



Agenda

CLASSIS HAMILTON of the CRCNA

Saturday, February 21, 2026, 9:00 AM to no later than 4:30 PM

Hosted by Immanuel CRC Simcoe
95 Oak Street, Simcoe, ON
(Diana Vander Deen <info@imagegod.ca>)

Officers of Classis: Chair: Joel Bootsma Vice Chair: Steve Eckersley Stated Clerk: Ed W. Visser	Synodical Deputies: Rev. M. Jeff Klingenberg (Classis Niagara) Rev. Sid Couperus (Classis Huron) Rev. Richard Grift (Classis Toronto)
Reporter: (see RoP Section 7.1) Calvary, Flamborough	Ballot Advisory Team: (see RoP section 7.7) Host Church - Immanuel Simcoe
Credentials Advisory Team: (See RoP Section 7.4) Grace Community Bethel, Waterdown	Overture Advisory Team: (see RoP section 7.3) Mount Hope Advice for Overture Advisory Teams

BEFORE THE MEETING: *Preparations*

CREDENTIALS (and nominations for Delegate to Synod 2026):

- Attention Clerks:** Please fill in your [credentials here](#) before February 3, 2026
The credential form has **three sections**:
 - The **1st section** is for entering the **names** of those your council **delegated to Classis**.
 - The **2nd section** is for answers & observations to the **"Questions Under Church Order Article 41"**.
 - The **3rd section** is for entering the names and info of your **Elder and Deacon Nominees** for possible delegation to **Synod 2026** meeting at Calvin University, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA.
(Ministers and Cmsd Pastors were emailed separately)
- The **Stated Clerk will forward** the Article 41 questions and observations from the **2nd Section** to the **Credentials Advisory Team** so that they will be able to advise Classis as needed.
- The **Advisory Team will email** their report to the **Stated Clerk** by **February 4, 2026**. Their report will be emailed by the Stated Clerk to all the delegates as early as with the Addendum.

ORIENTATION:

- FOR NEW DELEGATES TO CLASSIS HAMILTON** (Includes link to the Rules of Procedure)
- FOR THOSE DELEGATED TO SYNOD - [What to Expect as a Delegate to Synod](#)** (2026)

Please Note: February 21, 2026 is the **3rd of 3 planned Classis Meetings on a Saturday**.

Clerks are asked to **indicate their Council's preference** in [this form](#) whether we should continue scheduling one Saturday meeting per year. **Clerks, please have your councils vote** and then indicate "yes" or "no" on the form. Thank you.

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer Vice Chair of Classis: Steve Eckersley
2. Devotions & Sharing of Ministry Host Congregation: Immanuel CRC, Simcoe
3. Prayer for the Host Church Steve Eckersley

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

10:00 a.m.

4. **Call to Order & Instructions for the Day** Chair: Joel Bootsma
Stated Clerk
 - a. Attendance
 - b. [Covenant of Office Bearers](#)
 - c. Classis Declared Constituted

5. **Approval of the Consent Agenda**

a.

*A consent agenda allows Classis to approve the items below **as a package** without the need for motions and discussion on individual items. However, an item may be pulled from the consent agenda on the request of any delegate. Such items may be taken up immediately after the consent agenda or placed later on the agenda at the discretion of the Chair.*

a. **Approve** Minutes of Classis Meeting [October 28, 2025](#)

(Note: these minutes were reviewed and approved within days of the meeting by the CIC and the attending delegates).

b. **Ministry Reports & Correspondence**i. [Advancement Classis Report](#)

from Roshani Morton

ii. [Playlist Winter 2025](#)

From Becky Jones, Thrive

iii. [Diaconal Ministries Canada](#)iv. [Redeemer University Winter Report](#)

Dr. David Zietsma

v. [Mohawk Solid Rock](#)

Abby Lobert

vi. [Calvin University, Board of Trustees](#)vii. [Classis Quinte - Canadian Gathering](#)

Ryan Braam

viii. [World Renew Classis Report](#)

Chris Orme

ix. 3 Min [Video](#) & [Brochure](#) translating languages spoken in our churches Dave Den Haanx. [From General Secretary and Executive Director, Canada](#) from Zachary King & Al Postmaxi. [Video of Encouragement and Information](#) (10 Minutes) Zachary Kingc. **For the Agenda of Synod 2026**i. [COD Task Force to Review Governance Costs](#)ii. [Task Force to Develop Church Order Procedures To Discipline Office bearers](#)

d. See **Addendum** for any additional reports (considered as part of this consent agenda as noted)

b. Suggested Motion: ***That Classis Approve the Consent Agenda***

6. Approval of the **Agenda with Addendum for the Day**

Suggested Motion: ***That Classis Approve the Agenda including the Addendum for the Day***

