



CLASSIS NIAGARA OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



*To encourage, equip, and empower churches and ministries
to engage God's people in mission!*



Website: classisniagara.ca; e-mail: statedclerkniagara@gmail.com

121st meeting of Classis
Wednesday, October 26, 2022 - held at Bethel CRC, Dunnville
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Chair: Rev. Erick Schuringa; **Vice-chair:** Rev. Jeff Klingenberg; **Stated Clerk:** Wendy de Jong

Synodical Deputies – Rev. Michael Bootsma, Rev. Gary van Leeuwen, Rev. Philip Apoll

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

October 2022

This supplemental agenda contains:

- an updated Pulpit Supply schedule
 - Assignments to Trinity for November and beyond have been deleted
 - With three churches the schedule has reverted to twice per month in 2023
- Chaplain Zack DeBruyne's report from Brock Campus Ministries
- An information letter from Pastor Church resources about counselling for pastors
- A report from Global Coffee Break

Pulpit Supply List of Classis Niagara for September to November 2022

	TRINITY CRC* 10:00 AM	FAITH FELLOWSHIP* 10:00 AM	RIVERSIDE CRC* 9:30 & 3:00 PM	PROVIDENCE 10:00 AM
Sept 11 Sept 25	Rev. Mike Vandyk Rev. Woodrow Dixon	Rev. Peter Tuininga	Rev. Bob Loerts Rev. Colin Vander Ploeg	
Oct 9 Oct 23	Rev. Bob Loerts	Rev. Colin Vander Ploeg Rev. Jeff Klingenberg	Rev. Erick Schuringa Rev. Peter Tuininga	
Nov 13 Nov 27		Rev. Woodrow Dixon Rev. Steve deBoer	Rev. Jeff Klingenberg	Rev. Janet Ryzebol

Pulpit Supply List of Classis Niagara for January to March 2023

	FAITH FELLOWSHIP* 10:00 AM	RIVERSIDE CRC* 9:30 AM	PROVIDENCE 10:00 AM
January 8 January 22	Rev. Bob Loerts Rev. Jeff Klingenberg	Rev. Peter Tuininga	Rev. Erick Schuringa Rev. Woodrow Dixon
February 12 February 26	Rev. Colin Vander Ploeg	Rev. Mike Vandyk Rev. Bob Loerts	Rev. Janet Ryzebol
March 12 March 26	Rev. Woodrow Dixon Rev. Peter Tuininga	Rev. Colin VanderPloeg Rev. Jeff Klingenberg	Rev. Mike Vandyk Rev. Erick Schuringa

**Note that the Classis guidelines indicate that appointments shall be distributed equally among the currently serving ministers of classis. Some churches have declined having a female pastor included in their pulpit supply rotation and thus there are blanks in the schedule.*

Any scheduling changes should be arranged and confirmed by the pastor(s) and the council(s) of the church(es) involved.

Two appointments per month shall be granted to these churches except for June, July, August, and December. Churches with an intern or part-time interim pastor will be granted one scheduled appointment per month.

Appointments shall be distributed equally among the currently serving ministers of classis as scheduled by the Classis Ministry Council.

Churches receiving appointments shall reimburse the assigned minister for travelling expenses and the church for a per service cost at the rates set forth by Classis. If the sending church has one service and the receiving church has two, then the sending church receives payment for one service and the pastor receives payment directly for the second service, plus applicable mileage for both.

Pulpit Supply rates for Classis Niagara are \$150 per service, plus mileage at Canada Revenue rates for 2022 of \$0.61/km. *The mileage rate for 2023 is not available yet so may change yet.*



Brock Campus Ministry 2022

FALL UPDATE

FIRST WEEKS OF FALL



TOONIE SUPPERS

At our first two Toonie Suppers we've fed and connected with nearly 100 students



WELCOME WEEK TABLING

BCM Interns sharing about the ministry to the whole Campus during Welcome Week



FAITH FAIR

18 different religious clubs, churches, and chaplaincies shared their visions with over 100 Brock students at our first ever Faith Fair.



Photos from our kick-off fire, to our weekly hikes along the Bruce Trail, to our Bowling team at our Monday night social.



