



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

MINUTES

September 20, 2017 – 9:00 a.m.

Maitland River Community Christian Reformed Church

Wingham, Ontario

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

	Minister	Elder	Deacon
Acton	Rev. Ray Vander Kooij	Coby Adema	Ann Morris
Blyth	Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen	Jim Parish	Dan Baarda
Cambridge Mar.	Rev. Norm Sennema	Rhonda Kalverda	Herman Vander Munnik
Cambridge River City		Janet Ryzebol	
Clinton	Rev. Ron Luchies	Mark Kuiper	Michelle Hol
Collingwood	Rev. Victor Laarman	Miep de Groot	Eric Verboon
Drayton	Rev. Paul Droogers	Arnold Rumph	Rita Koster
Exeter	Rev. Kevin te Brake	Rick Branderhorst	Teresa Buckman
Fergus 'The Bridge'	Rev. John Vanderstoep		
Goderich- Trinity	Rev. Stephen Tamming	Wilma Hiemstra	Ena Oskam
Guelph – New Life	Rev. Ed Jager		
Guelph – First	Rev. David Tigchelaar	Ed Kuipery	Josh Vriesema
Guelph – Campus	Chaplain Jamie Vandenberg	Chaplain Sara DeMoor	
Kitchener Community	Rev. John Medendorp	Shannon Cook	Agnes Byma
Kitchener Journey			
Listowel - Bethel	Rev. Ralph Wigboldus	Bill Los	Tim Benjamins
Lucknow	Rev. Tim Leferink	Richard Askes	
Orangeville	Rev. Andrew Vis	Tena DeWay	
Owen Sound	Rev. Harry Zantingh	Harry Feenstra	Elaine Esser
Palmerston	Rev. Andrew de Gelder	Frank Folkema	Tilda Bosman
Stratford	Rev. Martin Dam	Henry DeYoung	
Vanastra	Rev. Paul DeWeerd	Mary Jane Greidanus	Justin Damsma
Waterloo	Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok	Emily Jaarsma	Jim Vanderleeuw
Waterloo – Campus			
Wingham - Maitland River	Rev. Henry Steenbergen	Stephen VanderKlippe	Doug Kuyvenhoven

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: Maitland River CRC
 Pre-Lunch – Guelph New Life CRC
 Pre-Afternoon Session – Guelph First CRC
 Pre-Supper – Chair

3. Committees of the Day

Credentials Committee: Drayton/Palmerston
 Balloting Committee: Maitland River

4. Opening Rev. Henry Steenbergen, pastor at Maitland River CRC welcomed everyone. Delegates were led in a time of devotion by singing hymns of praise and by reflecting on the concluding words of Ephesians 3, where we are reminded that God is able to do *immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine*, and that we may never underestimate what God can accomplish in and through His Church and its members. Classis is declared constituted. Rev. Paul Droogers, Drayton CRC is Chairman. Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen of Blyth CRC is Vice Chair. Rev. Vic Vandermolen, Stated Clerk. The Chairman welcomed everyone and referred Delegates to the Agenda.

5. Council of Delegates Report Rev. Darrell Bierman

In the absence of Rev. Bierman, the Chair indicated Delegates would deal with the CMC Report.

6. Incorporation of Classis Huron

Rev. Stephen Tamming and Lawyer Teresa Douma reviewed the documents that had been sent out regarding the incorporation of Classis, and the process involved. Whereas the Corporation was incorporated as of November 15, 2016, the Members passed the following organizing and general resolutions at a meeting of the Members of **Classis Huron of the Christian Reformed Church in North America** (the "Corporation") held on September 20, 2017.

A] Adoption of By-laws: It was moved and seconded that the set of by-laws called "General Operating By-law No. 2017-1", relating generally to the transaction of the affairs of Classis Huron of the Christian Reformed Church in North America that were approved in principle by the members of the unincorporated Classis on February 17, 2016 in contemplation of incorporation, are confirmed and adopted. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B] Appointment of Public Accountant: It was moved and seconded that Michelle Vanderwal, CPA, CA, BA, MAcc, of Cameron Keller & Company, is hereby appointed the public accountant of the Corporation to hold office until the close of the next annual members' meeting or until a successor is appointed, to conduct a review engagement, unless the levels of revenue require an audit as per the regulations of the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. The directors are hereby authorized to fix and approve the remuneration for the public accountant annually and as may be required. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

C] Election of Directors. It was moved and seconded that the following persons are elected directors of the Corporation for the term as indicated, or until re-elected, or until successors are elected, whichever occurs first:

