



ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA

CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

May 24, 2016

MEETING COMMENCES AT 1:00 PM AT EBENEZER CRC, JARVIS

Please find the Credentials Committee report for the upcoming Classis meeting in this Addendum.

Please also note that a section is included in this Addendum on the next page. It is intended to help delegates better understand the procedures at Classis Hamilton meetings as well as the obligations of each delegate. Please read those pages carefully and if you can suggest additional items for inclusion, please send them to the stated clerk who will gladly include them in future editions.

May the Lord be with you as you prayerfully prepare for the classis meeting.

Thank you,

Dick L. Kranendonk,
Stated Clerk

clerk@classishamilton.ca

289-239-7564

ORIENTATION FOR DELEGATES

Introduction:

Classis consists of three delegates from each member congregation – a pastor, an elder and a deacon. First-time delegates are asked to sign the *Covenant For Officebearers* at the registration desk. *Delegate Credentials* are processed by the church council and are to be submitted by the Council, to the Stated Clerk via email prior to the classis meeting by your council clerk.

Duration of Classis Meetings

- The meetings normally are held on Tuesdays and are held in the afternoon and evening. Start time is determined based on the length/needs of the agenda.
- Ordinarily a ministry session of some kind is held in the evening in order to allow for members of your congregation to participate.

Classis Agenda:

- The Classis Agenda will, ordinarily, be in the hands of church councils eight weeks prior to the actual meeting date of classis. This is done to allow each church council to review the agenda prior to sending delegates.
- Delegates are to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the classis agenda. The assumption is that the agenda has been discussed at the delegates' local council meetings.

Executive of Classis

- The Executive consists of a Chair, Vice-Chair and the Stated Clerk. A Reporter is also appointed for each meeting and serves as the Vice-Chair at the next subsequent meeting.
- The chair is elected by classis in its October meeting to serve during the following calendar year. The vice-chair is appointed by rotation and the stated clerk is elected annually at the May classis meeting.

What May I Expect to Happen at Any One Classis Meeting?

- First time delegates are to sign the Covenant for Officebearers.
- The Classis Agenda will, ordinarily, be in the hands of church councils eight weeks prior to the actual meeting date of classis, and so delegates should have it at that time as well.
- Delegates may be requested to serve in the following capacities:
 - **Prayer:** for the ministries of classis, concerns of classis and/or for individuals.
 - **Committee work:**
 - Delegates in teams of two churches may be asked to serve on one of its advisory committees, Credentials, Ad hoc (as determined by previous Classis or Classis Interim Committee) or Overtures & Appeals. They are expected to submit their recommendations at least three weeks prior to the classis meeting.
- Though there is a degree of flexibility (especially where there is silence on a matter), classis abides by its own Rules of Procedure together with the rules of the CRCNA Church Order in conducting its meetings. The Church Order is determined by Synod and is held in covenant by all CR churches. The classis Rules of Procedure are at www.classishamilton.ca/organization/.

What Are Classis' Expectations of Me?

- Be on time for all sessions of classis.
- Delegates are expected to review the agenda with their council, sharing the thoughts of their council on any particular agenda item. Delegates are not obligated to vote according to their council's wishes. Classis is a deliberative body and the freedom needs to remain for delegates to vote on the basis of the best information or perspective presented at classis. (*Church Order*, Article 34; & *Manual of CRC Government*, Article 34, Commentary #'s 1 – 4.)

- If you do not understand the procedure, or it is not clear what is being discussed, or you are uncertain of the implications of a decision, ***please ask***. It is important that all delegates deliberate and vote with good awareness of what is going on. Classis would rather take a moment to ensure that, also for the meaningfulness of your time there, than try 'rush' through the agenda.
- You are expected to remain at classis until the meeting is formally adjourned. If there is an urgent need to leave, or if you will be replaced at some point by an alternate, delegates are to seek the permission of the chair
- Be aware that classis is a deliberative body and may make decisions from time to time that you do not necessarily agree with.
- Strong objection to a decision of classis may be voiced by stating your objection. If you wish to have your objection recorded, you will need to submit a written statement (within 24 hours) indicating your objection and reason(s) why.
- Delegates should report to their councils the decisions made at the classis meeting.

1. DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES 5
2. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT 6
3. NOMINEES FOR COMMITTEES 8

1. DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Church	First Name	Last Name	Title
Ancaster CRC	Rita	Klein-Geltink	Pastor Delegate
Ancaster CRC	Gerry	Deboer	Elder Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Everett	Vander Horst	Pastor Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Judy	Cook	Elder Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Marcia	Hosmar	Deacon Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Kevin	Vander Meulen	Elder Alternate
Hope	Ken	Benjamins	Pastor Delegate
Hope	Willem	Vos	Elder Delegate
Hope	Andrew	Zomerman	Third Delegate
Hope	Tim	Vaandering	Elder Alternate
New Street	Joel	Bootsma	Pastor Delegate
New Street	Ronald	Baayen	Elder Delegate
Faith	Kevin	DeRaaf	Pastor Delegate
Faith	David	Joritsma	Elder Delegate
Faith	Liz	Busuttill	Deacon Delegate
Faith	Dave	Hook	Elder Alternate
Calvin	Jeremy	Schuuringa	Elder Delegate
Calvin	John	Schotsman	Elder Delegate
Calvin	Don	Koning	Deacon Delegate
Calvary	Bas	Hania	Elder Delegate
Calvary	John	Dewaard	Elder Delegate
Calvary	Dave	Vandermeulen	Deacon Delegate
Calvary	Chris	Veurink	Deacon Alternate
Hagersville Community	Jeff	Klingenberg	Pastor Delegate
Hagersville Community	Jake	Elgersma	Elder Delegate
Hagersville Community	Jane	Lise	Deacon Delegate
First	Chris	Schoon	Pastor Delegate
First	Edward	Bakelaar	Elder Delegate
First	Gina	Taylor	Deacon Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Henry	Kranenburg	Pastor Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	David	Rumph	Elder Alternate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Jeri	Batterink	Deacon Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Bob	Brown	Elder Alternate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Anthony	Elenbaas	Pastor Alternate
Mt. Hamilton	Bob	DeHaan	Elder Delegate
Mt. Hamilton	John	Flokstra	Elder Delegate
Mt. Hamilton	Paul	Vreugdenhil	Deacon Delegate
Mt. Hamilton	John	DeMik	Elder Alternate
Mt. Hamilton	Ellen	Hunse	Deacon Alternate
New Hope	Jeff	Neven	Non-Voting Delegate
Ebenezer	Daryl	DeKlerk	Pastor Delegate
Ebenezer	John	Miedema	Elder Delegate
Ebenezer	Darryl	VanBenthum	Deacon Delegate
Ebenezer	Andy	Dejong	Elder Alternate
Immanuel, Smc	Jeff	Vandermeer	Pastor Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Roelie	Haak	Elder Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Mark	Vandervliet	Elder Delegate
Bethel	Bruce	Adema	Pastor Delegate
Bethel	Paul	Groen	Elder Delegate
Bethel	Denise	VanderLugt	Deacon Delegate
Maranatha	Paul	Heeg	Elder Delegate
Maranatha	Kevin	Vanderspec	Elder Delegate
Maranatha	Mark	Vandermeer	Deacon Delegate
Maranatha	Henk	Vanderkamp	Elder Alternate

2. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Report from the Classis Hamilton Credentials Committee

The credentials from each of the churches for the May 24, 2016 meeting of Classis Hamilton were reviewed by the delegates of Ebenezer Christian Reformed Church, Jarvis and Ancaster Christian Reformed Church, Ancaster. The credentials committee's report to Classis Hamilton is as follows:

1. Ancaster CRC: requests that classis review the proceedings of the March 22, 2016 meeting of Classis Hamilton. Several aspects of that meeting have caused us much concern, including the following:

1. There seemed to be a lack of pastoral care and consideration for the candidate
2. The discussion of whether or not to postpone the meeting took place far too late and should have been determined in the days before
3. Once the reporter had made his negative report, any further negative comments from the floor should have been heard in executive session
4. There was much confusion as to whether or not we should have completed the third section of the examination
5. There was some confusion regarding who was entitled to stay for the in camera session
6. How widely had the submitted sermons been distributed, and to whom?
7. The role of the Synodical Deputies should be clarified

Our process for examining candidates can be a wonderful and uplifting experience when it goes well. When it does not go well, we seem to be ill equipped to handle the situation and in the process, the candidate is severely impacted.

Recommendation: That Classis Hamilton forwards their request to the Classis Interim Committee. The seven concerns they raise deserve an answer from the CIC to the Council of Ancaster CRC, ideally following the next scheduled CIC meeting.

Request from Peter Beimers (referred by CIC for advice to classis based on CO, Article 43-b): Peter Beimers is a member at Maranatha CRC in Woodstock. He has a licence to exhort in Classis Chatham and is inquiring about what he would need to do to have it extended to Classis Hamilton or what he would need to do to have a licence to exhort in in our classis. He is a Calvin Seminary graduate, MA in Missions and Church Growth, and is now making a concentrated effort to be called to a church as a pastor or 2nd staff pastor. He did start in the MDiv track, but had trouble with Hebrew so after 2+ years he made the switch to MA. He also hope to contact various churches with vacant pulpit within about a 2 hour drive radius from Woodstock to offer himself as a possibility as an Interim Pastor. CIC decided that Peter Beimers' request is to be included in the agenda of the May classis meeting with the request that the Credentials Committee advise on this matter.

Recommendation: Regarding Peter Beimers' request to have his license to exhort extended from Classis Chatham to Classis Hamilton, the Church Order, Article 43-b speaks to the matter when it says two things are required in order to grant a license to exhort within a classis:

1. "need for their services" must be established, and
2. "the classis shall examine such persons..."

We note that while there are churches among us needing pulpit supply and pastoral staffing, there is also a healthy list of those in Classis Hamilton with a license to exhort. Even if we did determine that there is a need, there is no provision in CO whereby we could simply adopt someone from another classis. We recommend that classis accede to this request only upon application of Peter for the purpose of a license to exhort. Of course, individual churches may certainly invite him or other individuals lead their services when the sermon is approved by the consistory (Art 53b).

Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis: We are thankful for the opportunities Pastor Daryl has had over the past two years to preach in seven of the Classis Hamilton churches. With Pastor John Huyser's departure in January we are in a transitional time of discerning staffing models. Since Pastor Daryl has plenty on his plate with pastoral care, youth ministry and 75% of services here (AM and PM), we request that he be given a reprieve for a year from the Classis preaching schedule.

Recommendation: That Classis agree to the request.

3. NOMINEES FOR COMMITTEES

CLASSIS INTERIM COMMITTEE (No nominations have as yet been received from the churches. Two new candidates are required. Knowledge of financial record keeping and best governance practices would be desirable skills.)

HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Harmene Sytsma (first term)

CLASSIS MINISTRY TEAM

Victor Laarman (second term)

CANDIDACY COMMITTEE

Andrew Zomerman (second term)