



**Agenda**  
**CLASSIS HAMILTON**  
**of the CRCNA**

Final

**Meeting Tuesday, May 26, 2026**

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

**Hosted by Mount Hope Community CRC, Hamilton**

(3076 Homestead Dr, Mount Hope, ON L0R 1W0, Canada)

(289) 759-3076 [office.mhccrc@rogers.com](mailto:office.mhccrc@rogers.com)

<b>Officers of Classis:</b> Chair: Joel Bootsma Vice Chair: Doug Nieuwstraten Stated Clerk: Ed W. Visser	<b>Synodical Deputies:</b> (not needed)
<b>Reporter:</b> (see <a href="#">RoP</a> Section 7.1) Calvin Dundas	<b>Ballot Team:</b> (see <a href="#">RoP</a> section 7.7) Host Church: Mount Hope Community
<b>Credentials Advisory Team:</b> (See <a href="#">RoP</a> Section 7.4) Bethel, Waterdown Calvary, Flamborough	<b>Overture Advisory Team:</b> (if needed) Mount Hope Community Grace Community <a href="#">Advice for Overture Advisory Teams</a>

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**BEFORE THE MEETING: Preparations**

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- A. ORIENTATION:** [FOR NEW DELEGATES](#) (Includes a link to the Rules of Procedure (RoP))
- B. ATTENTION CLERKS:** Fill in your [CREDENTIALS HERE](#), before May 5, 2026.

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**GROWING AS A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS**

**9:00 a.m.**

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|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Welcome & Opening Prayer        | <b>Vice Chair of Classis: Doug Nieuwstraten</b> |
| 2. Devotions & Sharing of Ministry | <b>The host church</b>                          |
| 3. Prayer for the Host Church      | <b>Doug Nieuwstraten</b>                        |

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**ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION**

**10:00 a.m.**

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|--|---------------------------|
| 4. <b>Call to Order &amp; Instructions for the Day</b>                                   | <b>Chair Joel Bootsma</b> |
| a. <b>Welcome to delegates and guests</b>  |                           |
| b. <b>Affirmation</b> of the <a href="#">Covenant for Office-Bearers</a>                 |                           |
| c. <b>Attendance Confirmed</b>   | <b>Stated Clerk</b>       |
| d. <b>Classis Declared Constituted</b>   | <b>Chair</b>              |
| 5. <b>Approval of the Present Agenda and Addendum</b> (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.*

- a. **Approve** Minutes of Classis Meeting [February 21, 2026](#)  
(Note: these minutes were reviewed and approved within days of the meeting by the CIC and the delegates who had attended).
- b. **Reports received from Classis' Ministries**
- c. **Denominational Ministries Reports Received**
  - i. [Redeemer University](#) **President David Zietsma**
  - ii. [Spring Thrive Play list](#) **Becky Jones**
  - iii. [World Renew](#) **Chris Orme**
  - iv. [Diaconal Ministries](#)
- f. See **Addendum** for any additional reports (considered as part of this consent agenda as noted)

## 7. Classis Interim Committee Report (CIC)

**CIC Chair: Doug Nieuwstraten**

- a. **Members on the CIC** (and Board of Directors) are: Doug Nieuwstraten (president), Hayden Regeling, Gina Taylor, Gayla Postma and, if approved, Adrian Guldemond. Also on the CIC as *ex officio* members are the chair of Classis and the stated clerk.
- b. **Ken Tigchelaar Completed Terms of Service**
  - i. Ken has served as Classis Treasurer, member of ARC, CIC and the Board of Directors for several years, and his terms are now completed.
  - ii. **Recommendation: *that Classis acknowledge and thank Ken for his years of service as Treasurer, member of ARC, CIC and on the Board of Directors.***
- c. **Recommendation: *that Adrian Guldemond, nominated by Grace Community, Ancaster be appointed as a member of the CIC***
- d. **John Bijl Stepping Down as Youth Champion in Classis Hamilton**
  - i. *After a lot of prayer and discussion with my mentor and my wife over the last few months, I have decided to step down from the classis youth champion role and organizing the Fall retreat. I have been blessed to be able to serve God in youth ministry for over 30 years, but feel it's me to try new things in my new church community. It has been an amazing blessing to work with the various youth ministries of classis and use my gifts and experience equipping youth and youth leaders to serve God. Starting up the Classis Fall Youth Retreat almost 10 years ago and watching how God has grown it over those years and blessed many students has also been a blessing to me. I leave the retreat planning in the capable hands of Betty Steenbeek and Cody Miedema. Thank-you to Classis Hamilton for letting me volunteer in this role for about 15 years (it came with various names over the years)*

