



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

**Date: May 28, 2019 Time: 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM**

**Venue: Ancaster Christian Reformed Church, 70 Garner Rd. E., Ancaster L9G 2J8**

<b>Officers of Classis:</b> Chair: Anthony Elenbaas Vice Chair: William Koopmans Stated Clerk: Dick Kranendonk	<b>Synodical Deputies:</b> TBD if needed
<b>Reporter:</b> Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Ancaster	<b>Ballot Committee:</b> Members of Ancaster CRC, Ancaster
<b>Credentials Committee:</b> New Street CRC, Burlington Faith CRC, Burlington	<b>Overture Committee</b> Hope CRC, Brantford Calvin CRC, Dundas

**CREDENTIALS:**

1. The credentials shall be returned to the Stated Clerk by email no later than May 7, 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. 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 May 14, 2019. Their report will be emailed by the Stated Clerk to all the delegates.

**OVERTURES:**

The Overtures Committee, if one is required, will email their report to the Stated Clerk by May 14, 2019 for distribution to the delegates of Classis as required.

**EMAIL ADDRESS:**

All communication to the Stated Clerk should be sent to: [clerk@classishamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@classishamilton.ca).

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CLASSIS MEETING DETAILS

9:30 AM	OPENING WORSHIP AND EXERCISES
<b>OPENING WELCOME AND PRAYER</b>	Chris Schoon
1. DEVOTIONS AND SHARING OF MINISTRY	Ancaster CRC
2. PRAYER FOR THE HOST CHURCH	William Koopmans
10:30 AM	REFRESHMENT BREAK
10:50 AM	ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION
3. CALL TO ORDER	Anthony Elenbaas
3.1. Attendance	Dick Kranendonk
3.2. Approval of Agenda	Anthony Elenbaas
4. CLASSIS MINISTRIES TEAM	Chris Schoon
4.1. Chair’s Report (Appendix #1.1)	
4.1.1. <b>RECOMMENDED THAT:</b> Ben Ponsen be elected as Chair of Classis for the period June 1, 2019 until May 31, 2020.	
4.1.2. <b>RECOMMENDED THAT:</b> John Bijl be elected as a member of the Classis Ministry Team.	
4.2. Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee Report (Appendix #1.2)	
4.2.1. <b>RECOMMENDED THAT:</b> Jessica Joustra be elected as a member of the Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee for a term of three years.	
4.2.2. <b>RECOMMENDED THAT:</b> Classis Hamilton suspend the financial need restriction and the need for its determination in its policy number 7 for one year.	
<b>REASONS:</b>	
1. The Committee does not have a clear understanding as to what has to be considered in the process of determining financial need.	
2. The Committee’s responsibilities in both encouraging and financially supporting seminary students have increased significantly in the past two years.	
3. The committee has sent an overture to Classis Hamilton that, hopefully, will address this matter.	
4.2.3. <b>RECOMMENDED THAT:</b> Classis Hamilton approve the disbursements of these funds in the following amounts:	
<b>Derek Ellens: Entering 4<sup>th</sup> year M.Div. Distance Learning at CTS</b>	<b>\$5,505 USD</b>
<b>Brad Bootsma: Entering 2<sup>nd</sup> year M.Div. at CTS</b>	<b>\$15,972 USD</b>
<b>Matthew Guichelaar: Entering 1<sup>st</sup> year M.Div. at CTS</b>	<b>\$15,972 USD</b>
<b>Jolene Veenstra: Entering 2<sup>nd</sup> year at McMaster Divinity School</b>	<b>\$1,750 CAD</b>
<b>Ben Wimmers: Entering 2<sup>nd</sup> year at McMaster Divinity School</b>	<b>\$2,542 CAD</b>
<b>Joshua Schoon: Entering 1<sup>st</sup> year M.Div. at CTS</b>	<b>\$15,972 USD</b>
4.2.4. <b>RECOMMENDED THAT:</b> Classis Hamilton approve the actions of the CHCC as recorded in its Report in the Agenda.	
4.3. Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee (Appendix #1.3)	
4.3.4. <b>RECOMMENDED THAT:</b> Kim Eigenbrood and Marcia Mantel be elected as members of the Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee for a term of three years.	

4.4. External Ministry Reports (Appendix #9)

4.4.4. **RECOMMENDED THAT:** The external reports from the Canadian Ministries Director and Redeemer University College be received for information.

4.5. **RECOMMENDED THAT:** Classis approve the work of the CMT to date as reported to the churches in the Minutes and the attached Appendix #1.

5. CLASSIS INTERIM COMMITTEE

Ken Benjamins

5.2. **RECOMMENDED THAT:** Classis Hamilton approve William Koopmans, Jake Ellens, Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo, Gillian Bruce and Rita Klein-Geltink as a single slate of nominees to serve as directors of the corporation to be elected during the annual meeting of members later in the day.

5.3. **RECOMMENDED THAT:** the revised wording of RoP 4.3 be: "Classis shall be composed of three delegates from each constituent church council, normally consisting of one minister, one elder and one deacon, authorized by proper credentials accepted by email. ~~Alternate delegates may be appointed by the local church from among all the officebearers."~~

GROUND:

This brings the practice of Classis Hamilton in line with the letter and spirit of Church Order, Article 40-a.

