

## Agenda for a Meeting of CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

**Date:** May 26, 2015    **Time:** 2:00 PM – 9:30 PM

**Venue:** Bethel Christian Reformed Church,    616 Dundas St. E. Waterdown

<b>Officers of Classis:</b> Chair:                    Bruce Adema Vice Chair:             Rita Klein-Geltink Stated Clerk:         Dick Kranendonk	<b>Synodical Deputies:</b> Herman Praamsma – Classis Toronto Ronald Fisher – Classis Huron James Dekker – Classis Niagara
<b>Reporter:</b> Ebenezer - Jarvis	<b>Ballot Committee:</b> Members of Bethel CRC
<b>Credentials Committee:</b> Immanuel CRC, Hamilton First Hamilton CRC, Hamilton	<b>Overtures Committee</b> Bethel CRC, Waterdown Faith CRC, Burlington

### CREENTIALS:

1. The credentials shall be returned to the Stated Clerk by email no later than May 5, 2015 with CC: (copy) emailed to both delegates. Please note that there are additional questions on the credentials. Please fill them out as well.
2. The credentials will be forwarded to the Credentials Committee to review the contents. The Committee will email their report to the Stated Clerk by May 12, 2015. This will be emailed by the stated clerk to all the delegates.

### OVERTURES:

The Overtures Committee will email their report to the Stated Clerk by May 12, 2015 for distribution to the delegates of Classis as required. (Note: no overtures have been received.)

### EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE:

Dick Kranendonk will be assuming the position of Stated Clerk effective May 1, 2015. From that point onwards, all communication to the Stated Clerk should go via the new email address: [clerk@classishamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@classishamilton.ca). Please update your address books accordingly.

### EVENING SESSION:

**EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH IN A CHANGING CULTURE:**                    Missions Director: Marian Lensink  
 The church is facing new challenges like never before. The culture around us is changing; the church is experiencing many changes as well. We were challenged at our last classis meeting to consider our declining numbers. Much is swirling as we consider ministry in these days.

As churches we seek to engage our neighbourhoods and communities. What are the things that are going well? What are the challenges that we're facing? How can we learn from each other? What do we need to do differently? At our evening session at Classis, Marian Lensink will lead us in a facilitated conversation, as we consider these questions and more. Please encourage your Outreach Team or anyone with a heart for reaching their community to come to this evening. We'll be invited to work together, to consider where God is leading in our current context. Together, we can learn from each other, and consider in new ways to increase this gospel movement in the greater Hamilton region.

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## MEETING DETAILS

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4:00 PM

OPENING DEVOTIONS

### OPENING WORSHIP

1. OPENING PRAYER TIME
2. SHARING OF MINISTRY OF BETHEL
3. PRAYER FOR BETHEL

Prayer Coordinator: John Veenstra  
Bethel CRC  
Rita Klein-Geltink

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4:45 PM

BUSINESS

### A. ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Chair: President Henry Kranenburg

- 3.1. Establish Quorum (ByLaw 5.2)
- 3.2. Proof of Notice for the Meeting
- 3.3. Approval of Minutes of AGM 2014 (Appendix #1)
- 3.4. Approval of the Audit Report on the 2014 Financial Statements (Corporations Act 96.1) –  
*Separate document to be sent out with the agenda update*  
**RECOMMENDED THAT:** the audited financial statements and the Auditor's report thereon for fiscal 2014 be approved.
- 3.5. Appointment of Auditor (ByLaw 5.1.c)  
**RECOMMENDED THAT:** David M. den Boer be re-appointed as auditor for fiscal 2015.
- 3.6. Closing of Annual General membership meeting

### B. MEETING OF CLASSIS HAMILTON

Chair: Bruce Adema

4. CALL TO ORDER Chair
  - 4.1. Approval of Agenda
  - 4.2. Attendance  
Overview of delegates present/absent Stated Clerk
5. ARTICLE 14b – Jim Pot (Appendix #2)  
**RECOMMENDED THAT:** the request from Pastor Jim Pot to be honourably released from ministry in the Christian Reformed Church in America be approved.
6. ARTICLE 23 Job Description (Appendix #3)  
**RECOMMEND THAT:** the job description of Pastoral Care Worker at Parkview Meadows Christian Retirement Village be approved as meeting the guidelines adopted by Synod 2001.
7. STAFF REPORTS
  - 7.1. Missions Director (Appendix #4) Marian Lensink
  - 7.2. McMaster/Mohawk Chaplain (Appendix #5) Michael Fallon

8. INTERIM COMMITTEE

President

8.1. Interim Committee Report (Includes Stated Clerk report, *Appendix #6*)

8.2. Election of Functionaries and Committee Members (*Appendix #7.2*)

8.3. Vote for Region 5 Board Member – Calvin Theological Seminary (*Appendix #7.3*)

8.4. Church Visit Reports

Item 10.4.1 in the Rules of Procedure states:

“Classis will attempt to hold discussion on these reports (the state of the church) during the October evening session in order to invite members of the congregation to join Classis and hear the reports and discussion as well.”

The **CIC RECOMMENDS THAT:** item 10.4.1 of the Rules of Procedure be modified to read “Classis will hold discussion on these reports (the state of the church) during the October session”.

8.5. Approval of Classical Interim Committee Work

**RECOMMENDED THAT:** Classis approves the work to date of the Interim Committee

8.6. Balloting Committee Report

**RECOMMENDED THAT:** the ballots be destroyed.

9. CLASSIS HAMILTON CANDIDACY COMMITTEE (*Appendix #8.1*)

**RECOMMENDED THAT:** Classis Hamilton approve the following forgivable loan disbursement amounts for the 2015-2016 academic year:

- |                        |        |                |   |
|------------------------|--------|----------------|---|
| 1. Nathan Klingenberg: | M.Div. | \$14,619.00USD | (~ cost of attending = \$29,000.00USD)                          |
| 2. Wim DeVries:        | M.Div. | \$14,619.00USD | (~ cost of attending = \$60,000.00USD + kids’ Chr. Ed. tuition) |
| 3. Corey VanHuizen:    | M.Div. | \$3,655.00USD  | (attending 1 semester; cost is split with Classis<br>Niagara)   |
| 4. Courtney Mooney:    | EPMC   | \$1,500.00CAD  | (~ cost of attending = \$4,500.00USD)                           |
| 5. Mark DeVos:         | EPMC   | \$1,500.00CAD  | (~ cost of attending = \$4,500.00USD)                           |
| 6. Ben Verkerk:        | M.Div. | \$14,619.00USD | (~ cost of attending = \$29,000.00USD)                          |

**For a total of \$47,512.00USD and \$3,000.00CAD.**

10. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

11. OVERTURES COMMITTEE REPORT

11.1 Ebenezer CRC Jarvis (*Appendix #9.1*)

**RECOMMENDED THAT:** beginning January 2017, that Classis Hamilton begin reducing their ministry share assessment by 25% per year over the course of four years so that by 2022, Classis Hamilton will no longer collect a classical ministry share for the Shalom Manor chaplaincy.

12. MINISTRY SHARE DISCUSSION

Member of the CMT: Al Karsten

13. RESPOND TO FUNCTIONARY REPORTS (*Appendix #10*)

14. RESOPOND TO MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS (*Appendix #11*)

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6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

DINNER

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15. **Evangelism and Outreach in a Changing Culture:**

Missions Director: Marian Lensink

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9:30 Closing Devotions

Chair

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**Minutes of the Annual General Membership of  
CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

**Date:** May 20, 2014   **Time:** 2:30 PM

**Venue:** Immanuel Christian Reformed Church, 61 Mohawk Road West, Hamilton, Ontario

Note: This meeting embedded within the meeting of Classis Hamilton.