It has been 5 years since I began my time at Brock University as the Christian Reformed Chaplain. Throughout these past 5 years, we have seen God's faithfulness time and time again. From a small office in the basement floor of a dormitory, to an entire building dedicated to equipping and empowering students of faith to flourish at Brock. And yet in the midst of all of this, in 5 years as the CRC Chaplain, I have not had an entire in-person year in the Faith and Life Centre. So to say that I was excited about this year, would be an understatement. With 6 student interns joining Brock Campus Ministry, a full return to in-person education and programming, and the doors of the Faith and Life opening for 12-hours a day – we are overjoyed to see the hunger for community among Brock students.

Over the past month, we have seen the participation of over 200 students in our variety of Welcome week programming, Bible studies, hikes, and Toonie Suppers. As we look back on the first year of my call as the CRC Chaplain with a few students engaged with our programming and studies, to having 200 students participating in and seeking community at Brock. The last Toonie Supper we offered had over 50 students and we went through 8 crock-pots of delicious homemade soup from folks at Trinity and Jubilee.

It is a joy to have the support of our local churches and even the participation of congregants coming to serve and meet students right here on-campus. We celebrate what God has done to open door after door at Brock University. Our Monday night community – is working through a series called 'Authentic Faith' where we have been engaging the question: What does it mean to be authentic? How do we understand what a true authentic faith in God looks like? Can we have an authentic faith in God, while being truthful about our questions and doubts? You can read through some of these studies for yourself here: <https://www.brockministry.com/blog>

As we celebrate the doors that God has opened to better engage and support students through Brock Campus Ministry, we also celebrate the opportunities that have opened within the University itself. I have been invited to sit on the President's Counsel in order to be a support and guidance on religious and spiritual equity for the student body at Brock. We have seen the backing of the University in the hiring of two student staff to help promote and maintain the Faith and Life space to the Brock community. I have been invited to share in classrooms and across University Departments what we have to offer students, faculty, and staff at Brock in a variety of workshops. All opportunities that 5 short years ago we could not have imagined would be offered to Brock Campus Ministry and the Faith and Life Department at Brock. This recognition and integration of our team of Chaplains has been an enormous gift as I now have a seat at the University table to represent and better support the Christian student body, and all students of Faith at Brock. There is a Kuyperian lens that I see in the work that I have the gift of participating in at Brock, that all things belong to God. From the classroom to a cup of coffee, from a conversation along the Bruce trail, to a spiritual direction conversation with a student. The Spirit of God is living, moving, and leading our community here at Brock every avenue of life on campus.

Within our Brock Campus Ministry Leadership team, we read *The Deeply Formed Life* by Rich Villodas. This book will form and shape the questions we ask this year as Christ's representatives to a Campus that desperately needs the grace of God. Moreover, each of the 6 interns are stepping out in leadership in a variety of ways – from hospitality, to discipleship, to creativity and communications. It has been a gift to see how they have already grown not only in their leadership capacity, but in their faith in Christ over the past 8 weeks. This year we are practicing the spiritual disciplines together as an active faithful discipline. We have daily practices with solitude, prayer, silence, celebration, and more. Each week we spend time share our struggles and joys with how God moved in our faithful attempts at sitting still for 10 minutes. You can see an example of the discipline handbook I wrote here:

<https://www.brockministry.com/spiritual-disciplines>

Having a team of gifted student leaders seeking to grow in their faith in Christ and leadership ability has already been such a gift to me and to the Campus Ministry. Whether that is leading a Bible study, helping with the Toonie suppers, or putting together resources for students to engage in at the Faith and Life Centre – it has been wonderful to have a team of student leaders to work alongside. If you want to learn more about each of them, we have a series of introductory posts on Instagram that you can find here: www.instagram.com/brockcampusministry

As we continue into the second half of this semester, we anticipate all that God will continue to do through Brock Campus Ministry, our student Interns, and the growing community of faith that I have the gift of leading. We ask for your ongoing prayers for students as they navigate the difficulties of transitioning back into in-person classes and all that comes with it. We ask for prayers for our student Interns that they might continue to grow in their faith, their leadership, and their commitment to Jesus in their lives. Finally, we ask for prayer for a continued positive relationship between the University and Brock Campus Ministry, that more doors might open and opportunities for myself as Chaplain to be a faithful Christian voice and presence within the very structure of the University. It is a gift to have the prayers and support of Classis, and in particular, Trinity and Jubilee as Brock Campus Ministry's championing churches. They have provided so much spiritual, emotional, and soup-filled support to our presence at Brock University over the last 5-years!

