



# Minutes

## CLASSIS HAMILTON of the CRCNA

October 24, 2023, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Hosted by Calvin CRC, Dundas  
(420 Highway 5 West Dundas, Ontario, L9H 5E2)

[Agenda](#) and [Addendum](#)

<b>Officers of Classis:</b> Chair: William Koopmans Vice Chair: Ben Ponsen Stated Clerk: Ed W. Visser	<b>Synodical Deputies:</b> (not needed)
<b>Reporter:</b> Anthony Elenbaas	<b>Ballot Advisory Team:</b> Host Church: Calvin, Dundas
<b>Credentials Advisory Team:</b> Hagersville Community (Chair) First Hamilton (Reporter)	<b>Overture Advisory Team:</b> (not needed)

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### GROWING AS A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

9:00 a.m.

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer Vice Chair of Classis: Ben Ponsen
2. Devotions & Sharing of Ministry Calvin CRC, Dundas Ken Benjamins and Nathan DeHaan
  - a. After we moved into the sanctuary, we engaged in worship. **Pastor Ken Benjamins** shared from Revelation 1:4-5 how, despite our differences and concerns about the future of the church and society, God has everything under control - the Lamb of God is on the Throne. He is the Faithful Witness (aka, Martyr), think of the Crucifixion, He is the first born from the dead, think Resurrection, and He is the Ruler of the kings of the earth, think Ascension. It is good to know all this, because the world is a mess, the church also is not in such great shape, even the CRC, but our hope is in the Triune God who has the future of the Church in Hand. He sees us as the Seven Burning Lampstands before Him.
  - b. **Elder Nathan DeHaan** shared about the ministry of Calvin CRC. There are many blessings for which to be thankful - God's goodness, good preaching, fellowship, many volunteers, giving. Covid had its effect, but they were proactive and set up a "connect committee". They share ministries of GEMS and youth with Calvary CRC. Yet, there are some challenges: aging members, declining health, a growing number of people for whom 'church' is not a priority. The building could use some attention. There is concern with the CRC's direction. Council approves Pastor Ken's involvement with the Abide Project.
3. **Prayer** for the Host Church **Ben Ponsen**

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### ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

9:45 a.m.

4. **Call to Order & Instructions for the Day** **Chair**
  - a. Delegates stand to show agreement to the [Covenant of Office-Bearers](#).
  - b. The chair asks that during the meeting when someone rises to speak that they say their name and the church which delegated them.
  - c. **Attendance Confirmed** as shown in credentials (below) **Stated Clerk**
  - d. First time delegates are asked introduce themselves

Congregation	Deacon	Elder	Minister	
Bethel CRC, Waterdown	Linda Eisses	Tess Tigchelaar	N/A	
Calvary CRC, Flamborough	Daniel Vander Hout	N/A	Ralph Groen (Elder)	
Calvin CRC, Dundas	Peter Vos	Nathan DeHaan	Ken Benjamins	
Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis	N/A	Hans Veurink	Ryan Schuurman (elder)	
Faith CRC, Burlington	Chris Dorsman	Bernice Roberge	Cara Dehaan	
First CRC, Hamilton	Theresa Stephens	Jessica Proper	Hayden Regeling	
Grace Community CRC, Ancaster	John VanderWillik	Gerry DeBoer	Mark Verbruggen	
Hagersville Community CRC	Jake Elgersma	Davis Miedema	Steven Eckersley	
Hope CRC, Brantford	Gary Dykgraaf	Dave Guichelaar	Doug Nieuwstraten alt William Koopmans	
Immanuel CRC, Hamilton	Eric Tisch	Fred Witvoet	Anthony Elenbaas alt Michael Bootsma	
Immanuel CRC, Simcoe	N/A	Mark Vandervliet alt: Henrietta Irwin	Joss DeGroot (elder)	
Maranatha CRC, York	Mark Millard	Frank Riewald	Ben Ponsen	
Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Ancaster	Valerie Kloet	Ed Van Beilen	Everett Vander Horst	
Mount Hope Community CRC	N/A	Rien Bassie	Joel Bootsma	
New Hope Church, Hamilton (emerging church)	N/A	N/A	Steve Dykstra	

e. **By 9:50 AM**, Classis is Declared Constituted

**Chair**

f. **Presenters, Guests and visitors** are welcomed throughout the day:

**Marja Fledderus**, (with family and friends?), **Al Postma**, Transitional Executive Director, **Kevin deRaaf**, Director of Resonate Global Missions, **Marsha Hosmar**, **Willemina Zwart**, SOCO & Resonate Local Missional Leader, **Dave Zietsma**, President of Redeemer University, **Derek Bouma**, STM @ Bethel CRC, **Karla Winham & Mark Vanderwees**, Diaconal Ministries Canada, **Roshani Morton**, Director of Advancement, **Lesli van Milligen**, Director of Thrive Canada.  
There may have been others, so if you were missed and are reading this, “Welcome, thank you for attending Classis”.

## 5. Approvals

- Chair explains the point of a “Consent agenda”
- A motion to approve the [Agenda](#) and Consent Agenda is ...

**ADOPTED**

Approval of the consent agenda includes

- i. [Classis Minutes of May 30, 2023](#)
- ii. **Classis' Ministries Reports:**
  - (1) [McMaster University CR Campus Ministry](#)
  - (2) [Mohawk Solid Rock Campus Ministry](#)
- iii. **Denominational Ministries Reports:**
  - (1) [Diaconal Ministries Canada](#)
  - (2) [Transitional Executive Director - Letter](#)
  - (3) [Redeemer University](#)
  - (4) [World Renew](#)
  - (5) [Historical Committee - Letter](#)
  - (6) [Resonate](#)
  - (7) [Calvin Theological Seminary BOT Highlights](#)
  - (8) [Canadian Advancement Report](#)
  - (9) [Disability Advocates in Classis Hamilton](#) (Regional rep is needed), **Chair refers this to CIC**
  - (10) [Classis Hamilton Home Missions - Oct 2023](#) (From the addendum)
  - (11) Youth Champion Summer Report (from the addendum) is removed and placed on the agenda (appears now near the end of the meeting).

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## MINISTRY SESSION

10:00 a.m.

6. [Classical Interim Report](#) **CIC Chair: Ken Benjamins**
  - a. Ken introduces the members and work of CIC and reviews the items below. Additionally, he reads the last paragraph of [Youth Champion Summer Report - Oct 2023](#).
  - b. **Actions of the CIC, to be received for Information;**
    - i. **DECISIONS** concerning the Youth Champion Position:
      - (1) *that the **Youth Champion Position ceases to be a paid position at the end of this fiscal year, Dec 31, 2023***
      - (2) *that **Classis pay John severance of 1 week per year of employment, that's 5 years, so 5 weeks of severance.***
      - (3) *that **John will continue as Youth Champion as a volunteer beyond Dec 31, 2023** (Ben has confirmed with John that he is interested in this), and that Budget 2024 includes funds to reimburse expenses for that volunteer position beyond Dec 31, 2023.*
    - ii. **DECISION:** (as requested by Classis May 30, 2023), *that for the next 3 years our February meeting will take place on Saturdays and that the meetings will be scheduled for Classis' administrative items only, that is, doing our best not to schedule denominational presentations, and the like, and that host churches will reduce time needed for devotions and ministry sharing.*
      - (1) It is noted that those who can come on Saturday may miss out on some rich experiences if it's only administrative and intentionally shortened.
      - (2) Chair notes this is a trial and will be reviewed
    - iii. **Budget:** Ken reads from the report, and how CIC contacted ministries to see what expenses can be reduced for this year and what requests can be reduced for 2024.
    - iv. **Note: regarding Ministerial Credentials:**
      - (1) the CIC received and processed the Ministerial Credentials of **Rev. Steven Eckersley** from Cornwall to Hagersville
      - (2) Ministerial Credentials of **Rev. Greg Sinclair** are being processed from Hamilton to Willowdale.

c. **Recommendations for Classis' approval;**

i. **Combining CIC and CMT** (this has been in process for close to a year).

