



Minutes for the Meeting of
 Classis Hamilton of the Christian Reformed Church
 May 31, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.
 Hosted by Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis

Officers of Classis: Chair: Rev. Joel Bootsma Vice Chair: Hayden Regeling Meeting Clerk: Cara DeHaan (and Vivian Vanderhoek after 1:15 PM)	Synodical Deputies:
Reporter: Faith	Balloting: Ebenezer
Credentials Committee: Calvin and Ebenezer	Overture Committee: Bethel and Calvary
Study Committee: Calvary and Immanuel Simcoe	

Church	Deacon	Elder	Pastor
Ancaster		Andrea Glasbergen	Rev. Mark Verbruggen
Bethel, Waterdown	Christine Schaafsma	Adriana Traas	
Calvary, Flamborough	Benj Vandermeulen (elder)	Justin DeWaard	Rev. Gareth Harker
Calvin, Dundas	Ben Lammers	Ken Tigchelaar	Rev. Ken Benjamins
Ebenezer, Jarvis	Leo Eggink	Pete Brouwer	Rev. Wim de Vries
Faith, Burlington	Jamie Buisman	Vivian Vanderhoek	Rev. Cara DeHaan
First Hamilton	Theresia Stephens	George Van Kampen	Rev. Hayden Regeling
Hagersville Community		Jake Elgersma	
Hope, Brantford	Gary Dykgraaf	Herb Grootenboer	Rev. William Koopmans
Immanuel, Hamilton	John Gerrits	David Rumph	Rev. Michael Bootsma
Immanuel, Simcoe	Ed Cosman	Mark VanderVliet	Theresa Bakker (elder, commissioned pastor)
Maranatha, York		Frank Riewald	Rev. Ben Ponsen
Meadowlands Fellowship, Hamilton	Marcia Hosmar	Connie Bijl	Rev. Everett Vander Horst
Mount Hope Community	Sandi Buwalda	Paul Vreugdenhil	Rev. Joel Bootsma
New Street, Burlington	Richard Simmelink	John Dekker	
New Hope Church, Hamilton (Emerging)			Rev. Steve Dykstra

GROWING AS A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

1. **Welcome & Opening Prayer.** Shortly after 9:00 AM, Pastor Gareth Harker, Chair of the Classical Ministry Team, welcomed everyone present and opened in prayer.
2. **Devotions & Sharing of Ministry.** Delegates were led by Ebenezer CRC's Director of Youth & Young Adults Ministries, Brady DeBoer, and a few musicians in a rich time of worship, featuring the spiritual practices of singing, meditative prayer, *lectio divina*, Bible teaching, and listening and sharing.

Delegate Pete Brouwer then shared an update about Ebenezer. As with all of our congregations, the pandemic brought both challenges and opportunities, as well as both resignations of some members and additions of new members. They are thankful for a large number of children and for members who are initiating new ideas for ministry. Pastor Willem de Vries and his family will be moving to Moline, Michigan, this summer after accepting a call there several months ago (Willem's last preaching at Ebenezer will be June 26). The congregation will be engaging in listening circles to discern God's leading for the future.
3. **Prayer for the Host Church.** Vice Chair of classis, Pastor Hayden Regeling, led delegates in praying for Pastor Willem and for the congregation and ministries of Ebenezer.

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

4. **Call to Order & Instructions for the Day.** At 10:00 AM, Chair of Classis Pastor Joel Bootsma called us to order. Serving as Clerk, Pastor Cara DeHaan confirmed the attendance records as noted above. Delegates indicated their support for the Covenant of Officebearers. **A motion to approve the meeting's Agenda** was put forward, supported, and carried without discussion.
5. **Consent Agenda.** Pastor Joel invited a motion to approve all the items below by 'consent agenda.' The motion was made and supported. Corrections were made to the dates on item i (*as corrected below*). Item k (Candidacy Committee) was removed from the consent agenda and added to the Classis Ministry Team section (*see below*). **Motion carried to approve all items below.**

