



Minutes

CLASSIS HAMILTON
of the CRCNA

Saturday, March 2, 2024, 9:00 AM to 1:52 PM

Hosted by Faith CRC, Burlington
(2265 Mountainside Drive, Burlington, ON L7P 1B6)

[Agenda](#) and [Addendum](#)

Officers of Classis: Chair: William Koopmans Vice Chair: Everett Vander Horst Stated Clerk: Ed W. Visser	Synodical Deputies: None Required
Reporter: Immanuel CRC, Simcoe	Ballot Advisory Team: Host Church: Faith CRC, Burlington
Credentials Advisory Team: Hope CRC, Brantford (chair) Immanuel CRC, Hamilton (reporter)	Overture Advisory Team: First CRC, Hamilton Hagersville Community CRC

GROWING AS A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

9:00 a.m.

- Welcome & Opening Prayer** Vice Chair of Classis: **Everett Vander Horst**
 Everett leads us in a prayer by reading the opening prayer for ecclesiastical assemblies from the Psalter Hymnal of 1934.
- Devotions & Sharing of Ministry by Host Church**
 Cara welcomed us and asked some questions to get us to know a little about each other. Also, it's Faith's 40th anniversary this year (Feb 12). In partial celebration we'll have a "40 Years of God's Faithfulness" huge cake at lunch time for dessert.
 Scriptures are read, and songs sung. Cara shares some reflections. John 1:35f.
 Faith church shares a beautiful story of ministry and God's empowerment month by month throughout the year.
- Prayer for the Host Church** **Everett**

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

10:00 a.m.

- Call to Order & Instructions for the Day** **Chair William Koopmans**
 - The [Covenant of Office-Bearers](#) is read by the Chair, and Delegates stand to show their affirmation.
 - Attendance is Confirmed** as shown in the following chart **Stated Clerk**

Congregation	Deacon	Elder	Minister
Bethel CRC, Waterdown	Reuben Groen	Tess Tigchelaar	N/A
Calvary CRC, Flamborough	N/A	Brian Vyn	Gareth Harker
Calvin CRC, Dundas	Don Koning	Steve Koning	Ken Benjamins
Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis	Ryer VanderSteege	Ron Haverkamp alt Ralph Vanbentehm	N/A
Faith CRC, Burlington	Colin Deweerd alt Doreen Breukelman	Matthew Valkenburg alt Wayne Visser	Cara Dehaan
First CRC, Hamilton	Julie VanHuizen	Jared Wilms alt Jim Tigchelaar	Hayden Regeling
Grace Community CRC, Ancaster	Dan Hagen	Jason Taekema	Mark Verbruggen
Hagersville Community CRC	Jake Elgersma	Pieter Wonder	Steven Eckersley
Hope CRC, Brantford	Gary Dykgraaf alt Dave Eelkema	Herb Grootenboer	Doug Nieuwstraten alt William Koopmans
Immanuel CRC, Hamilton	Mike Bax alt Clarence Beeksm	Gary Veenstra alt Theo Boven	Michael Bootsma
Immanuel CRC, Simcoe	N/A	Ernie Rauwerda	Elder Pat deRuiter
Maranatha CRC, York	Mark Millard	Richard Blyleven	Ben Ponsen
Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Ancaster	Marian Simonffy	Judy Cook	Everett Vander Horst
Mount Hope Community CRC	Doug Nagtegaal alt Neil Roth	Ryan Flokstra alt Rien Bassie	Joel Bootsma
New Hope Church, Hamilton (emerging church)			Steve Dykstra

c. **Classis is Declared Constituted**

RULED

d. **Presenters, Guests and visitors** are welcomed throughout the day, including, but not limited to, **Jon Berends**, Director, Act Five, **Rosanne Lopers**, Calvin University Trustee. Both gave presentations.

5. **Approvals**

a. Chair explains the point of a consent agenda

b. A **motion to approve** the **Consent Agenda** is Discussed,

i. The recommendation *that Gina Taylor Lunshof be approved as member of the CIC/BOD* (to replace Marcia Hosmar) is **removed** since the recommendation will be taken up in the CIC report.

ii. The **amended** Consent Agenda is ...

ADOPTED

c. A **motion to approve** the **Agenda** with **Addendum** as distributed is ...

ADOPTED

For reference, the Approval of the consent agenda includes the following,

i. Approval of Classis Minutes of [October 24, 2023](#)

ii. Classis Interim Committee and Stated Clerk's Report (attached to [addendum](#))

iii. **Classis Ministries**

- (1) [Campus Ministry Winter Report](#) (Action items below)
 - (2) [Classis Home Missions Report](#)
 - (3) Act 5 (actfive.ca) Jon Berends Exec. Dir. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dm90SrrPi04>
 - (4) McMaster University Christian Reformed Campus Ministry (Michael Fallon)
 - (5) [Mohawk Solid Rock Campus Newsletter 2024](#) (Melissa Kuipers)
 - (6) [Youth Champion Winter Report 2024](#) (John Bijl)
 - (7) [24-01-18 - Campus Ministry Committee Report to March Classis](#)- 2nd edition
- iv. **Correspondence Received for Information**
- (1) [Zach - General Secretary, AI - Transitional Canada Director, Dan US Director](#)
 - (2) [Council of Delegates October Highlights](#)
 - (3) [2024 Redeemer University](#)
 - (4) [2024 Diaconal Ministries Canada \(DMC\)](#)
 - (5) [2024 Calvin University Trustee Report](#)
 - (6) **Invitation to all churches** for the [Annual Inter Classis Safe Church Conference for March 2, 2024](#) <https://www.wmott.ca/scc/workshops.php>

MINISTRY SESSION

10:00 a.m.

