



CLASSIS NIAGARA OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



Wednesday, October 21, 2009; 2:00 P.M.
Jubilee Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, St. Catharines

Chairman: Rev. Rudy Ouwehand; **Vice-chairman:** Rev. Jim Dekker; **Stated Clerk:** John TeBrake

PRIOR TO MEETING, Delegates:

1. Please bring and submit your Classical Credentials 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 we are asked to participate in the annual denominational nominating process for boards and agencies of the CRCNA. Classis Niagara needs to deal with the following:
 - Back to God Ministries: current delegate for Region 4 (Classes Hamilton, Huron, Chatham, Niagara), Ms. Alice Klamer, is concluding her first three-year term and is eligible for reelection. If no reservations are raised, her name will be submitted to Synod 2010 for re-appointment
 - Calvin College: Delegate for Region 4 Mr. Peter Schuurman is concluding his second three-year term. Nominations of either clergy or non-clergy are requested for this position
2. It is expected that we will receive a report from the ad-hoc committee on the review of Classis Niagara's expenses (see item 15 (2) of the February 18 2009 minutes)
3. A period of presentation, participation and discussion regarding the Revision of the Form of Subscription Study Committee is planned for this meeting. (See Acts of Synod, 2009, Article 43, II B 2, page 593). Much of this will take place during the dinner hour.

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and opening devotions**
2. **Constitution of Classis** by the Chairman, Rev. Rudy Ouwehand
 - Credentials/roll call presented by the host church, Jubilee Fellowship CRC
 - Acknowledgment of signing of first-time delegates.
 - Declare Classis constituted
3. **Time schedule:** meeting will **commence at 2:00 P.M.** Breaks will be scheduled at the call of the Chairman. The afternoon break will be at approximately 3:30. Dinner will be from 6:00 to approximately 7:15 PM. Presentations are scheduled from the following agencies:
 - Diaconal Ministries Canada – Mr. Hans Kater
 - Christian Reformed Home Missions – Rev. Derek Bouma
 - Niagara Youth Networks – Ron Mulder
4. **Committee appointment confirmations:**
 - 4.1 Credentials: Fruitland (to chair) and Mountainview
 - 4.2 Advisory re overtures: Jubilee Fellowship (to chair) and Maranatha. There are no overtures at the time of the preparation of this agenda
5. **Classical Administrative Committee Reports**
 - 5.1 Executive Committee (page 3)
 - 5.2 Stated Clerk / correspondence (page 4,5)
 - 5.3 Treasurer's report and budget for 2010 (pages 17-20)
 - 5.4 Classis Ministry Leadership Team
 - 5.5 Classical Nominating Committee
 - 5.6 Safe Church Team

5.7 Church Counselor reports: Rev. Steven deBoer, re Trinity; Rev. Greg Fluit, re Mountainview; Rev. David Tigchelaar, re Fruitland

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 5-7)

8. Shalom Manor Chaplain's Report (pages 7-8)

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 overtures have been received as of the preparation of this agenda.

12. Denominational and Other Reports

12.1 Denominational reports: (pages 9-15)

12.2 Redeemer University College – Dr. Justin Cooper (page 16)

13. Next meeting:

Date: February 17, 2010

Agenda Deadline: January 2, 2010

Location: TBA

Chairman: Rev. Rev. Jim Dekker

Vice-chairman: Rev. Duane VanderLaan

Credentials: Niagara Falls (to chair) and Covenant

Overture Advisory: Trinity (to chair) and Smithville

Following meetings: May 19, 2010 (to be confirmed); October 20, 2010

14. Expressions of thanks and closing devotions

Present: Rev. Jim Dekker, Mr. Frank Engelage; Mr. John TeBrake; (Ms. Emma Winter, during discussion of proposed budget 2010, item 2)

1. Correspondence to date was dealt with (see pages 4 and 5)
2. The proposed budget for 2010 (pages 17, 18) was completed, and will be presented to Classis as a recommendation from the Executive Committee. The treasurer, Ms. Emma Winter, was present for this portion of the meeting. Incorporated in the budget are:
 - a. A reduction in the office expense category, in the Classis Expense Fund, to reflect that agendas and minutes are forwarded by e-mail only
 - b. A reduction in the Village Church (church plant) ministry share as it moves from the original \$10 to \$8 per member per year
 - c. An increase in the Classical Ministry Team budget from \$4 to \$7 per member per year (see minutes of Classis Niagara, May 20, 2009, item 7)
 - d. A request for \$400 for printing "40 days of prayer" booklets, as presented at the May 20, 2009 meeting of Classis Niagara, will be met within the Classis Ministry Committee portion of the budget
3. Since the May meeting of Classis Niagara, the Executive Committee processed Ministerial Credentials for Rev. Andrew Beunk (from Fruitland CRC); Rev. Richard Loerop (to Maranatha CRC); and Rev. John Heidinga (to Bethel CRC)
4. A pulpit supply schedule for January to May 2010 for Trinity, Mountainview and Fruitland CRCs was confirmed

Pulpit Supply Schedule, January to May, 2010			
	Trinity	Mountainview	Fruitland
January 10	deBoer	Dekker	deWaard
January 24	Fluit	Heidinga	Loerop
February 14	Ouwehand	VanderBerg	VanderLaan
February 28	Bouma	Braam	deBoer
March 7	Dekker	deWaard	Fluit
March 21	Heidinga	Loerop	Ouwehand
April 11	VanderBerg	VanderLaan	Bouma
April 25	Braam	deBoer	Dekker
May 16	deWaard	Fluit	Heidinga
May 30	Loerop	Ouwehand	VanderBerg

Any scheduling changes should be arranged and confirmed by the pastor and the council of the church involved

5. The agenda for the upcoming October 21, 2009 meeting was finalized.
6. A response to the March 2009 editorial in the Banner (see minutes of Classis, May 20, item 15 (c)) was completed. It will be presented to Grace CRC (which requested this in May) for its comments, and then it will be presented to Classis for its approval in October.
7. With respect to legal incorporation of Classis Niagara, solicitor David VanderWoerd has been involved in other classes' incorporation, and has commenced preparatory work for Classis Niagara incorporation.

