



ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA
CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
OCTOBER 25, 2017

MEETING COMMENCES AT 9:00 AM AT MOUNT 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.

The Agenda had a number of errors which have been corrected. Please, view or download the final version at the following link:

http://www.classishamilton.ca/files/ClassisHamilton/agenda_october_2017.pdf

There is a further letter from Darren Roorda regarding The Bridge App which you can find on page 6.

The report from the Credentials Committee can be found at page 7.

The Advisory Committee Report regarding the Classis Youth Worker Catalyst position is included on page 8.

A request has been received from Disability Concerns for the classis churches to nominate a Disability Concerns Regional Advocate. If there is someone on your congregation who has a heart to advocate for persons with disabilities, please, respond including their name(s) and their contact information.

Finally, the budget information in the Agenda did not include the membership numbers for Classis Hamilton. That information has been included in this Addendum.

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_1.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 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
- CHSCC – Classis Hamilton Safe Church Committee
- CHYMT – Classis Hamilton Youth Ministry Team
- CIC – Classis Interim Committee (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	Gerry	DeBoer	Elder Delegate
Ancaster CRC	Jim	Bezemer	Deacon Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Everett	Vander Horst	Pastor Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Judy	Cook	Elder Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Jeanette	Lodewyks	Elder Alternate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Ed	Mulder	Deacon Alternate
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	Irving	Bos	Elder Delegate
New Street	John	Dekker	Deacon Delegate
Faith	Homer	Lensink	Elder Delegate
Faith	Henry	Hess	Elder Delegate
Faith	Dan	Tersingi	Deacon Delegate
Faith	Audry	VanderMeulen	Deacon Alternate
Calvin	Ken	Benamins	Pastor Delegate
Calvin	Ken	Tigchelaar	Elder Delegate
Calvin	Luther	Andree	Deacon Delegate
Calvin	Fred	Dykman	Elder Alternate
Calvary	Gareth	Harker	Pastor Delegate
Calvary	Dan	Vanderkruk	Elder Delegate
Calvary	Dave	Vandermeulen	Deacon Delegate
Calvary	Ralph	Groen	Elder Alternate
Calvary	Chris	Bosveld	Deacon Alternate
Hagersville Community	Jeff	Klingenberg	Pastor Delegate
Hagersville Community	Aaron	Miedema	Elder Delegate
Hagersville Community	Henny	Arends	Deacon Delegate
First	Chris	Schoon	Pastor Delegate
First	Len	Moelker	Elder Delegate
First	Gina	Taylor	Deacon Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Anthony	Elenbaas	Pastor Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Martin	Joldersma	Elder Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Linda	Deys	Deacon Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Darrell	Ouwehand	Elder Alternate
Mt. Hamilton	Bob	DeHaan	Elder Delegate
Mt. Hamilton	Greg	Schuurman	Elder Delegate
Mt. Hamilton	John	Demik	Elder Delegate
New Hope	Jeff	Neven	Emerging Church
Ebenezer	Darrell	DeKlerk	Pastor Delegate
Ebenezer	Andy	DeJonge	Elder Delegate
Ebenezer	Nick	VanderHeide	Elder Alternate
Immanuel, Smc	Jeff	Vandermeer	Pator Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Julie	Berkel	Elder Delegate
Bethel	Margaret	DeWeerd	Elder Delegate
Bethel	Walter	Kloostra	Elder Delegate
Bethel	Alicia	Hutchings	Deacon Delegate
Bethel	Wally	Boonstra	Deacon Alternate
Maranatha	Ben	Ponsen	Pastor Delegate
Maranatha	Jeremy	Brouwer	Elder Delegate
Maranatha	Jake	Termorshuizen	Deacon Delegate
Maranatha	Kevin	Vanderspek	Elder Alternate
Maranatha	Mark	Vandermeer	Deacon Alternate

2. LETTER FROM DARREN ROORDA

Dear Classis Delegate:

August 25, 2017

Thank you for allowing me to address you concerning an exciting opportunity that you will be voting on at your upcoming classis meeting – The Bridge App.

In strategic partnership with [Extreme Technology Corporation \(ETC\)](#), in a tremendous answer to prayer, the CRCNA has worked closely with ETC on the development of a communications tool designed for local church members and its community. It has been developed and tested over the past two years and is now being launched across Canada with intentions of growth into the USA. The Bridge App is a missional and community-building tool designed to bring a vast number of church needs together all in one place – with little to no additional effort by administrators within the church. Most favourably, since this is a custom-built app and platform, the future promises increased functionality based upon feedback and needs.

Prior to your attending your classis meeting, I'd like to encourage you to do three things:

1. Download the app. You can access the website at: <http://www.thebridgeapp.org>. Complete download instructions can be found there. Take some time to explore all of the features the app contains. Currently, you can only join the “online app church”. Once your church has been registered, you will have the ability to access a whole host of other features.
2. Listen to my introductory video to classis by [clicking here](#). Additionally, you can access this link at the following: www.crcna.org/canada. The link can be found on the right hand side bar under the “quick links” section.
3. Pray that the app continues to be blessed in its effectiveness as a tool which local churches and classes can use in spreading the gospel. Pray that localized ministry continues to flourish by means of using the app as a tool.