7. **CIC and Stated Clerk Reports**

a. **Classis Interim Committee Report (CIC)**

CIC Chair: Doug Nieuwstraten

- i. **CIC decided** - upon Stated Clerk's recommendation, *that Classis will handle appointments in the CIC report, not in the Consent Agenda for Classis. It's more personable, can be appropriately discussed, and doesn't give the sense of "just getting it done". This includes all functionaries of Classis, church visitors, counsellors, members of the CIC, etc.*
- ii. **Reminder: Annual Signing the Covenant for Office Bearers at Classis.**
From the General Secretary: *"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>)
 - (1) That describes our present practice and doesn't indicate a needed change.
 - (2) **Reminder: Classis Hamilton decided to 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 at each meeting.**
- iii. **Reminder:** As previously decided, **Oral reports at Classis require a written copy** to the Stated Clerk in order to be detailed in the Minutes of Classis.
- iv. **Reminder:** Pulpit Supply Schedule: Classis approved **pausing the Pulpit Supply Schedule** from September 2025 and resuming September 2026.
- v. **Recommendation:**
 - (1) ***that Dr. Syd Hielema's role as Regional Pastor in Classis Hamilton be enlarged from co-regional pastor to sole regional pastor.*** (Dr. Hielema's Commissioned Pastor credentials (emeritus) reside at Grace Community CRC).
 - (2) **Correspondence** from Dave Den Haan, *that Thrive would be happy to note with gratitude Syd's devotion to the work and classis' openness to having him serve in this way. I hope, in time, that someone will observe the excellent work that Syd does and be inspired to come alongside him in it.*
- vi. **Recommendation: *that Rev. Steven Eckersley be appointed as a church visitor***
- vii. **Recommendation: *that Rev. Doug Nieuwstraten be approved as counselor of Calvary CRC***
- viii. **Note:** **Adrian Guldemon** was nominated by Grace Community CRC to be a member of the **CIC and Board of Directors**. This will be **Recommended in May CIC Report and on the May AGM agenda**
- ix. **Note:** Classis needs to appoint an additional **pastor** and **2 elders** as **church visitors**

b. Suggested Motion: ***That Classis Approve the work of the CIC***

c. **Stated Clerk's Report**

Ed W. Visser

- i. The bulk of my work since before October 2025, has been helping Councils and Ministers navigate, research, and provide wording, and church order references in the process of resigning, disaffiliation and all what that implies. It has involved hundreds of emails, more phone calls than usual, meetings, and much pondering and prayer.

Every situation is different, and much of this has been new—to me, to Classis, and in some cases, to the denomination itself. Truly, it has been a season of learning for everyone.

The aim throughout has been to act with care, to honour Christ, and to respond in love at every step. While the agenda may look orderly and under control, behind the links to documents, emails, and letters of resigning, disaffiliation and requests, no one has it all together, no one is happy about these events. Resignations and disaffiliations are difficult, and most are praying and hoping that relationships with friends, family and church connections remain as strong as possible.

ii. **Canadian National Gathering:**

- (1) May 28-31, 2026, at Redeemer University
(2) [Description and request for participant recommendations](#)

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

8. **Election of Delegates and Alternates to Synod 2026**

- a. <https://www.crcna.org/synod/synod-delegates> ← must read
b. **Elder & Deacon** Nominations rcv'd from the Credentials form will be listed on the Addendum
c. **Minister** Nominations (those available will be listed on the Addendum)
d. Ballots (voting may continue throughout the day) **Distributed and Counted by Host church**
[note: Classis has decided that the fourth delegate shall be a minister of the word]

9. **Credentials Advisory Team** (Report and Recommendations on the Addendum)

CELEBRATING THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

10. **Licensure to Exhort Considered for Ji Kim** ([Rules of Procedure](#) 12.4)

- a. The need to grant another licensure to exhort was determined at Classis of May 2025. CIC concluded that the need continues.
b. [Letter of recommendation](#) from Grace Community
c. [Letter of request](#) and [Ji's CV](#)
d. **Ji Kim** introduced by **Mark Verbruggen**, Pastor of Grace Community
e. Sermon Review by **Ken Tigchelaar & Gina Taylor**
f. **Conversation with Ji Kim and Syd Hielema**
g. Suggested motion: ***That Classis grant Mr. Ji Kim a licensure to Exhort in the Classis Hamilton churches for a term of 3 years (renewable upon request).***

