



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

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**AGENDA**

**January 11, 2012 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Drayton  
Christian Reformed Church  
88 Main St. E  
Drayton**

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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.

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## 2. Constituting Classis

Call to Order, welcome, devotions by Drayton CRC at 9:00 am.  
 Credentials Committee reports on attendance.  
 Classis is declared constituted.

## 3. Devotions for the Day

Opening – Drayton  
 Pre-lunch – Owen Sound  
 Post –lunch – Kitchener  
 Pre-supper – 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. Guests: Rev. Kathy Smith, Guelph Campus Ministry students, Youth Ministry leaders

## 6. Stated Hour

- a.m. Guelph Campus Ministry presentation
- a.m. Youth Ministry presentation
- 1 p.m. Rev. Kathy Smith of Calvin Seminary: *“Membership: Privilege or Administrative Necessity?”*
- p.m. Diaconal Ministries presentation

## 7. Committees for the Day

- Credentials Committee – Orangeville and Clinton
- Balloting Committee – Drayton and Guests
- Overtures Committee – Kitchener and Acton

## 8. Classis Ministry Committee -- Rev. Ralph Wigboldus

### 8.1 Committee Report

1. The Classis Ministry Committee (CMC) which consists of a representative from each of the classis ministry committees, met on November 15 with one half of its membership being new to the committee.

The September meeting of Classis Huron had appointed Rev. Ralph Wigboldus as chair and Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink as vice-chair. Rev. John Vanderstoep is the new chair of the Classis Home Missions Committee and Gary Van Arragon, who serves on the Guelph Campus Ministry board, represents campus ministries for the next year. Lesli Van Milligen is a new member on the Classis Youth Ministry Committee and also represents classis on the Ontario Youth Ministry Team. Bill Elisen represented the Financial Resources Team in the absence of their usual representative, Clarence Louter. The two veterans on CMC are Atie Ott, who chairs the Classis Safe Church Committee, and Len Bakelaar who represents the Diaconal Conference. Stated clerk Keith Knight is an ex officio member.

Chair: Rev. Ralph Wigboldus  
Vice-chair: Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink  
Diaconal Conference: Len Bakelaar  
Safe Church Committee: Atie Ott  
Home Missions: Rev. John Vanderstoep  
Campus Ministry: Gary Van Arragon  
Financial Resources Team: Bill Elisen  
Youth Ministry: Lesli Van Milligen  
Stated Clerk: Keith Knight, ex officio.

2. CMC appointed Rev. John Vanderstoep as its representative to the Administrative Committee (AdCom) who will serve along with chair Rev. Ralph Wigboldus, vice-chair Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink and stated clerk Keith Knight. AdCom meets prior to meetings of classis and CMC to put together the agendas and to provide oversight of the work of the stated clerk.

3. CMC noted that the 2010-2013 Classis Huron Ministry Plan currently deals with the actual classis meetings but says little about the ministries of classis. A committee of CMC will look at the Ministry Plan and come back to the next meeting of CMC in March with recommended revisions or additions.

4. A training event for exhorters and others will take place on Saturday Feb. 25 at Kitchener's Community CRC. Pastors and others interested in preaching, in addition to all those with a license to exhort, will be invited to attend. Most of the cost will be provided by the Centre for Excellence in Preaching.

5. Classis Huron used to have a prayer coordinator in the person of Rev. Jack Quartel. Upon his retirement from the position, the Classis Home Missions Committee is considering having a team of three prayer coordinators. The committee will continue to develop that team and present further information at a future meeting of classis.

6. CMC considered having a discussion theme for the three meetings of classis in 2012 with a focus on “kingdom growth”, looking at membership in January, church growth in May, and resources to help churches make disciples in September. As a result, Dr. Kathy Smith, church polity professor at Calvin Seminary, was invited to speak and lead discussions at classis in January. Other speakers were recommended for subsequent discussions.

## 8.2 AdCom (Administrative Committee)

AdCom, the Administrative Committee of the Classis Ministry Committee, acts on behalf of CMC and classis between meetings. The committee consists of chair Rev. Ralph Wigboldus, vice-chair Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink, Rev. John Vanderstoep, and the stated clerk (ex officio). AdCom oversees the work of the stated clerk regularly consults about matters that may or may not require classis' attention.

