



**CLASSIS HURON**  
of the Christian Reformed Church in North America  
[www.classishuron.ca](http://www.classishuron.ca)

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# **CLASSIS HURON MINUTES**

**February 14, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Palmerston Christian Reformed Church**

**Palmerston, Ontario**

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## **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	Minister	Elder	Deacon
Acton	Rev. Ray Vander Kooij	Christine Druif	Ann Morris
Blyth	Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen	George Poortinga	Luke Sierstsema
Cambridge Mar.	Rev. Norm Sennema	Rick DeGraaf	Rynie Bakelaar
Cambridge River City	Rev. Darrell Bierman		
Clinton	Rev. Ron Luchies	Wanda Rozendal	Ross MacDonald
Collingwood	Rev. Victor Laarman	Gerry Noordegraaf	Harry Hofstede
Drayton	Rev. Paul Droogers	Rita Koster	Clara Stevens
Exeter	Rev. Kevin te Brake	Cliff Knip	Teresa Buckman
Fergus 'The Bridge'	Rev. John Vanderstoep	Henry Louter	
Goderich- Trinity		Nick Heykoop	Gertie Gerrits
Guelph – New Life	Rev. Ed Jager	Henk Hunse	
Guelph – First	Rev. David Tigchelaar		Bob van den Broek
Guelph – Campus	Chaplain Jamie Vandenberg	Chaplain Sara DeMoor	
Kitchener Community	Rev. Carel Geleynse	Harry Oudman	Scott Kooy
Kitchener Journey		James Vanderlaan	
Listowel - Bethel	Rev. Ralph Wigboldus	Jan Koersen	Karen Stolte
Lucknow	Rev. Tim Leferink	Peter Brink	Ronda DeBoer
Orangeville	Rev. Andrew Vis	Diane Vroom	
Owen Sound	Rev. Harry Zantingh	Henry Feenstra	Peter Story
Palmerston	Rev. Andrew de Gelder	Bill Van Anandel	Jean Vanderkooy
Stratford	Rev. Martin Dam	Max Van Till	
Vanastra	Rev. Paul DeWeerd	Willimein Katerberg	Andrew Speelman
Waterloo	Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok	Irene Den Bak-Lammers	Jim Vanderleeuw
Waterloo – Campus	Rev. Brian Bork		
Wingham - Maitland River	Rev. Henry Steenbergen	Murray Ritsema	

### 1. Constituting Classis

Call to Order, welcome by host church  
 Credentials Committee reports on attendance.  
 Classis is declared constituted.

### 2. Devotions for the Day

Opening: Palmerston CRC  
 Pre-Lunch – Exeter CRC  
 Pre-Afternoon Session – Goderich CRC  
 Pre-Supper – Chair

### 3. Committees of the Day

Credentials Committee: Bethel Listowel CRC/Lucknow CRC  
 Balloting Committee: Palmerston CRC

**4. Opening** Rev. Andrew DeGelder, pastor of Palmerston CRC welcomed everyone. Delegates joined in singing 2 praise songs. Rev. Tim Leferink [Lucknow CRC] reported on behalf of the Credentials Committee. Classis was declared constituted. Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen, Blyth CRC, is Chair. Rev. Carel Geleynse, Kitchener Community CRC] is Vice-Chair, Rev. Vic Vandermolten is Stated Clerk. The Chairman welcomed everyone, and referred Delegates to the Agenda.

**5. Learning Session:** Rev. John Vanderstoep shared a history about church planting, and what it means to move toward a posture of *'being on mission'*. He explained the differences in "daughter, seeker, and missional" churches, identifying their different characteristics. He stressed that while there are differences in structure and composition, we are all ONE Church, as we work together in responding to God's mission. The Chair offered prayer.

**6. Commissioned Pastor Exam: Bart Eisen, Bethel CRC, Listowel.** Rev. Ralph Wigboldus introduced Bart Eisen and led Classis in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to bless the examination process. Rev. Ray Vander Kooij began the examination by asking Bart to share about his own faith journey, to share his philosophy about 'youth ministry', to discuss the 'one theme' of the Bible. Rev. Amanda Bakale reported on Bart's sermon, based on both the sermon manuscript and a video of the service. She noted that while it was an overall good report, there remained room for improvement. Executive Session was declared, and after a ballot vote, Classis declared that Bart had sustained his examination, and was declared eligible to be ordained as a Commissioned Pastor.

