



ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA
CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
MAY 22, 2018

MEETING COMMENCES AT 9:30 AM AT FIRST HAMILTON CRC, HAMILTON

The section included in this Addendum on the next two pages 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.

For first time delegates (and as refresher for others) the Agenda itself can be found at the following link: http://www.classishamilton.ca/files/ClassisHamilton/agenda_may_22_2018.pdf

The report from the denomination regarding denominational ministry share giving for 2017 can be found at page 6.

At the end of the CIC presentation, Roelof Peereboom will also be given some time to make a presentation about the transition of their church from Mt. Hamilton to Mt. Hope Community.

The written report from Diaconal Ministries Canada was received after the agenda was issued. Their report is included in this Addendum for your information.

The final audited financial statements with the auditor's report can be found at this link: http://www.classishamilton.ca/files/ClassisHamilton/2017_financial_statements.pdf

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. Start time is determined based on the length/needs of the agenda.

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/rop_issue_2017_2.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, you are to seek the permission of the chair who will seek the consent of the assembly.
- 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.

What do the Acronyms Used at Classis Mean?

It is always a challenge for persons coming to a meeting of an organization to understand the shortcut language often used. Part of that shortcut language is using acronyms. Here follows a list of more common ones often included in reports or heard at classis meetings.

- ARC – Audit Review Committee of Classis Hamilton
- CHCC – Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee
- CHCMC – Classis Hamilton Campus Ministries Committee
- CHHMC – Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee
- CHSCT – Classis Hamilton Safe Church Team
- CHYMT – Classis Hamilton Youth Ministry Team
- CIC – Classis Interim Committee (also serves as the corporation's Board of Directors)
- CMT – Classis Ministry Team
- CRCNA – Christian Reformed Church in North America
- DMC – Diaconal Ministries Canada
- EPMC – Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidates
- RCA – Reformed Church in America
- RoP – Rules of Procedure of Classis Hamilton

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1. DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Church	First Name	Last Name	Title
Ancaster CRC	Rita	Klein-Geltink	Pastor Delegate
Ancaster CRC	Ryan	Game	Elder Delegate
Ancaster CRC	Wendy	Vording	Deacon Delegate
Ancaster CRC	Jerry	Ellens	Elder Alternate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Everett	Vander Horst	Pastor Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Judy	Cook	Elder Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Marcia	Hosmar	Deacon Delegate
Hope	William	Koopmans	Pastor Delegate
Hope	Tim	Vaandering	Elder Delegate
Hope	Ryan	Haan	Deacon Delegate
Hope	David	Guichelaar	Elder Alternate
Hope	Fred	Reitsma	Elder Alternate
New Street	Joel	Bootsma	Pastor Delegate
New Street	Rosana	van der Woerd	Elder Delegate
New Street	John	Dekker	Deacon Delegate
New Street	Esther	Hornsveld	Deacon Alternate
Faith	Dave	Hook	Elder Delegate
Faith	Henry	Hess	Elder Delegate
Faith	Dan	Tersingi	Deacon Delegate
Calvin	Ken	Benjamins	Pastor Delegate
Calvin	Sid	Boonstra	Elder Delegate
Calvin	Rod	Gorter	Elder Alternate
Calvary	Gareth	Harker	Pastor Delegate
Calvary	Jan	VanderHout	Elder Delegate
Calvary	Aaron	Snoek	Deacon Delegate
Calvary	Brian	Vin	Elder Alternate
Calvary	Dave	VanderMeulen	Elder Alternate
Hagersville Community	Jeff	Klingenberg	Pastor Delegate
Hagersville Community	Charlie	Arends	Elder Delegate
Hagersville Community	Brian	Paterson	Deacon Delegate
Hagersville Community	Jake	Elgersma	Elder Alternate
First Hamilton	Chris	Schoon	Pastor Delegate
First Hamilton	Len	Moelker	Elder Delegate
First Hamilton	Gina	Taylor	Deacon Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Anthony	Elenbaas	Pastor Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Martin	Joldersma	Elder Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Sharon	Van Dokkemburg	Deacon Delegate
Mt. Hope Community	Roelof	Peereboom	Pastor Delegate
Mt. Hope Community	John	Demik	Elder Delegate
New Hope	Greg	Sinclair	Emerging Church
New Hope	Jeff	Neven	Emerging Church
New Hope	Ginelle	Bucher	Emerging Church
Ebenezer	Daryl	DeKlerk	Pastor Delegate
Ebenezer	John	Miedema	Elder Delegate
Ebenezer	Keith	Miedema	Deacon Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Jeff	Vandermeer	Pator Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Mark	Vandervliet	Elder Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Ann	Oosterveld	Deacon Delegate
Bethel	Bruce	Adema	Pastor Delegate
Bethel	Ted	Bootsma	Elder Delegate
Bethel	Alicia	Hutchings	Deacon Delegate
Maranatha	Ben	Ponsen	Pastor Delegate
Maranatha	Frank	Riewald	Elder Delegate
Maranatha	Jake	Termorshuizen	Deacon Delegate

2. DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARE GIVING FOR 2017

Christian Reformed Church in North America
Ministry Shares Classis Report
1/1/2017 - 4/15/2018
2017

Classis Hamilton

Church	Members	Total Received to Date	Total 2017 Suggested	%
183 New Hope Church * Hamilton	0	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
4802 Ancaster CRC Ancaster	409	\$4,230.00	\$128,000.64	3.30%
4803 Meadowlands Fellowship CRC Ancaster	260	\$64,501.00	\$81,369.60	79.27%
4806 Bethel CRC Waterdown	213	\$48,448.12	\$66,660.48	72.68%
4807 Hope CRC Brantford	372	\$95,140.00	\$116,421.12	81.72%
4808 New Street CRC Burlington Burlington	211	\$19,719.53	\$66,034.56	29.86%
4810 Faith CRC Burlington	328	\$50,048.20	\$102,650.88	48.76%
4816 Calvin CRC Dundas	193	\$60,401.28	\$60,401.28	100.00%
4823 Calvary Christian Reformed Church (Flamborough) Dundas	239	\$52,812.00	\$74,797.44	70.61%
4840 First Hamilton CRC Hamilton	227	\$0.00	\$71,041.92	0.00%
4844 Immanuel CRC Hamilton	311	\$97,330.56	\$97,330.56	100.00%
4848 Mount Hamilton CRC Hamilton	112	\$16,029.81	\$23,319.40	68.74%
4853 Ebenezer CRC Jarvis	215	\$47,839.42	\$67,286.40	71.10%
4855 Hagersville Community CRC Hagersville	133	\$8,199.55	\$31,303.76	26.19%
4873 Immanuel CRC Simcoe	135	\$17,025.04	\$32,123.66	53.00%
4893 Maranatha CRC York	271	\$84,812.16	\$84,812.16	100.00%
Total	3,629	\$670,536.67	\$1,103,553.86	60.76%

* Emerging Church

3. COMMUNICATION FROM CANADIAN MINISTRIES

Dear Stated Clerk of Classis,

The next Canadian National Gathering is scheduled to take place at The Kings University in Edmonton on May 24 – 26, 2019. A planning team has been at work planning the event for several months already, to ensure that it meets our vision of being, ***“a spiritual journey over the course of a weekend to strategically celebrate, discern and envision bold next steps for the CRC in Canada locally, regionally, and nationally.”***

We believe that God is leading the global church, including the Christian Reformed Church, to find new ways of serving him in an ever-changing world desperately in need of his presence. We’re excited to discover, together, what this means for the CRC.

Each CRC Classis in Canada is encouraged to prayerfully search for and select participants of different age groups, gender, and background (including those with disabilities) to participate in the Canadian National Gathering. To help ensure that the event reflects our denomination, every Classis is asked to appoint one participant for every two churches represented in the Classis, with up to two participants being ordained ministers.

To help you get started, the planning team suggests that a request for applicants be sent to churches in the early fall and that the application process lead to the selection of “gatherers” by the Spring 2019 Classis meetings. You may also want to consider using some time during your Spring meeting to officially delegate your representatives and support them with a time of prayer and possibly laying on of hands.

