



Agenda for a Meeting of CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Date: February 26, 2019 **Time:** 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Venue: Redeemer University College, 777 Garner Road East, Ancaster, ON L9K 1J4

Officers of Classis: Chair: Anthony Elenbaas Vice Chair: Hayden Regeling Stated Clerk: Dick Kranendonk	Synodical Deputies: None Required
Reporter: New Street CRC - Burlington	Ballot Committee: Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Ancaster
Credentials Committee: Ancaster CRC, Ancaster Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Ancaster	Overture Committee Hope CRC, Brantford New Street CRC, Burlington

CREDENTIALS:

1. The credentials shall be returned to the Stated Clerk by email no later than *February 5, 2019* with CC: (copy) emailed to your delegates. Please note that there are additional questions on the credentials. Please fill them in where desired.
2. Also note the request for elder and deacon nominees for synodical delegate on the second page of the credentials. Your assistance is much appreciated.
3. The credential questions and observations will be forwarded to the Credentials Committee so that they will be able to advise Classis. The Committee will email their report to the Stated Clerk by *February 12, 2019*. Their report will be emailed by the Stated Clerk to all the delegates.

OVERTURES:

No overtures were received.

EMAIL ADDRESS:

All communication to the Stated Clerk should go to: clerk@classishamilton.ca.

Dear Church Councils,

You will note that two hours have been set aside toward the end of the meeting (agenda item 11) for a FACILITATED CONVERSATION AMONG THE CONGREGATIONS. That time will be devoted to some crucial considerations as follows:

What does it mean for a regional group of CRC churches to do shared ministry in the greater Hamilton area? Cultural, economic, and demographic changes over the past 20 years have impacted our identity as a 'Classis', and brought with them a new set of challenges for us as individual churches and collectively as a region. How can we continue to rely on one another for mutual support, encouragement, and equipping for ministry in our context? Please ensure that your delegates come prepared to discuss your Council's thoughts and feelings. The Classis Ministry Team will lead us in a round-table discussion around these questions.

On behalf of CMT,
Gareth Harker & Chris Schoon

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CLASSIS MEETING DETAILS

9:00 AM	OPENING WORSHIP AND EXERCIZES
OPENING DEVOTIONS	
1. WELCOME AND PRAYER TIME	Chris Schoon
2. DEVOTIONS	Redeemer University College
3. PRAYER FOR REDEEMER	Chris Schoon
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9:30 AM	ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION
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4. CALL TO ORDER	Anthony Elenbaas
4.1. Welcome and Announcements	
4.2. Attendance	Dick Kranendonk
4.3. Approval of Agenda	Anthony Elenbaas
4.4. Declare Classis Properly Constituted	Anthony Elenbaas
4.5. Ballot to Elect Delegates to Synod 2019 (to be repeated as needed later)	Ken Benjamins
5. CANADIAN MINISTRIES PRESENTATION	Darren Roorda, <i>et. al.</i>
They will be presenting the information and thrust they have going around the concept of 'Regionalization' as it intersects with Classis Hamilton. Its work is predominantly tied to how they behave as a denomination staff and agency group of personnel but has huge ramifications on positively affecting the local church and classis. So a short time of presentation and QA would be helpful before they move any further.	
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10:00 AM	REFRESHMENT BREAK
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6. CMT REPORT (INCLUDING CLASSICAL MINISTRY COMMITTEES) (Appendix #1)	Chris Schoon
6.1. External Reports (Appendix #4):	
RECOMMENDED THAT: The external agencies reports be received as information.	
6.2. Youth Ministry Presentation: (No written report)	
6.3. Candidacy Committee: (No written or verbal report this time)	
6.4. Campus Ministries Presentation: (Appendix #1.1)	
6.5. RECOMMENDED THAT: Classis receive the McMaster/Mohawk Chaplain's report as information.	
6.6. Home Missions Presentation: (Appendix #1.3)	
6.6.1. Presentation by Terence Schilstra	
6.7. Safe Church Team Presentation: (No written report)	
6.8. RECOMMENDED THAT: Classis approve the work to date of the Classis Ministries Team including the standing committees in so far as this has been disclosed in minutes previously distributed to the churches as well as in Appendix #1.	
7. INTERIM COMMITTEE	Ken Benjamins
7.1. Interim Committee Report (Includes Stated Clerk's report, Appendix #3)	
7.2. RECOMMENDED THAT: Functionaries and committee members as nominated in Appendix #4 by the respective committees be approved.	
7.3. RECOMMENDED THAT: Classis approve the work to date of the Interim Committee and of the Stated Clerk in so far as this has been disclosed in minutes previously distributed to the churches and in Appendix #3.	
8. BALLOTING COMMITTEE REPORT: Final Vote for Delegates to Synod 2019	
8.1. RECOMMENDED THAT: the ballots be destroyed.	

