



CLASSIS NIAGARA OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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

80th Session (1st session: September 24, 1986)

Wednesday, May 26, 2010; 2.00 P.M.

Maranatha CRC, St. Catharines



Chairman: Rev. Duane VanderLaan; **Vice-chairman:** Rev. Richard Loerop; **Stated Clerk:** John TeBrake

PRIOR TO MEETING, Delegates:

1. **Please bring and submit your Classical Credentials prior to the meeting**
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 1:

During this meeting of Classis Niagara, delegates will be asked to vote for one of two nominees to the **Board of Trustees of Calvin College**. Votes from Classes Chatham, Hamilton, Huron and Niagara (which make up Region 4) will be consolidated to determine the elected nominee. The two nominees for Region 4 are:

Dr. André F. Basson, B.A., Johannesburg University (South Africa); B.D., University of Pretoria (South Africa); D.E.A., Université de Provence (France); Ph.D., Université de Provence:

- André Basson has served as a chaplain for the South African Navy and has taught classics and medieval and renaissance studies at the University of Zululand and the Rand Afrikaans University (South Africa), at Calvin College, at the University of Buffalo (New York), and at Brock University in St. Catharines (Ontario). He pastored the Rehoboth CRC (Niagara Falls) and is currently the CRC Campus Minister at Brock University. Dr. Basson has served on boards and committees in South Africa and Canada, including the Research Ethics Board, Brock University, and the Youth Leader Support Team, Classis Niagara. He has been an elder in four churches: Townsview Dutch Reformed Church, Andrew Murray Dutch Reformed Church, the Dutch Reformed Military Congregation (in South Africa), and Niagara Falls CRC (Canada).

Dr. Wytse van Dijk, B.S., M.A., and Ph.D., McMaster University:

- Wytse van Dijk has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in nuclear physics, teaching at Dordt College, Redeemer University College, and McMaster University. He has served on the church councils of Covenant CRC (Sioux Center, Iowa), Immanuel CRC (Hamilton, Ontario), and Fellowship CRC (Ancaster, Ontario). He has also been a frequent delegate to classis. Dr. van Dijk is currently serving on the presidential search committee for Redeemer University College and has a strong knowledge and appreciation for the Reformed Christian liberal arts colleges. His daughter, Deanna, is a professor of biology at Calvin College. He and his wife, Joanne, are members of Ancaster CRC.

NOTE 2:

Also during this meeting, and planned during the evening session, Dr. Peter Borgdorff, formerly Executive Director of the CRCNA, will make a presentation and facilitate a discussion on the Belhar Confession and why the Interchurch Relations Committee of the CRCNA is recommending its adoption as a fourth confession for the CRC. Delegates should be aware of the overture approved in February by our Classis that was submitted to Synod, to the effect that the Belhar should have the status of a document with the same status as "Our World Belongs to God: a Contemporary Testimony", rather than have the same status as a confession (as the Heidelberg Catechism, Canons of Dordt, and the Belgic Confession)

1. Welcome and opening devotions

2. Constitution of Classis by the Chairman, Rev. Duane VanderLaan

- Credentials/roll call presented by the host church, Maranatha CRC
- Acknowledgment of signing of first-time delegates.
- Declare Classis constituted

1. **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:
 - TBA
4. **Committee appointment confirmations:**
 - 4.1 Credentials: Trinity (to chair) and Smithville
 - 4.2 Advisory re overtures: Grace (to chair) and Riverside. (No overtures have been received)
 - 4.3 Advisory re appeal: Providence (to chair) and Bethel. (Tabled from February 2010 meeting of Classis. The appellant has requested to withdraw the appeal; see Executive Committee Report, page 3, item 4b)
5. **Classical Administrative Committee Reports**
 - 5.1 Executive Committee (*page 3*)
 - 5.2 Stated Clerk / correspondence (*page 4*)
 - 5.3 Treasurer's report
 - 5.4 Classis Ministry Leadership Team
 - 5.5 Classical Nominating Committee (*page 5*)
 - 5.6 Safe Church Team (*pages 5-7*)
 - 5.7 Church Counselor reports: Rev. Steven deBoer, re Trinity; Rev. David Tigchelaar, re Fruitland; Rev. Greg Fluit, re Mountainview.
 - 5.8 Regional Pastors' report: Rev. David Tigchelaar and/or Rev. Rudy Ouwehand
6. **Classical Ministries Committee Report**
7. **Brock University Chaplain's Report** (*pages 7-8*)
8. **Shalom Manor Chaplain's Report** (*pages 8-9*)
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 Advisory Committee(s):**
 - Appeal Advisory Committee (Providence and Bethel) re personal appeal received
 - Overture Advisory Committee (Grace and Riverside); no overtures received
12. **Denominational and Other Reports**
 - 12.1 Denominational reports: *provided as a separate document*
 - 12.2 Redeemer University College (*pages 9-10*)
13. **Next meeting:**

