



Agenda
CLASSIS HAMILTON
of the CRCNA

Saturday, February 22, 2025, 9:00 AM to no later than 4:30 PM

Hosted by Hagersville Community CRC, Hagersville, ON

At their new location!

(44 Main Steet S, Hagersville, ON)

Officers of Classis: Chair: Anthony Elenbaas Vice Chair: Ken Benjamins Stated Clerk: Ed W. Visser	Synodical Deputies: None Required
Reporter: (see RoP Section 7.1) Mount Hope Community, Mount Hope	Ballot Advisory Team: (see RoP section 7.7) Host Church - Hagersville Community
Credentials Advisory Team: (See RoP Section 7.4) Maranatha, York Meadowlands Fellowship, Ancaster	Overture Advisory Team: (see RoP section 7.3) Immanuel, Hamilton Immanuel, Simcoe Advice for Overture Advisory Teams

BEFORE THE MEETING: Preparations

CREDENTIALS (and nominations for Synod):

1. **Attention Clerks:** Please fill in your [credentials here](#) before January 21, 2025
The credential form has **three sections**:
 - a. The **1st section** is for entering the **names** of those your council **delegated to Classis**.
 - b. The **2nd section** is for your answers and observations to the **“Questions Under Church Order Article 41”**.
 - c. The **3rd section** is for entering the info of your **Elder and Deacon Nominees** for possible delegation to Synod 2025 meeting at Redeemer University.
(Ministers and Cmsd Pastors were emailed directly)
2. The **Stated Clerk will forward** the Article 41 questions and observations from the **2nd Section** to the **Credentials Advisory Team** so that they will be able to advise Classis as needed.
3. The **Advisory Team will email** their report **to the Stated Clerk** by **February 4, 2025**. Their report will be emailed by the Stated Clerk to all the delegates as early as with the Addendum.

ORIENTATION:

- [FOR NEW DELEGATES TO CLASSIS HAMILTON](#) (Includes link to the Rules of Procedure)
- **FOR THOSE DELEGATED TO SYNOD** - [What to Expect as a Delegate to Synod](#) (2025)

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

Vice Chair of Classis: Ken Benjamins
 Host Congregation
 Vice Chair of Classis

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

10:00 a.m.

4. Call to Order & Instructions for the Day

Chair: Anthony Elenbaas
 Stated Clerk

- a. Attendance
- b. [Covenant of Office Bearers](#)

Please see [Minutes of Classis, October 22, 2024](#), **Item 22, Credentials Advisory Team**, Especially 22.a.iv concerning today's constitution of Classis.

- c. Classis Declared Constituted

5. Approval of the Consent Agenda

a.

A consent agenda allows Classis to approve the items below as a package without the need for motions and discussion on individual items. However, an item may be pulled from the consent agenda on the request of any delegate. Such items may be taken up immediately after the consent agenda or placed later on the agenda at the discretion of the Chair.

- a. **Approve** the Minutes of [Classis Meeting October 22, 2024](#)

(Note: these minutes were reviewed and approved within days after the meeting by the CIC and the attending delegates).

- b. **Approve** the appointment of **Rev. Ken Benjamins** as Church Counselor for **Calvary CRC, Flamborough**.

- c. **Receive Denominational Ministries Reports & Correspondence**

- i. [Advancement Classis Report](#)

from Roshani Morton

- ii. [Playlist Winter 2025](#)

From Becky Jones, Thrive

- d. **Receive Correspondence from Denominational Offices**

- i. [From the General Secretary](#) (pastoral letter, some information/reminders and a link to a video)

from Zachary King

- f. See **Addendum** for any additional reports (considered as part of this consent agenda as noted)

- b. Suggested Motion: ***That Classis Approve the Consent Agenda***

6. Approval of the Agenda with Addendum for the Day

Suggested Motion: ***That Classis Approve the Agenda including the Addendum for the Day***

7. Election of Delegates and Alternates to Synod 2025

- a. [What to Expect as a Delegate to Synod](#) (Updated 2025)
- b. Elder and Deacon Nominations received from the Credentials form (listed on the Addendum)
- c. Minister Nominations (listed on the Addendum)
- d. Ballots (voting may continue throughout the day)

