

**ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA**  
**CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
**May 26, 2015**

**MEETING COMMENCES AT 2:00PM AT THE BETHEL CRC, WATERDOWN**

Below, please find the final reports for the upcoming Classis meeting.

The Synodical Deputies for the meeting will be Rev. Herman Praamsma (Classis Toronto), Rev. James Dekker (Classis Niagara) and Rev. Ron Fisher (Classis Huron). They will be present to deal with the request of Rev. Jim Pot for honourable release under Church Order Article 14-b, as well as the Article 23-a position description at Parkview Meadows. See the overture Committee's reports in this Addendum.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> item in the Overtures report (Jarvis, Ebenezer CRC) regarding ministry shares for the Shalom Manor & Gardens Chaplaincy Ministry.

There was also a report from the Shalom chaplain that was received late. Please note that Rev. Fred Vandenberg is concluding his position as Shalom Manor & Gardens Chaplain effective June 14.

Finally, there is a letter from Rev. Dr. Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director, responding to the February 24, 2015 communication from Classis Hamilton regarding the Syrian refugee issue. The CMT will consider whether to invite Dr. Roorda to address Classis on this subject at its October meeting. You are also encouraged to check the information at the web site [www.crcna.org/Canada](http://www.crcna.org/Canada) where you will find the refugee link to all the tools and resources CRCNA Canada has put together for now.

The audited financial statements and the auditor's report are in a separate file since your clerk currently does not have the software necessary to stitch them into a single file. The special resolution of the board of directors approving financial statements is attached for your information.

Please also note that Pastor John Veenstra will not be available for the opening prayer time since he will be in Thunder Bay. Marian Lensink will be taking care of that responsibility for him.

Thank you,



Dick L. Kranendonk

Stated Clerk

[clerk@classishamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@classishamilton.ca)

289-239-7564

1. DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES .....	3
2. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS .....	4
3. OVERTURES COMMITTEE REPORT .....	5
4. SHALOM MANOR & GARDENS CHAPLAIN SPRING REPORT.....	6
5. RESPONSE TO SERIAN REFUGEE COMMUNICATION .....	8
6. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND RELATED MATTER .....	13

1. DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Church	First Name	Last Name	Title
Ancaster CRC	Rita	Klein-Geltink	Pastor Delegate
Ancaster CRC	Ralph	Luimes	Deacon Delegate
Ancaster CRC	Adrian	Guldemon	Elder Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship CRC	Everett	Vander Horst	Pastor Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship CRC	Hilda	Roukema	Elder Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship CRC	Susan	Maclarkey	Elder Delegate
Hope CRC Brantford	Andrew	Zomerma	Pastor Delegate
Hope CRC Brantford	Fred	Reitsma	Elder Delegate
Hope CRC Brantford	Willem	Vos	Elder Delegate
Burlington CRC	Joel	Bootsma	Pastor Delegate
Burlington CRC	Albert	Wimmers	Elder Delegate
Burlington CRC	Ernie	Stronks	Elder Delegate
Faith CRC Burlington	Kevin	DeRaaf	Pastor Delegate
Faith CRC Burlington	Colin	DeWeerd	Elder Delegate
Faith CRC Burlington	Andries	Alkema	Elder Delegate
Calvin RCR Dundas	Paul	Vanden Brink	Pastor Delegate
Calvin RCR Dundas	Rob	Koning	Elder Delegate
Calvary CRC Flamborough	TBD		
Calvary CRC Flamborough	TBD		
Hagersville Community CRC	Jeff	Klingenberg	Pastor Delegate
Hagersville Community CRC	Davis	Miedema	Elder Delegate
Hagersville Community CRC	Peter	Wonder	Elder Delegate
First Hamilton CRC	Chris	Schoon	Pastor Delegate
First Hamilton CRC	Gary	Hutten	Deacon Delegate
First Hamilton CRC	Aaron	Schat	Elder Delegate
Immanuel CRC Hamilton	Henry	Kranenburg	Pastor Delegate
Immanuel CRC Hamilton	David	Rumph	Elder Delegate
Immanuel CRC Hamilton	Anthony	Elenbaas	Pastor Delegate
Immanuel CRC Hamilton	Bob	Brown	Elder Delegate
Mt. Hamilton CRC	John	Demik	Elder Delegate
Mt. Hamilton CRC	Mark	Demik	Elder Delegate
Mt. Hamilton CRC	Harmen	Vandermeulen	Elder Delegate
New Hope Church Hamilton	Danielle	Rowaan	Non-Voting Delegate
New Hope Church Hamilton	Greg	Sinclair	Non-Voting Delegate
Ebenezer CRC Jarvis	John	Huyser	Pastor Delegate
Ebenezer CRC Jarvis	Bernie	Wessling	Elder Delegate
Ebenezer CRC Jarvis	Daryl	DeKlerk	Pastor Delegate
Ebenezer CRC Jarvis	Alfred	Breukelman	Elder Delegate
Immanuel CRC Simcoe	Jeff	Vandermeer	Pastor Delegate
Immanuel CRC Simcoe	Julie	Berkel	Elder Delegate
Immanuel CRC Simcoe	John	Oosterveld	Deacon Delegate
Bethel CRC Waterdown	Bruce	Adema	Pastor Delegate
Bethel CRC Waterdown	Mike	Hutchings	Elder Delegate
Bethel CRC Waterdown	Janette	Wamsteker	Deacon Delegate
Maranatha CRC York	Maurice	Elgersma	Elder Delegate
Maranatha CRC York	Jake	Termoshuizen	Deacon Delegate

