



ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA

CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

FEBRUARY 27, 2018

MEETING COMMENCES AT 9:30 AM AT MARANATHA CRC, YORK

The section included in this Addendum on the next two pages is intended to help delegates better understand the procedures at Classis Hamilton meetings as well as the obligations of each delegate. Please read those pages carefully and if you can suggest additional items for inclusion, please, send them to the stated clerk who will gladly include them in future editions.

For first time delegates (and as refresher for others) the Agenda itself can be found at the following link: http://www.classishamilton.ca/files/ClassisHamilton/agenda_february_27_2018.pdf

The report from the Credentials Committee can be found at page 6.

The written report from Diaconal Ministries Canada was received after the agenda was issued. Their report is included in this Addendum for your information.

May the Lord be with you as you prayerfully prepare for classis.

PLEASE NOTE: Printed copies of the Agenda and this Addendum will **NOT** be available at the meeting. Please bring your own printed or electronic copies.

Thank you,

Dick L. Kranendonk,
Stated Clerk

clerk@classishamilton.ca

289-239-7564

ORIENTATION FOR DELEGATES

Introduction:

Classis consists of three delegates from each member congregation – a pastor, an elder and a deacon. First-time delegates are asked to sign the *Covenant for Officebearers* at the registration desk.

Delegate Credentials are processed by the church council and are to be submitted by the Council, to the Stated Clerk via email prior to the classis meeting by your council clerk.

Duration of Classis Meetings

- The meetings normally are held on Tuesdays. Start time is determined based on the length/needs of the agenda.

Classis Agenda:

- The Classis Agenda will, ordinarily, be in the hands of church councils eight weeks prior to the actual meeting date of classis. This is done to allow each church council to review the agenda prior to sending delegates.
- Delegates are to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the classis agenda. The assumption is that the agenda has been discussed at the delegates' local council meetings.

Executive of Classis

- The Executive consists of a Chair, Vice-Chair and the Stated Clerk. A Reporter is also appointed for each meeting and serves as the Vice-Chair at the next subsequent meeting.
- The chair is elected by classis in its October meeting to serve during the following calendar year. The vice-chair is appointed by rotation and the stated clerk is elected annually at the May classis meeting.

What May I Expect to Happen at Any One Classis Meeting?

- First time delegates are to sign the Covenant for Officebearers.
- The Classis Agenda will, ordinarily, be in the hands of church councils eight weeks prior to the actual meeting date of classis, and so delegates should have it at that time as well.
- Delegates may be requested to serve in the following capacities:
 - **Prayer:** for the ministries of classis, concerns of classis and/or for individuals.
 - **Committee work:**
 - Delegates in teams of two churches may be asked to serve on one of its advisory committees, Credentials, Ad hoc (as determined by previous Classis or Classis Interim Committee) or Overtures & Appeals. They are expected to submit their recommendations at least three weeks prior to the classis meeting.
- Though there is a degree of flexibility (especially where there is silence on a matter), classis abides by its own Rules of Procedure together with the rules of the CRCNA Church Order in conducting its meetings. The Church Order is determined by Synod and is held in covenant by all CR churches. The classis Rules of Procedure are at:
http://www.classishamilton.ca/files/ClassisHamilton/agenda_february_27_2018.pdf

What Are Classis' Expectations of Me?

- Be on time for all sessions of classis.
- Delegates are expected to review the agenda with their council, sharing the thoughts of their council on any particular agenda item. Delegates are not obligated to vote according to their council's wishes. Classis is a deliberative body and the freedom needs to remain for delegates to vote on the basis of the best information or perspective presented at classis. (*Church Order*, Article 34; & *Manual of CRC Government*, Article 34, Commentary #'s 1 – 4.)

- If you do not understand the procedure, or it is not clear what is being discussed, or you are uncertain of the implications of a decision, ***please ask***. It is important that all delegates deliberate and vote with good awareness of what is going on. Classis would rather take a moment to ensure that, also for the meaningfulness of your time there, than try 'rush' through the agenda.
- You are expected to remain at classis until the meeting is formally adjourned. If there is an urgent need to leave, or if you will be replaced at some point by an alternate, you are to seek the permission of the chair who will seek the consent of the assembly.
- Be aware that classis is a deliberative body and may make decisions from time to time that you do not necessarily agree with.
- Strong objection to a decision of classis may be voiced by stating your objection. If you wish to have your objection recorded, you will need to submit a written statement (within 24 hours) indicating your objection and reason(s) why.
- Delegates should report to their councils the decisions made at the classis meeting.

What do the Acronyms Used at Classis Mean?

It is always a challenge for persons coming to a meeting of an organization to understand the shortcut language often used. Part of that shortcut language is using acronyms. Here follows a list of more common ones often included in reports or heard at classis meetings.

