



ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA

CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

October 22, 2019

MEETING COMMENCES AT 9:00 AM AT THE DENOMINATIONAL OFFICE, BURLINGTON

The section titled “Orientation for Delegates” in this Addendum, page 4, 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.

For first time delegates (and as refresher for others) the Agenda itself can be found at the following link: http://www.classishamilton.ca/files/ClassisHamilton/agenda_oct_2019.pdf.

All delegates will be asked to affirm their commitment to the Covenant for Office-Bearers in the Christian Reformed Church in North America by standing when the Chair of Classis so indicates. The Covenant can be found on page 9.

Agenda Item 5.4 – Unfortunately, the report from the Campus Ministry Committee was not included in the agenda due to an oversight. Together with a letter from Resonate, it is included in this addendum at page 10.

Agenda Item 8 – The reports from the Advisory Committee can be found at pages 12 and 14.

Agenda Item 11 – Changed

No matters were raised that needed to be addressed by the Credentials Committee.

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

PLEASE NOTE: Printed copies of the Agenda and this Addendum will **NOT** be available at the meeting. Please bring your own printed or electronic copies.

Thank you,

Dick L. Kranendonk,
Stated Clerk

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1. DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Church	First Name	Last Name	Title
Ancaster CRC	Rita	Klein-Geltink	Pastor Delegate
Ancaster CRC	Fred	Hagen	Elder Delegate
Ancaster CRC	John	Bick	Deacon Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Everett	Vander Horst	Pastor Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Jeanette	Lodewyks	Elder Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Marcia	Hosmar	Deacon Delegate
Hope	William	Koopmans	Pastor Delegate
Hope	John	Hensen	Elder Delegate
Hope	Fred	Reitsma	Elder Alternate
New Street	Joel	Bootsma	Pastor Delegate
New Street	Geoff	Weinstein	Elder Delegate
New Street	Ingrid	Dykstra	Deacon Delegate
New Street	Trudy	Sykes	Elder Alternate
Faith	Henry	Hess	Elder Delegate
Faith	Vivian	Vanderhoek	Elder Delegate
Faith	Gerri	Nyman	Deacon Delegate
Calvin	Ken	Benamins	Pastor Delegate
Calvin	John	Mantel	Elder Delegate
Calvin	Mel	Elzinga	Deacon Delegate
Calvin	John	Schotsman	Elder Alternate
Calvary	Bernard	Teeninga	Elder Delegate
Calvary	Jan	VanderHout	Elder Delegate
Calvary	Jane	Vanderzwaag	Deacon Delegate
Calvary	Chris	Bosveld	Deacon Alternate
Hagersville Community	Chris	Bill	Elder Delegate
Hagersville Community	Kevin	Ouwehand	Deacon Delegate
Hagersville Community	George	Elzinga	Elder Alternate
Hagersville Community	Brian	Paterson	Deacon Delegate
First Hamilton	Hayden	Regeling	Pastor Delegate
First Hamilton	Brian	Dykema	Elder Delegate
First Hamilton	Jan	Disselkoen	Deacon Delegate
First Hamilton	Jules	de Jager	Elder Alternate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Anthony	Elenbaas	Pastor Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Steve	McKnight	Elder Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Sharon	Van Dokkemburg	Deacon Delegate
New Hope	Ginelle	Bucher	Emerging Church
Mt. Hope Community	Bob	DeHaan	Elder Delegate
Mt. Hope Community	Mark	Demik	Elder Delegate
Mt. Hope Community	Doug	Dekker	Deacon Delegate
Ebenezer	Wim	de Vries	Pastor Delegate
Ebenezer	TBD		
Ebenezer	TBD		
Immanuel, Smc	Jeff	Vandermeer	Pator Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Ted	Berkel	Elder Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Ann	Oosterveld	Elder Alternate
Bethel	Bruce	Adema	Pastor Delegate
Bethel	Pter	van der Meulen	Elder Delegate
Bethel	Chris	DeWeerd	Deacon Delegate-am
Maranatha	Ben	Ponsen	Pastor Delegate
Maranatha	TBD		
Maranatha	Jake	Termorshuizen	Deacon Delegate
Maranatha	Jay	Haanstra	Deacon Alternate

2. 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. Start time is determined based on the length/needs of the agenda.