- (1) **Question:** any members of CMT moving to CIC? Yes, Doug who was the chair is already on CIC
- (2) **Comment:** a decade ago efforts were made to ensure the full functioning CMT and CIC such that ministry would not be lost.

*That the **CIC and CMT are combined effective immediately** and that the members of the CMT are thanked for their service.*

**ADOPTED**

ii. *That Classis **accept the resignation of Marcia Hosmar as a member of the CIC** and that Classis **instruct the CIC to find a female replacement***

**ADOPTED**

iii. *That Classis **accept Ed Visser's request to step down as Regional Pastor (served 7 years)**, and that Classis **instruct the CIC to find a replacement Regional Pastor***

**ADOPTED**

iv. *That Classis **accept Jerry Bulthuis' resignation as Church Visitor** and That classis **instruct the CIC to find a replacement***

**ADOPTED**

v. *that Classis **accept Hayden Regeling's resignation as chair of the Candidacy Committee** and that Classis **instruct the CIC to assist the Candidacy Committee find a Minister replacement***

**ADOPTED**

d. That Classis **Approve the work of the CIC**

**ADOPTED**

7. **Stated Clerk's Report**

Stated Clerk: Ed W. Visser

a. Note: **The Office of the General Secretary of the Denomination** has put out two documents that you may find helpful:

- i. A document entitled [Summary of Synod 2023](#) It is a summary listing of major decisions
- ii. And one entitled, [Synod 2023 FAQ Document](#). It includes helpful points and explanations regarding many of the decisions and implications of Synod 2023, including some comments on what "guide into compliance means" and "How would classes guide officebearers into compliance?"

b. There are no questions for the Stated Clerk. And the Stated Clerk had no comments (seems unusual).

c. That Classis **Approve the work of the Stated Clerk.**

**ADOPTED**

8. **Classical Counsellor Reports:** (updates)

a. **Hagersville Community CRC**, Ben Ponsen introduces **Steve Eckersley** and Family. Rejoicing with Hagersville and pastor's family

b. **Bethel CRC**, Anthony Elenbaas reports that **Derek Bouma** has started as STM, and invites Derek to address Classis. Derek explains briefly what an STM does.

c. **New Street CRC**, Cara DeHaan reminds us that **New Street disbanded effective July 31, 2023** and sold their building to a Canadian Reformed Church. Faith and others, such as, Indwell have received significant gifts as a result of the sale of the building..

d. **Immanuel CRC, Simcoe** William Koopmans reminds us that **Pastor Jeff is on administrative leave**, noting Jeff's absence today, and the need that he and Immanuel need to be strengthened and encouraged

e. The Chair leads our **prayer** for the **churches** and **people** involved.

9. **Campus Ministry Committee:**

Anthony Elenbaas reports that “we are ready to receive donations via Canada Helps (<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/classis-hamilton-of-the-christian-reformed-church/>) and e-transfers with classis’ bookkeeper, [bookkeeper@classishamilton.ca](mailto:bookkeeper@classishamilton.ca) with no administrative fees with the latter, but a little fee through Canada Helps...”

10. **Credentials Advisory Team Report:**

**First & Hagersville, Hayden reporting**

a. **From Immanuel CRC Simcoe:** Under **additional comments:**

*“Effective September 4, 2023, Simcoe Immanuel is vacant; our Pastor Jeff Vandermeer has been granted administrative leave until he receives/accepts/enters a call elsewhere or until November 2024 (whichever comes first). Consequently, Simcoe Immanuel is requesting Pulpit Supply as per Classis Hamilton’s Rules of Procedure.”*

We recommend **that Classis provide pulpit supply to Immanuel Simcoe as per Classis Hamilton’s Rules of Procedure** **ADOPTED**

b. **From Jarvis CRC Ebenezer,** under **request assistance from Classis:**

*“We would ask for feedback from churches that have included children at the Lord’s Supper as to how that has gone and if that has affected the number of young people doing profession of faith. Is it something that they feel has made a difference in the faith formation of their young people?”*

