	Rev. Norm Sennema	Rick DeGraaf	Mary MacGregor
Cambridge - River City	Rev. Darrell Bierman	Janet Ryzebol	Jim Martin
Clinton	Rev. Ron Luchies	Geert Waanders	
Collingwood	Rev. Victor Laarman	Ary VanderMeer	
Drayton	Rev. Paul Droogers	Arnold Rumph	Teresa Wikkerink
Exeter	Rev. Kevin te Brake	Mike Branderhorst	
Fergus - The Bridge	Rev. John Vanderstoep		
Goderich - Trinity	Rev. Stephen Tamming	Wilma Duckworth	Helene Moore
Guelph – Campus Ministry	Sara De Moor Neil & Virginia Lettinga		
Guelph – First	Rev. David Tigchelaar	Ed Kuipery	Elly Skarratt
Guelph – New Life	Elder: John Kalverda	Jack Tacoma	
Kitchener – Community	Rev. John Medendorp	Betsy DeVries	Raymond Mostert
Kitchener – The Journey			
Listowel – Bethel	Rev. Henry Meinen	Jan Koersen	Rob Lee
Lucknow - Community	Rev. Tim Leferink	Margaret VanderVaart	Ronda DeBoer
Orangeville	Rev. Andrew Vis	Tena DeWay	
Owen Sound – First	Elder John Tamming	Simon de Boer	Doug Pool
Palmerston	Rev. Andrew de Gelder	Bill Van Anandel	Tilda Bosman
Stratford	Rev. Martin Dam	Max Van Til	
Vanastra - Community	Rev. Paul DeWeerd	Margaret Dykstra	Rob Wynja
Waterloo	Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok	Pieter Looyenga	Mark Parker
Waterloo – Campus Ministry	Rev. Brian Bork		
Wingham – Maitland River Community	Rev. Henry Steenbergen	Stephen Vander Klippe	

Devotions for the Day:

- Opening – Home Missions Committee
- Pre-Lunch – Community [Kitchener] CRC
- Post-Lunch – Bethel [Listowel] CRC

Committees of the Day:

- Credentials Committee: Bethel [Acton] CRC / New Life [Guelph] CRC
- Balloting Committee: Palmerston CRC

Special Guests:

- Amy Baarda, Classis Huron Youth Ministry Champion
- Atie Ott, Classis Huron Safe Church Coordinator
- Maynard Wiersma, Executive Director, Christian Stewardship Services
- Rev. Darren Roorda, CRCNA, Canadian Ministries Director

1.1 Opening: Chair, Rev. Martin Dam [of Stratford CRC] welcomed delegates and extended appreciation for undertaking the drive to Collingwood. He noted firstly that in light of the space available in the facility, the large portion of the day would occur in the sanctuary, and secondly that with a full agenda, efficiency and focus would be required and that the two comments per delegate per issue rule would be enforced. Rev. Ray Vander Kooij, on behalf of the Credentials Committee, reported that credentials for the majority of the churches had been received. In light of Drayton and Waterloo CRC's being present without credential submission, it was moved and seconded to seat the respective delegates –carried. Pastor Martin declared Classis constituted, noting that Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok [of Waterloo CRC] would be serving as Vice-Chair, and Sharon Van Kampen as Stated Clerk.

1.2 Devotions: Rev. Victor Laarman [Collingwood CRC] extended a welcome to all in attendance and provided details pertinent to the layout of the church facility. Pastor Victor read from Ephesians 3 (*Paul's Prayer*) which was followed by Delegates singing "Be Thou My Vision".

Rev. John Vanderstoep [The Bridge, Fergus], on behalf of the Home Missions Committee, then led a time of devotions, focusing on Acts 2:31 and that the establishment of a congregation is in fact somebody's dream becoming a reality. Pastor John challenged Delegates to imagine that their community had been chosen for the next church plant in Classis Huron and to consider possible answers to nine questions related to that 'dream'. The devotional time was concluded by a time of prayer led by Pastor Victor and Delegates then singing "Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak".

2. Examination of Tom Mosterd [intern student pastor at Stratford CRC] for Classical Licensure. Rev. Victor Laarman served as the examiner for Practica and Reformed Doctrine and Ethics. Rev. Tim Leferink reported on Tom's sermon, based upon review [by Rev. Tim Leferink and Rev. Stephen Tamming] of both the sermon manuscript and live stream viewing of the worship service led by Tom on Sunday, August 19, 2018 at Stratford CRC.

Executive Session was declared, and after an opportunity for discussion and a ballot vote, Classis declared that Tom had sustained his examination and would be **granted Classical Licensure to Exhort**.

•Motion made and seconded to destroy the ballots associated with this Executive Session.

-carried

Chair, Rev. Martin Dam, led in a time of prayer.

3. Agenda Item 8.4: Request [letter] from Bethel CRC, Listowel, to **grant Classical Licensure to Exhort to Commissioned Pastor Bart Eisen**.

Chair, Rev. Martin Dam, *ruled* that the licensure would be granted to both Bart Eisen and Sara DeMoor [Guelph Campus Ministry Chaplain] because preaching is a component to their respective Commissioned Pastor roles.