PASTOR CHURCH RESOURCES INFO PAGE RE COUNSELLING AND MORE

Pastor Church Resources is partnering with Full Strength Network to offer a variety of wellbeing resources for just \$149 (U.S.) per year. Resources include:

- *counseling* - safe, confidential counseling for pastors and ministry staff and their spouses and/or dependants ages 13 - 17
- *coaching* - customized coaching for ministry leaders
- *peer huddles* - groups of pastors who meet for an hour each month around ministry related topics
- *financial coaching* - covering topics such as debt reduction, budgeting, giving, saving, and wise stewardship
- *respite opportunities* - a list of welcoming accommodations at affordable prices
- *exclusive content* - for ministry leaders to enhance overall wellbeing
- *ministrypulse app* - allows you to monitor your wellbeing

The wellbeing of pastors is critical to the pastor, their family, and the churches they serve. Taking proactive steps to ensure and enhance wellbeing should be a top priority.

We encourage churches to cover the minimal cost if their pastor(s) is interested. If the church and the pastor are unable to afford the fee, limited scholarships are available. Please reach out to [us](#) for more information.

Pastors and ministry staff are able to access these resources. However, scholarships are available only for pastors.

Individual Registration OR Gift a Membership to your Pastor

If you're a CRCNA pastor or church staff person and are purchasing a membership for yourself *OR* if you're providing this membership as a gift to your pastor/church staff person, go to the "register here" icon at the top of this [page](#).

Group Registration

If you're a CRC church providing/purchasing this membership to some or all of your staff, go to the "register your group" icon" at the top of this [page](#).

Note: Pastors and ministry staff in the U.S. and Canada (except for Quebec) are able to participate in this opportunity. Full Strength determines where they're able to offer their resources. The CRCNA has no input into this.

Questions about the program and what it offers? Contact Full Strength Network at info@fullstrength.org

Note: Counseling services are available by many providers including [Shalem Mental Health Network](#) in Ontario and [Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services](#) in Michigan. The scholarships noted above are only available for Full Strength.

Global Coffee Break - Report for Classis — October 2022

This season of coming through a pandemic has been challenging for pastors and leaders alike. It does encourage us to ask the question, what does this make possible? Many Bible study groups were forced to go online using Zoom. God provided some great opportunities through this new technology.

- *Coffee Break Ministries* has been able to invite leaders from across Canada to attend workshops and retreats all on Zoom (some who have never had the opportunity for training locally.)
- We started a Canada-wide Bible study, and people from every province in the country joined together for learning, sharing and prayer.
- In a local group, one woman who suffered from extreme anxiety, had stopped attending her local *Coffee Break* before Covid. When the group went online, she started to come back, as she could simply listen to the conversations. Now she attends regularly again, having remained connected through Zoom during the pandemic.
- A woman who worked part-time joined more often, as she could join in the comfort of her home, before scrambling to get ready to work an afternoon shift. The online option simplified an otherwise busy morning.
- A woman who moved to another province could continue with her group that gave her love and support during this time of transition. Similarly, someone away on a holiday was able to join.
- A mom was able to invite her daughter in another city to her study, as she had no local group.
- Young moms could listen in, while children play at their feet, giving women a chance to connect when otherwise they may have been isolated through the pandemic.

Outreach Opportunities: As we come out of a pandemic, consider the opportunities that are available as people in our neighbourhoods are searching for truth and direction in these challenging times. Could this be an opportunity for the church to reach out, and to welcome the seeker? *Discover Your Bible* resources are excellent for all groups (men and women).

Alpha Project: At *Global Coffee Break* we are developing a cohort of churches that are interested in outreach, using *Alpha* and *Discover Your Bible* resources. Both ministries are outreach oriented; both use hospitality and conversation to help others explore the Christian faith. We hope to connect with churches that might be interested in this opportunity. Please connect with me at the Classis Meeting.

Coffee Break/Discover Your Bible has been a ministry in the CRC and beyond for over 50 years. We have more than 45 studies, in 7 languages written with wisdom from Biblical scholars, using adult education principles. We continue to write new materials, and work towards new translations as requests come from leaders around the world who desire to introduce people to Jesus through Bible discovery. I'll have some of our new resources to give away at the Classis Meeting. I hope to meet you there!

Marian Lensink
905-220-0457
mlensink@crcna.org
Global Coffee Break
www.globalcoffeebreak.org