



ADDENDUM

Final.1

To the Agenda of Classis Hamilton of the CRCNA

Meeting Saturday, February 21, 2026

9:00 a.m. to no later than 4:30 p.m.

Hosted by Immanuel CRC, Simcoe

95 Oak Street, Simcoe, ON

(Diana Vander Deen <info@imagegod.ca>)

(Agenda)

1. Delegates & Alternates

	Congregation	Deacon	Elder	Minister
1	Bethel CRC, Waterdown	Darlene Van De Kemp	Marcel VanderHoeven alt. Rob Laman	guest: Duane Vanderlaan
2	Calvary CRC, Flamborough	Ben Boekestein alt. Dave Vander Meulen	Jan Vander Hout alt. Nick Groen	John Valkenburg (Elder)
3	Calvin CRC, Dundas	Martin Mobach alt. Paul deGroot	Colin deWeerd alt. Rob Koning	N/A
4	Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis	Jack Jewell	Ray Vandermolen alt. Steve Miedema	N/A
5	Faith CRC, Burlington	James Walraven alt. Colin deWeerd	James Dekens	Cara deHaan
6	First CRC, Hamilton	Justin Renkema	Jules de Jager	Hayden Regeling
7	Grace Community CRC, Ancaster		Adrian Guldemon	Mark Verbruggen
8	Hagersville Community CRC		Pieter Wonder alt. Jake Elgersma	Steven Eckersley
9	Hope CRC, Brantford	Ben Koerssen alt. Phil Louwerse	Mike Bekendam alt. Derek Statema	Doug Nieuwstraten
10	Immanuel CRC, Hamilton		Rob Joustra alt. Martin Joldersma	Michael Bootsma
11	Immanuel CRC, Simcoe	Bert Stam	Pat deRuiter	Henrietta Irwin (elder)
12	Maranatha CRC, York	Ben Klunder	Kevin VanderSpek	N/A
13	Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Ancaster	Jody Bruulsema	Jennifer Lucking alt. John Van Eek	Everett VanderHorst
14	Mount Hope Community CRC	Shae-Lynn Kneel alt. Doug Nagtegaal	John Demik alt. Mark Demik	Joel Bootsma
	New Hope, Hamilton (emerging church)			

Questions Received on the Credentials Under Church Order Article 41**a. From Maranatha CRC, York:**

“York Maranatha CRC has been vacant since March 2024. Peter Kranenberg has served as an interim Pastor from January 2025 to April 2025 and from September 2025 to April 2026. In 2025 we celebrated Lord's Supper 5 times. On multiple occasions, we have scheduled an ordained minister for the sole purpose of leading us in the sacrament while Pastor Peter, or another non-ordained person leads the rest of the service. Our request to this classis is to permit ordained Elders in York to lead in the sacrament of Lord's Supper while we remain vacant.”

Reference: Church Order Article 55: [emphasis added]

The sacraments shall be administered upon the authority of the consistory in the public worship service by a minister of the Word, a commissioned pastor, **or, in the case of need, an ordained person who has received the approval of classis**, with the use of the prescribed forms or adaptations of them that conform to synodical guidelines. —Cf. Supplement, Article 55 Supplement, Article 55

- a. **Classis approval is required** for an ordained person to administer the sacraments.
- b. Ordinarily **the ordained person should be an elder**. (Acts of Synod 2002, p. 537)

Recommendation: *Although this is a legitimate request, Maranatha Council should not only indicate their need for an ordained elder to lead in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper (which we understand to be the case), they should also indicate WHO they would like to designate for this approval from Classis. Right now, this request is too vague to grant without the name of an elder.*

b. From Immanuel CRC, Simcoe:

- i. “Our Council would appreciate the assistance of Classis primarily in the areas of pastoral support, leadership development, and guidance in navigating denominational policies.”

Recommendation: *We suggest you reach out to the minister assigned to you as your Classis Hamilton Counsellor during your vacancy and ask for his assistance in these matters.*

- ii. “We would welcome discussion around congregational vitality, discipleship, and engaging our community in meaningful ways. Additionally, conversation around supporting pastors and leaders in their calling and well-being would be beneficial.”

Recommendation: *Perhaps the CIC could consider this a topic for discussion at one of our future Classis meetings. It would also be good for Immanuel, Simcoe to be in touch with denominational ministries such as “Thrive” who may be able to assist with resources or speakers on these topics.*

- iii. “We are thankful for the ongoing support and fellowship of classis and value the opportunity to learn from and walk alongside other congregations. We ask for continued prayers as we seek to be faithful in our ministry and responsive to God's leading.”

Noted! Thank you.

c. From Immanuel CRC, Hamilton:

“Immanuel is in the process of searching for a second co-pastor. As per the Church Order, a classical counselor needs to be appointed. As a church, we have asked Pastor Steven Eckersley from Hagersville Community CRC to act in this role and he has agreed. We are asking Classis Hamilton to formally appoint Pastor Eckersley as the classical counselor to Immanuel CRC in Hamilton.”

Recommendation: *That Classis appoint Rev. Steven Eckersley as Church Counselor for Immanuel CRC, Hamilton.*

d. **From Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis:**

- i. "What is happening with people who are licensed to exhort in classis Hamilton and are leaving the classis. Is their license being removed?"

