

CLASSIS HURON

of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

AGENDA

September 16, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.

**Community Christian Reformed Church
1275 Bleams Road,
Kitchener, 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, welcome, devotions by Community CRC at 9:00 am.
 Credentials Committee report on attendance
 Classis is declared constituted.

3. Devotions for the Day

Opening – Kitchener
 Pre-lunch – Cambridge
 Post –lunch – Acton
 Pre-supper – Stratford
 Post-supper – Guelph New Life
 Closing – Chair

4. Officers of Classis

Chair: Rev. John Vanderstoep
Vice chair: Rev. Bill Hoogland
Stated Clerk: Keith Knight

5. Opening of Classis

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

6. Stated Hour:

11:30 a.m. Dr. Justin Cooper, president, Redeemer University College
1 p.m. Irene Bakker, Faith Formation Committee

7. Committees for the Day

Credentials Committee – Kitchener and Cambridge
Balloting Committee – Waterloo and Guests
Overtures Committee – Guelph New Life and Kincardine

8. Classis Ministry Committee -- Rev. John Vanderburgh

8.1 Committee Report

The committee met on May 27, shortly after the May classis meeting.

- a. The mandate of the Financial Resources Team, which was adopted by classis in September 2006, calls for financial oversight of the work of the treasurer and also a fundraising component. The Administrative Subcommittee (called AdCom) was asked to review the mandate and membership and report back to CMC.
- b. Synod encouraged each classis to hold a discussion on the Belhar Confession over the course of the next year. CMC decided to hold the discussion at either the January, 2010 or May, 2010 classis meeting. The date and format will be confirmed at CMC's next meeting in November.
- c. The denominational Faith Formation Committee will lead a discussion at the September meeting of classis. The committee looks at how faith is formed in our lives, from childhood through teen, young adult and adult lives. It was suggested that such a discussion be open to the public and set at a stated hour to allow for broader public involvement, perhaps from 1 – 3 p.m. It should also be promoted with a backgrounder for council discussions. The stated clerk and AdCom will follow up with the Faith Formation presenters and provide proper background information to congregations.
- d. Planned conferences by ministries or individuals. CMC discussed how the wide range of events and conferences held within classis fit into the Ministry Plan. Should CMC become more proactive in looking at suggested themes for a year? It was suggested that the website, www.classishuron.ca, become the central calendar where all upcoming conferences and retreats are posted, in an effort to avoid having events taking place on the same day. The stated clerk will develop the calendar on the website and encourage its use by classis committees and churches.

Upcoming events:

Guelph Campus Ministry concert, Sept. 26

Day of Encouragement, Oct. 17

Safe Church conference, March 6, 2010.

- e. John Vanderburgh was confirmed as new chair of CMC and the Administrative Subcommittee.
- f. Rules for Classis Huron
Classis has operated under the Revised Rules of Classis Huron which were adopted on Sept. 19, 2001. It was only available in hard copy. Over the past eight years, classis adopted a wide range of new policies, procedures and structures.
Over the past year the Revised Rules were retyped electronically and have undergone a thorough revision to bring them up to date. CMC is ready to recommend their provisional adoption by classis, with final adoption to take place at the January 2010 classis meeting.

MOTION: That classis send the draft Rules of Classis Huron to the churches and to classis committees, giving them the opportunity to review the document over the next few months, with final approval in January 2010.
(The Rules can be downloaded from www.classishuron.ca)

8.2 Administrative Committee (AdCom)

AdCom, acting in an administrative capacity between meetings of Classis and of CMC, approved the following actions.

1. Processed the ecclesiastical credentials for Rev. Jacob Vande Hoef, moving from Guelph First to Brockville CRC.
2. Approved Rev. Ray Vander Kooij as counsellor for Guelph First.
3. Sent a letter of congratulations to Rev. Roger Gelwicks on occasion of his retirement on August 30.
4. Approved the agenda for the September 16 meeting of classis.

8.3 Stated Clerk's Report

The stated clerk spends an average of five hours a week on Classis Huron business, mainly responding to email requests and occasional phone calls. Since the May classis meeting, he has engaged in about 150 email conversations, prepared the agenda for and attended the May 27 meeting of the Classis Ministry Committee, prepared the agenda for and attended the August 13 meeting of the Administrative Subcommittee, prepared the agenda for the Sept. 16 classis meeting and connected with guests/presenters.

