



ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA

CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

January 17, 2017

MEETING COMMENCES AT 2:30 PM AT EBENEZER CRC, JARVIS

There is a section included in this Addendum on the next page. It 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.

There are four additional reports in this addendum that were received after the original agenda deadline. These are a report from the Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee, from the Canadian Ministries Director, from World Renew, and from SEA to SEA.

After the agenda was sent out, Herman Praamsma notified us that he would not be able to attend as synodical deputy after all. Hendrick Bruinsma, his alternate, has agreed to serve in his stead.

A further request was received from the Shalom Manor Chaplaincy Committee to formally approve the disbandment of the current committee and to relieve our appointed delegates from any further responsibility. This item will be formally presented by the CMT and dealt with as 5.1 of the agenda.

The Credentials Committee Report is also attached.

Finally, you will find the outcome of the survey conducted among the ministers to determine their availability and willingness to be delegated to Synod 2017 attached as well.

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 and are held in the afternoon and evening. Start time is determined based on the length/needs of the agenda.
- Ordinarily a ministry session of some kind is held in the evening in order to allow for members of your congregation to participate.

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/rules_of_procedure_of_classis_hamilton_iss ue_2016_1.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, delegates are to seek the permission of the chair
- 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.

1. DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES	5
2. SHALOM MANOR CHAPLAINCY COMMUNICATION	6
3. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT	7
4. CHHMC REPORT	8
5. MINISTER DELEGATE TO SYNOD SURVEY RESULTS.....	10
6. CANADIAN MINISTRIES DIRECTOR'S REPORT	11
7. WORLD RENEW REPORT	13
8. SEA TO SEA REPORT	18

1. DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Church	First Name	Last Name	Title
Ancaster CRC	Rita	Klein-Geltink	Pastor Delegate
Ancaster CRC	Nancy	Voorberg	Elder Delegate
Ancaster CRC	Paul	Hagen	Elder Delegate
Ancaster CRC	Adam	Veenstra	Pstor Alternate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Everett	Vander Horst	Pastor Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Judy	Cook	Elder Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Kevin	Vander Meulen	Elder Delegate
Hope	Andrew	Zomerman	Pastor Delegate
Hope	Tim	Vaandering	Elder Delegate
Hope	Garrett	DeVries	Deacon Delegate
Hope	John	Hensen	Elder Alternate
New Street	Joel	Bootsma	Pastor Delegate
New Street	Adrian	VanderVaart	Elder Delegate
New Street	John	Dekker	Deacon Delegate
Faith	Kevin	DeRaaf	Pastor Delegate
Faith	Henry	Hess	Elder Delegate
Faith	Liz	Busuttil	Deacon Delegate
Faith	Homer	Lensink	Elder Alternate
Faith	John	Wesselson	Deacon Alternate
Calvin	Ken	Benjamins	Pastor Delegate
Calvin	John	Schotsman	Elder Delegate
Calvin	Ben	Lammers	Deacon Delegate
Calvary	Gareth	Harker	Pastor Delegate
Calvary	Ralph	Groen	Elder Delegate
Calvary	Chris	Veurink	Deacon Delegate
Calvary	Arnold	Wouda	Elder Alternate
Calvary	Dave	Vandermeulen	Deacon Alternate
Hagersville Community	Jeff	Klingenberg	Pastor Delegate
Hagersville Community	John	Kraay	Elder Delegate
Hagersville Community	Henny	Arends	Deacon Delegate
Hagersville Community	Erik	VanGroningen	Deacon Alternate
First	Chris	Schoon	Pastor Delegate
First	Justin	Cook	Elder Delegate
First	Gina	Taylor	Deacon Delegate
First	JD	Alkema	Elder Alternate
First	Matt	Van Huizen	Deacon Alternate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Anthony	Elenbaas	Pastor Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	David	Rumph	Elder Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Jeri	Batterink	Deacon Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Martin	Joldersma	Elder Alternate
Mt. Hamilton	Bob	DeHaan	Elder Delegate
Mt. Hamilton	John	Demik	Elder Delegate
Mt. Hamilton	Paul	Vreugdenhil	Deacon Delegate
Mt. Hamilton	Luke	Demik	Deacon Alternate
Ebenezer	Daryl	DeKlerk	Pastor Delegate
Ebenezer	Gary	Sytsma	Elder Delegate
Ebenezer	Cory	Vangroningen	Deacon Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Jeff	Vandermeer	Pastor Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Ray	Anema	Elder Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Mark	Vandervliet	Elder Delegate
Bethel	Bruce	Adema	Pastor Delegate
Bethel	Mike	Tigchelaar	Elder Delegate
Bethel	Jack	Traas	Deacon Delegate
Maranatha	Kevin	Vanderspek	Elder Delegate
Maranatha	Stan	Riewald	Elder Delegate
Maranatha	Mark	Deboer	Deacon Delegate