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

11:25 PM – 1:00 PM	LUNCH BREAK
10. PRESENTATION BY CTS & PENSION PLAN	Keith Oosthoek
11. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT	Meadowlands Fellowship CRC
12. FACILITATED CONVERSATION AMONG THE CONGREGATIONS	Chris Schoon & Gareth Harker
3:30 PM CLOSING DEVOTIONS	Chair of Classis

APPENDIX #1 – CLASSIS MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

Classis Ministry Team report

No Report for this classis meeting.

Pastor Chris Schoon (chair)
on Behalf of the Classis Ministry Team

APPENDIX #1.1 – CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORT

Campus Ministry Committee - Report to Classis Hamilton
January 2019

We are grateful to the Lord that as Classis Hamilton we may conduct a vigorous ministry of Word and fellowship on the campuses of McMaster University and Mohawk College. In many places such gospel initiatives would be disallowed, and we acknowledge our privilege, even as we pray for those not blessed with such opportunities.

The role of the campus chaplain in the campus ministries is tremendously important. Dr. Fallon is the leader, the organizer, the mentor, and the spiritual guide. We are blessed to have him in this role.

We saw how important he is to us when he was taken out of commission by a serious health situation. The student leaders really stepped up and “kept the wheels on the bus,” but as they have their studies and other responsibilities as well, it wasn’t the same as with Chaplain Fallon in the driver’s seat. Our thanks and appreciation goes out to the student leaders, and to others who also filled in where needed.

Dr. Fallon has recovered sufficiently to return to work. Thanks be to God, his eyesight is improving, although there is still more healing to take place.

In terms of our committee membership, the term of Rev. Joel Bootsma is coming to its conclusion. We thank Joel for his contributions. Rev. Anthony Elenbaas has agreed to stand for nomination to the Campus Ministry Committee, and we recommend that Classis appoint him to this role.

Please continue to remember the Campus ministry, as well as the faculty, staff and students of both McMaster University and Mohawk College, in your prayers.

As the ministry of spiritual guidance, biblical witness, and pastoral support is engaged, we thank Classis for the vision we share for campus ministry, and for the support given in the past and into the future, as seen in financial support, participation from the churches, and in prayer.

Chaplain Fallon is available to the churches as a preacher and as one who can share more detailed updates about what the Lord is doing on the campuses.

On behalf of the Campus Ministry Committee,



Rev. Bruce Adema, Chair

APPENDIX #1.2 – HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee Report

January 2019

Greg Sinclair (Chair), Marian Lensink (Resonate Mission Leader), Ron Vanden Brink, Roelof Peereboom, Steve Dykstra, Gerald Klein-Geltink, Kevin DeRaaf (ex officio).

The work of the Home Missions Committee has focused on two areas:

1. Encouraging and supporting missional ministry among the churches of the classis through innovative missional grants.
2. Encouraging and supporting church planting through a community analysis of three communities.

1. **Missional Church Grants:** This past year your home missions committee gave out four grants to churches – New Hope, Mt. Hope, Bethel Waterdown and Meadowlands Fellowship. These grants helped to fund a 10 year anniversary celebration (New Hope), community access and connections (Mt. Hope), neighborhood BBQ (Bethel) and community demographic information (Meadowlands Fellowship).
2. **Community Analysis Survey:** As part of a larger strategy to begin a church plant in classis Hamilton in 2020 Terence Schilstra was engaged to implement a community analysis survey in three communities within the geographic boundaries of classis. Terence has experience in community analysis in two communities, Thorold and Milton. The communities chosen for this analysis are Stoney Creek, Brantford and one other area to be decided as the process unfolds. Terence is contacting key people and putting together a team of pray- ers. The community analysis project will continue for the next six months (the timeline is flexible). Funding is in partnership with the Church Plant Institute of Resonate Global Mission.

Classis Presentation

The committee requests an opportunity (15 mins) to present to Classis the ongoing work of our committee. The first part will be a story about the missional church grants from one of the above churches. The second part will be introducing Terence to the delegates and a brief introduction to the community analysis survey

APPENDIX #2 – CIC AND STATED CLERK’S REPORT

Following is a list of the significant items of interest from the CIC since the last Classis meeting other than those that are already included in the classis agenda:

1. In line with the decision of Classis, the CIC extended an appointment to John Bijl to serve Classis as its Youth Ministry Champion for a period of three (3) years and has worked with the Youth Ministry Team to complete an appropriate position description.
2. It was decided that all paper records that need to be kept permanently will be converted into electronic format and the backups will be located at the official Classis Hamilton address, i.e., Immanuel CRC, Hamilton.
3. Eight people were approved by CMT to attend the National Gathering to be held in Edmonton in May 2019 and the CIC agreed to pay the \$1,600 registration fee for these eight participants.
4. CIC continues to work on ensuring that an Advisory Panel be in place should the need for such a panel arise.
5. Approved the job description for the Youth Ministries Champion.
6. A decision was made not to follow the frequently followed policy of destroying records in accordance with the minimum requirements of the *Income Tax Act*. Instead, Classis Hamilton will retain all records in perpetuity in electronic format.
7. Approved the transfer out of the ministerial credentials for Jeff Klingenberg and Adam Veenstra.
8. Approved a summary guideline document to be sent to local churches prior to church visits taking place.
9. Approved the appointment of Ben Ponsen to be the classical counselor for Hagersville Community CRC.
10. Dealt with a matter raised regarding local church membership of a pastor serving as synodical deputy and regional pastor. The CIC determined that the location of the minister’s credentials and not his church membership is determinative.
11. Agreed to obtain legal advice with respect to the liability coverage available under the Classis Hamilton insurance policy in light of challenges faced by another classis.

