



Minutes from a Meeting of
 Classis Hamilton of the Christian Reformed Church
 February 22, 2022

Hosted by Meadowlands Fellowship CRC
 211 Stonehenge Dr, Ancaster

Officers of Classis: Chair: Rev. Joel Bootsma Vice Chair: Rev. Gareth Harker Meeting Clerk: Rev. Ben Ponsen clerk@classishamilton.ca	Synodical Deputies:
Reporter: Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis	Balloting: New Street CRC
Credentials Committee: Calvary CRC, Flamborough Calvin CRC, Dundas	Overture Committee: Ancaster CRC Immanuel CRC, Hamilton

GROWING AS A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

9:00 a.m.

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer Rev. Gareth Harker
2. Devotions & Sharing of Ministry Meadowlands Fellowship CRC
 - a. Opening Worship
 - i. We are led in worship musically, with responsive readings, and time spent reflecting on a survey of passages from the book of Colossians.
 - b. Sharing of Ministry
 - i. Rev. Everett Vander Horst shared about his Sabbatical from June 1 – January 6
 1. You can read some of the tidbits he shared with us **(See Attached)**
 - ii. Marcia Hosmar shared about the ministry at Meadowlands
 1. You are invited to read her report. **(See Attached)**
3. Prayer for the Host Church
 - a. Gareth led Classis in Prayer for Meadowlands Fellowship CRC

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

4. Call to Order & Instructions for the Day Chair: Rev. Joel Bootsma
 - a. Attendance
 - i. Attendance of those present is confirmed. **(See Attached)**
 - b. Covenant of Office-Bearers
 - i. Everyone is asked to stand to express their participation in this covenant
 - c. Approval of the Agenda
 - i. Motion duly made & seconded to approve the agenda - **APPROVED**
5. Consent Agenda
 - a. Motion duly made & seconded to approve the Consent Agenda portion - **APPROVED**
6. CIC and Stated Clerk Report
 - a. Meeting Chair, Rev. Joel Bootsma, led us through this report sharing the details and seeking a response for the needs of Classis for the Youth Champion Review and Clerk of Classis.

7. Nominations for Synod delegates
 - a. Ballots were distributed and completed. The delegates of New Street CRC were tasked with the responsibility of being our Balloting Committee

8. Credentials Committee Calvary/Calvin CRC, Reporting
 - a. Rev. Gareth Harker reported and shared their report as presented in the Addendum
 - b. The recommendations of the Committee are received and enacted upon by the Chair of Classis.

9. Classical Counselor Reports:
 - a. Hagersville Community CRC – Rev. Ben Ponsen – No Report
 - b. Hope CRC – Rev. Willem de Vries
 - i. We give thanks for Rev. Doug Nieuwstraten who was called and installed as a second pastor
 - c. Bethel CRC – No request for a counsellor yet.
 - i. Rev. Anthony Elenbaas shared his report which can be read. **(See Attached)**
 - d. New Street CRC - No request for a counsellor yet.

10. Redeemer Update
 - a. Henk DeJong expressed thanks expressed for the financial Support that our churches are sending. They continue to celebrate Increased Enrollment – to just over 1,00 – because of a generous donation which resulted in tuition being frozen. With the long worked for Charter Change, Redeemer can officially use University and convey up to 20 new degrees. Work continues in establishing a formal school of business and of education. The new expansion is now open and operational, the grand opening will, Lord willing, take place in the coming month(s). Financial sustainability, as always, is a challenge for Redeemer...particularly with the loss of almost \$2 million in rental revenue. The Presidential Search for Redeemer is coming to a close with an announcement coming soon.

MINISTRY SESSION

11. Balloting for Synod
 - a. Pastor Delegate - Rev. Ken Benjamin has been selected
 - b. Motion to take those with 15, 14, & 8 in order to decide who will be the pastor delegate and then the alternates would be the remaining two – **CARIED**
 - i. One of Rev. Anthony Elenbaas, Rev. Everett Vander Horst or Rev. William Koopmans will be selected.
 - c. Marcia Hosmar will be our Deacon Delegate
 - d. Dure to some confusion balloting for the Elder delegate will be redone.

