



Christian
Reformed
Church

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

Date: October 16, 2018

Time: 9:00 AM

Venue: Calvary CRC, 265 Middletown Rd., Flamborough, Ontario

Chair: Anthony Elenbaas

Vice-Chair: Gareth Harker

Stated Clerk: Dick Kranendonk

Reporter: First Hamilton CRC Delegate

Synodical Deputies:

James Dekker, Classis Niagara

Ray Vanderkoij, Classis Huron

Eric Groot-Nibbelink, Classis Chatham

Delegates:

Church	First Name	Last Name	Title
Ancaster CRC	Rita	Klein-Geltink	Pastor Delegate
Ancaster CRC	Fred	Hagen	Elder Delegate
Ancaster CRC	Jennifer	Kikkert	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	David	Guichelaar	Elder Delegate
Hope	Ben	Schrik	Deacon Delegate
New Street	Joel	Bootsma	Pastor Delegate
New Street	Geoff	Weinstein	Elder Delegate
New Street	Ingrid	Dykstra	Deacon Delegate
Faith	Henry	Hess	Elder Delegate
Faith	Fred	Breukelman	Elder Delegate
Faith	Nick	Janssens	Deacon Delegate
Calvin	Ken	Benjamins	Pastor Delegate
Calvin	John	Brouwer	Elder Delegate
Calvin	Nathan	DeHaan	Deacon Delegate
Calvary	Gareth	Harker	Pastor Delegate
Calvary	Jan	VanderHout	Elder Delegate
Calvary	Bill	Dam	Deacon Delegate
Hagersville Community	Jeff	Klingenberg	Pastor Delegate
Hagersville Community	Jake	Elgersma	Elder Delegate
Hagersville Community	Brian	Paterson	Deacon Delegate
First Hamilton	Chris	Schoon	Pastor Delegate
First Hamilton	Jules	de Jager	Elder Delegate
First Hamilton	Jan	Disselkoe	Deacon Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Anthony	Elenbaas	Pastor Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Martin	Joldersma	Elder Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Sharon	Van Dokkemburg	Deacon Delegate
New Hope	Greg	Sinclair	Emerging Church
New Hope	Ginelle	Bucher	Emerging Church
Mt. Hope Community	Greg	Schuurman	Elder Delegate
Ebenezer	Wim	de Vries	Pastor Delegate
Ebenezer	Keith	Miedema	Deacon Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Jeff	Vandermeer	Pator Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Mark	Vandervliet	Elder Delegate
Bethel	Margaret	DeWeerd Vanderboor	Elder Delegate
Bethel	Steve	Van Hoffen	Elder Delegate
Bethel	Peter	VanderMeulen	Elder Delegate
Maranatha	Frank	Riewald	Elder Delegate
Maranatha	Andy	Miedema	Deacon Delegate

Meeting Details:

1. OPENING Worship

- 1.1. At 9:00 am, Gareth Harker, pastor of Calvary Christian Reformed Church, Flamborough invited everyone into the sanctuary for opening worship.
- 1.2. Gareth Harker began devotions by inviting delegates and guests to sing two hymns. After singing he led in devotions based on Mark 4:35-41, after which another hymn was sung.
- 1.3. Gareth then turned the podium over to the chair of council, Jan Vanderhout, who highlighted some of the issues council had been and is dealing with as follows:
 - 1.3.1. How council and the congregation dealt with a review of the question of women in church office. As a result of this review, the office of deacon is now open to all confessing members in good standing.
 - 1.3.2. How they are going through a visioning process led by a qualified facilitator who is a member of their congregation. The focus of this visioning process is to learn how they can be more focussed in their ministries both within the congregation and in their community.
 - 1.3.3. He shared the blessings experienced through various ministries, both those which come directly under the supervision of council as well as those with which many members of the congregation are associated.
 - 1.3.4. The congregation has also sponsored a refugee family and is in the process of sponsoring another.
 - 1.3.5. One area of concern expressed is the decline in attendance at the second worship service on Sundays, especially around holiday times.
 - 1.3.6. Finally he shared the joy of experiencing how strong the fellowship is in the congregation and among the congregants.
- 1.4. Joel Bootsma led in a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing for Calvary Christian Reformed Church of Flamborough as well as prayer for the proceedings of the day.

