



Agenda for a Meeting of
Classis Hamilton of the Christian Reformed Church
October 26, 2021 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Hosted by First Hamilton CRC
181 Charlton Avenue West

Officers of Classis: Chair: Rev. Joel Bootsma Vice Chair: Rev. Ken Benjamins Interim Stated Clerk: Rev. Benjamin Ponsen clerk@classishamilton.ca	Synodical Deputies: Norm Visser – Classis South West Henry Wildeboer – Classis Quinte Rev. Janet Ryzebol – Classis Niagara
Reporter: Immanuel CRC, Simcoe	Balloting: Via Zoom Polling
Credentials Committee: Meadowlands CRC Ancaster CRC	Overture Committee (if needed): New Street CRC Hope CRC
Zoom Administrator (if needed): Al Postma	

NOTE to Credentials Committee:

1. The credentials shall be completed no later than October 8, 2021 with CC: (copy) emailed to your delegates. Please note that there are additional questions on the credentials. Please fill them in where desired.
2. The credential questions and observations will be forwarded to the Credentials Committee so that they will be able to advise Classis. The Credentials Committee will email their report to the Stated Clerk by October 15, 2021. Their report will be emailed by the Stated Clerk to all the delegates.

NOTE to Overtures Committee:

The Overtures Committee, if one is required, will email their report to the Stated Clerk by October 15, 2021 for distribution to the delegates of Classis as required.

GROWING AS A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer
2. Devotions & Sharing of Ministry
3. Prayer for the Host Church

9:00 a.m.
 Rev. Gareth Harker
 First Hamilton CRC
 Vice Chair: Rev. Ken Benjamins

REFRESHMENT BREAK

9:45 a.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

4. Call to Order & Instructions for the Day
 - a. Attendance
 - b. Covenant of Office-Bearers (Attached)
 - c. Approval of the Agenda

10:00 a.m.
 Chair: Rev. Joel Bootsma
 Stated Clerk: Rev. Ben Ponsen
 Chair
 Chair

5. Consent Agenda

A consent agenda allows Classis to approve the items below together without discussion or individual motions. Items may be removed from the consent agenda on the request of the delegates. Removed items may be taken up either immediately after the consent agenda or placed later on the agenda at the discretion of the Chair.

- a. Classis Interim Committee (CIC) Minutes – 06-03-21 & 09-16-21 (Attached)
- b. Denominational Board Membership
 - i. **Council of Delegate of the CRCNA:** Rev. Dr. William T. Koopmans, the COD representative from Classis Hamilton, is on the list of members eligible for reappointment for a second term of three years.
 - 1. On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** the CIC heartily recommends that Rev. Dr. William T. Koopmans be reappointed by Classis Hamilton.
 - ii. **Calvin University:** We are asked to consider the COD delegate, Ms. Rosanne Lopers-Sweetman, for reappointment to a second term. If no reservations are raised, re this nominee, her name will be submitted to Synod 2022 for reappointment.
 - iii. **Calvin Seminary:** Rev. Willemina Zwart's term is coming to a close. Nominations of CLERGY persons for a first term of three years are requested for this position.
 - 1. **Pastors**, if you are interested & willing to put your name forward to serve on this board, please reach out to the Clerk.
- c. Safe Campus Policy for Mohawk College & McMaster University (Forthcoming)
 - i. We receive these two policies with thanks to Gina Taylor, Judy Cook, of the Safe Church Team and those working with them
- d. Denominational Correspondence Received for Information
 - i. World Renew Fall Classis Report (Attached)
 - ii. Redeemer University – Fall Classis Report (Attached)
 - iii. Fall Classis Letter from Terry Veldboom (Attached)
 - 1. Acting Executive Director (Canada)
 - iv. Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) – Fall Classis Report (Attached)
 - v. Calvin Theological Seminary – Fall Update (Attached)

6. Classis Ministry Team (CMT)

- a. Classis Hamilton Youth Ministry Team (CHYMT)
 - i. The Youth Ministry Evaluation Report was reviewed. (Attached)
 - ii. Some of the initial responses to the report include:
 - 1. It was concerning that so few took the time to complete the survey.
 - 2. There is a sense that the results are thus skewed in one direction.