Answer: *When a person with a licence to exhort chooses to disaffiliate with their congregation from the CRCNA, the privilege of having such a licence to preach is gone. The CIC has already reached out to those for whom this reality may apply.*

- ii. "We are in favour of having Saturday classis. Many elders and deacons work during the week and do not have the opportunity to attend weekday meetings."

Noted! Thank you.

e. **From First CRC, Hamilton:**

"As per previously submitted letter concerning New Hope Church & Rev. Steve Dijkstra."

Noted! Thank you

3. **To the Question, "Shall we continue with one Saturday Classis Meeting per year?"**

Of 13 councils,

8 responded, **yes**.

1 responded, **no**.

1 abstained.

3 no response.

4. **Additional Reports or Communications Received** (to be included in the Consent Agenda)

- a. [2026 \(revised\) Jan-Mar Winter Classis Report Diagonal Ministries Canada \(FINAL\)](#)
b. [2026 CTS Board of Trustees Ministry Highlights](#)
c. [2026 Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee Feb Update](#)

5. **Church Visitors' Reports**

- a. [Bethel, Waterdown, March 2025](#)
b. [Grace Community, Ancaster](#)
c. [Faith, Burlington, April 2025](#)
d. [First, Hamilton, January 2026](#)
e. Suggested **Motion, that the Church Visitor's Reports be received with thanks**

6. **Selection of Delegates for Synod 2026**

a. **Protocol:**

- i. There are **four openings** (and their alternates) that are to be filled: 1. *Minister*, 2. *Elder*, 3. *Deacon*, and a 4th, which Classis Hamilton has decided will also be a *Minister*.
ii. We'll select the **minister** delegates for **1 & 4 first**, and **then** their respective alternates.
iii. Synodical Rules about **Commissioned Pastors**.
(1) A Cmsd Pastor serving **solo** in an organised church may be delegated as a **minister**.
(2) A Cmsd Pastor serving in an **emerging** church & associate **staff** positions may be delegated as **elder**.

- b. **From our Rules of Procedure**, Section 8, ELECTIONS
- i. All active ministers of Classis and where applicable, all nominated elders or deacons or confessing members of the churches of Classis are eligible for election except where specific ordained offices are required, provided that Classis is assured they will allow their names to stand.
 - ii. To be elected, nominees must receive at least 50% + 1 of the valid votes.
 - iii. In electing minister delegates to Synod, (first and fourth delegate) the first ballot will be an open ballot; on all subsequent ballots Classis will decide which nominees will stand based on the number results of the previous ballot without names attached. Ordinarily, alternates will be considered the two runners up with the highest vote.
 - iv. In electing elder (second) and deacon (third) delegates to Synod, voting shall take place from those elders and deacons who will be in office at the time of that synod meets and whose names are appropriately nominated. Ordinarily, the alternate for each office will be considered the runners up with the highest vote.
 - v. Preferably, no two delegates shall be members of one church.
- c. **Synod Information:**
- i. *As a reminder, delegates must be actively serving in the appointed role **at the time of synod**. Stated Clerks are also responsible to indicate whether interpretation is needed for any of their delegates.*
 - ii. *Elder and deacon delegates must be ordained in their respective offices at the time of synod (ministers should not be appointed to serve as elders or deacons unless serving in the office of elder or deacon at the time of synod).*
 - iii. *Please also give careful consideration to the decision of Synod 2019, which encouraged that “each classis include **at least one woman or one ethnic minority person in its delegation**” (Acts of Synod 2019, pp. 814-15). Synod 2019 also encouraged classes “to send one or more delegates to synod for two consecutive years, if possible, to build continuity from synod to synod” (Acts of Synod 2019, pp. 809-10).*
- d. **Expectations of Delegates** [from the Synodical office]
- i. “Delegates are expected to attend the **virtual convening session on May 27, 2026, 7:00 - 10:30 pm** Eastern.”
 - ii. “Delegates are expected to **arrive on time and attend all scheduled meetings of synod on June 12-18, 2026.**”
 - iii. “Delegates, and alternates, are asked to complete the Delegate to Synod Information form by **March 15 or earlier.**”
 - iv. “As a reminder, all delegates who need to cross an international border will need a passport or Nexus card. Please give yourself a minimum of 8 weeks for this process.”
 - v. “The document, *What to Expect as a Delegate to Synod*, is a helpful tool to learn more about the logistics and expectations for Synod 2026.”

e. **Minister Availability** (of those who responded) - there are **two groups**

i. *Those **available** to be delegated*

	Name	Served Before	Years Delegated to Synod	Available to be Delegated
1	Mark Verbruggen	yes	2001, 2004? 2008, 2015	Yes
2	Michael Bootsma	yes	1998, 2011, 2023	Yes
3	Doug Nieuwstraten	yes	2024 2025	Yes

ii. *Those **not available** to be delegated*

	Name	Served before	Year Delegated to Synod	Available to be Delegated
1	Joel Bootsma	yes	2017 I think	no
2	Willemina Zwart	yes	2015 (I think - it was at Dordt)	no
3	Hayden Regeling	yes	2024	no
3	Cara DeHaan	yes	2023	no

f. Nominations for **Elder** and **Deacon** for Delegation to Synod 2026

i. We need **one elder and alternate**, and **one deacon and alternate**

ii. **Elder Nominees**

- (1) Adrian Guldemon
- (2) alt.

iii. **Deacon Nominees**

- (1)
- (2) alt.

Ed W. Visser, SC