2. REFRESHMENT BREAK (15 Minutes)

3. RETURN FROM REFRESHMENT BREAK AND CALL TO ORDER

- 3.1. Chair of Classis, Anthony Elenbaas, called the meeting to order, welcomed delegates and guests after which he asked the guests to introduce themselves. After some brief comments about the procedures for the day, he asked the Stated Clerk to report on the attendance.
- 3.2. The stated Clerk reported that all churches were present although some had only two delegates present and one had only a single delegate at the meeting.

The Chair of Classis **RULED THAT:** the meeting of Classis Hamilton was properly constituted.
- 3.3. In accordance with the practice of Classis Hamilton adopted at its May meeting, the Chair of Classis asked all the delegates to indicate their agreement with the Covenant for Office Bearers of the CRCNA by standing up. All delegates so indicated by standing.

3.4. 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.

4. CRCNA MINISTRY PLAN DISCERNMENT DISCUSSION

On behalf of Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director, who could not be present due to a prior commitment, Lesli van Milligen introduced the discussion time. She first restated the purpose for the discussion which had been communicated in a letter to all the churches as well as the agenda of classis as input for the 2019 National Gathering in Edmonton. She first asked the delegates to individually highlight two or three needs, emphases, or challenges they believed the CRCNA should consider in its next ministry plan. After that, she asked the delegates to discuss their respective choices around their tables and to record their selections on a yellow sheet of paper. These were collected and will be given to Darren Roorda as input for the new plan.

5. STAFF REPORT

Michael Fallon, McMaster and Mohawk Chaplain had provided a written report that was included in the agenda. He added some verbal comments and shared how important he believed his 20 year ministry at McMaster has been; especially now that he is recognized as the 'dean' of chaplains at the university and can bring faith perspectives into the university's direction setting conversations. He also shared that the most important and fruitful events are the weekly suppers at both campuses, urging congregations to continue to support the McMaster fellowship by offering to bring meals. Opportunities were given for delegates to ask questions.

The Chair of Classis **RULED THAT:** the written and verbal reports of the McMaster/Mohawk Chaplain were received as information.

6. CLASSIS MINISTRIES TEAM REPORT

6.1. Chris Schoon, chair of the CMT gave a brief verbal report on behalf of the committee.

6.2. Chris Schoon then drew attention to the external reports in the Agenda.

The Chair of Classis **RULED THAT:** The written reports from World Renew, Calvin Theological Seminary, Redeemer University College, and Diaconal Ministries Canada were received for information.

6.3. Presentation by Classis Hamilton Youth Ministry Team:

Since no representative of the Team was able to attend for good reasons, no formal report was made. However, it was noted that John Bijl is now employed by Classis Hamilton as Youth Champion.

6.4. Presentation by Classis Hamilton Campus Ministry Committee:

Joel Bootsma added a few words to the verbal report given earlier by Michael Fallon and on behalf of the committee expressed appreciation for Michael's work as Chaplain.

6.5. Presentation by Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee:

Femke Visser-Elenbaas, chair of the committee, referred the delegates to the written report in the agenda and highlighted some of the matters reported there. She also placed the two recommendations before the delegates which were dealt with as follows:

- a. On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** Classis Hamilton approves the disbursement from the Student Support Fund for **Brad Bootsma** in the amount of USD \$15,972.00 (100% of tuition) as a forgivable loan for his full-time enrolment in the M.Div. program at Calvin Theological Seminary for the 2018-2019 academic year.
- b. On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** Classis Hamilton approves the disbursements from the Student Support Fund for **Jolene Veenstra** in the amount of CAD \$1050.00 (50% of tuition costs) as a forgivable loan for her part-time enrolment in the M.Div. program at McMaster Divinity College for the 2018-2019 academic year.