- ii. **Recommendation: *that Classis accept John Bijl's stepping down as Youth Champion and express its gratitude for his excellent work during the last 15 years***
- e. **Cara DeHaan's Terms of Service on the Candidacy Committee are complete.**
- i. After 6 years on the Candidacy Committee, Cara has completed her two terms, and is stepping down as member.
  - ii. Also noted is that the **committee is saying goodbye to committee member, Dr. Jessica Joustra,**
  - iii. and that the committee is **searching for a new member to recommend,** possibly with connection to Redeemer.
  - iv. **Recommendation: *that Classis acknowledge Cara DeHaan's 6 years of service on the Candidacy Committee and the completion of two terms with thanks.***
  - v. **Recommendation: *that in addition to any committee recommendations, Gayla Postma be approved as member of the Candidacy Committee***
- f. **Pulpit Supply:**
- i. **Classis had paused Pulpit Supply from Sept 2025 to May 2026**
  - ii. **CIC invites the vacant churches to provide CIC with any insight, ideas they may have regarding pulpit supply. Has pausing pulpit supply been detrimental? How are they conducting sacraments? Are they able to engage retired or active pastors to help?**
  - iii. Given that Classis is short an additional two preachers this year,
  - iv. **CIC Recommends *that Classis Pause the scheduling of pulpit supply for an additional year starting Sept 2026.***  
Ground:  
With the number of vacancies (6) and an additional two congregations each short one minister (of a team), and two Ministers of the Word resigned as of Feb, 2026, there is an unusual demand on pastors to be away from their own congregations to serve the vacant churches.
- g. **Concerning Licensure to Exhort for Ray Henriks,**
- i. *Since the provisions of Church Order Article 43-b (as quoted in our Rules of Procedure 12.4) indicate that only members of the CRC may be granted (and may hold) a license to exhort, and since Ray Henriks is no longer a member of the CRC, his license to exhort has lapsed.*
  - ii. Ray had been kept in the loop and advised about some options. His decision was to let the Licensure lapse.
  - iii. Nevertheless, we are grateful for his excellent service as an exhorter over the years. We have heard back from churches that his ministry was much valued.
- h. **Church Visitors: *there is a continuing need for more ministers and elders to serve as church visitors.*** Please offer to be involved in this ministry, or submit nominations to the stated clerk.
- i. **Saturday Classis in February:**
- i. Having completed three years of scheduling one Classis meeting on Saturday during February, the question is do we continue this or end it?
  - ii. In response to our poll in the agenda for the February 2026 meeting of Classis asking if we should continue meeting on a Saturday in February, **8 councils responded, yes.**

iii. During our discussion at the Feb 2026 meeting of Classis, the treasurer, Ken Tigchelaar, asked the delegates present, how many first time delegates were present because the meeting is on a Saturday? 5 responded 'yes'.

iv. **Recommendation: *That Classis approve another three years of scheduling one Classis meeting on Saturday during February***

j. **Appointments of Delegates to Synod 2026**

- |      |                   |                          |                    |    |
|------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----|
| i.   | Minister Delegate | <b>Mark Verbruggen</b>   | Minister alternate | NA |
| ii.  | Elder Delegate    | <b>Adrian Guldemond</b>  | Elder Alternate    | NA |
| iii. | Elder Delegate    | <b>Jules de Jager</b>    | Deacon Alternate   | NA |
| iv.  | Fourth Delegate   | <b>Doug Nieuwstraten</b> | Fourth Alternate   | NA |

v. **John Valkenburg** (elder) from Calvary CRC, was **approved as an alternate elder**.

vi. There are **no alternates for Minister delegates**.

k. **With a view to encouraging fellowship** among the ministers of Classis Hamilton, it suggested that ministers get together once a month for a meal with no other agenda than having a meal of fellowship and relationship building. **Hayden Regeling will organize**

l. **Recommendation: *that Classis Approve the work of the CIC***

8. **Stated Clerk's Report**

**Ed W. Visser**

a. **We temporarily hold the memberships** of four families from the Meadowlands Fellowship Church (transferred before they disaffiliated). These will be forwarded to the CRC each has selected as their covenant congregation.

