



CLASSIS NIAGARA OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



Wednesday, February 20, 2008; 2:00 P.M.
Covenant Christian Reformed Church, St. Catharines

Chairman: Rev. Ryan Braam; **Vice-chairman:** Rev. Steven deBoer; **Stated Clerk:** John TeBrake

PRIOR TO MEETING, Delegates:

1. Please submit your **Classical Credentials to the host church (Covenant)**
2. If this is your first time as a delegate to a Classis Niagara meeting, please read and sign the **Form of Subscription**.

There will be a designated table for both the above

Note: During this meeting of Classis Niagara, Minister and Elder Delegates to Synod of 2008 (June 14 to 21) need to be chosen. Please see the bottom of page 2 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 2008 is **Rev. Greg Fluit** of the Smithville CRC

The following ministers were Classis Niagara delegates for the previous four years:

2007: Revs. Derek Bouma (E) and Harold Winter (R)
2006: Revs. Andrew Beunk and Jim Dekker;
2005: Revs. Derek Bouma and Walt VanderWerf;
2004: Revs. Pieter Heerema and André Basson;
2003: Revs. Jerry Hoytema and Walt VanderWerf;

PLEASE INDICATE ANY NOMINATIONS FOR ELDER DELEGATES ON THE REVERSE OF YOUR CLASSICAL CREDENTIAL FORMS.

Rev. Jack Vos will facilitate a discussion in response to several Article 41 Questions submitted by churches on their credentials over the past several meetings. The focus of the discussion will be dealing with fringe/delinquent members, uninterested and inactive members, uninvolved members.

1. **Welcome and opening devotions**
2. **Constitution of Classis** by the Chairman, Rev. Ryan Braam
 - Credentials/roll call presented by the host church, Covenant
 - Acknowledgment of signing of first-time delegates
 - Declare Classis constituted
3. **Time schedule:** meeting will **commence at 2:00 P.M.** Dinner will be from 6:00 to approximately 7:15 PM. Breaks will be scheduled at the call of the Chairman. Scheduled Speakers:
 - Ryan and Amanda VanGeest, re Missionary Aviation Fellowship
 - Wendy Gritter, re New Direction Ministries of Canada
4. **Committee appointment confirmations:**
 - 4.1 Credentials: Covenant (to chair) and Jubilee Fellowship
 - 4.2 Advisory re overtures: Maranatha (to chair) and Trinity (there have been no overtures received at the time of preparation of this agenda, though there is a high possibility that one will be distributed prior to the meeting)
5. **Classical Administrative Committee Reports**
 - 5.1 Classical Interim Committee (*page 3*)
 - 5.2 Stated Clerk / correspondence (*page 4*)
 - 5.3 Classical Finance Committee
 - 5.4 Classis Ministry Leadership Team
 - 5.5 Classical Nominating Committee

- 5.6 Safe Church Team
- 5.7 Church Counselor reports: Rev. Duane VanderLaan, re Maranatha
- 5.8 Liaison Committee, re Maranatha
- 5.9 Regional Pastors' report: Rev. Peter DeBruyne and/or Rev. Rudy Ouwehand

6. Classical Ministry Committee Report

- Brock Campus Ministry Committee Report (page 4)

7. Brock University Chaplain's Report (page 5)

8. Shalom Manor Chaplain's Report (page 7)

9. Church visitor reports:

Rev. Rudy Ouwehand, Elder Lowell Witvoet – Smithville, Bethany, Fruitland, Bethel
Rev. Henry Eshuis, Elder Cor VanSoelen – Jubilee Fellowship, Maranatha, Grace
Rev. Jim Dekker, Elder Bill Thies – Rehoboth, Mountainview, Trinity
Rev. Jerry Hoytema, Elder John VanHoffen – Providence, Riverside, Covenant

10. Report of Credentials Committee

11. Report of Overture Advisory Committee – no overture had been received at the time of agenda preparation

12. Denominational and other Reports

- 12.1 Denominational reports: (page 8)
- 12.2 Redeemer University College (pages 15)
- 12.3 Sea to Sea Communication (page 16)

13. Next meeting:

Date: May 21, 2008

Agenda Deadline: April 1, 2008

Location: Fruitland CRC

Chairman: Rev. Steven deBoer

Vice-chairman: Rev. Gerald VanSmeerdijk

Credentials: Maranatha (to chair) and Trinity

Overture Advisory: Smithville (to chair) and Grace

Following meeting: October 15 2008 (**Are there any invitations to host this meeting??**)

14. Expressions of thanks and closing devotions

Excerpt from Rules and Procedures Re Delegates to Synod

G. DELEGATES TO SYNOD

1. At its January [thus 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 January meeting of Classis.
3. Elder delegates may request reimbursement for lost wages up to the amount determined by Classis.

AGENDA ITEM 5.1: CLASSICAL INTERIM COMMITTEE;

A. Classical Interim Committee – December 4, 2007

Present: Rev. Jim Dekker, Chair; Frank Engelage; John TeBrake, Stated Clerk

1. Youth Ministry meeting: our classis has been invited to send two people from our Classis to attend a meeting to talk about youth ministry in the CRC, in Ontario. It will be a consultation, a strategic planning time, a time of encouragement, a challenge. The CIC will invite Henry Kikkert and Sonya Wierenga to attend this meeting, planned of January 12, 2008 at the offices of the CRCNA in Burlington.
2. Southern Ontario Leadership Summit, on April 12, continues in the planning stages. Each participating classis has been asked to contribute \$500 for this event. Each council in Classis Niagara has been informed of this and none have objected. Therefore the CIC (via Rev. Dekker) will inform Rev. Bruce Adema of the organizing committee (and our Treasurer, Ms. Emma Winter) that Classis Niagara will pay the requested share
3. Church Visitors for 2008 – Most of the current church visitors have done so for a year or two, though several have been serving for longer. The clerk will, on behalf of the CIC, ask each to continue through 2008.
4. Article 41 discussion – Rev. Jerry Hoytema had agreed to and planned to facilitate a discussion with respect to fringe; non-attending; non-involved; delinquent members in response to the questions posed by councils with respect to CO Article 41, on their credentials. Rev. Hoytema will not be available to do this at the February meeting, and the CIC has contacted Rev. Jack Vos (formerly of Covenant CRC in St. Catharines, presently retired and living in Barrie) who has agreed to facilitate the discussion.
5. Additional work demands/expectations of Classical Ministry Coordinator: Frank Engelage, the Classis Niagara Classical Ministry Coordinator, informed the CIC that his work with Maranatha CRC has expanded to include areas that goes beyond his work as Ministry Coordinator, and does not fall within the realm of being a voluntary member of the CIC. There is a budget allocation for this kind of expenditure within the budget of the Classical Ministries Committee, which is presently not active, and the CIC agreed that Frank should charge, and classis should reimburse, equitably and fairly for this kind of work. CIC acknowledges that this is a specific situation and does not constitute an expansion of the Ministry Coordinator role.
6. The next meeting of the CIC is scheduled for noon on Thursday, January 3 at Bethany. We will inform the remaining members of the Classical Ministries Committee to invite them for this first joint meeting so that we can commence the planning of bringing these two committees together as one committee.

