

ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA
CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
October 27, 2015

MEETING COMMENCES AT 10:00 AM AT THE IMMANUEL CRC, SIMCOE

Below, please find the final reports for the upcoming Classis meeting.

The Credentials Committee has prepared its report in response to the matters raised in the credentials and the report is included in this Addendum.

The Synodical Deputies for the meeting will be Rev. Hendrik Bruinsma (Classis Toronto), Rev. James Dekker (Classis Niagara) and Rev. Ron Fisher (Classis Huron). They will be present to deal with the request of Rev. Paul VandenBrink for honourable release under Church Order Article 14-b. See item 1 of the Overture Committee #2 report in this Addendum. The report (Waterdown, Bethel CRC) regarding Rules of Procedure for pulpit supply appointments can be found in as the second item under the Overture Committee #2 section in this Addendum.

The report regarding various student funding overtures (Ancaster CRC, Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis and Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee) can be found under the Overture Committee #1 section in this Addendum. Also included there is the Committee's advice regarding the Proposal for all the Classes in Canada presented by the Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee.

The report of the Church Visitors was not ready for the Agenda so it is included in this Addendum.

Please note that since the agenda was issued, Ken Benjamins was appointed by the CIC as church counselor for Mount Hamilton CRC. The delegates are asked to take note of this. Approval of the CIC/Stated Clerk report will be considered as approval of this appointment as well.

Please also note that an explanation regarding the removal of the request from CHHM to add \$10,500 to their church planting reserve in 2016 should have been included with the budget notes in the Agenda. No clear explanation was provided by CHHM to either CMT or CIC as to when and where the increased reserve will be needed. The Finance Committee has been instructed to recommend a policy to CIC prior to the end of 2015 regarding an overall reasonably defensible reserve. That policy is necessary in light of Canada Revenue Agency's reporting requirements regarding funds not used in current charitable activities. At present, the overall reserve of Classis Hamilton appears to be well in excess of what is reasonably defensible.

Thank you,



Dick L. Kranendonk,
Stated Clerk

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1. DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

| City | Church | First Name | Last Name | Title |
|-------------|------------------------|------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Ancaster | Ancaster CRC | Rita | Klein-Geltink | Pastor Delegate |
| Ancaster | Ancaster CRC | Henry | Askes | Elder Delegate |
| Ancaster | Ancaster CRC | Ralph | Luimes | Deacon Delegate |
| Ancaster | Ancaster CRC | Mark | VanBeveren | Elder Alternate |
| Ancaster | Meadowlands Fellowship | Everett | Vander Horst | Pastor Delegate |
| Ancaster | Meadowlands Fellowship | Judy | Cook | Elder Delegate |
| Ancaster | meadowlands Fellowship | Ed | Witvoet | Deacon Delegate |
| Brantford | Hope | Ken | Benjamins | Pastor Delegate |
| Brantford | Hope | Willem | Vos | Elder Delegate |
| Brantford | Hope | Gerrett | de Vries | Deacon Delegate |
| Brantford | Hope | Tim | Vaandering | Elder Alternate |
| Burlington | New Street | Joel | Bootsma | Pastor Delegate |
| Burlington | New Street | Geoff | Weinstein | Elder Delegate |
| Burlington | New Street | John | Dekker | Deacon Delegate |
| Burlington | New Street | Ted | Groenewagen | Elder Delegate |
| Burlington | Faith | Homer | Lensink | Elder Delegate |
| Burlington | Faith | Marge | Kloet | Deacon Delegate |
| Burlington | Faith | Dave | Hook | Elder Delegate |
| Dundas | Calvin | Ed | Scharinga | Elder Delegate |
| Dundas | Calvin | Fred | Dykman | Elder Delegate |
| Dundas | Calvin | Luther | Andree | Deacon Delegate |
| Flamborough | Calvary | Arnold | Wouda | Elder Delegate |
| Flamborough | Calvary | Drew | Neven | Elder Delegate |
| Flamborough | Calvary | Dave | Vandermeulen | Elder Delegate |
| Hagersville | Hagersville Community | Jeff | Klingenberg | Pastor Delegate |
| Hagersville | Harersville Community | Aaron | Miedema | Elder Delegate |
| Hagersville | Hagersville Community | Henny | Arends | Deacon Delegate |
| Hamilton | First | Chris | Schoon | Pastor Delegate |
| Hamilton | First | Mark | Devos | Elder Delegate |
| Hamilton | First | Dan | Postma | Deacon Delegate |
| Hamilton | Immanuel | Anthony | Elenbaas | Pastor Delegate |
| Hamilton | Immanuel | Bob | Brown | Elder Delegate |
| Hamilton | Immanuel | Steve | McKnight | Deacon Delegate |
| Hamilton | Immanuel | Henry | Kranenburg | Pastor Alternate |
| Hamilton | Immanuel | David | Rumph | Elder Alternate |
| Hamilton | Mt. Hamilton | John | Demik | Elder Delegate |
| Hamilton | Mt. Hamilton | John | Flokstra | Elder Delegate |
| Hamilton | Mt. Hamilton | Ellen | Hunse | Deacon Delegate |
| Hamilton | Mt. Hamilton | Bob | DeHaan | Elder Alternate |
| Hamilton | Mt. Hamilton | Mark | Demik | Elder Alternate |
| Hamilton | New Hope | Danielle | Rowaan | Non-Voting Delegate |
| Hamilton | New Hope | Tim | Brand | Non-Voting Delegate |
| Hamilton | New Hope | Aaron | DeVos | Non-Voting Delegate |
| Hamilton | New Hope | Jeff | Neven | Non-Voting Delegate |
| Jarvis | Ebenezer | John | Huyser | Pastor Delegate |
| Jarvis | Ebenezer | Bernie | Wessling | Elder Delegate |
| Jarvis | Ebenezer | Chris | Poorting | Deacon Delegate |
| Jarvis | Ebenezer | Alfred | Breukelman | Elder Alternate |
| Jarvis | Ebenezer | Leonard | Bootsma | Deacon Alternate |
| Simcoe | Immanuel | Jeff | Vandermeer | Pastor Delegate |
| Simcoe | Immanuel | Hank | Bakker | Elder Delegate |
| Simcoe | Immanuel | Bert | Stam | Deacon Delegate |
| Waterdown | Bethel | Bruce | Adema | Pastor Delegate |
| Waterdown | Bethel | John | Kemper | Elder Delegate |