AdCom typically meets prior to classis meetings and CMC meetings to set and shape the agendas. It also sits as the Exhortation Licence Review Committee whenever necessary to review sermon and congregation evaluations of those applying for renewals of their licenses to exhort.

The committee met on Oct. 28 to approve the agenda of the November meeting of CMC. The committee approved the appointment of Rev. Andrew de Gelder of Palmerston as counselor for Drayton during their vacancy. Willie Andrews of Acton concluded six years on AdCom (formerly Classis Interim Committee) and was thanked for her years of service. The committee met again on Dec. 9 to approve the agenda for the January 11 meeting of classis, including the timeline for presentations.

## 8.3 Stated Clerk's Report

Since the September 2011 meeting of Classis Huron, the stated clerk has engaged in about 250 email conversations, and a few phone calls. Those conversations cover everything from inquiries from chairs of councils or ministers to creating pulpit supply schedules to regular dialogue with AdCom. This also involved regular correspondence with the denominational office and stated clerks of other classes.

On average, about five hours per week are devoted to the work of classis; more just before or just after meetings of classis. Below are some of the highlights of that work.

- Processed and distributed the minutes of the September meeting of classis to churches, the denominational office and The Banner.
- Created a summary of classis decisions for use by church councils.
- Received and distributed various denominational reports.
- Prepared agenda and related items for the Oct. 28 meeting of AdCom and the Nov. 15 meeting of CMC. Various correspondence with new incoming CMC members.
- Attended AdCom and CMC.
- Ongoing correspondence and discussions with Rev. John Kuperus about his ministerial status within the CRC, Pension Office questions.
- Correspondence with Dr. Kathy Smith of Calvin Seminary about facilitating discussion at January classis meeting.
- Revised pulpit supply list to reflect latest vacancies.
- Revised Servants of Classis list.
- Updates of various reports and information to the [www.classishuron.ca](http://www.classishuron.ca) website.
- Ongoing sharing of resources, minutes and surveys with other stated clerks across Canada.
- Respond to various inquiries about budget questions, nominations to committees, etc.
- Numerous conversations of a confidential nature with various church councils concerning process. Most of them referred to regional pastors or church counsellors for follow up.

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

## 8.4 Correspondence -- Ten Week Pastoral Ministries Internship (formerly summer assignments)

Calvin Seminary is encouraging vacant churches, but especially healthy churches, to offer a good pastoral formation experience for seminary students.

The ten-week pastoral ministries internship is designed to be a ministry in which a congregation is served by a student pastor for a summer. The goal for students is that is be a ministry leadership experience in which they serve well and are able to develop in their ministry practices.

The usual situations in which these internships occur are: in churches without a pastor, in churches with a vacancy on their pastoral staff, in churches that are providing a summer sabbatical for their pastor, with churches that have an interim pastor who is willing to work with a student pastor for the summer.

For more information, email [mentoredministries@calvinseminary.edu](mailto:mentoredministries@calvinseminary.edu) or call Chris Wright 616 957-6064.

## 9. Guelph Campus Ministry – Jamie Vanderberg

### 9.1 Campus Minister – Jamie Vanderberg

Nothing is ever the same for Guelph Campus Ministry (GCM)! At the end of last year, there was a growing desire among the students to be more intentional about welcoming first year students to campus. We would never have guessed that at the first community dinner there would be 40 new faces! In welcoming all these new students, new opportunities for ministry have blossomed and some of the highlights are noted below:

#### WORSHIP

**Morning Worship:** It's almost two years now that we have been gathering around the Lord's Table, outside at 7:30am, on Wednesday mornings. A desire was expressed at the beginning of the fall semester to worship together every week, rather than biweekly, and to move our gathering from down by the river to the heart of campus. We now worship together on Johnston Green and are regularly joined by several students and staff from Campus for Christ and Asian Christian Fellowship. A GCM worship event has turned into a beautiful time of Christian unity on campus.

**Monthly Worship:** After taking a year hiatus from our monthly worship event, we have reconfigured it under the very creative name of "Monthly Worship." Our Sunday evening gatherings include times of praise, teaching and prayer and have explored various forms of worship. It has proven to be an important time of corporate worship for a community that is not so tightly knit, as GCM has seen so many new students coming out to small groups or other events since September.