12. Classis Ministry Team (CMT)
 - a. The motion to ratify of decision from October 26 to disband the CHYMT is made & Seconded - **APPROVED**
 - b. The motion to adopt the recommendations as found in the Proposal to Classis re: the Youth Champion is made and seconded - **APPROVED**
 - c. Candidacy Committee had no report this day, and will share an update at our May meeting
 - d. Campus Ministry

- i. The motion was made to approve **Chris Dekker** as the “McMaster Alumni” Representative on the Campus Ministry Committee was made and seconded - **APPROVED**
- e. Home Missions –
 - i. Rev. Michael Bootsma, the Chair of the Classis Hamilton Home Mission Committee updated Classis on their work. **(See Attached)**
 - ii. Presentation by Rev. Willemina Zwart on Resonate Witness Resources
 - 1. Rev. Willemina & Rev. Amy Schenkel led our classis in an introduction to Resonate’s, “Witness: Equipped to Share the Good News”
 - 2. For more information: <https://www.resonateglobalmission.org/witness>

LUNCH BREAK

- 13. The second ballot results are received, a third ballot will be needed.
 - a. Pastor for Synod – choose between Rev. Anthony Elenbaas, Rev. William Koopmans
 - b. Elder Delegate – Choose between Mike Bekendam, Mark Vandervleit
 - c. Denominational – Calvin Seminary Ballots are received and the results will be forwarded to the denomination.

DENOMINATIONAL MATTERS SESSION

- 14. Canadian Catalyst Conversation II - delegate report
 - a. Rev. Hayden Regeling shared about meeting and their reflections from that meeting
 - i. His report can be found **(See Attached)**
 - b. Rev. Everett Vander Horst presented a possible overture that could be adopted by one of the Churches of Classis Hamilton for Synod 2022
 - i. It was acknowledged that this is highly irregular. It was also acknowledged that time is short should Classis want to submit an overture to Synod before the deadlin.
 - c. Our delegates to this Conversation are thanked for their time and reporting to us.
- 15. Synod Balloting is Completed

a. Rev. Ken Benjamins	Alt. – Rev. William Koopmans
b. Elder Mark Vandervleit	Alt. – Elder Mike Bekendam
c. Deacon Marcia Hosmar	
d. Rev. Anthony Elenbaas	Alt. – Rev. Everett Vanderhorst

- 16. Overture Committee Report
 - a. Rev. Mark Verbruggen of Ancaster CRC & Rev. Michael Bootsma of Immanuel CRC share the recommendations as printed in their report to Classis Hamilton.
 - b. Overture 1 – Meadowlands Fellowship CRC
 - i. The motion to adopt Overture 1 was moved & seconded.
 - ii. The motion is deliberated by the Delegates of Classis – **CARRIED**
 - 1. Negative Votes Registered
 - a. Rev. Gareth Harker,
 - b. Rev. Ken Benjamins
 - c. Elder Nick Kinkel
 - d. Elder John Mantel
 - e. Elder Bekendam
 - f. Rev. Doug Nieuwstraten
 - g. Rev. Willem DeVries

- h. Elder Bernard Teeninga
- c. Overture 2 – Meadowlands Fellowship CRC
 - i. The motion to adopt Overture 2 was moved & seconded.
 - ii. The motion is deliberated by the Delegates of Classis – **NOT CARRIED**
- d. Overture 3 – First Hamilton Members' Overture
 - i. The motion to adopt Overture 3 was moved & seconded.
 - ii. The motion is deliberated by the Delegates of Classis – **NOT CARRIED**

17. The Chair ruled that the ballots used during the meeting be destroyed.

18. A Motion is Made from the floor & seconded

- a. That we not schedule Classis meetings during the week when there will be a statutory holiday - **CARRIED**

19. Thanks was expressed from the floor to Rev. Joel Bootsma for his gifted chairing of this meeting.

20. Adjournment

- a. Upcoming Classis Meetings
 - i. May 31, 2022 @ Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis
 - 1. Agenda Items Submitted to clerk@classishamilton.ca by April 19, 2022
 - ii. October 25, 2022 @ Ancaster CRC
- b. Closing Prayer
- c. Dismissal