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|-----------|-----------|---------|------------|------------------|
| Waterdown | Bethel | Janette | Wamsteeker | Deacon Delegate |
| Waterdown | Bethel | Ted | Bootsma | Elder Alternate |
| Waterdown | Bethel | Denise | VanderLugt | Deacon Alternate |
| York | Maranatha | Maurice | Elgersma | Elder Delegate |
| York | Maranatha | Cor | Visser | Elder Delegate |
| York | Maranatha | Kevin | Vanderspek | Elder Delegate |

2. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Report from the Classis Hamilton Credentials Committee

October 13, 2015

The credentials from each of the churches for the October 27, 2015 meeting of Classis Hamilton were reviewed by the delegates of Ancaster Christian Reformed Church and Ancaster Fellowship Christian Reformed Church. The credentials committee's report to Classis Hamilton is as follows:

- 1) **Bethel Christian Reformed Church, Waterdown:** Our diaconate team, in coordination with our care workers, would be interested in knowing if any other churches have a best practice document on how best to coordinate the work and communication of an elder/deacon/careworker team.

Recommendation: That the Classis Hamilton Mission Director be instructed to request that the churches submit any resources they may have developed and then circulate those resources among the churches of Classis Hamilton for the mutual benefit of all.

- 2) **Ebenezer Christian Reformed Church, Jarvis:** The Council notes with our full concurrence that Garry Sytsma has expressed his desire to serve on the Denominational Board of Trustees for a second term.

Classis has concurred. No action required.

3. OVERTURE COMMITTEE #1 REPORT

Classis Hamilton Overture Committee #1 October, 2015

Overtures Committee #1, consisting of the delegates from New St. CRC Burlington and Hope CRC Brantford, were assigned the following overtures to consider:

1. From Ancaster CRC, to cap the tuition assistance funding from Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee at \$40 000 / yr., with a maximum of \$5 000 going to any one student. (Appendix 8.1)
2. From Ebenezer CRC Jarvis, to cap CHCC funding at \$40 000 / yr., and that CHCC would only approve funding for students one year at a time. (Appendix 8.4)
3. From CHCC, to cap funding at \$75 000 / yr. (Appendix 8.2)
4. From CHCC, to overture Synod 2016 that all needs based financial support for all CRC students attending Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) be awarded by CTS effective with enrolment for the 2017/18 academic year; and that Church Order, Art. 43a, be appropriately changed. (Appendix 8.3)
5. From CHCC, a proposal to establish a “Unified Canadian Student Support Committee”, and an accompanying Canadian seminary ranking system. (Appendix 8.6)

It seems to us that, because of their comparable subject matter, the first 3 overtures noted should be taken into consideration together.