#### DISCIPLESHP

**Small Groups:** GCM officially ran six weekly small groups in the fall semester, though there are a few additional ones that were being led by the students themselves. Of the six organized by GCM, Jamie led three—two groups of *Romans: Resurrecting Sacrifice*, and *Rehearsing Joy*. Jenn is leading two *Sharing Life Together* groups, which have tended to draw in lower year students. The sixth group is led by two students and is *For the Guys Only*. Of particular note this year is the fact that we have a whole number of people participating that are just at the very beginning of their faith journey.

**Staff and Faculty Fellowship:** Our faculty/staff Bible study continues to meet every week and is looking at bringing a Christian lecture series onto campus.

**Winter Retreat:** This January, we will be heading to Crieff Hills Retreat Centre for a weekend of fellowship and faith formation. Time will be set aside to rest, to pray, to worship, to open God's Word and enjoy the opportunity to cook together. GCM has even developed a theology around doing dishes together.

#### HOSPITALITY

**Community Dinners:** Our weekly dinners seem to have exploded in the fall semester. We set out in September's Orientation Week to meet a lot of first years and welcome them into the GCM community, and the response has been unbelievable. Our dinners usually see between 60 and 80 people grabbing plates of food and trying to find somewhere to sit in the all-too-packed McNally House. One-on-one conversations are less common at Community Dinner, and the more introverted students do tend to stay away, but for many, it is a great point of connection and the most complete gathering together of the community.

**Other Forms Hospitality:** Students are always eager to welcome one another into their homes. There are always a number of student hosted gatherings that include cooking nights and card tournaments. With so many first year students, it's been a priority to create a welcoming community, while at the same time encouraging students not only to be connected to the Christian community. GCM, along with others, also hosts a series of house concerts every other week. These Community Music Nights have become an important part of the local arts scene.

#### SOCIAL JUSTICE

**Brant Neighbourhood Group Community Garden Internship:** After our Community Development workshop series with Jay VanGronigen last November, a whole number of conversations began to unfold between GCM, New Life and one of the neighbourhood groups in the city. Since then, and with support from the deacon's at New Life, GCM facilitated the creation of an internship for a student with the community garden project in the Brant Neighbourhood, one of the most densely populated and highest need areas in Guelph. Hannah has been helping out with the weekly Garden Club at the children's garden since May, and as the gardening season has come to a close, she has started to plan a winter cooking club for the kids. Through Hannah and a few other initiatives, we hope to see GCM's relationship with Brant continue to grow!

Agape Café, Run and Read, the Clothing Closet, Friendship Club: We have continued to encourage students to be a blessing in the city through becoming involved with various volunteer opportunities. A particularly strong area of involvement is with Agape Café. A student from GCM worked as an intern with their street outreach ministry in the summer, and we have since seen close to ten students start volunteering with the drop-in centre every week.

Peace Week and Faith Week: We continue to collaborate with other groups on campus, pulling together both of these weeks. Peace Week screened numerous films, hosted a Holocaust survivor and a genocide panel, and it closed off its events with a flash mob.

Children of Bukati and Tumaini 2011: In May, we took four students to Butula, Kenya, to work with Children of Bukati (COB), an organization that supports education for AIDS orphans and destitute children. Though this was our third trip, it looked very different than the last two, as we were not involved with any work projects. Rather, the board of COB asked us to do an evaluation of the project, as Bukati Primary School is reaching the date that it is set to be self-sufficient and is looking for future direction. With a team consisting of three graduate students and one new PhD student, it was a very strong group and the final product was met with extreme gratitude from the COB board of directors.

To Write Love on Her Arms: On March 25, 2012, GCM is partnering with Lakeside Church in Guelph, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and Campus for Christ to host Jamie Tworkowski, founder of To Write Love on Her Arms. He is going to be speaking about the work of his organization, a not-for-profit organization that's been raising awareness about depression, self-injury and addiction, particularly among youth and young adults.

As we talk about ministry that is primarily student-driven, we want to share a little bit about student leadership in the past year: Leadership has always been fairly informal and we have never had a ministry team or executive. This year, there are dozens of students that are serving with GCM as worship planners, on the retreat committee, leading small groups, volunteering in the city and building a welcoming community. Many of them meet regularly with Jamie and Jenn to reflect on scripture, pray together and receive encouragement in their walks with the Lord. Mentoring and leadership development are situated at the core of what we do. Please hold the vision of a Christ-centered, student-driven community in your prayers!

