



CLASSIS NIAGARA OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



Website: classisniagara.ca; e-mail: statedclerk@classisniagara.ca

82nd session (1st session: September 24, 1986)

Wednesday, February 16, 2011; 2:00 P.M.

Mountainview Christian Reformed Church, Grimsby, ON

Chairman: Rev. Gregory Fluit; **Vice-chairman:** Rev. Ryan Braam; **Stated Clerk:** John TeBrake

DELEGATES, PLEASE NOTE:

1. Please bring your Classical Credentials with you to the meeting.
2. If this is your first time as a delegate to a Classis Niagara session, please read and sign the Form of Subscription prior to the meeting.

There will be a designated table for both the above

NOTE 1:

During this meeting of Classis Niagara, Minister and Elder Delegates to Synod of 2011 (June 10 to June 16) need to be chosen. Please see Appendix A on page 9 of this agenda with respect to rules and procedures Re Delegates to Synod.

The first minister delegate is to be chosen by free-vote election. The second minister delegate is to be chosen in rotation and for 2011 is **Rev. Steven deBoer**, Providence CRC in Beamsville

The following ministers were chosen by election (E) and rotation (R) for Classis Niagara delegates for the years shown:

2010: Revs. Rudy Ouwehand (E) and Derek Bouma (R)

2009: Revs. André Basson (E) and Ryan Braam (R)

2008: Revs. Jim Dekker (E) and Greg Fluit (R)

2007: Revs. Derek Bouma (E) and Harold Winter (R)

2006: Revs. Andrew Beunk (E) and Jim Dekker (R)

Please indicate any nominations for ELDER DELEGATES, including why they are being nominated, on the reverse of your classical credential forms.

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and opening devotions**
2. **Constitution of Classis** by the Chairman, Rev. Gregory Fluit
 - Credentials/roll call presented by the host church, Mountainview CRC
 - Acknowledgment of signing of first-time delegates.
 - Declare Classis constituted
3. **Time schedule:** meeting will **commence at 2:00 P.M.** Dinner is planned to be from 6:00 to approximately 7:15 P.M. Breaks will be scheduled at the call of the Chairman. Scheduled speakers include:
 - Ms. Tammy Heidbuurt - Community Ministry Developer, Diaconal Ministries of Canada

4. Committee appointment confirmations:

- 4.1 Credentials: Providence (to chair) and Bethel
- 4.2 Advisory re overtures: Mountainview (to chair) and Rehoboth (No overtures have been received as of due date)

5. Classical Administrative Committee Reports

- 5.1 Executive Committee (*page 3*)
- 5.2 Stated Clerk / correspondence (*pages 4-6*)
- 5.3 Treasurer's report
- 5.4 Classis Ministry Leadership Team
- 5.5 Classical Nominating Committee (*page 6*)
- 5.6 Safe Church Team
- 5.7 Church Counselor reports: Rev. David Tigchelaar, re Fruitland; Rev. Greg Fluit, re Mountainview; Rev. Ryan Braam, re Jubilee Fellowship
- 5.8 Regional Pastors' report: Rev. David Tigchelaar and/or Rev. Rudy Ouwehand
- 5.9 Report of the Ad-hoc Financial Review Committee (*Report is planned to be distributed to churches before January 31*)

6. Classical Ministries Committee Report

7. Brock University Chaplain's Report (*pages 6-8*)

8. Shalom Manor Chaplain's Report

9. Church visitor reports:

- Rev. John Heidinga, Elder George Lunshof – Smithville, Bethany, Fruitland
- Rev. Jim Dekker, Elder Bill Thies – Jubilee Fellowship, Maranatha, Grace
- Rev. Rich Loerop, Elder Cor VanSoelen – Rehoboth, Mountainview, Covenant, Bethel
- Rev. Rudy Ouwehand, Elder Lowell Witvoet – Providence, Riverside, Trinity

10. Report of Credentials Committee

11. Report of Overture Advisory Committee:

- The committee is comprised of delegates from Mountainview (to chair) and Rehoboth. (no overtures have been received as of agenda distribution date)

12. Denominational and Other Reports

- 12.1 Denominational reports
- 12.2 Redeemer University College (*pages 8-9*)

