

**Highlights of May 12, 2011 Classis Toronto Meeting
held at the CrossPoint CRC, Brampton
(These are NOT official minutes.)**

Officers of Classis:

Elder Rika V.L. chaired the meeting of Classis. Classis Stated Clerk, **John M.**, took minutes. **Rev. Kobie d.P.** was Vice-Chair. The meeting was supported through the work of **Elizabeth G.-K.**, Classis Ministry Coordinator. Delegates from all 22 Classis Toronto congregations, plus Rev. John Bouwers on behalf of the Milton Church Plant, were in attendance.

Worship

Classis delegates were led in opening worship by **Rev. Richard G.**, pastor of the host church focusing on “the harvest” as mentioned in Luke 10: 1-12. A number of churches were asked to bring requests for prayer, which formed part of the basis of Classis prayer times. God’s faithfulness was recognized throughout the day.

Ministry Equipping Session:

Rev. Mike B. introduced delegates to “The Network” and lead a discussion on the benefits of networking, whether face-to-face or on-line. Check out the denominational resources at “The Network” by going on-line at <http://network.crcna.org/> and maybe even join in discussions as a member.

Appointments:

- **Rev. Richard B.** was appointed a member of the Classis Executive Committee which means he will be Vice Chair of classis this coming year. **Rev. Kobie d.P.** will be Chair of Classis, while **Rika V.L.** will be Past Chair.
- **John M.** was appointed interim Ministry Coordinator starting July 1, 2011 for a year while **Elizabeth G.-K.** goes on maternity leave. John remains Stated Clerk as well.
- **Cor B.** was reappointed Treasurer of Classis for another three years.
- **Rev. Ted B.** was appointed to the Classis Candidacy Committee for a three year term to fill the space left by **Rev. Dirk E.** who is moving from Classis.

Classis Committee Reports:

- **Classis Nominating Committee** is seeking new members for several Classis committees. Churches are urged to review the list of vacancies that were in the Classis Agenda and nominate gifted individuals for those ministry committees. If you would like to be involved, contact your pastor or the clerk of your council.
- **Martin S.**, chair of the **Classis Home Missions Committee** reported on initiatives they are busy with. Classis also heard from **Rev. John B.** who reported on his early work as church planter in Milton; getting to know the community. Pray for this new ministry.
- **Bart V.**, reported for the **Classis Youth Committee** and encouraged churches to pray for the 800+ youth who will gather on the May long weekend at the All Ontario Youth Convention.
- **Rev. Daryl D.K.**, on behalf of the **Classis Candidacy Committee**, introduced three motions, which Classis supported, giving financial assistance to three students studying to become Minister of the Word.
- **Peter N.**, represented the **Classis Race Relations Committee**. This coming year they will engage someone to do an external evaluation of their work over the past few years. Peter encouraged people to support the annual All Nations Heritage service which will take place at Meadowvale Community CRC in October.
- **Rev. Gary V.L.**, represented the **UofT Campus Ministry Committee** and told Classis of some

staffing changes in that ministry. **Dr. Brian W.** will use half of his time next year to develop an Urban Ministry educational program. **Sara D.M.** will move from being an emerging leader funded by Home Missions to continue on, now as interim part-time chaplain, for the next year.

- **Cathy d.P.**, chair of the **Classis Finance Committee**, presented the 2010 audited financial statements which were then approved by Classis. Classis also approved Withey Addison as auditor for 2011. Classis Treasurer, **Cor B.**, also presented a financial update.

Guest Reports received:

- **Ida M.**, Director of **CRWRC** – Canada Office, and board chair **Dennis J.**, addressed Classis, telling of the impact that CRWRC staff have on communities around the world. Classis was updated on the sudden CIDA funding changes and the severe financial impact on CRWRC. Funding should be back to normal next year. Shortfalls reported late last year have been nearly made up with cuts and many extra donations, for which they are thankful.
- **Rev. Erick S.** spoke about the Leadership Development Network which has changed from a three year program to a two year program. He encouraged churches to look at this program for training lay leaders in their congregations.
- **Peter N.**, CRCNA board member for our region, led a discussion with delegates on the recent leadership changes in the denomination and the transition processes that are ongoing.

Other Items of Note:

- A request from **Doug V.K.** to be declared eligible for a call as Minister of the Word was approved by Classis.
- **David L.** was examined and approved for ordination as a Ministry Associate at **Oakville ClearView** for his position as Worship Pastor.
- **Rev. Timothy C.**'s request to be honourably retired was approved by Classis. On behalf of Classis, Rev. John Tenyenhuis spoke words of thanksgiving for God's use of Rev. Chan's gifts over the years. He will continue in ministry to Chinese immigrants via **Scarborough Grace**.
- Classis approved the request from **Barrie Covenant**, to allow their pastor, **Rev. Gregg M.**, to honourably retire, allowing him to attend to aging parents. Rev. Daryl DeKlerk spoke words of appreciation for Gregg on behalf of Classis.
- **Rev. Martin B.**'s request was approved by Classis for a year's extension to seek a call. He has begun a D.Min. program of study on the subject of missions.
- Classis heard reports from the **Classis Ministry Committee, Classis Executive Committee, Stated Clerk and Ministry Coordinator**. Classis approved having the Ministry Coordinator attend on normally scheduled church visits to allow for that person to help Classis support and journey with each congregation in their joys and sorrows.
- Both **The Lighthouse** and **CRC Extension Fund** held 30 minute annual meetings, with the delegates to Classis forming the membership of each organization.
- Classis approved an Ad Hoc committee's recommendations for Classis to support the urban missional work of **Rev. Steve F.**

Next Meeting:

Classis meets for its next regular meeting on **October 6, 2011** at **Richmond Hill Community**.

Notes by John M., Clerk. Questions/comments? Email clerk@classistoronto.org or call 416-587-7998.