We would also appreciate your ongoing prayers as we've stepped out in faith and hired Jenn McIntyre to serve with us as a Campus Ministry Associate. To date, we have two-thirds of our fundraising goal pledged to us for the next three years. There are grant applications still pending decision, and we're actively looking for more donors and supporting churches. This past year, Classis Huron displayed such incredible generosity, and it's clear to us that God is confirming our decision to move forward in faith. Praise be to him!

## **9.2 Board Report – Ray Vander Kooij, board chair**

The Guelph Campus Ministry (GCM) Board of Directors serves with a strong and prayerful commitment to *guard* the vision, *guide* the campus ministry, and *guarantee* sustainability. We pursue these purposes in an atmosphere of support and encouragement of the campus minister, Jamie Vanderberg, and of celebration of God working in and through this ministry. We meet on a monthly basis and here are some board highlights:

**CAMPUS MINISTRY ASSOCIATE** – After Jenn McIntyre served for over a year as campus ministry intern, we discerned that the benefits in growing the ministry warranted making this an ongoing staff position and so as of January 1, 2012, Jenn McIntyre is part-time staff with GCM as Campus Ministry Associate. We are delighted to have her continue to serve with us and celebrate her gifts and the blessing she bring to and through GCM. Through pledge donations this position is already 2/3 supported for the next three years and we continue to pursue donations and pledges and are awaiting responses on foundation applications.

### **CHURCH CONNECTIONS**

*Taking it to the Road . . .* -- Jamie Vanderberg and Jenn McIntyre have been joined by students in leading worship services and sharing about GCM this past year in Owen Sound, First Guelph, Clinton for a regional Reformation Service, and Cambridge. We are thankful to the churches for providing us this opportunity and also for taking up offerings to support the ministry of GCM.

We are developing a series of possible topics that staff, board members, and students can offer as presentations at church meetings and groups, along with a general overview of GCM. Watch for more to unfold in the coming months and consider opportunities for us to interact about and mutually explore the challenges and opportunities of ministry today.

WEBSITE – We are in the process of developing our website to be a more effective tool for communication and ministry, working with a software developer who has graciously volunteered his time to develop an effective website for GCM.

“FRIENDS OF THE MINISTRY” NEWSLETTER goes out to a growing list of alumni and supporters of the ministry. If you would like to receive this bi-annual newsletter as e-mail or snail-mail, please contact Jamie at [javander@uoguelph.ca](mailto:javander@uoguelph.ca) We thank the churches of Classis Huron for your support of this ministry prayerfully and financially through ministry shares and with above ministry share support through church budget line-items and offerings. Together, by God’s grace, we are making a difference at the heart of the life of a secular university that is influencing those who will shape our culture in years to come. There is so much more that can be done and we ask that you continue your partnership in growing an increasingly strong Christian presence that gives high-profile to Jesus Christ and His Lordship over all of life!

## **10. Youth Ministry – Lesli Van Milligen**

### **10.1 Classis Youth Ministry Committee report**

FALL RETREAT 2011 was a weekend packed with six sessions on basic Christian apologetics which was well presented and well received by the youth and leaders alike. We had 308 participants. This is a high quality initiative that is fairly unique to our classis and one that seems to be benefitting youth groups at the local level.

LEADERSHIP STUDIO. Another unique and new venture for our classis youth ministry team is youth leadership training through the Muskoka Woods Leadership Studio. As a prelude to the Fall Retreat, 24 youth and 5 adults gathered for Thursday night and all day Friday leadership training through the studio. Youth from 14 churches in classis worked in various small groups to learn about character and competency in leadership based on the story of King David. Adult attendees will be checking in with the youth participants throughout this next year to see how they are applying what they learned to leadership in youth group, school groups, etc. 2012 Leadership Studio be open to 32 youth and 8 adult mentors and will include mentor training as well.