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12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

LUNCH

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6. PRAYER TIME FOR SYNOD, OUR DELEGATES AND THE DENOMINATIONAL LEADERSHIP

William Koopmans

7. CLASSIS STAFF REPORTS (Appendix #2)

Michael Fallon and John Bijl

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION DECLARED

All persons present who are not delegates, office bearers in the local churches, regional pastors, church visitors, and members of the CIC are asked to leave the meeting.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDS

10. OVERTURE COMMITTEE

Calvin CRC, Reporting

10.1. Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee: (See Appendix #5)

11. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Faith CRC, Reporting

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3:00 PM

REFRESHMENT BREAK

12. ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Chair: Ken Benjamins

13.1 Establish Quorum (By-Law 5.2)

13.2 Proof of Notice for the Meeting (By-law 5.4)

13.3 Approve Minutes of AGM 2018 (See Appendix #6)

13.5 Election of Members of the CIC/BOD (By-law 5.1) (See Appendix #7)

13.6 Approve the Audit Report on the 2018 Financial Statements (Corporations Act 96.1) – (See Appendix #8)

**RECOMMENDED THAT:** the audited financial statements and the Auditor's report thereon for fiscal 2018 be approved.

13.7 Appoint the Auditor (By-Law 5.1.c)

**RECOMMENDED THAT:** DBK Accounting Professional Corporation be re-appointed as auditor for fiscal 2019.

13.8 Closing of Annual General membership meeting

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13. CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION (PART 2)

Gareth Harker & Chris Schoon

4:30 PM Closing Devotions

Anthony Elenbaas

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## APPENDIX #1 – CLASSIS MINISTRIES TEAM REPORTS

### APPENDIX #1.1 – CMT REPORT

#### **Classis Hamilton Ministry Team (CMT)**

April 15, 2019

For the past six months, the Classis Ministry Team has focused our attention on the nature and culture of Classis Hamilton. The conversations connected to this focus have emerged in response to sentiments shared at Classis where delegates expressed feeling uncertain about the purpose of Classis. Particularly in times of need, some delegates have communicated that their church has felt isolated and alone within Classis. We recognize that not every church has shared this experience, but the reality is that some of us have.

In discerning how to respond to these realities within our Classis, we have taken a few steps. Our team has met with Al Postma, who serves the CRCNA by walking alongside Classes that are seeking renewal. His insights, particularly into the purposes of Classis and into how other Classes are navigating similar conversations, has been quite helpful. We facilitated a listening and discerning session at our February Classis meeting. We have also started to discuss ways that we could structure our team so that we take more of a listening and resourcing posture in relationship to our other Classis committees and teams. We hope that the fruit of these conversations and efforts will begin to show in the coming months.

We are currently assembling a summary of the discussions and feedback from our February Classis meeting. We plan to distribute that to the churches shortly. We will also facilitate a follow up conversation at our May Classis meeting.

Additionally, we would like to update Classis on three tasks assigned to us over the past two years in response to questions raised on church credentials. Most recently, Classis asked us to follow up on Faith CRC's request for discussion about best practices related to staffing, with particular attention to non-ordained staff support and supervision. We reached out to Ken Bosveld and the CRC's Connections project. In consulting with us, Ken brought in Dave DenHaan from Pastor Church Resources office. On Saturday, April 13 representatives from more than ten churches in Classis Hamilton and Classis Toronto gathered for listen and learn session with Dave. The discussion explored a wide variety of challenges, opportunities, and practices related to multi-staff ministry models. Council members, part-time staff, ministry leaders, and pastors participated in this wide-ranging and beneficial conversation. We anticipate that further conversations and sharing of resources (employee handbooks, supervision models, etc) will benefit our churches.

We have also been asked to consider two other conversations. In our February 2018 Classis meeting, Classis tasked the CMT with considering the best ways to respond to requests from Hope (Brantford) regarding (1) best practices in relationship to "ministering to persons who struggle with same-sex attractions," and (2) regarding how to encourage one another with respect to Church Order article 51 and the practice of a second service on Sundays.

In response to ministering to persons who struggle with same-sex attractions, CMT is of the perspective that this type of discussion would benefit from waiting until Synod responds to the work of the current CRCNA study committee on human sexuality. With the recent release of that study committee's interim report, it might be beneficial to facilitate a discussion with interested parties during the fall 2019, with a particular question about how does this impact our care and discipleship with people who identify as LGBTQ+.

With regard to second services, CMT has discussed how the focus on holding second Sunday services is likely too narrow of a conversation topic. However, we are wondering if Classis might benefit from a discussion on how we are fulfilling the spirit of the second worship service as a teaching service. In what ways are Classis Hamilton churches engaging the teaching/discipleship ministry that has traditionally been accomplished in the second service? We intend to consult further with the denomination's office of Faith Formation Ministries about this question and potential opportunities/resources related to this question.

Finally, we have two recommendations for Classis:

1. That Classis Hamilton approve Rev. Ben Ponsen to serve as the chair of Classis from June 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020.
2. That Classis Hamilton approve John Bijl as a new member of the Classis Ministry Team.

Both of them have expressed their willingness to serve in the respective roles for which we are recommending them.

On behalf of the Classis Ministry Team,  
Grace and Peace,  
Chris Schoon

**Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee  
Report to Classis Hamilton      May 28, 2019**

Our primary work as a committee continues to be supporting students from our Classis who are preparing for ministry within the CRCNA. This support involves personal visits, phone calls & emails, and direct mentoring and discerning with some of the students. For students in the 2 year, non-residential EPMC program, we also meet with them during their program to talk about their sense of calling, the development of their pastoral identity, and their understanding of Reformed theology. After each of these meetings, we provide a written report to the CRCNA Candidacy Office as they coordinate the process for students seeking to be approved as candidates for ordained ministry by Synod.

We are delighted to report that several students with whom we have been walking continue to work toward graduation and candidacy. We are anticipating new undergraduate students who have already indicated to CHCC members their interest and calling toward graduate studies and ordained ministry in the CRCNA after completing their University work. We are prayerful for others too who might be considering potential paths towards ministry as well.

**Student and Candidates Update**

**The Committee is delighted to report on the following students and Candidates whom we have been supporting.**

- **Student Derek Ellens:** He and his wife moved at the beginning of 2019 from Grand Rapids to Brampton, ON, to serve at Immanuel CRC as a commissioned pastor on a 1 year contract and continues MDiv training through distant studies.
- **Student Brad Bootsma:** He and his family seem to have settled well in Grand Rapids, he is doing well in his studies and fully embracing formational experiences and ministry opportunities through CTS.
- **Student Jolene Veenstra:** She is doing well in her studies and enjoying the course work at McMaster Divinity School. She has been able to make some changes at her work allowing her to take some extra courses over the summer.
- **Candidate Courtney Saldivar (nee Mooney):** She is currently on maternity leave with her second child.
- **Candidate Femke Visser-Elenbaas:** She is working as a part-time chaplain (20 hrs/wk) for Hamilton Health Sciences at the St. Peter's Hospital since February this year. After the probationary period (July '19) she will start the process of ordination.