4. Refreshment Break

5. Maynard Wiersma, Executive Director of Christian Stewardship Services provided an informative and insightful presentation entitled "How to Spark Generosity" which focused on encouraging stewardship at the congregational level and posing the question "What is your church's response to the Great Commission?"

6. Classis Huron Home Missions Committee

Rev. Henry Steenbergen [Maitland River Community CRC, Wingham] provided a verbal summary of: 1) Forest City North Community Church's [London] plans to launch a multi-site [church] in Exeter in the Fall of 2019 (ref. p. 6 of agenda). *-received for information*

2) the Classis Huron Missional Catalyzer position job description and referenced the additional document which had been issued "Background Information to the Missional Catalyzer Recommendation" and noted the following: two days per week (i.e. 0.5 for RGM + 1.5 for CH), four-year pilot project, will take two to three years to see positive fruit.

•Motion made and seconded to

a] Approve the position of Missional Catalyzer and empower the Home Missions Committee to hire a person for this position.

b] Use the \$14,000, currently in the Creative Outreach Venture Fund, to finance this position.

Grounds:

a. This position facilitates the implementation of the five-year ministry plan approved by Classis in 2014.

b. It reflects the input of Classis Huron delegates at the September 2017 meeting

c. The work of Missional Catalyzer-type persons at other Classes appear to benefit their congregations

d. This position will complement the work of the Home Missions Committee with existing churches and therefore more fully fulfills the Committee's mandate

Following an opportunity for discussion,

●Motion made and seconded to **table** until the classis session of February, 2019 with a view for CHHMC to provide the goals, objectives, accountability, and measurability [of effectiveness] of the position. **-carried**

7.1 Pre-Lunch Devotions: Rev. John Medendorp [Community CRC, Kitchener] led in a time of prayer.

7.2 Post-Lunch Devotions: Rev. Henry Meinen [Bethel CRC, Listowel] read the passage on prayer from Luke 11 and led in a time of prayer.

8. AdCom/CMC/Stated Clerk Report:

Rev. Stephen Tamming [Trinity CRC, Goderich] referred Delegates to the information and the recommendations being made for consideration and/or approval:

R1 ●Motion made and seconded to proceed with holding the annual winter session on a Saturday, thereby occurring on February 23, 2019 [rather than Wednesday, February 20] with Bethel CRC Listowel still serving as the venue. **-carried**

R2 acceptance of the proposed 2019 budget with inclusion of the Missional Catalyzer position and its respective salary. **-received for information**

R3 inclusion of a time of discussion on the "Renegotiating Faith" report [follow up report to "Hemorrhaging Faith" & to be made available via *Faith Formation*] for a 'significant' block of time at the February 2019 session of Classis. **-received for information**

R4 ●Motion made and seconded for Rev. Gary VanLeeuwen [Blyth CRC] to fill the vacancy on AdCom due to term completion by Rev. Stephen Tamming, effective September, 2018. **-carried**

9. River City Church [Cambridge] Organization

Rev. Stephen Tamming, noted the good level of response received in regards to the questions posed of the Classis Huron member churches and their councils.

Referencing the separate document issued to Classis on September 10, 2018 as it pertains to River City Church [Cambridge]:

●Motion made and seconded that an adhoc committee (i.e. "Guiding Team") be set up to clarify the four main points and bring a report along with a formal recommendation to Classis. The report and recommendation will be brought to Classis no later than the September 2019.

Grounds:

1. More clarification is needed before a discussion can take place on the floor of Classis.
2. A smaller working group is a better way to work through the feedback given.

-carried

River City Church Delegates Rev. Darrell Bierman, Janet Ryzebol, and Jim Martin took the opportunity to share in regards to the pursuit of organizing River City as a CRC and the desire to belong to the CRC, the challenge currently being faced in terms of a new, suitable facility, and the need for prayer during this time of addressing facility issues. Pastor Darrell closed by extending a special, intentional invitation to Classis Huron member churches to attend a service at River City and see how ministry is occurring there.

10. Proposed Classis Huron Budget for 2019:

Treasurer John Bell reviewed the proposed 2019 budget for Classis Huron noting the Ministry Share cost per member as \$78.91 (\$0.16 less per member than 2018).

Following an opportunity for discussion,

●Motion made and seconded to amend the motion so as to collect what is needed to fully pay out the General Fund Disbursements (i.e addition of ~ \$4000 to the General Fund Receipts to match the disbursement value of \$41 950). **-defeated**

●Motion made and seconded to approve the budget as presented. **-carried**

11. Credential Committee Report (Bethel CRC, Acton and New Life CRC, Guelph)

Rev. Ray Vander Kooij (Bethel CRC, Acton) reported on behalf of the committee, noting the following entries:

- Blyth CRC provided positive feedback on the occurrence of Classis on a Saturday.
- Bethel CRC, Listowel, expressed concern regarding the lack of readership of the CRCNA Banner following an intra-church survey which indicated 50% readership; suggested urging Synod to consider returning the publication to a subscription basis and as such, on-line.