SOUL CARE is a ministry of Youth Unlimited which is aimed at rejuvenating the hearts and ministries of volunteer and paid youth workers. In order to encourage participation in this event, our team has set aside money to help cover the registration costs.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY. Our team held a town hall meeting this past fall to ascertain what young adults wanted from the YA sub- committee which had been feeling some frustration about lack of attendance at events. Those young adults who attended the town hall meeting expressed a desire for less classis-wide YA events and more local gatherings, perhaps in localized church clusters. The feeling among the sub -committee was that for now a classis wide committee was not effective in ministering to this age group. Members of the committee asked to disband and that discussion and planning be brought to the Classis church cluster groups. We are in the process of facilitating this transition as a Youth Ministry Committee.

ALL ONTARIO YOUTH CONVENTION will once again be held over the long week end. Tony Campolo and Shane Claybourne will be the main speakers, so registration is expected to be high. Bruce Adema has sent a letter to Pastors to participate on either a Saturday or to attend the entire week end. This is another high impact and high quality event that we can be happy to be offering our youth.

INTERGENERATIONAL youth ministry will be a focus of our team over the coming year as we plan for some regional training/discussion events for classis pastors and youth workers, especially in light of denominational emphasis on better integration of young adults into the life of the church.

### **10.2 Ontario Youth Ministry Team**

Lesli Van Milligen represents Classis Huron on the Ontario Youth Ministry Team.

At the November team meeting, we listened to Jason Gehrels from CRWRC who spoke about the connection/disconnection between CRC youth and the CRWRC. There seems to be a decreasing ownership of CRWRC and its ministry among

young people and young adults. A discussion followed on how CRWRC can better connect with a potential new generation of supporters.

Classis Reports:

NIAGARA

Held a youth leader's seminar. They hope to do it again. It was hard to do with busy youth leaders. Youth Talks have kept going, but reduced the frequency. They are trying to get youth to take more ownership of youth services.

QUINTE

They have had some issues with board members. They are trying to create cell groups for young adults within classis; Having churches getting together more locally. Trying to do things together with three or four churches.

TORONTO

Held a retreat in the fall and changed things up a bit. They have a student-led worship team. Re-visioning youth ministry talks are going on with youth leaders. Youth services are going on in different areas.

CHATHAM

Still trying to get a full time classis youth worker. Had a successful fall retreat.

EASTERN ONTARIO

Hired two more youth pastors/workers in the classes. Trying to do a couple of events such as youth services and fall retreats. Had 65 people come out to the fall retreat, with an improv group.

HURON/TRILLIUM

Held a fall retreat with 300 kids in attendance. Brought 20 youth who were picked from different churches to come to a leadership seminar just before the retreat. Brought in good talent for teaching and worship. Held a young adult town hall meeting to see where they are at. Youth groups are getting together in clusters of churches. We need to stay in our own area because we are busy people. They are putting more money into leadership development and promote all Ontario. Have two bigger events during the year that churches can come to. Fuller Institute's "Sticky Faith" stuff is highly recommended.

ALL ONTARIO CONVENTION

Not many pastors come to the All Ontario. We'd like to see more come. The director of Canadian Ministries, Rev. Bruce Adema, has sent letters out to pastors, encouraging them to attend, but not many responded.

We are looking into having a pastor's forum where they can come for one day or the entire weekend. There will be some workshops on the Saturday. Syd Hielema will help planning for the day.

Classes are encouraged to promote the event.

A CANADIAN YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

Bruce Adema mentioned that he has been approached by Western Canada to form a Western Canada Youth Ministry Team. Bruce is hoping for some sort of Canadian Youth Ministry Team.

## **11. Overture – Not to adopt the Belhar Confession (Owen Sound CRC)**

**MOTION: That Synod of the CRC should not adopt the Belhar Confession as a fourth confession.**

Grounds:

1. The presentation of the Belhar to the denomination has been heavily biased. Eg. Classis Heartland Overture Synod 2011.
2. The Belhar is people-centered not Christ-centered. It is the "Deification of Tolerance."
3. The Belhar is not relevant, nor applicable to our situation in North America.
4. Confessions are designed to settle issues, not raise them.
5. The Belhar is biblically weak, implying only the poor are special.
6. The adoption of the Belhar is politically motivated.