**CHCC also took the following actions with respect to outstanding forgivable loans:**

- **Steve Dykstra:** deferred his loan repayment starting date by one year. Candidate since Synod 2018.
- **Ben Verkerk:** approved the forgiveness of 20% of original loan since he is currently serving as an ordained minister in the CRC.
- **Courtney Mooney:** deferred her loan repayment starting date by one year. Candidate since Synod 2018.
- **Mark DeVos:** approved the forgiveness of an additional 20% of original loan since he is currently serving as an ordained minister in the CRC.
- **Femke Visser-Elenbaas:** deferred her loan repayment starting date by one year. Candidacy extended

- **Nathan Klingenberg:** approved the forgiveness of an additional 20% of original loan since he is currently serving as an ordained minister in the CRC.
- **Corey VanHuizen:** approved the forgiveness of an additional 20% of original loan since he is currently serving as an ordained minister in the CRC.
- **Willem de Vries:** approved the forgiveness of an additional 20% of original loan since he is currently serving as an ordained minister in the CRC.

**For action:**

Each May, we provide our recommendation to Classis for disbursement of funds (as forgivable loans) during the upcoming school year. This year, we have six students for whom we are recommending financial support for during the 2019/2020 academic year. We request that Classis Hamilton approve the disbursements of these funds in the following amounts:

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| • <b>Derek Ellens: Entering 4<sup>th</sup> year M.Div. Distance Learning at CTS</b> | <b>\$5,505 USD</b>  |
| • <b>Brad Bootsma: Entering 2<sup>nd</sup> year M.Div. at CTS</b>                   | <b>\$15,972 USD</b> |
| • <b>Matthew Guichelaar: Entering 1<sup>st</sup> year M.Div. at CTS</b>             | <b>\$15,972 USD</b> |
| • <b>Jolene Veenstra: Entering 2<sup>nd</sup> year at McMaster Divinity School</b>  | <b>\$1,750 CAD</b>  |
| • <b>Ben Wimmers: Entering 2<sup>nd</sup> year at McMaster Divinity School</b>      | <b>\$2,542 CAD</b>  |
| • <b>Joshua Schoon: Entering 1<sup>st</sup> year M.Div. at CTS</b>                  | <b>\$15,972USD</b>  |

**2 Further Recommendations to Classis:**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:** Classis Hamilton suspend the financial need restriction and the need for its determination in its policy number 7 for one year.

**GROUNDS:**

1. The Committee does not have a clear understanding as to what has to be considered in the process of determining financial need.
2. The Committee’s responsibilities in both encouraging and financially supporting seminary students have increased significantly in the past two years.
3. The committee has sent an overture to Classis Hamilton that, hopefully, will address this matter.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:** Classis approve Jessica Joustra as a new CHCC member. Jessica is a member at Immanuel Christian Reformed Church in Hamilton. She lead the Facing Your Future program at Calvin Seminary (2010-2015) where she worked with many young adults who were seeking to discern where God might be calling them vocationally. Currently, she works as a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Theologische Universiteit Kampen and Visiting Scholar in Reformed Ethics at Redeemer University College. She earned a PhD in Christian Ethics from Fuller Theological Seminary, an M.Div from Calvin Theological Seminary and a B.A from Calvin College.

Willem de Vries,  
CHCC Reporter

**Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee Report**

April 2019

Thank you for your support as we look forward to a new season of missional engagement and church planting in Classis Hamilton. We would like to highlight the following four points:

1. **Community Analysis:** Terence Schilstra completed his survey in West Brantford and turned his prayerful attention to Upper Stoney Creek. The location of the third area to survey continues to be discussed and prayerfully discerned. Terence will give an update on his survey work.
2. **Church Missional Grants** – we continue to offer these grants to churches who have innovative ideas to engage their community. We sent out a new reminder to churches.
3. **Church planter search** – we are keeping our eyes and ears open for potential church planters ready to plant a church once we have more data from our community survey. Matching the type of church plant with the gifts of a church planter will be one of our key goals. The other key goal will be encouraging financial sustainability for the church plant through supporting churches and Classis.
4. **New members** – Gerald Klein-Geltink has resigned and we thank Gerald for his years of participation in our committee. We would like to recommend Kim Eigenbrood from Hope CRC Brantford and Marcia Mantel from Flamborough CRC as new members for our committee.

**Kim Eigenbrood** is member of Brantford Hope CRC. She and her husband Kevin have 4 young children. Kim has a background in Social Work, serving with the Haldimand Children's Aid Society. Kim serves her church currently by leading the outreach team and desires to see people live their lives on mission. In addition she has also served in Coffee Break.

**Marcia Mantel:** I am married to Chris and the mother of 3 teenage children, living near Caledonia and serving alongside my church family at Calvary (Flamborough). I currently coordinate Coffee Break and I am a part of the Community Opportunity Scan team. I work in the office at Calvary, and, previously, had been blessed for more than 15 years to work with World Renew and Diaconal Ministries Canada as a writer and communicator. I have a B.A. from Redeemer and an M.A. from Guelph. I am passionate about the mission of the church, discerning how to be the church in the particular context in which God has placed us, and joining Him where He is at work in our community.

For the Classis meeting on May 28 2019 we have requested 15mins to give an update on the community analysis and also invite John Bouwers to help us to continue to learn and vision how church planting is progressing through Resonate and classes and churches.