1. Constitution of the Meeting (*Bylaw 5.2*)  
A quorum of both classes of members of the corporation being present, the meeting was declared to be duly constituted for the transaction of business.
2. Proof of Notice for the Meeting (*Bylaw 5.4*)  
**IT WAS NOTED THAT:** notice of the meeting was sent to the clerks of the classis churches and members of the CIC on April 15, 2014.
3. Election of Members for the Classis Interim Committee (CIC)  
*(Clerk's Note: The counting of the ballot took place during the "Classis Meeting")*

The following were elected to serve a one-year term on the CIC:

Henry Kranenburg	Dick Kranendonk
Judy Cook	Mark Vandervliet
Henk Van Tuyl	John Huyser

Serving on the CIC by virtue of office:

John den Otter – Clerk
Marian Lensink – Mission Director
Ken Benjamins – Chair of Classis ( <i>for Classis Meetings 2014</i> )

4. Audited 2013 Financial Statements  
On motion duly moved, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon for fiscal 2014 are approved.
5. Auditor for 2015  
On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** David M. den Boer be reappointed as auditor for fiscal 2014.
6. Closing of AGM  
There being no further business, the AGM was terminated.

APPENDIX #2 – ARTICLE 14b - JIM POT

**APPENDIX #2.1 – LETTER FROM REV. JIM POT**

Jim Pot  
54 McDonald Court  
Dundas, Ontario L9H 7C4

April 11, 2015

To Council of Bethel CRC, Waterdown; Interim Committee of Classis Hamilton,

This letter confirms my request to be released from ordained ministry in the CRCNA. A couple of weeks ago I gave my intention to accept a call to a congregation in Ottawa from the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the denomination I applied for and was declared eligible for ordination by their General Assembly in the summer of 2012. If all goes as planned, Grace and I hope to move to Ottawa later this summer where I will begin serving as the next Minister of Knox Presbyterian Church in August. Since I was already declared eligible for ordination in the PCC, and since there is no direct transfer of ministerial credentials from the CRCNA to the PCC, I am requesting to be released from ministry according to Article 14-b of the CRCNA Church Order. Please do what is needed to grant my request, so that I can also begin to have other paper-work processed in a timely manner, including documentation related to my CRCNA pension.

In conversation with Rev. Darren Roorda (Canadian Ministries Director) and Rev. Cecil Van Neijenhuis (Pastor-Church Relations Office), I am told that it is still possible to process my release from ordination request in time for Synod 2015. I understand that the Agenda deadline for the next meeting of Classis Hamilton is April 14 and the next session of Classis Hamilton is May 26<sup>th</sup>. Though the Agenda for Synod has already been published, I am told that if Classis Hamilton can endorse my request at the May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, it is very possible for my request to be processed at the CRCNA Synod in June via the Supplemental Report received by delegates while Synod is in session. I am asking you to do what is possible at the Council and Classis level to process this, based on the dates shown above.

As I make a transition to a new denomination, I also want to express thanks to Classis Hamilton for the generous way in which I was given space and time to discern my next full-time ministry calling. I want to acknowledge appreciation for the many churches from Classis Hamilton and beyond who regularly offered me the privilege of preaching from their pulpits these past three years. In addition to being a small source of income during a time of transition, these opportunities gave me renewed confidence in my calling from God and to see where the Holy Spirit would lead next. For just over a year, I have also been blessed to work on a half-time contractual basis at Covenant CRC in St. Catharines. This has been very affirming too, and I am very grateful for the way in which I was able to find my way back into pastoral ministry through the staff and leadership of Covenant CRC.

There are many ways in which I will miss being a Minister in the CRCNA, where I was able to serve in ordained ministry for over 20 years. Both Grace and I are part of pioneering CRC immigrant families, graduates of CRC affiliated colleges (Redeemer and Calvin) and Calvin Seminary, and for many years we had children enrolled in Christian Schools founded by Christian Reformed families. All of this makes my transition to the PCC both bitter-sweet and yet leaves us with many relationships and connections we

will cherish as we begin a new chapter of life and ministry with a strong sense of calling to the congregation of Knox Presbyterian and its surrounding community in downtown Ottawa.

I am aware that all of our family members are still recorded as baptized and/or professing members in the CRCNA as well. A separate letter will be forwarded at a later date with requests regarding church membership. If there is any further information required about my release from ordination in the CRCNA, or questions you have to help expedite the process, please do contact me either by phone or email as listed below.

In His Footprints,

Jim Pot  
905-979-1580, [jpot62@cogeco.ca](mailto:jpot62@cogeco.ca)  
cc. Darren Roorda, Cecil Van Neijenhuis



**APPENDIX #2.2 – LETTER FROM BETHEL CRC**

At Bethel Consistory Meeting, held April 14th, a motion by Elder Tigchelaar, seconded by Elder Zorn , unanimously Carried by Consistory – as Ministerial Credential Holder, to accept Pastor Jim Pot’s request to be released from Ministry in the Christian Reformed Church of North America and make this recommendation to Classis Hamilton.

Therefore Bethel CRC requests Classis Hamilton to proceed with expediting the processing of this request at the next meeting of Classis Hamilton in May 2015.

Walter Kloostra  
Clerk, Bethel CRC

## APPENDIX #3 - ARTICLE 23 JOB DESCRIPTION

To: Classis Hamilton and Synodical Deputies Esteemed brothers and sisters,

*Background: Parkview Meadows is a Christian Interdenominational Retirement home in Townsend Ontario. This home, located in a rural setting, currently serves predominately Christians, with care ranging from end of life care to stand alone apartments where no overt pastoral care is given. Parkview Meadows currently does not have a full-time chaplain. However, the "pastor for Parkview" role (as she is often unofficially called) is currently filled by Theresa Bakker, a member of Immanuel CRC in Simcoe, who has served in this capacity for 9 years. The below job description is what Theresa has worked into for the past 9 years, with the exception of serving of the Lord's Supper. This additional duty, which is expected to be added in the near future, has served as a catalyst for the below two official requests made by the council of Immanuel CRC.*

First, Immanuel CRC would like to do what we did not do 9 years ago, and officially recognize the below outlined position as one of a commissioned Pastor. Thus, following the stipulations of the Church Order regarding Commissioned Pastors (article 23-a and supplement) the Council of Immanuel Christian Reformed Church in Simcoe requests that Classis Hamilton, with the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies, declare that the position of Pastoral Care Worker for Parkview Meadows "fits the guidelines adopted by Synod 2001."

Second, noting the specific weight that the below stated duties carry, Immanuel CRC also requests that Classis Hamilton, with the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies, specifically declare that preaching and the serving of the Lord's Supper at the Wednesday Service be included as part of the ongoing duties.

**POSITION DESCRIPTION:** The person assigned to the position of Pastoral Care Worker (PCW) for Parkview Meadows will:

1. at morning meetings, be made aware of the residents who need special attention or spiritual help. The PCW will follow up on those needs as soon as possible.
2. throughout the day, visit with various residents and hear their stories, and hear their needs. When the opportunity presents itself, Scripture is to be read with them. Ordinarily, the PCW will not leave the room without asking for permission to pray with the residents.
3. meet with family as they have to say goodbye to their loved one. This meeting will take place in the room of the resident and a prayer for a gentle "home-coming" will often be given. Also, once a resident has passed, the family and the PCW will often join hands and give praise to God for a life well lived.
4. on Tuesday afternoons, lead "a glorious half-hour Bible Study." Presently, they are exploring some of the Psalms of David.
5. on Wednesday afternoons, accompany various pastors from the area who come to preach the Word of God and bless the residents, most of whom are experiencing some form of dementia or like ailments. The PCW too, is on the preaching schedule. Sometimes, when a pastor is not able to come, the PCW will take on an extra service, unexpectedly. These Wednesday afternoon duties will include

serving the Lord's Supper, should the PCW's turn fall on the last Wednesday of the month, or in the case of a pastor not being able to come on the last Wednesday of the month unexpectedly.