**We encourage Classis’ churches** to reach out to Jarvis Ebenezer with feedback from churches who have welcomed children at the Lord’s Supper. Specifically, as to how that has gone and if that has affected the number of young people doing profession of faith. **RFI**

c. **We also encourage churches,** on behalf of our clerk, to be prompt and timely when submitting their credentials, being sure to follow the deadlines provided to us. This makes the clerks job, whom we care very much for, much easier. Please consider this for our next meeting. **RFI**

d. The Chair reflects on the **value** of a **request such as Ebenezer’s**. The Credentials Committee is thanked.

11. **Report from the 2023 Delegates to Synod.**

**Michael Bootsma, Cara DeHaan (Cara also for Peter Bulthuis), and Eric Tisch,** each share the impact being at synod as delegates had on them with a few to encouraging others to be available to be delegated.

**Cara** 1<sup>st</sup> time delegate. It was intense, challenging, enriching, exciting, hopeful, even with uncertainty for the CRC, Jesus is Lord of the Church. It was an honour to attend, and would gladly attend again.

**Eric,** 1<sup>st</sup> time at synod. A deacon. As a diligent delegate you’ll meet many diligent delegates who have done their homework. Meaningful conversations over mealtime, any time day or night. You may find that you’re meeting people for the same traditions but arrive with different arguments. There is much to learn.

**Michael** has attended 3 times. Grieves that Synod is no longer 2 weeks; that was better. Shrinking synod to one week hasn’t served us well. And about hope; like the old nursery rhyme, so the CRC has fallen off the wall, but with the King, it’s going to be OK.

The Chair thanks the delegates for the thoughtful, reflective, comments they led us through.

## 12. Presentation of the Proposed Budget for Classis Hamilton Ministries

Ben Ponsen

- a. Ben makes an overview, and explains the highlights, answers questions, with input from Michael
  - i. [Classis Hamilton Ministry Shares Overview](#)
  - ii. [Classis Hamilton Proposed Budget](#)
  - iii. [Classis Hamilton Ministry Shares from Churches](#)

b. *That Classis adopt the proposed budget for Classis Hamilton Ministry for 2024 is ...*

**ADOPTED**

## 13. Meadowlands Fellowship, CRC Ancaster has established a new staff position, Pastor of Worship and Faith Formation, and will fill that role with a person to be ordained as a commissioned pastor.

- a. At the **May 30, 2023** meeting of Classis, the **Need and job description** was approved with the **concurrence of Synodical Deputies**
- b. Meadowlands' Vote to call **Marja Fledderus** to be their Pastor of Worship and Faith Formation, carried.

### c. At this meeting of Classis,

#### i. Preliminaries

- (1) Cara shares the history, call, and mentoring with Marja
  - (a) All the required Materials have been received.
  - (b) A Learning Plan has been developed and is in Progress.
- (2) She shares some personal reflections about Marja

#### ii. Examination of **Marja Fledderus** for ordination as Commissioned Pastor of Worship and Faith Formation at Meadowlands Fellowship CRC

##### (1) **EXAMINATION** (as per the Commissioned Pastors Handbook):

- (a) Practical matters regarding Christian testimony, walk of life, relationships with others, love for the church, approach to ministry, promotion of Christ's Kingdom ... **Willemina Zwart**
- (b) Knowledge of scripture, Reformed doctrine & confessions ... **Mark Verbruggen**

##### (2) **EXECUTIVE SESSION DECLARED** (delegates and office bearers remain)

- (a) The Motion: *that Classis approve Marja Fledderus for ordination as Commissioned Pastor with the Meadowlands Fellowship CRC*
  - (i) Discussion by delegates
  - (ii) Prayer for Guidance
  - (iii) Delegates VOTE by ballot
- (b) A motion to destroy the ballots is ... **ADOPTED**

##### (3) **OPEN SESSION DECLARED**

- iii. Chair presents the decision reached during Executive Session- that ***Marja Fledderus has sustained the exam for ordination as Commissioned pastor with the Meadowlands Fellowship CRC.***
- iv. Chair leads our prayer, a number of delegates gather around Marja for the laying on of hands.
- v. Presentation of Certificate

## LUNCH BREAK

12:54 -1:40 p.m.