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	May 22	From Ms. Dee Recker, Director of Synodical Services, CRCNA, that Classis Zeeland approved the request of the First CRC of Zeeland, MI to release their pastor from ministerial service per CO Article 17-1	RFI; forwarded to clerks of councils
2	May 31	To Mr. Ron Kielstra and members of ad-hoc expense/ministries task force as approved by February Classis – to confirm their appointment, give background and other information, to enable them to prepare the requested report prior to September 1, 2009. The members are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ron Kielstra, Providence, chair ▪ Peter Zwart, Mountainview, reporter ▪ Mark Moesker, Smithville ▪ Theresa VanOenen, Bethany ▪ Brian VanStaalduinen, Fruitland 	RFI
3	July 2	From Ms. Lis VanHarten, SPE/SCE Director, CRCNA, asking Classes and churches to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ consider financial support for those attending the (Sustaining Pastoral Excellence) Pastors' Spouses' conference in Vancouver in April; ▪ assist financially any pastors' spouses' peer groups that apply for SPE grants; ▪ consider the importance of continuing education for pastors and to set aside funds for this 	RFI; the Stated Clerk will undertake to ask churches in Classis Niagara with respect to development funds for pastors and their spouses, and will compile a summary
4	July 2	To Ms. Cheryl Janssen, Mountainview, to confirm her appointment as that church's representative on the Classis Niagara Safe Church Team	RFI
5	July 8	From Mr. John Bolt, Director of Finance and Administration, CRCNA, annual information re Ministry Shares, Ministers' Compensation, and other financial information	RFI; also sent to Church Treasurers, Ministers
6	July 13	From Rev. Gerard Dykstra, Executive Director, CRCNA, and Ms. Dee Recker, summary of Synod 2009 decisions that affect classes.	RFI
7	July 14	From Ms. Beth Swagman, Director, Safe Church Ministry, CRCNA, with information about the regional panel system as approved by Synod 2009, to ensure sufficient people are available to form a panel, especially for those classes that do not have a Safe Church Team, or where that team is too small to provide sufficient people to form an advisory panel when needed.	RFI; forwarded to Ms. Karen Van Dyke, chair of Classis Niagara's Safe Church Team
8	July 22	From the Tri-Classis Retreat Committee, a copy of a letter addressed to Classis Huron to invite them to join the three classes to form a Four-Classis Retreat	RFI
9	July 27	From John & Margaret DenOtter, Regional Missions Mobilizers for CRWM, the August newsletter	RFI; also sent to pastors, chaplains, others
10	July 31	From Ms. Dee Recker, annual update of information for Stated Clerks of Classes	RFI

11	August 3	From Ms. Dee Recker, to initiate the annual nominating process for the BOT and boards of agencies of the CRCNA. Classis Niagara needs to deal only with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Back to God Ministries: current delegate for Region 4, Ms. Alice Klamer, is concluding her first three-year term and is eligible for reelection. If no reservations are raised, her name will be submitted to Synod 2010 for re-appointment ▪ Calvin College: Delegate for Region 4 Mr Peter Schuurman is concluding his second three-year term. Nominations of either clergy or non-clergy are requested for this position 	Classis will need to respond at the October meeting. Churches are asked to submit names of potential nominees for Calvin College prior to the October meeting.
12	August 7	From Ms. Dee Recker, summary of occasions when Synodical Deputies are needed	RFI; annual update of resource for Synodical Deputies and Stated Clerks
13	August 11	From Rev. EJ deWaard and Ms. Hilda VanderKlippe, on behalf of the Ontario Classis Prayer Coordinators' Team/Home Missions, requesting \$400 to help with the cost of printing "40 Days of Prayer" booklets, as presented at the May 2009 meeting of Classis Niagara.	The Executive Committee recommends providing this amount, which can be accommodated in the proposed 2010 budget
14	August 12	From Ms. Alicia Deklerk, on behalf of the Tri-classis retreat committee, a request to change the date of our May 19, 2010 meeting to accommodate the Tri-Classis retreat which is planned for May 18-20.	The Executive Committee recommends that the May 2010 meeting of Classis be scheduled for Wednesday, May 26.
15	August 10	From Ms. Hilda VanderKlippe, Ministry Developer for Prayer and Evangelism, CR Home Missions, requesting that the reduction in ministry shares from \$10 to \$8 for the Village Church be allocated to a new church plant fund	The Executive Committee will defer a recommendation until after (a) we have covered all costs for incorporation and registering as a charity; and (b) classis has received and dealt with the report from the Ad-hoc Committee on ministries and expenses

Agenda item 5.3: Treasurer's Report; Proposed Budget for 2010

The proposed budget for 2010 is included at pages 17 to 20 of this agenda.

Agenda item 7: Brock University Chaplain's Report

Dear Members of Classis,

He was the kind of student I wish I had known. On the face of it, he seemed to have so much going for him: doting parents, a warm personality (according to his many friends), and above average athletic skill. But one day in early spring this year, he ended his life. He left no note and there were no early warning signs, if there were, no one noticed. To those who were closest to him – his parents, his best friend – he was a perfect example of the idea most of us have of students as being fun-loving and carefree, with more opportunities than any previous generation.

I met with his parents one whole afternoon, attended the visitation and joined the massive crowd of family members and friends that filled the Roman Catholic basilica in Thorold for his funeral mass. In fact, I can safely say it was the largest funeral service I have ever been to. Apart from his family, close to a hundred students and faculty also came to the memorial on the Brock campus. How is it possible, I asked myself, that he was known by so many, yet died an enigma?

More than anything, his tragic death has made me aware that there are students on the Brock campus – according to the university’s counseling services more than we even dare to suspect - who outwardly appear to have every reason not to have a care in the world, but who are in reality feeling disconnected and lost. Highly suspicious of organized religion, even if they come from a religious family, they avoid traditional youth ministry programs and Christian clubs on campus like the plague.

For this reason, Brock Christian Reformed Campus Ministry has been following a two directional ministry approach. On the one hand, we want to continue to strengthen and extend our team of committed Christians on campus, using more traditional forms of campus ministry (retreats, Bible- and book discussions, etc.). On the other hand, we do not see this team as an end in itself. Instead, we want to encourage and help each other as we seek to connect with other students, many of whom are stressed out about their studies, uncertain about the future, or just trying to figure out the meaning of their lives. This, we believe, is incarnational ministry in the true sense of the word! As a recent book on youth ministry put it, “Just as Jesus incarnate, crucified and resurrected was fully our place-sharer, so we too, as Jesus’ disciples, must ourselves become place-sharers, suffering with and for young people.”¹

Just a few weeks later, a group of fifteen Brock students, a handful of university staff and I were in Southern Africa (Namibia) as part of a social justice project which involved renovating educational facilities in Katatura, the black township outside Windhoek (the capital city of Namibia), and providing informal recreational opportunities for the township’s many at risk children. Most of the students in the group probably didn’t know what the inside of a church looked like and, I would guess, didn’t care either. I certainly couldn’t see them responding to traditional forms of outreach. What I did see, instead, was God daily breaking down barriers of suspicion and opening up future possibilities for the Gospel in the most likely and, especially, most unlikely situations. I would like to single out two highlights. One was the AIDS concert hosted by the Polytechnic of Namibia. Almost every item on the evening’s program, from the welcoming words by the student chaplain to the concluding prayer, was unashamedly spiritual and even Christian. What an eye-opener to Canadian students who have been indoctrinated into believing that faith is a private affair and certainly does not belong on a university campus! The other highlight was attending a worship service in a Dutch Reformed church. I was truly surprised by the number of Brock students, the majority of whom were Catholic, who came along.