B. Combined Classical Interim Committee and Classical Ministries Committee Meeting – January 3, 2008

Present: Rev. Jim Dekker; John TeBrake; Frank Engelage; Rev. Kevin Stieva; Rev. Harold Winter; Hilda VanderKlippe

This was the first joint meeting of the Classical Interim Committee (CIC) and Classical Ministries Committee (CMC) since Classis agreed that the two committees should continue in the course of merging as outlined in a proposal presented at its October 17, 2007 meeting.

The following matters were dealt with:

1. Correspondence received and sent to date was reviewed
2. We proposed to retain the current schedule of Church Visitors for 2008. We are aware that Rev. Eshuis is currently not in a position to serve due to illness, but decided to leave things as they are pending his future circumstances
3. We finalized the agenda for the February 20 meeting, including several speakers.
4. Discussion re merging of the two committees: It was acknowledged that this is a new beginning for the CIC/CMC and that we and Classis would be going through a transition period. Together we want to support the mandate that was proposed at the October 17, 2007 meeting, and recommend that Classis will approve it: **The Classis Ministry Committee plans and coordinates the meetings and ministries of Classis. It provides regular reports and recommendations to Classis on all aspects of its work.**

We suggest the following as some short-term activities while we plan carefully for the future:

- We see perhaps two meetings per year of all the members of the committee that are (a) partially focused on a specific task, such as developing a budget for Classis; and (b) partially give opportunity for sharing, informing, coordinating, learning together the ministries of Classis. Much of the administrative function of the committee will be looked after by a smaller, yet-to-be designated smaller group
- We will develop the proposed function and make-up of the core administrative group (for example, the function could be essentially the same as that of the present CIC, and the make-up would include just a few persons with some on an as-needed basis from time to time)
- Given the nature and history of the Finance Committee, we would consider developing a recommendation to dissolve that committee, and to include the Treasurer in the membership of the new committee
- To develop a recommendation for the membership of the committee.

AGENDA ITEM 5.2: STATED CLERK / CORRESPONDENCE

Summary of correspondence to January 3, 2008

Note: all items will be available at the meeting of Classis, or can be made available beforehand

From other Classes, for information:

Agendas and minutes from various neighbouring Classes

Correspondence:

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Action</i>
1	Oct 18	To Rev. Gerard Dykstra, Executive Director of the CRCNA, Synodical Deputies' Declaration that they concur with Classis Niagara's decision on October 17, 2007 that the Ministry Associate Position to be filled by Mr. Mike Collins is in keeping with Synodical guidelines for Ministry Associates	RFI
2	Oct 18	From Rev. Gerard Dykstra, Highlights of the meeting of the CRCNA Board of Trustees from Sept. 27-29, 2007	RFI; distributed to clerks of councils in Classis Niagara
3	Nov 21	From Rev. Bruce Adema, Director of Canadian Ministries, requesting names of two people to be sent from Classis Niagara to a meeting on January 12 to discuss youth ministry in the CRC, in Ontario	The CIC has forwarded the names of Mr. Henry Kikkert and Ms. Sonya Wierenga
4	Dec 5	To all current members of Classis Niagara Church Visiting Teams, asking them to continue through 2008	RFI; no declines were received
5	Dec 8	To Rev. Gerard Dykstra, information questionnaire for 2008 CRCNA Yearbook	RFI
6	Dec 29	From the Historical Committee of the CRCNA, their annual newsletter and a schedule of archival holdings on behalf of each church in Classis Niagara. It lists 9 churches in Classis Niagara that have reached significant milestones (25 th or 50 th anniversary); and 8 churches with records overdue	Our Classis currently does not have a Historical Committee representative. A copy of the report will be provided to each church in Classis Niagara

AGENDA ITEM 6: CLASSICAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Report of the Brock Campus Ministry Committee

It has been a while since the Brock Campus Ministry Committee has submitted a report to Classis Niagara – for that, we apologize.

We have been active, however. The committee met 5 times in 2007, four times with Pastor André and once without André.

In the meetings that we have with André, the majority of time is spent listening to his reports, giving feedback on what we hear, and serving as a sounding board for André as he negotiates his ministry on a campus that is both determinedly secular and multi-faith.

The highlight of those meetings is when André fleshes out the stories behind his written report. The opportunity to talk with members of the cleaning staff early in the morning (André knows several of them quite well),

or the requests that André lead memorial services on campus for faculty or students who have died, or the students or faculty who drop by his office in a crisis or just to chew the fat.

On November 3, 07, our committee met without André. The goal of this meeting was to orient and re-orient ourselves as a committee of Classis Niagara. We have had some turnover in membership, so we took time to review the history of the Brock Chaplaincy.

Classis Niagara has a long history of supporting a CRC chaplain at Brock. This chaplaincy position is unique in the CRC, because it is the only university chaplain position that receives funding exclusively through a classis. Other university chaplains have financial support and accountability from Home Missions.

We reviewed some of the reasons why Pastor André was called to this ministry: his love for the Lord and for students; his gifts, academic experience, and solid grounding in a Reformed world and life view; his ability to engage and interact with faculty and his concern for the staff. André also brings passion and dedication to this ministry, being committed to a ministry of presence with long office hours with an open door policy, intentional loitering, and attending many events on campus.

Then we discussed our responsibilities as a committee of Classis. We have a responsibility to Classis Niagara to communicate regularly and effectively with Classis about the Brock Campus Ministry. It is also our responsibility to advocate for this ministry at Classis. The past number of years we have dropped the ball in terms of communicating with Classis as a committee. At this meeting we resolved to pick it up again.