6. on Thursday afternoons, facilitate a half hour of hymn-singing with the residents. The home usually has a pianist playing our key-board. Most of the Hymn-sings end with "Jesus Loves Me...." which is always a request. Once a month, a 3/4 of an hour time called Giant Hymn-Sing occurs, which the PCW will lead as well. Residents of the building are invited to come if they so desire.

7. give tours for outsiders on a regular basis. This involves showing them various buildings and speaking boldly of our Christian beliefs at Parkview Meadows. The PCW's desire must be that outsiders "see Jesus." in our home.

8. ordinarily attend the funerals of our residents. Sometimes this will involve a leading of an entire funeral. Sometimes, this will involve only speaking at the funeral of a loved one. Sometimes, this will involve being a guest only.

9. make many visits to the hospital when our aging residents need special care we at Gardenview (the end of life care wing) cannot provide. The PCW will be asked to always leave their calling card, and to write an encouraging text on the back for the residents.

10. often encourage the nursing staff, so people may see Christ through their words and deeds.

11. constantly encourage and love our residents who soak up the love of God like sponges. This will include having fun with them as well and dancing with them whenever we get an opportunity.

12. facilitate "Care-Conferences" nearly every week, where family members meet with the staff to openly discuss the needs or progress of their loved one. It is the custom to always open with prayer. Later during the meeting, the PCW will also be asked to relate to family of their loved one's spiritual relationship with God.

13. will write an article every three months for the community paper, the "Parkview Post", which shares what God is doing in and amongst the diverse community of Parkview meadows.

14. engage in their own personal prayer each day, asking that when they are empty, that God will fill them with His love and insight.

#### **ACCOUNTABILITY AND SUPERVISION:**

The accountability and supervision for the day-to-day completion of the tasks and duties stated in the above named position will be done by the Board of Parkview Meadows.

The accountability and supervision of Theresa's "doctrine and life", which will include but not be limited to the preaching of the Word and the administration of the Lord's Supper, will be done by Immanuel CRC. Thus, the person holding this position will be ordained as an elder within Immanuel CRC, specifically serving the "district" of Parkview Meadows. Immanuel CRC will assume full responsibility for

oversight of the above designated person in the capacity of preaching of the Word and the serving the Lord's Supper.

*Note: It is understood by Immanuel CRC and Theresa Bakker that the approval of this job description does NOT necessitate the approval of the person of Theresa Bakker, though she is currently filling this role admirably. The approval of the person, Theresa Bakker, would be done at a later classis meeting and it is understood that Classis reserves the right to withhold the position of Commissioned Pastor from Theresa and Immanuel CRC, should weighty reasons arise during the examination.*

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Council,

Chair of Elders Hank Bakker

Secretary of Elder, Cheryl Rutherford.

## APPENDIX #4 – MISSION DIRECTOR REPORT

As I write this report, I'm in California, ready to attend the Prayer Summit, along with John Veenstra, Classis Prayer Coordinator. I am eager for the time to pray, to pray with others, and to be reminded of the importance, and the simplicity of prayer.

Early in March, I slipped on the ice and broke my left wrist. I'm right-handed; I assumed this would be somewhat insignificant. However, pain and immobility caused me to rely on others, and to become less productive in work and home life. I gained a new appreciation for those who suffer with chronic illness and challenges. I realized that even though the rest of my body was well, much of my thinking and energy revolved around protecting the injury, and compensating for it. I learned that healing takes time and patience, and proper care (12 weeks by the time I'm done.) I learned to rest and receive. I saw many analogies here for ministry and experienced the body of Christ in tangible ways.

On Saturday, I was privileged to lead the 17<sup>th</sup> Inspirational Women's Conference ~ Grit and Grace, at the Meeting House in Oakville. This flows out of my ongoing role with **Coffee Break**. Many women of Classis Hamilton were among the 800 women gathered. I was reminded of the need for women to gather, to be encouraged in their faith, and perhaps challenged to go deeper with Jesus. In this age, where many women are working and have less time for Bible Study, a day like this can be so strengthening. I am considering ways in which Coffee Break and women's ministry can continue to be encouraged in CH.

The **Youth Ministry Team**, has had a great year of building momentum. The next Youth Leader's Breakfast, is set for Sat. April 25<sup>th</sup>. I attended a retreat at Muskoka Woods with Syd Hielema, John Bijl, and other CRC Youth Ministry people from across the province. I look forward to further conversations about how we can encourage leadership development among our young people.

In my reports to you, I regularly mention the work of the **Safe Church Team**. For many of our churches it's a struggle to make this a priority. I encourage you and your council to consider the ways in which you are supporting the efforts of a Safe Church Team, both in your church, and at the Classis level. Do you have a team? Who is the representative in your church for our Classis Team? Are council members aware of your policies and procedures? Are the policies current? Are they followed? How can we help you? It's our hope that this Classis team would become a greater support to our churches, but we need representation from all our churches. With your help, we can look forward to greater traction for SC.

Much of my work, and the work of the Home Missions Committee is now beginning to focus more on what is happening in the local churches. The True City Conference helped me to consider our witness; are we ready with the Good News of the gospel? As I connect with outreach teams and ministries, I can see common themes of ministry, and common areas of struggle and challenge. I trust that God's Spirit will lead us to work together, and to discern where we need to lean into Him for more fruitful ministry. Our evening discussion at this Classis meeting will help us to consider these concepts further, as we look to become a gospel movement in the greater Hamilton region.

Blessings,  
Marian Lensink [marian@classishamilton.ca](mailto:marian@classishamilton.ca)

## APPENDIX #5 – McMASTER UNIVERSITY/MOHAWK COLLEGE CHAPLAIN REPORT

Dear Friends

The winter semester is rapidly coming to a close. Exams are now underway here at Mac and Mohawk. Let me begin my report by thanking the members of the Classis Hamilton community for their continuing strong, support of your Christian Reformed University and College ministry.

Our classis ministry is called “to witness to the love and Lordship of Jesus Christ to the McMaster University and Mohawk College community.” Much like in Jeremiah, we see that community as our “city.” What does this city look like? This year McMaster’s total student enrollment was 30,117 students. Mohawk also continues to grow. It has 11,500 full-time post-secondary students including 600 International students, 4,000 apprentices and more than 20,000 continuing education students. Clearly our city is growing. How do we seek its peace and welfare? We seek to walk with the our covenant students, staff and faculty who attend and work at these two institutions, but we also seek to reach out in the name of Christ to those who do not know Christ and his Kingdom. There are many aspects of our campus community that I could note, our “Leadership Study Groups,” “Fully Alive/Men’s Group” & Revive Again/Women’s Group.” Our “Re-Creation Rebels” Sports Teams and the list goes on. In this report, I will note just two programs that are central to our ministry.