*Willard VanderPloeg, Clerk of Council*



## **12. Nominations Committee – Stated Clerk**

Nominations are being sought for minister and elder delegates to Synod 2012, to be held at Redeemer University College in Ancaster. Two delegates and two alternates are required for each. Please place names of nominees on the credentials.

A ballot with nominees to serve on various committees will be presented at the meeting.

## **13. Classis Safe Church Committee – Atie Ott**

### **MANDATE**

The Classis Huron Safe Church Committee is:

1. To function as an ART (Abuse Response Team) according to Synodical guidelines
2. To provide comprehensive and ongoing education and training.
3. To provide support to our churches in the prevention of, and response to abuse.

This past year has been a year of change, both on the Denominational level and Classis level.

On April 1st Bonnie Nichols was appointed acting Interim Director of Safe Church Ministries replacing Beth Swagman, the first Director of Safe Church Ministries.

On October 1/11, after a lengthy interview process, Bonnie was officially named Director of Safe Church Ministries.

On the Classis level, we received a number of resignations, several members had served on this committee since it was formed in 1997. We are very grateful for their many years of faithful service, however, their leaving has left a huge void, both in knowledge and experience.

**ABUSE AWARENESS SUNDAY** September 25, 2011: We thank all these churches in our Classis who held special services or otherwise promoted the cause of Abuse Prevention.

**ANNUAL INTERCLASSIS TRAINING EVENT:** Planning is under way for this annual event which is hosted by Classis Huron and is attended by church leaders from all 7 Classis in Ontario. This year the Training Event will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2012 in the Waterloo CRC. Brochures will be mailed out in the near future. We invite all council members and encourage leaders, especially those working with youth to attend.

**CONFERENCE APRIL 27 AND 28:** The office of Abuse Prevention has invited all members of the Safe Church Teams to attend a conference in Grand Rapids the last weekend in April. We ask church councils to encourage your rep to attend this worth while event and provide financial support.

**IN-SERVICE TRAINING:** We have received a number of requests from Churches to come and do an in-service training to council members and church leaders. We will be sending out a letter to each church asking for an invitation to come and present.

**TEAM REPS:** We are still in need of representation from several churches.

It is our hope that councils will bring forward names of people who are willing to serve in that capacity to the nominating committee before our next Classis meeting.

**FUTURE PLANS:** Because of the many changes this past year, the coming year will be one of rebuilding and re-energizing the Safe Church Team. We covet your prayers for the work of this committee and pray that our churches will always be a safe place for everyone.

## **14. Discussion on Membership: Privilege or Administrative Necessity? – Rev. Kathy Smith**

A number of years ago American Express ran an ad campaign that boasted, "membership has its privileges." Do we believe this is true for church membership as well? Is it a privilege to be a member of the church? Or is membership an unfortunate administrative necessity? How do we make disciples/members who embrace both the privileges and responsibilities of being a follower of Jesus?

Rev. Kathy Smith, a professor of church polity at Calvin Seminary, will present an after-lunch discussion on Membership.

## 15. Diaconal Conference – Fred Vander Sterre

The Diaconal Conference will share stories from Operation Manna and the Community Opportunity Scan, among others.

## 16. Classis Home Missions Committee – Rev. John Vanderstoep

It is an exciting time to be involved in the mission of the church. Our congregations are being confronted with many and varied opportunities to live out the Gospel and demonstrate the kingdom. The Spirit is stimulating many in the church to awaken to these opportunities. Increasingly, congregational leaders are giving their best energies to what has traditionally been called 'outreach' but in a more holistic and thoroughly Reformed kingdom-embracing sense. As Christian Reformed congregations, God is laying opportunities in front of us to partner with Him in not only welcoming people into relationship with Him but also simply expressing His character in our cities and rural settings.

This continues to be a transition year for CHHMC as we strategize how to do our work. We have recently clarified what we believe to be our mandate and share it with you below. Tom VanMilligen has stepped in as chair as John Vanderstoep steps into a role helping us partner with Home Missions Eastern Canada in developing missional hubs in our area. These hubs will be local gatherings of missional leaders who press each other on to missional living. This strategy is an experiment and one of many ways that we do our work. Pray for this work.