6.6. Presentation by Classis Hamilton Safe Church Team:

6.6.1. On behalf of the Team consisting of Elaine van Wyngaarden and Lawrence Uyl, Al Karsten, coordinator for the Team presented a verbal report about what has been happening in Safe Church Ministry both at the denominational level and in Classis Hamilton. The Team is very active and hopes to host or participate in a number of events in the coming year.

6.6.2. Al also drew attention to some resources available on the Classis Hamilton website as follows:

- a. Abuse Prevention Made Easy(er) Power Point presentation which can be found here: http://www.classishamilton.ca/files/ClassisHamilton/abuse_prevention_made_easy_er_.pdf, and
- b. An Abuse Prevention Newsletter which can be found at this link: http://www.classishamilton.ca/files/ClassisHamilton/abuse_prevention_newsletter_2017.pdf.

6.6.3. Councils and local church Safe Church Teams are encouraged to read and take note of the information in these important documents.

6.7. 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 congregations. He then asked Kevin DeRaaf, Eastern Canada Regional Director for Resonate Global Missions, to update the delegates with what is happening in his region. He introduced two persons who will be assisting him in the Classis Hamilton region. They are Marian Lensink relating to general mission consultation work within Classes Hamilton and Niagara, and Gillian Bruce who is focussed on global ministries.

6.8. Approval of CMT's Work:

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** Classis Hamilton approves the work of the CMT to date as reported to the churches in their minutes.

7. CLASSIS INTERIM COMMITTEE REPORT

- 7.1. Ken Benjamins, President of the CIC, introduced the report of the CIC and Stated Clerk as printed in the agenda. Questions or comments regarding the report were invited.
- 7.2. Ken presented the ballot for committee members and delegates to be elected. One anomaly was noted in that the nominee for one of the committees was not currently an active member of a Christian Reformed church (he regularly worships elsewhere). Upon review of the classical Rules of Procedure and the nature of the responsibility of the person, it was agreed that the name could remain on the ballot. The delegates then marked their ballots and balloting committee collected them.
- 7.3. Ken then presented the budget and resulting classical ministry share requirements to meet that budget. (The formal motion to approve the budget itself will come to the annual general meeting to be held in May 2019. At this time the delegates are asked to approve the ministry shares in anticipation of the formal budget approval).

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** Classis Hamilton approves the budget and classical ministry shares in the amount of \$72.77 per active confessing member for 2019.

- 7.4. Ken next presented the new Classis Hamilton Rules of Procedure to replace the existing Rules. He described the reasons for and the process used to develop the new rules. He also pointed out that all the churches and committees had received the draft document and that a number of good suggestions from the churches and committees had been incorporated. Further questions and comments were invited.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** Classis Hamilton repeal the existing Rules of Procedure and replace them with the new ones found at this link: http://www.classishamilton.ca/files/ClassisHamilton/rop_issue_2018_1.pdf.

- 7.5. 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.

- 7.6. Balloting Committee Report

The balloting committee presented their report to the Chair of Classis who informed the meeting that all the nominees had been elected as follows.

Campus Ministry Committee – Brian vanOosten
Church Visitor Team “B” – Ken Benjamins
Candidacy Committee – Hayden Regeling
CRCNA Council of Delegates – William Koopmans
Home Missions Committee – Roelof Peereboom

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

Find updated list of functionaries, committee members and delegates at this link: <http://www.classishamilton.ca/files/ClassisHamilton/functionaries.pdf>

8. ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT RE: FAITH CRC JOB DESCRIPTION
 - 8.1. Faith CRC, Burlington, requested the approval of its job description for the Pastor of Missional Growth as fitting the guidelines for a commissioned pastor adopted by Synod 2001.
 - 8.2. The advisory committee consisting of the delegates of Hagersville Community CRC and Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis reviewed all the written materials presented in that agenda as well as additional information made available to them and included in the agenda addendum. The advisory committee recommended approval of the job description.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** Classis Hamilton approves the job title of “Pastor of Missional Growth” and its accompanying job description as fitting the guidelines adopted by Synod 2001.