## 2. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Three Classis Hamilton congregations submitted requests via their credentials.

### 1. New Hope, Hamilton:

1. Content: Request church visitors for continued discussion of organizing.
2. **Recommendation:** *that Classis through the CIC assign a church visiting team to meet with New Hope, and that the church visitors include representatives from First Hamilton CRC's Council in these discussions.*

Grounds:

- i. Classis Hamilton designated First Hamilton CRC as the neighboring council responsible for care of New Hope in compliance by C.O. article 38a. (Classis Hamilton, Minutes 7.0, May 21, 2013)
- ii. In response to Classis' previous recommendation (Classis Hamilton, Minutes 4.1.4, February 18, 2014), members of New Hope's Leadership Team and liaisons from First Hamilton's Council have met to discuss the potential of New Hope's transition to organized status. Leadership in both congregations would appreciate advice from the church visitors regarding the potential of New Hope becoming an organized congregation.

### 2. Hope CRC, Brantford

1. Content: The council of Hope CRC Brantford requests assistance from Classis Hamilton to achieve compliance with the requirements of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act and associated regulations. The intent would be the development of a standard template of guides, service plans, and training programs which would be available as a resource to all Classis churches.
2. **Recommendation:** *To forward this request to CIC to coordinate gathering and distributing resources to Classis churches related to ODA compliance.*

Grounds:

- i. By delegating a coordination role to CIC in this matter, Classis provides CIC with flexibility in how to serve the churches, whether through legal consultation, identifying best practices and resources from churches, collaborating with CMT, or other means that would be beneficial to the congregations.
- ii. Resources related to ODA compliance would benefit the member churches of Classis.
- iii. CIC coordination would minimize, and possibly eliminate, duplication of efforts for individual congregations within Classis.