Our responses are as follows:

1. Overtures Committee #1, with regards to a cap on tuition assistance funding from the CHCC, recommends that the motion before Classis read: *That Classis Hamilton cap potential financial assistance for the 2016/17 academic year at \$60 000.*
Grounds:
 - a. Plans for the 2017/18 academic year and ongoing would be made based on decisions at Synod 2016.
 - b. \$40 000 is too low to set the cap at, given our previous commitments to students. \$75 000 is too high, given our budget concerns.
 - c. It’s difficult to set a maximum per student, as students will have vastly different needs depending on which seminary they are attending, their family situation, the possibility of finding work, etc. How to disburse the set amount of funds is best left in the hands of CHCC.
2. Overtures Committee #1 recommends that Classis Hamilton overtures Synod 2016 as noted above and in the CHCC recommendation found in Appendix 8.2.
3. Overtures Committee #1, with regards to the proposal to establish a “Unified Canadian Student Support Committee”, and an accompanying Canadian seminary ranking system, recommends that:
 - Classis Hamilton encourage the CHCC (along with the Clerk and the CMLT) to pursue this discussion with other Canadian Classes and the CRC Ministry in Canada Office in Burlington

- the CHCC (together with other classes) does not follow through on a Canadian seminary ranking system, but rather maintains a list of eligible seminaries that the Classes may provide funding for.

Grounds:

- a. If funding for students attending CTS would be processed by CTS, than Classis would still need to provide assistance for students at more local seminaries.
- b. By working with other classes, it would avoid significant annual fluctuations in student participation and funds needed.
- c. A joint effort among classes would “spread the wealth” of students and monies across several classes.
- d. Establishing and maintaining a seminary ranking system is an onerous and difficult job. Once agreed that a student may attend a certain seminary, the CHCC would ensure continued support and encouragement in a Reformed and confessional worldview.

On behalf of the delegates from Hope CRC, Brantford and New St. CRC, Burlington,

4. OVERTURE COMMITTEE #2 REPORT

Overture Committee #2, made up of the delegates of Immanuel CRC, Hamilton and Faith CRC, Burlington, herewith presents its report dealing with the two overtures found in the Agenda, Appendices #1 and #8.5.

Overture 1

We recommend that Classis Hamilton acquiesce to Rev. Paul Vanden Brink's request to be honourably released from ordained ministry in the CRC under C.O. Article 14b.

Grounds:

1. Rev. Vanden Brink meets all the requirements of Art. 14b.
2. The Council of his current church, Calvin CRC, Dundas, has provided their support of his request and affirmed the good faith in which the process has been followed.
3. Rev. Vanden Brink has accepted a call to serve as a church planter with the PCA and this allows him to be available for ordination in the PCA.

Note: Classis Hamilton wishes to thank Pastor Paul for his faithful years of ministry in the CRC in our region and prays for God's blessing on him and his family as he embarks on this new chapter in his ministry.

Overture 2

We thank Bethel Waterdown for raising the matter of the current Classical Appointment system in Classis Hamilton. As we explored this matter ourselves, it became apparent that there are additional points of discussion around Classical Appointments than just the complication of evening service schedules. As far as we can tell, Classis Hamilton has not revisited the purpose of Classical Appointments for many years (if ever). We also sense that some of the assumed original purposes for Classical Appointments are no longer as applicable in 2015. If we continue to embrace the practice of Classical Appointments for vacant churches, we ought to be clear on their purpose, develop a model that suits the ministry needs and realities of Classis Hamilton churches, and recommit ourselves to the practice.