“All Things & Solid Rock Mountaineers/ Reformed World and Life View” As this ministry is a specialized Educational Ministry - one of the most important things we do is to teach about Christ’s all-encompassing Kingdom the perspective that is at the centre of our mission. I traditionally speak at our main fellowships twice a month. One at “All Things” (McMaster) and once at “Solid Rock Mountaineers” (Mohawk College). A sample of other speakers participating in our teaching ministry this year include - Dr. Al Wolters, Rev. Chris Schoon, Ida Kaastra Mutoigo, Justin Adema, Dr. Daniel Machiela, Rev. Anthony Elenbaas, Lisa Nightingale, Dr. Aaron Schat, Rev. Bruce Adema, Dr. Nathan Cooper, Bob Brown, Greg Sinclair, Dr. Ian Bruce, Justin Adema, Dr. Derek Schuurman .

“Grace & Work.” One of our traditions is to support a local charity and an International one. We usually look at doing something with youth. This year in the first semester we did a ‘Hoodie Drive’ for “Living Rock” a street mission downtown. This Second semester we did two different projects to support “World Renew.” At Mohawk College we did “The Bees Knees” and at McMaster we did what we called “Baking for Bees.” In the first instance, the students worked very hard creating various ‘honey related’ gifts to sell and at Mac we had a traditional bake sale. Ida Mutongo who spoke at both fellowships insured us that all the funds raised went to help 10 women in Africa become small business owners – more accurately “Bee Keepers.”

Michael D. Fallon

Dr. Michael D. Fallon  
<fallonm@mcmaster.ca>

## APPENDIX #6 – STATED CLERK’S REPORT

Following is a list of the major items of interest since the last meeting of Classis:

### 1. Stated Clerk of Classis Hamilton

The transition from John den Otter to Dick Kranendonk will take effect May 1, 2015. At that time, the new email address for the Stated Clerk will be [clerk@classishamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@classishamilton.ca). The current email address will automatically forward to the new address however, it is recommended that you update your contact information as soon as possible.

### 2. Membership on Classis Interim Committee

The Classis Interim Committee appointed John den Otter to complete Dick Kranendonk’s term on the committee.

### 3. Church Visitor Reports

The members of the Interim Committee agreed that the clerk will not circulate the individual reports of church visits. This decision follows the current agreed to process as detailed in the Rules of Procedure.

### 4. Shalom Chaplaincy

The president of Classis Hamilton wrote a communication to Classis Niagara confirming that legal governance of the chaplaincy remain under Classis Niagara as currently is the case and to bring to the attention of Classis Niagara and Shalom Manor that communications sent by either of their representatives to the delegates of Classis Hamilton without first checking with CIC and other affected parties is not appropriate.

The Classis Ministry Team was asked to consider the need for care of residents in long-term care homes, defining what needs should be met, how these needs could be met, and how this work should be funded

### 5. Committee Membership

The Clerk indicated that each committee chair was informed of which members in their committee term is coming to completion and the requirement that they are responsible for nominating replacements. The list of membership on committees is shown in Appendix # 5 of this agenda. Do recommend the committee chairs potential candidates for the vacancies.

John den Otter - Clerk  
classishamilton@gmail.com

APPENDIX #7 - FUNCTIONARIES AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**APPENDIX #7.1 - CURRENT ASSIGNMENTS**

<b>Classis Interim Committee (Board of Directors)</b>		Appointed	Until	Term #	Ratified
Director/President	<b>Rev. Henry Kranenburg</b>	May-2012	May-2015		Feb-2013
Director/Vice President	Dick Kranendonk	May-2012	May-2015		Feb-2013
Officer / Secretary/Stated Clerk*	John den Otter	May-2012			
Director/ Treasurer	Henk Van Tuyl	May-2011	May-2015		Feb-2013
Classis Missions Director-	Marian Lensink	Jan-2014			
Director / Classis Ministry Team	Mark Vandervliet	Nov-2014	May-2015		Nov-2014
Director / Classis Ministry Team	Judy Cook	Feb-2014	May-2015		Feb-2013
Chair of Classis (2015)*	Rev Bruce Adema		2015		Oct-2014
Director	Rev. John Huyser	May-2014	May-2015		May-2014
*non-voting for BoD only					
<b>Classis Ministry Team</b>		Appointed	Until	Term #	Ratified
Chair	Rev Ken Benjamins				
Member	Victor Laarman	May-2013	May-2016	1	May-2013
Member	Vacant				
Member	Mark Vandervliet	Oct-2012	Oct-2015	1	Oct-2012
Chair Classis Mtg	Rev Bruce Adema	Oct-2013	Oct-2014	1	Oct-2013
Member	Vacant				
Classis Missions Director	Marian Lensink	Jan-2014			
Stated Clerk	Dick Kranendonk	May-2015			
<b>Youth Ministries Team:</b>		Appointed	Until	Term #	Ratified
Pastor Rep / Chair	<b>Rev. Jeff Klingenberg</b>	Oct-2012	Oct-2015	1	Oct-2012
Pastor Rep	Rev. Andrew Zomerman	Feb-2010	Feb-2013	2	Feb-2010
Youth Leader Rep	Heather DeHaan	May-2014	May-2017	1	May-2014
Youth Leader Rep	Denise Dykstra	May-2014	May-2017	1	May-2014
Youth Leader Rep	Betty Steenbeek	May-2014	May-2017	1	May-2014
Member	John Bijl	Oct-2014	Oct-2017	1	Oct-2014
<b>Classical Home Missions Committee:</b>		Appointed	Until	Term #	Ratified
Chair	Vacant				
Mission Director	Marian Lensink	May-2012	May-2015	2	May-2012
Pastor Rep	Rev. Everett Vander Horst	Oct-2012	Oct-2015	1	Oct-2012
	Gerald Klein-Geltink	Oct-2013	Oct-2016	1	Oct-2013
	Vacant				
	Vacant				



**McMaster Campus Ministry Committee:**

		Appointed	Until	Term #	Ratified
Chair/Ministry Rep	<b>Rev. Bruce Adema</b>	Oct-2013	Oct-2016	1	Oct-2013
Alumni Rep	Vacant				
Alumni Rep	Justin Adema	May-2014	May-2017	1	May-2014
Treasurer (Ex Officio)	Anita Van Geest	Jan-2012			
Faculty Rep (McMaster)	Dr. Daniel Machiela	Sep-2011	Oct-2017	2	Oct-2014
Faculty Rep (Mohawk)	Bob Brown	May-2011	Oct-2017	2	Oct-2014
Ministry Rep	Rev. Chris Schoon	Feb-2013	Feb-2016	1	Feb-2013
Campus Chaplain (Ex Officio)	Michael Fallon	Sep-1998	<i>member per Committee mandate</i>		
Associate Member	Mary Bryce	Jan-2013	May-2015	1	May-2013
Associate Member	Nimal Agalawatte	Jan-2013	May-2015	1	May-2013

## Student (Mohawk)

Chloe Workman, Fellowship Baptist Church, Coburg.  
 Shae-lynn Knevel – Mount Hamilton CRC, Hamilton.  
 Nimal Aglawatte – Eucharist, Canadian Baptist, Hamilton.  
 Travis Golem – Highview Community Church (non-denominational) Kitchener

## Student (McMaster)

Derek Bradley Ellens - Ancaster CRC  
 Chris Dekker – Wellandport, Riverside CRC  
 Rachel Batenburg – Georgetown, CRC.  
 Saskia Van Arragon - First United Church, Waterloo  
 Adam Vanderleest – Georgetown CRC.  
 Steven Nightingale – Kitchener, Community CRC.  
 Robert Revington - St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Aurora.