- a. **Classis Meeting Minutes: 2-22-22 & 3-10-22**
- b. **Classis Interim Committee (CIC) Minutes: 3-3-22 & 4-21-22**
- c. **(TBD elected to first term as Church Visitor (nominations sought))**
- d. **Syd Hielema confirmed as Regional Pastor**
- e. **Ed Visser elected to first term as Synodical Deputy and Michael Bootsma elected to first term as Alternate**
- f. **Doug Nieuwstraten elected to first term and Tara Vreugdenhill elected to second term on CMT**
- g. **Hayden Regeling and Jessica Joustra elected to second term on Candidacy Committee; Rick Verkerk and Cheryl Wimmers elected to first term on Candidacy Committee**
- h. **Rick Verkerk elected to first term on Home Missions Committee**
- i. **Michael Bootsma elected to Chair of Classis for the period June 1, 2022 until May 31, 2023.**
- j. **William Koopmans, Ken Tigchelaar, Marcia Hosmar, Ken Benjamins and Ben Ponsen approved as a single slate of nominees to serve as directors of the corporation to be elected during the annual meeting of members later in the day**

~~k. Disbursements of Candidacy funds as detailed in the Candidacy Committee Report~~

I. Denominational Correspondence Received for Information: World Renew, Acting Exec Director (Canada), Redeemer University.

6. **Annual General Meeting.** It was ruled by Chair Joel that we would adjourn Classis to move to AGM. President of CIC Gillian Bruce led us through the AGM of Classis Hamilton.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ACTIONS

1. It was established that Quorum existed (By-Law 5.2).
2. It was confirmed that adequate Proof of Notice for the Meeting had been given (By-law 5.4).
3. **Motion to approve the Minutes of AGM 2021.** Supported. No discussion. Carried.
4. **Motion: RECOMMENDED THAT William Koopmans (Term #6), Ben Ponsen (Term #3), Ken Tigchelaar (Term #3), Marcia Hosmar (Term #2), and Ken Benjamins (Term #1) be elected as directors of the corporation for a one-year term commencing June 1, 2022 (By-law 5.1).** Supported. No discussion. Carried.
5. **Motion: RECOMMENDED THAT the audited financial statements and the Auditor's report thereon for fiscal 2021 be approved (Corporations Act 96.1).** Supported. No discussion. Carried.
6. **Motion: RECOMMENDED THAT DBK Accounting Professional Corporation be re-appointed as auditor for fiscal 2022 (By-Law 5.1.c).** Supported. No discussion. Carried.
7. Closing of Annual General membership meeting

7. **Classis Interim Committee.** Gillian Bruce, Chair of CIC, gave a brief oral report. Gillian is stepping down after six years of service and gave thanks to Classis for their support and encouragement. She reminded delegates: when we as individual officebearers or congregations feel a need to critique or be suspicious of "Classis," remember that "there's no *they*, there's just *us*." She also urged us to keep looking for a stated clerk – we need one! Pastor Ken Benjamins led classis in thanking Gillian for her committed, talented service.

8. **Credentials Committee.** No report was required from the Credentials Committee.

9. **Classical Counselor Reports.** Chair Joel gave very brief reports about the churches with open pastor positions.

- a. Hagersville Community CRC (counsellor Ben Ponsen) – no update.
- b. Bethel CRC (no counsellor) – engaging in the Crossroads discernment process.
- c. New Street CRC – Pastor Cara DeHaan has agreed to serve as their counsellor.
- d. First Hamilton CRC (counsellor Anthony Elenbaas) – have posted a position for co-pastor.

REFRESHMENT BREAK. We took a break from 10:40-11:00 AM.

MINISTRY SESSION

10. **Classis Ministry Team (CMT).** Pastor Gareth Harker, chair of the CMT, led us in an overview of our classical ministries.