2. *SHALOM MANOR CHAPLAINCY COMMUNICATION*

December 13, 2016

Final Report of the Shalom Manor Chaplaincy committee re: the expanded mandate given by Classis Hamilton and Niagara in Feb of 2016.

The Proposal was that:

The Shalom Manor Chaplaincy Committee (SMCC) requests the approval of a join resolution of both Classis Hamilton and Classis Niagara at their respective meetings in February 2016. The SMCC will present a proposal, to both Classis, for a new model of governance and financial support for the Chaplaincy ministry at Shalom Manor & Gardens. This new model will, at minimum:

1. Broaden the governance of the Chaplaincy ministry to include all interested Reformed denominations and congregations residing in the Hamilton and Niagara regions;
2. Broaden the financial support to include all Reformed denominations and congregations who participate in the governance of the Chaplaincy ministry;
3. An interim report of the work of the SMCC will be made available to both Classes in time for the October 2016 meetings with final recommendations to be received in time for the February 2017 meetings.
4. We ask each classis to table and/or hold off implementation of any overtures dealing with the current funding model pending the final report of the SMCC on this matter.

In October of 2016, both Classis Hamilton and Classis Niagara passed a resolution that transferred the governance of the Chaplaincy ministry to the Board of Shalom Manor and Gardens and agreed to a 5 year funding program to continue the partnership of this vital ministry.

The Board of Shalom Manor and Gardens has now undertaken the creation of a transition team to prepare for the orderly transfer of governance and as such the long standing work of the Shalom Manor Chaplaincy Committee (SMCC) has come to an end.

SMCC now requests that Classis Hamilton and Classis Niagara release the members of the SMCC from their terms and consider their mandate complete.

In Christ

Pastor Frank Engelage Chair
Grace VanStaalduinen – Classis Hamilton
Rev. John Postuma – Classis Hamilton
Charlene Oudman – Classis Niagara
Rev. Fred Vanderberg – Classis Niagara
Dick VanDyke – Board of Shalom Manor
Karen Tigchelaar – Board of Shalom Manor
Karen Plantinga – Staff Liaison
Rev. Peter Janssens – Chaplain

3. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Faith CRC, Burlington:

We would like to have a conversation about aligning the classis ministry vision with the new denominational ministry plan, “Our Journey 2020.”

Credential Committee’s Recommendation:

That Classis charge the Classis Ministry Team (CMT) to process “Our Journey 2020”, and find ways for Classis Hamilton to engage this vision initiative.

Grounds:

1. It aligns the work and ministry of Classis with the work and ministry of the Denomination that we are a part of.
2. The mandate of the CMT includes connecting Denominational ministries with the ministry of Classis Hamilton.
3. The goals of the CRC, as put forth in the ministry plan of the CRC (“Our Journey 2020”), align with Classis’ goals of strengthening congregations and helping them thrive. “Our Journey 2020” may give direction for Classis ministries and discussions.
4. There have been many conversations, lots of thought, and plenty of work put in to create “Our Journey 2020” that we should benefit from. “Our Journey 2020” also includes resources that may prove useful.

4. CHHMC REPORT

Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee

Report to Classis
December 8, 2016

A. Church Planting Strategy Update

The CHHMC was glad to have church planting affirmed as an essential part of our mandate in the course of our discussion at the May 2016 Classis meeting. While enthusiasm is present for planting a new church in principle, there was also a clear message that the classis is not at this time ready to proceed with a specific and ambitious plan. Essentially, in answer to our request for affirmation of church planting, what your committee heard was “Yes, but not yet.”