And as a Committee, we have a responsibility to Pastor André, to support, encourage, and pray for him regularly. We are the ones responsible on behalf of Classis to encourage André in using his gifts and hold him accountable for this ministry for God's Kingdom. We made plans to communicate our commitment to André and to Classis. This was done in a meeting with André on December 8th and in this report to Classis.

To further develop our work as a committee, the majority of members plan to attend a workshop Peter Schuurman (an Educational Missions Specialist for Home Missions) is planning for March 29, entitled "What is a Campus Committee?" Topics to be covered include: hiring, reviewing, and supporting the work of a campus minister.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold A. Winter, BCMC Chair

On behalf of the Brock Campus Ministry Committee:

Alan Bennink, Lloyd Burghart, Jake Sneider, Kees Vanderleek, Andrea Zantingh

AGENDA ITEM 7: SHALOM MANOR CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Dear Members of Classis Niagara,

One early morning in late October, I drove up to Cambridge (Ontario) to meet with the parents of a student who had died in a car accident sometime during the summer vacation. I did not know the student or his parents and anticipated only a brief meeting to convey my condolences and arrange for a memorial to be held on campus. But what a moving experience it turned out to be! When I left after three hours, I felt as if I had known the student almost all his life. My visit opened a floodgate of wonderful memories both parents were eager to share. For more than an hour, his mother took me through some of the thousand messages of condolence on the Facebook a few of his close friends had set up for him. The two of them even took me up to his room to show me all his sports awards (he was a star soccer player and played on the Brock varsity team).

We held his memorial in the Rita Welch Meditation Room and it was packed to capacity. The department in which he majored at Brock made little ribbons in soccer colors which were handed out at the door. Brock's soccer coach attended, as well as a number of other VIP's, including the Director of Athletic Services and the Vice-President Student Services. Most touching, however, was the presence of the entire male and female varsity soccer teams in the audience. As I gave my reflection, I felt a lump in my throat when I saw the grief in their eyes. At the same time, I felt uniquely privileged to be able to bring them a Christian message of consolation.

Even when there is a request for a non-spiritual / non-religious memorial on campus, it is still an opportunity for me to make valuable connections, especially with faculty and staff. This happened recently when a member of the Brock Classics Department succumbed to cancer at the height of her career. Thanks to my own background in Classics, I was able to make the memorial even more meaningful for her family who attended and her former colleagues. Shortly afterwards, I received a very touching and highly complimentary letter of appreciation for my efforts from the chair of the Classics Department.

Memorials take time, since they almost always include out of town visits to the family, on campus arrangements with numerous departments, and hours spent on the layout of the memorial program. In each case, it is usually a whole week one has to set aside. However, memorials are also a healthy reminder to the campus minister that

campus ministry is more often than not about committing many hours to making personal connections with individuals on a one-on-one basis in order to foster a community, rather than about running huge programs that involve tons of people!

This fact has also been brought home to me in a number of other areas of my ministry at Brock this past year. Because of my association with the Classics Department, I was personally invited by the Dean of Humanities to give a prayer at the Faculty of Humanities end of the year luncheon. I don't think any campus minister has ever had this opportunity at Brock. What made it so special was that I was asked to do it in Latin (I made copies available in English). When two faculty members threatened to walk out because they considered it inappropriate on the basis of the separation of church and state, the Dean refused to budge and almost commanded me to say the prayer. In the end, the two faculty members did walk out, but from the rest of the faculty I received only praise and from the Dean even a hug!

Although I have been very careful to limit the amount of teaching I'm doing at Brock, teaching opportunities have increased my profile as Christian Reformed Minister in a very positive and significant way, and have opened many doors for me to connect with faculty and staff.

In the student discussion groups that I am conducting on campus, I truly feel blessed by the way in which these have created opportunities for Christian students to connect with each other. Some of the students who became friends as a result of these discussion groups have formed their own basketball team, while others have decided to share off-campus housing next year. Particularly gratifying has been the number of young leaders who have emerged from these groups and will in future play an increasingly important role as co-workers in my ministry at Brock.

Many of these students have had the privilege of going to Christian schools, yet when it comes to issues such as integrating faith and learning, building a Christian worldview, forming a Christian counterculture on campus, or seeing one's career choice as a God given calling, they are surprisingly uninformed. One of the highlights of my ministry this year has therefore been the opportunity to have small-group discussions on each of these topics. The amount of preparation and reading (not to mention the meals I have to cook every Thursday evening) have been very time consuming, but seeing the students respond and grow in their understanding more than made up for it.

A week before the exam, I took a small number of students on a retreat at a Franciscan retreat centre just north of Toronto. The aim was to give them the opportunity to study in a stress-free environment. Canadian students – so I discovered again – tend to sleep late. But no matter how late they woke up in the morning, they were always keen to participate in the morning devotions. In the evening, after watching a movie or playing euchre, they assembled unasked for Bible study and prayer. The retreat was a valuable lesson to the students on how it was possible to integrate one's studies and a healthy Christian lifestyle in a community setting.

A very committed Christian faculty member joins me every Tuesday morning to discuss the relationship between science and faith. In terms of numbers, this may seem hardly worthwhile, but the faculty member in question became interested in meeting with me because he was looking for material he could use when discussing science and faith with his colleagues who did not believe faith is even worth a scientist's time.

The cookie-ministry was more successful than at any time in the past since I have been campus minister at Brock. I would estimate that roughly 400 to 500 students came for coffee and cookies during the ten days that we had the ministry. Many just dropped in for a cup and some cookies, but some lingered to talk about life-issues and even returned later in the week to continue the conversation. My thanks to all the congregations of Classis Niagara who so generously supplied us with cookies. Your support is truly appreciated.

This winter term at Brock, I shall be teaching a large course (approximately 500 students) on Myths of the Heroic Age. It's a very popular elective course which means that it will include students from virtually every department on campus. I will have six teaching assistants to teach the weekly seminars. I cannot think of a better opportunity to demonstrate to so many students the valuable Reformed principle that all knowledge is connected and should be relevant to our daily life.

Since teaching is part of my job-description as Christian Reformed Campus Minister, I would like to request that the remuneration I will receive from Brock for teaching the course (approximately \$5,000) be deducted from my salary. This, I believe, also applies to preaching in Classis. Consequently, I would further like to request that I not be reimbursed at all for any preaching I am invited to do in congregations of Classis Niagara.