I encourage your feedback as well. Feel free to email me at: cmd@crcna.org.

Blessings,



Darren Roorda

3. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Request for Assistance:

New Hope Church would like direction to know what is expected of us relating to denomination and classical shares. At each budget meeting, we raise the question, "Is it New Hope's desire to stay connected with Classis Hamilton and the CRCNA and as such, continue to pay 100% of the expected financial contribution?" Each budget meeting has resulted in affirmation of participation. Since day one, we have paid 100% of our shares (both Classis and Denomination) and we also contribute to many local ministries. In fact, last year, over half of our budget went to shares and external ministries. What is unclear to us is what is the financial expectation of New Hope Church in regards to Denominational and Classical Shares.

Request for Discussion at Classis:

New Hope Church would like Classis Hamilton to keep Church Planting as a priority. We'd also challenge Classis to consider structures and systems that both encourage and hinder church planting. There is much more opportunity for church planting that can take place, if there is interest. It will require some changes in our imagination of what church looks like, who are partners are and how it is funded. New Hope would be happy to share the story of how we have partnered and funded a church plant over the last three years and how both our church and the new church plant continue to grow.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Credential Committee recommends the following to Classis Hamilton:

1. That Classis acknowledge the request of New Hope
2. That these requests be referred to Classis Home Missions Committee (CHMC) to engage the leadership of New Hope and bring forward recommendations to Classis Hamilton

Grounds: After speaking with members of church leadership, CHMC, and Resonate, the credentials committee has identified that the first request is more substantial than can be covered by the scope of this committee. Although the simple answer to this request is that New Hope is not *required* to pay Denominational or Classical Ministry Shares since it is not an *organized* congregation (cf. C.O. Supplement Art. 38-b), the Credentials Committee acknowledges that the deeper question of how New Hope fits within our current classical and denominational structure needs to be addressed in the near future. The CHMC seems the most appropriate body to handle these questions.

4. *ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT*

Regarding the Proposal by the CHYMC (see Agenda, page 45)

Advisory Committee Response:

The Advisory Committee recommends that Classis Hamilton not accept the Classis Hamilton Youth Ministry Committee (CHYMC) proposal that Classis Hamilton employ a Youth Ministry Catalyst.

Grounds:

1. We are not convinced that this proposed position would accomplish substantively more as a Classis initiative than what each respective church can do on its own in support of their respective youth leaders.
2. The proposal does not indicate that the churches of Classis Hamilton, and specifically the current part-time or volunteer youth leaders, are requesting this type of assistance from Classis.
3. The proposal does not indicate whether the intended recipients (part time and volunteer youth leaders) have the capacity to meet with the proposed youth catalyst staff member.
4. Classis Hamilton previously approved John Bijl in a volunteer role of Youth Champion, at the request of the CRC's Faith Formation Ministries and the CHYMC. This volunteer role serves as a liaison between Faith Formation Ministries and the CHYMC, and has included responsibility for connecting with youth leaders from various churches in Classis Hamilton. We are uncertain as to how the proposed paid position relates to or differs in scope or substance from that volunteer role.

A Few Additional Comments:

1. We appreciate the willingness of the CHYMC to consider potential means of addressing issues raised in recent studies on faith formation among youth (i.e. Hemorrhaging Faith). These conversations are critical if we are to cultivate faith among our youth. However, we are not convinced that adding a Classis staff position, at least as proposed, is necessary or substantively beneficial at this point in time.
2. It seems to us that the proposed position has some significant overlap with current CHYMC responsibilities. Is this paid position intended to replace, duplicate, or complement most of what the committee as a whole has been tasked with doing?
3. We are concerned about the financial capacity of Classis Hamilton to continue supporting additional paid staff positions, particularly for efforts that the churches of Classis Hamilton could do on their own.

5. CLASSIS MAMILTON ACTIVE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Church Membership	2018		2017
Ancaster	409	-4	413
Ancaster, Fellowship	260	31	229
Brantford, Hope	372	-8	380
Burlington	211	5	206
Burlington, Faith	328	10	318
Dundas, Calvin	193	-31	224
Flamborough, Calvary	239	14	225
Hagersville, Community	133	2	131
Hamilton, First	227	3	224
Hamilton, Immanuel	311	-8	319
Hamilton, Mount Hamilton	112	-6	118
Hamilton, New Hope	15	-13	28
Jarvis, Ebenezer	215	1	214
Simcoe, Immanuel	135	-1	136
Waterdown, Bethel	213	3	210
York, Maranatha	271	30	241
TOTALS	3644	28	3616