Elevating church planting as a value in the classis will require a significant investment of time, money, expertise and other resources. As part of a long-term strategy of preparation, the CHHMC is been building a relationship with Rev. John Bouwers and the Crosstowne church plant in Milton. Not only is Milton geographically relevant to us as on the very border of our classical boundaries, but John is well known to many of us as a recent pastor in the classis (at Meadowlands Fellowship). John is well placed to advise us on the next steps for church planting within our own boundaries.

To facilitate that relationship, building goodwill for our mutual benefit, the CHHMC has given a grant of \$3,000 to the Crosstowne church plant in 2016, and plans to do so again in 2017. This assistance is a way that we can be solidly ‘in the game’ of church planting, and is a good and fair reflection of the ‘already and not yet’ reality of our heart of reaching our neighbours through church planting in the classis.

B. Church Planting Reserves

At present the CHHMC has a church planting reserve fund of just under \$40,000. The purpose of this fund is to give a solid financial boost to a church plant as it seeks to get established with significant initial capital costs (space rental, office equipment, purchasing property, etc.). Conversations with other classes and an awareness of such costs in our area have made it apparent that this reserve fund is too small. Adding to the fund is better done slowly, over several years of preparation, rather than by presenting Classis Hamilton with a large budget request all at once.

However, in 2013, a decision was made that no further funds would be collected for the church planting reserve fund until the CHHMC had presented a clear plan of action to Classis. As we begin moving toward formulating a plan, we see clearly that the saving and investment phase cannot be delayed.

To rectify this situation, the CHHMC will be making two requests in the coming year: that the decision to halt funding of the reserve be rescinded, and a budget request in the fall for continuing to build the reserve fund.

C. Outreach Ministry Grants

As part of our mandate to encourage and equip churches in their local outreach efforts, the CHHMC has funds set aside for assisting congregations. If your congregation has a missional ministry initiative that just needs some seed money to get started (advertising, food, Bible study materials, etc), we would be happy to be of help! Keep an eye out for more details and a call for proposals in the coming months.

In His Service,

Your Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee

Kevin DeRaaf

Gerald Klein-Geltink

Marian Lensink (*ex officio*)

Greg Sinclair

Harmene Sytsma

Everett Vander Horst (*chair*)

5. MINISTER DELEGATE TO SYNOD SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Results for Minister Delegates to Synod 2017

A consultation was held among all pastors in classis to determine those who would be able to attend Synod 2017 as delegates representing Classis Hamilton. The responses are listed below.

Name	Able to Go	No Desire to Go	Comment
Ken Benjamins	X		
Kevin DeRaaf		X	My council has decided that I will be away too long if I go after returning from Israel
Rita Klein-Geltink	X	X	I will be returning from the Israel trip on June 6th
Gareth Harker		X	I am in my first charge and will have just returned from Israel. It would not be fair to my congregation if I went to synod this year
Anthony Elenbaas		X	I am serving as one of the CRC delegates to the 1.5 week meeting of the World Communion of Reformed Churches
Jeff Klingenberg		X	Just returning from the Middle East.
Bruce Adema		X	Requests not to be on the ballot
Andrew Zomeran		X	I attended synod in 2016
Adam Veenstra		X	I will already be away January, February and May for Faith Formation, New Mission Agency
Joel Bootsma		X	
Jeff Vandermeer		X	Not available for trip to Israel or synod
Chris Schoon		X	Not available for trip to Israel or synod
Daryl DeKlerk		X	Not able to go after trip to Israel
Everett Vander Horst		X	Not able to attend this year.

Other ministers willing and able to go:

Ed Visser	X		Retired Pastor willing to go
Greg Sinclair	X		Specialized Pastor willing to go

6. CANADIAN MINISTRIES DIRECTOR'S REPORT



December 8, 2016

Consider this an update to you as local church leaders as to the goings-on from the perspective of the Canadian Ministries Office. It is being written just prior to Christmas so I will take a few liberties in telling you about updates with a mind to what I imagine will have happened by the time you gather, unless our Lord returns prior to that time. I will do so in bullet form as a way of saving you from an even longer Classis agenda.