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:
http://www.classishamilton.ca/files/ClassisHamilton/rop_issue_2019_1.pdf

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, you are to seek the permission of the chair who will seek the consent of the assembly.
- 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.

What do the Acronyms Used at Classis Mean?

It is always a challenge for persons coming to a meeting of an organization to understand the shortcut language often used. Part of that shortcut language is using acronyms. Here follows a list of more common ones often included in reports or heard at classis meetings.

- ARC – Audit Review Committee of Classis Hamilton
- CHCC – Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee
- CHCMC – Classis Hamilton Campus Ministries Committee
- CHHMC – Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee
- CHSCT – Classis Hamilton Safe Church Team
- CHYMT – Classis Hamilton Youth Ministry Team
- CIC – Classis Interim Committee (also serves as the corporation's Board of Directors)
- CMT – Classis Ministry Team
- CRCNA – Christian Reformed Church in North America
- DMC – Diaconal Ministries Canada
- EPMC – Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidates
- RCA – Reformed Church in America
- RoP – Rules of Procedure of Classis Hamilton

THE PURPOSE OF CLASSIS ACCORDING TO CRCNA CHURCH ORDER

The purpose of classis cannot be clearly and easily stated. However, there are several aspects of classis and the classical structure that help to clarify the purpose of classis.

I. Definition of Classis

A classis shall consist of a group of Christian Reformed churches that come together to seek, discern, and submit to God's will; offer one another mutual support and accountability; find ways to live out a collective calling within their region; and allow for a healthy and sustained connection to the wider denomination. A classis shall consist of a group of neighboring churches. The organizing of a new classis and the redistricting of classes require the approval of synod. (Church Order, Article 39)

“Article 39 defines the classical assembly as a group of neighboring churches [that find ways to live out a collective calling within their region]. Each organized church belongs to a classis.” (*Manual of Christian Reformed Church Government (MCRCG) 2017*, Commentary, Items 1. & 2., p. 170)

“The classis is the official assembly of a group of neighboring (broadly defined) congregations. It consists of three official delegates (a minister, an elder, and a deacon) from each congregation and ordinarily meets every four months (see Church Order Art. 39 and 40). However, there are a number of classes that now meet two times per year rather than the three stipulated in the Church Order. (*MCRCG 2017*, Commentary, Item 1. b. p. 107).

II. Authority of Classis

Classis is a major assembly established with the authority of Christ given to the church to exercise that authority over the councils of the local churches.

“Each assembly exercises, in keeping with its own character and domain, the ecclesiastical authority entrusted to the church by Christ; the authority of councils being original, that of major assemblies being delegated.” (Church Order, Article 27-a)

“The essential authority of the church is to make the church what God calls it to be. Christ rules his church by his Word and Spirit. Each member, each special office, and each assembly is called upon to build up the body of Christ to fully represent him and do his work so that in all things his purposes may be accomplished in and through his church. Every member, officebearer, and assembly exercises this authority committed to the church by Christ.” (*MCRCG 2017*, Commentary, Items 1. a.-b., p. 109)

“The classis has the same authority over the council as the synod has over the classis.” (Church Order, Article 27-b)

“In matters that are properly the province of a major assembly, the Church Order declares that the major assemblies have authority over the minor assemblies—the classis has authority over the council...” (*MCRCG 2017*, Commentary, Items 2-b., paragraph 3, p. 110)

III. Delegation

The authority of classis is a delegated authority.

