



ADDENDUM - Part 2

For Classis Hamilton of the CRCNA
Meeting Tuesday, February 25, 2025
 (Doors open at 7 p.m., meetings starts 7:30 p.m.)

Hosted by Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Ancaster, ON
 (211 Stonehenge Dr, Ancaster, ON L9K 1R4)

[\(Agenda of February 22, 2025\)](#)
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1. Delegates & Alternates (same delegates as registered on Feb 22, 2025)

Congregation	Deacon	Elder	Minister
Bethel CRC, Waterdown		Tess Tigchelaar	John Glasbergen, (Elder)
Calvary CRC, Flamborough	Ben Boekestein alt. Richard Vandenberg	Jan Vander Hout alt. Nick Groen	Benj Vander Meulen, (Elder)
Calvin CRC, Dundas	Paul deGroot	Jerry Noordam	Ken Benjamins
Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis	Fred Zandstra	Darryl VanBenthem	N/A
Faith CRC, Burlington	Julie Pyper	Jillian Langendoen	Cara deHaan
First CRC, Hamilton	Nella Sandrock alt. Lisa Nightengale	Jules de Jager	N/A
Grace Community CRC, Ancaster	Dan Hagen	Rob Fluit	Mark Verbruggen
Hagersville Community CRC		Davis Miedema alt. Jake Elgersma	Steven Eckersley
Hope CRC, Brantford	Phil Louwense alt. Ben Koerssen	Dave Guichelaar alt. John Hensen	Doug Nieuwstraten alt. William Koopmans
Immanuel CRC, Hamilton	Clarence Beeksma	Arthur Bosua	Anthony Elenbaas
Immanuel CRC, Simcoe	Bert Stam	Mark Vandervliet alt. Joss deGroot	Ernie Rauwerda, (elder)
Maranatha CRC, York	Bryan VanBenthem	Jerry Haanstra	N/A
Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Ancaster	Val Kloet alt. Kevin Ritske	Ed Witvoet	Everett Vander Horst
Mount Hope Community CRC			
New Hope Church, Hamilton (emerging church)			

2. **Beginnings**

7:30 p.m.

a. **Call to Order, Welcome & Prayer**

Chair, Anthony Elenbaas

b. **Attendance** (confirm delegates from the Feb. 22, 2025 meeting)

Stated Clerk

3. **Revised Overture Advisory Team** (see [RoP](#) section 7.3) & [Advice for Overture Advisory Teams](#)

a. **Grace Community, Ancaster** (replaces Immanuel Hamilton)

b. **Immanuel, Simcoe**

4. **Overtures and Communication Received:**

Classis Hamilton has received **two overtures** from Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Ancaster, and one **other matter** for consideration from **Classis Quinte**.

a. **From Meadowlands Fellowship:** [2025 Overture –Reorganize the CRCNA as two distinct Christian Reformed Churches, one in Canada and one in the United States \(U.S.\)](#)

i. **Advisory Team Report:**

(1) **Background:** The Council of Meadowlands Fellowship CRC in Ancaster overtures Classis Hamilton to overture Synod 2025 to:

(a) Envision the CRCNA as two distinct Christian Reformed Churches, one in Canada and one in the United States (U.S.),

(b) Make the changes necessary for this ecclesiastical reorganization to be accomplished; and

(c) Task the U.S. Ministry Board and the Canadian Ministry Board with rewriting the relevant Joint Ministry Agreements to ensure continued cooperation and collaboration among agency staff.

(2) **Recommendation:** that ***we not accede to this overture***

Grounds:

(a) The overture states in ground 4 that this overture "*will create deliberative and collaborative spaces with the full authority to make decisions*" but this will already have been accomplished if we accept the invitation from Classis Quinte.

(b) The overture says "*It is difficult within our present denominational structure for Canadian ministry to establish itself as distinctively Canadian*" however the case for this has not been established. Is the CRCNA harming local or Canadian ministries? The mentioning of the CLAC, Christian Courier, Christian Farmers Federation, Redeemer University, and ICS suggests the opposite. CRC ministry in Canada is doing very well in a bi-national setting.

(c) The process is wrong. In points 3 and 4 the overture requests that we go straight to the local churches following the deliberations and outcome of a vote for a separate US and Canadian synods at Synod 2025. The Classes must also have a say.

Comment: It should also be noted that it is unfortunate that the president of the US is mentioned by name as this may appear to be a deliberate attempt to sow an anti-Americanism tone into the discussion. The CRCNA has no position on Donald Trump, Justin Trudeau or any political party. To suggest that the CRC - USA is committed to American Evangelicalism is false. The CRCNA is officially committed only to the Word of God and the Creeds and Confessions of the Church.

b. **From Meadowlands Fellowship:** [2025 Overture - Prohibit concealed handguns at all ecclesiastical assemblies](#)

i. **Advisory Team Report:**

(1) **Background:** The Council of Meadowlands Fellowship CRC in Ancaster overtures Classis Hamilton to overture Synod 2025 to amend the Church Order to prohibit concealed handguns at all ecclesiastical assemblies, regardless of local civil laws.

(2) **Recommendation:** that ***we not accede to this overture.***

Ground:

Article 28 of the Church Order says, "*These assemblies shall transact ecclesiastical matters only, and shall deal with them in an ecclesiastical manner.*" The right to have or not to have "concealed weapons" is determined by the laws of the state in which the church assembly is gathering. If this is a concern at the local level than the local Council, Classes, or Synod can speak into it.

Comment: Once again, in this overture there seems to be a deliberate attempt to sow cultural and national divisions. The CRCNA does not trust in weapons. There is no "issue" at this moment with regards to concealed weapons at CRCNA gatherings. We should not turn an American political issue into an ecclesiastical issue.

Ironically, the final ground for the overture says: "In recent years, many American members of the CRC have expressed appreciation for the way Canadian members have provided helpful and corrective guidance from a non-U.S. perspective. This overture can be an example of such assistance." For such co-operation to continue we should support a strong and robust CRCNA.

c. **From Classis Quinte:** [Ecclesiastical gathering of Canadian Churches](#)

i. **Recommendation from the Advisory Team:**

Regarding the Invitation from Classis Quinte to "an assembly of Canadian Classes to discuss Canadian CRC ministry"

that ***Classis Hamilton accept the invitation and participate in this conversation.***

Ground:

The assembly is in keeping with Church Order and will serve to address the concerns some may be having about being a Canadian CRC in a bi-national context.

ii. **Recommendations from the Classis Interim Committee:**

(1) **Regarding the material and 4 requests from Classis Quinte,**

(a) **Quinte states,** "*In summary, Classis Quinte requests all Canadian Classes to:*

(i) *Pray for the planning of this gathering*

(ii) *Recommend an office bearer for the steering team [first zoom meeting Feb 27, 2025]*

(iii) *Send communication about potential agenda items*

(iv) *Be prepared to nominate 4 delegates, later this year"*

(2) **CIC recommends:**

(a) that ***Prayer (i) is always right, and the other matters, (iii) & (iv), will be taken up by CIC for further processing for the May meeting of Classis as appropriate,*** and,

(b) that ***the churches send nominees (ii) to the stated clerk (asap). CIC will select an officebearer for the steering team which is to meet by zoom on Feb 27, 2025.***