**Candidacy Committee:**

		Appointed	Until	Term #	Ratified
Chair	<b>Rev Chris Schoon</b>	Oct-2012	Oct-2015	1	Oct-2012
	Dick Kranendonk	Oct-2013	Oct-2016	1	Oct-2013
	Rev Andrew Zomerman	May-2013	May-2016	1	May-2013
	Dr. Michael Fallon	May-2011	Oct-2017	2	Oct-2014

**Safe Church Team Committee: (For information only)**

Chair

Rep: Ancaster

Rep: Meadowlands Fellowship

Rep: Hope - Brantford

Rep: Burlington - New Street

Rep: Faith - Burlington

Rep: Calvin - Dundas

Rep: Calvary - Flamborough

Rep: Hagersville Community

Rep: First - Hamilton

Rep: Immanuel - Hamilton

Rep McMaster

Rep: Mount Hamilton

Rep: New Hope

Rep: Ebenezer - Jarvis

Rep: Immanuel - Simcoe

Rep: Bethel - Waterdown

Rep: Maranatha - York

Fred Bennink

Roelie DeKleine

Elaine Van Wyngaarden

Tina VanDyk

Denise Dykstra

Jessica Koning

Vacant

George &amp; Gep Elzinga

Mary Westerhof

John Benjamins

Vacant

John Hunse

Vacant

Garret Dykstra

Rita Kloet

Mary Vanderveen

Jake Termorshuizen

Appointed

Oct-2013

Feb-2008

Feb-2010

Oct-2012

Jun-2014

Feb-2012

Feb-2013

Feb-2013

Feb-2013

Oct-2012

Oct-2012

May-2008

**Web Master**

John Gilson

Appointed

Open ended

**Prayer Coordinator**

Rev. John Veenstra

Appointed

Oct-2014

Until

Oct-2017

Term #

1

Ratified

Oct-2014

**Shalom Manor Chaplaincy Committee:**

vacant

Appointed

Until

Term #

Ratified

Grace Vanstaalduinen

May-2014

May-2017

1

May-2014

**Finance Committee: (Appointed by the BoD)**

Chair &amp; Treasurer

Bookkeeper

Alternate Bookkeeper

Secretary

Member - Minister

Member

Member

Member

BoD, Treasurer

Anita VanGeest

Ruth Visser

Vacant

John Huyser

Gina Taylor

Harmene Sytsma

Brenda DeGroot

Appointed

Until

Term #

See Board of Directors

May-2013

Staff Position

May-2012

May-2015

1

Oct-2011

Oct-2017

2

Aug-2011

Oct-2017

2

Feb-2014

Feb-2017

1

Feb-2014

Feb-2017

1

**Classis Historical Committee**

Representative - Stated Clerk

Dick Kranendonk

**Church Visiting Team A:**

Rev Paul Vanden Brink

Rev Jeff Kingenberg

Wayne Visser

*(New Hope, Meadowlands Fellowship, Brantford Hope, Jarvis Ebenezer, Hagersville Community, Hamilton Immanuel, Simcoe Immanuel, York Maranatha)*

Appointed

Until

Term #

Ratified

Feb-2014

Feb-2017

1

Feb-2014

May-2014

May-2017

1

May-2014

Oct-2013

Oct-2016

1

Oct-2013

**Church Visiting Team B:**

Jake Ellens

Rev. Ted Bootsma

Rev Jerry Hoytema

*(Ancaster, Burlington, Burlington Faith, Dundas Calvin, Flamborough Calvary, Hamilton 1st, Mt. Hamilton, Waterdown Bethel)*

Appointed

Until

Term #

Ratified

Oct-2013

Oct-2016

1

Oct-2013

Oct-2014

Oct-2017

1

Oct-2014

Oct-2012

Oct-2015

1

Oct-2012

**Regional Pastors**

South

North

Rev. Henry Kranenburg

Rev. Ralph Koops

Appointed

Until

Term #

**Synodical Deputee****HAMILTON**

Alternate

Rev Ralph Koops

Rev. Henry Kranenburg

Appointed

Until

Term #

Feb-2010

May-2016

2

Feb-2010

May-2016

2

**Delegates:**

Redeemer University College

CRC Publication (Region 4)

CR World Missions

CR World Renew

CR Home Missions

Calvin College (Region 4)

Calvin Theological Sem (Region 4)

Back to God Ministries (Region 4)

CRCNA Board of Trustees (CH only)

Candidacy Committee (CRCNA)

Regional Advocate for Disability Concerns

Diaconal Ministries Conference

Paul vanden Brink

Carel Geleynse

Ed Scharringa

Gerald Klein-Geltink

Wytse van Dijk

Jeff Klingenberg

Greg Fluit

Gary Sytsma

Cor Visser

**Licensed To Exhort:**

Mike Hutchings

Al Wolters

Until

May-17

Oct-17

**APPENDIX #7.2 - NOMINATIONS**

The following have been nominated as of April 14, 2015. Nominations will be accepted up to and including in the Classis meeting itself.

STATED CLERK (One year term renewable indefinitely)  
Dick Kranendonk

CLASSIS INTERIM COMMITTEE: (need a minimum of 9)  
Henry Kranenburg (completed 3 years)  
Henk Van Tuyl (completed 3 years)  
John Huyser (completed 1 year)  
John den Otter (effective May 1, 2015)  
Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo

Other Members by virtue of office:  
Ken Benjamins (CMT Chair)  
Mark VanderVliet (CMT Recorder)  
Chair of Classis  
Missions Director  
Stated Clerk

SHALOM MANOR CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE  
John Postuma

DIACONAL MINISTRIES CONFERENCE  
Scott Plante

McMASTER/MOHAWCK CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE  
Lisa Nightingale

CLASSIS MINISTRY TEAM

**APPENDIX #7.3 - NOMINATIONS**

<b>BALLOT—REGION 4</b>			
<b>Calvin Theological Seminary - vote for one nominee</b>			
<b>Mr. Keith Oosthoek</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><i>Mr. Keith Oosthoek is a retired senior executive from the RBC Financial Group. He is a member of Community CRC in Kitchener, Ontario, and has served both as a deacon and as an elder (pastoral and administrative). His denominational board service includes Back to God Ministries International, the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA, and the Canadian Pension Trustees.</i></p>			
<b>Mr. Brian Verheul</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><i>Mr. Brian Verheul is the owner of Verheul and Associates, a consulting practice focused on litigation support and executive search support. This follows a 34-year career with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). He is a member of Mountainview CRC in Grimsby, Ontario, and has served as a pastoral elder, youth elder, and clerk. Mr. Verheul has served on several educational boards, including the board of Redeemer University College, and on other various local agency boards.</i></p>			

## APPENDIX #8 - CLASSIS COMMITTEE REPORTS

### APPENDIX #8.1 - CLASSIS CANDIDACY COMMITTEE

Our primary work this past year has been to continue supporting the students from Classis Hamilton who are seeking seminary training and/or are in the candidacy process. We have done this through personal visits, emails & phone calls, and in a couple cases through formal mentoring structures. Currently, we support 3 full time M.Div. students at Calvin Seminary and 2 students who are in the 2-year non-residential EPMC track.

During this time, we have also engaged in dialogue with students from Redeemer, McMaster, and Hamilton District Christian High who are at various stages of discernment regarding a potential call toward ordained ministry. These conversations have ranged from simple curiosity about congregational-based ministry to more extensive dialogue about experiences and education that would be beneficial in preparing for seminary. In support of these interactions, we have also begun to dialogue with the Admissions office at Calvin Seminary about ways in which our committee can facilitate opportunities for these prospective students to interact more directly with CTS. While not the main focus of the event, we are hopeful that the Seminary Sunday this spring (April 19) will serve as another contact point in the relationship between those who are discerning a potential calling toward ministry and CTS.