Respectfully submitted,  
Greg S. (Chair)



## APPENDIX #2 – CLASSIS STAFF REPORT

### APPENDIX #2.1 – McMASTER & MOHAWK CHAPLAINS' REPORT



McMaster University, Christian Reformed Campus  
Ministry C/o The Chaplaincy Centre  
MUSC 231  
McMaster University  
1280 Main St. West  
Hamilton, ON L8S 4S4



Dear Classis Representatives

May 2019

As some of you may have heard, I had an accident in the fall semester which sent me to the sidelines for a month. Since I work two to three months in advance, the fall schedule/programs were already in place. These programs include 'All Things' our weekly fellowship at McMaster University; 'Solid Rock' our weekly fellowship at Mohawk College; the speakers; the fellowship meals, the small groups and small group leaders. The schedule was set up until Christmas.

I received my driver's license back the final week of December and was allowed to return to work a week before the new semester began. Once I was permitted to spend more than a few minutes in front of a computer screen, I scrambled to fill in the holes in our winter calendar. Essentially, the work I was doing in January was the work I would typically do in November. This was not ideal. I prefer to work and plan things well in advance. I have always found that working in advance takes the pressure off and allows me the flexibility to deal with the challenges and opportunities that arise in the day to day life of the ministry. So, how did the past semester go?

Over all, I would say that the winter semester went well. Most, but not all, of the pieces came together. Whereas all our main programs 'All Things,' 'Solid Rock' ... went very well, a few important events/activities did not take place. Let me quickly note two of the most significant positives to begin. We had some very gifted speakers, several of them new, speak at 'All Things' and 'Solid Rock' this past semester. At our 'end of year ministry review' several students spoke about the quality of our speakers this year. One of the students that has been part of our community for seven years (PhD. program) noted that the speakers we had were excellent – "perhaps the best we have ever had." The other main positive was we also had several very thoughtful 'exit talks.'

I think 'Exit Talks' are unique to our ministry, so let me quickly describe them. All the student leaders in the ministry are required to lead one of the 'All Things' or 'Solid Rock' discussions before they graduate. They have some freedom as to their topic, but they are encouraged to talk about their area of research and how they see it as part of the Kingdom of God. More directly, they are encouraged to ponder the challenges they are discovering and note how they might potentially be agents of re-creation in that area. The leaders who are graduating and who gave their exit talks are: Megan Woon, Kaitlyn Lammers, Rebekah Reimer, Arie Dieleman, Joshua Hoekstra, Philip Driese, John DeGelder and Curtis Hoekstra. I also want to extend a sincere 'thank you' to them for the work they have done in the name of Jesus as leaders in our ministry.

In addition to these positive things, we also had a downside coming out of my absence. As to be expected, several things were cancelled or put on the back burner. A few of the most important were

our Algonquin Retreat, info tabling; all outreach activities; vetting of new leaders; social gatherings ... These are all programs that are key ministry components.

Two final things worth noting. At the start of May our steering committee we will be meeting with some representatives of Resonate to discuss our ministry at Mohawk College and the possibility of receiving support for a part-time staff person. Also, my work for McMaster University/ re: establishing a Multifaith Centre at McMaster University is ongoing. I have recently submitted the first series of drafts on the basis of unity, vision and mission statements to the Protocol Committee. I am currently receiving feedback from various university departments and stakeholders on those drafts and hope to begin rewriting in early May.

Michael

[fallonm@mcmaster.ca](mailto:fallonm@mcmaster.ca); 1 (289) 880-6134

APPENDIX #2.2 – YOUTH MINISTRY CHAMPIONS’ REPORT

**Classis Youth Champion Report**

May 2019

The Classis Hamilton Youth Ministry Team (CHYMT): Betty Steenbeek (Anaster CRC) Chair, Pastor Ben Ponsen (York CRC), Ryan Flokstra (Immanuel CRC), Kennan Benjamins (Calvin CRC) and the Classis Champion, John Bijl (Meadowlands Fellowship CRC) meets regularly to discuss/plan various events happening within or for the classis.

In September, Classis Hamilton held its second annual youth retreat at Country Side Camp. The planning team of Maryann Benjamins, Anthony Elenbaas, Heather Dehaan, and I have worked on the retreat for the previous 8 months promoting and organizing this wonderful event. The speaker for the weekend, Brigitte Van Huisstede, spoke on “Let’s get REAL” (Renew, Engaged, Active, Loved). Colin Wouda led worship for the whole weekend.

We have already started on the next fall retreat for September 27-29<sup>th</sup> 2019. The speaker for the weekend will be Joel Dykxhoorn and he will be speaking on “Who Do You Follow”. Colin Wouda will be leading worship once again. It will be a great weekend of learning, serving and worshiping our God. Registration is opening soon. Watch for emails and ask your youth & youth leaders to register. This year we are hoping that at least 70 youth and leaders to attend.

In October there was a Leadership Studio retreat in Muskoka Woods. This was a date change from the weekend event held normally in February. 10-12 youth from Classis Hamilton along with other youth and young adults were led in various exercises on how to be Christian leaders. The youth came home more confident in their gifts and how to use them.

As the Classis Champion, I have been busy connecting with youth leaders, pastors, and churches. I have shared my knowledge of youth ministry with youth leaders all over the classis. In speaking with these leaders I was struck by the passion they all had for what they did. Each totally different from the other, but all with the same passion. Some wearing many hats in their respective churches and yet finding time to minister to the youth. One church, in particular, had been without a formal youth ministry and now have a couple of dedicated leaders willing to build a strong base on which to develop a youth ministry. In speaking with one new youth leader, I saw myself about 23 years ago, trying to decide what to do, what the youth need, how to do it without going nuts, how to still have a life and take care of my own spiritual journey. It was great to be able to share my experiences and rocky faith journey with them. God is good.

I have also had the pleasure of attending a congregational meeting to discuss their youth ministry and the hiring of a youth pastor or director. In follow up conversations with the team I have help with the job description and guided them to various resources, in that process. I look forward to seeing how it all unfolds.