11. Resignations and Release from Office [in executive session]

- a. **Chair declares executive session** - (all officebearers may remain) (Discussion concerning individuals are normally held in executive session)
- b. **Following Church Order Art. 14b**, *A minister of the Word who resigns from the ministry in the Christian Reformed Church to enter a ministry outside the denomination shall be released from office by the classis with an appropriate declaration reflecting the resigned minister's status and with the concurring advice of the synodical deputies.* – See Supplement 14-b
- c. **Note: Regarding CO Art 14-b Supplement**
 - i. when Classis releases a Minister of the Word, Classis is to assign one of the four following categories reflecting the resigned minister's status:
 - (1) The resigned minister is *honourably released*.
 - (2) The resigned minister is *released*.
 - (3) The resigned minister is *dismissed*.
 - (4) The resigned minister is in the *status of one deposed*.
 - ii. Partial [Resource from Dr. Henry De Moor](#) and a [resource from the CRCNA](#) regarding CO Art 14-b supplement.
- d. **Rev. Steve Dykstra** (CO Art 14-b)
 - i. Supervising church **First Hamilton** has received **Rev. Dykstra's** [resignation](#), (January 13, 2026), and,
 - ii. [Requests that he be honourably released from office](#)
 - (1) Suggested motion: ***That Classis declare Rev. Steve Dykstra honourably released from office***
 - (2) Discussion on the motion
 - (3) Synodical Deputies leave to prepare their advice
 - (4) Voting by Classis, Synodical Deputies return, Classis Decision is announced
 - (5) Synodical Deputies announce their advice
- e. **Rev. Everett Vander Horst** (CO Art 14-b)
 - i. Calling church **Meadowlands Fellowship** has received **Rev. Vander Horst's** [resignation](#) (January 19, 2026), and,
 - ii. [Requests that he be honourably released from office](#)
 - (1) Suggested motion: ***That Classis declare Rev. Everett Vander Horst honourably released from office***
 - (2) Discussion on the motion
 - (3) Synodical Deputies leave to prepare their advice
 - (4) Voting by Classis, Synodical Deputies return, Classis Decision is announced
 - (5) Synodical Deputies announce their advice
- f. **Following Church Order Art 24-d and supplement**
 - i. *A commissioned pastor position may be eliminated and a commissioned pastor may be released only with the concurrence of the classis that approved the position, with attention to the rules and processes approved by synod.*

Supplement, Church Order Art 24-d

Synod has offered, on various occasions, guidelines regarding the conclusion of an approved commissioned pastor position, the resignation of a commissioned pastor, and the release of a commissioned pastor. Synod also instructs classes to make an appropriate declaration reflecting the status of any commissioned pastor who concludes service. These guidelines and options regarding status are the same as those for minister of the Word and can be found in Supplement, Article 14-b, c, 2 or in the Commissioned Pastor Handbook.

- g. **Commissioned Pastor Marja Fledderus** (CO Art 24-d and supplement)
 - i. Calling church **Meadowlands Fellowship** has received **Pastor Marja's [resignation](#)** (January 13, 2026), and,
 - ii. [Requests that she be honourably released from office](#)
 - (1) Suggested motion: ***That Classis declare Commissioned Pastor Marja Fledderus honourably released from office***
 - (2) Discussion on the motion, and voting by Classis
 - (3) Synodical Deputy advice not required since this is a decision limited to Classis.
- h. **Chair declares end to executive session**

12. **Redeemer University** (15 minutes - around noon)

President, Dr. David Zietsma

LUNCH BREAK [normally around 12:15, but spot in agenda may be adjusted by the chair as needed]

13. Disaffiliation from the CRCNA

- a. **Meadowlands Fellowship CRC (MFCRC)** ([Church Order Art. 38 f and supplement](#))
 - i. At the [October 28, 2025 meeting of Classis](#) (See minute 24 a-g), MFCRC submitted its intention to disaffiliate from the CRCNA.
 - ii. MFCRC, CIC and Classis followed the steps outlined in supplement Art 38-f
 - iii. MFCRC held two congregation meetings each with voting by the membership with the result that the Council now gives it's resolution that it is disaffiliating from the CRCNA
 - iv. [Resolution by MFCRC](#)
 - v. Suggested Motion: ***that Classis acquiesce in the decision of the congregation to disaffiliate from the denomination***
 - vi. Discussion on the motion and voting
 - vii. CO Art supplement 38-f, f states "... classis shall provide for the pastoral care of those members who wish to remain within the denomination."
- b. **New Hope (Emerging congregation)** under First Hamilton CRC's supervision (FHCRC)
 - i. FHCRC informs Classis that [New Hope does not desire to proceed](#) in becoming an organized congregation of the CRCNA.
 - ii. [FHCRC requests that Classis acquiesce with New Hope's intention](#) of becoming an independent church
 - iii. Suggested Motion: ***that Classis acquiesce in the decision of New Hope to not become an organized church in the CRCNA, but be independent of the CRCNA***

