



Christian  
Reformed  
Church

**Minutes of a Meeting of  
CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

**Date: February 27, 2017**

**Time: 9:30 AM**

**Venue: Maranatha CRC, 33 King Avenue, York, Ontario**

Chair: Jeff Klingenberg  
Stated Clerk: Dick Kranendonk

Vice-Chair: Chris Schoon  
Reporter: Immanuel CRC, Hamilton Delegate

Synodical Deputies:  
None Required

Delegates:

<b>Church</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
Ancaster CRC	Adam	Veenstra	Pastor Delegate
Ancaster CRC	Jason	Taekema	Elder Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Everett	Vander Horst	Pastor Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Judy	Cook	Elder Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Jeanette	Lodewyks	Elder Alternate
Hope	William	Koopmans	Pastor Delegate
Hope	John	Winter	Elder Delegate
Hope	Ryan	Haan	Deacon Delegate
New Street	Joel	Bootsma	Pastor Delegate
New Street	Irving	Bos	Elder Delegate
New Street	Ingrid	Dykstra	Deacon Delegate
Faith	Henry	Hess	Elder Delegate
Faith	Liz	Busuttil	Deacon Delegate
Calvin	Josh	te Brake	Elder Delegate
Calvin	Steve	Koning	Elder Delegate
Calvin	Mel	Elzinga	Deacon Delegate
Calvary	Gareth	Harker	Pastor Delegate
Calvary	Ralph	Groen	Elder Delegate
Hagersville Community	Jeff	Klingenberg	Pastor Delegate
Hagersville Community	George	Elzinga	Elder Delegate
Hagersville Community	Jake	Elgersma	Elder Delegate
First	Chris	Schoon	Pastor Delegate
First	Len	Moelker	Elder Delegate
First	Gina	Taylor	Deacon Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Martin	Joldersma	Elder Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Jeri	Batterink	Deacon Delegate
Mt. Hamilton	Roelof	Peereboom	Pastor Delegate
Mt. Hamilton	Greg	Schuurman	Elder Delegate
Mt. Hamilton	Bob	DeHaan	Elder Delegate
New Hope	Greg	Sinclair	Emerging Church
New Hope	Ginelle	Bucher	Emerging Church
Ebenezer	Wim	de Vries	Pastor Delegate
Ebenezer	Ben	Hogeterp	Elder Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Jeff	Vandermeer	Pator Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Mark	Vandervliet	Elder Delegate
Bethel	Bruce	Adema	Pastor Delegate
Bethel	Jack	Traas	Deacon Delegate
Maranatha	Ben	Ponsen	Pastor Delegate
Maranatha	Kevin	Vanderspek	Elder Delegate
Maranatha	Jake	Termorshuizen	Deacon Delegate

## Meeting Details:

### 1. OPENING PRAYER TIME

At 9:30 am, Chris Schoon, chair of the Classis Ministries Team, welcomed everyone present, opened with prayer to ask the Lord's blessings on the deliberations of the day and introduced the worship team from Maranatha CRC.

### 2. OPENING WORSHIP

- 2.1. The host church, Maranatha Christian Reformed Church, began devotions by singing two hymns. After singing, Ben Posen led in devotions based on a selection of verses from 2 Corinthians 5 focussed on the reconciling ministry of Christ for whom we are ambassadors. This was followed by a presentation of the reconstruction of the church undertaken to accommodate the increasing membership and anticipated growth. It was reported that Maranatha has strong family relationships and commitment to the ministry of the church. With respect to their programs, one member of Maranatha shared about their youth ministries; GEMS, Cadets, and high school age youth ministry (carried out jointly with Hagersville Community CRC). Another member shared about the blessings of adult ministries such as Coffee Break and Mom to Moms. Besides these ministries, Maranatha is engaged in a variety of community projects, programs and activities, including a Friendship Club.
- 2.2. Chris Schoon led in a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing for Maranatha Christian Reformed Church of York. This was following by a final hymn.
- 2.3. CMT Chair, Chris Schoon then asked the delegates to engage in a brief round table discussion of how things are going in their own congregations, both encouraging and concerning, and to offer prayer for one another.