Each participant will be expected to prepare for the Canadian National Gathering through prayer and readings of applicable materials. They should be people who are keen to share where they see God leading their church in their own community, and who are also willing to listen and learn from others. We also hope that participants will be available to classis and its member churches following the event to serve in an advisory capacity as classes and member churches consider where God might be leading them.

Almost all costs, including transportation, lodging and food will be covered. Participants are only asked to contribute \$200 each. It is hoped that local churches or classes are willing to cover this cost.

Stay tuned for additional information as this becomes available.

Your partner in ministry,

Darren Roorda
Canadian Ministries Director

4. OVERTURE COMMITTEE #1 REPORT

May 8, 2018

Dear Classis Hamilton delegates,

As the Advisory Committee for the request by New Hope Church to transition from 'emerging' to 'established' church status, we move that Classis support their request.

Grounds:

1. This is in accord with Church Order art. 38-b, "When a council is being constituted for the first time, the approval of classis is required."
2. We note with thanks to God that New Hope has had a kingdom presence in the East Hamilton community for the last 10 years. The supplement for art. 38 (point 1) states, "Ordinarily the congregation shall have been in existence for at least three years," which New Hope meets.
3. We have confirmed that with at least 45 adults who are faithful contributors to the life of the church, "The congregation includes a sufficient number of members who meet the biblical requirements for church office and are committed to use their personal spiritual gifts in providing leadership and support to the congregation and its ministry." (in accord with CO art. 38-b supplement, point 2) There is an appropriate method of nominating and affirming Leadership Team members on a 3-year rotating basis.
4. It is evident from the financial statements provided that, "The congregation exercises financial stewardship for the continuing development and effectiveness of its ministry... that reflects its capacity and commitment toward financial self-support, including personnel expenses and classical and denominational ministry shares." (in accord with CO supplement, art. 38-b, point 3)
5. The community in which New Hope is located, "offers the potential for continuing ministry, and the congregation gives evidence of its continuing commitment to fulfill the great commission with the resources and opportunities God gives." (in accord with CO supplement, art. 38-b, point 4)

There are a number of points from the Church Order which the congregation will be well-served by:

1. What New Hope calls their "Leadership Team" functions essentially as their Elders and Council. The newly established (last Fall) Pastoral Care team functions essentially as a diaconate. We note, however, that there are no overlapping members between the Leadership Team and the Pastoral Care team. We believe that doing so would bolster connectivity and collaboration between these important ministry realms (which likely happens informally now). It is good to see that there is at least one person on the Finance Team who is also on the Leadership Team, and we encourage you to formalize the lines of accountability and communication. (See CO art. 25 and 26-a)
2. There is an appropriate method of nominating and affirming Leadership Team members on a 3-year rotating basis. The church would be well-served to formalize this process for the Pastoral Care (diaconal) team as well, although neither Scripture nor the Church Order specifies the length of term. A rotation of terms provides seasons of rest and the development of new leaders.
3. Since there is intent to begin a calling process for a pastor, a Church Counselor should be appointed by Classis, according to CO article 9.

4. Thus far, First CRC has been holding the memberships of New Hope, which will need to be accounted for properly now as an established church.

5. With 20-30 children and youth, we encourage you to take advantage of the denominational resources of the Faith Formation Ministry.

We pray for God's blessing on your journey from here. It's a delight to see and hear of God's work in and through you as you serve the East Hamilton community as the hands and feet of Christ.

Sincerely,

The Councils of Mt. Hope CRC and Jarvis Ebenezer CRC

5. *OVERTURE COMMITTEE #2 REPORT*

Overtures Committee from Brantford Hope and Dundas Calvin

In preparation for the Meeting of Classis Hamilton, May 22, 2018

Initial Thoughts/Talking Points

1. Our assignment.

Our committee was assigned two overtures in preparation for the meeting of Classis Hamilton on May 22, 2018.

- a. Youth Ministry Catalyst Proposal from CHYMT
- b. Ministry Share Overture from First Hamilton CRC

1. Regarding the Youth Ministry Catalyst overture.

- a. We applaud the goal/vision of the overture which seeks to engage youth in our churches and ministries.
- b. A Youth catalyst cannot replace the ministry of youth leaders at the local level. A Youth Catalyst can only assist and encourage their important work.
- c. The Youth Committee has been working on this position since 2017. It is time to give it a try. The overture notes that the position will be reviewed in three years.
- d. We recommend that Classis adopt the overture.