Therefore, in response to Bethel Waterdown's overture that Classis Hamilton revise the Classical Appointment schedule to essentially only include morning services, we offer the following recommendations in its place:

- 1. That Classis set aside ½ hour at its October meeting to discuss the value and concerns around our current system of Classical Appointments.*
- 2. That Classis Hamilton ask the CMT to form a committee to evaluate the purpose and effectiveness of our current Classical Appointment system and propose a new set of guidelines that both reflects the vision of Classis Hamilton and the diversity of ministry approaches in our churches. The committee ought to take into consideration the concerns raised by the Bethel CRC overture, the results of the Classis discussion and seek further input from the individual churches and pastors of Classis.*

Grounds:

1. As indicated in the Bethel Waterdown overture, the original primary motivations for providing Classical Appointments (administering the sacraments and preaching by ordained clergy) are no longer as applicable. Because of the wide availability of retired clergy and ordained ministry leaders in our region, as well as the increased availability of interim pastors, churches rarely need to fall back on reading sermons. This raises the question of the prime purpose for Classical Appointments. If the other reasons that Bethel raises (ie. encouragement and solidarity between congregations) continue to be valid (along with others, perhaps), then the vision for Classical Appointments needs to be more clearly articulated and brought into alignment with the current vision of Classis Hamilton itself.
2. Not only is there diversity among our churches around Sunday evening worship services, but because of the increased practice of preaching sermons in series/small group ministries/other ministry programs, it is difficult for some pastors to be away from their home congregations as often as is required by the Classical Appointment schedule. Sending another clergy in place of the assigned pastor is permitted under our current rules but does not reflect the spirit and intent of Classical Appointments. It would be helpful to develop revised guidelines around which services are included in the Classical Appointments (as is indicated by the Bethel overture) and what, if any, limitations should be put in place around the number of appointments that are provided by Classis.

CHURCH VISITOR'S REPORT: 2015
Classis Hamilton

Addressing the Questions of Church Order Article 41 now Article 42

- It is noted that Church Order Article 41 is now Article 42. The visitors addressed the requirements of Church Order Article 42 and in each instance the councils responded affirmatively.

Particular blessings, concerns, practices or situations to draw to the attention of Classis

- There were no matters brought forward by the churches that require any action on the part of classis at this time, but there are a number of blessings and some matters that are a concern to the churches. Below are excerpts from our reports to the councils. It should be noted that both Burlington Faith and Dundas Calvin were visited, however the focus of the visits were specific to their situation. In the case of Burlington Faith the focus was on the departure of Pastor Peter Janssens through Article 17, while the focus with Dundas Calvin dealt with the departure of Pastor Paul Vanden Brink to the Presbyterian Church in America.

Blessings

Ancaster

- Districts have been replaced with "pastorates". Each elder has a pastorate which meets as a group as often as six times per year. At times in some pastorates as many as 25 to 30 people attend. In addition to these gatherings elders make home visits. Approximately 60% to 70% of the congregation receive visits. There have been significant tragedies within the last few years, however these experiences have shown that Ancaster is a caring church which has come to expression in various ways like prayer for those in need, sending cards, phone calls and visits.
- The deacons mentioned that a very important part of their work is in building relationships. They are blessed in helping others.
- Council expressed appreciation for both pastors, Pastor Rita, the senior pastor and Pastor Ed who provides pastoral assistance. Worship services are vibrant and music is an important part of worship.
- In terms of the youth there is a strong youth program, including Kidzconnect, Cadets and Gems as well as Fish (Friends in Service for Him). The congregation has participated in a number of "serve projects" last year.

Ancaster Meadowlands

- Worship at Meadowlands is vibrant and includes various instrumentalists along with a visual arts / banner ministry. Some new attendees are coming from other Christian traditions (e.g. Roman Catholic), which council attributes to a friendly, enfolding membership. Other newcomers are people living in the immediate geographic area. Curiously, some of these people are attracted to the church building itself and simply felt a need to attend, perhaps after a long absence from church.

- Discipleship: The church is grouped into “Pastorates” - 15 to 20 members that meet monthly and are led by a pastoral elder for the purpose of extending care towards each other. Participation in participates is good and attendance is stable.
- Outreach: Meadowlands has begun cooperating with Ancaster Community Services to deliver food to the neighbourhood and host cooking classes. A wraparound group is in place to provide specific pastoral care.
- Youth/Young Adults: Like many churches, Meadowlands struggles with ministry to young adults (~20 year olds). Some are leaving the church and Meadowlands feels they may need to be more intentional to this age group.