## 14. Redeemer University

President Dr. Dave Zietsma

Due to time constraints for Dave, he addresses Classis during our lunch. That's actually a good use of time, but unfortunately, the stated clerk was so busy eating, he didn't take any notes!.

15. **Church Visitors' Report** ([Combined Church Visitors Report](#)) **Ken Benjamins**

- a. Ken introduces us to the church visitors: Ken Benjamins, Everett Vander Horst, Michael Bootsma, Doug Nieuwstraten and Peter Bulthuis, Jerry Bulthuis has stepped down, so we need another elder as Church Visitor.
  - i. Ken describes the basis and task of Church Visitors reading through parts of Church Order Article 42. In addition, part of the work includes also Synod's new mandate that Church Visitors "guide officebearers into compliance" with the Covenant of Office bearers. Admittedly, we are not sure what that all implies and how that works
  - ii. CIC advice is that CVs make sure local churches are aware of the decision of Synod, what are the implications for your church, and help churches use the CO to navigate their responses to the decision of Synod. We can't force churches to do one thing or another, but we can advise, admonish with encouragement and respect...
  - iii. Each Church Visitor Team writes their own report which is reviewed by the church, summarized at classis, and are filed with the stated clerk.
- b. Today's report is a overview of all the reports over the past year. Ken reviews highlights.

16. **Canadian National Gathering Report** **Cara DeHaan**

Cara shows us a [video](#) that was produced shortly after the national gathering presenting the takeaways.

17. **Resonate Local Missional Leader and SOCO** **Willemina Zwart**

Exciting things are happening, well presented. (<https://www.southcoastbeachproject.org/>)

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**DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES**

**1:15 p.m.**

18. **Council of Delegates (COD), and Canada Ministry Report.** **William Koopmans**

- a. Canada and US Ministry Boards.
- b. Restructuring: 7 committees of the COD are Thrive, Synodical Services, Resonate, Reframe, Finance, Connections and Governance. Of these Thrive and Connections are new.
- c. Connections deals with Calvin University, Calvin Seminary and World Renew. It fosters connections between those institutions and the agency of World Renew to collaborate together to live out the mandate and vision that each of these has together and help to collaborate with Classes and organizations within the church.
- d. Also approved steps to sell the CRC building in Grand Rapids, and relocate to a new campus.
- e. Committed to meet with interest group wishing to discuss the future of the CRC in Canada. Canada Ministry Board received a communication with signatories from most of the classes in Canada asking to have a conversation together concerning the future of the CRC in Canada, what that might look like, talk about the ongoing relationship within the denomination between the church in Canada and the church in the US, what it means to be a denomination and what it means to be a CR church in Canada. The Canadian Ministries board is going to facilitate open conversations with those who express interest

19. **Greetings from Transitional Executive Director, Canada** **Al Postma**

- a. **Update:** been connecting with Classes across Canada. Asking, what do we mean when we say "the" denomination? 1. We mean the community of churches, 2. The ministries that we support, and 3, Governance, ecclesiastical but also overseeing ministries.
  - i. **Governance**, especially regarding bi-nationality. Al's role is particularly related to some of the challenges we've had related to bi-nationality. When it comes to the relationship and structure, it's good and on a good trajectory. But we can all keep on praying for Jesus to return, of course that's for all of life.
  - ii. **Ministries;** We heard the report from the Canadian National Gathering, justice and reconciliation ministries – there are some really good things happening. The ministries we have are in a good



place and are capable to serve you well. Leslie will speak about Thrive, Kevin talking about Resonate, you'll see they are good and moving well.