13. Next meeting:

- Date:* May 25, 2011
- Agenda Deadline:* April 1, 2011
- Location:* Grace CRC, Welland
- Chairman:* Rev. Ryan Braam
- Vice-chairman:* Rev. Derek Bouma
- Credentials:* Bethany (to chair) and Fruitland
- Overture Advisory:* Covenant (to chair) and Jubilee Fellowship

Following meeting: Oct.19, 2011; location: **invitation has been extended by Bethel CRC**

14. Closing devotions

AGENDA ITEM 5.1: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Report of the Executive Committee, January 5, 2011

Present: Rev. Rudy Ouwehand (Chair), Rev. Steven deBoer, Pastor Frank Engelage, John TeBrake (Stated Clerk), Emma Winter (Treasurer).

- 1) **Opening:** Rev. Rudy Ouwehand
- 2) **Determine starting time for Classis:** at the October 2010 meeting one of the churches had requested that Classis consider starting their meetings at 9:00 a.m. Churches were surveyed, and the results indicate that half would support a morning start, and half support staying with a 2:00 pm start (one council did not respond). The Executive Committee **recommends** that future Classis Niagara meetings under ordinary circumstances start at 9:30 a.m. Grounds:
 - a) Meetings would normally be finished before the evening
 - b) We have not seen evidence that those who can attend at 2:00 pm could not also be available to meet at 9:30 am
 - c) Meeting primarily during the day time would provide more flexibility in accommodating presentations from ministries and agencies
 - d) Having a lunch during approximately the middle of the meeting, as compared to having a dinner towards the end, would be more relaxed and would provide better opportunities for committee work (e.g., Credentials Committee)
 - e) We recommend 9:30 am so that there would probably not be a need for a morning break which would likely be scheduled with a 9:00 am start.
- 3) **Correspondence** was reviewed and dealt with (see pages 4-6)
- 4) **Finance/Auditors:**
 - a) Status of ministry shares received from churches: Ms. Winter reported that approximately \$45,000, or about 17%, of classical ministry shares has yet to be received. It was noted that one church had indicated that its ministry shares were to be allocated to certain ministries only. This is not consistent with a decision of Classis Niagara in February, 2008: "It was determined that some churches submit a breakdown by Ministry Share of their contributions, while others do not. Since each church should pay full shares, it was moved, supported and approved that churches should submit their ministry shares undesignated as to specific ministries." The Treasurer will inform the church that its ministry shares contribution will be distributed among all ministries.
 - b) Classis approved at the October 2010 meeting: "That Classis' financial statements and records be formally audited each year". The Treasurer indicated that she had sought bids from a number of accounting firms, but for the most part they had not been interested in the kind of work that would be involved. However, one firm, Partridge Iggulden, had indicated interest. This firm is known to our Treasurer and is known to provide fair fees to charitable organizations. The Executive Committee **recommends** that the firm of Partridge Iggulden be appointed as auditors for the year 2010.
- 5) **Ad-hoc financial review committee:** Classis had requested this report in February 2009 for submission at its October 2009 meeting. The committee's report remains outstanding. At the October 2010 meeting, classis tabled the report to February 2011. Rev. deBoer indicated that he had spoken with the Chair of the committee, and that he had committed to having its report available for distribution to the churches by the end of January. Failing receipt of the report by then, the Executive Committee **recommends** that the report be tabled indefinitely.
- 6) **Liability Insurance and charitable organization status:**
 - a) The application to be registered with Canada Revenue Agency as a Charitable Organization has been submitted to the solicitor and we are awaiting a response. Pastor Engelage will follow up.
 - b) Pastor Engelage and Ms. Winter will complete an application for liability insurance to be submitted to Robertson Hall Insurance.
- 7) **Agenda for February 16 meeting** was reviewed and finalized.
- 8) **Next meeting:** February 9, 9:30 a.m., with Revs. Fluit and Braam
- 9) **Closing:** Ms. Winter

AGENDA ITEM 5.2: REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK/CORRESPONDENCE