### 3. Calvin CRC, Dundas

1. Content: Pastor VandenBrink's ministry at Calvin will end on August 31, 2015. Calvin requests that classis appoint a counsellor for our church, and provide classical appointments.
2. **Recommendation:** *To forward this request to CIC for implementation.*

Grounds:

- i. CIC acts on behalf of Classis in appointing church counsellors and coordinating classis pulpit supply assignments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Delegates from Immanuel CRC (Hamilton) & First Hamilton CRC

### 3. OVERTURES COMMITTEE REPORT

The overtures committee, consisting of the delegates of the Burlington CRC and Faith CRC Burlington were assigned the following overtures/recommendations to consider:

1. The release of Rev. Jim Pot under CO article 14b (Appendix #2, page 7)
2. The recommendation regarding the job description for Pastoral Care Worker at Parkview Meadows under CO article 23 (Appendix #3, page 10)
3. The Ebenezer CRC Jarvis overture regarding the Shalom Manor Chaplaincy (Appendix #9, page 24)

We appreciate the thorough work that was done by all parties in the preparation for each of these overtures and/or recommendations.

#### **Our responses are as follows:**

1. The Overtures Committee recommends that Classis Hamilton declare Rev. Jim Pot to be honourably released from ministry in the Christian Reformed Church in North America according to article 14b of the Church Order.  
Note: This needs the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies.
2. The Overtures Committee recommends that Classis Hamilton declare the position of *Pastoral Care Worker for Parkview Meadows* to be an appropriate role for a Commissioned Pastor, in accordance with the guidelines adopted by Synod 2001.  
Notes:
  - a. This needs the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies.
  - b. Immanuel CRC Simcoe requests that Classis Hamilton specifically declare that preaching and the serving of the Lord's Supper be included as part of the ongoing duties of this position. However, Art. 24 of the Church Order states that the task of the commissioned pastor is to, "bear witness to Christ through the preaching of the Word, the administration of the sacraments..." Since preaching and administering the Lord's Supper are included in the role of Commissioned Pastor, this does not need formal approval from Classis.
3. The Overtures Committee recommends that Classis Hamilton accede to the Jarvis overture regarding the Shalom Manor Chaplaincy as presented in the Classis agenda along with the accompanying grounds.  
Note:
  - a. The reduction of support as determined by the overture is spread out over 6 years (ending in 2022). Our committee supports these terms, however, we note that the overture could be divided into two separate motions if Classis so desires:
    - i. A motion to end support for the Shalom Manor Chaplaincy
    - ii. A motion to define the terms for gradual reduction of support

Sincerely submitted,

Joel Bootsma, Albert Wimmers, Kevin DeRaaf and Colin DeWeerd

**April 8, 2015**

In the early days of September 2007, I began serving the residents of Shalom Manor & Gardens. If things proceed as planned, Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> will be the last time that I lead worship for the faith community at Shalom as their chaplain. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, I will take up a new challenge. I will be serving as Director of Community Life at Mountainview Christian Reformed Church. In this report, I will reflect on instances which took place during the first months and years of my ministry that prepared me to serve as chaplain at Shalom Manor.

I remember my first hospital visit. I had written her name on a piece of white paper, folded it and put it in my pocket. I was aware that her room was located on the second floor. (This is where persons suffering from Alzheimer's disease live.) Other than these few bare facts, I knew nothing about her. As I walked along the congested hospital corridor, with a small, soft covered Bible uncomfortably hidden in the front pocket of my pressed slacks, I heard screaming. As I walked, the screaming intensified. When I stepped into the room I was looking for, I saw from where the screaming originated. The screaming originated from a tiny, old lady. She was the only patient in the room. She was the person I had come to visit.

I walked toward her. I did not know what to do. This was outside of my realm of experience. I leaned over, toward the origin of the screaming. I gently took her hand and began to softly talk; to make a one way conversation. Because of her advanced Alzheimer's she was not able to use words, maybe not even to understand words. Miraculously her screaming stopped. She looked at me with fear branded in her eyes. I continued to softly talk. Slowly I recited the words of psalm 23 and, in the silence, offered words of prayer. Then I left. As I walked away I listened. The screaming did not resume. I thought that maybe it was the touch, maybe it was the sound of a voice, or, maybe it was the Holy Spirit ministering to her using the words of psalm 23 and maybe even the mumbled words that I spoke. I chose to believe that it was the Holy Spirit using the words of psalm 23 and my mumbled words to minister to her.