In conclusion, I can only be very thankful for the continued privilege of serving God through Classis Niagara as Christian Reformed Campus Minister at Brock.

Yours in Christ,
André Basson

AGENDA ITEM 8: SHALOM MANOR CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

For this report, I will pull up the ministry goals that I articulated in my last (and first) report. I will use it as an opportunity to measure how I am doing; and, I hope, provide you with an insight into what I am doing.

My first goal is to be the presence of Christ, in little and bigger ways, to the residents in Shalom. I believe that being this presence starts with knowing the people. At this time, I have met and visited with all the residents at Shalom Manor. In these visits, the Holy Spirit has created interesting ways for connections to be made. Let me give an example.

I was visiting an old man. He was laying down. His voice was raspy, his breathing strained. I bent down. With my mouth beside his ear, I said, "I'm Fred VanderBerg, the new chaplain at Shalom." His blank eyes communicated that he didn't have a clue what I said. I wanted to run away, but couldn't. With my mouth beside his ear, louder than before, I said, "I'm Fred V-a-n-d-e-r-b-e-r-g. Ik ben de nieuwe dominee at Shalom." I could see his eyes searching the crevices of his brain. He said, "V-a-n-d-e-r-b-e-r-g, van Ate?" (My father's name is Ate.) His eyes lit up!

His knowing my father became the basis of a relationship. Six weeks later, I had the privilege of facilitating his funeral. When a person is dying, my presence in that person's life increases.

I continue to make visits to the residents in the gardens. Most visits have been with those who are sick, and, in one case, dying.

My second goal is to be a meaningful participant on the care management team. This is going well. We continue to meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. In these first months, I have gotten to know many of those on staff. Some have and do stop at my office to chat. I have and do stop at their places of work to chat. Sometimes these chats become ministry moments. Always they increase communication so that the residents are better taken care of.

My third goal is to facilitate grace filled and joyful worship at Shalom Manor and Gardens. As a pastor, I find it hard to evaluate Sunday worship services. Attendance is high. The response from residents is positive. To have a pulse on worship services, the Classis Chaplaincy Committee has established teams to evaluate the services. I welcome this evaluation. Table devotions are a part of worship at Shalom. I carefully search Scripture looking for appropriate passages for every meal. Inspired by requests from nurses to write new prayers, in November I wrote breakfast prayers to accompany the morning readings. In December I wrote prayers to accompany the noon time Advent readings. The nursing staff and residents have expressed appreciation for this. In November we held our semi-annual memorial service. It was a meaningful and beautiful service. In the Christmas season, Shalom Manor and Gardens will have their first candlelight service.

My fourth goal is to be a resource for the families of the residents. My ministry with the family of a parent who is dying has been fairly intensive. This ministry always involves being with the family, sometimes it involves spiritual counseling, sometimes it involves facilitating and doing the funeral service. I enjoy this ministry.

Submitted by Fred Vanderberg

AGENDA ITEM 12.1: CRCNA MINISTRY REPORT TO CLASSES AND COUNCILS



In This Issue

Director of Denominational Ministries
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- Chaplaincy Ministries**
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- Dynamic Youth Ministries**
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- Service Link**
- Race Relations**
- Sustaining Congregational Excellence**
- Sustaining Pastoral Excellence**

Diaconal Ministries

- CRWRC**
- Partners Worldwide**
- Sea to Sea 2008 Bike Tour**

Educational Institutions

- Calvin College**
- Calvin Theological Seminary**

Mission Organizations

- Back to God Hour**
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- World Missions**

From the Director of Denominational Ministries

Since I began my work last September, I have had the opportunity to listen in on the ministries of the Christian Reformed Church. I am amazed at the ministry God has done and is doing through us! It is exciting to see what we have accomplished as we work together and I am truly thankful for this family called the Christian Reformed Church which has been used by God in His Kingdom work all over the world!

As you read the following reports, my hope is that you will also feel the value of being part of something bigger—part of a denomination that has made “creating and sustaining healthy congregations” a priority.

As our ministry plan indicates, this focus on the health of the local congregation recognizes both need and opportunity. Many congregations are struggling. They need attention. They need resources. We need to “see and seize opportunities to be agents of God’s transforming mission, locally, nationally and globally.”

My prayer is that we have the opportunity to walk alongside you in your ministry and to encourage you in your work as leaders in classes and councils. As you read these reports, may you sense our care and concern for your ministry and our desire to provide resources, partner with you, and engage you in the work that God is calling us to. I am looking forward to our work together, transforming lives and communities worldwide!

Abuse Prevention

Because child abuse is a difficult topic, I often use cartoons to offer a little humor. A favorite cartoon has a caption of *Dennis the Menace* asking his parents why the car has air bags if they aren’t used. The concept of prevention is beyond the comprehension of most five-year old children, but adults understand that “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

“Installing” a child safety policy into a church’s youth ministry doesn’t guarantee that an incident couldn’t occur (air bags don’t prevent accidents). However, the message of prevention is clearly a positive one. The congregation that strives to reduce the risk of harm establishes an environment where the safety and well-being of its members are valued. When we value those in our congregation, we are moving toward congregational health and excellence.

The office of Abuse Prevention trains churches to write and implement a child safety policy. For training in your church or classis, contact the office at 616-224-0735 or e-mail swagmanb@crcna.org.

Chaplaincy Ministries

There is a myth that people enter the chaplaincy because they could not make it in “real ministry.” Of course, that is not true. Our chaplains are highly trained and dedicated to providing the best in pastoral care.

In keeping with the CRCNA’s goal to sustain congregational excellence, chaplains receive specialized training. Four quarters of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is required. CPE uses a clinical setting to do ministry, reflect on that ministry, and receive peer and supervisory feedback with the goal of integrating theology with practice.

In addition to the Chaplain Basic and Advanced Courses, military chaplains receive training that follows two educational tracks. The first is military in nature and involves Command and General Staff College, Installation Management, and the War Colleges. Secondly, some chaplains are offered educational opportunities at civilian universities, where they study subjects related to military service.

Most of our chaplains are members of professional, certifying organizations which require continuing education and offer opportunities to advanced status in the profession. Many chaplains are also Board Certified.