Bethel Waterdown

- Outreach is taking many creative forms at Bethel. The church property is being used by community efforts such as a food truck program. A 14 week after school divorce care program focusing on children had a huge impact and is already taking registrations for the next round. The same holds for the VBS done last year; it has “fed” area kids into Gems and Cadets. The congregation tries to meet needs rising from within the community; for example holding a “ Longest Night “ service, a.k.a “A Blue Christmas” service- an evening ministering to those newly grieving as they face the holidays. The congregation has also held, and is planning to continue doing Healing Services since the community expressed a felt need for that. The Friendship Club is very active; many of the friends’ attendants now get involved and the church’s volunteers range from the very young to the seniors.
- Youth Ministry is still doing well. The “discipleship and sport” program draws many kids, mostly young men.
- Prayer Ministry. The prayer group meets monthly. Prayer partners are available following each service. Spontaneous prayer is offered for each elder after they report on their labours in council. The small groups that meet also focus on prayer, as did the elders in a recent retreat.
- Mutual Care. Bethel is blessed with an aptitude for mutual care among the membership, especially when someone is ill.
- Membership Involvement. It was noted that there is no difficulty in members being willing to participate in many, if not all areas of ministry. This is very encouraging.
- Worship. The congregation is blessed with dedicated musicians and singers. Their guiding conviction is that vital, varied, excellent, meaningful and purposeful worship draws people in and edifies them. The worship leaders aim to involve the congregants in worship; the elders set the tone by leading in congregational prayer.

Brantford Hope

- Preaching / Worship: Hope benefits from strong preaching delivered from both pastors. Sermons are Biblically based and include practical applications. Hope maintains 2 services (morning and evening). About 50-100 people attend the evening service, and Council has no plans to discontinue the evening service.
- Discipleship: Hope provides many avenues to form disciples: Men's program; a Congregational life Committee that encourages prayer and gift development within the congregation; Young People; Catchechism Classes.
- Outreach: Movie nights and garden plots for the community are offered by Hope to encourage.
- Facilities: Hope's building is used most every night is about 90% full on a Sunday morning. Some initiatives have begun to explore facility expansion options for future growth.

- Home Visits: About 70% of Hope's membership receives home visits, with districts averaging around 25 members each.

Burlington New Street

- The church's vision statement reads: "We are an intergenerational family of believers that is focussed on God, immersed in the community and connected to one another in faith." When asked as to how Council saw the Lord's hand at work and how the church's vision is implemented the discussion revealed that the pastor is appreciated in his preaching which is done in an expository manner. Regarding community involvement the Council was excited particularly regarding the work of the deacons and their involvement in the community during a recent flood. In Cooperation with the organization Samaritan's Purse, many contacts were made with the neighbourhood and help extended.
- There is also an active VBS with many community children attending as well as a vibrant Friendship Program.
- There is also an active youth program with about 20 youth attending in the grade 9-12 age group. Seniors have regular get togethers and find ways to implement the "Intergenerational" part of the vision statement. Elders engage in family visiting.

Calvary Flamborough

- Currently Calvary church is vacant and they miss the presence of Pastor Jeff Janssen, their former pastor. Pastor Ted Bootsma is serving as interim pastor until the end of May and Council has applied for a summer student from Calvin Seminary. The work of Pastor Ted is appreciated and well received.
- It is noted that the second service is well attended. Though evangelism has not born fruit with numbers the congregation is involved in many community ministries.
- A comment was made by one elder and concurred with by the others, that Calvary congregation is increasingly learning that "Wallet and Walk" go together. When there are local needs, ministry opportunities for youth to go on serve, and diaconal ministries such as World Renew or "the carpenteros" the money needed is generously forthcoming. Calvary is a giving church.

Hagersville Community

- Hagersville is blessed with hearty worship and a thriving outreach ministry. Outreach efforts include a VBS program jointly run with another area church, participating in a multi-church senior's lunch, a mom-to-mom program, helping with ministry at Townsend, monthly summer BBQ's and opening their facility to the host the Haldimand pregnancy centre.
- A dedicated group of 3-10 people participate in a monthly prayer service.
- Both GEMS and Cadets Boy's Club are active at Hagersville. Additional programs for youth include a teen ministry.
- Small groups are active throughout the week.
- Pastor Jeff's preaching is well received and addresses needs.