Dick L. Kranendonk – Stated Clerk,
clerk@lassishamilton.ca

APPENDIX #3 – DELEGATE, FUNCTIONARY AND COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Nominations for delegates to Synod 2019 will be accepted as part of the credentials up to and including February 5, 2019.

History of Synod Delegates:

YEAR	MINISTERS	ELDER/DEACON
2018	Joel Bootsma Anthony Elenbaas	Mark Vandervliet John Dekker
2017	Kenneth F. Benjamins Ed Visser	Judy Gook/Elder Gina Taylor/Deacon
2016	Chris Schoon Andrew Zomeran	Gary Sytsma/ Elder Gina Taylor/ Deacon
2015	Rita Klein-Geltink Henry P. Kranenburg	Martin W. Tigchelaar Fred Reitsma
2014	M. Jeffery Klingenberg Kenneth F. Benjamins	Adrian Guldemon Andy Miedema
2013	Kevin P. DeRaaf Henry P. Kranenburg	Jacob Ellens George Elzinga
2012	Paul Vanden Brink Kenneth F. Benjamins	Mark Vandervliet Henry Brouwer
2011	Zachary J. Olson M. Jeffery Klingenberg	Clarence E. Batterink Judy Cook
2010	Stephen F. Terpstra Kevin P. DeRaaf	Mark Vandervliet Timothy Sheridan
2009	Martin Dam William C. Veenstra	Neil Paul Adrian T. VanderVaart

Nominees for Synod 2019 Delegates:

Ministers:

Not able to go – *Chris Schoon, Anthony Elenbaas, Willem de Vries, Everett Vander Horst, Jeff Vandermeer,*
Able and willing to go:

Bruce Adema – Pastor of Bethel CRC, Waterdown. My service to the Lord in the CRC has had me in diverse types of ministry.

Ken Benjamins – Pastor of Calvin CRC, Dundas, who has served as a minister for 26 years. He has been to Synod some 6 or 7 times. He is currently the chair of the CIC and also serves on the CMT.

Joel Bootsma – Pastor at New Street CRC, Burlington. He was Classis Hamilton’s minister delegate to last year’s Synod.

Gareth Harker – Pastor of Calvary CRC serving on the CMT.

Rita Klein-Geltink - Lead pastor at Ancaster Christian Reformed Church since 2013. Prior to this she was the pastor at Lucknow Community Christian Reformed Church. Pastor She was delegated to synod twice, in 2011 and 2015. She recently completed two terms on the board of World Renew and is currently a church visitor in Classis Hamilton. Pastor Rita is married to Gerald and has four adult children, all married, and 12 grandchildren.

William Koopmans – Pastor at Hope CRC, Brantford; currently serves on the CIC of Classis Hamilton and on the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee of the CRCNA. I have served previously at Synod, including being an officer.

Benjamin Ponsen – Pastor at Maranathat CRC, York.

Roelof Peereboom – Pastor at Mount Hope Community CRC

Hayden Regeling – Pastor at First Hamilton CRC, Hamilton.

Elders:

Deacons:

Marcia Hosmar - A wife of one and mother of three, I enjoy using my gifts of hospitality, compassion and encouragement in the various capacities God has sent me to serve. Being a deacon the last couple years has opened more doors and my eyes to the incredible needs within the city of Hamilton. Recently, I have taken up a volunteer role with C.A.P. Canada (Christians Against Poverty) by being a Community Links Coordinator. My heart and passion is reaching out to marginalized populations. I grew up in a CRC home, went to Redeemer University College, met my husband and have made Hamilton our home the last 17 years. As an active member of Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, I am involved as a deacon, supporting the outreach team and C.A.P. debt centre coach.

Church Visitor Team “A”:

Ralph Koops – Retired pastor at Hope CRC, Brantford to complete the second term vacated by Jeff Klingenberg.

Church Visitor Team “C”:

Rita Klein-Geltink – Pastor of Ancaster CRC.

Synodical Deputies

The first term of the synodical deputies, Siebert Van Houten and Ed Visser will expire in June 2019. Unless there are any objections from any of the churches, they will be nominated to a second term.

Classis Hamilton Campus Ministry Committee:

Anthony Elenbaas – Pastor at Immanuel CRC, Hamilton.