2. Regarding the Ministry Shares Overture (First Hamilton CRC)

- a. First Hamilton CRC is to be thanked for drawing ministry share giving practices to our attention. It is to be acknowledged that the current denominational ministry share system has challenges and problems. For example, we note the following talking points:
 - 1. Denominational ministry share amounts for the various agencies of the denomination are calculated with the use of an “experience factor.” Since the denomination realizes that ministry shares are typically paid at an average of approximately 65-70%, the budget numbers are inflated accordingly in order to make up for the anticipated shortfall. This practice is viewed by many as lacking transparency. It would be fair to summarize, nobody likes it but it is maintained for pragmatic reasons.
 - 2. There is currently considerable variance from congregation to congregation, and classis to classis, in terms of percentages of the ministry shares that are actually submitted. In some cases, lack of compliance with ministry share guidelines has less to do with ability to contribute and more to do with prioritization.
 - 3. Synod has received numerous requests in the past to address these issues. The typical conclusion has been that the present system is not ideal but that alternatives would appear to create more problems than they would fix.

4. With shrinking total membership, and declining financial revenues from ministry shares, the denomination appears to be facing significant financial constraints and some difficult ministry decisions and prioritizations.

- b. While acknowledging the importance of having renewed conversations regarding ministry shares and financial support at the levels of congregation, classis, and denomination, the present overture committee believes that there are several problems with the overture from First Hamilton CRC.
 - i. It does not spell out how the churches should prepare their budgets and prioritize ministry share giving. It is unrealistic to expect that some churches will agree to pay a higher percentage for ministry shares to compensate for the anticipated reductions in total ministry share giving that may be anticipated from numerous churches based upon a pledge system. The illustrations used in the overture earmark considerably less for denominational ministries than what is currently budgeted, which if enacted in real giving in a majority of classes would precipitate an even greater financial crisis for the denomination than currently exists.
 - ii. Although Classis Hamilton can approve ministry share changes within its own boundaries, it does not have the permission to opt out of the denominational model that we have covenanted to work with. This issue is especially crucial. It is noteworthy that the last paragraph of the overture addresses the implications of their overture for First Hamilton CRC and for Classis Hamilton, but it does not address the implications for the denomination—which may be devastating if followed by other classes. This is a conversation that requires all parties involved.
- c. We recommend that Classis not accede to the overture. First Hamilton CRC is free to resubmit an overture that addresses how the churches can prioritize ministry share giving in a way that is fair and equitable, and in a way that allows the broader denomination to be part of the conversation.

6. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Credentials Committee

(delegates of Simcoe Immanuel CRC Simcoe and Bethel CRC Waterdown)

8 May 2018

The following request was included on the credentials from Faith CRC Burlington for the 22 May 2018 meeting of Classis Hamilton:

Request to discuss at classis

Last year our Council sent the following request to classis: "We would like to have a conversation about aligning the classis ministry vision with the new denominational ministry plan, Our Journey 2020."

We are aware that classis acted on our request [at the January 17, 2017 meeting], but are unsure about what form this action has taken and would like to hear an update. Thank you.

Your Credentials Committee noted the following from the January 17, 2017 Minutes of Classis Hamilton:

5. On motion duly made, seconded and carried, IT WAS RESOLVED THAT: the Classis Ministries Team be charged to process "Our Journey 2020", and find ways for Classis Hamilton to engage this vision initiative.

A response to this question be given by the Classis Ministry Team.

Further, your Credentials Committee noted this item from the Classis Interim Committee:

There were many churches with deacons missing at the most recent classis meeting or only two delegates were present from a number of churches. CIC asks classis to set some time aside to discuss this matter.

Therefore, we provide the following advice on this matter:

That the Classis Ministry Team be asked to set aside 20 minutes at the October 2018 meeting of Classis Hamilton for this discussion. Also, in the meantime, the CMT would ask the churches of Classis Hamilton to address this question individually, and then provide a synopsis of their response to the Stated Clerk ahead of that meeting for inclusion in the Agenda.