### 3. REFRESHMENT BREAK (15 Minutes)

### 4. RETURN FROM REFRESHMENT BREAK AND CALL TO ORDER

- 4.1. Chair of Classis, Jeff Klingenberg, called the meeting to order and after some brief comments asked dealt with the delegate report. He inquired of those present whether there were any changes in delegates or alternates that had been reported as attending or potentially attending on the credentials. A few local churches reported that delegated individuals had not been able to attend and no one had been found to replace them. Two local churches, Hope CRC, Brantford and Immanuel CRC, Simcoe, reported that they were being represented by one elder each who had not been identified on the credentials.

The Chair of Classis **RULED THAT:** John Winter from Hope CRC, Brantford and Mark Vandervliet from Immanuel CRC, Simcoe, are seated as delegates in place of those who had been identified on the credentials.

- 4.2. After this the Chair of Classis **RULED THAT:** Classis Hamilton was properly constituted.

#### 4.3. Approval of Agenda

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** the agenda and the addendum as communicated to the churches and delegates were approved for discussion and action where appropriate with minor variances in the sequence in which some of the items would be dealt with.

5. FIRST BALLOT TO ELECT MINISTER DELEGATES FOR SYNOD 2018
  - 5.1. On behalf of the Classis Interim Committee, Jake Ellens introduced the first ballot to vote for two minister delegates to Synod 2018. He also requested the delegates to seriously consider whether they knew of any elders who would be willing to serve as delegate to Synod 2018 since only one nomination had been received prior to the meeting.
  - 5.2. Jake offered prayer for God's guiding in the balloting for the two minister delegates to Synod 2018.
  - 5.3. The ballots were collected by the Balloting Committee.
6. CLASSIS MINISTRIES TEAM REPORT
  - 6.1. Chris Schoon, chair of the CMT, asked Allen Kleine Dieters to present a brief verbal report about Calvin Theological Seminary. Allen is our Region #4 delegate on the Board of Trustees of that institution.
  - 6.2. Chris Schoon then drew attention to the external reports in the Agenda and Addenda.  
The Chair of Classis **RULED THAT:** The written reports from World Renew, Canadian Ministries, Calvin College, Calvin Theological Seminary, Redeemer University College, and Diaconal Ministries Canada are received for information.
  - 6.3. Presentation by Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee:  
Michael Fallon made a brief presentation of the work of the CHCC focussing on two aspects of its mandate. The delegates were then asked to have a brief round table discussion focussing on two questions: *"Is your local church encouraging young people to pursue ordained ministry?"* and *"What are some ways in which you could be more intentional in such encouragement?"*
  - 6.4. Presentation by Classis Hamilton Campus Ministry Committee:  
Bruce Adema walked the delegates through a brief slide presentation regarding the work and importance of campus ministry at both McMaster University and Mohawk College. After his brief presentation he asked the delegates in their round table discussions to address the question: *"Is campus ministry at Mohawk College a priority for Classis Hamilton for which it would be willing to provide financial support long term?"*
  - 6.5. Presentation by the Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee:  
Everett Vander Horst, made a brief presentation on behalf of CHHMC highlighting the \$500 grants given to a few churches in classis during the past year to undertake outreach projects that came forward in the congregation outside of the normal budgeting cycle. One of the recipient churches then explained how the grant they received had been used to acquaint residents in a new subdivision with the church and to establish personal relationships with those residents. Everett then asked John Bouwers to make a presentation about the Church Planting Institute, a movement in Eastern Canada by a gathering of leaders with a vision to plant 3 to 5 new churches in Eastern Canada each year in cooperation with Resonate Global Mission and local church and classes. After this presentation, the delegates at their round

tables were asked to address the question: *“Where within classis might God be leading us to plant a church?”*

## 7. LUNCH BREAK

The Chair of Classis declared a 45 minute lunch break and offered prayer of thanks for what had been heard during the morning and prayed for the lunch we consumed.

## 8. RETURN FROM LUNCH

After lunch the Chair of Classis called the meeting back to order and asked the CMT to continue with the reports from Youth Ministry and Safe Church.