-Advice provided: to bring an overture to Classis at a later date.

•Community CRC, Kitchener noted, for information, that further to Synod 2018 and the discussion on *Overture #1 Establish a Standing Translation Committee that Reports to Synod regarding Bible Translations*, its Council has issued (August, 2018) a letter to the Council of Delegates to further clarify the intent of the overture and the desired deliverables.

•Community CRC, Vanastra requested that any churches with a marriage policy share them for purposes of Vanastra creating it own. Submissions can be made to vanastracrcclerk@gmail.com.

•Palmerston CRC noted that their response to the questions posed regarding the organization of River City Church was attached in letter form. *-Forwarded to Chair Rev. Martin Dam accordingly.*

12. Classis moved into **Executive Session** and the Minutes of that session are in a separate file.

13. The Bridge, Fergus: Rev. John Vanderstoep reported on the ministry of this church plant and their efforts to connect Jesus and neighbour, faith and community. Using some summary slides, Pastor John shared about The Bridge's focus on *Growing Disciples, Developing Leaders, Communities on Mission, and Kingdom Movement*.

14. Denominational Updates and the [Canadian] CRC 2019 National Gathering:

Canadian Ministries Director, Rev. Darren Roorda provided some background in terms of his role, travels, and noted his increased appreciation for the nature of the CRC in Canada with its increasing diversity and expressed appreciation to Classis Huron for its key contribution to the impact of the CRC and its ministry. With the aid of a slide presentation, Pastor Darren reviewed the Canadian CRC website noting the movement of the denomination's ministries/agencies to entities of service and strengthening, that the five components of Journey 2020 Ministry Plan are all being measured, and that the Bridge App is at 60% for uptake. He then led Delegates through a discernment exercise in spiritual disciplines and reviewed the nomination process for securing National Gathering delegates from each classis. Pastor Darren closed with a reading from Hebrews 12. In turn, a time of prayer for Pastor Darren was led by Rev. Darrell Bierman [River City Church, Cambridge].

15. Ministry Reports

15.1 Safe Church: Atie Ott, Classis Huron Safe Church Coordinator, requested that the report included in the agenda be read/reviewed. Atie also noted the following: more people are recognizing the need for Safe Church Ministry, crisis allows for changing things for the better, more representatives have been secured for the Classis Huron Safe Church Team, an Abuse of Power Committee will be established as a post-Synod 2018 action, she will be attending the upcoming bi-annual Safe Church Ministry conference in Grand Rapids, and that prayers are requested for this ministry. Following Atie's presentation, Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok [Waterloo CRC] led in a time of prayer for Safe Church Ministry and for Atie and her role.

15.2 Youth: Amy Baarda, Classis Huron Youth Ministry Champion, advised of her vocational and residential changes having accepted the position of Church Life Coordinator at First CRC, Guelph. Amy reviewed the role of leadership to listen, support, provide resources/ideas, and encourage youth leadership to reach out. She also provided reminders of the EQUIP conference planned for Saturday, November 17th, 2018 [at Bethel CRC, Listowel] and to pray for the annual youth fall retreat occurring at the close of September.

15.3 Waterloo Campus: Rev. Brian Bork, Campus Chaplain, as outlined in his printed report, shared some of the experiences and realities of campus ministry including the challenge of campus culture, doing ministry, and the dream of increasing ministry capacity with the potential to increase staff. He also noted his availability to fill the role as a speaker. As a member of the CMLT, Pastor Brian shared that five candidates currently receive financial support for seminary studies.

15.4 Guelph Campus: Rev. David Tigchelaar [First CRC, Guelph], as a representative of *Guelph Campus Ministry*, shared that the new school year has started with a great deal of hope and holding God's hand of faithfulness with Neil & Virginia Lettinga having been hired to cover the 50% vacancy and to work with current half-time chaplain Sara DeMoor .

15.5 Synod 2018: Rev. John Medendorp (Community CRC, Kitchener) reported that both overtures submitted by Classis Huron (i.e. *Establish a Standing Translation Committee that Reports to Synod regarding Bible Translations and Approve Funding for New Curriculum Development and Clarify Mandate of Faith Formation Ministries*) had been approved in principle and forwarded to the *Council of Delegates* for implementation. He noted that the major areas of conversation had been: membership decline & broken relationship, justice & political engagement, and Safe Church & abuse of power. Delegate Rick DeGraaf encouraged [Classis] Delegates to take hold of the opportunity to serve as a synodical delegate in the future.

15.6 World Renew – Disaster Response Services: *deferred to February, 2019 session.*

16. Appointment of a Counselor to First CRC, Owen Sound: Chair Rev. Martin Dam **ruled** that Rev. Victor Laarman [Collingwood CRC] to fill this role.

17. Closing & Adjournment: The Chair extended appreciation to Collingwood CRC for hosting. Vice-chair Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok expressed appreciation to Rev. Martin Dam for his leadership. Followed by a time of prayer, Delegates rose to sing The Doxology. Classis adjourned.

Next Session: D.V., Saturday, February 23rd, 2019 at Bethel CRC, Listowel.