As noted in the September report, we have four members currently who each have an area of responsibility – prayer, leadership development, church planting, and church renewal – all for the purpose of pursuing Christ's mission to the church. As two members retire, we are working on finding two (or three, or four) new members for the season ahead. If you know of servant-leaders in your congregation who are being awakened to the mission of God, please invite them to talk to us or forward us their names. We would love to invite their prayerful consideration of whether God might be calling them to serve with us.

### MANDATE

CHHMC exists to pursue the work of Classis in the area of ministry and mission initiatives. We do this by proposing, communicating, and maintaining clear and effective pathways for ministry initiatives and missional leadership development.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

CHHMC reports to Classis via annual report and through the CMC

CHHMC collaborates with the CRHM regional leader

CHHMC collaborates with churches and leaders in Classis in the pursuit of leadership development and ministry initiatives

CHHMC encourages church councils with recommendations for ministry and leadership development proposals, and in the maintaining of these if they are realized

Missional leaders and missional ministry initiatives seeking support of Classis communicate through CHHMC and receive support from Classis via CHHMC

### AUTHORITY

CHHMC has the authority to forward or deny a request for ministry support or leadership development, authority to grant funds comes from the Classis

CHHMC has the authority to enact accountability for ministries and leaders receiving support from Classis

### COMPOSITION

6-8 members, mixed clergy/non clergy, Home Missions rep ex officio, DMC rep ex officio

3 year terms

Meets 4-6 times per year

One member is seated at CMC

**MOTION: That the revised mandate of the Classis Home Mission Committee be approved.**

## **17. Disabilities Concerns – Len Bakelaar**

Disabilities Concerns seeks to bring about the full participation of all people with disabilities in the life of the church and the full participation of the church in the lives of people with disabilities

Many of the Christian Reformed Churches are putting priority on including people with disabilities in the life and ministry of their church. Many of our churches have become accessible, have hearing loops installed, and offer large print. They include children and youth with disabilities in their programs and bring in adults as well. Most importantly, our congregations are changing their attitudes and realizing that people with disabilities are indispensable for the healthy function of the body of Christ.

The office of Disability Concern offers many resources to help churches in this vital ministry including a network of church and regional advocates available to work alongside you. Yet all of our churches in Classis Huron do not have a Church Advocate. This is the person(s) who helps to identify the needs of church members affected by disabilities and advocates on their behalf to the church leaders. This person is there to encourage the inclusion of those members in the life of the church. This person is able to help people with disabilities find resources and other helpful information. This person can be there to co-ordinate the work of caregiving with your pastoral workers and deacons.

If your church does not have a Church Advocate, please take some time to see if one or two persons can be found to fill this position; someone who believes along with your church that “Everyone Belongs, Everyone Serves.” When you find your Church Advocate please pass that name on to your Regional Advocate, Len and Rynie Bakelaar or Ralph Bus.

## **18. Regional Pastors’ report**

### **Ron Fisher -- Classis Huron East**

Since my last report in January 2011, I have met 14 times with pastors, often with my wife Gerry and pastors and their spouses. Most have been over breakfast or lunch. It is encouraging that for the most part I hear of joyful and gratitude-filled ministries. When they are not, we try to listen, sometimes give advice, and always pray with them. Ministry today can be demanding and stressful. We are grateful to be a part of a team that strives to keep our pastoral families healthy. We are always available to listen, also during the time we are away and in Florida in the winter months by email.

Gerry and I were privileged to attend the bi-annual Pastoral Relations Conference this past November in Grand Rapids. It dealt with grief and lament and was very fitting and timely; fitting, because we often hear of the grief ministers go through in various ways; timely, because we were in the process of grieving the termination of our work in Bethel Listowel after seven and one half cherished years. Listowel is heading in new directions plus our being gone for three months in the winter is not the best for them. We wish them God’s richest blessings! What new challenges does the Lord have in mind for Gerry and me? Also, at the Pastoral Relations Conference we were informed that the office, along with other agencies, is looking at improvements to our calling system. In many ways it is broken. There are vacate positions and yet not many calls go out, especially to women. Churches go through a long and careful process for months, which is not all bad. But in the meantime, candidates and pastors wait. Hopefully the system can be improved. God richly bless and keep all of us!