Date: October 20, 2010
Agenda Deadline: September 1, 2010
Location: **Shalom Manor** (Rehoboth will be host church, as the calling church of Rev. Fred VanderBerg)
Chairman: Rev. Richard Loerop
Vice-chairman: Rev. Greg Fluit
Credentials: Jubilee (to chair) and Trinity
Overture Advisory: Bethany (to chair) and Fruitland

Following meetings: February 16, 2011 (Mountainview CRC); May 18, 2011 (Grace CRC); Oct.19, 2011
14. **Expressions of thanks and closing devotions**

AGENDA ITEM 5.1: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The following is a report of the meeting of the Executive Committee, April 15, 2010:

Present: Rev. Jim Dekker; Rev. Rev. Rudy Ouwehand; Pastor Frank Engelage; Mr. John TeBrake

1. Opening by Rev. Jim Dekker.
2. **Correspondence** was reviewed and dealt with (see pages 4,5)
3. **Review of Article 41 comments from Credentials:** There have been some questions/observations with respect to: promoting healthy stewardship; stewardship and monetary giving...how do we encourage consistent giving? We plan to have Pastor Frank Engelage facilitate a short time of reflection at our May meeting about stewardship, in groups of churches. We plan to consider thoughts such as:
 - Clarify common understanding of what you understand about stewardship in your congregation;
 - your church's best practices;
 - how does that relate to denominational partnership?
 - how does your church apply it? joys and challenges
 - other considerations
4. **Agenda for May 26** was completed. Specifically:
 - a. We have accepted the offer from Dr. Peter Borgdorff, representing the denominational Interchurch Relations Committee, to make a presentation and facilitate a discussion with respect to the proposed adoption by the CRCNA of the Belhar Confession. We plan to have this in the evening session, and to invite members from our congregations.
 - b. With respect to the personal appeal that was brought forward at the February 2010 meeting, and tabled by Classis to the May 2010 meeting, the appellant has withdrawn the appeal. **The Executive Committee recommends that Classis approve the withdrawal**
5. **Pulpit Supply September 2010 to January 2011:** the Stated Clerk will revise the first draft to take into account more current information, and plans to provide a schedule approved by the Executive Committee prior to the May meeting of Classis.
6. **Ad-hoc financial review committee:** This committee was formed as a result of an overture at the February 2009 meeting of Classis, and was requested to present its report at the October 2009 meeting. A recent communication from the chair of the committee, Mr. Ron Kielstra (of Providence CRC) indicated a report would not be likely for the May meeting; the committee will be reconvened in the first week of May; and extends his apologies to Classis. The Executive Committee respectfully asks the three churches that presented the overture in February 2009 (Smithville, Mountainview, and Providence) to encourage their respective appointees to the Ad-hoc financial review committee to work for a report for the October 2010 meeting of Classis Niagara.
7. **Church visitor teams** (starting winter 2010/2011) were confirmed as follows:
 - 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

We recognize and appreciate:

 - the willingness of church visitors who agreed to continue with that task for another year; (Revs. Dekker, Ouwehand; Elders Thies, VanSoelen, Witvoet)
 - others who have agreed to assume it for the first time in Classis Niagara; (Revs. Heidinga, Loerop; Elder Lunshof)
 - and those who have served for a number of years (Revs. Henry Eshuis, Jerry Hoytema; Elder John VanHoffen)
8. **Medical insurance for staff:** It was observed from the 2009 Financial Statements presented at the February meeting of our Classis that extended medical insurance (dental, drugs, etc) had been discontinued for Dr.

André Basson (Chaplain, Brock University). The Executive Committee recommends that the coverage for Dr. Basson be reinstated as provided for in our budget for 2010.