Hamilton Immanuel

- The church has taken steps to explore the possibility of allowing baptized participants at the Lord's Supper. This has been a long term, sensitive project including studies and guided conversations with the congregation. Council has an expectation that it will be implemented in the near future.
- Council hosted a vision process with the congregation and many members participated, suggesting members have a significant interest in the vision and direction of Immanuel.
- Both Pastors Henry and Anthony are well liked. Their preaching is Biblically centred and well received. Pastor Anthony is helping to facilitate the process of allowing baptized participants at the Lord's Supper.
- Immanuel recently started hosting an initiative called "Out of the Cold". Immanuel is located near a financially challenged area of Hamilton. This program is utilized by people (currently 99% men) to receive a meal once per week. Immanuel provides their facility and the program runs from November through March. A group for single mothers is also being hosted at Immanuel.

Simcoe Immanuel

- Immanuel is currently involved in the Ridder Renewal process and this has helped to bring an experiential component to member's faith. Immanuel is also learning to become more tuned-in to the needs of the surrounding community. Examples: The church is helping to minister at the Norfolk Pregnancy Centre. Youth in particular are learning about the community's needs via this centre. Immanuel did a Community Opportunity Scan (COS) about 5 years ago which showed the need for low income housing in Simcoe. As a result, Homestead, now Indwell, was invited by Immanuel to consider locating to a former hotel in town.
- Council commented that Immanuel's outreach efforts have helped to coordinate joint diaconal efforts among area churches. Pastor Jeff Vandermeer is involved in a local ministerial (and is currently serving as chair).
- Outreach has also impacted internal ministries at Immanuel. Council is planning a renovation that will see pews replaced with chairs to allow a better configuration for seating. The congregation is behind this effort and there is enough dollars to support it.
- Immanuel has recently been invited to participate in an ecumenical youth program. This was cited as another example of area churches working together.
- Immanuel sees itself shifting from an inward to an outward focus. This is a slow process with challenges along the way.

York Maranatha

- York has the ability to reach out and meet needs within and outside of the church community. A fire in Caledonia saw an outpouring of help from many members of Maranatha. They try to be the hands and feet of Jesus. The deacons serve the physical and financial needs within the church well, and are looking to serve the community more richly.
- Congregational Life: On the whole, seniors are fairing well in their spiritual life. Seniors are also serving in church and community life. One of the youth elders reported that students are geographically scattered due to schooling, so personal connections can be challenging to make.

Making connections involves Facebook and Twitter posts, quick coffees, or casual meetings after church. Youth elders (1 of 3) do work hard to encourage youth in their church attendance while away from home.

- Programs are available for all children age groups. GEMS and Cadets are a successful outreach programs with about 50% of the attendees coming from the community.
- In the past few years, there has been no problem attracting new Council members. Similarly members of the congregation have been quick to fill leadership roles within the church (i.e. Sunday School, GEM counsellors)
- Missional Life: Even without a pastor and the closure of the local Anglican church, Maranatha still finds opportunities to connect with other local churches (e.g. Good Friday service with church in Caledonia).
- Facilities: A major renovation has been planned for Maranatha's facility. The current sanctuary holds about 380-400 people, and the planned facility will hold 425-450. The design is done and Council is ready to move to the tender process. Young and old members alike enthusiastically support the renovation process.

Concerns

- The greatest challenge with home visits is for members making time for the visit and for elders scheduling visits.
- It was noted that evangelism has not been strong and the churches could do better in this area. Some churches seem to naturally gravitate towards outreach; for others this area remains a challenge.
- New office bearers could benefit from orientation or training sessions.
- Mutual Censure is not given its due place.
- Ministry to youth is a concern to some churches. They observe youth attending services but wonder about their spiritual health as it related to daily life. More spiritual formation work may be required to encourage disciple-making, not just hosting social programs.

Visitor's advice given to councils that requires Classis approval

- No advice was given to the councils that require Classis approval.

Common trends or problems which merit the attention of Classis

- With all the visits we as church visitors felt that there was a common sense of love and caring for the members and for each other and the Councils reported that they were diligent in pastoral care.
- We observed various trends in the churches of classis. One such trend relates to governance and structural changes. As church visitors we have some questions as to how these new structures fit within Reformed church polity and the Church Order. In one church a new office has been instituted, known as the Board of Stewards whose members are ordained in the same manner as elders and deacons.

Recommendation's to Classis.

- We suggest that Classis provide guidance and or advice as it pertains to church structure and its conformity or non-conformity to the church order.

Visited by:

Church Visitors, Team A Pastor Jeff Klingenberg, Wayne Visser and Pastor Paul Vanden Brink

Church Visitors, Team B Pastor Jerry J. Hoytema, Pastor Ted Bootsma, Pastor John Veenstra and Jake Ellens