APPENDIX #4 – EXTERNAL REPORTS

APPENDIX #4.1 – WORLD RENEW



Classis Hamilton Report – Feb. 26, 2019

Submitted by Peter Bulthuis, Associate Director of Church Relations

Thank you, Classis Hamilton, for your support of the work of World Renew. Because of this, lives are transformed, hope is restored and the power of the Lord is made manifest. As you read this, the Christmas Gift Catalogue campaign has wrapped up. It has again been incredible to be part of a campaign in which there have again been so many participants, using so many ideas to learn about, to teach and to share the work of World Renew. One school had an animal dress-up day for THE FARM TEAM; a church asked their Sunday school children to weekly put a loony in a basket of seeds on the Christmas tree. The delightful and creative list goes on and on!

(This report is going to be a little bit longer than usual, but there are some incredible stories here!!!!!!)

A. General Update

Three updates of note:

-The I AM NOT MY OWN tour was pretty much at its ½-way mark by the end of 2018. It has been simply remarkable! A few numbers to back that claim up: Jeremy and his family have driven 25K km; he was involved in 81 events since early June (!); there have been almost 10K voices recorded; 24 local missions have been supported, **over \$167K** (including the match from CFGB) raised for trauma healing and food distribution in Nigeria. We look forward to *The Gathering* in May, in Edmonton: we'll get to hear the **Virtual Choir!**

-Most of World Renew's work is done through partnership with other, on-the-ground organizations and agencies. In fact, we work with more than 75 partners. Through bringing our expertise to bear on their knowledge of their assets and their needs, God's work is wonderfully collaborative and effective.

-Not only do we partner with organizations on the ground, we also partner with other global development agencies. In fact, we are seen as leaders around the globe, to the point that our staff is often asked to sit on these agencies' boards. For example: Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo was recently appointed to the [ACT Alliance](#) board, and its executive committee (both Carol and Ida served on committees at their most recent assembly); Carol and Ida are also both on the [Integral Alliance](#) Board; Ken Kim is the Board chair of [CFGB](#); Jacquie Koster sits on the board of [Core Humanitarian Standards \(CHS\)](#), after having helped to shepherd the concept from infancy to maturity.

B. Upcoming Offering Dates

Just a reminder that the whole ordering process for resources that can be used for offerings, changed a while ago. Church AAs are encouraged to watch for time-sensitive ordering information from the denomination. Here are World Renew's upcoming offering dates for the first half of 2019, as approved by Synod:

On Mar. 3, the offering is for CFGB. World Renew is one of the 15 agencies that make up CFGB, which has been instrumental in bringing food and hope to 100s of 1000s of people worldwide.

On April 7, the offering is for Refugee Resettlement. This program in World Renew supports churches in their sponsorship of refugees into Canada.

On June 30, we recognize the work of the Canadian government in supporting the work that world Renew does on its own, and corporately through CFGB.

C. Community Development: Stories of Transformation

There are many(!) stories of transformation in which World Renew plays a part. This is one of them; from Zambia. (Please, do wander through the website for more stories: www.worldrenew.net/stories. This one is written by Steve Sywalka, team leader of the southern Africa team: *“It was such a strange feeling: was I really becoming numb to success? For hours, I sat and listened, as person after person shared how our programs have dramatically impacted their lives. At first, my eyes would fill with tears; I was humbled, grateful, amazed, and encouraged. But by the afternoon of the second day, as people in village after village told their story, drawing pictures of what their lives were like just three years ago and what they are like today, I found myself overwhelmed and, well, numb.*

Recently, World Renew Zambia conducted what we call a “discovery process” with our partner in Zambia, the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian. Our partnership commitments include regular, thorough evaluations where we can celebrate achievements, discuss and make plans for improvements and future projects, and assess our ability to achieve those plans.

*The stories we saw and heard were so dramatic and so numerous that I truly felt almost numb. The following chart shows with stark contrast the nature of some of the stories we heard. **World Renew’s** tiny Zambian team assists three devoted staff members from the **Church of Central Africa Presbyterian’s Relief and Development Department**. This department alone is working in 42 villages in three districts, and in every village we are met by more people who want join the program. They have seen how much our work has impacted others. It’s difficult to accept that we cannot help everyone. And here’s what been happening, before and after:*

	Before	After
Roofing	Leaky thatch	Iron sheets, with a solar panel
Clothing	“almost naked” torn clothes	Clothes
Footwear	No shoes	Our kids have shoes
Cooking	Clay pots	Metal pots
Fetching Water	Heavy clay pots	Plastic buckets
Farming	Ridges	Conservation agriculture
Farming tool	Hoe	Ripper
Food supply	Little food, hunger-stricken	Eating properly
Personal hygiene	No soap or lotion	Soap and lotion
Giving to church	Avoid going because we have nothing	Able to give
To relieve oneself	Go to the bush	Pit latrine
Drinking water	The river	Borehole pump
Children’s education	Not in school because of no money	Children going to school
Animals	No livestock	Chickens
Activity	Sat idle under a tree	Small businesses
Alcohol consumption	Husbands drinking beer	Men more involved in the community and with family activities
Marriage	Fighting and spouse violence	Less conflict, spouses fighting less

There it is: your support of World Renew’s work. Thank you!