Over the years of my ministry, this belief has enabled me to minister to many who could no longer speak or understand words.

I remember one of the first times caring for a resident who was palliative. Her name had flashed across my computer screen indicating that she has been deemed palliative. Having recently arrived, I had not yet met her. At the nurses' station, I enquired concerning her. I was informed that her church membership was with a very conservative Reformed denomination, that she spoke and understood only the Dutch language and that she was almost deaf. I thought, "Oh God!" (This was both a cry to God and an expression using God's name in vain.) I can hardly speak Dutch.

I did what I could. I got on my knees and, in what seemed like a shout so that she could hear, in a very broken Dutch, I talked about fear and hope in the face of death. At least that's what I hoped I was talking about. (I had tightly closed the entrance door to her room because I did not want anyone to hear.) I prayed with her in the Dutch language, which was very, very hard and then, asked her if I could visit her again. She looked at me with feeble eyes and whispered, "Yes." Maybe it was the only English word she had ever spoken. Though there was a language barrier, though there was a difference of denomination, she invited me to minister to her.

This experience early in my chaplaincy has motivated me to visit all persons who have made their home at Shalom Manor & Gardens; regardless of their backgrounds. It has been my goal to form a worshipping community in which Reformed, Canadian Reformed, Netherlands Reformed, Free Reformed, United

Reform, Christian Reformed, Baptist, United Church of Canada, Roman Catholic, Lutheran and non-churched persons feel welcome and included.

My last remembrance: I remember hearing a whisper. Donna, a rather young resident living at Shalom Manor, was lying in a comma in one of the rooms on one of the floors. (I do not remember in which room nor do I remember on which floor.) She had been lying there for years, in a comma. Whenever I walked along the corridor and passed her room, I heard a whisper. I heard a whisper saying, "Remember me." Responding to these words, I often walked into her room. There, I greeted Donna by name, read words from Scripture, prayed with her and, putting my hand on her forehead, blessed her. Doing this, I was always reminded of the words of Jesus, *"Whatever you do to the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you do to me."* I met Jesus in Donna.

In a real way, the old – frail and broken, pushed aside to live in little rooms out of sight – are the least brothers and sisters of Jesus. I have met Jesus in every old person! I thank the congregations of Classis Hamilton and Classis Hamilton for their support of the ministry! I thank the CEO, the management team, the administrators and the staff at Shalom Manor & Gardens for their support! I encourage everyone to continue to hear the whisper of the elderly, "Remember me."



April 15, 2015

Dear Classis,

Thank you for your letter urging the Christian Reformed Church to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters in the Middle East. I am pleased to report that as a denomination we are already reaching out in love to the needs of hurting populations in Syria and Iraq. I am also happy to say that World Renew, Diaconal Ministries and the Centre for Public Dialogue are eager to do even more to encourage congregations to sponsor refugees and to work with their refugee neighbours for justice and hospitality as refugees are settled in Canada.

In the following letter, we hope to provide information that will clarify some of the challenges that we face following the Canadian government's announced promises regarding the resettlement of Syrian and Iraqi refugees, outline what the church is currently doing in response to the crisis in the Middle East, and highlight some areas for consideration as we plan to move forward.

It is our hope to be available during upcoming classis meeting as well (Fall, 2015) in order to engage the churches in this conversation.