Distributed and Counted by Host church

8. **CIC and Stated Clerk Reports** (on the addendum)
- a. **Classis Interim Committee Report (CIC)** **CIC Chair: Ken Benjamins**
 - i. **From Hope CRC**, *“The Council of Hope CRC, Brantford, requests that Classis Hamilton approve the upcoming retirement of Rev. William Koopmans, effective June 2025, due to age, and communicate this decision of Classis Hamilton to the Synodical services office.”*
 - ii. Suggestion motion: **At the request of the Council of Hope CRC, Brantford, and with the provisions of Church Order article 18 and supplement, Classis Hamilton approves the retirement of Rev. William Koopmans, due to age, effective June 2025.**
 - b. Suggested Motion: *That Classis Approve the work of the CIC*
 - c. **Stated Clerk’s Report** **Ed W. Visser**
 - d. Suggested Motion: *That Classis Approve the work of the Stated Clerk*
9. **Approval of Nominee Mike Bekendam for the COD/CMB**
Mike is currently enrolled at Calvin Theological Seminary. His particular interests centre on Christian business administration and management and church leadership. Mike has served as the chair of council at Hope CRC, as chair of Brantford Christian Schools and with many Christian charities in our local community. He is exceptionally gifted in relating to people of all ages. Among other involvements, Mike has been serving for the past number of years as the primary coordinator for Hope CRC's thriving Youth program, which typically brings out 50 - 60 high school aged students weekly. Mike is willing to serve on the CMB and COD. He would represent the younger age bracket within the COD and CMB, but he brings a wealth of life experience in business and in church leadership. Mike has outstanding qualifications to serve on the CMB and COD.
10. **Credentials Advisory Team** (Report and Recommendations on the Addendum) **Reporting:** Meadowlands
11. **Classical Counselor Reports:** (if available)
- a. **Bethel** CRC – Anthony Elenbaas
 - b. **Ebenezer** CRC, Jarvis - Jack Kerkof
 - c. **Immanuel** CRC, Simcoe - Doug Nieuwstraten
 - d. **Maranatha** CRC, York - Joel Bootsma
 - e. **Calvary** CRC, Flamborough - Ken Benjamins (approval via Consent Agenda)

REFRESHMENT BREAK **10:30 a.m.**

MINISTRY SESSION **10:45 a.m.**

12. **Classis Ministries Reports** (only as needed up to 10 minutes)
- a. Candidacy Committee
 - b. Campus Ministry Committee
 - c. Classical Home Missions Committee
- Cara De Haan**
Anthony Elenbaas
Michael Bootsma

DENOMINATIONAL MATTERS SESSION **11:15 p.m.**

13. **Calvin Seminary Update** (10 minutes) **Shawn Brix**

14. **Announcement regarding Results of Voting for Delegates to Synod**
- a. Minister Delegate Minister alternate
 - b. Elder Delegate Elder Alternate
 - c. Deacon Delgate Deacon Alternate
 - d. Fourth Delegate Fourth Alternate

LUNCH BREAK **12:15 p.m.**

15. **Classis Conversation** Facilitated by Sean Baker of Thrive (This will take two hours).

- a. Please reference [Minutes of Classis, October 22, 2024](#), **Item 22, Credentials Advisory Team**, for the discussion and decisions leading up to today's Conversation.
- b. The conversation today will take the form of **listening circles facilitated by Sean Baker** and a additional number of trained facilitators recruited by Sean. The CIC will provide recorders for the session. These recorders will also receive instruction from Sean prior the meeting.
- c. It should be noted that Sean Baker has facilitated similar listening circles at a number of Classes concerning the questions regarding the impact and consequences of the decisions of Synod.
- d. **For now, the idea is we'll conclude this part of the Classis meeting, and then, after things have been set up, our Chair, Anthony, will call us to order and invite Sean to lead us in the conversation.**

Note: Additional information concerning listening circles will be sent in due time.

16. **Adjournment:**

a. **Upcoming Classis Meeting** (all on the [Classis' Website Calendar](#))

- i. **Agenda Materials** Due, April 15, 2025
- ii. **Credentials** Due, May 6, 2025
- iii. **Addendum Materials**..... Due, May 13, 2025
- iv. **Classis** **Meets May 27, 2025**, Hosted by **Immanuel CRC, Hamilton**

b. Final remarks and acknowledgments

c. Closing Prayer

d. Adjournment Declared

Chair

Chair

Two Hour Session of Listening Circles

Facilitated by Sean Baker and Assistants

Just Around the Corner (in 2025)

Agenda Materials Due ... September 16, 2025

Credentials Due ... October 7, 2025

Addendum Materials Due ... October 14, 2025

Classis **Meets October 28, 2025** Hosted by **Immanuel CRC, Simcoe**