He has served as a conduit to send out materials to churches within classis on behalf of the denominational office, various denominational committees, stated clerks of other classes and clerks of other churches within classis.

He has also prepared and revised the pulpit supply schedule and remains in regular contact with vacant churches, responding to a wide range of questions having to do with vacancy. He works with the web administrator to keep the classishuron.ca website up to date.

Below is a list of some of the email correspondence since May 13. A complete list of all email correspondence is available upon request.

May 17	John Hofstee, following up on minutes of the May classis meeting
May 19	Cindy Tamming and others about remuneration for a delegate attending classis
May 20	mailing of minutes of May classis meeting to all churches and e-list
May 21	processing ministerial credentials for Rev. Graham Morbey and Rev. Ralph Koops
May 21	received minutes of Classis Quinte meeting
May 22	CMC – Revisions to Revised Rules of Classis
May 26	CMC – Mandate for Finance Committee
May 26	received minutes of Classis Chatham
May 26	sent agenda for CMC meeting to committee members

May 27	Pulpit supply question from Palmerston
May 28	Guelph Campus Ministry budget received and forwarded
May 29	Draft pulpit supply sent to AdCom
May 29	Denominational office, clarifying status of synodical deputies
May 30	Belhar Implementation Committee mailing
June 1	Jamie Vandenberg, Classis Youth Ministry
June 4 ff	Cindy Tamming, conversation about budget approval process
June 12	Classis Hamilton minutes received
June 15	John Hofstee re: interim ministry
June 16	CMC, discussion about how to proceed with Belhar conversation
June 16	Guelph First CRC re: pulpit supply
June 18ff	Several conversations concerning pulpit supply schedule, frequency, etc
June 22	Cindy Tamming re: liability insurance
June 29	Denominational office, SPE requests for stated clerks
July 8	Faith Alive News
July 8	Belhar Briefing
July 10	Classis Toronto ministry coordinator survey
July 16	CRC Quarterly Ministry Report
July 17	Pastor' spouses' conference
July 20	AdCom, request to approve counselor for Guelph First
July 24ff	Irene Bakker, arranging Faith Formation Committee presentation at classis
July 28	Process questions concerning Rev. Roger Gelwicks' retirement
July 30	Redeemer College report to classis
July 31	Listowel reporting that Rev. Ralph Wigboldus has accepted their call
July 31	Denominational office, schedule of denominational board meetings and contacts
July 31ff	Searching for classis representative to attend Rev. Roger Gelwicks' retirement
Aug 4	Letter sent to Orangeville CRC on behalf of classis re: retirement
Aug 5	Rev. Ray Vander kooij question re: classis budget approval process
Aug 10	Note to all churches informing them of pending deadline for materials for classis agenda
Aug 11	Sending out agenda for Aug 13 AdCom meeting
Aug 12	Owen Sound, appointment of a new clerk

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

8.4 Correspondence

Quad-classis retreat

Dear Delegates of Classis Huron:

For many years, the pastors and ministry leaders and their spouses of Classis Toronto, Hamilton, and Niagara have gathered together for an annual time of retreat at Muskoka Baptist Conference Centre, near Huntsville. The purpose of this retreat is to give us a time to get away from the regular routines of ministry for a few days and to engage in some personal worship, refreshment, and learning. The conference centre provides a wonderful scenic setting to worship, relax, enjoy the company of peers, be encouraged by an inspirational speaker, and enjoy some delicious food.

At our last retreat (April 2009), as a result of Pastor Bernie DeJonge's invitation to your classis, we were also delighted with the presence of a few pastoral couples from Classis Huron. While there is no formal ecclesiastical authority that plans these retreats (planning rotates voluntarily each year, with each participating classis taking a turn), as planners of this year's retreat, and with the enthusiastic consensus of all the retreat participants, we would like the participation of Classis Huron to become an annual event.

Next year, because a special pastoral spouse retreat has been planned by our denomination during our usual April time period, in 2010 we hope to gather in May. We will inform you as soon as we have the dates, making every effort to avoid weeks when Classis meetings are scheduled. If it cannot be avoided, just for 2010 we may need to ask 2 of our classes to reschedule their meetings.