#### **Reality Check:**

Many people were excited when the Canadian government announced a promise to resettle 10,000 Syrians and 3,000 Iraqis in Canada within the next three years. This tangible target provides Canadians with a concrete humanitarian response to a brutal war and refugee crisis. It is important, however, to know some more about this announcement and the challenges we will face in implementing it:

- **The resettlement targets for Iraqi and Syrian refugees announced by Canada are not new commitments:** they are within current resettlement levels set by the government. In other words, Canada did not increase the number of refugees that it intends to resettle in the coming years. Instead, the commitment to help Syrian and Iraqi refugees is at the expense of other refugees who are very much in need of resettlement. For example, there are thousands of refugees in Africa who have already been waiting upwards of five years to come to Canada. With this announcement they will be waiting longer. Given the gravity of human suffering in Iraq, Syria and many places around the world, the Christian Reformed Church believes that the commitments to Syrian and Iraqi refugees should be over and above Canada's planned resettlement targets. We also believe that there is need for greater attention to fairness in the resettlement system.
- **The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) asked resettlement countries to assist in the resettlement of 100,000 Syrian refugees in the period 2014 to 2016.** Canada offered to resettle 10% of these totals over three years and committed its Sponsorship Agreement Holders (or SAHs -such as World Renew's Refugee Sponsorship Office) to meeting 60% (or 7,200 people) of that government commitment. The Minister made this announcement without any formal dialogue with SAHs. In the past, the private sponsorship program carried out by SAHs has



always been **in addition** to the Government's commitments for resettlement. We believe that the government should meet its commitment regarding the UNHCR target and that private sponsorships should be in addition to these commitments.

- **In the recent past, SAHs and communities involved in resettlement have struggled with complicated application procedures, long processing times, and unexplained delays.** These complications have been dangerous for refugees waiting to be resettled, disempowering for community groups committed to sponsorship, and frustrating for SAHs. We believe that these administrative complications need to be addressed if SAHs and their community partners are to rise to the challenge of meeting these important commitments.
- **One deeply significant issue for refugees and sponsors has been the cancellation of the Interim Federal Health Program.** Canada formerly carried drug, vision, dental and prosthetic benefits for privately sponsored refugees but removed these benefits as a cost cutting measure. This puts the health of refugees at risk and raises the spectre of high cost health care liabilities for sponsoring communities.

The ambitious but achievable targets of bringing 13,000 Iraqi and Syrian refugees to Canada in the next three years will only be met if there is an atmosphere of open communication and collaboration between the Government, SAHs and sponsoring communities. For this reason we encourage church members to discuss the points in this reality check with their elected representatives.

#### **Response to Date:**

The Christian Reformed Church has a long tradition of assisting refugees around the world. We also have a history of speaking up and advocating with the Canadian government on behalf of this vulnerable population. As a result, it is our hope to communicate broadly to the churches through the collaboration of several partners. Using both their individual websites and a new web portal, [www.crcna.org/Canada](http://www.crcna.org/Canada), we are going to assist congregations in a fuller orb ed view of refugee sponsorship issues ranging from advocacy to sponsorship as well as local church resources available for education. The partners working together are:

- The Canadian Ministries Office
- Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue
- Diaconal Ministries Canada
- World Renew

The breadth of their work is described below:

In the past several years, **World Renew and the Centre for Public Dialogue** have collaborated on refugee advocacy. Recent letters to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration have focused on the need for greater constructive policy dialogue with SAHs and of the importance of the resettlement of Syrian refugees without discrimination based on religion.

The **Christian Reformed Church** has worked to create resources for its congregations to help keep refugee issues in people's minds and hearts. A Refugee Justice Task Force was initiated in 2012 and includes representatives from several CRC ministries in Canada (Centre for Public Dialogue, Race Relations, World Renew, Diaconal Ministries, Lighthouse). This Task force recently developed a 90-minute workshop resource entitled *Journey with Me: Refugee Stories that Change Lives*. At the heart of this interactive workshop are the stories of refugees that describe their struggles to live in Canada. *Journey with Me* draws participants into these stories; into reflection on the Biblical command to love refugees; and invites participants to stand for justice with their refugee neighbours. (visit [http://www2.crcna.org/pages/publicdialogue\\_toolkit.cfm](http://www2.crcna.org/pages/publicdialogue_toolkit.cfm) for more information)

**Diaconal Ministries Canada** continues to equip and mobilize churches to “love mercy” and “act justly” in respect to their neighbours. Refugees have been identified as one of many vulnerable, marginalized people groups. Facts are shared and ways to be engaged with and on behalf of this people group is an ongoing activity. Avenues of compassion have been identified as well as just-filled activities.