- ARC – Audit Review Committee of Classis Hamilton
- CHCC – Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee
- CHCMC – Classis Hamilton Campus Ministries Committee
- CHHMC – Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee
- CHSCC – Classis Hamilton Safe Church Committee
- CHYMT – Classis Hamilton Youth Ministry Team
- CIC – Classis Interim Committee (also serves as the corporation's Board of Directors)
- CMT – Classis Ministry Team
- CRCNA – Christian Reformed Church in North America
- DMC – Diaconal Ministries Canada
- EPMC – Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidates
- RCA – Reformed Church in America
- RoP – Rules of Procedure of Classis Hamilton

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1. DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Church	First Name	Last Name	Title
Ancaster CRC	Adam	Veenstra	Pastor Delegate
Ancaster CRC	Jason	Taekema	Elder Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Everett	Vander Horst	Pastor Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Judy	Cook	Elder Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Marcia	Hosmar	Deacon Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Jeanette	Lodewyks	Elder Alternate
Hope	William	Koopmans	Pastor Delegate
Hope	Tim	Vaandering	Elder Delegate
Hope	Ryan	Haan	Deacon Delegate
Hope	David	Guichelaar	Elder Alternate
Hope	Fred	Reitsma	Elder Alternate
New Street	Joel	Bootsma	Pastor Delegate
New Street	Irving	Bos	Elder Delegate
New Street	Ingrid	Dykstra	Deacon Delegate
Faith	Henry	Hess	Elder Delegate
Faith	Liz	Busuttil	Deacon Delegate
Calvin	Josh	te Brake	Elder Delegate
Calvin	Steve	Koning	Elder Delegate
Calvin	Mel	Elzinga	Deacon Delegate
Calvin	Fred	Dykman	Elder Alternate
Calvary	Gareth	Harker	Pastor Delegate
Calvary	Ralph	Groen	Elder Delegate
Calvary	Chris	Bosveld	Deacon Delegate
Calvary	Ben	VanderMeulen	Elder Alternate
Hagersville Community	Jeff	Klingenberg	Pastor Delegate
Hagersville Community	George	Elzinga	Elder Delegate
Hagersville Community	Jake	Elgersma	Elder Delegate
First	Chris	Schoon	Pastor Delegate
First	Len	Moelker	Elder Delegate
First	Gina	Taylor	Deacon Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Anthony	Elenbaas	Pastor Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Martin	Joldersma	Elder Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Jeri	Batterink	Deacon Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Darrell	Ouwehand	Elder Alternate
Mt. Hamilton	Roelof	Peereboom	Pastor Delegate
Mt. Hamilton	Greg	Schuurman	Elder Delegate
Mt. Hamilton	Bob	DeHaan	Elder Delegate
New Hope	Greg	Sinclair	Emerging Church
New Hope	Ginelle	Bucher	Emerging Church
Ebenezer	Wim	de Vries	Pastor Delegate
Ebenezer	Ben	Hogeterp	Elder Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Jeff	Vandermeer	Pator Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	A. Raymond	Anema	Elder Delegate
Bethel	Bruce	Adema	Pastor Delegate
Bethel	Margaret	DeWeerd	Elder Delegate
Bethel	Jack	Traas	Deacon Delegate
Maranatha	Ben	Ponsen	Pastor Delegate
Maranatha	Kevin	Vanderspek	Elder Delegate
Maranatha	Jake	Termorshuizen	Deacon Delegate
Maranatha	Jon	Boekee	Elder Alternate

2. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Hope CRC, Brantford Submitted the Following Request for Assistance:

As our denomination continues to wrestle with ministering well to people who struggle with same sex attractions, what are some of the ways local churches have engaged in this work, and is there wisdom in sharing some of these best practices with each other as we continue to love people and point them to Christ?

Hope CRC, Brantford Submitted the Following Request for Discussion at Classis:

In a spirit of encouragement, Hope CRC Brantford wishes to highlight the importance of the second service to maintain vibrant congregations. Article 51 of the Church Order calls for congregations to assemble for worship “ordinarily” twice on the Lord’s Day. In a time of generally declining Bible knowledge and a diminishing awareness of our Reformed confessions and worldview, we recognize the importance of the second service to equip all members for Christian living and to promote the mission of the church. We note, too, that mainline protestant churches in Canada that have discontinued the second service on Sundays generally show a marked decline in membership. It is our conviction that we all need to support each other to counter such a trend in our congregations.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Credential Committee recommends the following to Classis Hamilton:

With gratitude to Hope CRC for bringing these conversations to Classis for further discernment, the credentials committee recommends that Classis Hamilton direct these requests to the Classis Ministry Team (CMT) to decide how best to engage these two topics in order to benefit the congregations in Classis Hamilton.

Grounds:

- a. The CMT is responsible for scheduling ministry related conversations in Classis Hamilton.
- b. There could be settings other than one of our regular Classis meetings that would be better suited for engaging these conversations.