- i) Stephen Tamming (Chair CMC) – term expiring at the end of Sept. 2018,
 - ii) Victoria Verhulst Cok (Vice-Chair CMC) – term expiring at the end of Sept. 2019,
 - iii) Martin Dam (CMC Member at Large) - term expiring at the end of Sept. 2020
- CARRIED**

D] It was moved and seconded that Classis approve by way of one motion, the following recommendations:

i] that the number of directors on the Board is hereby fixed at three (3) and that the Board is hereby authorized to change the fixed number of directors between the range set out in the Articles, namely between three (3) and twenty (20), in the future at its discretion, by resolution of the Board.

ii] That because the General Operating By-laws provides in Section 8 (b), that the Members may grant at a meeting of Classis, on an annual basis, the status of "Member" to any group or entity that is not otherwise an eligible Christian Reformed Church as contemplated by Section 8(a), that therefore Membership Status in the Corporation is hereby granted until the next Classis Meeting in September 2018, to the following:

....Huron Campus Ministry Guelph Waterloo Campus Ministry
....River City Christian Reformed Church *The Bridge*, Fergus church plant
....The Journey Christian Reformed Church

iii] That that all financial statements, decisions, acts, decisions, by-laws, proceedings, resolutions and appointments made, done and taken by the trustees, and the directors and the officers of the Church prior to and in contemplation of obtaining Articles of Incorporation, be and the same are hereby approved, ratified and confirmed.

CARRIED

The Chairman, on behalf of Classis Huron, expressed appreciation to Ms Douma for her excellent work in preparing and presenting all the necessary documents for the incorporation process, and guiding Classis through the needed steps. [APPLAUSE]

7. CMC/AdCom/Stated Clerk Report: Rev. Stephen Tamming led Delegates through the report that had been circulated with the Agenda. He referred to the administrative matters in the report, noting that the Classis Huron Administrators Day ['CHAD'] was now scheduled to be held November 7, 2018 at Drayton CRC. In addition, Classis considered a number of recommendations from CMC.

a] It was moved and seconded that Classis Huron support 'The Bridge' church plant in Fergus for two additional years, at a cost of \$35,000 per year, and that this be in addition to the previously approved 3 years.

CARRIED

b] In response to suggestions from a number of churches, it was moved and seconded that Classis Huron hold its May 2018 Classis meeting on a Saturday [final date to be determined]

CARRIED

Classis briefly considered the Classis Huron Ministry Plan, asking what should be done with the plan's recommendations. It was **AGREED** that this initiative could be handled by/through the Classis Home Missions Committee, and further discussion be tabled until later in the day.

8. Treasurers Report Treasurer John Bell presented the proposed Budget for 2018, and noted that this Budget reflected a decrease in per member 'ministry share' from \$81.70 [2017] to \$77.60 [2018]. After a short discussion **It was moved and seconded that the Budget as proposed be approved as the Classis Huron Budget for 2018.**

CARRIED

9. Classis Ministry Leadership Report. Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen updated Classis re the actions of the Committee, and noted that CMLT supports students for the full tuition needed. He introduced a request from Chantal Huinink from Waterloo CRC asking to be financially supported in seeking to complete her Double Masters of Divinity and Social Work as she deals with the challenges of cerebral palsy.

It was moved and seconded that Classis Huron make a one-time exception to the current CMLT mandate and offer tuition assistance to Chantal Huinink thru a forgivable loan of \$5,000.

CARRIED

Rev. Kevin te Brake introduced Delegates to the students that are currently receiving support from Classis: Cara de Haan [who is being mentored by Rev. Vicki Verhulst Cok of Waterloo CRC] Samuel Kamminqa, and Brian Schouten

10. Waterloo Campus Ministry Committee. Committee Chairman Rev. John Medendorp expressed appreciation for the ongoing support of this ministry, indicating that dues to the illness of Chaplain Rev. Brian Bork, a more comprehensive report will be made at the Classis meeting in February. Classis joined in prayer for Rev. Bork and for the ministry.

11. Denominational Update: Canadian Ministries Director, Rev. Dr. Darren Roorda, provided updates relative to Denominational issues, such as the Council of Delegates [Classis Huron representative is Rev. Darrell Bierman of River City CRC in Cambridge]; the ongoing growth and development of RESONATE, Youth Ministry, Faith Formation Ministries, and the positive response to the national gatherings. He noted that there is a growing and greater sense of accountability in CRCNA ministries as a whole, accompanied by a greater sense of health and well-being. He suggested that these developments have resulted in local churches experiencing positive changes in their ministries, the development and growth of new ministry initiatives, and a greater sense of collaboration to the exclusion of 'silo' attitudes. Dr. Roorda concluded his report by referring to 'The Bridge App' as developed by CRCNA and encouraged Classis, as a whole, to embrace this unique opportunity, noting that this would allow for a more effective and efficient use of sharing in ministries and information, outlining numerous benefits of a collaborative approach.

