

June Newsletter

CLASSIS CHATHAM HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, May 23, 2017 hosted by Maranatha CRC, Woodstock

- Rev. Daryl Meijer of Maranatha welcomed all and led in a time of reflection, praise and worship. We shared in a time of prayer followed by the singing of *Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise*. Opportunity for prayer was taken throughout the day.
- 27 of the 28 churches of classis were present. Windsor-Ambassador offered regrets. 65 delegates were in attendance, including 5 first-time delegates. All first-time delegates signed the Covenant for Office Bearers.
- Classis was declared constituted and Rev. Aaron Thompson of Essex and Rev. Norman Visser of Ingersoll were seated as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. Mr. Ron Middel was seated as the Clerk.
- Ron Baker, Lead Pastor of London-Forest City North Church shared some encouraging stories of how God is working at FC North. Following Ron's time of sharing, Rev. Rob Hogendoorn of London-Forest Community Church updated the delegates of the evolution of how FC North church plant started and how it functions today.
- Chaplains Kelly Sibthorpe of Fanshawe College and Mike Wagenman of Western University reported on their ministries of the exciting opportunities occurring.
- Patricia Van Reenen led a presentation/workshop, on the topic of Clergy Mental Health.
- Mr. Gilbert Langerak, of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities, gave a presentation on the topic of Government Compliance for Christian Charities.
- Dr. Alida van Dijk, of London-Good News sustained an examination for Commissioned Pastor. Alida serves as Chaplain at Parkwood Hospital in London.
- Classis heard that the Classical Ministries Committee requires two non-clergy individuals to serve on the committee as members at large. The involvement of individuals who are currently serving as elders or deacons, or who have held these offices in the past, is considered particularly meaningful. *Interested individuals who would be interested to serve on the CMC are asked to contact the Stated Clerk.*
- Classis heard that the CMC confirmed the selection of its officers. Rev. Derek Bouma (Strathroy-East) as Chair, Rev. Josh Tuininga (Wallaceburg) as Vice Chair, and Rev. Willemina Zwart (London-Good News) as Vice All (pro tem, until the next meeting of CMC).
- Rev. Peter Hoytema (Strathroy-Westmount) and Rev. Norman Visser (Ingersoll) have completed their terms on CMC and were thanked for their many years of service.
- Classis received a report from representatives of CMC regarding the Classical Youth Consultant position. Following recommendations from CMC, classis approved that this position be discontinued after August 2017.
- Classis received and approved the audited 2016 Financial Statements.
- Classis approved the request of Sarnia-Redeemer to grant emeritus status to Rev. Jim Poelman as he is retiring effective July 31st.
- As Rev. William Koopmans (Chatham-Grace) has accepted a call to Hope CRC, Brantford, classis approved the recommendation of Rev. Dirk Miedema to be appointed as Synodical Deputy.
- Both Rev. Koopmans and Rev. Poelman shared a few comments as they leave their respective ministries in our classis.
- Classis was blessed to hear Church Counselor, Church Visitor and a number of other reports that were presented throughout the day.
- Classis adjourned at 4:07 p.m. to meet again at St. Thomas-Destination on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., DV.

-- Questions should be sent to Ron Middel, Stated Clerk

Helpful information for churches can be found on the Classis Chatham website
www.classischatham.ca

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Summer Activities for July and August

Summer is here! With that comes warm nights, vacations, camping and hopefully a little extra time for leisure activities and fellowship. Each Monday evening join us at 6:30 pm for each upcoming event.

July 10 – Golf (Orchard View)

July 17 – Nature Walk (location TBA) or Mini Golf (Silver Tee on Hwy 3)

July 24 – Yoga (Sadler's Pond, weather permitting)

July 31 – Soccer Golf (Woodland Hills)

August 14 – Golf (Sutton Creek)

August 21 – Mini Golf (Silver Tee on Hwy 3) or Nature Walk (location TBA)

August 28 – Yoga (Sadler's Pond, weather permitting)

Attention Crafters

We are planning to include a Craft Table and are asking those who craft to donate Christmas crafts and gifts. Looking for wood workers, knitters, crocheters, quilters' etc. to help us expand our venue. For more information see Rita.

Summer Months

As we are entering the summer months when most of us go away on vacation or visit family and friends we need to remember the duties we fulfill on Sundays. It is your responsibility to find a replacement.

World Renew Famine Appeal

Severe drought and conflict has placed millions at risk of starvation in Africa. World Renew is helping feed hungry families in South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Nigeria. The Government of Canada has announced a 1:1 match for all donations made between **March 17 and June 30** for humanitarian responses to this crisis. In addition, through World Renew's membership in the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, your donations are eligible for a further match up to 4:1. With these matches, your gifts will go up to five times further! Please donate today to demonstrate God's love to millions in need. For more information on our response, please visit www.worldrenew.net/famine

Farewell Retirement Service

Redeemer Christian Reformed Church in Sarnia (5834 Blackwell Side Road, Sarnia) welcomes all to join us in a Farewell Retirement Service for Pastor Jim Poelman on Sunday, June 25, 2017 at 9:30 am. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the service. Please join us in celebrating and thanking God for Pastor Jim and Linda's many years of service to Redeemer CRC and the Sarnia area. For more information, contact the church office at 519-542-4202.

Gym Open For Use – Essex United Church

Come Be Our Guest! We invite youth ages 12 – 15 to come with their friends to use our spacious gym for FREE! Every Wednesday, in June from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. There will be fun sports and play equipment ready and waiting for you. Essex United Church 53 Talbot Street South. For more information call 519-776-5121 or visit www.eunitedchurch.wixsite.com/eunited