

Classis Highlights
Tuesday, May 24, 2011
Maranatha CRC, Woodstock, ON

Chairman: Rev. Richard T. Vander Vaart (Dresden CRC)
Vice-Chairman; Rev. Fred Heslinga (Essex CRC)

- Pastor Dirk Miedema of the host church led delegates in opening devotions
- The Credentials Committee reported that 64 delegates, including seven first-time delegates, were registered for classis.
- Patricia VanReenen of the Classical Safe Church Team presented classis with details of a new counselling fund for those who experience abuse by leaders of the Christian Reformed Church and for perpetrators who repent. The fund does not affect the classical budget and will be jointly administered by the Safe Church Team and the Classical Diaconal Committee.
- Beth Fellingner, from The Destination, the church plant in St. Thomas, told delegates that they are averaging about 100 people per worship service and that 12 people have come to faith since they began worshipping in January.
- George Saylor, from Connections Church, the church plant in London, told delegates the past seven weeks since a fire destroyed their new ministry centre have been very difficult. He thanked classis for its support, love and encouragement and asked for continued prayers.
- Chaplains Mike Wagenman and Kelly Sibthorpe told delegates of their successes in their ministries at the University of Western Ontario and Fanshawe College respectively. A motion to expand the Fanshawe ministry to its campus in Woodstock on a one-day per week basis was also passed.
- A motion to financially support four seminary students from our classis for the 2011-12 academic year was passed. They are Adrian deLange, Tim Luimes, Katerina Schaafsma and Andrew Aukema
- Pastor Derek Bouma of Christian Reformed World Missions, Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo of Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, Larry Lutgendorff of the Ontario Association of Christian Schools Foundation and Rev. Bruce Adema of CRCNA also spoke to classis about their areas of expertise.
- It was noted that Pastor Paul Droogers of Wyoming CRC has accepted a call to High River, Alta, Pastor Dirk Miedema has accepted a call to Aylmer CRC, Pastor Fred Heslinga is retiring at the end of July and Pastor Richard T. Vander Vaart will be leaving Dresden, also at the end of July. They were all wished God's blessing in the next chapter of their respective ministries.
- The next meeting of classis will take place on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 D.V at Redeemer Christian Reformed Church in Sarnia, ON.