As chaplains follow a call to serve a different type of congregation, we thank God and the Christian Reformed Church for helping them obtain the education to minister as professionals in this unique field.

Committee for Contact with the Government

Mike Hogeterp, staff for the Committee for Contact with the Government (CCG), writes: “I once had to meet an MP to discuss an issue that we disagreed on. He said something like: ‘Normally, I wouldn’t open the door for a discussion on this issue—you are here because I remember work your church did for justice in my town 30 years ago.’ We then had a thoughtful conversation on several tough issues.”

This reminds me that seeds sown faithfully bear fruit—sometimes years later and in surprising ways. At CCG, we remember to minister with humility and faithfulness as God completes his work in his time.

With this in mind, the CCG is working to encourage peace building efforts in Canada’s mission to Afghanistan through some exciting advocacy work with members of Parliament and other policy makers.

We are also working on resources for congregations that explore the call to faithfulness in the work of peace and justice.

Disability Concerns

Jake and Gert were both weary. Gert’s diabetes kept getting worse, and her body was wearing out. She already had the lower part of her leg amputated, and congestive heart failure kept her down much of the time. Jake loved Gert and devoted his life to her care, but it was hard.

Excellent congregations care for their members well. But how do you care well for people like Jake and Gert, or the Van Dyk's whose newborn has a severe genetic disorder, or SueAnne whose cancer treatments have dragged on for years?

People with chronic illnesses or disabilities comprise some 20 percent of the population at large and are part of nearly every Christian Reformed Church. Disability Concerns has produced a book for use by councils, care teams, and interested individuals who would like to learn how to care well for people living with these challenges: *The Compassionate Journey: Coming Alongside People with Disabilities or Chronic Illnesses*. (Available from Faith Alive Ministries by calling 800-333-8300.)

Written by John Cook, who has extensive experience both as a care giver and as one who lives with chronic fatigue syndrome, *The Compassionate Journey* helps readers better understand life with a disability or chronic illness and how to come alongside people living with lifetime challenges. It gives encouragement and ideas for caring well.

Dynamic Youth Ministries

Dynamic Youth Ministries builds healthy congregations by helping mold and shape the hearts and lives of children and youth through Cadet, GEMS, and Youth Unlimited programming.

Cadets: In the year 2000, Cadets instituted a new award called the Servant Leader Award. The highest award a Cadet could achieve, it is intended to be the equivalent of an Eagle Scout award in the Boy Scouts. Nearly eight years later, the first such award was presented to Chad Huisman of Kelloggsville CRC (Kentwood, Mich.). His entire congregation took part in the celebration, appropriately so since helping his church in their Sports Persons' Club was one of Huisman's service projects. Through his efforts, he came to understand the significant role he plays in the church.

GEMS: When Carrie and Molly learned about the home for orphan children that GEMS was building in Lusaka, Zambia, they immediately wanted to do something. After talking with their counselors and the girls in the club, they developed a plan that involved their whole church. "Everybody will want to do something," they said and believed it! Indeed, the entire congregation got behind the fundraising efforts of these young girls who made jars of cookie dough and sold them to their church family. Over \$2,000 was raised by girls who believed they could become activists for Christ and believed their church family would help them do so.

Youth Unlimited: Kristen wrote to share how deeply she was impacted by her experience at a YU summer missions program. She recounted feeling compelled to invite an old friend to a Christian concert after hearing a sermon in her church. Mustering the courage to make the invitation and fearing the worst, she was delighted when the friend agreed to go. "I realized that I had just done something that before [SERVE] this summer I would never have even thought about doing. [SERVE] changed me so much! I am a more confident, outgoing, and happy person, but more importantly, I've grown so much in my relationship with Jesus. I will never be the same person, or rather, the same child of God."

Faith Alive Christian Resources

Most of Faith Alive's resources are aimed at helping congregations sustain their excellence. We do that through publishing resources from a Reformed perspective.

Why is a Reformed approach to teaching the Bible important? Consider the following:

- Is the Bible a series of discrete "stories," OR do they find their place in the grand arc of the much greater story of God's saving love for his creation, a story that moves from creation to new creation?
- Are Bible stories meant primarily to offer a "moral" leading to an obedient response, OR do they reveal the faithful covenant grace that points us to God's central redeeming act in Christ's death and resurrection—and ultimately new life in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Do the stories of the Bible demand a human response of faith and obedience in order for God's kingdom to advance, OR does God move people and history toward his sovereign and gracious purpose?
- Do God's people merely await the day when, through death or by Christ's return, they will pass into their heavenly home, OR does God's love for and Christ's claim upon the creation impel us to deep Kingdom involvement in the world?

These contrasts outline a fundamentally different outlook between the Reformed view of scripture and the broadly evangelical view. These contrasting viewpoints deeply affect the way the Bible is understood, believed, and lived out in our everyday lives.

As Reformed Christians, don't we owe our children and congregations a thoroughly Reformed approach to studying the Bible? Without it we sacrifice the unique gift God has given us through our heritage and the opportunity to offer it to the larger church.

ServiceLink

Our denominational ministries are, to put it boldly, excellent. Around the world and around the corner, we see that the lost are being found, the oppressed are set free, the suffering experience comfort, the despairing see hope. God has graciously allowed us to be part of the breaking forth of his shalom.

There was a time when we viewed these ministries as jobs for professionals. With glad and grateful hearts we commissioned evangelists, administrators, development experts or theological educators and sent them out with our blessing, prayers and financial support.

Today we still send experts. However, many people in the pew, with gifts and passion and vision, are also making their way around the corner and around the world as part of the ministry of the CRCNA. They are accountants, laborers, teachers, truck drivers, nurses, and students; and they are serving the Lord.

Every year, ServiceLink Canada helps hundreds of CRC folks find a place to serve with the agencies of the denomination. Experts and gifted volunteers make a great combination! Look up the ServiceLink website (www.crcserviceink.org) for current opportunities to volunteer with CRCNA ministries and read some great transformational stories. It will change your life!

Race Relations

Racism is sin. Thus, racism is a spiritual problem. To be effective in dismantling racism, we must not throw secular solutions at a spiritual problem. Rather, we must use spiritual, biblical solutions.

