



Agenda
CLASSIS HAMILTON
of the CRCNA

Final 1

Meeting Tuesday, October 27, 2026

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

Hosted by Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis

(139b Talbot St. (Highway 3), Jarvis, ON, Canada)

office@jarvisebenezer.ca 519-587-4646

Officers of Classis: Chair: Mark Verbruggen Vice Chair: Michael Bootsma Stated Clerk: Ed W. Visser	Synodical Deputies: Rev. Robert Loerts (Niagara) Rev. Richard Grift (Toronto) Rev. Sid Couperus (Huron)
Reporter: (see RoP Section 7.1) Ebenezer, Jarvis	Ballot Team: (see RoP section 7.7) Host Church: Ebenezer, Jarvis
Credentials Advisory Team: (See RoP Section 7.4) Calvary, Flamborough Calvin, Dundas	Overture Advisory Team: (if needed) Mount Hope Community Grace Community Advice for Overture Advisory Teams

BEFORE THE MEETING: Preparations

1. **ORIENTATION:** [FOR NEW DELEGATES](#) (Includes a link to the Rules of Procedure ([RoP](#)))
2. **ATTENTION CLERKS:** Fill in your [CREDENTIALS HERE](#), *before* October 6, 2026

GROWING AS A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

9:00 a.m.

3. **Welcome & Opening Prayer**
 4. **Devotions & Sharing of Ministry**
 5. **Prayer for the Host Church**
- Vice Chair: Michael Bootsma
The host church
Michael Bootsma

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

10:00 a.m.

6. **Call to Order & Instructions for the Day** Chair: Mark Verbruggen
 - a. **Welcome** to delegates and guests
 - i. **Rev. Duane Vanderlaan**, Bethel CRC, Waterdown
 - ii. **Rev. Jeremy Vandermeer**, Calvary, Flamborough
 - b. **Attendance** Confirmed Stated Clerk
 - c. **Affirmation** of the [Covenant for Office-Bearers](#) All Delegates
7. **Classis Declared Constituted** Chair

8. **Approval of the Present Agenda and Addendum** (not including the consent agenda)

9. **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.*

1. **Approve Minutes of Classis [Meeting May 26, 2026](#)**

(Note: Within days of the meeting these minutes were reviewed and approved by the CIC and the delegates who had attended Classis).

2. **Classis and Regional Ministries Reports Received**

a. [Redeemer University](#)

David Zietsma

b. [Spring Thrive Play list](#)

Becky Jones

c. [Report from our Delegates to Synod 2026](#)

Doug Nieuwstraten

d. [Mohawk Solid Rock](#)

Abby Lobert

3. **Denominational Ministries Reports Received**

a. [World Renew](#)

Chris Orme

b. [Letter General Secretary, Executive Director Canada, & U.S. Director of Ministry Operations](#)

c. [Video from the General Secretary, Tim Sheridan & Elaine May](#)

d. [CRCNA Leadership, Letter and Video](#)

e. [Canadian Indigenous **Ministry** Committee Newsletter](#)

f. [Canadian Church Administration and Finance Guide](#)

Roshani Morton

i. [Deacon's Story Deck](#)

ii. [Ministry Shares; Canada Pledge Guide](#)

iii. [Deacon's Video Deck](#)

iv. [Numbers Unleashed](#)

g. [Resonate Church Planting Strategic Plan FAQ](#)

h. [Information regarding Synod 2027](#) (For Stated Clerks, but helpful for all)

i. [Diaconal Ministries Canada](#)

John Wildeboer

j. [Moving Forward in Faith - cover letter](#)

k. [Moving Forward in Faith **Diaconal Ministries Canada** and **Resonate Global Mission**](#)

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

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

Chair: Doug Nieuwstraten

- a. **Members** on the CIC (and Board of Directors) are: Doug Nieuwstraten (president), Hayden Regeling, Gina Taylor (treasurer), Gayla Postma and, Adrian Guldemon. Also on the CIC as ex officio members are the chair of Classis and the Stated Clerk.
- b. **The role** of the CIC is to take care of Classis matters between the meetings of Classis -- reporting or making recommendations to the following meeting of Classis as per the provisions of the Rules of Procedure section 13.2