Summary of correspondence to January 5, 2011

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Action</i>
1	Sept 15	From Rev. G. Dykstra, Executive Director of CRCNA, asking how to give reports from CRC agency and educational board representatives more presence at classis meetings	At the October 20 meeting of Classis delegates and churches were invited to provide their observations about this issue to the Stated Clerk prior to November 10. None did. In the absence of responses from churches, the Stated Clerk did suggest that that the denomination develops a schedule to which Classes and agencies would be expected to adhere, that would indicate when a certain denominational ministry/agency reports to a certain classis.
2	Oct 11	From Rev. Robert Woodyard, 1 st CRC, Lynden, WA, requesting name of the pastor of the church that wrote the overture about the Belhar Confession that Classis Niagara sent to Synod this past summer.	Forwarded the e-mail to Rev. Ryan Braam requesting that he respond.
3	Oct 11	From Keith Knight, Stated Clerk for Classis Huron, requesting participation in a survey of remuneration paid by classes in Canada to the Stated Clerks and Treasurers	Responded with the amounts of Classis Niagara's remuneration. Subsequently received a summary of the survey including that information from 8 classes in Canada. RFI by Executive Committee
4	Oct 21	From Rev. Don Byker, Director of Mentored Ministries, CRCNA, requesting consideration for a placement for student Steven Eckersley	Also received by e-mail; forwarded to churches in Classis Niagara
5	Oct 28	To Sylvan Gerritsma, Rev. Rich Loerop, and Rev. Derek Bouma, to confirm that Classis had approved them as nominees to the CRCNA BOT, Region 4 rep to the Board of Calvin Theological Seminary, and a second term as Region 4 rep to CRWM, respectively	RFI
6	Oct 28	To Ms. Dee Recker Director of Synodical Services, CRCNA, that Synodical Deputies had concurred in Classis Niagara's decisions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admit Candidate Christopher de Winter to the Ministry of the Word in the CRCNA in accordance with CO Article 10 • Release from office of Minister of the Word, Wayne Knight, in accordance with CO Article 17-c 	RFI

7	Oct 29	To Clerk of Council, Jubilee Fellowship CRC, ministerial credentials for Rev. Joan DeVries	RFI
8	Oct 28	From Ms. Dee Recker, that Classis Pacific Northwest released Rev. Paul Park from ministry in the Hebron CRC of Fife, Washington, according to Church Order Article 17-a; and That Classis Pacific Northwest, declared Rev. Andrew Yi eligible for a call to the ministry of the Word in the CRC according to Church Order Article 14-e.	RFI; forwarded to churches in Classis Niagara
9	Oct 29	To Rev. James Dekker and Mr. William Thies, confirming Classis' appointment of them to the Classical Ministries Leadership Team	RFI
10	Nov 3	To Rev. Gerard Dykstra, Executive Director of CRCNA, completed questionnaire for Yearbook 2011	RFI
11	Nov 4	From Rev. Don Byker, Director of Mentored Ministries, CRCNA, promoting pastoral ministries internship programs	RFI; forwarded to churches in Classis Niagara
12	Nov 22	From Rev. Al Mulder, Stated Clerk for Classis Grand Rapids East, survey among classes about the practice of <i>Classis Contracta</i> and whether we would prefer the option to hold such a meeting without prior concurrence from Synodical Deputies when there are frequent meetings primarily for the examination of candidates	Responded that this is not an issue in Classis Niagara, and that our classis had never conducted an examination in a Classis Contracta.
13	Dec 9	From Hans Kater, Diaconal Ministries Canada, requesting to address Classis at its February meeting	On agenda for Feb 16 meeting
14	Dec 9	From Ms. Dee Recker, a new document detailing the "Role of Counselor" [for vacant churches]	Forwarded to the church counselors presently serving in Classis Niagara, and the clerks of the churches seeking pastors. Also forwarded to active pastors and the clerks of all councils.
15	Dec 16	From Rev. Rob Datema, Executive Director, Lighthouse, Toronto, requesting to address Classis	Declined as this is not a Classis Niagara or denominational agency
16	Dec 24	From Redeemer University College, notice re 24 th Annual Ministers' Conference, March 1, 2011; and other events	RFI; apparently also mailed to pastors
17	Dec 27	From Ms. Gayla Postma, News Editor for the Banner, asking about which churches in our classis are churches that are primarily made up of ethnic minority members, are ethno-specific or are at least 20 to 30 percent multi-racial.	Responded that there are no churches in Classis Niagara that are either largely ethnic minorities or 20 to 30% multi-racial.
18	Nov 11	From Mr. Rick Struik, Stated Clerk for Classis Alberta North, asking what other classes in Canada are charging for Classical Ministry Shares	Forwarded the Ministry Shares section from our 2011 budget