“Each assembly exercises, in keeping with its own character and domain, the ecclesiastical authority entrusted to the church by Christ; the authority of councils being original, that of major assemblies being delegated.” (Church Order, Article 27-a)

“The major assemblies are duly constituted assemblies of the churches and consist of delegates authorized to ‘take part in all deliberations and transactions of the assembly and transacted in agreement with the Word of God and according to the conception of it embodied in the doctrinal standards of the Christian Reformed Church, as well as in harmony with the Church Order’” (*MCRCG 2017*, Commentary, Item 2- b., paragraph 2, p. 110)

“The classis is the official assembly of a group of neighboring (broadly defined) congregations. It consists of three official delegates (a minister, an elder, and a deacon) from each congregation and ordinarily meets every four months (see Church Order Art. 39 and 40). ... (*MCRCG 2017*, Commentary, Item 1. b. p. 107) “The point of Article 34 is that the major assemblies are representative of the congregations constituting the minor assemblies. It needs to be emphasized that the meetings of classes are meetings of churches and not meetings of ministers, elders, and deacons. The churches send delegates but the classis meeting remains a meeting of member

congregations. ...Neither classes nor synod are “representative assemblies” like a legislature. Rather ...the assemblies of the church are “deliberative assemblies” in which the delegates that constitute the assembly are free to discuss and deliberate together for the wellbeing of the whole church represented in that assembly. This representation binds the church together. Each member church of a classis, and each member classis in the denomination, must be fully aware of the fact that it has opportunity by way of overture, communication, or appeal, and also through representatives, to make its contribution to every decision adopted by a broader assembly. (MCRCG 2017, Commentary, Item 1., paragraph 3, p. 148)

IV. Unity of the church

“To express and maintain the broader unity of the church and to reach out beyond the local boundaries, councils (minor assemblies) unite in broader (major) assemblies called ‘classes’.” (MCRCG 2017, Commentary, Item 2. b., paragraph 1, p. 110)

“The advantages to three meetings a year that should not be given up except for good cause are:

- 1) the opportunity to respond to the agenda of synod,
- 2) more frequent contact among the churches,
- 3) closer supervision of the work of classis,
- 4) the distribution of the burden of the work over three meetings instead of two.” (Acts of Synod, 1985, p. 725)

“The point of Article 34 is that the major assemblies are representative of the congregations constituting the minor assemblies. ...*This representation binds the church together.* ... (MCRCG 2017, Commentary, Item 1., paragraph 3, p. 148)

V. Matters of Concern

There are certain matters which are proper for classis to undertake and others with which classis should not concern itself.

“Article 28: Matters Legally Before Assemblies

- a. These assemblies shall transact ecclesiastical matters only, and shall deal with them in an ecclesiastical manner.
- b. A major assembly shall deal only with those matters which concern its churches in common or which could not be finished in the minor assemblies.” (Church Order, Article 28 a-b)

“Article 28-b says that a major assembly shall deal only with matters that concern its churches in common or that could not be finished in the minor assemblies.

- a. Matters of common concern
Projects and programs that can be carried on by the minor assemblies should be done by these assemblies and not by the major assemblies. A council should not ask classis to do work the council is capable of doing... However, church councils may refer to classis any matter that concerns all the churches of classis in common.” (MCRCG 2017, Commentary, Item 1., paragraph 3, p. 111-112)

Those matters of concern include the following:

- 1) Business matters that impinge upon all churches, e.g. examination of candidates for ministry. (Church Order, Articles 10, 23, 24, 43, 82-84)
- 2) Accountability of the churches

- i. Church offices (Church Order, Article 2)
 - ii. Discipline (Church Order, Article 82-84)
- 3) Provide advice to the churches—through Church Visitors (Church Order, Article 42)
- 4) Evangelism & Ministry of Mercy (Church Order, Article 75 a-b)
 - i. Assist local churches
 - ii. Perform evangelistic work through a classical ministry plan when that work is beyond the scope and resources of the local churches.
 - iii. Perform mercy ministries through a classical ministry plan when that work is beyond the scope and resources of the local churches.
- 6) Provide financial assistance to those preparing for ministry by granting financial aid administered through a Student Fund Committee. (Church Order, Article 21)

3. COVENANT FOR OFFICE BEARERS

COVENANT FOR OFFICE-BEARERS IN THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH (2012)

We believe the inspired Word of God as received in the Old and New Testaments of Holy Scripture, which proclaims the good news of God's creation and redemption through Jesus Christ. Acknowledging the authority of God's Word, we submit to it in all matters of life and faith.

