

**Highlights of Classis Chatham meeting of May 12, 2009 at Dresden  
Christian Reformed Church, Dresden, Ontario**

- Rev. Richard Vander Vaart of the host church led delegates and guests in a time of opening devotions.
- 71 delegates from 26 churches were present. Windsor-Ambassador was not represented.
- Classis was declared constituted with Rev. Paul Droogers of Wyoming CRC and Rev. Rich deLange of Aylmer CRC seated as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.
- Rev. Jack Kerkhof of Chatham-First CRC was warmly welcomed to Classis Chatham.
- A discussion on leadership succession was held. The comments will be shared with each individual council within classis.
- Classis voted to financially and prayerfully partner with St. Thomas-Fellowship CRC and Christian Reformed Home Missions to plant a new church in St. Thomas.
- Mr. Kelly Sibthorpe was introduced as the new permanent part-time campus chaplain at Fanshawe College in London.
- Rev. John DeVries (Restorative Justice), Mr. Hans Kater (Diaconal Ministries of Canada) and Rev. Jerry Dykstra (Executive Director, CRCNA) all made presentations to classis.
- Classis granted a request from Chatham-Calvary CRC to release Rev. William Steele under C.O. Article 17-a. Rev. Steele is concluding his long-standing missionary work in West Africa due to persistent health problems suffered by his wife, Diana. The Synodical Deputies concurred with the decision of classis. Rev. Steele will be seeking parish ministry employment in North America.
- Classis broke into small groups to discuss questions pertaining to the future of the position of Classical Ministry Developer. The results will be discussed by the Classical Ministries Committee (CMC) and brought back to classis for additional discussion at a later date.
- The next meeting of classis will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 D.V. at Covenant CRC in Woodstock.