



CLASSIS HAMILTON
of the CRCNA
Final
Meeting Tuesday, October 28, 2025
9:00 AM to 2:10 PM

Hosted by Maranatha CRC, York
(33 King Ave, York, ON N0A 1R0, Canada)

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

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

GROWING AS A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

9:00 a.m.

1. **Hayden Regeling, vice Chair of Classis, welcomed us and led our prayer.**
2. **Devotions & Sharing of Ministry** **Host Church: Maranatha York**
 - a. Elder Jon Boekee led us in a time of singing, *Breathe on me Breath of God* (PsH 420), and spoke of the importance of building community, of sharing experiences - good or bad, hospitality, helping people find their place and feeling welcome. He shares how an elder had helped him find his way as a new elder. Reads 2 Tim 1:8-12, offers some applicatory words and leads us to singing, *I know not why God's Wondrous Grace* (PsH 495).
 - b. Thankful for 68 years of ministry. Blessed with musical talents, thanks for interim pastor, Peter Kranenburg, and searching for their next pastor, blessed by Cody Miedema in youth ministry, ~70 children moving into gems, cadets. Highschool ministry is also growing, young adults. Other ministries: The Hope Box, Milk Bag Team make mats for kids to sleep on in other lands. Senior's Club, Coffee Break, Mom-Mom group. Thanks also for those who take care of administration and custodians. Congregation loves fellowship, sometimes meetings and worship begin late because of fellowship. *To God be the Glory* (PsH 473).
3. **Prayer for the Host Church, led by** **Hayden Regeling**

4. Call to Order & Instructions for the Day**Chair: Joel Bootsma****a. Attendance Confirmed** (shown in the chart below)**Stated Clerk**

- i. No one is present from New Hope, and no one is able to comment on their absence.
- ii. **First time delegates** have signed the Covenant for Officebearers. They are, John Verwey (Calvin, Dundas), Raymond Oosterveld (Immanuel Simcoe), and John Valkenburg (Calvary, Flamborough).

b. By standing, the delegates affirm the [Covenant for Office-Bearers](#)

Congregation	Deacon	Elder	Minister
Bethel CRC, Waterdown	Chris De Weerd	John Glasbergen	N/A
Calvary CRC, Flamborough	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	Rosanne VanderWoerd	Cara deHaan
First CRC, Hamilton	Trish Hutten	Jules de Jager	Hayden Regeling
Grace Community CRC, Ancaster	Jonathan VanDrutten	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 Beeksma	Melinda Flokstra alt. Martin Joldersma	Michael Bootsma
Immanuel CRC, Simcoe	N/A	Ernie Rauwerda	Ray Oosterveld (Elder)
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)			

c. Credentials Advisory Team Report:

"The Credentials committee has reviewed the credentials forwarded by the clerk as well as other supplemental communications up until October 14. The committee has not identified any cause for concern about the credentials of delegates attending the meeting today."

d. Classis is Declared Constituted**Chair**

- i. **Guests:** Nathan Visser, Al postma (executive Director CRC in Canada), Mark Vanderwees (DMC), Ken Tigchelaar (CIC, Treasurer & one of two sermon evaluators for Nathan Visser), Maria Bulthuis (MFCRC), Becky Jones (Thrive, Regional Connector), Ted Bosveld (Bridge app), James Vanderlaan Resonate Global Mission), Lisa Pot (Global Coffee Break- also for men!), Rob Laman (Bethel, Reporter for the day), Abby Lobert (chaplain, Mohawk), Willemine Zwart (SOCO, Resonate), Jon Berends (Act Five), Roshani Morton (Director of Advancement), Jon Boeke (Host Church), Cody Miedema (Host Church), Michael Fallon (Chaplain McMaster), Karen Knip (GEMS), John Wildeboer (DMC) and Syd Hielema (one of two sermon evaluators for Nathan Visser).

5. Motion: ***that Classis Approve the Present Agenda and Addendum*** is ...

ADOPTED

6. **Consent Agenda** (includes labelled material from the Addendum)

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 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 <i>Siebert van Houten</i> be approved as <i>Counselor for Calvin CRC</i> | |
| c. Classis' Ministries Reports Received | |
| i. Mohawk Solid Rock | Abby Lobert |
| ii. All Things: McMaster University Campus Ministry | Michael Fallon |
| d. Canada Ministries | |
| i. Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee Report Fall 2025 | |
| ii. Diaconal Ministries Canada Fall Report | |
| e. 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 |
| i. Youth Champion Ministry Report | John Bijl |
| ii. Calvin Theological Seminary Report | Mark Verbruggen |
| iii. Next Steps Discernment Update (October 2025) | Sean Baker |
| iv. 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". | Al Postma |

a. A request **to remove the "Recommendation: that *Gayla Postma* be appointed a member of the CIC"** is ...