- We have been busy with the pursuits of collaborative ministry efforts which are centered around the 'Our Journey 2020' ministry plan. We are engaged vis a vis our agencies and ministries in efforts that bolster the work of local churches in their communities, discipleship, and leadership, all in a reformed fashion. Measurables and metrics are all part of discerning good behaviours. Ask about content for each area or let us know where your church is most passionate in the context of those Desired Futures and we would be happy to partner for ministry growth in your church.
- The effort of serving Canadian churches continues through resourcing via our crcna.org/Canada website as well as the directory and mostly through the ongoing progress in creating a "Customer Service" entity that has as its main thrust the serving of churches through every means possible and tracking with them not just through one agency but through all that the CRCNA and its partners offer. Next time any ministry issue comes up in your church, think about calling Servicelink in the Burlington office as a way to begin the journey toward a solution. Great stories abound about the early ventures into this behavior: <https://www.crcna.org/news-and-views/road-trip-burlington-building-bridges-connection>
- Through the gracious support of philanthropists within the CRCNA and much work by staff, the development, piloting and implementation of a multi-functioned app for one's phone will have been launched by the time you meet as classis. It is meant to be missional for newcomers or new believers. It is meant to be a community builder for members of your church. It is meant to provide spiritual growth content for every user. It is meant to host all your churches video content (ie. sermons). It is meant to resource leaders and also to bridge the gap between the denominational tools and the local church. And, it is meant to be a channel for fundraising and even act to foster prayer community. Look for it to come as a free option for your church VERY soon. Here is a 'still' of its opening screen:



- Our Canadian agencies have partnered together and stretched their existing budgets to experiment in a trial hire of an individual, Cindy Stover, who will be working to integrate all the areas of justice worked on in the CRCNA within Canada for the sake of engaging the local church toward greater Godly integration of justice themes into their local/regional efforts. She started December and is tying together the work of World Renew, Diaconal Ministries Canada, Centre for Public Dialogue, Office of Social Justice and others. You will likely hear from her at some point. Ask about some very new advocacy pieces that your local church small groups could easily use and you'll be impressed at how quickly your voice is heard in Ottawa with your local MP!
- In January we will have met again with the Stated Clerks and another Classis Ministry Leader for a two day meeting in Burlington to take further steps toward Classis health. You should expect your representatives to report back into Classis with the beginning of ideas and discussions around the how Classis can be reimagined to execute life changing ministry for your region and through the partnership that is the group of CRC churches in its constituency. Thank you for your partnership in this growth.
- Our aboriginal ministries continue to do wonderful work and represent the best of the Christian Reformed Church's contextualized ministry well in their respective places. Together with that, the Canadian Aboriginal Ministry Committee puts in a lion-share effort in making content and resources to churches across the country. Knowing the importance of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, this is engaging work and very, very relevant.
- The seemingly distant Canadian National Gathering has had some interesting impact. Potential for nation-wide prayer ministry, integrating regionalized ministry approaches, affirming the ministry plan, strengthening of relationships to Mission Montreal, practices of resourcing congregations, and leadership training ideas have all come out of the Gathering and will continue to shape us as Canadian CRCs.

I look forward to speaking about these things and much more when we get together. In the meantime, let me encourage you to help your church understand the good, good story of the CRC through the lenses of the Ministry Plan videos you can find here: <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/our-journey-2020>

They are great for offering slots on Sunday, congregational meetings, small group kick-starters etc.

Serving you in Christ,



Darren Roorda
Canadian Ministries Servant



Submitted by Peter Bulthuis, Associate Director of Church Relations

This year, World Renew's theme is ***Changing the Story***. Together with you, World Renew is equipping men, women, and children to change their stories of hardship into testimonies of hope. Working through churches and Christian partners, World Renew is tackling poverty, disaster, and injustice, so that communities can achieve enough food, good health, fruitful work and peace & justice. We thank the board delegate of this classis: Jason DeBoer, for his partnership in this work. To read stories of change, visit www.worldrenew.net/changingthestory.

A. General Updates

- **Increasing Denominational Diversity:** World Renew is seeing the need to increase our denominational diversity by developing a strategy to increase partnerships and revenue streams with more churches outside the Christian Reformed Church.
- **Speakers List/Workshop List:** A list of World Renew speakers and workshops will be made available on our website in 2017 in order for groups to more easily build a connection with World Renew.
- **Speaking Engagements:** Various presentations were made in Fall 2016 by the Canadian Church Relations team as we continue to make efforts to ensure World Renew's ministry is shared with churches, schools and groups across the country.
- **School Connections:** Increasing connections are being made between World Renew and various Christian schools across the country. Many schools are using resources from World Renew to learn about development and disaster response. Schools are also choosing World Renew to express their love and support for people in need, through donating to its work.