In campus ministry, summer is anything but four months of goofing off! Although there are very few students on campus, it is the best time of the year to catch up on so much of what has been written in areas of theology and ministry in the past year. It is also the only time the campus minister has to prepare for the many programs and events scheduled to resume or be launched in the new academic year. Because he is also an academic, it goes without saying that he will spend a major part of his summer working on his research and writing for publication. Of course, it is also a good opportunity to strengthen ties with faculty and staff. After all, they are as much part of campus ministry as the students, a fact which is often forgotten. Apart from attending Synod ’09 and a conference for teacher-pastors at Calvin Seminary, a huge slice of my summer went into promoting Brock Campus Ministry at Smart Start. For six weeks in July and August, I met every afternoon with small groups of freshman students and their parents. Not only CRC students and students from other Christian denominations, but also students from other faiths and from no faith background at all showed interest in becoming involved in Brock Campus Ministry.

Summer is also a time when colleagues in congregational ministry take vacation. It’s therefore a golden opportunity and certainly a privilege for the Brock campus minister to do pulpit supply, even if it means preparing a lot of new sermons. Since the beginning of summer, I have preached in a congregation of Classis Niagara every Sunday, taking only one or two Sundays off. This is not to mention officiating at a wedding in Orangeville and leading a worship service in Forestview Community Church (Grimsby).

The discovery of a document dating from around 1240 A.D. in the Brock library was an excellent promotional event for Brock Christian Reformed Campus Ministry. Suddenly, the CRC campus minister who is regarded as the unofficial resident palaeographer and a team of experts from the departments of history and English respectively were able to decipher and translate the document from the original Latin. This certainly put the CRC campus minister in the news, both locally (the *St. Catharines Standard*) and nationally (the *Globe and Mail*).

In every respect, it again promises to be an exciting and very busy year for Brock CRC Campus Ministry. In the fall, we’ll be starting our weekly Wednesday evening toonie suppers in the fellowship hall of the Church of the Transfiguration (Anglican) just off campus. So far, there has been overwhelming interest from students. We hope that members of the CRC churches Niagara will also make this part of their own congregational outreach ministry. It will certainly be an excellent opportunity to meet students. This week, I will be meeting with the new associate Lutheran chaplain who also happens to be the full-time pastor of St. Peter’s Lutheran just around the corner from the Brock Campus with the hope of making him part of our team in this endeavour.

On October 8, Brock CRC Campus Ministry in collaboration with Brock International Student Services will host a Thanksgiving dinner for students from abroad who have no experience of a Canadian Thanksgiving. A few

¹ Andrew Root, *Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry. From a Strategy of Influence to a Theology of Incarnation* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2007), 83.

years ago, when we hosted it for the first time, it was very successful with more than a hundred students attending, thanks in large part to Trinity CRC who graciously made their facilities available to us!

Indications are that the number of students involved at various levels in Brock CRC Campus Ministry in 2009/2010 will be substantially more than last year, thus continuing a growing trend. As a result, I hope that another Home Missions grant will allow us to renew Ian DeSchiffart's appointment as emerging leader for a second term. The ministry has reached a new and exciting phase in which students are increasingly taking the initiative to take it in new directions according to God's call in areas where they feel gifted. Our campus ministry team also hopes to make more use of the internet (including Facebook) in order to stay connected with students through weekly devotionals and a blog. This will further help us to remain in touch with our students who have graduated and whom we continue to regard as part of the ministry.

Together with Brock's ecumenical chaplaincy, we intend starting a Taizé style worship service once a month on campus. We are also working on a mini-conference on John Calvin which is scheduled for sometime towards the end of the year or the beginning of 2010. We hope that members of our CRC various congregations will attend this conference in large numbers. In October, Brock CRC Campus Ministry will be hosting the annual Ontario CRC Campus Ministers' retreat at Mount Mary Retreat Centre in Ancaster. This year, we are also looking forward to having the grade 12 classes of respectively Beacon and Smithville Christian Schools as our guests for one day at Brock. Formal invitations have not been issued yet, but we hope that there will be an enthusiastic response, since it will give students the opportunity to attend lectures on campus dealing with a variety of issues that are important to them, and to also experience something of campus life.

Starting in the fall, I will be enrolled for a course on suicide prevention among young adults. The course is partly administered by Brock's Director of Counselling Services, who invited me, and an agency in the US. Upon successful completion of the course, I will be a fully registered suicide prevention counsellor.

Once again I have been asked to teach courses in both Medieval Studies and Classics. Teaching gives me a unique opportunity to connect with students. Last year, I had regular contact once a week for two hours with over four hundred students and eight teaching assistants! In the new academic year, I expect to have an average of over a hundred students in my class every week for the whole year. Teaching not only facilitates contact with students, it certainly enhances the campus minister's credibility among faculty and staff and thus creates all kinds of opportunities for ministry.

As far as the budget is concerned, Brock CRC Campus Ministry has consistently made an effort to exercise responsible stewardship. Without fear of contradiction, we believe we have regularly been under budget, without detriment to any of our programs or any aspect of the ministry. Because God has continued to bless us in abundance, we have been able to cut our budget this year by more than 3% and bring it to below \$90 000. Through teaching in the new academic year, we will be earning enough to bring it to just under \$80 000 and hope to maintain it at this level at least for the foreseeable future.

In conclusion, we would like to thank all the congregations of Classis Niagara for continuing to support this important ministry in so many ways, especially through their prayers and efforts to make Brock CRC Campus Ministry part of their congregational ministry. Apart from always being available for pulpit supply, depending on his schedule, the campus minister can always be called upon and would be delighted to participate in congregational adult education programs, especially in the areas of his expertise.

Submitted in Christ
André Basson
Brock CRC Campus Minister

Agenda item 8: Shalom Manor Chaplain's Report

In this report I will share a little about how my pastoral care is structured at Shalom Manor & Gardens.

First, I respond to information given to me by nurses. Some weeks ago, a nurse called and informed me that Mr. Smith (not the person's real name) was feeling down, depressed. She asked if I would visit him. I walked onto his floor. He was sitting in his wheelchair, absently staring at a partially finished word puzzle. We exchanged a few words, tears flowed freely from his eyes. I suggested that we go to his room to talk. He said that he would like that. In his room, with tears continually flowing down his cheeks, we talked. To my delight, he talked the most. Toward the end of our visit, I quoted words from Psalm 23 and we prayed. As I was leaving, he said, "I love you." I responded saying, "I love you, Mr. Smith." As I walked down the hallway, I thanked God for the visit. When nurses sense a spiritual need, they often call to let me know.