**7. Rev. Andrew Zantingh:** Rev. Zantingh expressed his appreciation to Classis for its support and encouragement as the Pastor of *The Journey*. He indicated that while he was leaving that position, he would be continuing his efforts to help others grow in what it means to be a 'disciple of Jesus'.

## **8. REFRESHMENT BREAK**

**9. Council of Delegates' Report:** Classis Huron representative to the COD, Rev. Darrell Bierman, updated Delegates on the recent actions/decisions of the COD, noting that it had recently held its first full meeting, which had been a positive experience for all. He reported that the new structure allows for the Canadian arm of the CRCNA to have its own meeting/focus. He mentioned that the renovations at the Burlington CRCNA offices were completed, and went on to share about his own role as a member of the COD, noting that his term was ending and that he would not be available for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term. He told Classis that the COD was asking each Classis to share what is currently the most important ministry issue in Classis Huron, and what is the primary matter in Classis that should be prayed for/about.

**10. Rev. Andrew Zantingh Separation from *The Journey*:** Rev. Carel Geleynse, in introducing this matter, noted that this was a procedure under Article 17 of the Church order, adding that while Article 17 actions are often seen as negative in nature that was not the current case. Rev. Geleynse read letters from Rev. Zantingh and Kris Braun [ministry leader at *The Journey*] explaining the overall situation. It was stated clearly that this process was NOT a negative thing, and the decision to part ways was amicable. Classis was advised that Kitchener Community CRC would continue to retain Rev. Zantingh's ministerial credentials.

***It was moved and seconded that Classis Huron approve the request for separation, [noting that this is not a negative process] and that Kitchener Community CRC be appointed to continue to oversee Rev. Zantingh [re doctrine and life] in his ongoing ministry.***

There was further discussion on this motion, including questions from the Synodical Deputies present [Rev. James Dekker, Niagara: Rev. Siebert Van Houten, Hamilton: Rev. Herman Praamsma, Toronto]. At the end of the discussion, the Synodical Deputies left to consider their decision.

Classis Delegates determined it was acceptable to vote on the motion by a 'show of hands'. By a show of hands, Delegates voted unanimously to approve the motion. The motion as declared **CARRIED**

**11. Disability Concerns:** Len Bakelaar as the Regional Advocate for Disability Concerns spoke about the need for the Church at large to be concerned about the 'aging' of its members and their attendant needs. He advised Classis that there is an upcoming conference addressing this topic, on April 21, at Woodstock Maranatha CRC.

**12. LUNCH BREAK** Cliff Knip, Elder Delegate from Exeter CRC, read Ephesians 1:3-14 and asked for God's blessing on the lunch break.

**13. Afternoon Session:** The Chair called Delegates to Order and led in an opening prayer. Before beginning the business of the Agenda, the Synodical Deputies reported their concurrence with Delegates' decision re Rev. Andrew Zantingh's Article 17 request to be released from his ministry at *The Journey*.

**14. Credentials Committee Report.** On behalf of the Credentials Committee, Rev. Ralph Wigboldus reported that Kitchener Community CRC was no longer able to host the September meeting of Classis; that Vanastra CRC was requesting the Church Visitors meet with their Council; that Drayton CRC asks if it is necessary for a Church family to continue paying 'ministry shares' for members that rarely attend, and how does the C.O. statements re 'lapsing' members apply to this situation. Rev. Wigboldus indicated that these questions would be referred to AdCom/CMC.

**15. Commissioned Pastor Exam: Sara DeMoor, Campus Ministry University of Guelph** Rev. Ray Vander Kooij introduced Sara and led Classis in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to bless the examination process. Rev. Norm Sennema asked Sara to share about her personal and spiritual journey. He also asked her to discuss; what is the gospel of the Kingdom, what does it mean that Jesus is Lord, and also to outline that main theory of 'atonement', and what is 'substitutionary atonement'. Rev Ed Jager reported on Sara's sermon indicating that he believed the sermon to be well structured, that its Biblical content was excellent, that it was very relational and meaningful, and that it challenged hearers to 'find' themselves in the story. Executive Session was declared. After a ballot vote Classis declared Sara had sustained her examination, and was declared eligible to be ordained as a Commissioned Pastor.