- iii. **Denomination as a Community:** There are some challenges, some division. But the ministries are committed to supporting and walking alongside the church being the church and to do so in as healthy way as possible. For instance, there are some Thrive Consultants working with Church Visitors and Regional pastors on how to live into their roles in really effective ways.

**Question:** by what structure is the Canadian Ministry Board accountable to Canadian churches? There doesn't seem to be a mechanism for Canadian churches or even classis to hold the Board accountable for the work they do.

**Answer:** on a structural basis, that one of the ways, is that the ministry board is essentially appointed by classes. So the ministry board is made up of representatives from each classis appointed by the classis. That would be primary mode of accountability - Classis appointing the person who sits in that role.

**William Koopmans** adds, that he considers it his responsibility (on the CMB) to give transparent communication both directions. So if there are concerns raised at Classis and brought to my attention, I consider it my responsibility to bring those concerns back and be the voice of Classis to the Canada Ministry Board.

It can be communications in a formal way at Classis or informal over coffee.

So also with Synod, same question, how does the church hold Synod accountable? Precedence, communication, so there is an ongoing dialogue in a trust context.

**Question:** I don't know what the future of the CRCNA is, and I don't know what my future in the CRCNA is. I'm not alone in that. In fact, my congregation is particularly upset about the confessional status that was affirmed at Synod. I'm wondering if you can offer us or how can the COD, executive director, general secretary, help those who feel disenfranchised, so that we can covenant to stay together ...

**Answer:** This won't be complete or fully satisfying, but the General Secretary and I talk all the time, and he's working on something richer and more helpful than the recent FAQ document [see the stated clerks report], to help us see what does it mean to be a community in this space and this time. I'm committed to ensuring that churches when they're making decisions, that they're working with accurate information what Synod decided, what that means and doesn't mean. So Thrive people are right now working with church visitors and regional pastors helping them understand, for instance, what Guide into compliance means and doesn't mean.

**Followup Question:** How can we know more confidentially our future in the CRCNA. Some in our classis have stepped away from active ministry, from work in various areas in Classis due to the HSR conflict. How can we keep us together. Just saying that regional pastors and church visitors are going to guide officebearers into compliance, while I can appreciate your desire to shepherd them well, but that doesn't help me.

**Reply:** We try to do the most we can and be as helpful as possible. But I'm aware of my own limits and I'm aware of the limits of the denominational ministries. Yet, there are very good things happening in the denomination. There are the challenges, hurts and joys.

## 20. Introducing the new Thrive Agency ([crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive))

**Director Thrive Canada, Lesli van Milligen**

- a. **Thrive = Equipping & Encouraging congregations**, Combines 9 smaller ministries each had its own staff, mandates, budgets, into one = Thrive, breaks down silo mandates. **Impact on Churches** - More accessible, integrated, responsive **Operational impact**, stewardly collaborative, less competitiveness. It's hard work to transition and create a new culture, so we need your help, feedback, finances
- b. "What are two or three conversations that your congregation is having related to life, ministry and the mission of your congregation? Email to [bjones@crcna.org](mailto:bjones@crcna.org) . The delegates discuss this at their tables
- c. Ministry in a new secular age (see Andrew Root)



21. **Resonate Global Missions**

**new Director, Kevin DeRaaf**

- a. Newly appointed director tells us what Resonate is about, describing the core initiatives, framed by Acts 1:8, and what Resonate can do for your congregation.
- b. It's true of the Church throughout history that she has experienced trouble and challenges, no different today, but the unchanging reality underneath and over all that, is that Jesus is still on the throne, and that God's mission still moves ahead in powerful ways.
- c. Our mandate, as a servant of the Christian Reformed Church, this is our calling which is to give leadership to the CRC in our task of proclaiming and demonstrating the Gospel holistically to North America and to the world. We can't tell what or how to do things, but we can come alongside you and influence and share stories and resources and connect you to others doing similar work
- d. My hope is that the 1000 churches that make up the CRC denomination would see Resonate as a primary partner and resource.
- e. A big challenge - helping people keep up with the name changes, world renew, resonate? Reframe? You can help people with this.
- f. Kevin shares some resources and a video.