Second, I respond with pastoral care when a resident is put on palliative care. At a certain stage of dying, a person is declared palliative. This means, humanly speaking, that the disease inflicting the resident is terminal. It will be the cause of the resident's death. When a resident is declared palliative, the frequency and focus of my visits

change. Sometimes, after a person is declared palliative, death occurs a day or two later. Sometimes it takes several weeks. To complicate things, sometimes a person who is declared palliative bounces back and is no longer considered to be palliative. When a resident is declared to be palliative, I usually visit every to every other day. During these visits, I often meet many of the family members. When this happens, my ministry focus is not only on the resident, but also on the family.

Third, I do pastoral visits when there is a special event in a person's life, such as a birthday or an anniversary celebration. On my table devotions schedule, the birthdays and anniversaries of all the residents are recorded. When a resident is celebrating a birthday or anniversary, I do a pastoral visit. On these visits, I pay special attention to God's faithfulness in the resident's life. In prayer, we thank God for God's faithfulness. Often I end up drinking a cup of coffee and eating a piece of cake with the resident and his/her family. We celebrate together!

Fourth, every month I pass out, room by room, a monthly devotion schedule. I pass these schedules out with a Bible in my hand. Often, what begins as a chat with a resident becomes a pastoral visit. When this happens, my visits end with reading words of Scripture and prayer.

And fifth, my pastoral care is structured by an open door policy. My office at Shalom Manor & Gardens is always open; unless I am with someone. Anyone who wants to talk to me is always welcome. Many of the healthy residents stop by, some come for a chat, others come for a pastoral visit. I enjoy these visits. Inevitably, when the cognition, mobility or health of a resident begins to fail, these visits stop. When they do, I miss these visits.

[Submitted by Rev. Fred VanderBerg]

MINISTRY REPORT TO CLASSES AND COUNCILS

SEPTEMBER 2009



CHRISTIAN
REFORMED
CHURCH

In This Issue

Director of Denominational Ministries

Congregational Support

Disability Concerns
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Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action
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Service Link
Race Relations
Sustaining Congregational Excellence
Sustaining Pastoral Excellence

Diaconal Ministries

CRWRC

Educational Institutions

Calvin College
Calvin Theological Seminary

Mission Organizations

Back to God Ministries International
Home Missions
World Missions

Partners in Ministry

Dynamic Youth Ministries
Partners Worldwide

From the Director of Denominational Ministries

Effective partnerships between ministries and congregations will enable the CRC to stretch and leverage God's resources and to affect greater impact in ministry than is possible when acting independently. We, the CRC, felt so strongly about the impact of partnering that we identified it in the ministry plan as one of our ten focus objectives. Since 2006, when the ministry plan was written, partnerships have continued to grow in number and in depth as we have continued to leverage and stretch our resources. As you embark on the Fall ministry season, may you truly sense in these reports our desire to partner with you as we transform lives and communities worldwide!

Chaplaincy Ministries

The Office of Chaplaincy Ministries commits most of its energy and resources to partnering for impact. Partnerships include the following:

- **Local CRCs** – Connecting chaplains with their local congregations using the Covenant of Joint Supervision as directed by decision of Synod 1998. Because chaplains usually work apart from their local church, the most important partnership is between the chaplain and his or her calling church.
- **Educational institutions** – Working through CRC associated colleges as well as with Calvin Seminary to encourage young people to consider the call to chaplaincy.
- **Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action** – Collaborating on a variety of projects including the Committee to Study War and Peace, the

Committee to Study Restorative Justice, and on selective conscientious objection.

- **Disability Concerns** – Attending a fall conference together to begin work on reducing stigma and increasing welcome for people with mental illness in CRCs.
- **Home Missions** – Planting a church in a Michigan prison with several CRC congregations and the Michigan Office of Corrections.
- **Calvin Institute of Christian Worship** – Creating online worship and caring resources for persons with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. For more information, go to <http://www.calvin.edu/worship/>.
- **National Chaplaincy Organizations** – Working closely with such organizations as the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces, the Canadian Association for Pastoral Practice and Education, the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education, and the Association of Professional Chaplains.

Disability Concerns

From its beginning, Disability Concerns has partnered with Christian Reformed churches and classes to help them grow in including people with disabilities in their lives and ministries.

Some 550 Regional and church disability advocates connect Christian Reformed churches with local and regional resources, working interactively with churches both to discern needs and to provide resources through Disability Concerns' volunteers, website, quarterly newsletter *Breaking Barriers*, consultations with individual churches, and more.

A staff person in each CRC agency and educational institution serves as an agency disability advocate by encouraging awareness of, ministry with, and hiring of people with disabilities.

This Fall several people from Disability Concerns and Chaplaincy will attend a conference together to begin work on reducing stigma and increasing welcome for people with mental illness in CRCs.

An annual conference in Michigan begun by Disabilities Concerns has led to partnerships with a number of organizations including Friendship Ministries, CLC Network, the Gray Center, Hope Network, Western Theological Seminary, and the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. Disability Concerns is also involved with a variety of other conferences and Days of Encouragement across North America.

Last year Disability Concerns entered into a formal agreement with the RCA to work together on disability and inclusion.

Disability Concerns maintains close ties to other organizations including Pathways to Promise and the

National Council of Churches Committee on Disabilities.

Faith Alive Christian Resources

Ministry partnership creates strong “win-wins,” providing Faith Alive and its partners the ability to multiply the impact it would have if it worked alone. Our partners are “kindred spirits” in belief and doctrine, yet they provide fresh ideas and content and open the door to new audiences Faith Alive could not provide or reach on its own. Our partnerships with the Reformed Church in America, the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Dynamic Youth Ministries, Friendship Ministries, and the Presbyterian Church USA, among others, are strong and continue to shape and expand our products and ministry impact. More than half of Faith Alive resources are distributed to non-CRC churches annually. Small group discipleship resources, songbooks, and curriculum for people with disabilities are the result of partnering with ministries for kingdom impact.

Faith Alive Marketing is exploring new ways to use its e-commerce website for ministry. This includes offering online samples, collecting reviews, posting free downloads, and hosting videos online. In addition, we are exploring social networking channels such as Facebook and Twitter as ways to encourage collaboration.

The Banner is beginning to work on upgrading its Web presence at www.thebanner.org. We hope to benefit soon from greater participation by readers, particularly in posting CRC news that escapes our reporters' notice and expanding our capacity to review books, movies, and music in our online Tuned-In section. We hope to update the print version of *The Banner* after a comprehensive marketing survey scheduled for fall.

Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action

With only three staff people and an intern at the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action (OSJHA), doing serious advocacy requires *lots* of partnering! In addition to long-term relationships with Washington DC institutes such as Bread for the World and Sojourners, OSJHA is busy making connections closer to home as well.

