



Agenda CLASSIS HAMILTON of the CRCNA

Meeting Tuesday, October 28, 2025

9:00 AM to no later than 4:30 PM

Hosted by Maranatha CRC, York

(33 King Ave, York, ON N0A 1R0, Canada)

office.yorkcrc@gmail.com

(289 757 4114)

Officers of Classis: Chair: Joel Bootsma (RoP 6.3.1) Vice Chair: Hayden Regeling (RoP 6.3.2) Stated Clerk: Ed W. Visser	Synodical Deputies: <i>(not required)</i>
Reporter: (RoP 7.1) Bethel, Waterdown	Ballot Advisory Team: (RoP 7.7) Host Church: Maranatha, York
Credentials Advisory Team: (RoP 7.4) Mount Hope Community, Mount Hope Grace Community, Ancaster	Overture Advisory Team: <i>(if needed)</i> (RoP 7.5) Maranatha, York Meadowlands Fellowship, Ancaster Advice for Overture Advisory Teams

BEFORE THE MEETING: Preparations

A. ORIENTATION: [FOR NEW DELEGATES](#) (Includes a link to the Rules of Procedure ([RoP](#)))

B. CREDENTIALS and Due Dates, (Attention Clerks):

- Each church will fill in their Credentials [HERE](#), before **October 7, 2025**. The credential form has **two sections**:
 - The **first** is for entering the **names and email addresses** of those you are **delegating** to Classis.
 - The **second** is for your answers and observations to the **"Questions Under Church Order Article 41"**.
- The **Stated Clerk will forward** any Article 41 questions and observations from the second section **to the Credentials Advisory Team**.
- The **Credentials Advisory Team will email their report to** the Stated Clerk **by October 14, 2025**. Their report will be emailed by the Stated Clerk to all the delegates as early as with the Addendum.

C. **Quinte's call: An Ecclesiastical Gathering of Canadian CRCs**

1. Quinte has sent the above linked document to all the classes in Canada, requesting that we spend some time assembling some ideas to the questions they've provided.
2. CIC decided that instead of taking an hour or so for Classis to engage in small group discussions, **that councils and/or delegates answer the questions on their own and submit them to the stated clerk by email or bring them to Classis.** The answers will sent to Classis Quinte and attached to the minutes Classis Hamilton.
3. In the document linked above, page one is background and page two lists the discussion questions.

GROWING AS A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

9:00 a.m.

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|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Welcome & Opening Prayer | Vice Chair of Classis: Hayden Regeling |
| 2. Devotions & Sharing of Ministry | Host Church: Maranatha York |
| 3. Prayer for the Host Church | Hayden Regeling |

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

10:00 a.m.

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| 4. Call to Order & Instructions for the Day | Chair Joel Bootsma |
| a. Affirmation of the Covenant for Office-Bearers | |
| b. Attendance Confirmed | Stated Clerk |
| c. Classis Declared Constituted | Chair |
| 5. Approval of the Present Agenda and Addendum (not including the consent agenda) | |
| 6. Approval of the Consent Agenda | |

A consent agenda allows Classis to approve the items below together without the need for 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.

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| a. Approve Minutes of Classis Meeting May 27, 2025 (Note: these minutes were reviewed and approved within days of the meeting by the CIC and the delegates who had attended). | |
| b. Recommendation: that Gayla Postma be appointed a member of the CIC | |
| c. Recommendation: that Siebert van Houten be approved as Counselor for Calvin CRC | |
| d. Classis' Ministries Reports Received | |
| i. Mohawk Solid Rock | Abby Lobert |
| ii. All Things: McMaster University Campus Ministry | Michael Fallon |
| e. Canada Ministries | |
| i. Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee Report Fall 2025 | |
| ii. Diaconal Ministries Canada Fall Report | |
| f. Denominational Ministries Reports Received | |
| i. World Renew Report & 2026 Key Info for Churches | |
| ii. Global Coffee Break (Also see the display table) | Lisa B. Pot |
| iii. Resonate Global Missions (Flyer) | |
| iv. Becky's Playlist (Thrive) | Becky Jones, Regional Connector |
| v. Video from the General Secretary (9 minutes) | Zachary King |
| vi. COD Task Force Report + Candidacy Communication | Susan LaClear |
| g. See Addendum for any additional reports (considered as part of this consent agenda as noted) | |

7. Classical Interim and Stated Clerk Reports

a. CIC Report:

CIC Chair: Doug Nieuwstraten

- i. **Members on the CIC** (and Board of Directors) are: Doug Nieuwstraten (president), Ken Tigchelaar (Treasurer), Gina Taylor, Hayden Regeling (and if approved, Gayla Postma). Also on the CIC as *ex officio* members are the chair of Classis and the stated clerk.
 - ii. **Signing of the Covenant for Officebearers**
 - (1) *"Synod instructed all classes to require all of their delegates to affirm the Covenant for Officebearers at each classis meeting. While Synod 2024 had required that all classes re-sign the Covenant for Officebearers annually, Synod 2025 adjusted this requirement and left the form of affirmation to the discretion of the classis. First-time delegates to classis are to sign. Other delegates may stand, raise their hands, or affirm in another way that is determined by classis. Synod 2025 also stated that the practice of affirmation at the gathering of the classical assembly is to be a celebration of that which unites us and can be observed as an act of worship."* From the FAQ from the General Secretary (<https://www.crcna.org/Synod2025FAQ>)
 - (2) **Recommendation: that Classis Hamilton maintain its practice of first time delegates signing the Covenant for Officebearers and, in a manner indicated by the Chair of Classis, the delegates affirm the Covenant.**
 - iii. **CIC Decided that Oral reports at Classis require a written copy to the Stated Clerk in order to be detailed in the Minutes.**
 - iv. **Church Visiting:**
 - (1) Given the abnormally high pastoral vacancy, CIC **Recommends bi-annual visits, or as requested**
 - v. **Re-appointment the Stated Clerk.**
 - (1) To date we have engaged annual re-appointments within a 3 year term. Accepted practice would be that Classis consider another 3 year term beginning the 4th year of service.
 - (2) **CIC recommends that Ed Visser be approved as stated clerk for another 3 year term with annual appointments.**
 - vi. **Information re: Listening Circles** (summaries were previously distributed). CIC considers that the distributed summaries (of various levels) were self-explanatory. This was a valuable exercise by which the delegates of Classis were able to share, hear and learn about the thinking and mind of Classis. These findings are documented and in the hands of the churches for their instruction and insight. Our thanks to all who participated and facilitated.
- b. **Motion: That Classis Approve the work of the CIC**

c. Stated Clerk's Report

Ed W. Visser

- i. Continuation of [Draft Rules of Procedure](#) (for review, amendment and eventual adoption)
 - (1) Over the last few years, Classis has made changes to the Rules of Procedure. CIC decided to update and refresh them. The Link above leads to that draft edited edition.
 - (2) You'll find much of the document unchanged. ~~Strikeout red text~~ indicates text to be removed, **green text** indicates new, additional text.
 - (3) Please review & send corrections, suggestions to the stated clerk.

- ii. **Information: Selection of Chair for Classis:** as per our Rules of Procedure, Churches (in alphabetical order) are responsible to provide a chair for Classis for a one year term. Typically, ministers are chosen, but elders and deacons are also eligible. With 6 congregations without a pastor, or one less pastor, though, we are going through the list quickly.

- iii. **Communications received**

- (1) [Fall Letter to CRCNA Classes](#)

Zach King & Al Postma

- (2) [Synod 2025 FAQ Document](#) Important

(Circulated to the churches previously)

Zachary King

- iv. **Motion: *That Classis Approve the work of the Stated Clerk***

MINISTRY SESSION

8. Examination of Nathan Visser for Licensure to Exhort

- a. The “Need” for was established at Classis May 27, 2025, Art 7.a.vi.

- b. **Introduction of Nathan Visser**

Hayden Regeling

- c. Following our Rules of Procedure, the exam follows these areas

- i. **Practica and Ethics**

Hayden Regeling

- ii. [Sermon evaluation](#)

Syd Hielema, Ken Tigchelaar

- iii. **Knowledge of the Scriptures**, Reformed Confessions, and theology,

Mark VerBruggen

- d. **Motion: *That Classis grant Nathan Visser a Licensure to Exhort for one year, renewable upon request, with written affirmation from the Council of First Hamilton.***

- e. **Executive Session Declared** for deliberation and decision.