9. **Announcements re classis meetings in the Banner:** We will not submit these in the future for the following reasons:
 - a. as per recommendation from denominational Information for Stated Clerks, July 2009: “Announcement in the Banner is increasingly difficult and optional due to its monthly distribution schedule. If you have other means – such as e-mail and bulletin announcement – to publicly announce the meeting of your classis, we recommend you use it.”
 - b. Cost is approximately \$75 each time
 - c. Our churches and others have access to e-mail and to our website

10. **Ecclesiastical Credentials for a Minister:** We processed the transfer of ecclesiastical credentials for a Minister of Rev. Wayne Knight from the Crosspoint CRC of Brampton, ON, to the Grace CRC of Welland, ON

11. **Next meeting:** May 13, 9:15 AM, with the chair and vice-chair of the May 26 meeting.

12. Pastor Frank Engelage led in closing prayer.

AGENDA ITEM 5.2: STATED CLERK/CORRESPONDENCE

Classis Niagara of the Christian Reformed Church

Summary of correspondence to April 20, 2010

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 neighboring Classes

Correspondence:

	<i>Item Dated</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Action</i>
1	Feb 16	From Ms. Dee Recker, Director of Synodical Services, CRCNA, background letter and draft of “Covenant for Officebearers in the Christian Reformed Church”. This document was also distributed by her to all councils and pastors for their review, comments and responses	RFI
2	Feb 22	From Muriel Lamer, Admin Assistant, CRCNA, a ballot for voting for a representative from Region 4 (Classes Hamilton, Huron, Chatham, Niagara) to the Calvin College Board of Trustees	Included in Agenda
3	Feb 22	To Ms. Dee Recker, Synodical Deputies’ Concurrence Report that the ministry associate position to be filled by Mr. Frank Engelage fits the Synodical guidelines of Synod 2001	RFI
4	Feb 25	To Ms. Dee Recker, the overture to Synod 2010 from Classis Niagara (re the Belhar) as approved at the February 17 meeting of Classis Niagara	RFI
5	Feb 25	From Ms. Thelma Venema, Secretary, Calvin College Board of Trustees, that they had chosen Dr. André Basson as one of two nominees on the ballot for the upcoming vote for trustees (see also item 2 above)	RFI
6	Mar 09	From Ms. Jerri Batterink, ServiceLink Administrative Assistant, expressing appreciation to Classis Niagara for its encouragement and requesting ongoing support of the program through prayer and financially; also Annual Report	RFI

7	Mar 17	From Ms. Dee Recker, a copy of the BOT Highlights from its Feb 25-26 meeting.	RFI; forwarded to councils and pastors in Classis Niagara
8	Mar 29	From Ms. Dee Recker, re deposition of Daniel Mulder from the Ministry of the Word in the CRCNA (Classis Yellowstone)	RFI; forwarded to councils
9	Apr 01	From Rev. John Heidinga, Pastor of Bethel CRC, Dunnville, summary of a meeting of Pastors of Churches in the Haldimand Tract. It was initiated by Rev. Bruce Adema via a new CRC in NA Canadian committee, formed around Aboriginal issues. In this case the focus is specifically on First Nations Concerns and the CRC Churches [stretching from Dunnville to Waterloo] in the Haldimand Tract. This is just for Classis Niagara's information... Each of the 3 Classes involved (Hamilton, Huron, Niagara) will be kept updated on progress made to date.	RFI
10	April 19	To Council of Jubilee Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, a response to their letter of February 9 with respect to the executive session during the October 2009 meeting of Classis.	RFI
11	Feb 13; Apr 12	From Mountainview CRC, request for examination of Mr. Jon Masselink as Ministry Associate in the position of Pastor of Congregational Care at Mountainview, with examination to take place in the fall session	Will be planned to be on the agenda of the October 20, 2010 meeting of Classis Niagara

AGENDA ITEM 5.5: NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Classis Niagara nominating Committee.

The Committee hereby recommends that;

Classis ratify the following names to the Nominating Committee: Mr Bill Van de Brink (Mountainview) and Mrs Ann Kiers (Bethany) to replace Mr Mel Elzinga and Mrs Sylvia De Vries as they have come to the end of their term. We also ask the Classis to recognize these people for the work they have done.