B. Staff Changes

There have been many changes within the Canadian World Renew team in the Burlington office.

- **Sarah Brooks** was hired as Intern, Event and Communications for the Sea to Sea team and started in her new role in October 2016.
- **Cameron Klapwyk**, Refugee Program Associate, was hired in October 2016 to assist with the increasing volume of refugee sponsorship requests we have received.
- **Emma Cunningham**, Donor Relations Associate in BC, is on parental leave. **Cheryl Hanks** was hired to bridge the gap for Western Canada and started in November 2017.
- **Anne Varghese** of the Constituency Relations Team has stepped down from her part time role as Donor Relations Associate however, will remain in her Administrative Assistant position with World Renew.
- **Rebecca Walker**, Refugee Program Coordinator, is on leave with plans to return in early 2017.
- **Michelle Kikkert**, Digital Communications Associate, will be returning from parental leave in January 2017. We say farewell to Cameron Phillips who filled her parental leave placement.
- **Melody Mendonca**, Advocacy Manager for the Good Soil Campaign, will be finishing her role this month however, will be continuing on in a smaller capacity providing support for World Renew's diversity and anti-racism group.

- **Iryna Goy** has been hired as Administrative Assistant for the Systems Group on a part time basis and started her position this month.

C. Upcoming Offering Dates

Here are World Renew's upcoming offering dates for the first half of 2017, as approved by Synod.

- **March 5 – Canadian Foodgrains Bank Sunday:** World Renew's total funding for food assistance, food security and conservation agriculture programs through CFGB in 2015/16 was \$9,212,797, which is about \$1.58 million more than the previous fiscal year. Offering resources will be sent to the churches in early 2017.
- **April 23 – Refugee Sunday:** The refugee sponsorship work being done churches across Canada will be both celebrated and encouraged. Thanks, churches of Classis Hamilton, for your part in this! Refugee Sunday materials and other resources are available at www.worldrenew.net/respondtorefugees.
- **May 14 (Mother's Day) – Maternal and Child Health:** World Renew's Maternal & Child Health Program is an important part of the community development work in almost every country where we have a presence. For Maternal and Child Health Sunday details, visit www.worldrenew.net/motherchild.
- For more information and resources, please visit www.worldrenew.net/churchresources.

C. Community Development: Stories of Transformation

The following story of transformation, entitled "Because We Are Together", was written by Rebecca Warren, World Renew Board Member for Classis Alberta North, after a recent trip to Kenya. For photos, please visit www.worldrenew.net/renewcrew.

As a group of faith leaders traveling on a Learning Tour with Canadian Foodgrains Bank from July 10-24, 2016, we came representing different denominations and partner agencies, from different parts of Canada, but Jane's inviting smile made it easy for us to feel at home together as she narrated inspiring stories about the changes on her farm.

Jane received training in conservation agriculture through World Renew's partner Anglican Development Services—Mount Kenya (ADS-Mt. Kenya). On her half-acre farm, Jane uses many new techniques, including crop rotation, minimum tillage, and mulching her crops to preserve moisture. The thriving green maize plants taller than Jane's head are proof of how effective that has been. Her neighbours said she must have been breaking her back to carry enough water to produce a crop so green and healthy, but when she told them she was not, they could hardly believe it. Now that her neighbours see the results, they want to know more, and Jane is eager to tell them. The original group of 160 farmers who received the training through ADS-Mt. Kenya have gone on to train others, and now a total of 640 farmers have learned how conservation agriculture practices can improve their nutrition, increase yields, and enhance food security in the region.

*The success of projects like this can be traced back to a **web of partnerships**—from the government level, to organizations like World Renew and ADS-Mt. Kenya, to field staff who deliver training programs, and the person-to-person relationships between local farmers.*

As one of the member agencies for Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB), World Renew has a key role in the Good Soil campaign, which seeks to draw attention to the need to increase support for small-scale farmers in Canada's international aid programs. As noted in the Good Soil materials, almost half the world's

farmers are women, but they receive only 5% of farmer education and improvement services worldwide. The effect of this training was immediate and obvious in Jane's life.