- a. **Home Missions Committee.** Pastor Michael Bootsma, chair of the Home Missions Committee, introduced Pastor Tim Sheridan, hired two months ago as new Church Planting Leader at Resonate Global Mission.
 - i. Tim introduced Samantha Brinkman and Jessie Zantingh, students at Redeemer who are completing an internship at Church Planting Institute (Jan to August 2022). Sam and Jessie highlighted some of their opportunities to learn and contribute. They feel encouraged by the fact that as students, they are still able to contribute. They are also encouraged by seeing the power of prayer. They invited delegates to a Prayer for Classis Church Planting on Zoom, Tues June 7, 12-1pm.
 - ii. Tim gave a presentation, beginning with a short bio and an overview of his Resonate position. He highlighted five reasons that church planting is so important (presented to the CRC's Council of Delegates in 2019, still true today). He then spoke of five reasons that this is a time of great opportunity for church planting. Finally, he laid out several possible next steps: begin with a foundation of prayer, go into church planting spaces to learn and listen, participate in a New Leaf learning party, and invite Resonate to help your community learn how to listen to God.
- b. **Candidacy Committee.**
 - i. Pastor Hayden Regeling, chair of the CC, presented two items for information: (1) *a updated disbursement amount of \$66,842.44 (as forgivable loans) to support 7 students for the 2022-23 school year; and (2) an updated leftover amount of the CC budget (\$6081.56) put into reserve to use in future years.* **A Note to CIC:** confirm this fund with the classis bookkeeper.
 - ii. Hayden introduced Ben Wimmers, who graduated this month from McMaster Divinity School this month and will be eligible for call after Synod in June. Ben thanked Classis for financial support, for a supportive home church growing up (New Street), for opportunities to grow and learn (campus ministry at Mac, guest preaching, internships at Ancaster and First Hamilton), and mentors in the classis (Joel Bootsma, Michael Fallon). Ben gave thanks to the CRCNA for creating ordination structures that are flexible enough to allow attendance at a local seminary. He challenged Classis to keep investing in young adults exploring ministry, not only financially but also time and space to try things out and express what they're learning.
- c. **Campus ministry.** Both of our campus chaplains were given opportunity to share about their past year of ministry.
 - i. Hired online in January 2021, Melissa Kuipers has just finished her first complete school year as campus chaplain at Mohawk College. She has seen how essential campus ministry can be in this critical time for young adults, so many of whom are struggling with loneliness, also asking not just "what should I do?" but "why should I live?" Melissa asked us to pray that Solid Rock would be able to actually meet on campus next year and participate in campus events.
 - ii. Michael Fallon, chaplain at McMaster, showed a video of photo highlights then shared some story highlights focused on the key word Loyalty. Student Alia Dieleman received an Emerging Leader grant that gave her time to focus on ministry leadership in the ministry.
- d. **Youth Champion.** Delegates received for information the regular report from our Youth Champion, John Byl. We were asked to urge our youth to sign up for the Classis fall youth retreat.
- e. **New Hope internship opportunity.** Pastor Steve Dykstra presented a 4-8 month internship opportunity with New Hope for those in mid to later life who are members of established churches. The goal is to be immersed in the New Hope community to learn about two key facets of their ministry: deep connection with community (bikes,

soccer league, community initiatives, etc) and worship services that are welcoming and engaging for people with disability, addiction, and poverty.

LUNCH BREAK. Delegates took a break from 12:30-1:15 PM. Chair Joel brought delegates back to order to address one remaining matter from the CMT, as well as our Denominational Matters.

- f. **Youth Champion position review.** Pastor Gareth highlighted that although the time to review this position has come, the challenges presented by the pandemic have made it difficult to accurately assess the impact of having filled this position. The team assigned to this review presented two motions. These motions were supported and carried, with one comment raised during discussion: Classis is committed to the importance of the role of the Youth Champion; it is important to base the study/review not just on results, but rather on the role itself.
 - i. **That the paid Youth Champion position be continued as currently structured for at least one additional year.**
 - ii. **That a committee be struck (Calvary Flamborough and Immanuel Simcoe) to carry out the desired review more comprehensively than is practicable under the present mandate, reporting to the February 2023 or May 2023 classis meeting.**

DENOMINATIONAL MATTERS SESSION

11. **Report about Hearts Exchanged.** Naomi Bula, who works for World Renew, presented a land acknowledgement and an excellent report on the Hearts Exchanged course, an eight-month learning and action journey offered across Canada last year by the Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee (CRCNA.org). Naomi emphasized how transformative this journey was for the participants and encouraged delegates to consider enrolling in the next Hearts Exchanged course in order to grow in relationship with, and understanding of our indigenous neighbours.
12. **Examination of Ray Hendricks for License to Exhort.** Pastor Everett Vander Horst introduced delegates to Meadowlands member Ray Hendricks, who is seeking a licence to exhort. Everett invited Ray to introduce himself, then led in the practica conversation. Pastor Michael Bootsma presented a sermon evaluation of Ray's sermon on Acts 17:11. Pastor Mark Verbruggen led Ray in an exploration of Biblical knowledge. It was moved that **Classis Hamilton grant a License to Exhort to Ray Hendricks** (thehendriksgroup@gmail.com). The motion was supported and carried unanimously. Chair Joel led delegates in prayer for Ray.
13. **Adjournment.**
 - a. Upcoming Classis Meetings
 - i. October 25, 2022 @ Ancaster CRC (tentative – building under construction)
 1. Agenda Items Submitted to clerk@classishamilton.ca by September 13, 2022
 - ii. February 28, 2023 @ Bethel CRC, Waterdown
 - b. Chair Joel closed in prayer and adjourned the meeting.