D. Disaster Response

Update International:

World Renew is involved with more than 25 international disaster responses; here are two examples:

Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh: To date, food assistance has been provided for thousands of families, and monsoon-preparedness related items to 2,700 families. Right now, 500 community kitchens, 500 household cooking stoves, and hygiene training is the priority.

Indonesia: The response to the Lombok earthquake and Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami continues, with the support of local staff and partners. In response to the Lombok earthquake, with generous funding from ZOA, CRWRF, and the Reformed Church of the Netherlands, we are constructing shelters, latrines and providing access to clean drinking water. In response to the crisis in Sulawesi, emergency assistance is being provided to affected families.

Update Domestic: Canada and US:

This is a snapshot of activities that Disaster Response Services (DRS) were involved with in early December. These projects, of course, change regularly, so I suggest you stay updated by checking the website [here](https://worldrenew.net/disaster-response-services):

(<https://worldrenew.net/disaster-response-services>)

-*California fires:* regional managers are meeting with fire-affected communities to plan long-term, which is where we specialize.

-*Alaska earthquake:* our volunteers there are in conference calls with federal and state response efforts to see where we can help.

-*Hurricane Florence, NC:* working with communities organizing responses. Offering needs assessments. Have about five sites in the New Year to which we can send group mission trips.

-*Hurricane Florence, SC:* meeting with communities, offering services

-*Hurricane Michael, GA:* possible needs assessment for a community for whom we did an assessment after a 2017 tornado, now having to respond to Michael.

-*Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico:* working on 2019 dates for home repairs

-*Hurricane Harvey, TX:* new long-term site is ready in Dickinson and repairing homes

-*Hurricane Irma, FL:* a facilitated site for group mission trips will start Jan 2019.

E. Refugee Settlement Activities:

YOU MUST READ THIS!

The Refugee Program is delighted to share a story about a moving cross-border partnership that has emerged over the past year. In August of 2016, Loop CRC in Chicago supported a Syrian refugee family after their move from Jordan to the United States. As one member of the church put it, "It was our small way of living out God's call to love our neighbours and welcome the stranger."

The welcomed family soon became the ones doing the welcoming. They would frequently invite members of Loop CRC to join their table to share a meal. The relationships that developed were deep and transformative for the Loop CRC volunteers involved.

In October of 2017, the Syrian family asked Loop CRC if they would be able to help one of their sisters and her family who are currently living in a Jordanian refugee camp. Given that there is no private refugee sponsorship program in the United States, it seemed there would be no way to offer assistance.

Through a series of phone calls, a member of Loop CRC connected with World Renew's Refugee Program in Canada. It turned out that the family in Chicago had a relative in Regina, Saskatchewan. Eventually Loop CRC was put in touch with Sonlight CRC in Regina. They appealed to the Sonlight CRC community to take on the sponsorship of the family still in Jordan, offering to cover the full costs of the sponsorship if Sonlight would commit to resettling the family. Sonlight has agreed and God-willing the application will be submitted in early 2019. What a beautiful illustration of the Body of Christ at work!

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the *Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program* in Canada. The Christian Reformed Church was among the first denominations to take part in the program after its inception in 1979. To mark this occasion, celebration events are being planned for communities in British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario. Visit www.worldrenew.net/40yearsofwelcome in the new year for more details (the page should be live by February 2019 at the latest). A video to mark the occasion is also being

produced. This will be available for churches to use for their 2019 Refugee Sunday along with other materials. Lastly, the Refugee Program is currently collecting photographs and stories from the 40 years of sponsorship history. If you have photos or stories to share, please contact Rebecca Walker at rwalker@worldrenew.net

F. What else can the people and the churches of Classis Hamilton do?

- Make sure you get to an I AM NOT MY OWN Jeremy Benjamin concert yet this year. Check the tour dates [here](https://iamnotmyown.org/new-events/). (<https://iamnotmyown.org/new-events/>)
- Encourage your church to partner with a church or community outside North America. Call the office.
- Make plans to go to the Canadian **Gathering, 2019**, in Edmonton, and/or the CRCNA-wide **Inspire, 2019** in Windsor.
- Check out our reading/resource list on the website [here](https://worldrenew.net/learn): (<https://worldrenew.net/learn>)

Contact Peter Bulthuis (pbulthuis@worldrenew.net; 800-730-3490, ext. 4237), or Chris Orme (corne@worldrenew.net, ext. 4319) for more ideas on how we can help you achieve your ministry objectives. To learn more about World Renew's ministry and/or to sign up for our regular newsletter, please visit www.worldrenew.net.

Blessings,



Peter Bulthuis, Church Relations

From my heart & mind to yours: Classis letter - Winter, 2019



Dear Fellow Ministry Partners of the Christian Reformed Church in Canada. I am firmly convinced that Jesus Christ has great things in store for the Canadian side of the CRCNA.

I believe that because I see the work that many of you are doing on the local level and am given privy to the ways in which our denominational agencies and ministries are working to serve in this same manner.