We affirm three creeds—the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed—as ecumenical expressions of the Christian faith. In doing so, we confess our faith in unity with followers of Jesus Christ throughout all ages and among all nations.

We also affirm three confessions—the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort—as historic Reformed expressions of the Christian faith. These confessions continue to define the way we understand Scripture, direct the way we live in response to the gospel, and locate us within the larger body of Christ.

Grateful for these expressions of faith, we promise to be formed and governed by them. We heartily believe and will promote their doctrines faithfully, conforming our preaching, teaching, writing, serving, and living to them.

Along with these historic creeds and confessions, we also affirm the witness of Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony as a current Reformed expression of the Christian faith that forms and guides us in our present context.

We also promise to present or receive confessional difficulties in a spirit of love and fellowship with our brothers and sisters as together we seek a fuller understanding of the gospel. Should we come to believe that a teaching in the confessional documents is irreconcilable with God's Word, we will communicate our views to the church, according to the procedures prescribed by the Church Order and its supplements. Further, we promise to submit to the church's judgment and authority.

We honour this covenant for the well-being of the church to the glory of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Delegates will be asked to indicate their affirmation of the Covenant by standing when asked by the Chair of Classis to do so.

4. CAMPUS MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT

September 4, 2019 – Campus Ministry Committee Report to October Classis

It has been a busy few months for the Classis Hamilton Campus Ministry Committee!

First, the team has been hard at work over the past Spring and Summer researching and formulating a proposal for the future of our campus ministry at Mohawk College. Following on the heels of nearly a decade of campus ministry at Mohawk, Classis discussions from the Winter and Spring of 2018 regarding expansion of that ministry, and experiments in expanding that ministry—your campus ministry committee is now ready to bring a formal proposal to this meeting laying out what the future of our Campus Ministry at Mohawk could look like come Fall of 2020. **We would request 30 minutes of Classis' time to present this proposal for Classis' decision. The proposal itself is in the Agenda.**

Second, the committee continues to appreciate and affirm the good work of our current Chaplain, Dr. Michael Fallon, at both McMaster and Mohawk. We have continued to provide support and oversight for Dr. Fallon, per our mandate, and this year, that function of our committee has led to some larger decisions. The role and ministry that Dr. Fallon provides to the students at McMaster and the school itself have continued to bear out ever more deep and fruitful ministry opportunities and obligations. So much so, that the committee has deemed the time right for Dr. Fallon to once again become a full-time Chaplain at McMaster (originally hired full time at McMaster, for nearly the last decade, Dr. Fallon has been splitting his time between McMaster and Mohawk per the campus ministry committee's direction and Classis' affirmation).

We have, as a committee, decided to release Dr. Fallon to McMaster full time starting already this Fall (2019) given these demands and opportunities at McMaster, and quite simply, the unsustainability of continuing to split his time between two institutions. While we have made this determination for the short term, we do believe it important that Classis gives its consideration and decision in finalizing this arrangement going forward, as it will require a change in Dr. Fallon's job description to indicate his responsibilities are solely to the McMaster ministry. **This proposal is also in the Agenda.**

Third, you will have noticed that this leaves a ministry gap for Mohawk at least through the 2019-2020 school year. Therefore, in the interim, your committee has assembled a team under the coordination of alumnus Megan Woon, who served as our head student leader in the ministry last year, in order to keep our foot in the door at Mohawk. This entails maintaining the flagship Mohawk Solid Rock ministry gathering from 6-7:30pm on Thursdays, jumping on to joint events with the McMaster campus ministry as has been past practice, and continuing the relationship with students, prospective leaders, and various key staff people.

Lastly, you'll also find in this agenda our recommendations for committee membership. As Rev. Bruce Adema's term comes to an end, we thank him for his contributions and leadership as chair!

Please continue to pray for Dr. Fallon, the campus ministries at McMaster and Mohawk, as well as Megan and her team as we move into a season of transition and continued ministry. A reminder too, that Dr. Fallon is available to the churches of Classis to preach and speak to this good work.