The majority of our conversations this past year and the focus of our next committee meeting revolves around creatively addressing the anticipated funding needs for our students. We are seeking input from denominational leadership and have connected with candidacy committees in neighboring Classes regarding the financial strain we face in supporting the volume of students who are pursuing seminary education. While we do not have any proposals for Classis to consider, we are acutely aware of the challenges of supporting students who attend CTS full time. In particular, we note the current volatility and discrepancy between the \$USD and \$CAD, as well as the increasing cost of attendance in relationship to tuition for those students at CTS.

#### **Action Item:**

**The CHCC recommends that Classis Hamilton approve the following forgivable loan disbursement amounts for the 2015-2016 academic year:**

- |                        |        |                |   |
|------------------------|--------|----------------|---|
| 1. Nathan Klingenberg: | M.Div. | \$14,619.00USD | (~ cost of attending = \$29,000.00USD)                          |
| 2. Wim DeVries:        | M.Div. | \$14,619.00USD | (~ cost of attending = \$60,000.00USD + kids' Chr. Ed. tuition) |
| 3. Corey VanHuizen:    | M.Div. | \$3,655.00USD  | (attending 1 semester; cost is split with Classis Niagara)      |
| 4. Courtney Mooney:    | EPMC   | \$1,500.00CAD  | (~ cost of attending = \$4,500.00USD)                           |
| 5. Mark DeVos:         | EPMC   | \$1,500.00CAD  | (~ cost of attending = \$4,500.00USD)                           |
| 6. Ben Verkerk:        | M.Div. | \$14,619.00USD | (~ cost of attending = \$29,000.00USD)                          |

**For a total of \$47,512.00USD and \$3,000.00CAD.**

#### **For Advance Notice:**

While some current students will graduate next year, we are currently aware of at least two new students for the 2016-2017 academic year. As such, the CHCC intends to request \$80,000.00USD when the 2016 Classis budget is considered at the October 2015 Classis meeting.

**APPENDIX #8.2 - CLASSIS HAMILTON CAMPUS MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

Report to Classis Hamilton – at its May 26, 2015 meeting

Composition: The Campus Ministry Committee is comprised of two faculty representatives (Bob Brown of Mohawk College and Dan Machiela of McMaster University), an alumni representative (Justin Adema), two minister representatives (Chris Schoon and Bruce Adema), and a number of students from Mohawk and McMaster who have taken on leadership roles in the campus ministry during the current year. Dr. Michael Fallon, the chaplain for this ministry, serves on an ex officio basis, and we have periodically asked Anita Van Geest, the Classis bookkeeper, to join us occasionally when financial matters are being discussed.

Mark Van Oord has been a long term and much appreciated alumni member and chair of this committee, but he and his family have relocated outside of our region. **Thus we nominate Lisa Nightingale to join the Committee as the second alumni representative.**

Meetings: The Committee meets three times per year, in the fall, winter and spring times. This allows us to get a sense of how the season has begun (in the fall), how it's going (in the winter) and how it went (in the spring). We receive reports from the student leaders and from the chaplain.

Highlights: The best part of these meetings is hearing from the students, and having them share about the Bible study groups that they facilitate and the community building activities in which they engage as part of the Campus Ministry. The second best part is hearing about the diligent work and effective engagement of our Chaplain, Dr. Fallon. In particular we are impressed with his ministry of mentoring young men and women into lives of Christian discipleship. As Classis' only full time employee, engaged in a challenging and critically important ministry, **we request that Dr. Fallon be given the privilege of giving a brief address to Classis as it meets on May 26, 2015.**

Matters to keep in mind:

1. The Abraham Kuyper Lecture Series. Our Kuyper Speaker candidate was not able to come this past semester but has committed to joining us this coming Fall semester.
2. Dr. Fallon's sabbatical. In line with Classis Hamilton's sabbatical policy (see Minutes of Classis Hamilton, October 2013), we are working with Dr. Fallon in preparing a sabbatical plan.
3. The churches' support of the student gatherings on the campuses of Mohawk and McMaster, particularly through the provision of meals, is greatly appreciated by the students, but also by the Chaplain and Committee.
4. Dr. Fallon stands ready to preach in our churches and inform them about the ministry we share on Mohawk and McMaster's campuses. Please invite him to your pulpits.
5. Most are aware of the campus ministry at McMaster University, but many do not know that the ministry expanded to Mohawk College as well. The opportunities and challenges at each school are different, but important ministry occurs at both institutions.

Thank you for the vision of powerful work and witness of campus ministry. Thank you for the support of funds, prayers and encouragement.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Bruce Adema  
Chair, Campus Ministry Committee

## APPENDIX #9 - OVERTURES

### APPENDIX #9.1 – JARVIS CRC

To: Clerk of Classis Hamilton

From: The Council of Jarvis-Ebenezer CRC

Date: April 10, 2015

Re: Overture Regarding Classical Ministry Share for Shalom Manor Chaplaincy

**Background:** Classis Hamilton has long been a faithful supporter of Shalom Manor since the first formation committee originated back in 1964. And since 1986, Classis Hamilton and Classis Niagara have jointly supported the chaplaincy with classical ministry shares starting with its first chaplain, Rev. De Bruyne. Since 1992, the chaplaincy was upgraded to a full time position to best meet the spiritual needs of Shalom Manor residents and staff. The 2015 total overall cost of the chaplaincy at Shalom is estimated to be \$102,711.

The current ministry share is determined on a per member basis by dividing the cost to be covered less estimated collections and a private donation divided by the sum total of professing members from Classis Niagara and Classis Hamilton. For 2015, with a share of \$11 per member: Classis Hamilton contributes \$40,381 and Classis Niagara \$30,393. Additional offerings and donations from residents and a \$5000 pledge from a non-CRC church are expected to bring in \$31,937 to cover the remaining chaplaincy costs for 2015.

**Changing Situation:** The almost 30 year history of Shalom's chaplaincy support is worthy of celebration. And there is little doubt as to its continuing importance. This history reflects our faithfulness to our elderly members as well as our obedience to God's Word. Scripture is quite clear that the care of not just the orphan but the widow is an important piece of social justice responsibilities in God's eyes.

So the necessity of care is still present; however, multiple changes have taken place over the years where we find that more and more Classis Hamilton members no longer consider Shalom Manor their first choice. Since 1983 a large number of senior residents from Jarvis Ebenezer and Immanuel Simcoe, and Hagersville Community have chosen to reside at Parkview Meadows. Other churches can site their own examples as well. In order to be true to Scripture, serious consideration must be given to be sure that for each church-our senior members are receiving the necessary support and spiritual care at their respective facility. Partially due to the large number of seniors requiring additional care as well as increasing hospital visits, Ebenezer changed its pastorate model to a co-pastorate in the Fall of 2010.

This population shift of Classis Hamilton residents away from Shalom is further complicated when you consider that Ontario's Community Care Access Centre now regulates the movement of senior residents into long term care. While there are still some admission honor agreements in place with the province, the greater likelihood is that based on the geographics, CCAC is more likely to place Niagara area residents in need of urgent placement into a local facility such as Shalom thereby reducing the number of beds available to Classis Hamilton area residents and church members. However, it should be noted that Classis Hamilton continues to pay the larger portion of the ministry share based on classis numbers. Classis Hamilton has 3671 while Classis Niagara has 2763. A growing number of churches within our classis have no members at Shalom Manor nor do they expect to in the future. For 2015, Classis Hamilton has only 14 members at Shalom Manor according to the 2015 Spiral Directory.