To broaden my youth ministry knowledge I have been in contact with other types of youth ministries such as Youth for Christ, The Canadian Youth Network, and Young Life. This gives me a better sense of what types of ministry and events are happening in our area and at schools. In meeting with youth pastors and directors from other classes and denominations it is encouraging to see some of the work they are doing and that we all have some of the same struggles.

Youth ministry in Classis Hamilton varies with some “successful” ministries, while others struggle with their youth ministries, but seem to want to go it alone. Others are glad to have someone to bounce ideas off of and to encourage them in what they do. This realization has given me hope that what I have been asked to do for Classis will be a blessing for the youth ministries.

As a team, the CHYMT is working out how best to serve the churches and their youth ministries. We have had several youth services. We also tried a leadership Saturday event (a shortened Leadership studio retreat), for students and leaders which was canceled due to poor response. As we continue to support, plan events, try new ideas, for the youth ministries of Classis Hamilton I ask that you continue to participate, give constructive feedback, share your ideas and prayer for the Classis Hamilton youth and the CHYMT.

John Bijl

## APPENDIX #3 – CIC AND STATED CLERK’S REPORT

Following is a list of the significant items of interest from the CIC minutes since the last Classis meeting:

### 1. Safe Church:

All churches now have a safe church polity in place but implementation of the policy provisions may be lacking. The CIC asked the stated clerk to discuss with the Safe Church Team the possibility of setting up some form of regular review with the safe church teams of the local churches to ensure that the policy provisions are implemented on a timely basis. The stated clerk reported back to CIC that he had met with the Safe Church Team has discussed the possibility of setting up some form of regular review of the local churches to ensure that their policy provisions are implemented on a timely basis. They are researching and evaluating how this can best be done.

### 2. Liability Insurance Coverage:

Based on concerns expressed and experience of at least one other classis regarding to abuse and harassment liability, CIC in its function as the board of directors of the corporation, decided to obtain a legal opinion as to the coverage and possibility for coverage for sexual abuse, abuse and harassment for classis. The legal opinion received states that classis likely will be included as a respondent when any of its members churches and ministries are accused of breaching any of the noted perils. The opinion is also clear that classis currently has no coverage to pay for its legal defence in these matters. The potential financial exposure for classis and, therefore, the member churches, could be significant. The CIC has the duty of diligence to ensure that classis is not unnecessarily exposed to financial liability loss.

To follow up on possible solutions to the above, classis is exploring what other Canadian classes and the denomination are doing in this regard. In addition, further investigation is taking place with our current insurance provider as well as possible other possibilities for insurance coverage.

### 3. Elders and Deacons at Classis:

CIC received a report on the current practice of Classis Hamilton to permit elders to be seated at classis meetings in the place of deacons when the local church cannot find a deacon to serve as delegate. The report demonstrated that the current practice is contrary to both the letter and spirit of Church Order, Article 40-a. In light of this report, CIC is asking classis to amend the Rules of Procedure as follows:

The proposed revised wording of RoP 4.3 is: “Classis shall be composed of three delegates from each constituent church council, normally consisting of one minister, one elder and one deacon, authorized by proper credentials accepted by email. ~~Alternate delegates may be appointed by the local church from among all the officebearers.~~”

GROUND:

This brings the practice of Classis Hamilton in line with the letter and spirit of Church Order, Article 40-a.

### 4. Classis Assignment to CIC:

CIC was assigned the task of appointing a committee of no less than three competent office bearers to engage the issues at Bethel CRC with the goal of achieving reconciliation. CIC has made the appointment and the committee is actively at work in pursuit of the stated goal.

### 5. October Classis Meeting:

CIC and the Classis Ministry Team have agreed to hold the October 22, 2019 classis meeting at the Burlington CRCNA office. The facilities and amenities will be provided free of charge, except that classis will be asked to pay for the catered lunch. New Street CRC will be the host church.

6. Classical Counselor Final Report:

Kevin DeRaaf presented his final report regarding First Hamilton CRC's calling of Hayden Regeling as follows: *"As the counselor for First CRC, Hamilton, I am pleased to report that First CRC has called Hayden Regeling to serve as associate pastor. The call process was followed faithfully according to Church Order, including the process for ordination. With you, I celebrate this exciting new chapter in the ministry of First CRC and the beginning of ordained ministry for Hayden."*

7. Review of Church Order, Article 40-c:

Based on the plain reading of that article, Classis Hamilton is compliant with the rotation of office bearers who preside at its classis meetings. However, Classis Hamilton had submitted an overture to Synod 2012 on this very point. Synod at that time stated that the word "ordinarily" which was then included in this article for the first time was sufficient authority for classes to have individuals preside for more than one consecutive meeting without placing any limit on such a term. Based on that ruling by Synod 2012, CIC believes that there is no reason to revisit the current practice at the present time. However, it was noted that the word "ordinarily" is used quite frequently in the Church Order and its meaning and application allows for a very wide range of interpretation.

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

## APPENDIX #4 – OVERTURE

### **Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee Request (Overture) to Classis Hamilton**

For many decades, the Church Order included Article 43-a, which required each Classis to maintain a student fund to “support” individuals preparing for ministry in the Christian Reformed Church. This support meant primarily financial support.

Early in this century, Article 43-a was amended to include the establishment of a Classical Ministerial Leadership Team (CMLT) charged with the “encouragement” for individuals preparing for ministry in the Christian Reformed Church.

When this change to Article 43-a was first included in the Church Order, Classis Hamilton concluded that it would not place a significant additional workload on its existing Student Fund Committee and instead renamed that committee the Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee.