On behalf of the Campus Ministry



Committee, Rev. Anthony Elenbaas, Chair

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RESONATEGLOBALMISSION.ORG



4 October 2019

Dear members of Classis Hamilton

It is with pleasure that I write this letter on behalf of Resonate Global Mission in support of the proposal to further develop the campus ministry at Mohawk College.

When the campus ministry at McMaster expanded to Mohawk College it was with the hope and expectation that it would at some point become established as a separate and distinct campus ministry. It is to this end that Dr. Michael Fallon has worked passionately, effectively and often sacrificially. God has clearly led and blessed those efforts, drawing students into discipleship and leadership while opening doors for wider ministry at Mohawk.

Over the past several years Resonate Global Mission has met with the Campus Ministry Committee for McMaster & Mohawk, supporting them as they discerned the best way forward for the ministry at Mohawk College. We have been encouraged by the growth of the ministry at Mohawk College, by Dr. Fallon's faithful and fruitful ministry there as evidenced by the Christian leaders who are now alumni of both Mohawk College and the campus ministry there.

For Resonate, this is an opportune and necessary time to add a second staff person and make the Mohawk College campus ministry more independent and distinct. Two main factors point toward this. The first is the openness and invitation of Mohawk College for a strengthened presence of the campus ministry there as a way of contributing to the college's goals of meeting the spiritual needs of its students. The second factor is Dr. Fallon's increased role and responsibilities at McMaster University in leading the development of the multi-faith centre while continuing to lead a flourishing campus ministry.

Resonate Global Mission is looking forward to further partnering with Classis Hamilton in its campus ministry work and is committed to providing grant funding of up to \$8000/year for the ministry at Mohawk College in addition to the \$8000 grant it provides currently. We also anticipate providing other support and resources so that this ministry can continue to grow.

We commend the work of Dr. Fallon and the Campus Ministry Committee over many years and are grateful for the support and vision of Classis Hamilton that has ensured this work continues to thrive. We praise God for the fruit of this ministry and look forward to continuing to partner with Classis Hamilton in this important work of forming and sending Christian leaders across North America and beyond.

Sincerely,

Mark Wallace

Mark Wallace

Campus Ministry Coordinator

Engaging People. Embracing Christ.

 A Ministry of the Christian Reformed Church

**Classis Hamilton Advisory Committee Report
Meeting of Classis Hamilton October 22, 2019**

The assigned advisory committee consists of delegates from Ancaster CRC (convening) and Hope CRC, Brantford (reporting). Delegates Rita Klein-Geltink, Fred Hagen, John Hensen, and William Koopmans met on October 4, 2019 to deal with the two matters referred to this committee.

Item – from the Classis Hamilton Campus Ministry Committee

The advisory committee was requested to deal with two proposals from the Campus Ministry Committee (see Agenda, appendix #4, pages 19-26). In addition to this appendix, the advisory committee received a Campus Ministry Committee report dated Sept. 4, 2019, that was intended to be the committee's report to the October meeting of classis (to be included in the Addendum to the Agenda).

Recommendation 1 from the campus ministry committee, as included in appendix 4, reads as follows:

The Campus Ministry Committee of Classis Hamilton recommends that Classis Hamilton assign the current Campus Ministry Chaplain, Dr. Michael Fallon, to full-time (100%) service at McMaster University and that his job description be updated accordingly.

Recommendation 2 states:

The Campus Ministry Committee of Classis Hamilton recommends that Classis Hamilton, building on the past decade of good ministry at Mohawk College, create a distinct campus ministry at Mohawk that is responsible to the existing Campus Ministry Committee and staffed with a half-time chaplain (50% FTE) who can serve this new campus ministry and its vision as described within this document and the appended job description.

Response

The advisory committee notes that the first recommendation can most logically be dealt with after rather than prior to the second recommendation (this more logical order is also reflected in the Campus Ministry Report to Classis that is referred to above).

As an advisory committee we recognize the background research and planning conducted by the Campus Ministry Committee, as well as the passion and prayer that accompany these proposals. Our Campus Ministry Committee exhibits a clear desire to expand our campus ministry presence in the Hamilton area, for which we are grateful. Therefore, we wish we could whole-heartedly and enthusiastically endorse the recommendations that they have brought forward. However, in our estimation, the matters that are being proposed are too weighty to be dealt with adequately in 30 minutes of Classis' time for a presentation, discussion and vote -- as is requested in the Campus Ministry Committee Report that was submitted to us.