Overture: The Council of Jarvis Ebenezer CRC by means of this overture propose a long-term wind down of the ministry share for the chaplaincy itself. **We propose that beginning January 2017, that Classis Hamilton begin reducing their ministry share assessment by 25% per year over the course of**



**four years so that by 2022, Classis Hamilton will no longer collect a classical ministry share for the Shalom Manor chaplaincy.**

**Grounds:**

1) In order to discuss funding changes, an overture is required per the CIC. The April 2, 2015 minutes of the Classis Hamilton CIC indicated that the CIC would not be offering future funding recommendations for Shalom Manor. In the minutes - (It was noted that the churches now have the information pertaining to the ministry, and so, may bring forward an overture to request changes to the formula if they so desire.) Hence an overture is necessary.

2) The movement of seniors from our own churches into more localized long-term care facilities such as Parkview Meadows will continue. As Scripture warrants continuing care for our seniors, our support dollars for their spiritual care will in essence need to follow our seniors to remain obedient. We anticipate this need will only grow as the baby boomers in our church retire and eventually require long-term care.

3) This proposal only looks to eliminate over 5 years, the classical ministry share portion of the chaplaincy—not the ending of the chaplaincy program itself. Each church congregation can still prayerfully determine for themselves whether to provide chaplaincy funding to Shalom Manor through their deacons via offerings if they feel led to do so.

4) The 18 months offered in this proposal before the reductions begin should provide more than sufficient time to find replacement dollars and assess future commitments on a church by church basis. The subcommittee made up of Classis Niagara, Classis Hamilton, and the Shalom Board have already offered some very helpful alternatives for consideration including formalizing a weekly budget envelopes for Shalom residents regardless of denomination at worship services as well as contacting other non-CRC churches whose members are represented at Shalom Manor.

5) A growing number of Classis Hamilton churches such as Ebenezer have no residents in the population of Shalom Manor, nor do we expect to in the future.

6) While not all Shalom residents receiving spiritual care can support the chaplains, many could consider commitments towards covering the cost. In fact, many other Christian Homes are self-sufficient. 306 CRC Holland Christian Home residents in Brampton contribute 100% of the cost for three ministers totalling \$280,000. HCH has approximately 800 residents. Parkview Meadows Chaplaincy Cost is covered through their general fund as well as Ontario provincial granting assistance totalling roughly \$40,000 for the part-time care of 64 residents in Gardenview. This cost is further minimized by utilizing the local ministerials to offer two services per week as well as on-call back-up support by Pastor John Huyser at Ebenezer and Pastor Richard Moose from St. Paul's Anglican in Jarvis.

APPENDIX #10 - FUNCTIONARIES REPORTS:

**APPENDIX #10.1 - BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF CALVIN COLLEGE**

Date: March 3, 2015

Calvin College equips students to think deeply, to act justly and to live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal in the world. (Calvin College's mission statement)

As trustee for Region 4 of the denomination, I am pleased to report to classis on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Calvin College. The board has met twice already this academic year, on Oct. 23-25, 2014 and Feb. 5-7, 2015. I recount some of the highlights below.

Guided by the new Provost Cheryl Brandsen, the academic division is working on an educational framework that seeks to communicate clearly the traits of a Calvin College graduate, and to provide a guide for curricular, co-curricular and instructional development. The new donor-funded Clean Water Institute was approved, as well as a number of tenure and other faculty appointments.

This year Calvin's enrolment numbers were slightly below target, but within budget parameters. The enrolment management team is cautiously optimistic about the recruitment of students for the coming year.

The board discussed the Campus Master Plan. Although there are no plans for immediate major construction projects, the priorities with respect to facility needs of the campus are being formulated.

An item that the board has taken up is the issue of student aid to undocumented students. Given that there are many undocumented persons in United States and their status continues to be under discussion, the college needs to adopt a policy to treat them hospitably and equitably. A committee will come with a proposal to the May meeting.

The board approved a modest tuition increase which is partially offset by an increase in student aid.

To take the place of Dr. Shirley Hoogstra, who accepted the position of President of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, the College hopes to complete a search for the Vice President of Student Life in the near future,

After a successful debt-reduction campaign and the sale of some real estate, the college is making steady progress on improving its debt position. It is anticipated that by 2017 when the college is expected to make payments on the principal, it will be able to do so without significant increase in the current debt servicing payments.

Calvin College has been and continues to be a blessing to our community and denomination, both in terms of the educational program it offers and the scholarship that takes place. This year some thirty-nine students from Region 4 (classes Chatham, Hamilton, Huron, and Niagara) attend Calvin. We encourage you to keep them also in your prayers as they are working hard to complete the semester and often have significant travel to and from the college.

I appreciate the opportunity to represent you on Board of Trustees of Calvin College. Please, do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. If scheduling permits, I hope to be available at your meeting, especially if specifically requested.

Respectfully yours,

Wytse van Dijk  
vandijk@physics.mcmaster.ca  
905-387-0250

## APPENDIX #11 - MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

### APPENDIX #11.1 - WORLD RENEW



## Spring 2015 Report to Classis – Canada

*Submitted by Peter Bulthuis, Associate Director of Church Relations*

The spring session of classis meets when churches are not only winding down from their activities, but also beginning to plan for the next year of service. This report highlights updates in our ministry as well as ways that your church can be involved in the Kingdom of God as it finds expression in World Renew.

### A. National Baby Shower Program Update

World Renew received a grant in 2011 from the Government of Canada through the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) to support child and maternal health development in Malawi and Bangladesh for three and a half years. The total budget of the grant was \$918,508. DFATD agreed to fund 75 percent of the costs; however, the funding was conditional on World Renew raising the other 25 percent of the budget from churches and individuals in Canada by April 30, 2015. World Renew instated the National Baby Shower program requesting churches to hold baby showers all over Canada to raise the required amount which was \$230,000.

Last fall, there was still \$50,000 remaining until our goal was met and so a volunteer position was created to recruit churches to participate in the program. A volunteer emerged, who connected with every CRC in Canada inviting them to join the baby shower program. The volunteer called and emailed churches from her own home to spread the word about this program, dedicating 65 hours of her time. Thanks to the hard work of this volunteer and the commitment of churches across Canada, the \$50,000 still needed was raised and we have met our goal for this program. Praise be to God!

### B. Staff Changes

- **Ken Kim** has accepted the offer to join the team as the **Director of Disaster Response and Rehabilitation** replacing Wayne DeJong effective April 1.
- The search for a **US Director** to replace Andy Ryskamp is currently in the interview stages.
- We are actively searching for an **Advocacy Manager** who will assist the churches in encouraging our federal government to help small farmers in developing countries.

### C. Important Dates and Publications

Here is a list of the Synodically designated offerings, various publications, and other important events for the remainder of 2015. For more information and resources, please visit [worldrenew.net/churchresources](http://worldrenew.net/churchresources).

- **May 10: Maternal and Child Health Sunday (Mother's Day)** – Offering for World Renew's Maternal and Child Health Programs. New materials including bulletin inserts/covers, leader's guide, and a DVD containing three videos are available for download or order.
- **July 1: Canada Day** – Bulletin inserts will be sent to each church to thank Canadians and the Canadian government for their support of our ministry.

- **June – August: Sea to Sea East and West** – The Sea to Sea East tour will run from June 29 to July 4 beginning and ending at Redeemer University College. The Sea to Sea West tour will go from July 29 to August 8 beginning in Jasper, Alberta and ending in Glacier National Park, Montana. World Renew is a tour partner for these events. To learn more and register, visit [seatosea.org](http://seatosea.org).
- **October 11 or 12: Thanksgiving** – Offering for World Renew's Free A Family® program. Bulletin inserts will be sent to churches. The Free A Family® program is an alternative to sponsorship based on community development.
- **October 18 to November 1: World Hunger Campaign** – A two week campaign culminating in an offering for World Hunger on November 1. Resources will be sent to churches which include a family devotional, adult devotional, bulletin inserts/covers, and a leader's guide containing a drama script, song suggestions, children's message, sermon and more.
- **November/December: Gift Catalog Campaign** – Gift catalogs will be distributed as well as resources to set-up a giving tree campaign in your church.
- **December 25: Christmas Day** – Offering for World Renew, which could be a culmination of the church's Gift Catalog campaign. Bulletin inserts/covers are available for order.