It has been a few months since I have seen many of you last in my attempt to participate in as many classis meetings as I could in the fall. It is my hope to see many of you this winter and spring as well, but for those that I cannot this ministry update will at least inform you of a few things going on that can enable, strengthen and broaden the impact of your local church.

Because there are so many things, I will bullet point them for easy readability:

- **Grant money available:** there are still some grant monies available for any of your churches that are doing any ministry in an ecumenical form, locally speaking. If you are partnering with a Presbyterian church to do VBS, hosting a prayer service with the Catholic church down the street, or a missional project with a partner community church, let us know. Just send an email and tell us what you are doing and you can receive 500 dollars to support your effort. Email me or Peter Elgersma for more info. pelgersma@crcna.org
- **The Bridge App** is being used increasingly more and more as churches are trained and get used to the functionality. In February you will notice over 50 improvements that have come out of our co-participation with you as local churches in developing this excellent tool. If you have not done so yet, please reconsider the use of the app for your church. It is an increasingly powerful set of tools that takes a very Reformed approach to using the gift of IT and online community/communication. As motivation, I give you a quote from Rev. Carey Nieuwhof: *"We're at the point where, for church leaders to ask if 'online' counts is almost like Sears asking if Amazon counts or New York City cabs asking if Uber counts."* dorothyvandersteen@crcna.org
- Your **denominational building** in Canada (Burlington, Ontario) was recently renovated. It is filled with content from CRC churches across Canada. From art to ideas, the whole week gave us pause to appreciate. One way we did that was by bringing together 25 key historical partners of the CRC during the re-opening week to talk about the nature of our ministries. Leadership from Christian colleges, CLAC, InDwell, Institute for Christian Studies and more. Ian DeWaard from the Christian Labour Association of Canada wrote to his staff "... *we left encouraged that in our work we need not feel isolated. As individuals and as organizations it was clear that we all belong to a larger community directed by a common faith and whose convictions prompt us to put our beliefs and hope into action so that all the world can know that the best is yet to come.*" I take this to mean "we are better together."

- Thank you to all of you who have been participating in the ***I Am Not My Own Tour***. Our fundraising for your local ministry efforts and also for the global impact of World Renew and the Canadian Food Grains Bank is on schedule. The tour will be travelling through Ontario and on to the Canadian National Gathering in May. I hope you see in this effort the posture of the denominational agencies to serve locally and to extend the impact of the local church nationally and internationally. That is the power of our denomination together. Read more [here](#).
- Speaking of impact that is discovered when we work together, have you taken advantage of opportunities to grow through participation with your **regional representatives** of our various ministries? If our Resonate, Faith Formation, Disability Concerns advocates or others can help...Let us know! We wish to serve you. As a matter of fact, we have developed the [Click, Call Chat](#) program from our end as 3 of the ways we can speak together in an effort to serve the local church well. Click: Check out our website (crcna.org/canada), call 800-272-5125 for designated help during 8-5 EST, and chat by reaching out on the webchat space on any of our web pages.
- Have you checked out the [Resources](#) available to you? For the first time, all of the agencies and ministries of the denomination are available in one spot for you to peruse. Almost like a CRCNA google. Articles, manual, books, webinars, network blog posts and more around ministry issues. A great way to stay connected to the Reformed Community and find some trustworthy content. Go to <https://www.crcna.org/resources> for more or click on the word **'Resources' at the top of the CRCNA home page**.
- Thank you to all of you for the work you did in discovering who God intends to be part of the [National Gathering in May, 2019 in Edmonton](#). We have reached our 150 people without too much difficulty and between January and May we will be walking with them through an intentional discipleship process in an effort to prepare them for the gathering itself. Pray that God would be clear and powerful in His voice through them and to the church gathered at the National Gathering.
- For information on the [Binational gathering](#) and its effort in August- to be held in Windsor, Ontario see here: <https://www.crcna.org/gatherings>
- The Canadian context still remains unique and demands from us fitting responses as churches and leaders. It is why I am so glad for support of ministry like **The Centre for Public Dialogue** and the **Canadian Aboriginal Ministry Committee** (together with the centres in Regina, Edmonton and Winnipeg). As illustrations of the importance and impact of this work I cite two examples: first, regarding [Refugees](#) and second, on the federal government's changes to the [Summer Jobs Program](#), in large part because of the partnership of our ministry efforts through the CPD. We commit ourselves to responsible work on Parliament Hill and for your churches.

Feel free to reach out to me or any of your other servants in the denomination at any point. We are more than happy to serve you in your context. Whether by video or in person, it is easy to partner together for the sake of Christ in our communities.

APPENDIX #4.3 – REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Report to Classis Hamilton of the Christian Reformed Church: Winter 2019

In 1985 at one of its first academic conferences, Redeemer proudly displayed the motto “Learning is for Serving.” More than 30 years later, students continue to discern in chapel services, classrooms and conversations how they can offer their lives wholeheartedly to serve God and their world. They are learning to say, along with Moses, “Here I am.” These words, taken from Exodus 3:4, are the theme on campus this year.