**World Renew** has been active both responding to the needs of displaced people internationally and in resettling those that come to Canada when they can no longer return home. As part of the Canadian Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program, World Renew has responded over the past couple of years to government programs aimed at specifically sponsoring Syrian and Iraqi refugees. The first government announcement was in 2013 and then later in 2015. Even though the targets for both announcements were not made in consultation with SAHs, the sponsoring community has responded.

It is expected that new Syrian and Iraqi cases will be referred to SAHs through the Blended Visa Office Referred Program. World Renew has promoted this opportunity to churches. To date, however, there has not been a great demand by CRCs across Canada to sponsor Iraqi or Syrian refugees. To learn more about sponsoring refugees through World Renew, [visit worldrenew.net/refugeesponsorship](http://visitworldrenew.net/refugeesponsorship).

World Renew has also been active in the Middle East through several humanitarian projects:

- Jordan: Assisted 500 Syrian refugee families with food packages from 2013 to 2015.
- Lebanon: Providing food assistance and food vouchers to 1,825 Syrian families since 2012, but now have to reduce this to 1,225 families and only until August 2015. Urgent additional funds are needed to continue providing this vital assistance to refugee families.
- Syria: Providing food assistance, rental assistance, heaters, emergency supplies, blankets and sleeping mats to 2,000 internally displaced families in four cities since 2012. The food component of this program will continue until September 2015.
- Iraq: Providing food assistance to 300 Iraqi families who have fled persecution by ISIS, and providing Canadian-government funded medical and health support to 5,000 Iraqi displaced families in Shariya refugee camp of Duhok, from May 2015 to February 2016.

World Renew has developed communications materials to raise awareness of the relief and humanitarian needs in this region and shared these materials through social media, World Renew’s e-news and through the website [worldrenew.net/syriaconflict](http://worldrenew.net/syriaconflict).

#### **Opportunities for Engagement:**

There are currently opportunities in many of our communities for members to become engaged with refugees who have been resettled to Canada either through government programs and/or through the private sponsorship of refugees program or who have found their way to Canada on their own and made a refugee claim.

Essential to the resettlement of refugees in their navigation of a new culture and community are the many losses experienced by those who have to make these significant life changes. A caring, loving relationship offered by a faithful follower of Jesus will diminish the losses of the transition time and will contribute to the dignity of those so disempowered, vulnerable and isolated in a new setting.

- **Operation Lifeline** is a Toronto based project being developed by a group of academics, politicians and business people seeking to mobilize the public to sponsor Syrian refugees. They are developing an implementation plan. This is a project that Toronto and GTA churches could get engaged with to sponsor Syrian refugees.

- **Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC)** members have been in dialogue with the Minister's office and have stated that churches will come forward to sponsor Syrians and Iraqis. Further discussion with the Minister's office is planned to determine how best this can be achieved. This is another initiative with which CRCs could get engaged.
- **Citizenship and Immigration Canada** has announced that there will be no restrictions for 2015 sponsorships of Syrian and Iraqi sponsorships. SAHs can submit as many Syrian and Iraqi applications as they have capacity to manage.

**Factors to consider:**

There are opportunities for churches to become engaged on this issue, however, there are also challenges and factors to consider in ramping up CRC sponsorship of Syrian and Iraqi refugees.

1. **We will need to learn the level of church interest and assess church capacity** to sponsor Syrian and Iraqi refugees. Various communication avenues will be accessed to gather expressions of interest i.e. weekly bulletin announcements, letters to Deacon Chairs etc.

