



ADDENDUM

Final

To the Agenda of Classis Hamilton of the CRCNA
Meeting October 28, 2025
9:00 a.m. to no later than 4:30 p.m.

Hosted by Maranatha CRC, York

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(Agenda)

1. Delegates & Alternates (didn't fill in your credentials? use this [form](#) now)

Congregation	Deacon	Elder	Minister
Bethel CRC, Waterdown			
Calvary CRC, Flamborough	Michael Vandenberg alt. Richard Vandenberg	John Valkenburg alt. Randy Slump	Bas Hania (Elder)
Calvin CRC, Dundas	John Verwey alt. John DeWilde	Jerry Noordam	N/A
Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis	Harry Vanbenthem	Steve Miedema	N/A
Faith CRC, Burlington	Brendan deRaaf	Rob Schaafsma	Cara deHaan
First CRC, Hamilton	Trish Hutten	Jules de Jager	Hayden Regeling
Grace Community CRC, Ancaster	Jonathan VanDrukten	Adrian Guldemon	Mark Verbruggen
Hagersville Community CRC	N/A	Pieter Wonder	Steven Eckersley
Hope CRC, Brantford	Ben Koerssen alt. Phil Louwerse	Mike Bekendam alt. Derek Statema	Doug Nieuwstraten
Immanuel CRC, Hamilton	Clarence Beekma	Melinda Flokstra alt. Martin Joldersma	Michael Bootsma
Immanuel CRC, Simcoe	N/A	Ernie Rauwerda alt. Ray Oosterveld	N/A
Maranatha CRC, York	Moe Houwer	Ray Elgersma alt. Jon Boekee	N/A
Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Ancaster	Val Kloet	Ed Van Beilen alt. Debbie Tigchelaar	Everett Vander Horst
Mount Hope Community CRC	Eric Tisch	Doug Dekker alt. Mark Demik	Joel Bootsma
New Hope Church, Hamilton (emerging church)			

2. Credentials Advisory Team Report (Oral Report)

3. **Notice from Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Ancaster (MFCRC)**

a. [Letter to Classis from council](#)

b. [Notice of Intent to Disaffiliate from the CRCNA](#)

c. **CIC actions:**

- i. Received the above cover letter and notice. Decided to **honour MFCRC's request** that the church visiting team, Michael Bootsma and Theo Boven, be acknowledged as representing Classis to meet with council on October 14th.
- ii. Michael Bootsma was unable to fulfil this request, so **CIC approved Hayden Regeling to attend with Theo Boven** (on the church visiting team with Michael).
- iii. **MFCRC, CIC and Classis are following the provisions of the Church Order article 38 f and supplement.**

(1) Church Order 2025, Article 38 f. When a council decides to disaffiliate from the denomination, the set process for disaffiliation adopted by synod shall be followed.

—Cf. Supplement, Article 38-f

(2) Supplement, Article 38-f

A local congregation may disaffiliate from the denomination only according to the following procedure:

a. A church council which adopts a resolution to disaffiliate from the denomination shall inform its classis of its actions, ordinarily at the next scheduled meeting of classis. The council shall provide written grounds for its intention to withdraw.

b. Classis shall appoint representatives to meet with the council to attempt to dissuade the council from such action. Representatives of classis shall have the opportunity to meet in person with the council and to present written rebuttal to the council's grounds. Meetings between the council and classical representatives shall continue no longer than two months unless both parties agree to a continuation.

c. If the council is not dissuaded by the classical representatives and wishes to continue the disaffiliation process, the council shall issue a call for a congregational meeting. It will present together with this call its written grounds for disaffiliation and any written rebuttal presented by the classical representatives.

d. Representatives of classis shall be informed of the time and location of congregational meetings at which a congregation's withdrawal from the denomination is being considered and shall be given opportunity to persuade the congregation to remain within the denomination.

e. At the congregational meeting a preliminary vote may be taken following the discussion. If a majority favors withdrawal, a second meeting to confirm this decision shall be scheduled no earlier than one month and no later than one year following.

f. If the second congregational vote favors disaffiliation and the council follows through on its decision to disaffiliate, classis shall provide for the pastoral care of those members who wish to remain within the denomination.

g. If the congregation wishes to disaffiliate from the denomination, classis (and synod upon appeal) shall settle any disputes between differing factions within the disaffiliating congregation. The separation will be complete when classis (or synod upon appeal) declares it acquiesces in the decision of the congregation to disaffiliate from the denomination. (Acts of Synod 1997, pp. 613-14)

d. **For information:** [Written Rebuttal](#) (presented to MFCRC's Council Oct. 14, 2025)

- e. **Motion:** *That Classis receive as information MFCRC's Notice of intent to disaffiliate*
- f. **Motion:** *That Classis receive as information the "written rebuttal to the council's grounds" presented to council and membership of MFCRC*
- g. **Motion:** *That Classis pray for, commend and encourage the work of MFCRC's Council, membership and the appointed team which represents Classis to the council and membership.*
- h. **Motion:** *That Classis approve the work of the CIC*

- 4. [Youth Champion Ministry Report](#) (part of consent agenda) John Bijl
- 5. [Calvin Theological Seminary Ministry Highlights report](#) (part of consent agenda) Mark VerBruggen
- 6. **Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee** (See Agenda Item 10) Joel Bootsma
 - a. [Suggested Mandate Revision](#) (For Classis approval)
Motion: *That Classis approve the Mandate Revision*
 - b. [Suggested Church Planting Fund Policy](#) (For Classis approval)
Motion: *That Classis approve the Church Planting Fund Policy*
 - c. **Motion:** *That Classis approve the work of the CHHMC*
- 7. [Council of Delegates \(COD\): Intro & Report](#) (see Agenda item 19) Mike Bekendam
- 8. **Additional Correspondence Received:** (part of consent agenda)
 - a. [Next Steps Discernment Update \(October 2025\)](#) from Sean Baker
 - b. [An important letter](#) regarding the "government's support for charitable status for churches" in light of information being circulated that we'll lose our charitable status via the so-called, "Bill 430". from Al Postma

Do read the entire [letter](#), but in short, the Department of Finance states,

"Charitable status for religious organizations is not under review, and this government has no plans to change that. Any suggestion otherwise is false. We respect the role faith-based organizations play in communities across the county, and religious organizations continue to enjoy charitable status under the same rules that apply to all charities in Canada. There have been no policy or legislative changes proposed that would revoke charitable status from religious groups including churches."

Ed W. Visser, SC