She noted that her family used to experience three hunger months per year, but now her farm not only produces enough to feed her family, but also a surplus that she is able to sell. With the money from those sales, Jane was able to open a small one-room "hotel," where people come to buy food or rent space to sleep. She has plans to expand her farm by adding some cows and goats, and building a fence.

Jane's generosity extends beyond her hospitality to a group of faith leaders from Canada and her role as a community leader, sharing the training she received with her neighbours; she also would not let World Renew Kenya Program Consultant Stephan Lutz leave without two of her beautiful sweet potatoes (freshly dug out of the ground!), and two of her chickens.

It has been nearly three months since I traveled to Kenya, but the memories that come back to me most often are the faces of Jane and the other farmers we visited, the warm hugs and handshakes, the smiles and generosity that were part of every visit we made. I wish I could tell Jane and so many others just how much they taught me in our short time together: how we are made to be in community, how we can share with others no matter how little we have for ourselves, how transformation happens not just from ideas but through relationships, how partnerships between the government and other agencies make possible this kind of dynamic growth and opportunity, and most of all how (as Jane said when we first came to her farm), the best things happen—and we all have the opportunity feel a little more at home, with enough food for everyone—because we are together.

D. Disaster Response: North America (DRS) and International (IDR)

Being an integral part of the community in which we work has always been a hallmark of World Renew's activities world-wide. The approach that World Renew uses has been featured in a recent book publication, **From Aid to Trade** by Daniel Jean-Louis and Jacqueline Klamer. The book highlights World Renew's response to the 2010 Haiti earthquake, noting that World Renew purchased more than 90 percent of its relief and reconstruction efforts locally, in partnership with Haitian businesses, resulting in job creation for the community. The book contrasts this approach with other aid organizations who purchase food and materials from foreign sources, putting Haitian farmers and small businesses at risk of losing their livelihoods. To learn more, visit www.worldrenew.net/our-stories/aid-trade-haiti.

World Renew has, for years, been involved in global discussions about how we honour families and communities we serve in our disaster response and development by enabling them to hold us accountable for the commitments we make to them through our programs. World Renew as a member of the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) and a founding member of the CHS Alliance. The CHS Alliance is a group of over 200 organizations working together to hold each other accountable to the **Core Humanitarian Standards** (CHS) through self-assessments, peer review and external certification. World Renew is committed to becoming certified against these standards and is working to improve and strengthen accountability tools within the organization. A working group has been established within World Renew to give guidance to this process which will include a review of policies and procedures and strengthening of feedback and complaint mechanisms at the community level.

E. Refugee Settlement Activities

Refugee settlement statistics from January 1, 2016 to date:

- Number of applications submitted by CRCs – 113
- Number of CRC churches who have submitted sponsorship applications – 43
- Number of applications submitted by churches of other denominations, community organizations, individuals, etc. – 34
- Total number of applications submitted by both CRC and non-CRCs – 160
- Number of family members sponsored by CRCs – 315
- Number of family members sponsored by churches of other denominations, community organizations, individuals, etc. – 111
- Total number of family members sponsored by both CRC sponsors and non-CRC sponsors – 426

During the latter part of 2016, the number of applications we have submitted has continued to increase. We continue to get requests from new sponsors. Fortunately, we have been able to access additional allocation spaces to accommodate these requests as World Renew used all the initial annual allocation in mid-August. Allocations for 2017 are expected early in the New Year. Thanks very much to the five CRCs of Classis Hamilton which sponsored refugees during 2015-2016.

F. Justice

Justice and advocacy are key parts to World Renew’s work in North America and globally. So much so, that we partnered with a few other agencies and organizations to develop two publications:

- **Biblical Advocacy 101:** A 14-page booklet describing the basis and practice of Biblical advocacy: why and how to approach government members to seek justice. To learn more, visit www.worldrenew.net/advocacy.
- **Live Just.ly:** An excellent small group, 10-lesson study guide on justice or a resource for a sermon series. The Canadian edition of this book was published in August of this year. For more information and to order copies, visit www.worldrenew.net/livejustly.