We wish to underscore the complexity of these issues with the following considerations.

1. Classis is currently engaged in a review of all of the ministries of classis. It would seem prudent, therefore, to engage in a discernment process to see how significant expansion of the campus ministry endeavors would align with the overall vision and priorities of the ministries of Classis Hamilton.

2. There are financial details, nuances and implications that are not adequately addressed. To be sure, the matters of finance are not ignored in the proposals. But there are many questions that are not answered. The proposal includes some funding components that are intended to ease the initial burden of costs at the outset, but the funding is estimated to soon rise to \$30,000 per year. Before delegates could be fully prepared to vote on these proposals, we believe the following questions and considerations need to be addressed.

2.1 Is the \$30,000 figure realistic? The proposal does not entail a detailed budget of how these funds would be allocated for salary and expenses. Compared to the McMaster chaplaincy position the funding seems low for a half-time position.

2.2 If the \$30,000 does prove to be realistic for the present, will this number grow significantly in the near future? Positions like this tend to grow from part-time to full-time. Can classis afford this new ministry, especially as there is indication that church plant funding may be requested before long? Would adoption of this campus ministry proposal by default impact on the ability of classis to consider supporting a church plant?

2.3 Our congregations are typically struggling to prioritize their financial allocations. Does this campus ministry initiative rise to the top of their priority lists? Councils and delegates to classis need adequate time to be able to prayerfully engage in that discernment process.

2.4 The CRCNA is at a new juncture in terms of how ministries will be funded. The denomination is currently reimagining ministry shares as a pledge from congregations rather than as a stipulated per member amount. Classis Hamilton has been on the leading edge of that conversation. By that model, if applied in the near future at the level of Classis, we would be asking congregations to indicate the funding that they have available for campus ministry. This suggests that caution is in order before committing to a major financial increase at this time.

3. The advisory committee takes note of the protocol that a request for funding of a ministry initiative such as this ought to first go to the Classis Ministry Team and the Audit Review Committee before being presented to Classis.

For reasons outlined in the discussion above, the advisory committee recommends:

That classis defer action on the proposals from the Campus Ministry Committee (both recommendations 1 and 2).

**Classis Hamilton Advisory Committee Report
Meeting of Classis Hamilton October 22, 2019**

The assigned advisory committee consists of delegates from Ancaster CRC (convening) and Hope CRC, Brantford (reporting). Delegates Rita Klein-Geltink, Fred Hagen, John Hensen, and William Koopmans met on October 4, 2019 to deal with the two matters referred to this committee.

Item – from Hamilton First CRC

The advisory committee reviewed correspondence from First Hamilton CRC dated Sept. 19, 2019 requesting that Rev. Josiah Bokma be honorably released from the ministry as specified by Church Order, article 14-b.

The letter from First CRC Hamilton indicates that in November of 2018 the church council was informed of a decision by Rev. Bokma and his family to fully participate in a church plant sponsored by St. Clair Community Church. This was considered to be in effect a resignation of membership in Hamilton First as a transition to a non-CRC congregation. Council also recognized the incongruences of continuing to hold and supervise the ministerial credentials of Rev. Bokma while he is no longer a member of their congregation or of the CRCNA. This matter was discussed with Rev. Bokma over a period of time, encouraging him to reconsider his decision. When that decision did not change, the Council of First CRC Hamilton, on August 28, 2019, decided to bring to classis a request to declare Rev. Bokma released from ministry in the CRCNA as per Church Order, article 14-b. (Please see additional correspondence in the Agenda for Classis, Appendix #5, pages 27-29).

Based on the material presented to us, without seeking independently to verify these details with Rev. Bokma, the advisory committee recommends:

That Classis Hamilton accede to the request by First CRC Hamilton to declare Rev. Josiah Bokma to be honorably released from office as a minister of the Word (C.O. art. 14-b).