



**Christian
Reformed
Church**

**Minutes of a Meeting of
CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

Date: August 30, 2016

Time: 7:30 PM

Venue: Calvary CRC, 265 Middletown Rd, Dundas, ON

Chair: Rita Klein-Geltink
Stated Clerk: Dick Kranendonk

Vice-Chair: Andrew Zomerma
Reporter: Ken Benjamins

Synodical Deputies:

James Dekker
Stephen Tamming
Hendrick Bruinsma

Classis Niagara
Classis Huron
Classis Toronto

Delegates:

Church	First Name	Last Name	Title
Ancaster CRC	Rita	Klein-Geltink	Pastor Delegate
Ancaster CRC	Gerry	Visser	Elder Delegate
Ancaster CRC	Mike	Wagter	Deacon Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Judy	Cook	Elder Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Marcia	Hosmar	Deacon Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Kevin	Vander Meulen	Elder Delegate
Hope	Andrew	Zomerman	Pastor Delegate
Hope	Tim	Vaandering	Elder Delegate
New Street	Joel	Bootsma	Pastor Delegate
Faith	Kevin	DeRaaf	Pastor Delegate
Faith	Ken	Mercer	Elder Delegate
Calvin	Ken	Benjamins	Pastor Delegate
Calvin	Jerry	Kralt	Elder Delegate
Calvin	Luther	Andree	Deacon Delegate
Calvary	Nick	Vanberkel	Elder Delegate
Calvary	Adam	Vanberkel	Elder Delegate
Calvary	Nick	Burlie	Deacon Delegate
Calvary	Dan	Vanderkruk	Elder Alternate
Hagersville Community	Jeff	Klingenberg	Pastor Delegate
Hagersville Community	Henrietta	Heeg	Elder Delegate
Hagersville Community	Henny	Arends	Deacon Delegate
First	Chris	Schoon	Pastor Delegate
First	JD	Alkema	Elder Delegate
First	Gary	Hutten	Deacon Delegate
First	Gina	Taylor	Deacon Alternate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Anthony	Elenbaas	Pastor Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	David	Rumph	Elder Delegate
Mt. Hamilton	Greg	Schuurman	Elder Delegate
Mt. Hamilton	Doug	Dekker	Deacon Delegate
Mt. Hamilton	John	DeMik	Elder Delegate
Ebenezer	Daryl	DeKlerk	Pastor Delegate
Ebenezer	Jack	Eggink	Elder Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Ernie	Rouwerda	Elder Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Mark	Vandervliet	Elder Delegate
Bethel	Bruce	Adema	Pastor Delegate
Bethel	Margaret	DeWeerd	Elder Delegate
Bethel	Jack	Traas	Deacon Delegate
Maranatha	Henk	Vaarkamp	Elder Delegate
Maranatha	Kevin	Vanderspek	Elder Delegate

Meeting Details

1. WELCOME

Chair Rita Klein-Geltink welcomed everyone present, especially the candidate, Gareth Harker and the synodical deputies as well as guests, including those from the Calvary congregation.

2. DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER

Rita Klein-Geltink led in opening devotions with the reading of, and reflection on, Psalm 19, after which Ken Benjamins led in prayer for the host church as well as the candidate and the deliberations.

3. CALL TO ORDER

The chair gave some introductory information for the evening as a whole.

3.1. Attendance

The list of attendees was as shown above. All first time delegates signed the *Covenant of Officebearers* of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The minimum of two delegates per church was not achieved so a motion to properly constitute the meeting was requested.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** the officially registered delegates as noted on the previous page were seated and that, in spite of the minimum attendance of two delegates per church, the meeting was properly constituted.

3.2. Approval of Agenda

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** the agenda as slightly amended was approved for discussion and action.

3.3. Letter of Thanks

The chair announced that a letter of thanks was received from Aren Plante. The Chair read portions of the letter out loud. The Stated Clerk was instructed to acknowledge receipt of the letter indicating that it was much appreciated by the delegates.

4. Examination of Candidate Gareth Harker

4.1. Daryl DeKlerk introduced candidate Gareth Harker and proceeded to examine him in the area of **Practica**, an inquiry into the candidate's relationship to God and commitment to ministry. Opportunity for discussion was given to the delegates and synodical deputies.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** Classis proceed to the next area of inquiry.

4.2. **Sermon Evaluation:** The sermon evaluators, Jeff Klingenberg and Henrietta Heeg each presented a verbal report on the evaluation of Gareth Harker's preached sermon and the manner in which he conducted a worship service at Calvary CRC, Flamborough, in the evening service of Sunday August 28, 2016. The reporters also provided a critique of the written Old Testament and Catechism sermons submitted by Gareth Harker. Opportunity for discussion was given to the delegates and synodical deputies.

On motion was duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** Classis proceed to the next area of inquiry. The synodical deputies concurred.

- 4.3. **Biblical and Theological Position:** Kevin DeRaaf examined Gareth Harker on his biblical and theological judgment, competence, and soundness. Opportunity for additional questions was given to the delegates and synodical deputies.
- 4.4. **Executive Session:** The Chair declares an executive session and asks all those present who are not delegates, members of the CIC, or office bearers in their local churches to leave the meeting
- 4.5. **Motion to Admit:** A motion was duly made and seconded to admit Gareth Harker to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church
 - 4.5.1. The Chair offers a prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the consideration of the decision at hand.
 - 4.5.2. The synodical deputies are excused to prepare their recommendation.
 - 4.5.3. The delegates vote by ballot.
 - 4.5.4. The motion to admit Gareth Harker to the ministry of the Word is approved
 - 4.5.5. The synodical deputies return and state that they concur with the decision of classis. They provide a written statement to that effect. The Chair thanks the synodical deputies.
- 4.6. **Motion to Destroy Ballots:** On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** the ballots be destroyed.
- 4.7. **End of Executive Session:** The Chair declares executive session ended and invites Gareth Harker and guests back into the meeting.
 - 4.7.1. The Chair congratulates Gareth Harker on behalf of classis and presents him with the Classical Diploma. She also gives him words of encouragement as he begins his ordained ministry at Calvary CRC in Flamborough, Ontario.

5. CLOSING PRAYER

At 9:25 PM, the Vice Chair offers a word of prayer for Gareth Harker and offers thanks for the outcome of the deliberations.

The ordination of Gareth Harker will take place on Sunday, September 11, 2016 during the 9:30 AM worship service.

The next classis meeting will take place on October 25, 2016 at Hope CRC, Brantford.