Also the committee supports the name of Pastor Steve De Boer to the C M C Executive committee to replace Pastor James Dekker as his term is also finished.

Respectfully submitted

Chairman Cor van Soelen.

AGENDA ITEM 5.6: SAFE CHURCH TEAM

The Safe Church team met on Thursday, April 8 and discussed three items that are of interest to classis.

1. Safe Church Representative from each church in Classis.

In 2007, the Classical Safe Church Team (SCT) requested that each church in Classis have one representative sit on the Classical SCT. This representative would serve as a liaison between the Classical SCT and the local SCT. Also in 2007, the Classical SCT urged each church to establish a SCT and implement Abuse Prevention Policies. Classis agreed endorsed these requests and urged each church to comply with these recommendations.

By 2008 most churches had a representative on the Classical SCT. However, since that time, a number of representatives have stepped down from their position and a replacement has not been found. Currently churches that do not have a representative are Trinity CRC, Providence CRC, Fruitland CRC, Covenant CRC and the Village Church in Thorold. Representatives are crucial to the healthy functioning of the local SCT, and over all protection of each local church.

At the February 2010 meeting of Classis, the Classis SCT made a presentation demonstrating the need for each church to establish a SCT, and abuse prevention Policy. The Classis SCT has sent individual requests to each council to speak to the council that we may promote awareness, answer questions and do whatever we can to help each church with this task. Many churches have responded. Some churches have requested our assistance, and other churches have indicated that things are running smoothly. Of greatest concern to the Classical SCT are the churches who have not responded at all, and who do not have a representative on our committee to speak on behalf of that church. Currently the Classical SCT has not received a response from Trinity CRC, Providence CRC, Covenant CRC or the Village Church. The SCT hopes that we will soon have contact and representation from these churches.

2. The addition of fingerprint checks for police clearance certificates

In the February meeting of Classis, a concern was raised concerning the introduction of a fingerprint requirement for police clearance certificates (aka police checks). The police have introduced this fingerprint requirement for greater privacy and accuracy in the reports they issue. Fingerprints will not be required for the vast majority of people, so this change likely will not have much of an impact on the volunteers.

In the past if a clearance certificate showed criminal activity, the criminal activity would be listed on the back of the certificate. This is the main area that has been revamped for privacy purposes. Now, if the clearance certificate finds criminal activity it will say "Based on the information received from the applicant, there may or may not be a criminal record in existence. Information must be confirmed by fingerprint comparison." This statement increases both privacy and accuracy.

They have changed this for privacy and accuracy:

Privacy: if the applicant does have a past criminal offence and does not wish to have this information disclosed, the applicant can then choose to not volunteer in the church.

Accuracy (1): if the applicant has not committed a criminal offence, but a person with the same name has been convicted of crime, fingerprints will properly identify the applicant as innocent. In the past, the innocent applicant would have received a clearance certificate indicating criminal activity when none had been committed by the applicant, but by a person with the same name. Fingerprints remove these instances of mistaken identity. In this situation fingerprints will preserve the good name and character of the person in question.

Accuracy (2): if an applicant has committed a crime, there is a potential that other crimes may have been committed under another alias. Fingerprints link these identities.

There are crimes with a "less severe" in the eyes of the police which do not require fingerprinting upon arrest (such as indecent exposure, vandalism, public drunkenness etc). These crimes will appear on the back of the clearance certificate as they have in the past.

For the vast majority of church volunteers this addition of fingerprints will not be an issue. A "clean certificate will read "Based on the information received from the applicant, there is no criminal record identified. Information can only be confirmed by fingerprint comparison." The final clause is not a requirement for the applicant to provide finger prints. Rather, the final statement is designed to protect the police if the applicant is using, or has used an alias. For insurance purposes, most insurance companies will accept these clearance certificates as adequate, and not require fingerprinting. It is important to discuss these details with the church's insurance provider. If a different report than the one stated above is found, the church will likely jeopardize insurance coverage if they proceed to allow the applicant to volunteer without pursuing fingerprints.