- c. **Prepared for the** for the **Mr. Steve Baarda** Art 14-e interview and **Mr. Peter Kranenburg** Art 10 Examination.
- d. **Processed Ministerial Credential of Rev. Jeremy Vandermeer** from Trinity Edmonton, AB, and forwarded to Calvary, Flamborough
- e. **Processed Ministerial Credential of Rev. Duane Vanderlaan** from Drayton CRC to Bethel CRC, Waterdown
- f. **Motion: *that Classis Approve the work of the CIC***

11. Stated Clerk's Report

Ed W. Visser

- a. We temporarily held the membership of four families from the Meadowlands Fellowship Church (transferred before Meadowlands disaffiliated). One has been returned to Meadowlands (at the member's request) and the last three have now all been forwarded to the CRC each has selected as their covenant congregation.
- b. Arranged for CIC and Classis' Agendas, Minutes, correspondence and other arrangements.
- c. This month begins the fifth year as your stated clerk.
- d. **Motion: *that Classis Approve the work of the Stated Clerk***

12. Classis' Ministries (reporting as available)

a. Candidacy Committee

Gayla Postma

- i. [Report](#) (Includes several recommendations)

b. **Motion: *that Classis Approve the work of the Candidacy Committee***

c. Campus Ministry Committee

Willemina Zwart

- i. [Mohawk Solid Rock](#) (Approved in consent agenda) Brief oral update
- ii. All Things (McMaster)

Abby Lobert

Michael Fallon

d. **Motion: *that Classis Approve the work of the Campus Ministry Committee***

e. Classical Home Missions Committee

Joel Bootsma

- i. Report on the Addendum?

f. **Motion: *that Classis Approve the work of the Home Missions Committee***

13. Approval of the Proposed Budget for the Work and Ministry of Classis Hamilton in 2027

a. **Presentation** of the [Proposed 2027 Budget](#)

Gina Taylor, Treasurer

- b. **Summary:** *Total budget is \$263,055.00, down from \$267,650.00 a 1.6% decrease which results in a cost per member for Classis ministry shares of \$114.97 in 2027 up from \$98.19 in 2026 an increase of 17%.*

- c. **Recommendation: *That Classis approve and adopt the proposed 2027 budget as the official budget for the 2027 fiscal year.***

REFRESHMENT BREAK (15 minutes)

10:45 a.m.

14. **Examination for Ordination:** following Church Order Article 10 supplement

a. **Introduction of Candidate Mr. Peter Kranenburg**

Steven Eckersley

- i. call accepted to Maranatha, York

b. **Practica** (no time limit)

Steven Eckersley

- i. This is about the candidate's relationship to God and commitment to the ministry, understanding of the meaning and relevance of the ministry for our times, loyalty to the church, and related matters
- ii. Synodical deputies and delegates may ask additional questions
- iii. **Motion: *That Classis proceed with the exam***

c. **Sermon Evaluation**

Gina Taylor Lunshof & Mark Verbruggen

- i. Evaluation of the written sermon and the candidate's manner of conducting a worship service.
- ii. Synodical deputies and delegates may ask additional questions
- iii. **Motion: *That Classis proceed with the exam***
- iv. Synodical Deputies are asked whether they concur

d. **Biblical and Theological Position** (minimum, thirty minutes)

Hayden Regeling

- i. This is about the candidate's biblical and theological judgment, competence, and soundness.
- ii. Synodical deputies and delegates may ask additional questions

e. **Chair Declares Executive Session**

- i. all **office bearers of the CRCNA** and **CIC** may remain
- ii. Mr. Peter Kranenburg and non-office bearers are excused
- iii. **Motion: *That Classis admit Mr. Peter Kranenburg to the Ministry of the Word***
- iv. **Discussion**
- v. **Prayer** for the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- vi. **Synodical Deputies leave** to prepare their recommendation

vii. Classis **votes** by ballot

viii. The **Synodical Deputies** are invited to return

ix. The **Chair** declares the **decision** of Classis

x. The **Synodical Deputies** offer their written **statement** indicating whether they **concur** with the decision of Classis

f. **Chair Declares Open Session** (assuming the motion to admit passes and the Synodical Deputies concur).