Last year's cost was \$340 per couple, \$170 per person, and is anticipated to remain at or about the same for 2010. In addition, each of the three classes involved have generously contributed to help reduce the costs of this retreat. The current level of annual support is \$750 per classis. Should you decide to join us, we also ask you to consider supporting this retreat as a classis by adding us to your annual budget. Each year, from 50 to 80 participants attend, which we hope will only increase with the involvement of more pastors and spouses from Classis Huron. On behalf of all pastors, ministry leaders, and their spouses, we look forward to your involvement, and to your support and encouragement! Please let us know of your decision. The Classis Toronto Retreat Planning Committee:

Daryl & Alicia DeKlerk (First CRC, Barrie)

Richard & Margaret Grift (CrossPoint CRC, Brampton)

MOTION 1: That the annual Classis Huron Ministers' Retreat be discontinued, with an annual budget of \$1,000.

Grounds:

1. Attendance has seriously declined in recent years.

MOTION 2: That Classis Huron support joining the quad-classis retreat, at an annual cost of \$750.

Grounds:

1. It is good for ministers to get together with colleagues from neighbouring classes.
2. The retreat setting is a significant drawing card.
3. This is a stewardly use of our financial resources.

9. Safe Church Committee – Atie Ott

10. Classis Home Missions Committee – Marguerite Ridder

11. Classis Ministerial Leadership Team – Rev. Bill Hoogland

11.1 Committee Report

This revised CMLT Mandate and Guidelines have incorporated a number of revisions and suggestions which arose at the May Classis meeting. The members of the CMLT consider these to be “friendly amendments” and therefore propose that the motion to accept the mandate and guidelines, tabled at the May meeting, be taken from the table, for discussion and decision, at our September Classis meeting.

The modifications include the following:

1. References to *SMCC* replaced with *CRC Candidacy Committee*.
2. Inserted the link to the Candidacy Committee homepage.
3. Replace “synodically approved seminary” with “ATS (Association of Theological Schools) seminary.”
4. The sentence of #1 under guidelines, regarding EPMC requirements, is taken verbatim from the Candidacy Committee website. Added: “The CMLT requires proof of registration in the EPMC.”

MOTION 1: That the mandate and guidelines, tabled at the May meeting, be taken from the table, for discussion and decision.

11.2 Financial Assistance Guidelines for Churches and Students

Classis Ministerial Leadership Team of Classis Huron Financial Assistance Guidelines for Churches and Students DRAFT July, 2009

1. Only students who intend to study for ordained ministry in the Christian Reformed Church in North America, and who pursue such studies at an ATS (Association of Theological Schools) seminary, may apply for aid from the Classis Huron Student Assistance Fund. Amounts awarded will be determined by Classis Huron upon the advice of the CMLT; priority will be given to students attending Calvin Theological Seminary. Those who select another seminary for their Master of Divinity program are required to take a special program to orient them to the Christian Reformed Church, called the *Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidates (EPMC)*. Proof of registration in the EPMC must be submitted to the CMLT.
2. Student aid shall ordinarily be granted via the underwriting of interest free student loans. Should a student discontinue the studies for the ministry of the CRCNA or, once ordained, leave the ministry in the CRCNA within 5 (five) years after their ordination, the student shall repay such grants in accordance with the terms set down in the Agreement and Contract of the CMLT of Classis Huron.
3. All monies granted to students shall be paid out in Canadian funds.
4. Annual re-applications for aid must be submitted by the student to the secretary of the CMLT by March 15. This should be accompanied by a transcript of his/her academic record covering the period since his/her last application. Forms may be obtained from the secretary of the CMLT or from the CRCNA website.
5. It is the student's responsibility to keep the secretary informed about changes of address and changes in vocational goal and approved course of studies.

Agreement and Contract

This agreement made and entered into, this ____ day of the month of _____ of the year _____, by and between CLASSIS HURON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH (in North America), party of the first part, and (name of the student) _____, party of the second part;

WITNESSES:

1. That the said Classis Huron grants to the said student _____ such financial assistance as may be awarded upon the recommendation of the Classis Ministerial Leadership Team.
2. That the said Classis Huron promises and grants this sum of money for but one (1) year at a time. In order to receive continued financial assistance, the student shall renew their application

annually during the month of March on an application form to be requested from the Secretary of the CMLT of the said Classis Huron, which form shall be returned not later than the 15th day of March.

