

CLASSIS CHATHAM HIGHLIGHTS
Tuesday, September 25, 2018 hosted by Strathroy East CRC

- Rev. Derek Bouma and the East CRC Worship Team welcomed all and led in a time of praise and worship. Rev. Bouma reflected on a few verses from 1 Samuel. He asked, "What is God up to in our lives?" Delegates and guests reflected and spent time in prayer, both individually and in small groups considering what God is doing in ... in us ... in our churches.
- All 28 churches of classis were present with 66 delegates in attendance, including 9 first-time delegates. All first time delegates signed the Covenant for Office Bearers.
- Classis was declared constituted and Rev. Willemina Zwart of London-Good News and Rev. Phil Apoll of Mount Brydges-Hope Community were seated as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. Mr. Ron Middel was seated as the Clerk.
- Delegates and guests were encouraged by reports and videos, highlighting their programs, by Chaplains Mike Wagenman of Western University, and Doug Rowley of the Ridgetown College chaplaincy programs. We were also informed that the Search Committee for the Fanshawe College program hopes to make a recommendation to classis in the next month. Chaplain Kelly Sibthorpe remains at Fanshawe until his successor is found.
- For the Classical Ministries Committee, Rev. Willemina Zwart presented reflections and recommendations for a new agenda format and credential form for future classis meetings. This new format is a result of our classical renewal review.
- Classis received an update from our Classical Church Planting Team. The committee is considering several locations with the goal to start a new church plant by the fall of 2019.
- Classis receiving an overture from London-Good News, will establish an ad hoc committee for the purpose of reviewing the administration and governance aspects of the Chaplaincy program, as it currently exists within our classis. *Note: If you know of a member interested, gifted and willing to serve on such a committee, please contact Ron Middel, Stated Clerk.*
- Recommendations from classis Nominations Committee, approved by classis:
 - Rev. Eric Groot-Nibbelink (London-Bethel) as our classical Synodical Deputy
 - Rev. Norman Visser (Chatham-Calvary) as our Alternate Synodical Deputy
 - Brad Ypma (London-Bethel) to serve on the Classical Student Fund Committee
- The Nominations Committee is seeking a replacement for Diane Plug, serving as our Regional Advocate for Disability Concerns.
- At the request of Aylmer CRC, classis granted emeritus status to Rev. Dirk Miedema as he plans to retire effective January 27, 2019. Rev. Miedema is thanked for faithfully serving in our classis for many years.
- Delegates participated in an open mic session to learn and encourage each other in our outreach. Attending churches shared stories of outreach opportunities and programs they have participated with.
- Yvonne Lammers, Chair of our Classical Safe Church Team, educated us on the role and activities of our local safe church teams and the classis team. "Awareness ... Prevention ... Response". The Team has produced a video, which we are encouraged to show in our churches, promoting safe church and the Classis Chatham Safe Church Counselling Fund.
- Canadian National Gathering 2019, Planning Team member, Calvin Davies reported on the plans for the May 24-26, 2019 event, at Kings College in Edmonton. Participant search information will be sent to our churches in the near future.
- Classis approved the 2019 Classis Ministry Share Budget, which is \$63.75 per confessing member, a 3.21% increase. The increase is largely due to decline in professing members.
- As London-Talbot Street has implemented a leadership structure (without the office of deacon) they will be asked to make a presentation at our next meeting of classis to offer clarity, in relation to how it fits within our confessions and church order.
- Classis was blessed to hear Church Counselor, Church Visitor, and a number of other reports throughout the day. We adjourned at 3:03 p.m. to meet again on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at 9:00 a.m., DV, at Wallaceburg CRC.
-- Minutes are available through your church or Ron Middel, Stated Clerk

Helpful information for churches can be found on the Classis Chatham website
www.classischatham.ca