3. Classis to consider allowing the safe church team to have “associates.”

The Classical Safe Church Team members serve three year terms like all other committees of classis. These terms are beneficial because they allow a healthy turn over of members. The Classical SCT has experienced some difficulty with these terms because the Classical SCT members receive specialized training in certain areas. Currently the SCT has people specializing in the role of panelist and educator. In the near future the SCT will have people also specializing in the role of advocate and support. Each of these roles requires specific training and skill sets. Training for these roles typically happens once a year and is a two day course. Many of the SCT members have stated that it takes nearly three years to fully understand the complexity of their role on the SCT. With a three year turn around the SCT is struggling to constantly equip new members in these specialized roles.

The SCT recognizes the wisdom in three year terms and does not wish to change these periods. Currently there are a number of well trained individuals in Classis Niagara who have served the SCT well for years, but currently are not serving. As these individuals have received training in the past through the SCT we would like to see these individuals have a status of “SCT associate.” This status would allow the SCT to call on them in a time of need. If an advisory panel needs to be assembled, and the SCT need panelists, we would like to have the freedom to call on either an active team member trained as a panelist, or an associate trained as a panelist. The creation of an associate position will relieve some of the burden to be constantly training new representatives from each church. Instead, the members who feel passionately about one role can remain in that role as need arises, even if they are no longer on the Classical SCT. A former member can remain an associate as long as that member remains an active member in a CRC of Classis Niagara.

Recommendation: that Classis approve the creation of an associate position for the SCT.

Submitted by Rev. Ryan Braam

AGENDA ITEM 7: BROCK UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MINISTRY CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Dear Members of Classis,

It is now almost an established fact that anxiety levels on university campuses throughout North America are rising at an alarming rate with every indication that this trend will continue and may even accelerate. March and April are usually the worst months of the year in this regard and almost with clockwork regularity Brock loses a student or a faculty member in the last two months of every academic year. This year, we lost three in one week. The effect on a tight-knit community like ours is often more devastating than anywhere else. But in every instance, it is the Campus Minister who is really seen as the point person who can be trusted to bring comfort, to meet with the family, to represent the university at the visitation and the funeral (if it's within a reasonable driving distance), and to organize and conduct the on-campus memorial. In the past few years and for various reasons, the responsibility for the on-campus memorial has fallen almost entirely to the CRC Campus Minister, even in cases where it was the express wish that the whole event should be secular. In the two memorials I have done so far at the time of the writing of this report, I have had a simply awesome opportunity to meet with students and staff whom I would not normally have come into contact with. In both cases, it was possible to engage in truly incarnational ministry and to bring Jesus closer to people who have so far had little if any contact with him in their life.

So many other doors have been opening up for this ministry all over campus that space allows me to only mention one or two. At 10 o'clock one Monday evening a couple of weeks ago, I met with the entire residence life staff at Brock, including all the senior administrators. What a warm welcome I received, not to mention the appreciation for this ministry's contribution to the general well-being of the students in residence (probably somewhere in the region of two to three thousand!). The following day, one of the student staff walk into my office and announced that although he no longer considers himself a Christian, he would nevertheless like to help in the ministry. Since then, he often stops by to discuss means of connecting with even more students, especially in the residences and has also agreed to serve as an emerging leader on our ministry team, starting in the fall.

I am also pleased to report that recently a senior staff person of the largest Christian club on campus (186 members according to their Facebook page), asked to become part of the CRC campus ministry, possibly as an emerging leader. Through my teaching the past year I've continued to connect and establish relationships with numerous members of Brock's faculty, staff, and students, to such a degree that it has now become necessary to

organize discussions and other events for them during the summer, something I've been trying to do since I became Campus Minister.

A chance meeting with one of Brock's professors of marketing brought me in contact with a group of senior marketing students who will be doing a project aimed at helping us change Brock Campus Ministry's image and promoting the ministry as widely as possible on campus. The students who will be involved and I are very excited about the project and what we firmly believe to be its amazing potential.

After a long and arduous struggle with Canada's insurance industry, I am pleased to announce that we now have the necessary insurance to start our regular bi-weekly toonie suppers in the fellowship hall of the Anglican Church of the Transfiguration on the corner of Glenridge and Glendale avenues, just down the hill from Brock. Since news of the toonie suppers began spreading around campus, I have been inundated with appeals from members of local churches (CRC and non-CRC), Brock staff, and most gratifying of all, from students from different faith backgrounds, all offering to help in one way or another. One student whose family, I would guess, is probably Hindu, regularly reminds me to let him know when we'll be starting since he would very much like to help with the cooking.