19	Oct 28 to Dec 7	Request from denominational office of Synodical Services that they prefer the names of two nominees for the BOT (Classis Niagara had approved only one, Mr. Syl Gerritsma).	<p>The Nominating Committee was requested to provide additional names.</p> <p>The Nominating Committee provided three names of which two are unable to serve. The Executive Committee approved to forward the name of Mr. John TeBrake as the second nominee.</p>
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AGENDA ITEM 5.5: REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Classical Nominating Committee. *(Received Dec 8, 2010, after the Office of Synodical Services requested that there be more than one nominee for Classis Niagara representative on the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA)*

On behalf of the Nominating Committee we recommend the following names for the Board of Trustees (BOT):

Sylvan Gerritsma of Jubilee CRC, and John TeBrake of Bethany CRC. The following names have also been forwarded to us: Mark Eshuis of Trinity CRC and Don Nelson of Bethany CRC . These last two names which have not been approached by the committee came from Grand Rapids.

Thank you.

Chair of the Committee: Cor Van Soelen

Subsequent information: *Mr. Gerritsma’s name was already presented to and approved by Classis at its October 2010 meeting. Of the other three nominees presented above, Mr. Nelson and Mr. Eshuis indicated their inability to have their names stand. The Executive Committee approved to forward the name of Mr. John TeBrake as another nominee.*

AGENDA ITEM 7: BROCK UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN’S REPORT

Dear Members of Classis,

One of the valuable lessons I’ve learned from being a campus minister is the importance of always staying in touch with everyone who is still or has ever been involved in one way or another in my ministry, whether it be students, faculty, or staff.

Unlike congregational ministry where the pastor sees most of his congregation in at least one of the worship services on Sunday, it seldom, if ever, happens that the campus minister is able to meet all the students, faculty, and staff he has contact with at a regular time every week and all at once. It is just impossible to coordinate their different schedules. As a result, campus ministry is more often than not about meeting people in much smaller groups and at different times of the week. Quite a few of the students currently connected with the CRC campus ministry at Brock can’t make it to any of our weekly meetings or events and, as a result, I meet with them individually from time to time.

Recently, a student I haven’t seen for some time, but with whom I have stayed in contact, suggested we meet in - of all places - a bar on campus. She explained that she had already exceeded her coffee quota for the day and would prefer something alcoholic. Although it was a public place and she was, after all, a graduate student, I felt quite awkward, to say the least, about having a drink at 3 in the afternoon. At least it was a Friday afternoon, or so I tried to rationalize it for myself. However, as it

turned out we had an amazing conversation not only about her studies, but also about faith (she happens to be someone who takes her Christian faith very seriously and who attends church regularly, but who, like so many young adults these days, experiences a disconnect between Sunday worship and the issues she encounters in her daily life).

She just happens to be one of the many students who prefer to meet with me one-on-one, sometimes in the most unlikely of places. In April, I spent almost a whole day with another student who, like me, happens to be a cycling enthusiast, at a major cycle fair in Toronto. Although we hardly discussed faith issues, I saw it as an excellent opportunity to connect with him in a context in which both of us felt comfortable and to make it easier for him to connect with me as campus minister and to want to become more involved in the ministry.

Very few people outside campus ministry realize that every year the ministry loses students who graduate. In fact, in congregational ministry it would be the equivalent of having a totally new congregation every four years! As a result, we believe it is only fair that the size of this ministry should be calculated not just in terms of the number of students currently connected with it (not to mention permanent faculty and staff), but also in terms of the number of students who have already graduated. In other words, it should include every student whose life has in some way been touched by this ministry while he or she was a student at Brock. There can hardly be any doubt that once all the numbers have been added up the total will far exceed the size of even the largest CRC congregation anywhere!

Although no one is irreplaceable, the senior students who graduate every year usually happen to include some of our most experienced student leaders. What is amazing is that despite this constant haemorrhage of students, Brock CRC Campus Ministry is still growing in the number of its current students (once again, this does not even include staff and faculty). While the departure of a core group of students with amazing leadership potential (as will be the case especially at the end of this academic year) will leave a significant void in the ministry, it will at the same time also open the way for a new team of ministry leaders with fresh ideas to step into the breach and take the ministry into a new direction. As a matter of fact, we currently have no less than five student leaders, each one bringing a unique set of ideas and qualities, not to mention enthusiasm, to the ministry.