G. Sea to Sea

Registration is now open to bicyclists and volunteers on the Sea to Sea cross-continental bike tour, an athletic event that raises funds to help end extreme poverty worldwide. Registrants can sign up for the entire 9-week ride or a segment of it at seatosea.org. The full tour takes place from June 26 to August 31, 2017, and spans the U.S. and Canada from Vancouver to Halifax. Please see elsewhere in this Classis agenda addendum for a fuller **Sea to Sea** report.

Sea to Sea currently has 43 riders signed up, 8 volunteers registered, and \$86,000 dollars raised out of our \$3,000,000 goal. We aim to have over 200 riders on the tour, which makes recruiting our priority.

H. What else can the people and the churches of Classis Hamilton do?

There are so many ways in which World Renew can support you and your church, and you and your church can support the kingdom work of World Renew.

- Read the newly published “**Live Just.ly**” book written by World Renew and the Micah Challenge – use the book with your small group, as a sermon series idea, or to establish an “Advocacy and Justice Ministry” team in your church. Order your copy at www.worldrenew.net/livejustly
- Learn about the **Global Engagement Opportunities** program and see how your church can become involved at www.worldrenew.net/geo.
- Find out if you can be an **International Relief Manager (IRM)** for World Renew. Learn more at www.worldrenew.net/irm

- Initiate a **Global Partnership** between your church and a community where World Renew works. Find out more at www.worldrenew.net/globalpartnership.

Contact Peter Bulthuis (pbulthuis@worldrenew.net; 800-730-3490, ext. 4237) for more ideas on what you can do. To learn more about World Renew's ministry and sign up for our regular newsletter, please visit www.worldrenew.net.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Bulthuis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Bulthuis, Church Relations

Intro video: www.vimeo.com/173947178

The purpose of Sea to Sea:

Sea to Sea has one purpose: Cycling to end poverty. Sea to Sea is a bicycling mission fighting poverty through fundraising and awareness. Riders from around the world cycle across North America advocating for hope in the face of the poverty cycle.

Poverty is a real, immediate problem. 800 million people live in extreme poverty in the world today and nearly half of the world is living on less than \$2.50 per day. Sea to Sea is a response to global poverty—we can and should be working toward solutions. So we cycle.

How it works:

Sea to Sea supports co-hosts Partners Worldwide and World Renew in their efforts to fight poverty around the world.

Partners Worldwide is a global Christian network that uses business as the way to end poverty. They partner with local businesses and businesspeople around the world to use four methods—mentoring, training, access to capital, and advocacy—with the mission of ending poverty.

World Renew envisions a world where people experience and extend Christ's compassion and live together in hope as God's community. Through microloans, community development, and savings groups, World Renew is equipping people struggling with poverty to change their stories so that more communities can achieve enough food, good health, fruitful work, and greater peace and justice.

How Sea to Sea can help your church's local poverty-fighting efforts:

Since 2005, Sea to Sea has been cycling to benefit churches and nonprofits working to break the cycle of poverty. The Tour Partner program is designed to create funding for your church and the local poverty ministries you support.

Churches recruit members to participate in Sea to Sea. One important thing to mention: when recruiting people to ride, don't restrict it to known cyclists or athletes. We have seen some of the most unexpected people be called by God to help in this mission. Ask everyone!

Now, onto the specifics.

Each Sea to Sea rider has a fundraising goal based on their ride length: a one-week rider has a fundraising goal of \$3k, a two-week rider has a fundraising goal of \$6k, and a full-length rider has a fundraising goal of \$12k. When your church recruits members to ride, 20% of the funds raised, up to that \$3/6/12k goal will be given to your church's local poverty-fighting ministry.

After the fundraising goal is hit, your church will receive 50% of funds raised for every dollar above the fund-raising goal.

For example, let's pretend your recruit is a full-length rider (goal of \$12k) and raises \$16k. Your church would receive 20% of the money up to the \$12k goal, or \$2.4k.

Your church receives 50% of the money after the \$12k goal. Since the rider raised \$16k, they are \$4k over goal. 50% of that is \$2k. Add the money earned at 50% to the money earned at 20% and you have a total of \$4.4k to use for your church's local poverty fighting efforts.

Visit www.seatosea.org/partner to learn more.