In short, the next year promises to be even busier and more exciting than any of the previous years. There will also be no shortage of work for the CRC Campus Minister who apart from his responsibilities as Campus Minister and adjunct in the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program, will also be the new Secretary / Treasurer of the CRC Campus Ministry Association of North America (for a three year term only).

As daunting as this workload may sound, I look forward to it with great excitement and anticipation, because I know God is working through this ministry on this campus and also because I am encouraged by the support this ministry continues to receive from Classis Niagara.

Humbly submitted in Christ

André Basson
CRC Campus Minister
Brock University

AGENDA ITEM 8: SHALOM MANOR CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

"a whisper"

I walked into her room the first week on the job, now two and one half years ago. She lay quietly, still one might say. She had been lying like this for fifteen years. Uncontrolled bleeding after removing a tumor from her brain had caused her to be in this state: "Vegetative," the doctors say; "No," the staff says. "She follows with her good eye." Who knows? Her black hair was tied back, a bit severely, I thought. Her complexion was pale. I bent down toward her and introduced myself, spoke a few words and being at a loss for further words, looked around the room.

There were photos, there was a white paper filled with printed words, laminated, hanging on the walls. I moved away from the bed toward the photos. There was a picture of her deceased husband. He had died a few years ago. Cancer. There were pictures of her two, young adult daughters; both with beautiful brown eyes. There was a later picture of one on her two daughters with a husband and two little children. I walked up to the laminated white piece of paper and began reading. It was the story of her life, beautifully written by one of her children. The way the room was decorated, it radiated love. Quietly, reverently almost, I walked back to the woman lying on her bed. Donna was her name. I prayed with her; praying for her, her daughters and her grandchildren. Maybe she heard me, maybe not.

In the month of March, Donna died; a Wednesday night. Walking down the corridor early Thursday morning, I asked myself, "Should I do a remembering-of-her-life with the residents on the third floor? What would I say about her? I've only known her lying in bed, always silent." My first inclination was not to gather the residents together to remember her life. Then I thought, "She had a presence on the floor. The floor was different from other floors because of her. Every time I walked past her room, it is as if I hear a whisper, "Fred, don't forget about me." I decided to do a reflection with the residents.

Later that morning, Wilma, the receptionist, came into my office followed by two young adult women, one with two small children. I immediately recognized them from the pictures hanging in their mother's room. I offered my condolences. We sat down and we talked: about their mother, themselves, funeral possibilities. After we prayed, I invited them to come to the remembering of their mother on Friday morning. They said that they would be there.

After praying for them many times over the past two and one half years, it was a delight to meet them and pray with them.

On Friday morning, the two daughters were there. Donna's brother and sister-in-law from Brantford were there. The CEO, the Director of Care and various nurses/p.s.w.'s from other floors were there. I read about Elijah fleeing into the wilderness, despairing because things had not gone as he had anticipated. I read about Elijah standing on a mountain, about a violent wind, a frightening earthquake, a raging fire and about God being in a whisper. I talked with those

present about hearing the whisper, "Fred, remember me, the least of them." every time I passed her room. I talked about going in her room, looking at the pictures, talking to Donna and praying with her.

When I invited others to reflect on Donna life, I discovered that others too had heard her whisper. For eleven years, a person on the recreational staff had read stories to Donna every week. Another person on the recreational staff, a young person, had discovered that Donna's CD collection almost mirrored the songs she had downloaded on her ipod. Every morning she had gone into Donna's room and put on a CD. Nurses had administered medication and p.s.w.'s had attended to her physical needs everyday while engaging Donna in one way conversations.

That morning, there were more hugs, more tears shed and more love expressed than during any other "remembering" I had participated in! Listening, I thought, "In some marvelous way, Donna has made me a better chaplain, the recreation persons better recreationalists, the nurses and p.s.w.'s better care givers! I discovered that God was in the whisper, like God was so long ago on that mountain. My ministry at Shalom begins by listening for the whispers.

Fred VanderBerg

AGENDA ITEM 12.1: DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES' REPORT

This report is included as part of this agenda in a separate, attached document

AGENDA 12.2: REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE REPORT

REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ~ Spring 2010

Greetings from Redeemer University College. We trust that you had a very blessed Lenten and Easter Season as we celebrated our Saviour's death and resurrection.