### **Paul Stadt – Classis Huron West**

A regional pastor is the pastor’s pastor. Most of our work is behind the scenes and is confidential. Because of the confidential nature of the visits, I can't say much about the visits and contacts themselves. This past year I emailed everyone to ask if there was a concern or a joy they had that I could pray for. Over these past two years I have visited each pastor, sometimes including spouses. I make my visits in either May or June after the busy church year. On two occasions my wife went along; otherwise I visited the pastor and wife alone.

Every two years the regional pastors from U.S. and Canada get together in Grand Rapids for a two day conference. This past October we met and were enlightened by a professor from Western Seminary in Holland, Mich. He led us through three sessions on grief and mourning; very timely and helpful comments.

May we continue as God's people to be supportive of each other.

## 19. Reports

### Redeemer University College

Greetings from Redeemer University College. It is striking to find ourselves already nearly finished the Fall 2011 semester. But we have many reasons to give thanks to God, especially entering into Advent.

Our total enrolment for 2011-12 is 929 students (892 full-time equivalent), and we are deeply grateful for all of our students and the high calling we have to lead them in developing Biblically-directed learning and discipleship. We received another very good report-card in the *Globe & Mail* "University Report," published on October 25.

We have appointed Mr. Fred Verwoerd as the next Vice President, Administration & Finance for Redeemer University College. Mr. Verwoerd will assume his duties at the beginning of January 2012 as Ineke VanBruinessen transitions to retirement. Our search for a new Vice President, Advancement will commence soon.

We have already enjoyed many events and highlights on campus during this Fall. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual *reDiscover Redeemer* Open House was held on October 1, on October 21 we celebrated the inaugurations of Professors Ray Louter and Susan Van Weelden, the New Horizons day on October 24 for young-at-heart members of our senior support community, the Zylstra Symposium with Jim Skillen on November 8-9, the Business Partnership Open house on November 10, and "The Amazing Race – Redeemer Sciences Edition" for high school students on November 11 brought a lot of students to campus. Our Fall Mainstage Theatre production of Calvin Seerveld's *The Book of Ecclesiastes* and *The Greatest Song* was well received during November 22-26, and our choirs will perform *The Messiah* on December 2 and 3. Our annual Cornerstone Partners Dinner on November 25 celebrated student scholarships and recognized scholarship donors. We thank God for blessing Redeemer with such wonderful and enriching events.

We are excited to announce several new programs. This year, we initiated an International Relations minor and a Youth Ministry certificate program. Next year, we will launch a new Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Health Sciences. We are in the midst of filling two openings (Marketing & Accounting) in the Business Department, and we also are advertising positions in Health Sciences, French, and Education.

As part of our Strategic Goal of developing "Whole Life" education, we also are continuing to develop new initiatives for spiritual formation, including appointing and mentoring student chaplains in the residences, developing a long-term strategy for spiritual formation for Redeemer's athletes, strengthening chapel, and continuing dimensions of last year's faculty spiritual formation project.

Most of our building projects on campus are completed, although detailed landscape work on our SWM ponds continues, depending on weather. We are grateful that we were able to complete our KIP and RInC building projects before the deadlines for government stimulus grants. We held the grand opening of our Field For All Seasons on October 22, and we expect that the final connection of our solar panel array to the electrical grid should be in operation by the end of the year.

We look forward to having many of you attend the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Ministers' Conference on Tuesday, March 6, 2012, with Bruxy Cavey and Tim Day of The Meeting House as our guest speakers. Please check our website at [www.redeemer.ca](http://www.redeemer.ca) for updates about these and other events, lectures, and concerts.

We continue to receive strong support from the CRC classes in both prayer and giving, for which we are deeply grateful. May the Lord bless you in your ministry, and may you enjoy His joy and peace during this Christmas season as we celebrate the gracious gift of our Saviour and Lord.

- Dr Hubert R. Krygsman, President

## 20. Future Classis Meetings

Date	Place	Reports due	Chair	Vice-chair
May 9, 2012	Waterloo	April 4, 2012	Bill Hoogland	Tom Van Milligen
Sept. 12, 2012	Owen Sound	August 8, 2012	Tom Van Milligen	Ralph Wigboldus
Jan. 9, 2013	Listowel	Dec. 12, 2012	Ralph Wigboldus	Darren Roorda
May 8, 2013		April 3, 2013	Darren Roorda	

An invitation is sought to host the May, 2013 meeting of Classis.