OSJHA has been actively engaged with the 2006 synodical report on peace and justice. Production is underway on a series of educational videos on peace-building for which our communications staff has interviewed CRWRC field staff, former director of Chaplaincy Ministries Herm Keizer, and others deeply engaged with the issue. In response to Middle East conflict, OSJHA partnered with the Reformed Church in America to produce the educational resource *Cradle of Our Faith*, and is gearing up for a series of joint learning trips in 2010.

OSJHA and CRWRC are involved in an ongoing but revitalized project to capture and promote some of the more fantastically successful stories of advocacy in the CRC. Two new articles are underway.

OSJHA has made some surprising partnerships over the last few months via Twitter. Because of the “real-time” nature of its communication, Twitter is ideal for keeping an ear to the ground when it comes to new resources, advocacy opportunities, and connecting with other non-government organizations dealing with justice issues. Learn something new at www.twitter.com/crcjustice.

Pastor-Church Relations

The Office of Pastor-Church Relations has a long history of partnering with classes in the work of classical church visitors. Church visitors are seasoned pastors and elders who, periodically, visit councils of churches within their classis for the purpose of encouragement and support. Frequently, church visitors and Pastor-Church Relations partner to assist congregations that are experiencing a season of difficulty or the struggle of a challenging transition. Also, best practices in church visitation are being noted. These effective practices are then being shared with other classes and are becoming the basis upon which Pastor-Church Relations has begun to offer training for church visitors to help strengthen this vital connection between the classes and their local congregations.

Safe Church Ministry

Abuse Preven....we've got a new name! In June synod changed the name of The Office of Abuse Prevention to Safe Church Ministry. The new name emphasizes partnership with local churches to create safe adult and youth programs while strengthening ministry to victims and offenders of abuse and their family members.

On Sunday, September 27, Christian Reformed Churches are invited to acknowledge the presence of abuse in our communities. Free bulletin inserts have been prepared to create awareness of elder abuse and awareness of the steps of justice-seeking for those impacted by abuse. Visit the Safe Church Ministry web site (www.crcna.org/safechurch) to order the inserts and find other worship resources.

In October Safe Church Ministry will sponsor the second Safe Church Team Chairpersons' conference. This year, the conference will focus on restorative justice and the implications of using restorative justice practices when allegations of abuse arise.

Classis Safe Church Teams are a wonderful resource for their local churches. Safe Church Teams can offer education to the local congregation. Some teams have web sites with helpful information and

community resources. We welcome Classis Central Plains as the newest Classis Safe Church Team.

What might the staff of a Christian school and volunteers of a church youth program have in common? Children and teens that bully or are bullied. Safe Church Ministry is exploring ways to partner with both communities to develop anti-bullying strategies and to teach healthy interactions between youth.

Service Link

The summer of 2009 saw the ServiceLink Volunteer program, which originated in Canada in 1995, transition into a bi-national program and begin serving the denomination across North America. Empowered by God's grace and love, members of all CRC congregations will have the opportunity to join agency and ministry staff in one common mission—voluntarily offering time, talent, and treasure for meaningful involvement in ministry both at home and abroad. Together they will partner for greater impact in ministry and enable the Christian Reformed Church to stretch further in its mission to transform lives and communities worldwide.

The purpose of the ServiceLink program is to serve the members of the CRC and other Christians by providing them with a one-stop place for information and resources that are made available through offices in both Canada and the United States. ServiceLink staff will partner with agency and ministry staff to gather and promote a variety of diverse opportunities and collaboratively facilitate meaningful involvement for volunteers. Mission and service experiences will provide them with first hand glimpses of what God is doing through the efforts of the Christian Reformed Church and so generate enthusiasm for a deeper commitment to its mission and vision.

Race Relations

Realizing the greater impact of ministry through partnerships, the Office of Race Relations (ORR) continues to develop effective ministry partnerships with several of the denominational agencies, including more collaboration with the Specialized Ministries of the CRCNA.

In spring 2009, Race Relations traveled to Nicaragua to conduct a contextualized Dance of Racial Reconciliation (DORR) workshop involving forty-five World Missions and CRWRC missionaries and their families.

In April, the ORR met with various CRC pastors to promote the work of antiracism and racial reconciliation in Washington State and British Columbia. Plans are underway to conduct DORR and Widening the Circle (WTC) workshops there this fall.

At the Multiethnic Conference (MEC), the ORR partnered with Back to God Ministries International to present a new resource, Spotlight, to MEC participants. In addition, the Form of Subscription (FOS) committee solicited feedback from MEC conferees on the FOS.

The ORR continues its involvement with the Arab-American Friendship Center in Dearborn, Michigan. In an effort to raise awareness, the ORR has visited the center twice with various CRC leaders. Our hosts, Bassem and Wafa Qusous, provided a tour not only of the center but also of the key sites of Arab activity. In June Dr. and Mrs. Qusous presented both a plenary session and a workshop at the MEC on how to effectively minister among Arabs and Muslims.

Development continues on a DVD on racial reconciliation in partnership with Home Missions and Faith Alive. It is intended that this DVD be distributed among all the CRC congregations.

Sustaining Congregational Excellence

When the implementation plan was written for the Sustaining Congregational Excellence (SCE) program in 2007, one of the desired outcomes noted was that there would be “new and renewed partnerships between congregations and CRCNA ministries that enhance health and ministry.” As the second year of programming has just been completed, it can be said that much progress is being made.

Each year pastors and congregational ministry leaders gather together at regional SCE learning events. This past year each event had a local Home Missions (HM) regional leader speak on healthy congregations and a Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) faculty person give a presentation on spiritual dangers in ministry. Through partnering with HM and CTS, the SCE events had a greater impact on the attendees.

SCE has been working with the Reformed Church of America (RCA) in the training of SCE coaches. Discussions have been held between SCE and the RCA as to how we can continue to work together. This partnership has benefited both the CRC and the RCA.

Under the SCE program, smaller congregations (150 adult professing members or less) are able to apply for three different grants: Health & Renewal (HR), Technology & Equipment (TE), and Coaching. While no financial contributions are required for HR and TE grants, the majority of requests are submitted with in-kind funds noted—in some cases the congregation contributes more than they are requesting. This financial partnership results in the ability to stretch resources and enable more congregations to receive funds.

Sustaining Pastoral Excellence

Sustaining Pastoral Excellence (SPE) has been working with a variety of people in the writing of training tools that are valuable resources for pastors and congregations. Currently, SPE is partnering with the Office of Pastor Church Relations on a new training tool which will explore the evaluation of pastors and church staff. This publication will be available early in 2010.

Every summer, Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) offers a week-long course titled The Theology and Practice of Pastoral Ministry. SPE has been partnering with CTS on this for the past seven years. Pastors, seminarians, and lay persons have benefited from the CTS faculty who teach it, the other students in the class, and the material studied. As participants return to their ministry settings, their new knowledge impacts others.