As I write this final report, I am pleased to announce that on February 22, the Board of Governors appointed Dr. Hubert R. Krygsman as Redeemer's third President. Dr. Krygsman is currently the Associate Provost and Director of the Andreas Center for Reformed Scholarship and Service at Dordt College in Iowa. His five-year appointment will take effect on June 14, 2010, as I conclude my service as President after sixteen years, and I am enthusiastic about his appointment. I will become the Executive Director of Christian Higher Education Canada (CHEC) on July 1, 2010 and also serve as the part-time Executive Director of the Association of Reformed Institutions of Higher Education (ARIHE).

As the second semester of the 2009-10 academic year is drawing to a close, students continue to be busy with academic work, as well as many co-curricular activities. We have been blessed this semester with a number of speakers—Dr Bob Goudzwaard speaking on international economics and hope for global poverty and Dr Ted Malloch addressing us on the topic of spiritual enterprise, doing virtuous business. Having Dr Stephen Lewis speak has been a divisive issue for some in our community, and we will be including an open letter in our next newsletter in order to clarify some misinformation that has been circulated about this. During reading break some students and staff members participated in mission trips to Mississippi. A number of students and Student Senate participated in and helped organize fund raisers for Haiti and were part of raising \$10,000 for earthquake relief.

So far this year, we have welcomed over 2000 participants to our C.L.E.A.R. programs (Continuous Learning & Education at Redeemer). Pending on approval from the Ontario College of Teachers we will be launching two new AQ courses: Special Education: Communication - Learning Disabilities and Special Education: Intellectual - Gifted.

A feasibility study for a Master of Education program has been launched and we continue to work on plans to submit an application to the province to grant a Bachelor of Health Sciences degree program.

Redeemer's Athletic Department hosted the Ontario College Athletic Association (OCAA) Men's Volleyball Championship Tournament at Redeemer from February 25-27 and our men's volleyball team finished the tournament with a provincial bronze medal! We also had a good response to the Ministers' Conference held on March 2 with Dr. Paul Wilson, professor at Emmanuel College, University of Toronto. The Redeemer Alumni Mentoring Program (RAMP) hosted an alumni/student mentoring event in partnership with the Sociology Learning Community on March 4.

We are truly blessed as a Christian academic community and we are pleased with another year of exceptionally high scores in the Maclean's Student Satisfaction rankings. New student interest continues to be very encouraging and application numbers so far are well ahead of last year at this time, making us optimistic that we will exceed our enrolment projections for September. We have also engaged an international recruiting consultant who is building contacts throughout Asia and is committed to providing us with a number of new international students by September.

We have appointed Dr. Adam Barkman in Philosophy to replace the late Dr. Theo Plantinga and are in the process of interviewing candidates for the Psychology position to replace Dr. Charles Hackney who took a position elsewhere. We are also searching for a new Dean of Students to replace Fred Schat, who is retiring. Dr David Zietsma will become Dean of Arts and Foundations, replacing Dr. Doug Loney, who is returning to full-time teaching.

Work continues to progress on the KIP (Knowledge Infrastructure Program) projects as is obvious to any campus visitors, and we are still hopeful that we will break ground for the new soccer field soon. By the fall, Redeemer's campus will be upgraded and the soccer dome complete, adding to our ability to serve our students and the wider community.

Planning for a number of farewell events are well under way. Closing Convocation on April 7 will be my opportunity to say farewell to our students. The supporting community celebration evening will be held on April 30 and May 12 will be the faculty and staff farewell, followed by a special reception for the broader Hamilton community on May 13 and a special choir concert at MacNab Presbyterian Church in downtown Hamilton on May 14. Check our website for details.

Donation revenues have continued to come in well and Church Support revenues have moved slightly ahead than last year at this time, which we trust will be sufficient to allow us to balance our budget for the first time in several years. We also project a balanced budget for 2010-11. Please convey our thanks to your congregations for their prayers and financial support of Redeemer. Their partnership is crucial as we pursue our mission of lifting up the Name of Christ in university education through teaching, scholarship and service.

I finish my service at Redeemer with a real sense of thanksgiving for all that, by God's grace, has been accomplished, and I am confident that the Lord will continue to bless Redeemer under Dr. Krygsman's leadership.

Dr Justin Cooper, President