### 8.1. Presentation by Classis Hamilton Youth Ministry Team:

The full Youth Ministry Team was present and each made a brief presentation beginning with and opening ice-breaking activity typically taking place at youth groups through a notification of the planned Youth Retreat to take place from September 28 to 30, 2018. Full details will be communicated to each local church. After the verbal presentations, the delegates at their round tables were asked to address the following questions: *“How are things going with youth ministry in your congregation?”* and: *“How can youth ministry become more intergenerational?”*

### 8.2. Presentation by Classis Hamilton Safe Church Committee:

On behalf of CHSCC, Marian Lensink showed and spoke to a brief slide presentation to the delegates. She focussed on the two prongs of safe church ministry; abuse prevention and abuse response. She further noted that the task of a well-functioning safe church team is to be ready to address three aspects: education, support and advisory panel. These activities are summarized in the top five goals:

1. Every church abides by a Safe Church policy
2. Every church uses a Safe Church curriculum for training children and youth
3. Every church follows approved protocols for responding to church leader misconduct
4. Issues of abuse can be freely discussed without shame
5. Leadership at all levels is committed to Safe Church Ministry (support Safe Church Teams)

After her presentation, Marian asked the delegates at their round tables to discuss the following questions: *“Who is your safe church coordinator, or team member?”*, *“Have you read your safe church policy and share what you know about the policy?”*, *“How do you engage safe church at the council level?”*, *“How does your church provide training for those who work with vulnerable people?”*, *“How can you commit to supporting the safe church ministry in your church in more intentional ways?”*, and *“Do you have a recommendation of someone in your church who might be a good candidate to consider for being part of a classis safe church team?”*

### 8.3. This concluded the CMT and standing committee reports.

The Chair of Classis **RULED THAT:** Classis approves the work to date of the Classis Ministries Team including the standing committees in so far as this has been disclosed in minutes previously distributed to the churches as well as in Appendix #1.

## 9. REGIONAL PASTOR REPORT

On behalf of the Regional Pastors, John Postuma gave a brief report of their availability to serve the pastors of classis. He also stated that, although the pastors had been assigned to either

himself or Ed Visser, his fellow Regional Pastor, any pastor should feel free to ask to be switched to the other if that would make them feel more comfortable.

#### 10. CLASSICAL COUNCELOR REPORTS

10.1. Joel Bootsma reported as counselor to Faith CRC, Burlington that the church is making progress to call their new lead pastor. He also reported that Faith CRC had called and installed Kevin DeRaaf as associate pastor to serve as Regional Director with Resonate Global Mission. Finally he reported that Faith CRC has called Ron Vanden Brink as associate pastor to serve as the National Director of Diaconal Ministries Canada. The installation will take place in the near future.

10.2. In the absence of Rita Klein-Geltink, Adam Veenstra presented a report on her behalf as counselor for Immanuel CRC, Hamilton. Her report was that Immanuel is making progress and may soon be in a position to present a nominee to council and if approved to the congregation for call.

#### 11. CLASSIS INTERIM COMMITTEE REPORT

11.1. Jake Ellens introduced the report of the CIC and Stated Clerk as printed in the agenda.

Questions or comments regarding the report were invited.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** the written report from the CIC and Stated Clerk is approved.

11.2. Jake informed the delegates that Joel Bootsma had been elected as the minister delegate to Synod 2018 on the first ballot.

11.3. Jake then proposed that the names of the four ministers receiving the highest number of votes on the first ballot be placed on the second ballot and that the three persons with the highest number of votes would be the person filling the fourth delegate position and the remaining two would be the alternate for the minister delegate position (second highest number of votes) and the alternate for the fourth delegate position (third highest number of votes).

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** Four names will appear on the ballot, the minister with the highest number of votes will fill the fourth delegate position, the minister with the second highest number of votes will be the alternate minister delegate and the minister with the third largest number of votes will be the fourth delegate alternate.

11.4. Jake then shared with the delegates that two additional elders had been found willing to let their names stand for elder delegate to Synod 2018. These elders are Cor Visser and Bob de Haan.