Since that time, the denominational Candidacy Committee, with the approval of Synod, has downloaded more and more responsibilities to the classical CMLT’s. Those committee responsibilities now include:

1. Contacting and remaining in contact with postsecondary students who might have an interest in pursuing ordained ministry,
2. Interviewing potential seminary students regarding their internal and external calling toward ordained ministry, as part of the application process for Classis support,
3. Continuing to mentor and work with students who have been admitted to seminary programs other than Calvin Theological Seminary and who are not yet actively enrolled in the denominational candidacy process. (Students at CTS receive more direct mentoring through CTS and the denominational Candidacy Committee),
4. Formally interviewing students in seminary at least two times as part of the 24-month denominational Candidacy program, asking questions, inquiry, and dialogue regarding any area of concern relative to character/knowledge/skill and other areas of formation for ministry that may not have been addressed elsewhere. This means a more active participation of the CHCC in the formation process of our candidates.
5. Ensuring that seminary students attend at least one classis meeting during their education program,
6. Participating in setting-up and conducting examinations for those applying for candidacy in the CRC, which includes a fair number of document reviews as well as attending meetings in Grand Rapids or at other locations outside of our Classis boundaries,
7. Continuing to interact with individuals who have been declared candidates by synod until they have been ordained,
8. Active involvement in the education program of individuals pursuing the Commissioned Pastor “Journey Toward Ordination” process,
9. Completely familiarizing themselves with all materials produced and posted on the denominational Candidacy Website, and
10. Significant communication and interaction with the director of the denominational Candidacy Committee regarding all the above as well as unique situations that arise on a regular basis.

The above noted 10 tasks (which are not necessarily exhaustive), the CHCC also has been continuing its original task of determining financial need and recommending forgivable loan amounts for students who are enrolled in qualified seminary programs according to the Classis Hamilton Policies and Procedures Document adopted in 2014 and reconfirmed in 2017.

The policy document has an element of “gate keeping” in that the CHCC is required to determine not only the applicant’s calling and readiness for seminary study, but also the level of financial need either with respect to their personal financial resources or the overall budget amount available to be spread among all applicants in a given year.

The committee is required to follow the employment status of the newly ordained pastors who have received forgivable loans from Classis Hamilton for the first five years of the ordination and annually report their individual status to the classical bookkeeper.

Thus, seeing how the original mandate of the CHCC “to support” (financially) prospective candidates has evolved since the change in church order to also “encourage” prospective candidates, with an increasing workload being delegated to your CHCC by the denominational Candidacy Committee, the CHCC is becoming overburdened by the requirement of carrying out both these tasks.

The CHCC members consider the pastoral task of walking with our candidates through the discernment process their primary responsibility and experience an increasing discomfort of administering the student loan program. The latter is also the result of [1] lack of clarity around understanding and determination of financial need, which is one of the requirements for receiving Classis support (see point 7 of CHCC policy) and [2] the need to track and keep record of candidates who received a forgivable loan until loan is forgiven or paid in full.

**Overture:**

That Classis Hamilton remove the task of “financial supporting” the students who have been approved for attending qualified seminaries from the mandate of the CHCC and assign that to the Audit Review Committee (ARC).

**GROUNDS:**

1. This will permit the CHCC to focus their efforts on the “encouraging” tasks.
2. At least two other classes in Canada (BC North West and BC South East) have moved to this model of having two separate committees with a CMLT and Student Fund Committee.
3. The ARC would receive the names of those students who have been vetted and approved by the CHCC and would determine financial need and availability only, without the CHCC potentially being seen as both encouraging and then limiting their support.
4. The ARC has the requisite expertise to deal with financial matters.



APPENDIX #5 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**Minutes of the Annual General Membership of  
CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

**Date:** May 22, 2018 **Time:** 3:30 PM

**Venue:** First Hamilton Christian Reformed Church, 181 Charlton Ave. W., Hamilton, Ontario

1. Constitution of the Meeting (*By-law 5.2*)  
A quorum of both churches (with five delegates absent) and of individual members of the corporation being present, the meeting was declared to be duly constituted for the transaction of business.
2. Proof of Notice for the Meeting (*By-law 5.4*)  
**IT WAS NOTED THAT:** notice of the meeting was sent to the clerks of the classis churches and members of the Classis Interim Committee on April 17, 2018.
3. Approval of Minutes  
On motion duly moved, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** the minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting were approved.
4. Approval of 2018 Budget
  - 4.1. On motion duly moved, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** The budget accepted by the October 2017 Classis Hamilton meeting is confirmed.
5. Election of the Classis Interim Committee (CIC) who serve as individual members of Classis Hamilton until the May 2019 meeting of Classis (*By-law 4.2.2*).

The following were elected to serve a one-year term on the CIC:

Ken Benjamins	Gillian Bruce
Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo	Jake Ellens
William Koopmans	

6. Audited 2017 Financial Statements  
On motion duly moved, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon for fiscal 2017 are approved.
7. Auditor for 2018  
On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** DBK Accounting Professional Corporation is re-appointed as auditor for fiscal 2018.
8. Closing of AGM  
There being no further business, the AGM was terminated.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reporter

## APPENDIX #6 – BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS (CIC)

According to General Operating By-Law Number 1, Section 13.3, and Rules of Procedure 13.2.1, five CIC members must be elected annually by the delegates at the May Annual General Meeting. CIC members may not serve for more than six one-year terms consecutively. Following are the incumbent members:

Incumbent members to be nominated at the classis meeting and re-elected at the AGM:

***Jake Ellens (fourth term)*** – He is a member of Hope CRC, Brantford.

***Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo (fifth term)*** – She is a member of Immanuel CRC, Hamilton.

***Gillian Bruce (fourth term)*** – She is a member of First Hamilton CRC, Hamilton.

***William Koopmans (third term)*** – He is pastor of Hope CRC, Brantford.

***Rita Klein-Geltink (first term)*** – She is pastor of Ancaster CRC, Ancaster.

**RECOMMENDED THAT:** The slate of names noted above be elected for a one-year term commencing June 1, 2019.

APPENDIX #7 – AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

DECEMBER 31, 2018

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of  
Classis Hamilton of the Christian Reformed Church

### *Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of Classis Hamilton of the Christian Reformed Church, which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2018, and the statements of revenues and expenses, changes in restricted fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at December 31, 2018, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### *Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the organization's financial reporting process.