**16. Safe Church Report:** Atie Ott and Rev. Carel Geleynse dealt with the Safe Church report. They informed Delegates that the 'age of protection' has gone from 16 to 18; that pornography is rampant everywhere, [also within the Church at large], and that office bearers have the responsibility for keeping the Church a 'safe place'. Delegates were informed that there will be a workshop held on March 3, 2018 at Kitchener Community CRC dealing with 'boundaries in relationships'.

**17. Diaconal Report:** Rev. Ron Vanden Brink, of Diaconal Ministries Canada, shared his personal story, as well as outlining broadly the work of DMC. He also shared that the basic issue in Diaconal work is dealing with a 'broken Shalom', seen in the poverty and shame and self-brokenness of people, and in their lack of self-esteem. In his talk he also addressed extensively the ongoing work of DMC, and its role in restoring people to experiencing 'rightful conditions' in their daily life. He concluded his presentation by showing a short video. There is a Diaconal conference set for Classis Huron on April 12, in Drayton. If a Church wishes to send delegates, please contact Mary Blydorp.

## **18. REFRESHMENT BREAK**

**19.** Classis was advised that the voting for a new Classis Huron representative on the Council of Delegates resulted in Rev. Ralph Wigboldus of Bethel CRC, Listowel being elected. The delegates from Goderich were given permission to leave the meeting due to the sudden death of a family member. Of Delegate Gertie Gerrits. The Chair led in a time of prayer asking for God's nearness to the Gerrits family of Clinton as they deal with the reality of death in their family; he also prayed for the newly elected Classis Huron delegates to Synod; and for the new Classis Huron delegate to the Council of Delegates.

**20. Waterloo Campus Ministry:** Rev. Brian Bork, expressed thanks to Classis for its ongoing support at both University Campuses. He shared an overview of his activities at the universities, referring to various projects and partnerships in which he remains involved. He advised that there are upcoming *Head and Heart* lectures [re seeking the good in a secular society] at Kitchener Community CRC on April 6

**21. Guelph Campus Ministry:** Chaplain Jamie Vander and Chaplain Sara DeMoor shared with Delegates the impact of campus ministry at the University of Guelph, what it means to be 'created in the image of God' and in that 'image', living/speaking as Christians in modern day culture and society. Rev. Ray Vander Kooij, Chair of the Guelph Campus Committee, referred to the report as circulated.

Guelph Campus Ministry asks Classis Huron to approve the following motion, and it was moved and seconded that: ***That Classis Huron commit to fund the campus ministry at the University of Guelph at the same level as the Campus ministry in Waterloo, covering the personnel costs of the equivalent of one full-time campus minister through Classical Ministry Shares and Resonate Global Mission grants.***

GROUNDINGS:

1) At the May 2017 meeting of Classis Huron, the churches agreed to fund Waterloo's ministry in a similar manner, and the grounds for that decision serve as the foundation for this motion as well (see ***Background*** below).

2) Because Guelph Campus Ministry is currently staffed by two half-time campus ministers, the financial situation is different than that of Waterloo. The Board of Directors for Guelph Campus Ministry recognizes that having two half-time campus ministers increases the personnel costs. It would be unfair to ask Classis Huron to cover these increased costs.

3) Instead of basing the level of funding on Guelph Campus Ministry's unique staffing situation, it makes more sense to treat both campus ministries in the same manner, covering the cost of the equivalent one full-time campus minister as incurred by the campus ministry in Waterloo.

**Background to the above motion and its Grounds:**

At the May 2017 meeting of Classis Huron, Waterloo Campus Ministry presented the following motion that was approved at that meeting: ***That Classis Huron commit to cover the personnel costs of Waterloo Campus Ministry through Classical Ministry Shares and CRHM grants.*** The following grounds were submitted in support of the motion:

1) Campus ministry is a calling, not only on the part of the campus minister, but on the part of the classis which creates the position in the first place. If Classis truly believes that a campus minister is called to this position, the personnel costs of the position should be covered.

2) Fundraising is not currently, and never has been, a part of the job description of the campus minister. We believe the work of the campus minister is important enough and comprehensive enough that a campus minister shouldn't be engaged in fundraising as a part of ensuring their own employment.