3. NOMINATIONS UPDATE

Nominations for Synodical Delegates

Pastors:

Benjamins, Ken	- Pastor of Calvin CRC, Dundas
Bootsma, Joel	- Pastor of New Street CRC, Burlington who has indicated a desire to serve
DeKlerk, Daryl	- Pastor of Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis
De Vries, Wim	- Pastor of Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis
Elenbaas, Anthony	- Pastor of Immanuel CRC, Hamilton who has indicated a desire to serve
Harker, Gareth	- Pastor of Calvary CRC, Flamborough
Klein-Geltink, Rita	- Pastor of Ancaster CRC, Ancaster
Koopmans, William	- Pastor of Hope CRC, Brantford
Peereboom, Roelof	- Pastor of Mount Hamilton CRC, Hamilton
Ponsen, Ben	- Pastor of Maranathat CRC, York
Schoon, Chris	- Pastor of First CRC, Hamilton
Vander Horst, Everett	- Pastor of Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Ancaster
Vandermeer, Jeff	- Pastor of Immanuel CRC, Simcoe

Elder:

Vandervliet, Mark	- Elder at Immanuel CRC, Simcoe has a desire to serve as delegate. He is a retired Professional Engineer; served on Classis Hamilton Ministry Team and Classis Interim Committee; have been delegated to Synod 4 previous times; Currently serving on Governing Council at Simcoe Immanuel CRC. Primary focus – how to become a disciple-making church in cooperation with fellow Christians in our community's neighbouring churches.
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Deacons:

Dekker, John	- Deacon at New Street CRC, Burlington has a desire to serve as delegate. John is recently retired from his work in management and finance, and dedicates much of his "spare" time to diaconal work with New St. CRC. Over the years he has served in many capacities in the church; currently he serves as chair of the Diaconate, and clerk of Council.
Taylor, Gina	- Has been a deacon synodical delegate twice. Retired construction project manager. Has served as council clerk for two years, been a member of Classis Finance Committee.

Classis Interim Committee:

Koopmans, William	- Pastor of Hope CRC, Brantford to fill the preferred second pastor position on the CIC.
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Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee:

Vandenbrink, Ron	- He has been a church planter in both British Columbia and Alberta, and recently moved into the area to take up a new role as Executive Director with Diaconal Ministries of Canada.
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Classis Hamilton Youth Ministries Team:

Ponsen, Ben - Pastor of Maranatha CRC, York.

Nominations for Redeemer University College Board Member:

No nominations received to date.

Nominations for World Renew Board of Delegates Member:

No nominations received to date.

Calvin College Board of Trustees:

(Classes Chatham, Hamilton, Huron, and Niagara)

_____ *Ms. Andria Barends* is a 2011 business-finance graduate of Calvin College. She is a member of Bethany CRC in Fenwick, Ontario, where she helped to launch a group for 18- 30-year olds. She also leads a Bible study group for teenage girls and has served on the pastor search committee. Ms. Barends is a project manager for United Floral Distributors. In nominating her, the classis feels that she would represent the voice of the younger generation on Calvin's board.

_____ *Rev. Willemina L. Zwart* is a 1993 graduate of Calvin College and went on to Geneva College to earn a master of arts degree in higher education. She received her M.Div. degree from Regent College and completed the Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy at Calvin Theological Seminary. Rev. Zwart is the pastor at Good News CRC in London, Ontario. She has served on several classis committees and is currently serving on the Classis Chatham church planting team.

4. DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA REPORT



January 18, 2018

Dear partners in ministry,

Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) is actively working on implementing the newly revised Strategic Plan developed and approved in 2017. This plan was developed under the direction of Ron Vanden Brink, National Director, in conjunction with the Board of Directors, DMC staff and strategic stakeholders. The process involved a detailed review of DMC's vision, mission, policies and processes, and was a helpful exercise in providing focus and direction for the organization to move forward.

DMC is primarily an organization created "by Deacons for Deacons", focusing on helping Deacons fulfill their calling/mandate as spelled out in the Church Order (2016) and the Charge to Deacons as articulated in the form for the Ordination of Elders and Deacons (2016).

One of the primary ways that DMC fulfills its calling is through part time Diaconal Ministry Developers (DMDs) who work with churches to animate, encourage, coach, and educate both ordained Deacons and others involved in diakonia. The DMDs help Deacons understand their roles and live into their callings in the church and its community. DMDs are also available to assist others involved in God glorifying service, doing their best to connect annually with every CRC across Canada.

Priorities for 2018 include:

- ▣ evaluating the value of the annual Ancaster Day of Encouragement (DOE) as well as other regional DOEs and the relationship between DMC and regional DOEs
- ▣ reviewing the ways in which DMC is financed and developing a fiscal strategy for the future
- ▣ strengthening communication strategies, developing brand recognition, and promoting the use of available resources

DMC has a robust agenda and is working hard to ensure it is an impactful and effective resource for Deacons and the broader work of diakonia. We covet your prayers and invite you to visit our website www.diaconalministriescanada to become familiar with the vast array of resources available. For more information, call us at the Burlington office (1-800-730-3490 ext. 4304) or contact one of the board members listed below.

DMC's Executive for 2016-17:

Chair – Erica Snippe-Juurakko (Thunder Bay, ON)

erica.snippejuurakko@gmail.com

Vice-Chair – Martin Slofstra (Toronto, ON)

martinslofstra9@gmail.com Secretary –

Norm Hasyema (Leduc, AB)

normhaayema@gmail.com Treasurer – Scott

Plante (Hamilton, ON)

scott.plante@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted:

Erica Snippe-Juurakko ~ DMC Board Chair

ron vanden brink ~ DMC National Director