- i. Mr. Peter Kranenburg and guests are invited to return
- ii. The Decision of Classis with the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies is made public
- iii. Prayer
- iv. Appointment of a Mentor
- v. Date of Installation

BRIEF BREAK

15. **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

16. **Church Visitor Written Reports** (as available)

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

18. **Thrive** (10 Minutes)

Lee Carter & Becky Jones

19. **Reframe Ministry** (10 Minutes)

Leonie Johnson

LUNCH BREAK

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

20. **Interview with Mr. Steve Baarda Requesting to Be Declared Eligible for Call per CO Art 14-e.**

- a. [Background](#)
- b. **CO Art 14-e states:** *A former minister of the Word who was released from office may be declared eligible for call upon approval of the classis by which such action was taken, with the concurring advice of the synodical deputies. The classis, in the presence of the deputies, shall conduct an interview that examines the circumstances surrounding the release and the renewed desire to serve in ministry, and shall ensure that all synodical regulations have been met. Upon acceptance of a call, the person shall be reordained.*
 - i. **Supplement, Article 14-e states:** *A former minister who was released through the provisions of Article 14-b, 14-c, or 14-d or Article 17-c or 17-d and desires readmission to CRCNA ministry should be interviewed by the classis in which the original action was taken. The interview should examine the following:*
 - (a) *the circumstances surrounding the release*
 - (b) *the applicant's theological and ministerial journey since the release*
 - (c) *the sense of call and renewed commitment to service in the CRC**The classis, with the concurrence of the synodical deputies, shall then make a decision regarding whether to endorse the request to begin the process for readmission.*
- c. This is Mr. Baarda's **second request to be declared eligible for call per CO Art 14-e.**
- d. **The Chair Declares executive session** (office bearers of the CRCNA may remain as well as members of the CIC)
- e. **Motion: that Classis Hamilton Declare Mr. Steve Baarda eligible for call in the CRCNA**
- f. **The chairman will ask for a second to the motion.**
- g. **As specified in CO Art 14-e,** the interview will examine the following
 - i. *the circumstances surrounding the release*
 - ii. *the applicant's theological and ministerial journey since the release*
 - iii. *the sense of call and renewed commitment to service in the CRC*

- h. **Syd Hielema will conduct the interview**
 - i. Delegates will have an opportunity to ask questions
 - ii. Synodical Deputies will have an opportunity to ask questions
- i. **Mr. Baarda will be excused**
- j. **Discussion on the Motion takes place** (continuing in executive session)
- k. **Prayer** for discernment
- l. **Synodical Deputies will be excused** for their deliberation
- m. **Motion:** (which has been seconded)
that Classis Hamilton Declare Mr. Steve Baarda eligible for call in the CRCNA
- n. **Voting** by ballot
- o. **Synodical Deputies will be invited to return** to the meeting
- p. The **Decision** of Classis is **declared**
- q. **Synodical Deputies present their written statement** indicating whether they concur with the decision of Classis
- r. Mr. Baarda is invited to return
- s. Mr. Baarda is informed of the Decision of Classis with the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies
- t. **The Chair Declares Open Session**
- u. The **Decision is made public**, prayer follows.

REFRESHMENT BREAK (15 minutes)

21. Council of Delegates Report (on addendum)

22. Matters from the Addendum

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

- a. For **Saturday**, February 20, 2027 Meeting of Classis
 - i. **Agenda** material Due Jan 12, 2027
 - ii. **Credentials** Due Feb 02, 2027
 - iii. **Addendum** material Due Feb 09, 2027
 - iv. **Classis Meets** **Saturday, Feb 20, 2027**, Hosted by **Grace Community CRC, Ancaster**
- b. **Officers**
 - i. **Chairperson:** Mark Verbruggen, Grace Community, Ancaster
 - ii. **Vice-Chair:** Michael Bootsma, Immanuel, Hamilton

24. Adjournment of Classis

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

Just around the corner

For SPRING May 25, 2027

Agenda Materials Due: April 13, 2027

Credentials Due: May 04, 2027

Addendum Materials Due: May 11, 2027

Meeting: May 25, 2027

Host Congregation: Bethel CRC, Waterdown

Chair: Mark Verbruggen

Vice Chair:

Stated Clerk,