It has been 13 months since the pilot of the Dance of Racial Reconciliation (DORR) workshops. We have seen the mighty hand of God in this work. Thus far, 426 people from churches, agency staff, seminary faculty, and agency boards have taken the DORR and Widening the Circle (WTC–Canada) workshops. The DORR curriculum has been translated into Spanish and taught in Miami. In addition to Grand Rapids and Miami, workshops have also been conducted in Waukegan, Los Angeles, Newark, Holland, and Palos Heights.

In 2008 the Office of Race Relations looks forward to expanding WTC into the various provinces of Canada beyond Ontario.

Next year, we also look forward to going global—expanding into eight Latin American countries. We now have 31 facilitators across the United States and Canada who are able to guide people toward racial reconciliation, with plans to train more in December and March.

The overwhelming progress of Race Relations cannot be explained other than this: If we honor God, he will honor us. Our office is committed to taking a biblical approach in all our ministries so that God's people in the Christian Reformed Church in North America and in other places realize our identity as God's diverse and unified family.

We rejoice not so much in the progress of our work as in seeing the movement of God and his great power. To God be the glory forever and ever.

Sustaining Congregational Excellence

In early 2007, the Sustaining Congregational Excellence (SCE) program was launched for smaller congregations—100 adult professing members or less. SCE's purpose is to support and strengthen congregations so they can be used by God to transform lives and communities. This occurs through grants, learning events, and coaching.

Grants are available for technology & equipment (TE) and for health & renewal. As of Oct. 31, 74 TE grants were awarded for items that assist ministry—computers, projectors, microphones, hearing assistance systems etc. Even though the amount granted is relatively small (\$1,000), the impact is significant. One congregant responded to the grant by saying, "This is wonderful! You've no idea what a blessing this is to our church! It comes at such a perfect time. Thank you so much for approving it!"

Health & renewal grants are opportunities for churches to think creatively about a project that would foster congregational health. Since each congregation is unique, there is no one project that suits all. Possible ideas include: leadership training, service projects, outreach programs, and youth ministry. Fourteen grants were awarded in August 2007. One grantee reported, "The pastor announced the grant to the congregation two weeks ago. They're very grateful and are excited about the visioning process. What a blessing!" The next awards will be announced on Feb. 1.

Learning events are opportunities for pastors and church leaders to gather with SCE staff to partake in a variety of activities related to healthy congregations. Events have been held in South Dakota and Michigan. Five additional events will be held by the end of June.

In July, funds will be available to smaller churches to hire SCE-recommended coaches to assist them as they seek to cultivate healthy congregations.

Congregational health is vitally important to individual congregations and the denomination as a whole. SCE's role is to nurture health in both.

Sustaining Pastoral Excellence

Congregations are living organisms with numerous parts. While all the parts are important and contribute to congregational excellence, the pastor is a key contributor.

The task of leading a congregation is challenging. Demands are many and never-ending. If pastors are to continue pursuing their calling to the best of their ability, they require support from council, congregants, family, classis, and the denomination.

The Sustaining Pastoral Excellence (SPE) project has been doing just that for the past five years. Over 50 percent of CRC pastors have joined a peer learning group. The groups are a wonderful opportunity for encouragement, support, mutual prayer, learning, and fellowship. Pastors report: "The meetings have improved our relationships within congregations and inside family and marriage situations."

SPE has funded 134 continuing education events for pastors and lay leaders. Topics range from leadership to software applications for sermon writing. A pastor said, "[The event] allowed overworked, lonely and isolated pastors and spouses from small, resource-limited congregations to gather, refocus, and be encouraged in the face of ministries that are very demanding, as well as to be equipped with spiritual tools to remain healthy and focus on long-term sustainability."

Seven classes have received regional pastor grants allowing them to hire a part-time regional pastor. It's been reported that "the health and vitality of pastors and churches in classis have been significantly improved by the work the [regional] pastor has been able to accomplish."

SPE is committed to fostering excellence in pastors who will in turn foster excellence in their congregations.

CRWRC

The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) is the relief, development, and educational ministry of the Christian Reformed Church. Together with the congregations and other agencies of the CRC, CRWRC creates transformation in communities around the globe. CRWRC models a partnership approach and invites the congregations of the CRC to excel in this approach as well.

Playing a "bridging" role, CRWRC partners CRC congregations with communities in need. In North America and abroad, thousands of hours have been logged in disaster response as well as in internships and short term service learning opportunities. Pastors and members are going on Discovery Tours, HIV/AIDS Learning Tours, and to Disaster Recovery Sites, bringing impetus for change back to their congregations. Generosity is ignited—as was demonstrated in the outpouring of support for Tsunami and Katrina victims—and discipleship is strengthened.

Realizing how much more difficult it is since 9-11 for people in North America to develop relationships with people in developing countries, CRWRC is (almost stubbornly) raising the bar. New goals have been established, and opportunities are being created. CRWRC is working to build a support network for congregations that want to form partnerships with sister churches around the world. Dozens of churches have begun to explore this possibility with CRWRC—building healthier congregations on both sides of the partnership.

By 2009, CRWRC aims to place 500 volunteers a year in ministry opportunities, and to develop program initiatives involving at minimum five classes and 100 churches. CRWRC also aims for a 25% increase in the number of congregations using the concepts of *Communities First*—a community development curriculum available at www.faihaliveresources.com.

Thank you for walking beside CRWRC on this journey and for continuing to promote community transformation around the world, beginning with the community that is your own church and neighborhood.

Partners Worldwide

Business people are seeking to be engaged, and searching for affirmation that God has called them to business. Many have not heard that God can use their businesses, their business skills, and their business experience—not just their financial resources—to be Kingdom-builders. It is time to unleash the full power of the business people of the CRCNA to be stewards and transformational agents in this world.

Partners Worldwide has built a network of over 2,000 business people, many of whom are CRC members. Over 200 of these business leaders travel each year to engage directly in the fight against global poverty. They have

direct relationships and long-term partnerships with entrepreneurs in areas of poverty. They often find their lives radically changed through these partnerships. Poverty and advocacy become personal. Spiritual warfare becomes real. Faith is not taken for granted. They are transformed, not only with passion to transform the world, but their own lives, businesses, churches, and communities as well.

With support from the CRCNA Foundation and cooperation with partner CRCNA agencies, Partners Worldwide is launching an initiative to expand the "Business as a Calling" movement. The initiative will begin by developing tools and small-group resources for the businessperson to get engaged, equipped, and connected. To see how you can get engaged, equipped and connected, visit www.partnersworldwide.org or call Greg Elzinga at 616-224-5874 ext. 4390.