As we enter the final year of the 2020 Strategic Plan, we are grateful to continue to help students intentionally connect their university learning with Kingdom purpose. Over the past three years, we have developed and launched a new Core curriculum, the Centre for Christian Scholarship, a Media and Communication Studies program, the Centre for Experiential Learning and Careers and, most recently, an Urban and Intercultural Ministry program. Together, these initiatives are renewing Redeemer’s academic program, raising the university’s profile and securing a stable financial foundation for the future. Thanks in part to the strategic plan, enrolment this year is up, with approximately 700 students enrolling this past fall.

Donors, including the generous donors in churches in Classis Hamilton, make each of these initiatives and each year of education at Redeemer possible. The support has helped the *Re* Campaign, which funds the 2020 Strategic Plan, surpass \$18.5 million in early December. This is significant progress in the past calendar year toward the campaign’s \$20 million goal. This coming February, the Redeemer campus is again honouring the faithful support of the donor community with a week-long series of events called The Gratitude Project. The celebration gives Redeemer students, faculty and staff an opportunity to thank donors who make Christian education for the next generation of leaders possible.

In addition to the ongoing exciting work of faculty in scholarship and in the classroom, several other significant initiatives are underway. The Act Five gap year program will encourage that same discernment in students wrapping up their high school education and unsure of their next steps. Launched this fall, the Act Five program has been developed in partnership with Hamilton District Christian High School, Smithville Christian High School, London District Christian Secondary School, Toronto District Christian High School and Woodland Christian High School. The eight-month Christian gap year program will take on its first cohort in fall 2019. More information will be available in January at redeemer.ca/act-five.

Redeemer also looks forward to investing in another cohort of high school students through its intensive summer research fellowship. As the program runs a second time this summer, grade 11 and 12 students will gain a deeper understanding of what it means to study science as a Christian, learn practical lab skills and connect with Christians in the sciences.

It’s been an exciting fall at Redeemer. In particular, it was a pleasure to host more than 50 pastors from a variety of denominations for the first event in our Pastor Professor Exchange series. On February 26, Dr. Marie Good will speak on the impact of young people’s faith on their desire. Ministry teams and pastors are invited to join us and can find more information at redeemer.ca/pastor-prof-exchange.

As part of leadership transition, this January Redeemer welcomes its new dean of humanities: Dr. Karen Dieleman, an experienced leader in Christian higher education. In 2019, Redeemer is also seeking a provost to complete its academic leadership. We look forward to providing further updates from the

search committee appointed by president Dr. Robert Graham. Throughout this process, we welcome your prayers for the search committee and its candidates.

Finally, in March, Redeemer will mark the inauguration of Dr. Robert Graham as the university's fourth president. On Friday, March 1, we invite you to celebrate with us this new season in Redeemer's institutional life and hear Dr. Graham share his vision for the university's future. Further information about the event can be found at redeemer.ca/inauguration.

As we look back on the progress made in 2018 and look forward to the opportunities that 2019 will bring, Redeemer is truly grateful for the support of the Christian Reformed Church and in particular that of churches in Classis Hamilton. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Christian higher education at Redeemer. May God bless your work on behalf of His Church.

David Zietsma, PhD
Vice President, External Relations and Enrolment

APPENDIX #4.4 – CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



Thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement! We are now in our 143rd year of continuous ministry since 1876. From one pastor who became the professor for the then new school serving five students, we continue to see God at work through our faculty, staff, students and alumni.

Where Do our Students Come From?

In the fall, we welcomed 357 continuing and new students who are a part of our degree and non-degree programs. (Non-degree students include those in our Latino Ministry certificate programs and students at Handlon prison.)

The countries represented in our student body illustrate the breadth and depth of our global ministry. Students come from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Peru, Rwanda, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, United States and Venezuela. Thank you for praying for and supporting these students!

New On-Line M.A. Program:

The Calvin Seminary Board recently approved our offering a fully on-line version of the Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership beginning in the fall of 2019. This on-line version means that there are no requirements for a student to come to Grand Rapids (even for an intensive week) as all work can be completed on-line. If you want to learn more about this on-line version, please email – ctsadmissions@calvinseminary.edu

Hybrid (online courses with one week of face to face each semester) and residential delivery of this M.A. program will still be available as well.

Investigation of Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) Degree:

Calvin Seminary is also investigating offering a D.Min. program in keeping with a recent request of Synod dealing with a report for continuing education of pastors. If you would like to provide input or raise questions, please email us at ctsdmin@calvinseminary.edu

We would appreciate your comments and your help in shaping this possible program to serve the church and pastors!