RULED

b. A motion ***that Classis Approve the Consent Agenda*** including the identified material on the addendum is ...

ADOPTED

c. **The removed item is considered:** A question about the selection process and involving more churches in nominations. Doug (CIC), notes that the committee typically solicits nominees from the churches, but doesn't often get responses. Hayden adds words of introduction.

d. The Recommendation ***that Gayla Postma be appointed a member of the CIC*** is ...

ADOPTED

a. **Signing of the Covenant for Officebearers**

- i. From the FAQ from the General Secretary, "...*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. ...*" (<https://www.crcna.org/Synod2025FAQ>).

- ii. Therefore the CIC **Recommends 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** is ... **ADOPTED**

- b. CIC **Decided** that, ***Oral reports at Classis require a written copy to the Stated Clerk in order to be detailed in the Minutes.*** **RFI**

c. **Church Visiting:**

- i. Given the **abnormally high pastoral vacancy**, [6 churches without a pastor and 2 churches each with one less pastor],
- ii. CIC **Recommends that Classis conducts Biennial visits, or as requested**, is ... **ADOPTED**

d. **Re-appointment the Stated Clerk.**

- i. 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.
- ii. The **Recommendation, that Ed Visser be approved as stated clerk for another 3 year term with annual appointments** is ... **ADOPTED**

- e. **Motion: That Classis Approve the work of the CIC** is ... **ADOPTED**

8. **Stated Clerk's Report**

Ed W. Visser

- a. **Draft Rules of Procedure** **Ongoing**

- i. for review, amendment and eventual adoption
- ii. Please send suggested revision edits to the stated clerk

b. **Information: Selection of Chair for Classis:**

- i. 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. However, with 6 congregations without a pastor, and two with one less pastor, though, we are going through the list quickly.
- ii. ***Congregations need to be aware that their turn may come up much quicker than expected, e.g., Mt. Hope's turn came up almost 4 years earlier than expected - they didn't push back, but we need to be aware of the situation. Selection is in alphabetical order.***

- c. **Motion: That Classis Approve the work of the Stated Clerk** is ... **ADOPTED**

9. **Examination of Nathan Visser for Licensure to Exhort** takes place as outlined in the Agenda

- a. **Motion: *That Classis grant Nathan Visser a Licensure to Exhort for three years, renewable upon request, with written affirmation from the Council of First Hamilton.***
- b. **Executive Session Declared** for deliberation & decision, **Executive Session ended.**
- c. **Decision: *that Classis grants Nathan Visser a Licensure to Exhort for three years, renewable upon request, with written affirmation from the Council of First Hamilton,* was ...** **ADOPTED**
- d. The Chair prays for Nathan.

10. Classis' Ministries

- a. **Campus Ministry Committee**
 - i. [Mohawk Solid Rock](#) (Report approved in Consent Agenda) **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* is ...** **ADOPTED**
- c. **Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee** **Joel Bootsma**
(Vice-Chair, Hayden Regeling, assumes the chair)
 - i. [Suggested Mandate Revision](#)
 - ii. Ken Tigchelaar (Treasurer) follows up from May Classis, that the CRA expects that our practice of what we support aligns with our policies.
 - iii. **Motion: *That Classis approve the Suggested Mandate Revision* is ...** **ADOPTED**
 - iv. [Suggested Church Planting Fund Policy](#)
 - v. **Motion: *That Classis approve the Church Planting Fund Policy with the understanding that the amount does not exceed \$15,000 per year* is ...** **ADOPTED**
- d. **Motion: *That Classis Approve the work of the Home Missions Committee*** **ADOPTED**

(Hayden relinquishes the chair back to Joel Bootsma)

- e. **Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee** **Cara DeHaan**
 - i. [Proposed conceptual changes to CHCC Mandate and Policies & Procedures](#)
 - ii. **The 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)* is ...** **ADOPTED**
- f. **Motion: *That Classis Approve the work of the Candidacy Committee* is ...** **ADOPTED**