(Executive session means that any officebearer by remain in the room)

- f. **Executive Session ended**

- g. Decision made public

- h. Prayer

9. Credentials Advisory Team Report (on addendum)

10. Classis’ Ministries

- a. **Campus Ministry Committee**

- i. [Mohawk Solid Rock](#) (Report approved in Consent Agenda) (5 minutes)

Abby Lobert

- ii. [All Things: McMaster University Campus Ministry](#) (with Video)

Michael Fallon

- b. **Motion: *That Classis Approve the work of the Campus Ministry Committee***

- c. **Classical Home Missions Committee**

Joel Bootsma

- i. [Proposed Revised](#) Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee Mandate

Ken Tigchelaar (Treasurer) will present a follow up from May Classis, with CRA comments

- ii. **Motion: *that Classis Approve the proposed Mandate for the CHHMC***

- d. **Motion: *That Classis Approve the work of the Home Missions Committee***

- e. **Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee** Cara DeHaan
 - i. [Proposed conceptual changes to CHCC Mandate and Policies & Procedures](#)
 - ii. **Motion: *That Classis approve the content of this document, specifically, the proposed conceptual changes to the CHCC Mandate and Policies & Procedures documents (regarding interest on forgivable loans, the types of education for which Classis offers financial support, and circumstances under which loan forgiveness might take place).***
- f. **Motion: *That Classis Approve the work of the Candidacy Committee***

- 11. **Presentation of the Proposed Budget for Classis Hamilton Ministries** Ken Tigchelaar (treasurer)
 - a. [Proposed Budget](#)
 - b. **Motion: *That Classis approve the proposed budget as the 2026 Budget for Classis Hamilton***

REFRESHMENT BREAK (15 minutes) 10:45 a.m.

- 12. **Director of Advancement (5 minutes)** Roshani Morton

- 13. **SOCO and Resonate Local Reports (20 minutes)** Willemina Zwart
 - a. SOCO
 - b. Resonate Local Missional Leader for Classis Hamilton.
 - i. Faithwalking
 - ii. Moving Forward in Faith - Resonate Conference

- 14. **Classis Church Counsellor Reports: (as available)**
 - a. Bethel CRC – Cara DeHaan
 - b. Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis – Jack Kerkhof
 - c. Immanuel CRC, Simcoe – Doug Nieuwstraten
 - d. Maranatha CRC, York – Joel Bootsma
 - e. Calvary CRC –
 - f. Calvin CRC – Siebert Vanhouten (pending approval)

- 15. **Church Visitor Reports - None received**

- 16. [Global Coffee Break](#) (Also see the display table) (5 minutes) Lisa B. Pot

LUNCH BREAK 12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- 17. [Diaconal Ministries Canada Fall Report](#) (Report approved in Consent Agenda)

- 18. **Regional Ministry Developer (5 minutes)** Mark Vanderwees

19. **Council of Delegates: Intro and Report (on addendum item 7) (5 Minutes)** **Mike Bekendam**

20. **Adjourn for a Special General Membership Meeting**

SPECIAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (*annual is in May*)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ACTIONS

President Doug Nieuwstraten

1. Establish Quorum
2. Proof of Notice for the Meeting
3. **Approve:** [Minutes of AGM May 27, 2025](#)
4. **Approve: New Member:** *Gayla Postma, member of First Hamilton CRC, as a director on the Board of Directors for seven months commencing October 28, 2025*
5. **Notice:** Since our previous Chair, Ken Benjamins, has left for Classis Niagara, the board elected *Doug Nieuwstraten as Chair of the Board of Directors.*
6. **Adjournment** of the Special General membership meeting.

21. **Resume Meeting of Classis Hamilton**

22. **Resonate Global Missions** ([Flyer](#)) (Report approved in Consent Agenda)

23. **World Renew** [Report](#) & [2026 Key Info for Churches](#) (Report approved in Consent Agenda)

24. **Upcoming Dates for Classis** (also see the Classis Calendar)

For Saturday, Feb 21, 2026 Meeting of Classis

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|---------------------------------|--|
| a. Agenda material Due | Jan 13, 2026 |
| b. Credentials Due | Feb 03, 2026 |
| c. Addendum Material Due | Feb 10, 2026 |
| d. Classis Meets | Saturday, Feb 21, 2026, <u>Hosted by Immanuel CRC, Simcoe</u> |

(Note: this is the 3rd of 3 Saturday Meetings of Classis)

25. **Adjournment of Classis**

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| a. Closing Remarks & Prayer | Chair |
| b. Adjournment Declared | Chair |

Just around the corner

Classis meets on **May 26, 2026, hosted by Meadowlands Fellowship, Ancaster**

Agenda Materials Due	April 14, 2026
Credentials Due	May 5, 2026
Addendum Materials Due	May 12, 2026
Classis Meeting	May 26, 2026