Calvin Seminary Scholarship and Donor Appreciation – Legacy Award – Jen Family Scholarship:

We are glad that 1.5 million dollars of scholarship support helped students at Calvin Seminary this year. As part of the celebration, we told the story of how multi-generational stewardship has impacted multiple students. To read more about the Legacy Award to the family of Rev. Isaac and Lily Jen – go here – <http://www.calvinseminary.edu/2018/11/13/the-jen-family-recognized-at-annual-scholarship-dinner/>

New Website being Developed while Center for Excellence in Preaching Site continues to Grow:

You have seen those signs before – Under Construction! Our website is being redeveloped to serve you better. For example, our summer conference – Loving Your Neighbor: Ministry Among Migrants, AGENDA, Classis Hamilton February 26, 2019

Immigrants and Refugees – was a gathering with great insights that we want to share again via our website.

In addition, the Center for Excellence in Preaching continues to serve 19,000 unique visitors per month leading to more than a million pages being downloaded. Check it out and make the site one of your favorites - <http://cep.calvinseminary.edu/> While our revised website will be better, you can still use it now to find out more about your seminary and the work we are doing with your support and encouragement!

<http://www.calvinseminary.edu/>



DIACONAL MINISTRIES
C A N A D A

*Relying on the Holy Spirit, Diaconal Ministries Canada exists to Inspire,
Empower and Equip Deacons, as they animate congregations to join in
God's transforming work in communities across Canada.*

SPRING REPORT TO CLASSIS

January 11, 2019

Happy New Year to our partners in ministry!

It is an exciting time here at Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC). As part of our 2020 Strategic Plan, we have several new initiatives and projects on the go. This plan involved a detailed review of DMC's vision, mission, policies and processes, and was a helpful exercise in providing focus and direction for our organization to move forward. DMC is and continues to be an organization created "**by** Deacons **for** Deacons", as we help Deacons fulfill their calling/mandate as spelled out in the Church Order (2016) and the Charge to Deacons as articulated in the form for the Ordination of Elders and Deacons (2016).

Here's a look at what we've been working on since our last report to Classis in the fall:

- A comprehensive evaluation on the annual Ancaster Day of Encouragement (DOE) was completed in July 2018. With input from DMC partners, stakeholders, staff and beyond, the decision was made to no longer offer the annual gathering and to pursue other meaningful and intentional ways to encourage and equip deacons in the work they do. (It's important to note that regional DOEs still continue in various communities across Canada with the support and involvement of DMC.). You can read the official Press Release on our website: <https://bit.ly/2RPxnc1>.
- We continue to strengthen our agency's communication strategies and improve brand recognition. We are currently working on building a brand new website that will provide encouragement and relevant resources to deacons in the work they do.
- Much work has been done in the area of Stewardship and Benevolence to better equip deacons and congregations to live stewardly:
 - o Collaboration with agencies like Christian Stewardship Services will ensure deacons receive helpful resources and training;
 - o A National Benevolence Training Program was developed and piloted in partnership with Ms. Anje Attema to help deacons move from "handing out money" to partnering with people in improving their situation in more holistic ways;
 - o We've partnered with World Renew to lead a workshop entitled "Helping Without Harming" where participants learn how to alleviate poverty and injustice without hurting the ones they are serving. These half- or full-day workshops teach the differences between *Relief* (offering temporary relief during a crisis),

Rehabilitation (helping communities recover from a crisis), and *Community Development* (helping those in chronic poverty to support themselves and to challenge systems that work against people fulfilling these callings.) This workshop has gone over very well and more dates are being booked for 2019 in cities like Edmonton, Nanaimo, and Toronto.

- We have some exciting news on the horizon regarding our Operation Manna Program, which has been helping churches start or grow community ministries for over 20 years. Stay tuned for a press release coming out in late January regarding how this program will extend its reach to help churches love their communities.

To accomplish all of the above-mentioned work and more, we continue to be funded primarily through Diaconal Ministry Shares (formerly “Dues”) which are invoiced yearly to each Canadian CRC. It’s important to note that these are NOT the same as *Denominational* or *Classical* Ministry Shares. Diaconal Ministry Shares are part of the agreement that **Canadian** Deacons made with each other in the 1960s and recommitted themselves to in 2001 when DMC was officially formed. Each year the DMC Board reviews and approves the amount – and each year these amounts, along with audited financial statements, are presented at DMC’s Annual General Meeting in the fall.

Again we want to say thank you for partnering with us in fulfilling the vision which God has given us to inspire, empower, and equip deacons, churches, and their partners across Canada as **together** we join in God’s transforming work. Thank you for your time, your prayers, and your financial support: we could not do this without you. May God continue to bless and guide us all as we carry out the ministries He calls us to.

For your information, here is our **Board Executive for 2018-19:**

Chair – Erica Snippe-Juurakko (Thunder Bay, ON) erica.snippejuurakko@gmail.com
Vice-Chair – Martin Slofstra (Toronto, ON) martinslofstra9@gmail.com
Secretary – Norm Hasyema (Leduc, AB) normhaayema@gmail.com
Treasurer – Scott Plante (Hamilton, ON) scott.plante@gmail.com

We invite you to visit our website www.diaconalministries.com to become familiar with the vast array of resources available. For more information, call us at the Burlington office (1-800-730-3490 ext. 4304) or contact one of the board members listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



ron vanden brink
National Director, Diaconal Ministries Canada