11. **The Proposed Budget for Classis Hamilton is presented** Ken Tigchelaar (treasurer)
- [Proposed Budget](#) is reviewed by Ken, and answers some questions.
 - The delegates from Meadowlands Fellowship indicate they will abstain from this vote
 - The Motion, *that Classis approve the proposed budget as the 2026 Budget for Classis Hamilton* is ...** **ADOPTED**
 - If a church disaffiliates what would be the process of handling the budget?* The treasurer indicates that the Budget is approved and the amount per member would have to be divided among the members who are left.
 - Note: Roshani Morton** had written Stated Clerks, in part, *Across many Canadian classes, agendas are naming the new financial reality—disaffiliations, shifting membership, tighter budgets. ... we facilitated a 2-hour ... Financial Sustainability Workshop ... with [several Classes]. It aligns delegates on the financial facts, surfaces what people are noticing/feeling, interprets budget implications for classis ministry, lands decisions and next steps everyone can carry.* **Referred to the CIC**
12. **Director of Advancement** (Oral Presentation) **Roshani Morton**
13. [Global Coffee Break](#) (Display table, plus oral presentation) **Lisa B. Pot**
14. **SOCO and Resonate Local Reports** **Willemina Zwart**
- SOCO slideshow
 - Resonate Local Missional Leader for Classis Hamilton.
 - Faith walking
 - Moving Forward in Faith - Resonate Conference November 14-15, 2025
15. **Classis Church Counsellor Reports:** no reports available this time
16. **Church Visitor Reports - Bethel Waterdown** has contracted with Rev Duane Vanderlaan of Drayton, Ontario, to serve part-time (mostly preaching and pastoral care) from October through next July - Cara DeHaan
17. [Diaconal Ministries Canada Fall Report](#) (Report approved in Consent Agenda) **John Wildeboer**
18. **Regional Ministry Developer** (oral report) **Mark Vanderwees**
19. [Council of Delegates \(COD\): Intro and Report](#) **Mike Bekendam**
20. **Al Postma:** [An important letter](#) regarding the “government's support for charitable status for churches” in light of false information being circulated that we’ll lose our charitable status via the so-called, “Bill 430”.
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.”

21. Ken Bosveld (Bridge App) (oral report)

22. 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 | Ruled |
| 2. Proof of Notice for the Meeting | Ruled |
| 3. Recommendation to Approve: Minutes of AGM May 27, 2025 | ADOPTED |
| 4. Recommendation to Approve: <i>Gayla Postma, member of First Hamilton CRC, as a director on the Board of Directors for seven months commencing October 28, 2025</i> | ADOPTED |
| 5. Notice: Since our previous Chair, Ken Benjamins, has left for Classis Niagara, the board elected <i>Doug Nieuwstraten as Chair of the Board of Directors.</i> | RFI |
| 6. Adjournment of the Special General membership meeting. | RULED |

23. Resume Meeting of Classis Hamilton

24. Notice from Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Ancaster (MFCRC)

- a. [Letter to Classis from council](#) with [Notice of Intent to Disaffiliate from the CRCNA](#)
- b. **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.*
 - (2) **Supplement, Article 38-f** (in the addendum)
- c. **For information:** Classis' Reps [Written Rebuttal](#) (presented to MFCRC's Council Oct. 14, 2025)
- d. **For information:** The [report](#) from the Classis' Team visiting MFCRC
- e. *The Chair RULES that the following motions i, ii, & iii., be taken together.*
 - i. **Motion: That Classis receive for information MFCRC's Notice of intent to disaffiliate**
 - ii. **Motion: That Classis receive for information the "written rebuttal to the council's grounds" presented to council and membership of MFCRC**
 - iii. **Motion: That Classis receive for information the Visiting Team's Report**
- f. **Motions i, ii, & iii are ...** **ADOPTED**

- 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* is ... **RULED**

- i. **Cara DeHaan:** speaks of her overall sorrow at the news that Meadowlands desires to disaffiliate, noting that we are poorer as a body without them. Meadowlands is a thriving church community that emphasizes hospitality within their local Hamilton community. They have been kind and open, hospitable to refugees and immigrants; they have made space for women in ministry. They are a body of intelligent, thoughtful people who we will not be able to replace.
- ii. **Michael Bootsma:**
- (1) speaks on what this will mean for our relationships going forward, noting that regardless of the outcome, his friendship with Everett will remain.
 - (2) **He leads our prayer** for Classis, Meadowlands' leadership, membership, Everett and other staff, and that we might still have fellowship, friendships.

- h. **Motion:** *That Classis approve the work of the CIC* is ... **ADOPTED**

29. Reports and Correspondence Approved in the Consent Agenda but not Discussed

- a. [Youth Champion Ministry Report](#) **John Bijl**
- b. [Calvin Theological Seminary Ministry Highlights report](#) **Mark Verbruggen**
- c. [Next Steps Discernment Update \(October 2025\)](#) **Sean Baker**
- d. **Resonate Global Missions** ([Flyer](#))
- e. **World Renew** [Report](#) & [2026 Key Info for Churches](#)

30. Quinte's call: An Ecclesiastical Gathering of Canadian CRCs (Not Discussed at Classis)

- a. **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.

- b. **Note:** one person [submitted responses](#), and one council [wrote](#)

30. Upcoming Dates for Classis (also see the Classis Calendar)

- 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, Hosted by Immanuel CRC, Simcoe**

31. Adjournment of Classis

- a. Closing Remarks & Prayer **Chair**
- b. Col 3, *above all ... be thankful*
- c. **Adjournment Declared** **Chair 2:10 pm**

*Our thanks to **Maranatha CRC, York**, for **hosting**, and providing **refreshment** and **meals** for body and soul, for **technical** and **musical** support.*

Ed W. Visser

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