6. **Classical Interim Committee Report** CIC Chair: Ken Benjamins
- a. [CIC Report covering Nov 2, 2023, Dec 19, 2023, and Jan 19, 2024](#)
 - b. **Recommendations for Classis' approval;**
 - i. that ***Gina Taylor Lunshof*** **be Approved as member of the CIC** is ... ADOPTED
(Gina was introduced and some of her qualifications are recounted)
 - ii. that ***Theo Boven (Immanuel Hamilton)*** **be appointed for a term as church visitor** is ... ADOPTED
 - iii. regarding **John Bijl's request** to reinstate the **Youth Ministry Team** Referred to the CIC
A question is asked if we know what is the mandate of this Team? See RoP 13.7
 - c. A motion that Classis **Approve the work of the CIC** is ... ADOPTED
7. **Stated Clerk's Report** Stated Clerk: Ed W. Visser
- a. [Report](#) (Page 2 of the CIC report)
 - b. Nothing further is added (or subtracted) from the report, and no questions were asked.
 - c. A motion that Classis **Approve with Appreciation the work of the Stated Clerk** is ... ADOPTED
8. **Classis' Advisory Team Reports**
- a. **Credentials Advisory Team's Report** Delegates of Immanuel Hamilton and Hope Brantford
 - i. **Immanuel CRC, Simcoe requests a counselor** and suggest Doug Nieuwstraten
 - (1) **Rev. Doug Nieuwstraten** and **Immanuel CRC, Simcoe** are in agreement
 - (2) **Recommendation: that Classis approve Rev. Doug Nieuwstraten as Immanuel's Counselor** is ... ADOPTED
 - ii. **Communication Received via the credentials from First CRC, Hamilton.**
 - (1) First Hamilton's [Communication](#).
 - (2) Advisory Team's [Recommendation](#).
 - (3) Chair provides opportunity for conversation
 - (a) Jim Tigchelaar from First CRC, Hamilton, further explains their request.

- (b) Ken, our Treasurer, contacts our Bookkeeper who says there are funds available to absorb this shortfall
 - (4) A motion ***that classis accept First CRC's explanation of their inability to cover the last 6 months of Classis ministry shares of 2023, with appreciation, and that Classis forgive them of the responsibility of paying those ministry shares, while affirming the importance of our covenant of accountability together*** is ... **ADOPTED**
- Grounds:**
- (a) present cash reserves make it possible to absorb this shortfall.
 - (b) we are a covenant community and part of that means coming alongside those needing help.

- b. **Overture Advisory Team's Report** **Delegates of Hagersville Community & First Hamilton**
 - i. [Overture from Calvin CRC, Dundas](#)
 - ii. [Recommendation](#)
 - iii. Chair invites delegate from Calvin to speak to their overture;
 - (1) Calvin provides further background and motivation
 - (2) Calvin acquiesces to the recommendation of the advisory team that instead of overture, it is called a Communication
 - iv. **Recommendation:** that ***Classis Hamilton receive this overture as a communication*** is ... **ADOPTED**

9. **Adjourn for a Special General Membership Meeting** (the regular, annual meeting will be in May)

SPECIAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| SPECIAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING | President: Ken Benjamins |
| a. Establish Quorum (By-Law 5.2) | RULED |
| b. Proof of Notice for the Meeting (By-law 5.4) | RULED |
| c. A motion to Approve Minutes of AGM May 30, 2023 is ... | ADOPTED |
| d. Coming into compliance with the Ontario Not For Profit Corporations Act (ONCA)
Included here are links to two files. Each file has two documents - the first page is the Articles of Incorporation as Amended, and the following pages is the General Operating By-Law 1A.
One file shows all the changes and edits , the second is the cleaned up version .

1. Articles of Incorporation as Amended. This replaces our Letters patent . Once approved, it will be filed with the Government of Ontario. The deadline for this is Oct. 2024

2. General Operating by-Law Number 1A. This replaces our General Operating by-law number 1 . Once approved, it will be kept on file and posted on our website.