Campus Ministry has also brought home to me the importance of allowing young adults to take the initiative and trusting their abilities. Since I came to Brock, I felt the need for some kind of semi-traditional worship service, at least once per term. It is something most CRC campus ministries have given up on. However, this year I decided to approach the two Christian student clubs on campus and to ask them to make it happen. I realized that only if I left it to them to plan and organize was it going to get off the ground. With amazing enthusiasm they got together and worked out a complete liturgy for an end of term / Advent worship service in the Lutheran chapel on campus. Given the short notice, it was not surprising that not many students showed up (at least twenty attended, which wasn't bad for a time of the year when students are hard at work preparing for exams). Nevertheless, it was a truly moving experience. I left it up to the students to decide what my role, if any should be, and as a result I ended up only giving the final blessing! The short meditation was perhaps not exegetically or dogmatically a hundred percent sound, but far more important to me was the fact that it was given by a student who otherwise would probably not even have bothered to participate or even show up. Even more gratifying is the fact that everyone was agreed that it should become a Brock tradition. Just as a matter of interest, it did surprise me though how few students were still familiar with the organ as part of a worship service. When I suggested that at least one or two hymns be sung to organ accompaniment (I had already invited a very talented young organist to participate in the service and what an amazing job he did), the students were somewhat intrigued and only agreed out of curiosity, since to many of them it was something quite unusual.

I am also very pleased to report that the biweekly Toonie Suppers have been a great success, with a number of students who attend varying between 10 and 20. This is exactly the number we prefer. Too many students would make it difficult to connect and build relationships, which is one of the reasons we abandoned the cookie ministry in the first place. At almost every Toonie Supper, at least two or three new students have showed up. For the six or seven Toonie Suppers scheduled for the second term, Brock's Ecumenical Chaplaincy has already lined up enough congregations to provide all the meals (the CRC Campus Ministry was responsible for the first term).

It's also been a very busy past few months in other respects in Brock CRC Campus Ministry. Apart from our regular Thursday discussion groups, we've had at least two weekend retreats, not to mention the number of social events. During the term we also hosted a visit by Mike Vennema of the

CRWRC who spoke to us about his work in Laos as well as a visit by the new Home Missions Educational Ministries Director, Mark Wallace. Mark spent a whole day at Brock and was also given the opportunity to meet with all the student leaders as well as representatives of Brock Christian Fellowship and Brock Campus for Christ to hear their views about the ministry. To allow everyone to speak more openly, the Campus Minister did not attend this part of the discussion. At the end of Mark's visit, it was agreed that Home Missions should be invited to do a formal evaluation of the ministry in the very near future.

In all the years I have been at Brock, no ministry opportunity has been as challenging as accepting an invitation to speak to the students of Brock Pride (the club for gay, lesbian, and transsexual students). For many years, I was able to come up with all kinds of excuses not to attend any of their meetings. But finally, I discussed it with my regular students as well as with my committee and I explained to them that I believed I have also been called to be a minister to students whose conception of sexual identity was quite different from what we believe to be the Biblical one. While not many Brock Pride students attended when I gave my talk, I consider it nevertheless one of the most moving experiences of my ministry. I simply tried to explain the difference Jesus made in my life and hoped that by so doing they would see something of Him in me and feel the warmth of His love for every sinner. I realize it will never be easy to connect with the students of Brock Pride. There is just too much mistrust on both sides for that to happen overnight. The best I can hope and pray for is that this ministry will be just one of many ways in which the Holy Spirit will continue to work in the lives of these students on the Brock campus.

Apart from teaching, I have also tried to accept as many invitations to preach in congregations of Classis Niagara as my ministry at Brock would allow. Just over Christmas and New Year alone, I preached no less than four times (Christmas and New Year's Day in Jubilee CRC, and the day after Christmas in Covenant CRC and Bethel CRC). I have also been approached (informally) to preach in Covenant CRC during the summer while Pastor Jim Dekker is on sabbatical leave.

Finally and as always, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the congregations of Classis Niagara for their generous support of this ministry, both financially and through their prayers and personal involvement.