The synodical deputies provided their written concurrence with the decision of classis.
9. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT
 - 9.1. Faith CRC asked: “What can we learn about staff teams and how members of these teams can function best together?”
 - 9.2. The Credentials Committee recommended that Faith CRC approach churches who currently have a staff and seek their input. It would also be good to reach out to the Canadian offices of the Denomination to see what their network connections can be of help. Finally, if a group discussion is being sought, it should be referred to the CMT to plan a Classis discussion.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:**

 - a. Faith CRC approach churches who currently have a staff and seek their input.
 - b. It would also be good to reach out to the Canadian offices of the Denomination to see what their network connections can be of help.
 - c. The request should be referred to the CMT to plan a Classis discussion.
10. LUNCH BREAK AT 12:00 PM
11. RETURN FROM LUNCH AT 1:00 PM
 - 11.1. After lunch, delegates and guests entered into a two-hour presentation and discussion period regarding part of the work of the Committee to Study Human Sexuality appointed by Synod 2016. The mandate of the Committee is very broad, but at this discussion session it focussed primarily on “Understanding Disorders of Sexual Development.”
 - 11.2. The Power Point presentation is available from the Stated Clerk upon request.
12. AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK AT 3:00 PM
13. RETURN FROM REFRESHMENT BREAK AND STRICT EXECUTIVE SESSION DECLARED AT 3:15 PM

Only the delegates, members of the advisory committees, church visitors, regional pastors, and CIC members were permitted to be present.
14. ENDING OF STRICT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 5:00 PM
15. ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE REQUEST TO WAIVE AN EXAMINATION
 - 15.1. Faith CRC, Burlington had requested a waiver of the formal examination of Michael Collins who will fill the job position approved by Classis Hamilton and concurred with by the synodical deputies as noted in minute 8.2 above.

15.2. Recommendation by the Advisory Committee:

15.2.1. The advisory committee recommended that classis approve the request of Faith CRC, Burlington for the following reasons:

- a. Mike has been trained and is ordained as a commissioned pastor in Classis Niagara.
- b. Mike has a proven ability to function in the ministry to which he is being called. He has served in Classis Niagara as an assistant pastor at Mountainview CRC in Grimsby (2003-2005), pastor-church planter at The Village in Thorold (2007-2016) and community pastor at Providence CRC in Lincoln (2016-2018).
- c. Since Mike has successfully sustained an examination for the position of commissioned pastor, Classis Niagara has waived further examination when taking a new position elsewhere in the classis (see Classis Niagara Meeting Minutes – February 26-27, 2016).

15.2.2. In place of an examination, the committee recommended that:

- a. time be granted on the floor of the October 16, 2018 meeting of Classis Hamilton for the delegates of Faith CRC and candidate Mike Collins to answer questions from other delegates concerning the hope of Faith CRC's ministry context.
- b. candidate Mike Collins meet quarterly with the current, assigned church counselor to Faith CRC – Burlington for the duration of his one-year contract or until such time as Faith CRC is no longer vacant. Such a meeting would be for the purpose of ministry support and encouragement.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** Classis Hamilton approves the request of Faith CRC, Burlington to waive candidate Mike Collins' examination for the reasons stated and including the two provisions.

15.3. In light of the motion being carried, the Chair of Classis invited a delegate of Faith CRC and candidate Mike Collins to answer questions from the delegates concerning the hope of Faith CRC's ministry context.

15.4. Upon completion of questioning the Faith CRC delegate and Mike Collins, the Chair of Classis presented Mike with his Classical Certificate.

16. CLOSING

At 5:30 PM, the Chair of Classis thanked everyone for their work and participation, offered prayer for Mike Collins and Faith CRC, Burlington and asked the delegates to sing the doxology after which he declared the meeting adjourned.

17. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Classes Hamilton is to convene on Tuesday, February 26, 2019. Location and time of meeting commencement and other details will be communicated in the agenda to be sent to the churches no later than five weeks prior to the meeting.