11.5. Jake shared with the delegates that A. Raymond Anema from Immanuel CRC, Simcoe had been nominated to serve on the World Renew Board of Delegates and read a brief bio for the nominee.

11.6. Jake also pointed out that no nomination had been received to fill the vacancy on the Redeemer University College Board of Governors. A First Hamilton CRC delegate nominated Gina Taylor to serve in that capacity. Gina agreed to let her name stand.

11.7. Jake then introduced the ballot for the vote of Region #4 representative of the Board of Trustees of Calvin College. The vote for this position will be reported to the denominational office so that they can combine them with the votes from the other three classes in Region #4 for final presentation to Synod 2018 for ratification of the individual who has received the highest number of votes from the four classes in Region #4.

11.8. After reviewing the two ballots with the delegates once more and showing the names of the new nominees on the overhead screen, Jake prayed for the Lord's guidance as the delegates prepared to complete their ballots.

11.9. The Balloting Committee collected the ballots.

11.10. Approval of the work of the CIC

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** Classis Hamilton approves the work to date of the Interim Committee and of the Stated Clerk in so far as this has been disclosed in minutes previously distributed to the churches.

## 12. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

12.1. Hope CRC had presented two matters to be addressed by the Credentials Committee:

12.1.1. As our denomination continues to wrestle with ministering well to people who struggle with same sex attractions, what are some of the ways local churches have engaged in this work, and is there wisdom in sharing some of these best practices with each other as we continue to love people and point them to Christ?

12.1.2. In a spirit of encouragement, Hope CRC Brantford wishes to highlight the importance of the second service to maintain vibrant congregations. Article 51 of the Church Order calls for congregations to assemble for worship "ordinarily" twice on the Lord's Day. In a time of generally declining Bible knowledge and a diminishing awareness of our Reformed confessions and worldview, we recognize the importance of the second service to equip all members for Christian living and to promote the mission of the church. We note, too, that mainline protestant churches in Canada that have discontinued the second service on Sundays generally show a marked decline in membership. It is our conviction that we all need to support each other to counter such a trend in our congregations.

12.2. The Credentials Committee recommended that:

12.2.1. With gratitude to Hope CRC for bringing these conversations to Classis for further discernment, the credentials committee recommends that Classis Hamilton direct these requests to the Classis Ministry Team (CMT) to decide how best to engage these two topics in order to benefit the congregations in Classis Hamilton.

**Grounds:**

- a. The CMT is responsible for scheduling ministry related conversations in Classis Hamilton.
- b. There could be settings other than one of our regular Classis meetings that would be better suited for engaging these conversations.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** Classis Hamilton directs these requests to the Classis Ministry Team (CMT) to decide how best to engage these two topics in order to benefit the congregations in Classis Hamilton.

### 13. BALLOTING COMMITTEE REPORT

13.1. The balloting committee reported that the following persons have been elected or nominated:

Minister delegate to Synod 2018	Joel Bootsma
Minister alternate to Synod 2018	Jeff Vandermeer
Elder delegate to Synod 2018	Mark Vandervliet
Elder alternate to Synod 2018	Cor Visser
Deacon delegate to Synod 2018	John Dekker
Deacon alternate to Synod 2018	Gina Taylor
Fourth delegate to Synod 2018	Anthony Elenbaas
Fourth Alternate to Synod 2018	Ken Benjamins
CIC Member	William Koopmans
Home Missions Committee	Ron Vanden Brink
Youth Ministry Team	Ben Ponsen
Redeemer University College	Gina Taylor
World Renew	A Raymond Anema
Calvin College Board of Trustees	Vote results remitted

13.2. Destruction of Ballots

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** The ballots are destroyed.

### 14. CLOSING

Chair of Classis, Jeff Klingenberg, thanked everyone for their work and participation and asked the delegates to sing the doxology after which he offered closing prayer.

### 15. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Classes Hamilton is to convene on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at First Hamilton CRC, Hamilton. Time of meeting commencement and details will be communicated in the agenda to be sent to the churches no later than five weeks prior to the meeting.