### *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

5-120 San Antonio Drive, Hamilton, Ontario L9C 5N2

Tel: (905) 389-2670 | Fax: (905) 389-4642 | [www.DBKAccounting.ca](http://www.DBKAccounting.ca)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT, continued**

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



**DBK Accounting Professional Corporation**  
Authorized to practice public accounting by the Chartered  
Professional Accountants of Ontario

Hamilton, Ontario  
March 19, 2019

**CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2018**

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 161,816	\$ 115,718
Accounts receivable	27,623	24,897
GST/HST recoverable	732	835
Prepaid expenses	<u>6,534</u>	<u>6,884</u>
	196,705	148,334
Other Assets		
Loans receivable (Note 4)	<u>189,602</u>	<u>169,793</u>
	<u>\$ 386,307</u>	<u>\$ 318,127</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 5,505	\$ 4,601
<b>EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES</b>		
Classis Expense Fund	45,950	37,548
McMaster Campus Ministry	29,102	30,462
Classical Candidacy	244,038	202,426
Shalom Manor	(1,725)	348
Future Church Planting	62,782	42,087
Quad Classis Retreat	<u>655</u>	<u>655</u>
	<u>380,802</u>	<u>313,526</u>
	<u>\$ 386,307</u>	<u>\$ 318,127</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board

Director \_\_\_\_\_

Director \_\_\_\_\_

**CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

	2018 Classis Expense Fund	2018 McMaster Campus Ministry	2018 Classical Candidacy	2018 Shalom Manor	2018 Future Church Planting	2018 Quad Classis Retreat	2018 Total	2017 Total
FUND BALANCES, beginning of year	37,548	30,462	202,426	348	42,087	655	313,526	286,083
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	8,402	(1,360)	41,612	(2,073)	20,695	-	67,276	27,443
FUND BALANCES, end of year	<u>45,950</u>	<u>29,102</u>	<u>244,038</u>	<u>(1,725)</u>	<u>62,782</u>	<u>655</u>	<u>380,802</u>	<u>313,526</u>

*See accompanying notes to the financial statements*

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**CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES - CLASSIS EXPENSE FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Classis ministry shares	\$ 50,560	\$ 52,582
Interest income	1,848	1,127
	<u>52,408</u>	<u>53,709</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Conferences and professional development	9,090	13,592
Insurance	1,663	1,567
Office, postage and general	6,367	2,093
Professional fees	5,023	8,377
Safe church team	1,156	-
Salaries and benefits	16,943	17,356
Travel	3,764	3,386
Youth ministry	-	734
	<u>44,006</u>	<u>47,105</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	<u>\$ 8,402</u>	<u>\$ 6,604</u>

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES - MCMASTER CAMPUS MINISTRY**

<b>REVENUE</b>		
Classis ministry shares	\$ 110,034	\$ 110,254
Grants from churches and other organizations	11,816	10,822
Conference fees	89	868
	<u>121,939</u>	<u>121,944</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Assistant to chaplains	5,500	5,500
Conference fees and professional development	2,379	1,490
Emerging leader	1,000	-
Meals and hospitality	4,940	4,195
Office, postage and general	2,411	2,018
Salaries and benefits	102,955	126,408
Travel	4,114	4,113
	<u>123,299</u>	<u>143,724</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	<u>\$ (1,360)</u>	<u>\$ (21,780)</u>

*See accompanying notes to the financial statements*

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**CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES - OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS  
DECEMBER 31, 2018**

	Classical Candidacy 2018	Shalom Manor 2018	Future Church Planting 2018	Total 2018	Total 2017
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Ministry shares	\$ 60,008	\$ 32,311	\$ -	\$ 92,319	\$ 103,155
Future Church share	-	-	22,518	22,518	6,000
Interest income	4,622	-	-	4,622	2,866
	<u>64,630</u>	<u>32,311</u>	<u>22,518</u>	<u>119,459</u>	<u>112,021</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Loans forgiven	18,210	-	-	18,210	16,702
Grants	-	34,384	1,823	36,207	48,032
Candidate benefits	4,808	-	-	4,808	4,668
	<u>23,018</u>	<u>34,384</u>	<u>1,823</u>	<u>59,225</u>	<u>69,402</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	<u>\$ 41,612</u>	<u>\$ (2,073)</u>	<u>\$ 20,695</u>	<u>\$ 60,234</u>	<u>\$ 42,619</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

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**CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	<u>\$ 67,276</u>	<u>\$ 27,443</u>
Change in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	(2,726)	3,929
GST/HST recoverable	103	204
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	904	(1,637)
Prepaid expenses	<u>350</u>	<u>(5,147)</u>
	65,907	24,792
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Loans receivable	<u>(19,809)</u>	<u>(30,419)</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash	46,098	(5,627)
Cash, beginning of year	<u>115,718</u>	<u>121,345</u>
Cash, end of year	<u><u>\$ 161,816</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 115,718</u></u>

*See accompanying notes to the financial statements*

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# CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

### 1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The organization was incorporated as a corporation without share capital under the Ontario Corporations Act on October 28, 2008. The corporation is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from payment of income taxes as provided under the Income Tax Act.

Its purpose is to advance and teach the religious tenets, doctrines, observances and culture associated with the Christian Reformed faith.

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

#### (a) FUND ACCOUNTING

The organization follows the restricted fund method of accounting for donations.

The Classical Candidacy Committee accounts for the assistance provided to seminary students.

The Classis Expense Fund accounts for the organization's administrative activities.

The Restricted Fund reports revenues and expenses related to the various Christian Reformed Church ministries and causes. This includes the The McMaster Campus Ministry.

#### (b) REVENUE RECOGNITION

Restricted donations related to general operations are recognized as revenue of the Classis Expense Fund in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. All other restricted donations are recognized as revenue of the appropriate restricted fund.

Donations are recognized as revenue in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Investment income and conference fees are recognized as revenue in the period it is earned.

#### (c) CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents include cash and short-term investments with maturities of three months or less from their date of acquisition, which are readily convertible into a known amount of cash, and are subject to an insignificant risk to changes in their fair value.