In terms of capacity churches must have the resources not only financially but also the interest, passion and time available to assist with the settlement of refugees. Learning of the interest will assist in determining next steps and the needed resources

2. **Communication materials will need to be developed** for such things as promoting the sponsorship program, assisting with advocacy, educating about the conflict and populations and to establish guidelines/information package for sponsorship.

It will be important to communicate to churches that although there is a crisis in the Middle East **there are other refugee populations in need of resettlement** in the world and that there are opportunities to sponsor Syrian, Iraqi as well as people from other countries. Promoting fairness in the sponsorship system should be part of communications to churches.

As well, given the magnitude of the Middle East crisis, **churches should be reminded and encouraged to continue supporting humanitarian initiatives** in the region. It is important that there is a balanced response and one that factors in the many competing needs of the region.

3. **It may be difficult to identify Syrian and Iraqi refugees to sponsor.** To date, most CRCs across Canada are not being approached by Syrian Canadians to sponsor their family members. As well, CIC has posted very few Syrian and Iraqi cases on the BVOR list. Therefore, we will need to explore options to identify and refer Syrian and Iraqi refugees to CRCs to sponsor.

Operation Lifeline and EFC are two options that might be able to assist with this challenge. Another option to refer cases is through matching sponsorship inquires made to the Refugee office to churches. However, this will likely be churches in the Greater Toronto Area as most calls are coming from Canadian Syrians in the GTA.

Refugees must be resettled in the same community as their sponsor. In order to match cases well it will be important to know the level of interest of churches in these specific regions to sponsor these populations. Resources will need to be allocated to manage the identification and referral of refugees.

4. Given the challenges with the Syrian and Iraqi announcement, **more work will be done to assist churches with talking points to approach their MPs.** The Canadian Christian Reformed church, World Renew and the Centre for Public Dialogue will draft a letter to Minister Alexander in follow up to earlier correspondence and will address the policy items listed above.

CIC will have to put a number of measures in place to ensure that the increase in Syrian and Iraqi sponsorships can take place. For example, CIC will need to:

- Provide Syrian and Iraqi BVOR cases
- Ensure sufficient resettlement resources i.e. IFH as many Syrian and Iraqi cases are high needs
- Ensure processing capacity at CPOW and the visa posts to process cases in a timely manner and not at the expense of other refugee populations.

**Conclusion:**

Thank you for your expressed concern for and commitment to helping refugees from Syria and Iraq. God has called us in many references in His Word, such as Deuteronomy 10:18, to care for those who are vulnerable such as the orphan, the widow and the stranger (alien) in our local community and world. As World Renew, Diaconal Ministries and the Centre for Public Dialogue, we are responding to this call and continue to encourage congregations to do the same by sponsoring refugees and to work with their refugee neighbours for justice and hospitality as refugees are settled in Canada. We would appreciate your ongoing prayers and support.

Your partners in ministry,



Rev. Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director



Mike Hogeterp, Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue



Hans Kater, Diaconal Ministries Canada



Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo, World Renew

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION**  
**of the**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Of**  
**CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA (CHCRCNA)**  
May 7, 2015

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the audited financial statements of CHCRCNA could not be approved at a scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. The reason for the delay was a number of outstanding policy matters which the Board of Directors has not yet resolved.

Since any outstanding policy matters cannot be resolved before the issuance of the final audited financial statements and the audit report thereon, the Directors unanimously agree to the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the financial statements as audited by the external auditor, on which he has expressed his opinion dated May 7, 2015, be approved for presentation to the CIC and the delegates representing the member churches for their consideration at the May 26, 2015 Annual General Meeting of Classis Hamilton and that any unresolved policy matters be addressed at the Board of Directors' first meeting after the Annual General Meeting.

In confirmation of this resolution, the Directors have signed this resolution as of the date noted above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Henry Kranenburg

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Henk Van Tuyl

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John den Otter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Cook

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Huyzer

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Mark Vandervliet