22. **Ben Ponsen leads us in our prayer**, thanks to the Lord for ministries and the people from whom we've heard so far.

23. **Diaconal Ministries Canada**

**Karla Winham & Mark Vanderwees**

- a. **Mark** who is the Regional Ministry Developer (Eastern Canada; Manitoba-Maritimes), was challenged to be a deacon a task about he knew nothing. Went to a workshop put on by diaconal ministries and suddenly the lights went on.
- b. **Diaconal Ministries Canada** is devoted to supporting deacons throughout Canada, we train, and can help any deacon for the situations and challenges they meet.
- c. **Karla** is the NewGround coordinator. Operation Manna was rebranded in 2019 to be NewGround. NewGround offers grants and coaching for churches and organizations that are trying to find ways to reaching out into their community. You've heard of Shalem Mental Health, you're heard of Indwell. They started with NewGround/OperationManna grants. We help with funding and organization especially to startups, helping them flourish and grow.

24. **Director of Advancement (Canada)**

**Roshani Morton**

- a. Rosh tells the story of Oculus Rift that got it's initial funding from the crowdsourced platform called kickstart, in 2018 where 10,000 average donars each putting in about \$300 raising 2.4 million. Two years later they sold their company to FaceBook for \$2 Billion. So if you were one of those first investors, putting in \$300, you'd walk away with 145% return on your investment, about \$43,000.
- b. In 1852, the CRC had the same idea, crowd funding, called Ministry Shares. You are not looking for a financial return on your investment, you are looking for a Spiritual return, through Reframe, Resonate, Thrive, Justice Ministries ... you want to make sure there is a spiritual return.
- c. Rosh heard from churches that they wanted stories of spiritual return on investments. She provides them to the delegates, with videos and print.
- d. She says that ministry shares uniquely bridge the gap between us, some of whom are polar opposites, it unites us in a collective effort to build God's kingdom.

25. **William** leads our prayer.

26. [Youth Champion Summer Report - Oct 2023](#) (Taken out of the consent agenda)

**Anthony**, who requested the report be removed from the consent agenda, addresses Classis pertaining to John's desire, as a volunteer, for a support structure per the following line from his report: *"If I am to continue this important work as a volunteer, I request the reinstatement of the Classis Youth Ministry Team and ask that all of the churches commit to supporting it."*

**The Chair rules** that the concern raised be considered by the CIC, in terms of how to react and respond to it and at least initiate a conversation with John about this. **referred to the CIC**

*[It's a beautiful thing to hear from all these people who represent and work hard at the ministry, in structures, justice, reconciliation, helping, training, outreach, worship, service, by and in the denomination. There are serious blessings and serious challenges. But most of all we are thankful for the people in leadership, in service, in encouragement. And we are grateful to be reminded several times today of the truth with which we began, That Jesus sits at Father's right hand ruling over all things for the sake of the Church, Eph 1:20-23, What we've heard today are glimpses, ideas, whispers and loud voices bearing witness to the Lord's work in the world so that we can follow and learn and work with him. -Ed]*

27. **Upcoming Dates for Classis** (also see the [Classis Calendar](#))

- a. 2024 Jan 16 Agenda Materials Due
- b. 2024 Feb 13 Addendum Materials Due
- c. **2024 Feb 24 Classis Meets at Faith CRC, Burlington - *Note, this is a Saturday*** (1<sup>st</sup> of 3)

28. **Adjournment**

- a. Closing Remarks & Prayer **Chair**
- b. Adjournment Declared 4:00 pm **Chair**

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**Just Around the Corner**

**Hosting Classis**

- 2024 May 28 - First Hamilton
- 2024 Oct 22 - Hagersville Community
- 2025 Feb 22 - Hope, Brantford, ***Note, this is a Saturday*** (2<sup>nd</sup> of 3)