3. Recommendation: that <i>the Articles of Incorporation as Amended be Approved</i> is ... ADOPTED
4. Recommendation: that <i>By-Law 1A be approved</i> is ... ADOPTED | |
| d. Election of a member of a BOD member. Recommendation: <i>that Gina Taylor Lunshof be approved as a director</i> (to replace Marcia Hosmar) is ... | ADOPTED |
| f. Adjournment of the Special General Membership Meeting is ... | RULED |

10. **The Meeting of Classis Hamilton is Resumed**

11. **Break**

10:45 -11:00

12. Results of Selecting Delegates for Synod 2024

a. Elder Delegate Selected

- i. **Delegate: Herb Grootenboer** (Hope CRC, Brantford)
- ii. **Alternate: Peter Bulthuis** (Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Ancaster)

b. Deacon Delegate Selected

- i. **Delegate: Eric Tisch** (Immanuel CRC, Hamilton)
- ii. **Alternate: Marian Simonffy** (Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Ancaster)

c. Ministers Selected

- i. **First Delegate: Doug Nieuwstraten**
- ii. **Alternate: Ken Benjamins**
- iii. **Fourth Delegate: Hayden Regeling**
- iv. **Alternate: Mark Verbruggen**

13. Church Counselor Reports:

- a. **Bethel CRC** – STM Pastor Derek Bouma gives an update of his work with Bethel
- b. **First CRC, Hamilton** - Hayden reports that First has decided to stop searching for a second pastor. The Chair suggests that First Hamilton discern **whether they still need a counselor** since a counselor is directly related to a call of a pastor.
- c. **Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis** - an elder reports that they blessed with **Pastor Jack's Kerkof's** preaching, work in the congregation and community, and with **Pastor Ed Visser's** Coaching their Pastor Search Team
- d. **Immanuel CRC, Simcoe** - Doug Nieuwstraten chosen at this meeting to be counselor;
- e. **Maranatha CRC, York** - counselor needed, **Pastor Joel Boostma** has agreed with Maranatha to be their counselor
 - i. **A motion to approve Rev. Joel Bootsma as Maranatha's Counselor is ...** **ADOPTED**
 - ii. **Ben Ponsen** is acknowledged and thanked for his ministry and service in Classis Hamilton and Maranatha. He has served faithfully and in a gentle and unassuming way.
 - iii. Elder **Richard Blyleven** shares that Maranatha CRC, York will celebrate 67 Years this fall.
- f. The **vice-Chair** leads our **prayer** for the **churches** and **people** involved.

14. Classis Ministries Reports

- a. **Candidacy Committee** - an oral report **Cara De Haan** (new chair of the committee)
 - i. Good news: Two students we've supported are now in ministry; Matthew Guichelaar from Hope Brantford, installed in First Thunder Bay, and Jolene Veenstra from Meadowlands Community, now installed in Mountain View Grimsby.
 - ii. We are encouraged to help people discern their calling, and guide their way to the Committee for support. **Please note**; the deadline for application for funding is **April 1**.
 - iii. Cara leads our prayer of thanks
- b. **Campus Ministry Committee** (report in Consent Agenda) **Michael Fallon** (on behalf of Anthony)
 - i. **Recommendation** that **Davis Ward** be approved as a **member of the Campus Ministry committee** is **ADOPTED**
 - ii. **Recommendation** that **Rev. Willemina Zwart** be renewed for a 2nd term at this meeting [as member of the CMC] **ADOPTED**

15. **Act Five:** Jon gives us a beautiful presentation of the ministry

Jon Berends (exe dir)

16. **Chair leads our prayer of thanks and petition**

LUNCH BREAK

12:20 - 1:20 p.m.

DENOMINATIONAL MATTERS SESSION

1:20 p.m.

17. **Post Lunch announcements**

- a. Chair reminds us of Rev. Al Postma’s appointment as the Executive Director - Canada
- b. Chair gives a brief COD update

18. **Calvin University Trustee**

Rosanne Lopers, Calvin Trustee

- a. Resignation of Wiebe Boer, very difficult and emotional time.
- b. Rosanne reviews some updates about the University

19. **Adjournment:**

- a. **Upcoming Classis Meeting** (all on the [Classis’ Website Calendar](#))
Hosting Classis, First CRC, Hamilton

- i. **Agenda** Submissions Due, April 16, 2024
- ii. **Credentials** Due, May 7, 2024
- iii. **Addendum** Submissions... Due, May 14, 2023
- iv. **Classis** **Meets May 28, 2024, Hosted by First CRC, Hamilton**

b. **Closing Remarks & Prayer**

Chair

- i. Ben Ponsen offers some parting comments of encouragement and extends God’s blessing
- ii. Chair leads our prayer of testimony and gratitude to our Father in Heaven
- iii. We stand to sing the Doxology

c. **Adjournment Declared** 1:52 pm

Chair

Just Around the Corner (all on the [Classis’ Website Calendar](#))

Hosting Classis

2024 Oct 22 - Hope, Brantford

- Agenda** Submissions Due ... September 10, 2024
- Credentials** Due ... October 1, 2024
- Addendum** Submissions Due ... October 8, 2024
- Classis** **Meets October 22, 2024** Hosted by **Hope CRC, Brantford**

Further Down the Road (in 2025) (all on the [Classis’ Website Calendar](#))

Hosting Classis

2025 March 1 - Hagersville Community CRC, (2nd Saturday of 3)

Agenda Submissions Due .. January 14, 2025
Credentials Due ... February 04, 2025
Addendum Submissions Due ... February 11, 2025
Classis Meets *Saturday* March 1, 2025

Submitted with Gratitude:

Ed W. Visser