## D. Community Development: Stories of Transformation

There are many communities experiencing God's love, grace and abundance through the work of World Renew. In northern Kenya, for example, in an area of semi-desert, World Renew is working with groups of people living in camps, having been displaced by tribal clashes. "It is possible," the participants say. "God has provided us World Renew to help bring us out of poverty and dependency. We can use our hands and feed our families!" "God sent you here for us to discover the resources we already have in this land," says Nyadeng, mother of six. "We can grow food to eat and feed our families from this dry dirt. The soil is rich. All we needed was to know how to take care of it."

## E. Disaster Response: North America and International

**High River, Alberta:** World Renew Disaster Response Services (DRS) has been active in the flood response in High River since the water receded. Currently, a major part of the work is advocating for flood survivors. Since January 2014, volunteer reconstruction teams have also been in the area working on repairing and restoring homes.

**Ebola Crisis, West Africa:** With a roughly \$800,000 budget, World Renew is providing a range of preventative, educational and health/medical response initiatives to the Ebola crisis in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. In Guinea and Sierra Leone, World Renew worked with Christian Reformed World Missions and local Christian partners to help educate people about Ebola, how it could be prevented, how to properly care for those who were sick, and how to bury those who had died. World Renew and its partners have also provided food assistance and necessary supplies to people leaving Ebola treatment centers.

## F. Refugee Settlement Activities

A new 90 minute interactive workshop was launched on Saturday, March 28, in the First CRC, Toronto. It contains Scriptural foundations, stories and songs, worship resources, planning templates and more resources to assist congregations and other groups (including a facilitator's guide). For more information, contact Rebecca Walker at 800-730-3490 ext. 4232 or [rwalker@worldrenew.net](mailto:rwalker@worldrenew.net) or visit [www.worldrenew.net/refugeesponsorship](http://www.worldrenew.net/refugeesponsorship).

**To learn more about World Renew's ministry, please visit [worldrenew.net](http://worldrenew.net) and sign up for our e-newsletter.**



Greetings from Redeemer University College. We trust that you experienced a blessed Easter season, and that we may live in the joy and hope of our resurrected Lord.

Our Winter semester enrolment is 763 total students and 717 FTE students which is 46 fewer students than our September enrolment, and reflects a 6% drop in enrolment from the Fall. Lower enrolment in the Winter term is our usual pattern. We have implemented several initiatives from our strategic enrolment plan, including early application incentives, and we remain cautiously optimistic that with God's help we can achieve our target of 220 new students for Fall 2015.

As you may know, Redeemer has had a challenging year. Due to reduced enrolment, which has been experienced across Ontario, we have made budget reductions that included the elimination of several faculty and staff positions. While painful, these steps have helped to place Redeemer in a healthy and sustainable financial position. These challenges, meanwhile were compounded by the experience of several tragedies in the Redeemer community, including the sudden death due to cancer of Thomas Curnew, eight year old son of Dr. Allan Curnew, professor of French; the terrible car accident on February 10 that resulted in the death of Anna Van Dijk and the injury of Conrad Van Dijk, parents of Tracy Van Dijk, Director of Financial Services, and the leukemia relapse of Walt Hartholt, husband of Nancy Hartholt, Director of Learning Services. Our hearts and prayers go with these colleagues who are facing such grief.

While these difficulties have been in the foreground of our attention, many exciting efforts are under way to move Redeemer forward. Last July our Board adopted our *Redeemer 2020* strategic plan, with three broad initiatives: enhancing our student experience with expanded programs and experiential learning; raising Redeemer's profile; and securing Redeemer's sustainability through debt reduction and improved infrastructure. Our efforts this semester in advancing these goals includes:

- Approval of a revised, more fully integrated Core Program, to be launched in Fall 2016.
- Approval of a new Media and Communication program, to be launched in Fall 2015.
- Plans are under way to develop a new BA Major in Missions and Ministry, to be launched in Fall 2016
- Plans to launch a Centre for Experiential Learning, starting Fall 2015, to provide increased opportunities for co-ops, internships, service-learning, and career counseling across our programs.
- Continued planning for the major launch and conference of the Centre for Christian Scholarship in Fall 2015.
- A major reconstruction of our IT infrastructure, including a new portal and web presence, scheduled to go live in Summer 2015.
- Renewal of our marketing and enrolment efforts, including appointment of Dr. David Zeitsma as VP, Marketing and Enrolment.
- Expanded co-curricular programs to train student leaders and to address student mental health needs.

Of special interest to our supporting Classes, we have appointed Rachel Janecek as our new Director of Church Relations. As part of this transition, the activities of the CLEAR Department have been redistributed as well. I hope that you will hear more from Rachel in the coming months.

Our hope and prayer is that with God's blessing these efforts will help Redeemer to flourish in the future. Already we are seeing hopeful signs in increased numbers of applications for Fall 2015, and we are cautiously optimistic that we will achieve our budget targets for next year.

We also have been blessed that God continues to provide excellent faculty to continue Redeemer's mission. We celebrated the retirement of Dr. Jim Payton, Jr., Professor of History, after thirty years of service to Redeemer, and we will celebrate the retirement of Janny Eikelboom, AVP of Library and Information Technology, after twenty years of service. We are pleased meanwhile that Ms. Deanne van Tol has accepted a tenure-track position in History, starting July 1, 2015, and Ms. Michelle Shockness has accepted a tenure-track position in Social Work, to begin July 1, 2016, a few months after the retirement of Prof. Patricia Slade. Our search process for a new chaplain is also under way and we are aiming to fill vacant tenure-track positions in Media and Communications, and in Missions and Ministry.

Redeemer's campus has again been busy this Winter semester with many special events:

- We hosted the ARCU Lecture (Association of Reformed Colleges and Universities) on January 21 with guest speaker, Dr. Craig Mattson, Professor of Communication Arts at Trinity Christian College in Illinois,
- The World and Our Calling Lecture on March 4, with guest speaker Dr. Reginald Bibby, Professor of Sociology from the University of Lethbridge
- Our 28<sup>th</sup> annual Ministry Conference, also featured Dr. Reginald Bibby on March 3.
- On March 10 Redeemer University College, McMaster University, Mohawk College and Workforce Planning Hamilton co-hosted the *Connect to Careers* Job Fair to help connect students, job seekers and employers.
- Redeemer hosted the OCAA Women's Volleyball Championships, and Redeemer's Owen Kurvits won both the Ontario and national gold medals in Men's Badminton.
- On March 24 our Faculty Colloquium presented "*The Vocation of Wisdom and the Wisdom of Vocation*" by Dr. Craig Bartholomew, Professor of Philosophy and Religion & Theology and H. Evan Runner Chair.
- Our Winter Mainstage Theatre production of *Hecuba*, a Greek tragedy by Euripides.
- Our Commencement ceremony is scheduled for May 23, with Dr. Jean Chamberlain Froese, founder of "Save the Mothers," as the guest speaker.

In all of these activities, Redeemer continues to pursue our mission of Christ-centred university learning that equips our students for leadership in service to God in our wider world. We are deeply grateful for God's faithful presence and blessings, and for your continued support.

*Dr Hubert R. Krygsman, President*