12. Diaconal Ministries: Christian Automotive Repair Service. Classis Delegates were informed about a new ministry that had been developed in Wingham, and learned also about its positive impact in the community. Members of CARS shared the scope and work of its ministry, and Delegates had an opportunity to visit their facilities.

LUNCH BREAK In anticipation of lunch being made available and being served while Delegates might still be at the CARS facility, Rev. Ed Jager, Guelph New Life CRC, led Delegates in a prayer of thanks, and also asking for a blessing on the lunch meal, after which Delegates went to the CARS facility.

AFTERNOON SESSION Rev. David Tigchelaar, Guelph First CRC, led Delegates in a time of devotion focused on Romans 12:1-2, and led in a time of prayer.

13. Credentials Committee: Rev. Andrew De Gelder reported on behalf of the Committee, noting that all Churches were represented except The Journey, Kitchener, and also sharing comments some Churches had made on the Credentials form:

- a] Vanastra Community CRC noted that the May 2018 meeting of Classis was set for the May holiday weekend. **AGREED to reschedule the meeting to another Saturday in May and advise Classis accordingly.**
- b] Trinity CRC of Goderich asked that Classis set aside time for discussion about the LGBTQ issues in the Church. **Referred to CMC to determine an appropriate date and time**
- c] Bethel CRC, Listowel, indicated their support of the requests for Bart Eisen and Rev. Jack de Vries. **Noted that this will be addressed later on the Agenda.**
- d] Blyth CRC asked Classis for assistance in finding meaningful ministry opportunities within the rural context. **Referred to AdCom/CMC.**
- e] Exeter CRC asked for help in how to best encourage intentional giving and improve those levels of giving. **Referred to AdCom/CMC**

14. The Bridge App A number of Delegates asked that Classis consider again the information Rev. Roorda had shared re 'The Bridge App'. As a result of discussion **it was moved and seconded that all Classis Churches together agree to support The Bridge App, at an annual cost of \$6,000 for a period of 2 years [2018-2019], at which time ongoing support will be reviewed.** **CARRIED**
It was moved and seconded that the cost of this decision be added to the Ministry Shares
CARRIED

It was noted that this motion will impact the decision made in the Treasurer's Report [see Section 8 of these minutes] by increasing the cost of the per member ministry share.

15. The Bridge Church Plant, Fergus. Rev. John Vanderstoep provided an update on the activity of The Bridge, in being both a 'neighbor' as well as a 'partner' in the growth and development of God's Church in Center Wellington, and in sharing the gospel. *The Bridge* now worships in homes on Sunday mornings, with the focus being on how to best express love for neighbors as per Matthew 22. He shared some personal experiences and how these have helped him to continue to grow in what it means to be a 'church planter'. Rev. Vanderstoep challenged delegates to determine where and to whom God has called them to be *on mission*, and also to consider their personal method of discipleship, and reflect on how that impacts their lives. He concluded by asking Classis for prayer support for *The Bridge* and himself.

16. Classis Huron Home Missions Committee: Rev. Henry Steenbergen reported on the activities of the Home Missions Committee, indicating that an important part of its role in Classis is to work with established Churches to help them become more 'missional'. In referring to the goals of the Classis Huron Ministry Plan he identified Part 2 [*to plant new churches in Classis and also support church plants in becoming organized and rowing in supporting Classis as a whole*]; Part 3 [*exploring alternative funding streams for ministry expansion*]; and Part 5 [*determining the need for dedicated staff and the type of staff needed*]: as being integral to the work of the Committee. Janet Ryzebol discussed the concept of 'missional living' and the need for an 'action plan' to effect ministry growth. Rev. Andrew Vis shared with Delegates some of Orangeville CRC's 'missional' activities by sharing God's message of love, and inviting the community into the lives of Church families. Rev. Kevin de Raaf shared some of his personal goals in his role with RESONATE as well as the overall aims and goals of RESONATE, and showed a short video.

17. Safe Church Committee: Committee Chair Atie Ott reported on the work of that ministry, identifying Sept. 21 as 'Abuse Awareness Sunday', and also referring to the conference in March, 2018. She noted that 3 churches in Classis do not yet have representatives on the Committee and urged those churches to appoint the needed persons.

18 Waterloo Campus Ministry: Committee Chair Rev. John Medendorp reported on that ministry and expressed thanks for the ongoing prayer and financial report from Classis for this ministry.

