

Highlights of Classis Chatham meeting on January 19, 2010 at Westmount CRC in Strathroy, Ontario

- Rev. Peter Hoytema of the host church led the morning devotions, based on Psalm 46:10. He spoke of the recent earthquake in Haiti and told delegates to be content that the reason for the devastation will not be known this side of heaven.
- 65 delegates, including 14 first-time delegates represented 26 churches at the meeting. All the first-time delegates signed the Form of Subscription.
- Rev. Frank de Boer (Blenheim) and Rev. Jack Kerkhof (Chatham-First) were seated as chairman and vice-chairman respectively.
- Classis approved the retirements of Rev. Gerald Hogeterp, effective August 1, 2010 and Rev. William Steele, effective January 31, 2010.
- It was reported that 94 per cent of classical ministry shares was received in 2009, with 13 churches contributing 100 per cent or more.
- Verbal reports were given to classis by the Classical Diaconal Committee, the Belhar Confession, the All-Ontario Youth Convention and Christian Reformed World Missions.
- Rev. Dirk Miedema, (Woodstock-Maranatha) Rev. Mike Wagenman, (CRC Chaplain, University of Western Ontario) Elder Stewart VanSchepen (Woodstock-Maranatha) and Elder Sharon DeVries (London-First) were elected to represent classis at Synod 2010 in June.
- Classis granted a License to Exhort to Mr. Kelly Sibthorpe and renewed the exhorters license of Mr. Steve Baarda.
- Classis approved the positions of Ministry Associate for Aylmer CRC and Woodstock-Maranatha CRC. The Synodical Deputies concurred. Examinations of Mr. Louis Bosma and Ms. Grace Miedema will take place at the next classis meeting
- The next meeting of classis will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 D.V. at the University of Western Ontario in London. It will be a celebration of 40 years of campus ministry in the classis.