b. **Website continues to be updated**

- i. Classis Hamilton now has **13 churches**,
- ii. **6 are without a pastor** and two additional congregations are each short one pastor from a team. Classis Hamilton is looking for **8 Ministers**.

c. **Chair of Classis selection:**

- i. *The Chair is selected for a one year term from a list of the churches in alphabetical order maintained by the stated clerk. The one-year term shall commence on June 1st. Ordinarily, the chair of Classis will be a delegate from their respective church for the one-year term in which they serve, but is not required to be a delegate. The chair must be currently serving as an office-bearer in one of the member churches of Classis Hamilton. In the event that the chair is not a delegate, the chair shall not have the deciding vote. (RoP 6.2.2)*
- ii. The list that I'm maintaining is in alphabetical order according to city.
- iii. **Grace Community CRC, Ancaster** provides a chairperson starting **June 1, 2026**

d. Prepared agendas and minutes for CIC and Classis, and reports of CIC and stated clerk to Classis, all correspondence, and other stated clerk stuff.

e. **Recommendation *that Classis Approve the work of the Stated Clerk***

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**MINISTRY SESSION**

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9. **Classis' Ministries** (reporting as available)
- a. **Candidacy Committee** **Cara DeHaan**
  - b. **Motion** to *Approve the work of the Candidacy Committee*
  
  - c. **Campus Ministry Committee** **Willemina Zwart**
    - i. Mohawk Solid Rock (Approved in consent agenda) **Abby Lobert**
    - ii. All Things (McMaster) **Michael Fallon**
  - d. **Motion** to *Approve the work of the Campus Ministry Committee*
  
  - e. **Classical Home Missions Committee** **Joel Bootsma**
  - f. **Motion** to *Approve the work of the Home Missions Committee*

10. **Redeemer University** **President David Zietsma**

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

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

12. **Church Visitor Reports** (as available)
- a. [Calvary CRC, Flamborough](#) (May 18, 2026)

13. **Credentials Advisory Team Report** (on addendum)

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

14. **Council of Delegates Report** (on addendum)

15. **World Renew** (report approved on the consent agenda) 15 minutes **Steve McNight (Board Rep)**

16. **Adjourn for the Annual General Membership Meeting (AGM)**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ACTIONS**

President: Doug Nieuwstraten

1. **Establish that there is a Quorum**
2. **Proof of Notice for the Meeting**
3. **Approve Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of [May 27, 2025](#)**
4. **APPROVE** that *Doug Nieuwstraten, Gayla Postma, Hayden Regeling, and Gina Taylor, are hereby elected as directors of Classis Hamilton for twelve months commencing May 26, 2026.*
5. **APPROVE a New Member for the Board:** that *Adrian Guldemond is hereby elected as a director the Board of Directors for twelve months commencing May 26, 2026.*
6. **RECOMMENDED** that the 2025 Management Letter be approved.
7. **RECOMMENDED** that the [audited financial statements and the Auditor's report](#) thereon for fiscal 2025 be approved.
8. **RECOMMENDED** that DBK Accounting Professional Corporation be re-appointed as auditor for fiscal 2026.
9. **Adjournment** of the Annual General membership meeting

**17. Resume Meeting of Classis Hamilton**

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

- a. **For October 28, 2026 Meeting of Classis**
  - i. **Committee Budget**      **Requests due July 31, 2026 \*\*\* <---Budget Requests Due**
  - ii. **Agenda**                      material Due **Sep 15, 2026**
  - iii. **Credentials**                      Due **Oct 06, 2026**
  - iv. **Addendum**                      material Due **Oct 13, 2026**
  - v. **Classis Meets**                      **Oct 27, 2026, Hosted by Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis**
- b. **Officers**
  - i. **Chairperson**                      **Mark Verbruggen, Grace Community, Ancaster**
  - ii. **Vice-Chair**                      **Michael Bootsma, Immanuel, Hamilton**

**19. Adjournment of Classis**

- a. **Closing Remarks & Prayer** **Chair**
- b. **Adjournment Declared** **Chair**

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*Just around the corner*

**For Winter 2027**

**Agenda Materials Due: January 12, 2027**

**Credentials Due: February 2, 2027**

**Addendum Materials Due: February 9, 2027**

Meeting **Saturday, February 20** (*if approved, otherwise Tuesday, February 23*)

**Host Congregation:** Grace Community, Ancaster

**Chair:** **Mark VerBruggen**, Grace Community

**Vice Chair:** **Joel Bootsma**, Mount Hope Community

Stated Clerk,

Edw. Visser