

Highlights of the Classis Chatham meeting of January 22, 2008

Rev. Andrew de Gelder of the host church, Strathroy East CRC, led the delegates in an inspirational time of praise and worship.

Rev. Bob Loerts of Woodstock-Covenant and Rev. David Weemhoff of Sarnia-First took their respective places as Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the day.

Rev. Norm Visser of Ingersoll CRC, reported on behalf of the Credentials Committee, that all churches were present, except for Windsor-Ambassador. Windsor did not attend due to inclement weather. (An e-mail from Pastor Darrell Edgar, expressing their sincere regret for not being able to be in attendance was sent to the Clerk and subsequently forwarded to all Pastors) 69 delegates were seated, including 18 first-time delegates. The latter all signed the form of subscription.

Classis was declared constituted.

Rev. Loerts informed the body that Prof. David Rylaarsdam of Calvin Theological Seminary would not be present to discuss the issue of Baptized Children at the Lord's Supper. After venturing out from Grand Rapids, he decided to turn around because of the inclement weather. Every effort will be made to reschedule the discussion for Classis in May, 2008

Classis passed separate motions to name Rev. Ralph Wigboldus of Sarnia-Living Hope CRC as church counselor for London-Good News CRC, Rev. Peter Hogeterp as church counselor for Chatham-First CRC and Rev. Paul Droogers of Wyoming CRC as church counselor for Sarnia-First CRC.

Classis passed a motion to submit the names of Mrs. Grace Miedema and Mr. Calvin Davies to Synod as nominees to replace Mr. Jack Geschiere as the Classis Chatham representative on the Board of Trustees.

Classis passed motions to appoint Mrs. Shirley Bakker to the Classical Diaconal Committee, Rev. Vic Vandermolen to the Classical Nominating Committee and Mr. Leonard Van Harten to the London Campus Ministry Committee. It was also noted that vacancies remain on the Day of Encouragement Committee, London Campus Ministry Committee, the Classical Home Missions Committee and the Classical Youth Ministry Team.

Classis received and filed a variety of reports on Governance, Outreach Ministries and Leadership Development Ministries.

Mr. Evert Wassink of the Forest CRC Asset Committee reported on the sale of assets belonging to the Forest Christian Reformed Church and said a final report on disbursement of money to charitable agencies should be available at the May

meeting of Classis.

Mr. Henry Meinen was introduced as seminary student who will minister to Sarnia-First CRC for the next several months. The chairman also took the time to thank Rev. David Weemhoff for his faithful service to his church and to Classis. Rev. Weemhoff has accepted a call to Morrison, Illinois and will be leaving at the end of January.

Rev. Ralph Wigboldus of Sarnia-Living Hope CRC and Rev. Richard VanderVaart of Dresden CRC were elected as Pastor representatives to Classis at Synod 2008. Rev. William Koopmans of Chatham-Grace CRC will be the first alternate and Rev. Pieter Pereboom of London-First CRC will be the second alternate.

Mr. Clarence Zantingh of Sarnia-Living Hope and Mr. Heiko Oegema of St. Thomas-First CRC were elected as Elder representatives to Classis at Synod 2008. Mr. Jack Westerhof of Sarnia-Redeemer CRC will be the first alternate and Mr. Martin Bosveld of Chatham-Calvary CRC will be the second alternate.

Following a hearty lunch and afternoon devotions, led by Mr. Chad Vandervalk, an intern at Strathroy East CRC, Classis was updated on preparations for the 2008 Sea to Sea Bike Tour. The tour's communications manager, Mr. Dave Raakman indicated that about 15 per cent of 174 registered riders to date are from Classis Chatham. The nine-week tour, beginning in late June, will make a few stops in Canada in late August. The purpose of the Sea to Sea event is to raise money and awareness for poverty alleviation programs initiated by the CRC and its partners.

The chairman, in concert with the CMC, decides to forego the scheduled afternoon workshops on "Finding new officebearers" and "Disciplining regular church visitors" because of the deteriorating weather conditions. After an expression of disappointment by one of the delegates, a voice vote upheld the decision to cancel the workshops.

After Vice-Chair, Rev. David Weemhoff thanked the Chair, Rev. Bob Loerts, for his ability and humour in leading the session, Rev. Loerts offered his words of thanks and closed in prayer.

Delegates sang "Father, We Love You" and then adjourned to our next regularly scheduled meeting of Classis on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, D.V.
The time and location to be determined.