Submitted in Christ
André Basson
Brock CRC Campus Minister

AGENDA ITEM 12.2: REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE REPORT

Greetings from Redeemer University College. After a busy start to the Fall semester, we have many reasons to give thanks to God.

We have a total enrolment of 955 students (915 full-time equivalent), an increase of 40 students over last year. We again have received excellent grades in student satisfaction surveys, including the *Globe & Mail's* annual "University Report," October 25, and *Maclean's* report of Canadian University Survey Consortium, November 22, 2010. Among other high scores, Redeemer scored second in the nation on student satisfaction with "quality of teaching" and on creating a nurturing academic environment.

We are encouraged by the spiritual, intellectual and cultural vitality on our campus. Our theme for the 2010-11 year, "*Pray without ceasing*," is being woven throughout Redeemer's life in a variety of ways: weekly devotionals, chapel, communal discernment prayer, a faculty spiritual formation project, prayer week, and a hoped-for revitalization of student small group activities on campus.

We enjoyed a celebrative inauguration weekend on November 5 & 6. More than 330 guests attended the dinner, 500 attended the ceremony, 33 visiting Academic Officials participated, and more than 95 institutions sent formal greetings. I have also attended three welcome receptions in Ottawa, London and Belleville in October and November, as well as several classis meetings this Fall. These have been wonderful opportunities to meet alumni and members of our supporting community.

Our campus has experienced many other highlight events, including much interest in our CLEAR program, the “Refresh and Renew” worship conference, symposia on Charlotte Mason hosted by our Education Department and on “Scouting the Future” offered by the Paideia Center, and conferences on “Liberty or Liability: The future of Institutional Religious Freedom” (October 27, with the Cardus Centre for Cultural Renewal) and on “Spiritual Formation in the Trenches” (November 4-6, ARIHE). We also have been blessed with excellent performances of our Artists’ Music Concert, the Theatre production of Dylan Thomas’s *Under Milkwood*, and a “Christmas Kaleidoscope” concert.

The Administration Wing reorganization project is complete with only minor deficiencies remaining and a contract has been signed for the solar panel system. Work continues on our soccer complex, although wet weather and delays from the City have slowed the project down some, but we still expect to achieve substantial completion by March 31, 2011.

For next academic year, we are seeking tenure stream replacement faculty in Business, Education, Psychology, and Religion and Theology. Mentoring of new faculty and part-time faculty continues very capably under the supervision of Dr. Jitse van der Meer. We also celebrated the inauguration of Dr. Deborah Bowen and will celebrate the inauguration of two other professors as well, Drs. Jim Vanderwoerd and Kevin VanderMeulen.

We look forward to having many of you attend the 24th annual Ministers’ Conference on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, with Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, general secretary of the Reformed Church of America, as our guest speaker (to register, e-mail advancement@redeemer.ca, subject line: Minister). Please check our website at www.redeemer.ca for updates about these and other events, lectures, and concerts.

We indeed have many reasons to praise the Lord. We thank you again for your ongoing support of Redeemer through prayer and giving. May the Lord bless you in your ministry, and may you enjoy His joy and peace during this Christmas season as we celebrate the gracious gift of our Saviour and Lord.

Dr Hubert R. Krygsman, President

APPENDIX A: EXCERPT FROM RULES AND PROCEDURES RE DELEGATES TO SYNOD

G. DELEGATES TO SYNOD

1. At its January [now February] meeting, Classis shall appoint one minister delegate and alternate by a rotation schedule, and one minister delegate and alternate by the free vote method. (*Jan 21, 2001*)
At its meeting of Sept. 17, 2003, Classis approved the following process:
 - the first minister delegate is elected by free vote;
 - the minister having the greater than 50% of the votes and the highest number of votes would be the first minister delegate
 - the minister with the next highest number of votes would be the first minister alternate
 - the minister with the third highest number of votes would be the second minister alternate
 - then the second minister delegate is chosen by rotation, in alphabetical order of location of church. If a minister is unable to serve or if the church is vacant, the rotation moves to the next in alphabetical order
 - A minister shall have served the churches of classis Niagara for at least 12 months before being eligible to be delegated to Synod.
2. Councils are encouraged to submit the names of elders willing and able to serve in this capacity on their credentials to the February meeting of Classis.
3. Elder delegates may request reimbursement for lost wages up to the amount determined by Classis.