SPE and CTS are just beginning a new project together. The plan is to create a DVD to train leaders of Leadership Development Networks—training networks for pastors who don't take the seminary route into ministry—to interpret Scripture well in their teaching, leading, and preaching. CTS has been in conversation with Home Missions concerning this project. The partnership between the three groups will benefit many.

Once a year, SPE holds a learning event for pastor couples. This time of refreshment and encouragement is enhanced by participation of staff from Pastor-Church Relations and their presentation on being healthy in the pastorate/parsonage, which is greatly appreciated by the attendees.

CRWRC

As CRWRC seeks to live justice and love mercy, we look to Christian Reformed Church (CRC) congregations for prayers, gifts, and volunteers.

CRWRC Disaster Response Services teams from Chicago-area Orland Park Church built a six-bedroom, three-bathroom house for a sixteen-member extended family that lost their home to Hurricane Katrina. Munster CRC is providing accommodations to volunteer work teams rebuilding flooded homes in northwest Indiana this summer.

As of June 2009, direct support from CRC churches funded CRWRC *EmbraceAIDS* proposals in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Kenya, Tanzania, Ecuador, Haiti, Nicaragua, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Honduras, and Dominican Republic. With CRWRC support, communities in these fields are developing resources to care for widows, orphans, and the sick while stemming the spread of HIV.

Support from CRC congregations enables ongoing programs like the CRWRC-supported cereal banks in Niger, which store grain for purchase off-season when it is otherwise too expensive to buy. CRWRC staff work with local farmers who oversee

the cereal banks and have shared techniques that have doubled the harvest for some.

A huge wave of support from CRC congregations contributed significant funds for CRWRC's largest relief response ever completed: Banda Aceh, Indonesia—an area devastated by December 2004's tsunami. CRWRC provided temporary shelter for 642 households, medical camps, electrical power to eighteen villages, school access for 2,300 children, wells in fifteen villages, income assistance to 17,500 people, and 1,100 permanent homes. Banda Aceh governor, Irwandi Yusuf, remarked, "Through CRWRC's exemplary programming, the people of Aceh have risen from their sorrow."

Calvin College

Calvin's Church Relations planning team is focused on further enhancing relationships between the college and CRC congregations. The Church Relations strategic plan includes cross-divisional and denominational cooperation and coordination with campus offices, centers and departments that directly relate to churches. Members of our team have been visiting churches to listen and learn about the needs and resources of our partners in congregational ministry. This active listening has already helped us launch new initiatives to maximize meaningful contact with churches through available resources such as faith formation, youth initiatives, service projects, ministry partnerships, and speakers and programs.

Calvin's new Chaplain, Dr. Mary Hulst, began her work on June 1, 2009. Dr. Hulst has reorganized the staff under the name "Campus Ministries," with a dynamic team of associate chaplains and mentors who work diligently to meet the worship and spiritual needs on campus for our faculty, staff, and students. See <http://www.calvin.edu/faith/> for more information.

The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship (CICW) welcomes former chaplain, Dale Cooper, to their staff. He is on the road to preach, meet with, and evaluate the summer church internships of Calvin's Jubilee Fellows, and to listen and learn in these visits about how Calvin can serve congregations better.

Dale has a wonderful list of talks and workshops that he is willing to present in adult education programs, seniors fellowship meetings, Christian high school chapels, or for teacher in-service on topics like "Passing the Faith on to the Next Generation." For information on the resources and programs the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship has to offer, see: www.calvin.edu/worship.

The College also welcomes senior groups from the Midwest or Southern Ontario to visit the campus for a tour, program, and lunch; and has hosted CRC Classes meetings at Calvin's Prince Conference Center. These endeavors have enriched our relationships with many congregations.

If you are interested in further information about Calvin resources for your church, if you would like Dale Cooper to preach in your church, or if you would like a visit to your region, please contact Carol Reinstra at crienstr@calvin.edu or by phone at (616)526-6175, or Darlene Meyering at meyrda@calvin.edu or by phone at (616-526-6800).

Calvin Theological Seminary

Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) is pleased to partner with other CRC agencies and institutions. Many of our partnerships revolve around training students for ministry. We are grateful for World Missions, Home Missions, Back to God Ministries and CRWRC, all of whom help place our students in cross-cultural or congregational internship experiences. We are very excited about a new venture with Calvin College in which seminary students will serve as dormitory spiritual advisors. We are also pleased with our ongoing relationship with Borderplex—a cluster of CRC ministries in the El Paso, Texas, Juarez, Mexico area.

CTS also partners with other CRC ministries in continuing education for pastors and other ministry leaders, including joint programming with the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship and close consultation with Leadership Development Networks. CTS has recently added a group of new certificate programs for church staff and ministry associates. These certificates are not as intensive as a full degree but offer foundations for ministry in a number of specialized areas.

Perhaps our most exciting partnership these days is through the Timothy Institute. Created by four CTS professors, the Timothy Institute has grown to minister in over 30 countries around the world, and trains pastors and ministry leaders who have virtually no theological education. Today CTS, World Missions, CRWRC and Back To God Ministries International are all partners of Timothy Institute as it continues to grow in impact with its emphasis upon training indigenous leaders rather than sending western missionaries.

CTS is grateful for the ways that ministry partnerships enhance all the ministries that partner and bring glory to God!

Back to God Ministries International

When Back to God Ministries International (BTGMI) considered ministry in India in the Hindi language, a key question that needed answering was this: Are there partners with which we can link to make ministry happen? The answer was yes. In the coming year, BTGMI will be working with Good Books Educational Trust (an Indian media ministry) and with Words of Hope (the media ministry of the Reformed Church of America) to develop new media projects that reach northern India with the gospel.

Partnership is a key ministry strategy for BTGMI. Each of our international language ministries is linked with local churches and denominations to power ministry forward.

A few examples follow:

- **Brazil** – The Presbyterian Church of Brazil is joining with us in building a new ministry center that will boost distribution of Christian media throughout Latin America.
- **Russia and Japan** – BTGMI works in close partnership with Christian Reformed World Mission efforts.
- **Haiti** – A new discipleship center has opened in Port au Prince that is shared by Christian Reformed World Missions and BTGMI.
- **Indonesia** – A joint partnership with World Missions, CRWRC, and Timothy Leadership Institute is bringing training to lay leaders in rural communities.
- **The Middle East** – Arabic media work is conducted in partnership with MERF (Middle East Reformed Fellowship) and Words of Hope.

BTGMI is now working to bring our partnerships to the congregational level here in North America. A new English language ministry titled “Church Juice” will help congregations strengthen their own media/web presence in their communities. For more information about how this new ministry can assist your congregation, contact Jerod Clark at jjclark@crcna.org.

Home Missions

Partnering is at the very heart of Christian Reformed Home Missions. We participate in God’s redemptive mission in the world by working to catalyze and cultivate gospel movements across North America through specific partnerships with leaders, churches, ministries, classes, and other CRC agencies. These partnerships, facilitated through our regional teams, help develop missional leaders, multiply new churches and campus ministries, and encourage churches for renewal.