3. That the party of the second part promises and hereby agrees that (s)he will not, while pursuing his/her studies, participate in any activities detrimental to the successful pursuance of his/her studies; that (s)he will, without reservations, submit to the regulations and discipline of the school (s)he attends, and will at all times answer inquiries by the school authorities or by the CMLT of the said Classis Huron concerning his/her studies, daily conduct or spiritual life.

4. The party of the second part furthermore promises and hereby agrees to make full and complete repayment to the said Classis Huron of all monies received, should (s)he discontinue his/her studies for the Ministry of the Word in CRC.

5. The party of the second part furthermore promises and hereby agrees to make repayment if (s)he should leave the ministry in the CRCNA within 5 years after his/her ordination; such repayment will be proportionate to the duration of his/her ministry of the Word in the CRCNA.

6. When repayments under this term and stipulations shall be required, the party of the second part promises and hereby agrees to make repayments at the rate of 20% per year of the original amount owing, which repayments shall begin not later than one year (1) after discontinuing studies for the ministry or leaving the ministry of the CRCNA.

7. Appeal from these stipulations may always and at any time be made to the said Classis Huron, which shall judge whether exceptions shall be allowed and made.

For Classis Huron of the Christian Reformed Church:

Chairman of the CMLT _____

Secretary of the CMLT _____

Applicant _____

11.3 Mandate for the CMLT

Mandate for the
Classis Ministerial Leadership Team of Classis Huron
DRAFT, July 31, 2009

1. Membership:

It shall consist of three or four members who have a passion for the church's ministry, who are knowledgeable about ordination issues, and who reflect the diversity of classis. No fewer than half of the members shall be Ministers of the Word in the CRCNA.

2. Consultation:

The CMLT will be a consultation and advisory resource to the member congregations of Classis Huron, to Classis itself, and to other interested parties (for instance, Leadership Development Networks) regarding matters related to ministerial candidacy in the CRC.

3. Information:

The CMLT shall provide information and advice to the member congregations of Classis

Huron, to Classis itself, and to other interested parties (for instance, Leadership Development Networks) concerning the candidacy process.

4. Encouragement:

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.

5. Ministry Readiness Profile:

The CMLT is to provide counsel that will help councils, classis, and those preparing for the ministry in the completion of the individual's Ministry Readiness Profile. Such profiles will be progressive documents testifying to the candidate's development and growth in areas of character, knowledge, and skill. Reference: http://www.crcna.org/pages/candidacy_index.cfm

6. Endorsement:

Upon receiving a positive recommendation to enter the candidacy process from an individual's council, the CMLT will interview the individual and work with them to prepare a Financial Plan, as well as a Study Plan or Learning Covenant. The CMLT will then forward their endorsement to the CRC Candidacy Committee. In the case of individuals entering the candidacy or affiliation process through Article 7 or 8, the CMLT will also request licensure on behalf of the individual to the CRC Candidacy Committee.

7. Financial Assistance:

Students applying for acceptance into a Master of Divinity program, as well as students already in such program may apply to the CMLT for classical financial support. The CMLT will recommend to classis and administer the distribution of appropriate financial resources to assist those preparing for minister, following the guidelines of the Classis Huron CMLT.

8. Celebration:

Assist the church and classis that initiated the study/candidacy process in appropriately celebrating the progress of those preparing for the ministry under its care, giving thanks to God for his provision of faithful and gifted leadership for his church.

MOTION 2: That the revised mandate and guidelines for the Classis Ministerial Leadership Team as outlined above be approved.

12. Nominations Committee

The only request for nominations to denominational boards is for a new member to the board of trustees for **Calvin College**. This person will represent Region 4 (Chatham, Hamilton, Huron and Niagara). Peter Schuurman has completed his second three-year term and is not eligible for re-election. Nominations of either clergy or nonclergy persons are requested for this position. Any nominations will be forwarded to the denominational office, along with nominees from other classes within the region, for approval by Synod 2010.

The stated clerk has a copy of the position description and Calvin College's mission statement.

13. Campus Ministry – Waterloo

14. Reports

14.1 Redeemer University College – Dr. Justin Cooper

Greetings from Redeemer University College.