Sea to Sea 2008 Bike Tour

The end of January marks the deadline to register as a cyclist in the CRC's Sea to Sea Bike Tour, a nine-week, cross-continental cycling odyssey from Washington state to New Jersey, beginning June 28.

By the time registration closes, we anticipate that this tour will be the largest group of cyclists to ever cross North America. Why should that matter? Because this tour can be about so much more than simply an individual's dream to cycle such a great distance, or even about the CRC's good work in helping the poor.

This project can be a means to bring exposure to the plight of the poor not only for church members, but also the general public. The more people who are informed and excited about loving their neighbor as themselves, the more opportunity there is to bring effective change.

Pray for cyclists, church members and people from all walks of life who will, as a result of this tour, participate in the call to care for the poor and speak out against injustice. For information, visit www.SeatoSea.org.

Calvin College

Calvin's 2007 fall enrollment is 4,224 students (1,039 first year, 99 transfer, and 481 international students (168 of whom are Canadian). Over three-fourths of the first-year class earned merit scholarships. Forty-seven percent are CRC, with students from 48 states, seven Canadian provinces, and 51 countries. Michigan students comprise 52 percent followed by Illinois (8.2 percent), Ontario (4.0 percent), and California (3.2 percent).

Worship is an important part of campus life and chapel each weekday morning is well attended. The Sunday evening LOFT (Living Our Faith Together) service is always packed. This year's worship theme is "Understanding the work of the Holy Spirit." Students attend a range of local churches on Sunday mornings where they participate in many areas of congregational life.

Today's students are more involved in church activities than in past decades—particularly in the areas of service and leadership. Many care deeply about their "congregation away from home."

The two fastest-growing majors at Calvin are the pre-seminary and the International Development programs. This growth comes partly as a result of over a decade of spiritual formation programs through the Lilly Vocation grants at the college as well as through the deep commitment of many students to serve others through international programs and ministries. Many Calvin students will one day serve churches, agencies and institutions, and other non-profit ministries with a passion for Christian leadership and a reformational desire for renewal and shalom in God's broken world.

Calvin Theological Seminary

Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) contributes to congregational excellence in at least two important ways.

First, CTS forms individuals for ministry as pastors, teachers, missionaries, church planters, chaplains, and more. These ministry leaders help congregations by grounding them in a reformed theological understanding of the church and its vision for ministry in Christ. They bring skills to help congregations, individuals and groups bridge the gap between what and who they are and what and who they are called by God to be. Our goal is to be a community of faith that allows Christ to form people into His likeness so their ministry will do the same for others.

Second, CTS provides ongoing learning opportunities for pastors and church leaders to enrich their leadership in the church. Through the courses, seminars and workshops of the continuing education office, many pastors and church leaders benefit from topics that range from leadership and congregational dynamics to preaching and worship. CTS also provides congregations with theological reflection on important current issues in the church, such as children at the Lord's Supper, in the pages of its quarterly publication, the Calvin Theological Seminary Forum. The Forum and many of the continuing education presentations can be found on our website at

www.calvinseminary.edu. If you have ideas for other educational web resources, please contact us at continuing.education@calvinseminary.edu.

Back to God Hour

The Back to God Hour (BTGH) is the media ministry of the Christian Reformed Church. Broadcasting in nine major world languages, BTGH has a long history of reaching millions around the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Recently, BTGH has undertaken several projects that strengthen local Christian Reformed congregations and empower local outreach.

In cooperation with the Korean Council of the CRCNA, BTGH has begun publishing a Korean-English edition of the Today devotional. The first edition is scheduled for release by January 1 of 2008. This bi-lingual publication will be welcome in the homes of thousands of Korean-speaking members of the CRCNA. It will also be a powerful tool for outreach to Korean communities in North America and around the world.

In recent years, BTGH has assisted Home Missions in publicizing the launch of new congregations. Radio announcements reach out to extend a warm welcome to potential members throughout the community.

Building on this work with new church plants, BTGH is now exploring ways to empower media ministry in established congregations. Jerod Clark recently joined BTGH to spearhead this effort. He will train churches in the effective use of media. Through media, congregations can create a sense of presence in their neighborhoods. Congregations can also use media to reach out with the gospel and build bridges that lead to face-to-face ministry. More information will soon be shared with churches regarding this new program.

Continue to pray for BTGH. Pray that these new initiatives will have a powerful impact upon the local church.

Home Missions

Christian Reformed Home Missions (CRCHM) is working hard to help create and sustain congregations all over North America. Our 12 ministry teams across the United States and Canada are effectively partnering with the classes, congregations, and members of the denomination to transform lives and communities.

One of the primary means in which we help create congregational excellence is through our **Mission-focused Churches** ministry. Home Missions encourages all congregations to view themselves as missional churches that celebrate the outpouring of God's grace through their daily ministries. We provide mission-focused grants, seminars, regional festivals, leadership coaching, assessment centers, support networks, and consulting services to local churches.

We also provide additional mission-focused grants for programs, staffing, and technology. During this past year, as part of our Mission-focused Church ministry, forty Christian Reformed churches received program assistance for outreach. Another two churches received mission-focused coaching support. One smaller church received a Heritage Church grant and six smaller Red Mesa churches also received grant funding.

Home Missions' **Small Groups** ministry is another avenue through which we sustain congregational excellence. Through this dynamic ministry, we reach more than 500 Christian Reformed and nearly 400 non-Christian Reformed congregations. Prayer and small group ministry includes leadership and training events in small groups, Coffee Break, Story Hour, Little Lambs, prayer, and evangelism. Home Missions' small group ministry developers, as part of their role on regional teams, interact with pastors, councils, ministry team leaders, and a variety of small group leaders to model and promote renewed vision and relationship-based ministry.

Finally, through the work of **Leadership Development Networks (LDNs)**, Home Missions provides hands-on training for future evangelists and new church developers. Through classis-based partnerships, Home Missions resources three- to four-year, in-ministry training programs through LDNs. Fourteen LDNs are currently in the process of training evangelists in English-, Korean-, and Spanish-speaking communities across North America.

World Missions

As Christian Reformed World Missions (CRWM) helps Christian Reformed congregations fulfill the Great Commission, we face the challenge of keeping churches educated, motivated, and involved. For missions to be effective, the sending church must own the mission and understand it.