We help form local partnerships with CRC classes throughout Canada and the United States to start new churches and campus ministries and to discover and train emerging leaders. As part of our focus on developing diverse missional leaders, we also help promote and resource clusters of leaders in geographical contexts.

As new churches form and existing congregations start mission plans, they need to conduct opportunity scans of their local communities. Working with CRWRC and Diaconal Ministries (in Canada), we help new and continuing churches engage in the process of finding assets and opportunities for partnerships in their unique ministry contexts.

We partner with churches and ministries that seek to grow in their ability to effectively proclaim the gospel, so lives and neighborhoods are transformed through the Spirit’s power. We work with other agencies and the Network for Congregations to suggest coaching and to provide just-in-time training and processes to help churches and ministries find their place in God’s mission.

World Missions

Christian Reformed World Missions and Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada have signed a formal agreement to build a working relationship. Under the agreement, Wycliffe Canada personnel who are members of the CRC will be officially recognized as partner missionaries with CRWM. “It’s very exciting to see denominations like the CRC, and its missionary arm, the CRWM, engaging in the worldwide Bible translation movement in a more significant way,” said WBTC director Dave Ohlson. “Working together in this way can only enhance the building of God’s Kingdom, especially among some of the world’s most marginalized peoples in countries where both agencies work.” This partnership is a recent example of a long-term strategy of partnership around the world.

As the world’s needs become more complex and the means to reach out become more available, CRWM has been finding other organizations with which to stretch and leverage God’s resources and to partner for greater impact.

Dynamic Youth Ministries

GEMS Girls’ Clubs focus on partnering with churches to share and show the love of Jesus and train women and girls to passionately follow Christ.

Currently, GEMS has 560 partnerships with CRC congregations. Through these partnerships, women serving as leaders in their church’s club are provided with multiple, annual training opportunities to help them become the most effective mentors they can be. Furthermore, girls are inspired to walk closely with Christ and to know, understand, and follow God’s Word through excellent resources written from a reformed perspective, comprehensive training, and encouragement. Extensive opportunities for service to the church family, to the community, and to the larger, global family of God are also provided.

Additional ministry partnerships enjoyed by GEMS Girls’ Clubs include Every Orphan’s Hope, Christian Service Brigade, Stonecroft Ministries, Zondervan Publishing, Hearts-in-Step Christian Dance Academy, and Unity Music Ministries.

Calvinist Cadet Corps partners with congregations throughout the denomination to take on the challenge of raising generations of boys to become Christ-like adults with the help of proven ministries, curricula,

and structures. Men receive training to be effective leaders and coaching to build relationships with the boys. Cadets grow up to become counselors, deacons, elders, teachers, pastors, and more, filling important roles in the kingdom of God. It is rewarding to hear the testimonies of adults who say that God used a Cadet counselor to influence their lives for Him. Truly, the Cadet ministry and the congregations are partners for impact in the kingdom of God.

Youth Unlimited (YU) values ministry partnerships and recognizes their many benefits. Churches that host YU SERVE mission experiences and their local communities are blessed as Jesus Christ is revealed to them through service and kindness. SERVE participants are blessed through serving Christ in ways that they would not experience in the daily routine of life and become extensions of the host church, enabling it to fulfill God's call to be his hands and feet to the local community. YU is blessed in the ability to offer life changing experiences to young people and their leaders throughout North America and beyond.

Partners Worldwide

At Partners Worldwide the word "partner" is more than just a key part of our name—it is the foundation upon which our entire organization is built. While our model focuses on the partnership between like-

minded business people passionate about business solutions to ending poverty, Partners Worldwide has had a long-standing partnership with the CRWRC and the CRC in our collective effort to transform lives and communities worldwide.

The staff of Partners Worldwide works closely with CRWRC staff in key areas around the world to leverage the skills and abilities of business people as a critical part of the solution to developing a small business sector that can facilitate sustainable results to address important social issues such as unemployment, orphan care, food security and HIV/Aids. These partnerships between multiple organizations and the local business communities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America lead to long-term solutions that maximize the resources and abilities of each party.

Created in 1997, Partners Worldwide has grown to serve in 20 developing countries worldwide. Establishing an international network of business and professional people, Partners Worldwide functions to create jobs, end the cycle of poverty and transform communities. Partners Worldwide is committed to forming business mentoring partnerships, offering training in basic business practices and improving access to capital. These efforts combined have resulted in the creation of 1,656 jobs and the retention of 16,812 jobs in 2008. Learn more at www.partnersworldwide.org.

Greetings from Redeemer University College. We trust that you have been refreshed after the summer holidays. As we are busy with preparations for the upcoming academic year, which will also mark my last year as President of Redeemer University College, this has been a tremendous time of God's blessing.

We are overjoyed with the historic announcement that Redeemer University College will be receiving a \$2.95 million investment from the federal government's Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP). This is the largest single grant in Redeemer's history, and marks the first time we have received capital funding from the federal government, together with a number of other Christian universities across Canada. The investment will cover one-half of the total cost of more than 25 different projects which will be undertaken during 2009 and 2010 to refurbish our academic facilities, including upgrading our science labs, enhancing the energy efficiency and sustainability of our academic building (part of which is the installation of solar panels to generate electricity for our facilities) and renovating the offices for research support, student services and other administrative functions.

Under the Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program (RIInC), Redeemer has also received \$600,000 in combined federal and provincial funding, to be matched with \$300,000 through a partnership with the Ancaster Soccer Club (ASC) for a significant upgrade to our existing soccer field. We are also awaiting confirmation of additional federal/provincial funding of \$2 million toward a second soccer complex that would include a "bubble" for year-round use again in cooperation with ASC and the City of Hamilton. This is also the first time we have received provincial funds, which come to us from a non-educational fund. Such funding underscores a sense of recognition of Redeemer's community contribution.

We are encouraged by the positive outlook for our 2009-10 fall enrolment and housing targets, now projected for 847 full-time students and 425 students in residence. Our favourable Maclean's ratings, active admissions website, the prospect of fewer jobs in an economic downturn and the hard work of our Recruitment personnel are all plausible reasons for these good projections.

We also pleased to announce two senior administrative appointments: Richard Wikkerink as Associate Vice President, Student Development and Registrar; and Doriel Moulton as Associate Vice President, Marketing. We look forward to their leadership and contribution to Redeemer. We will also seek to fill two faculty positions this year, in Philosophy and in Psychology. We also said farewell to Dr Wayne Norman, who retired after 21 years as Professor of Psychology and Director of Research and Faculty Development.