- iii. The CMT recommends that Classis Hamilton disband the CHYMT (with thanks to those who have served) at its Fall meeting with the decision to be ratified by Classis at the February meeting.
 - 1. Grounds
 - a. This follows the recommendation of the Classis Youth Ministry Evaluation Report (Attached to the Agenda)
 - b. There is an overall lack of engagement with CHYMT from most of the member churches
 - c. This ministry has had difficulty getting new members to serve – both ordained and non-ordained.
- iv. Regardless of Classis Hamilton’s decision, the CMT supports the continued role of John Bijl as our Youth Champion.

- 7. Credential’s Committee Ancaster CRC, Reporting
- 8. Correspondence: Letter to Classis Hamilton from Meadowlands Fellowship CRC (Attached)
- 9. Classical Counselor Reports:
 - a. Mount Hope Community CRC – Jeff Vandermeer
 - b. Hagersville Community CRC – Ben Ponsen
 - c. Hope CRC – Willem de Vries
 - d. Ancaster CRC – William Koopmans
 - e. Bethel CRC – No request for a counsellor yet.
 - f. New Street CRC -
- 10. Presentation & Approval of the 2022 Budget for Classis Hamilton – Chair of CIC, Gillian Bruce
- 11. Canada Corporation & the Council of Delegates Update – Rev. William Koopmans
 - a. Included for presentation during the meeting we have [a video message](#) from Colin Watson
- 12. Shalom Manor Hamilton – Jonathan Zwier, Project Manager 20 min.
- 13. South Coast Beach Project – Rev. Willemina Zwart, Project Founder 20 min.
- 14. Executive Session to hear Oversight Committee Updates

LUNCH BREAK

- 15. EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATE: Steven Dykstra** **1:30 p.m.**
 - a. Introduction of Candidate Member of New Hope Leadership Team
 - b. Practica (*no time limit*) **Rev. Jeff Vandermeer**
 - i. Inquiry into the Candidate’s relationship to God & their commitment to ministry
 - ii. Questions by Delegate & Synodical Deputies
 - iii. **Motion to Proceed**

- c. Sermon Evaluation (*no time limit*) Still to be Determined
- i. Written & preached sermons to be evaluated.
 - 1. Sermon #1 – Assigned Text: Matthew 6:9-13, especially v.10b
 - 2. Sermon #2 – Manuscript of sermon preached on a chosen text
 - 3. Sermon #3 – Manuscript of sermon preached on the Heidelberg Catechism

Note 1: the sermon to be preached by the Candidate will be distributed, as is required by the Church Order.

Note 2: The candidate will also submit a sermon on the Old Testament & another on the Lord's of the Heidelberg Catechism. Electronic Copies of these additional sermons will be available to all delegated upon request.

- ii. Questions by Delegates & Synodical Deputies
 - iii. Motion to Proceed
 - iv. Concurrence by the Synodical Deputies
- d. Biblical & Theological (minimum of 30 minutes) **Rev. Gareth Harker**
- i. Inquiry into the candidate's biblical & theological judgement, competence & soundness.
 - ii. Questions by Delegates & Synodical Deputies.

16. Executive Session

- a. Motion to admit and preliminary consideration
- b. Prayer
- c. Synodical deputies leave for their own deliberation
- d. Delegates vote by ballot
- e. Synodical Deputies return and present written statement.

17. Executive Session End

- a. Remarks by the Chair of Classis
- b. If Approved:
 - i. Presentation of Certificate
 - ii. Date & time of Ordination
 - iii. Classical Mentor – the Regional Pastor will assist in the selection of a mentor (sup. Art.42-d, 6)

18. Adjournment

- a. Upcoming Classis Meetings
 - i. February 22, 2022 @ Meadowlands Fellowship CRC
 - 1. Agenda Items Submitted to the Clerk by January 11, 2022
 - ii. May 24, 2022 @ Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis
 - 1. Agenda Items Submitted to the Clerk by April 12, 2022
- b. Closing Prayer
- c. Dismissal