3) If personnel costs are covered, it is much easier for the campus minister and the board to collaborate to raise funds for ministry expenses. It is much easier to ask a potential donor for money when we can guarantee them that their money will go directly to ministries, rather than being used to pay the campus minister's salary.

As a result of discussion, the motion was:

**CARRIED**

**22. Synod 2018 Delegates:** As a result of balloting, Classis elected Rev. John Medendorp [Kitchener Community], Rev. Kevin te Brake [Exeter], Deacon Jim Vanderleeuw [Waterloo] and Elder Rick DeGraaf [Cambridge Maranatha] as its representatives to Synod 2018. Alternates elected were Rev. Ed Jager [Guelph New Life], Rev. Victor Laarman [Collingwood], Elder Jeremy Vandenberg [Waterloo], and Deacon Herman Vander Munnik [Cambridge]

**23. Region 4 Ballot:** The Chair explained that Classis Huron is part of a 'region' of four classes [Chatham, Hamilton Niagara and Huron], that votes as a 'region' for denominational Board members – in this case for a representative to Calvin College. Each Classis votes for nominees [Ms. Andria Barends and Rev. Willemina Zwart] and the total count per Classis is added to elect the Region 4 nominee. The results of the Classis Huron vote are forwarded to CRCNA.

**24. Overture re Faith Formation Ministry Solutions:** At the September 2017 an Overture was submitted for Classis in support of the DWELL Curriculum. However, Classis determined that there was a lack of clarity in what that Overture was asking, and tabled it for clarification, to be brought back at a later date. An amended Overture was presented to this May Classis, for approval. The Pre-Advice Committee recommended that Classis approve the amended Overture, with the following grounds:

1. The overture provides a clear and concise background that highlights a need for up to date, good, biblical, reformed curricula.
2. The amount and source of funds requested are presented with clarity.

3. The overture does well to address future needs of continued curricula development in recommendations 2) and 3).

4. The overture has been discussed with members of both Faith Formations Ministries and the CRCNA Administration. Meeting with these parties allows the overture to take into consideration the insights and concerns of the ministries it will affect.

**It was moved and seconded to approve the amended overture as presented.**

**CARRIED**

**25. AdCom/CMC/Stated Clerk Report.** Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok, reporting as the Vice-Chair of CMC, noted that the recommendation from Home Missions Committee had been withdrawn, for re-presentation at the May 2018 meeting of Classis. **It was moved and seconded to approve the work of the AdCom Committee, CMC, and the Stated Clerk.**

**CARRIED**

**26. The Bridge: Fergus.** Rev. John Vanderstoep reported on the ministry of *The Bridge* in Fergus. He showed a number of slides and shared the values of that Church community as it worked at 'connecting' it's neighbors to Jesus. He spoke about the church family and their practices as members of *The Bridge*. He shared with Classis that 2017 ended with *The Bridge* counting some 26 persons. He also spoke about his role as *lead learner* in learning to 'walk by faith'.

**27. Adjournment.** There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting at an end. The Vice Chair expressed appreciation to the Chair for the manner in which he had led the meeting [applause]. Delegates rose to sing *The Doxology*. Classis is declared adjourned.

**Next meeting of Classis Huron is set for Saturday, May 5, 2018 to be held at 9:00 AM, at Maranatha CRC in Cambridge.**

#### **Future Classis Meetings**

DATE	LOCATION	REPORTS DUE	CHAIR	VICE CHAIR
Feb. 14, 2018	Palmerston CRC	Jan. 10, 2017	Gary Van Leeuwen	Carel Geleynse
May 5, 2018	Cambridge Maranatha	April 4, 2017	Carel Geleynse	Martin Dam
Sept. 19 2018		Aug. 15, 2018	Martin Dam	Henry Steenbergen
Feb. 20, 2019	Bethel CRC Listowel	Jan. 9, 2019	Henry Steenbergen	Amanda Bakale
May 15, 2019	Clinton CRC	April 3, 2019	Amanda Bakale	Vicki Verhulst Cok
Sept. 18, 2019	Drayton CRC	Aug. 14, 2019	Vicki Verhulst Cok	Ralph Wigboldus

*Delegates are reminded that you are expected to stay for the entire meeting. .If you must leave before adjournment, please consult with the chair of the day. The Classical Rules of Procedure state: "While Classis is in session, it is not permissible for any member to withdraw or to return homeward without consent of the chair."*