In that context CRWM has been working with Partners Worldwide, CRWRC, and ServiceLink to develop a set of principles and to look at developing a curriculum for congregations to use as they send out short-term teams. This type of ministry has become a passion in our congregations, and we strive to help them. Our consultants have produced a missions resource toolbox. The toolbox was sent to our network of mobilizers and will be available to congregations on our website.

CRWM also provides opportunities for youth to develop an understanding and an appreciation for missions through the Summer Missions Program where participants experience field ministry, living and working alongside missionaries.

Because God's church is global, North American congregations are enriched through contact with their brothers and sisters abroad. CRWM takes part in this enrichment process by facilitating partnerships between congregations at home and congregations abroad.

Our staff and missionaries have been busy visiting North American congregations. In an effort to provide user-friendly resources, we offer *Plugged-in to Missions*, our six-part DVD curriculum which addresses topics ranging from Islam to New Age.

Because God calls his church to take the gospel to the ends of the earth, missions is not only a measure of congregational health, but also of excellence. By providing resources, and opportunities, CRWM aims to do its part in sustaining that health and that excellence.

AGENDA ITEM 12.2: REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE



Greetings from Redeemer University College. We trust that you have been blessed during this Advent and Christmas season as we have celebrated our Lord's birth.

Our 25th anniversary celebration on September 29 was memorable and has provided some wonderful times of reflection that remind us of God's faithfulness and of the tremendous strides we have made in carrying out our mission of Christ-centred university education, research and service.

As the first semester of the 2007-08 academic year is drawing to a close, we praise God for his many wonderful blessings. We have enjoyed the milestone of a record enrolment of 885 total students, even though our full-time equivalent numbers slipped slightly to 818 FTE.

We were also extremely pleased to see Redeemer's inclusion in the *Globe & Mail's* annual "University Report Card" published in mid-October, and even more pleased with the high marks our students gave us in many of the important categories. This recognition is an important step in building Redeemer's image and reputation.

We are also looking forward to going live with Redeemer's new website on Thursday, December 6. This will present a much better "window" into the exciting programs, events and resources that Redeemer offers, especially for prospective students. But give us up to 48 hours before everyone will be able to see the new website, the time it takes for all the DNS entries to be updated.

For a variety of reasons, the completion of the interpretative trail system and second soccer field will have to wait until next spring. We continue to seek donations for our *Growing with Integrity* Student Support campaign and have raised \$1.3 million toward this goal to date. This will help us enhance student financial aid and increase our recruitment efforts, including completing the new website.

We are in the process of shortlisting candidates to fill two permanent replacement positions: in Chemistry (and Environmental Science) to replace Dr Henry Brouwer, who intends to retire at the end of the academic year, and in History to replace Dr Darren Provost, who returned to BC. Pray that the Lord will lead us to the right people for these positions.

On November 7 we enjoyed the fourth annual Bernard Zylstra Lectures, given by Dr David Koyzis, who led chapel, participating in a panel and spoke on "*Authority and the Image of God*". We look forward to having many of you attend the annual pastors' conference on Tuesday, March 4, 2008. More details will follow in a special letter of invitation.

Please convey our thanks to your congregations for their prayers and financial support of Redeemer. Their partnership is crucial as we pursue the great task of lifting up the Name of Christ in the realm of university education. May the Lord bless you in your ministry.

Dr Justin Cooper, President

On The Way



CLASSIS NIAGARA AGENDA EDITION

February 2008

The Christian Reformed Church presents the Sea to Sea 2008 Bike Tour: A MASSIVE PROJECT TO COMBAT A MASSIVE PROBLEM

Consider this:

- More than 100 cyclists riding sea to sea in the largest bike tour to ever cross North America!
- \$1.5 million raised in one year to fight poverty.
- Millions of people educated on the complex issues surrounding poverty and its root causes.
- Thousands of Christians motivated to use their time/skills/passion to follow Christ's example of bringing
 - good news to the poor,
 - health to the broken-hearted,
 - freedom for the captives,
 - release for the oppressed (Luke 4).



3 cyclists from Classis Niagara
 Alida van Dijk, St. Cath-Covenant,
 Manley Baarda, Beamsville,
 Ralph DeBoer, Dunnville

CLASSIS NIAGARA & Sea to Sea

The Sea to Sea 2008 Bike Tour is a major undertaking and needs the support of churches and members to achieve its goals related to ending the cycle of poverty for families and communities around the world.

So far, 10 of the 14 churches in Classis Niagara have "signed on" to support the tour (see list at right). That's great!

What does signing on mean? Simply that your church supports the three main goals of the tour:

- raising awareness about poverty-related issues;
- encouraging people to get involved in helping the poor;
- raising funds to support programs that alleviate poverty.

It doesn't cost you a thing, but it helps the tour build momentum before and during the tour. **Indicate your support today!** Call 1-888-272-2453 or use the simple form online by clicking on "List of Supporting Churches" at www.SeatoSea.org.

LIST OF SUPPORTING CHURCHES:

- Providence CRC
- Bethel CRC
- Mountainview CRC
- Rehoboth CRC
- Smithville CRC
- Covenant CRC
- Jubilee Fellowship
- Fruitland CRC
- Grace CRC
- Riverside CRC

as of Jan. 3/08

KEY DATES:

- **Saturday, Aug. 23:** Tour travels from Hamilton to St. Catharines.
- **Sunday, Aug. 24:** Celebration Rally in the Niagara area: a great opportunity to celebrate what God is doing through the tour!



More than 6,000 attended the rally in Guelph, Ont., during the 2005 Sea to Sea tour.

SEA TO SEA DETAILS:

- Nine weeks: June 28—Aug. 30.
- 6,000 kms: Seattle to Jersey City; 110 km/day average. Ride six days, rest on Sunday.
- Celebration Rallies at points along the route, usually on Sundays.
- No fee to participate but cyclists' fund-raising target is \$10,000 (or \$4,000 per stage).
- As of Jan. 3, 160 cyclists are registered, 110 are riding the full distance.
- Registration deadline: January 31 (call to see if there is still room).

www.SeatoSea.org
1-888-CRC-BIKE

Subscribe to "On the Way" to receive regular tour updates by e-mail: www.SeatoSea.org