Launching of the new Cornerstone Program to as a replacement for the Redeemer Foundation is planned for September 25, also the date of our Faculty Artists Concert. Redeemer's annual membership meeting will be held on Friday, November 6, in conjunction with a concert by Dr Paul Thorlakson and Valerie Tryon. Please reserve these dates. We also look forward to this year's Zylstra Lectures on November 11, 2009 by Dr John Witte, Jr., Director, Centre for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory Law School in Atlanta, Georgia. Please note that Tuesday, March 2, 2010 is Redeemer's annual Ministers' Conference, with the speaker yet to be announced. Please check our website at www.redeemer.ca for updates about events, lectures and concerts.

We have a sense of excitement as we continue to work on developing a special legacy fund-raising campaign in preparation for my retirement at the end of June 2010, focussing on student aid, faculty research and debt reduction. The Presidential Search Committee is proceeding effectively with their process to find a new President. Please pray for this process as they seek the person of God's choosing.

Thank you for your continuing support of Redeemer through prayer and financial giving. Church donations for the past fiscal year were \$814,000, which exceeded our expectations! These gifts are essential for our \$1.6 million student financial aid program, which will now be funded by church donations and the Cornerstone Program, making a Christian university education accessible to more students. We praise God for his faithfulness and wonderful blessings.

Dr Justin Cooper, President

*Classis Niagara
Proposed Budget 2010*

	Proposed 2010 <u>Budget</u>	2009 <u>Budget</u>	To Date <u>Aug-09</u>
<u>Classis Expense Fund:</u>			
<u>Members:</u>	<u>3,200</u>	<u>3,197</u>	
Shares	12,800	12,788	5,394
Interest Income	500	2,000	309
	13,300	14,788	5,704
Delegates, Meals & Mileage	3,000	2,500	3,415
Safe Church Team Panel			2,851
Minister's retreat	750	750	750
Office Expense	1,800	2,800	465
Stated Clerk Remuneration	6,000 *	5,000	3,750
Treasurer Remuneration	6,000 *	5,000	3,750
	17,550	16,050	14,981
*approved October 2007			
<u>Brock Campus Ministry:</u>			
Shares	89,965	93,561	31,089
Chaplain Salary	52,965	52,441	34,961
Travel Allowance	1,500	3,120	2,080
Housing	17,200	17,200	11,467
Pension Assessment	7,000	7,000	5,432
Medical Insurance	4,000	4,000	0
Wage Expenses	3,300	3,300	3,143
Professional Development	1,000	1,500	0
Ministry Expenses	3,000	5,000	0
	89,965	93,561	57,082
<u>Shalom Manor Chaplain:</u>			
Classis Hamilton	34,405	40,044	15,131
Classis Niagara	27,974	32,000	10,703
Non CRC Churches	5,000	5,000	2,500
Shalom Church Services	20,921	13,313	11,816
	88,300	90,357	40,150
Books and Conf Fees	2,500	1,500	1,000
Clergy Res. Allowance	16,800	16,800	11,200
Pulpit Supply	800	1,200	685
Chaplain Salary	53,300	51,257	34,171
Travel Allowance	2,000	4,000	91
Wage Expenses	3,300	3,300	3,143

	Proposed 2010 <u>Budget</u>	2009 <u>Budget</u>	To Date <u>Aug-09</u>
Health & Drug Plan	4,000	4,000	2,482
Pension Assessment	8,200	7,800	5,432
Telephone	0	100	0
Misc.	400	400	0
	91,300	90,357	58,204
 <u>Classis Ministry Committee:</u>			
Shares	19,862	19,672	7,530
Coordinator Salary	9,100	8,910	5,569
Coordinator Expenses	2,400	2,400	
Administrative Assistant	1,500	1,500	371
Office Expenses	200	200	
Conferences etc.	500	500	
Website	400	400	76
Prayer Ministry Expenses	500	500	
<u>Youth Leader Support Team:</u>			
Salary & Expenses	3,262	3,262	800
Youth Talks Subsidy	2,000	2,000	1,140
	19,862	19,672	7,956
 <u>Classis Ministry Leadership Team:</u>			
Shares	22,400	12,788	4,250
 <u>The Village Church</u>			
Shares	25,600	31,970	10,625
 <u>Total Budget for Classis Niagara</u>			
	\$203,351	\$204,779	

*Classis Niagara
Christian Reformed Church
Ministry Shares for 2010*

Denominational Shares:

	<u>Proposed 2010</u>	<u>2010 Budget</u>	<u>2009</u>
<u>To be sent to Burlington:</u>			
Back to God	43.97		43.97
Calvin College	10.60		10.00
Redeemer University College	50.72		49.92
Calvin Theological Seminary	35.91		35.91
Faith Alive Christian Resources	12.49		12.49
CRC Home Missions	44.24		44.24
The Network	2.56		
Sustaining Cong. Excellence	10.00		10.56
CRC World Missions	59.93		59.93
Denominational Services	34.46		36.46
Specialized Ministries	31.01		41.57
Special Assistance Fund	1.36		1.36
	<u>337.25</u>		<u>346.41</u>
Total Denom. Ministry Shares	<u>337.25</u>		<u>346.41</u>

Classical Ministry Shares:

	<u>2010</u>		<u>2009</u>
Members	3,200		3,197
<u>To be sent to Classical Treasurer:</u>			
Classis Expense Fund	4.00	17,550	4.00
Campus Ministry - Brock	28.11	89,965	29.27
Shalom Manor Chaplain	8.75	27,974	10.12
Classical Ministries Committee	6.21	19,862	6.15
Classis Ministry Leadership Team	7.00	22,400	4.00
The Village Church	8.00	25,600	10.00
	<u>62.07</u>	<u>203,351</u>	<u>63.54</u>

Classis Niagara of the Christian Reformed Church in NA

Fund Balances as at August 31, 2009

	<u>2009 Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
1) Classis Expense Fund		
Shares/Interest	14,788	5,704
Disbursements	16,050	(14,981)
	30,838	(9,277)
Balance As at Jan 1/09		57,988
Fund Balance Aug 31/09		48,711
2) Brock Campus Ministry		
Shares	93,561	31,089
Disbursements	(93,561)	(57,082)
	0	(25,993)
Balance As at Jan 1/09		40,346
Fund Balance Aug 31/09		14,353
3) Shalom Manor Chaplain		
Shares	90,357	40,150
Disbursements	(90,357)	(58,204)
	0	(18,054)
Balance As at Jan 1/09		18,003
Fund Balance Aug 31/09		(51)
4) Classis Ministry Committee		
Shares	19,672	7,530
Disbursements	(19,672)	(7,956)
	0	(426)
Balance As at Jan 1/09		34,189
Fund Balance Aug 31/09		33,763
5) Classis Ministry Leadership Team		
Shares	12,788	4,250
Transfers		(4,250)
		0
Balance As at Jan 1/09		0
Fund Balance Aug 31/09		0
6) The Village Church		
Shares	31,970	10,625
Disbursements		(10,625)
		0
Balance In Bank Aug 31, 2009		96,776