19 Classis Huron Youth Ministry: Youth Ministry Champion Amy Baarda, informed Classis about the activities of that ministry, referring especially to EQUIP. She highlighted from the report sent out, encouraging the youth to also engage in 'missional living'. She referred also to the fall Retreat and encouraged Churches to send youth to the Conference.

20 Commissioned Pastor Status: Classis reviewed the position description that had been submitted in support of the request from Bethel CRC [Listowel] for Commissioned Pastor status for Bart Eisen. **It was moved and seconded that Classis agree that the position description submitted is in keeping with the requirements of C.O. Article 23 and its Supplements.** **CARRIED**

Classis was informed that the Synodical Deputies [Rev. J. Dekker, Niagara; Rev. Siebert Van Houten, Hamilton, and Rev. Dirk Miedema, Chatham] concurred with Classis in its decision.

Classis subsequently reviewed the position description that had been submitted in support of the request from University of Guelph Campus Ministry, for Commissioned Pastor status for Chaplain Sara DeMoor. **It was moved and seconded that Classis agree that the position description submitted is in keeping with the requirements of C.O. Article 23 and its Supplements.** **CARRIED**

Classis was informed that the Synodical Deputies [Rev. J. Dekker, Niagara; Rev. Siebert Van Houten, Hamilton, and Rev. Dirk Miedema, Chatham] concurred with Classis in its decision.

21. Extension of 'Loan' as per C.O. Article 13: Classis considered the request of Rev. Jack de Vries [supported by Bethel CRC, Listowel] to grant him a two-year extension on his 'loan' [as per C.O. Art. 13] to the CRC in Australia. **It was moved and seconded that Rev. Jack de Vries' request be granted.** **CARRIED**

Classis was informed that the Synodical Deputies [Rev. J. Dekker, Niagara; Rev. Siebert Van Houten, Hamilton, and Rev. Dirk Miedema, Chatham] concurred with Classis in its decision.

22. Overture from Community CRC [Kitchener] re the DWELL curriculum: The Overture Committee indicated its concerns regarding a lack of clarity of what the Overture was asking, and advised that this Overture should be tabled and be brought back for further discussion at a later date. Community CRC said it was supportive of this advice. **It was moved and seconded that this Overture be tabled for clarification, and be brought forward again at the February 2018 Classis meeting for further review and determination.** **CARRIED**

23. Overture from Community CRC [Kitchener] re Denominational Translation Committee: The focus of the Overture spoke to the many new Bible translations currently available and the importance of Churches being able to make informed decisions about the appropriate use of Bible translations in worship [as also contemplated in C.O. Art.47 and Supplements]] The Overture asks CRCNA to appoint a Standing Committee to deal with the issue of the many Bible Translations and report to Synod regarding same: and that this Committee begin its work with a review of the NIV 2011 version and the ESV 2016 version of the Bible. The Overture Committee indicated its support for the Overture. **It was moved and seconded that Classis Huron support the Overture, and overture Synod to establish a Standing Translation Committee which will report to Synod regarding Bible Translations, and that this Committee begin its work with a review of the New International Version [2011] and the English Standard Version [2016] of the Bible and make recommendations regarding their use in worship.** CARRIED

24. World Renew: Eve Mazereeuw expressed appreciation for Classis' support of World Renew. She outlined recent efforts to help others in the face of the many natural disasters [hurricanes etc.] She also reminded Classis that the *Peter Fish* campaign starts Oct. 15 and the World Hunger Campaign starts on Nov. 5.

22. Closing/Adjournment. Chairman Rev. Paul Droogers indicated that there were no further items on the Agenda. Vice Chairman Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen expressed words of appreciation on behalf of Classis, for the manner in which the Chair had led the day. [Applause]. The Chairman added his appreciation for the work of the Delegates, and led in a time of prayer and thanksgiving. Classis rose to sing The Doxology, and was declared adjourned.

Next meeting of Classis Huron is set for February 14, 2018, to be held at 9:00 AM, at Palmerston CRC in Palmerston.

Future Classis Meetings

DATE	LOCATION	REPORTS DUE	CHAIR	VICE CHAIR
Feb. 14, 2018	Palmerston	January 10, 2017	Gary Van Leeuwen	Amanda Bakale
May , 2018	Cambridge Mar.	April 4, 2017	Amanda Bakale	Martin Dam
Sept. 19 2018	Community CRC Kitchener	August 15, 2018	Martin Dam	Ralph Wigboldus
February 20, 2019	Bethel CRC, Listowel	January 9, 2019	Ralph Wigboldus	Henry Steenbergen

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."