We trust that you have been refreshed after the summer holidays. As we are busy with preparations for the upcoming academic year, which will also mark my last year as president of Redeemer University College, this has been a tremendous time of God's blessing. We are overjoyed with the historic announcement that Redeemer University College will be receiving a \$2.95 million investment from the federal government's Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP). This is the largest single grant in Redeemer's history, and marks the first time we have received capital funding from the federal government, together with a number of other Christian universities across Canada. The investment will cover one-half of the total cost of more than 25 different projects which will be undertaken during 2009 and 2010 to refurbish our academic facilities, including upgrading our science labs, enhancing the energy efficiency and sustainability of our academic building (part of which is the installation of solar panels to generate electricity for our facilities) and renovating the offices for research support, student services and other administrative functions.

Under the Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program (RInC), Redeemer has also received \$600,000 in combined federal and provincial funding, to be matched with \$300,000 through a partnership with the Ancaster Soccer Club (ASC) for a significant upgrade to our existing soccer field. We are also awaiting confirmation of additional federal/provincial funding of \$2 million toward a second soccer complex that would include a "bubble" for year-round use, again in cooperation with ASC and the City of Hamilton. This is also the first time we have received provincial funds, which come to us from a non-educational fund. Such funding underscores a sense of recognition of Redeemer's community contribution.

We are encouraged by the positive outlook for our 2009-10 fall enrolment and housing targets, now projected for 847 full-time students and 425 students in residence. Our favourable Maclean's ratings, active admissions website, the prospect of fewer jobs in an economic downturn and the hard work of our recruitment personnel are all plausible reasons for these good projections.

We also pleased to announce two senior administrative appointments: Richard Wikkerink as Associate Vice-President, Student Development and Registrar; and Doriel Moulton as Associate Vice-President, Marketing.

We look forward to their leadership and contribution to Redeemer. We will also seek to fill two faculty positions this year, in philosophy and in psychology. We also said farewell to Dr. Wayne Norman, who retired after 21 years as Professor of Psychology and Director of Research and Faculty Development.

Launching of the new Cornerstone Program to as a replacement for the Redeemer Foundation is planned for September 25, also the date of our faculty artists concert. Redeemer's annual membership meeting will be held on Friday, November 6, in conjunction with a concert by Dr. Paul Thorlakson and Valerie Tryon. Please

reserve these dates. We also look forward to this year's Zylstra Lectures on November 11, 2009 by Dr John Witte, Jr., director, Centre for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory Law School in Atlanta, Georgia.

Please note that Tuesday, March 2, 2010 is Redeemer's annual Ministers' Conference, with the speaker yet to be announced. Please check our website at www.redeemer.ca for updates about events, lectures and concerts.

We have a sense of excitement as we continue to work on developing a special legacy fund-raising campaign in preparation for my retirement at the end of June 2010, focussing on student aid, faculty research and debt reduction. The Presidential Search Committee is proceeding effectively with their process to find a new president. Please pray for this process as they seek the person of God's choosing.

Thank you for your continuing support of Redeemer through prayer and financial giving. Church donations for the past fiscal year were \$814,000, which exceeded our expectations! These gifts are essential for our \$1.6 million student financial aid program, which will now be funded by church donations and the Cornerstone Program, making a Christian university education accessible to more students. We praise God for his faithfulness and wonderful blessings.

Dr. Justin Cooper, President

15. Treasurer's Report -- Cindy Tamming

The attached budget is for your consideration at the upcoming meeting.

The following are the noted items of change:

1. The Classical Ministry Committee line was previous named Classical Interim Committee. Its budget increase is due to the combination of two previous committees into one. There is a reduction made in the Special Committees expenses to offset for this change.
2. The Church Plant classical ministry share was increased \$1.00.
3. The Student Fund ministry share has been increased to \$9.70.

MOTION 1: That the proposed budget for 2010 be adopted as presented.

Also, the Rules of Classis Huron state that the treasurer, "through the budget, propose and have adopted the following items annually".

MOTION 2: That Classis adopt 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 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.
5. That the honorarium for the Stated Clerk to be increased to \$3,000 (from \$2,500) and for the Treasurer to \$3,000 (from \$2,500).

The Guelph and Waterloo Campus Ministry budgets have been included for your information. The amount to be approved by Classis is listed at the bottom of the Classical budget.

After these have been approved, a full list of Classical and Denominational Ministry Shares will be sent to all churches of Classis Huron.

16. Future Classis Meetings

Date	Place	Reports due	Chair	Vice-chair
Jan. 13, 2010	Listowel	Dec. 2, 2009	Bill Hoogland	John Vanderburgh
May 12, 2010	Guelph – New Life	April 7, 2010	John Vanderburgh	