#### (d) CAPITAL ASSETS

Furniture and equipment acquisitions are expensed fully in the year of purchase and thus not recorded on the balance sheet.

#### (e) USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect revenues and expenses during the reporting periods in addition to the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

# CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

#### (f) FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The organization initially measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value adjusted by, in the case of a financial instrument that will not be measured subsequently at fair value, the amount of transaction costs directly attributable to the instrument.

The organization subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost. Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash, GST/HST recoverable, accounts receivable and loans receivable. Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

At the end of reporting period, the organization assesses whether there are any indications that a financial asset may be impaired. When there is an indication of impairment, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced and the amount of the reduction is recognized as an impairment loss in the statement of revenues and expenses.

#### (g) VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Because the hours of service by volunteers are not normally purchased by the organization and the difficulty in determining their fair market value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

#### (h) FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rate in effect at the balance sheet date. Revenues and expenses are translated at the exchange rate prevailing at the date in which the transaction took place. Foreign exchange gains and losses are included in the statement of revenues and expenses.

### 3. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the organization is not exposed to significant interest or credit risks arising from these financial instruments.

#### *Liquidity Risk*

Liquidity risk arises through excess financial obligations over available financial assets at any point in time. The organization's objective in managing liquidity risk is to maintain sufficient readily available reserves in order to meet its liquidity requirements at any point in time. The organization achieves this by maintaining sufficient cash and cash equivalents.

#### *Foreign Currency Risk*

The organization is exposed to foreign exchange risk in United States dollars. The organization is exposed to this risk when an obligation in a foreign currency to another organization or individual, is different at the time of settlement than it was at time that the obligation was determined. The organization reduces its exposure to foreign exchange risk by carefully monitoring exchange rates on its obligations and attempts to maintain adequate foreign currency balances in its bank to discharge its related foreign currency obligations. In the opinion of management the foreign exchange risk exposure to the organization is low and is not material. As at year end, the organization had \$1,315US in cash (2017 - \$1,107).

## CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

#### 4. LOANS RECEIVABLE

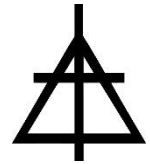
These loans receivable were advanced to assist individuals who are studying to become ministers in the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) and are advanced based on financial need. The loans will accrue interest at 1% above the prime lending rate, commencing six months after the borrower terminates or completes the course of studies unless the borrower becomes an ordained minister in the CRCNA or the Reformed Church of America (RCA), has been declared eligible for ministry but has not been hired, or continues in a qualified educational program.

Under certain conditions the borrower will be required to repay the loan over a ten year period commencing six months after the CRCNA has decided that the person is no longer a candidate for ordained ministry. In other situations the borrower will be required to pay interest and repay the loan principal over a five year period.

The loan is interest free while the individual is studying and 20% of the loan will be forgiven annually if the borrower becomes and remains a minister in the CRCNA or the RCA for at least five years.

## APPENDIX #8 – EXTERNAL REPORTS

### APPENDIX #8.1 – CANADIAN MINISTRIES



Dear Spring 2019 Classis Gatherers,

First, in a world of independent personal faith and ‘go it alone’ motivations, I offer this quote from James K Smith of Calvin College which honours the work of your local church as an institution as it does for the denomination as an institution:

Institutions are durable, communal ways that can act in concert with our neighbours to achieve penultimate goods. So, instead of thinking about institutions as big, hulking, static behemoths, think of institutions as dynamic, social *enactment*. Try to imagine “institutions” as spheres of action. Institutions are not just something that we build; they’re something we *do*.

(From *Institutional Intelligence* by Gordon T Smith)

Just a small update at this point from me. I will keep it brief so that you get the main points.

1. Ministry in Canada amongst CRC classis and churches is a joyous practice for our denominational staff. I could show you evidence of increasing strength and purpose but I’ll save that for another day.
2. Thank you for all your work as church participants in finding and sending participants to the Canadian National Gathering! It is our hope to have a cross-Canada ‘National Pray and Sing’ Sunday that will unite us all on the Sunday of May 26<sup>th</sup> as we pray for those participants in Edmonton and all our local churches sing, share in a litany, or receive an offering for the emphases tied to the National Gathering. Look for information on that coming to a laptop or bulletin near you.
3. Your covenantal participation in the project that is known as *The Bridge App* has helped churches tremendously. The numbers coming back to us show it to be successful in its early launch in both participation, users, giving and most importantly in building community in such a way that it ties all of us together on mission. Look for increased updates and even better usability as we do things like work with partners such as Bible League Canada and others. Contact [dorothyvandersteen@crcna.org](mailto:dorothyvandersteen@crcna.org) for more info.
4. The ministries that are unique to Canada (Our Indigenous Ministry Centres as well as The Centre for Public Dialogue) demonstrate fruitfulness. You need to know that Ministry Share, when not being directly used to strengthen local churches produces fruit! For example, because of the support of Indigenous Ministry, classes are now beginning to honour the relationship they have in Canada to Indigenous people by implementing a ‘Recognition of Territory’ into their proceedings. On a wider scale, the Federal government has changed their practice of requiring refugees to pay them back for travel costs from 30 days to 12 months in part because of the significant work of The Centre for Public Dialogue together with Citizens for Public Justice.
5. Collaboration amongst all of the denominational entities continues to increase. Whether during a gathering of 45 Church Administrators for support through the Burlington Office or working together to renew Classis Ministry Plans or collaborating on the I Am Not My Own Tour of Jeremy Benjamin ... we witness the effectiveness of ministry when the parts all work together in support.

The Jeremy Benjamin Tour, for example, has already raised ¼ million dollars for local and global ministry efforts! Praise be to God!

6. Further along the lines of collaboration, I might encourage you to be aware of 2 things:
  - a. The newer initiatives to serve your church and leadership well. Whether by a click on our website chat box where you can chat with someone live during all the eastern working hours of the day, or a call into the central number (1-800-272-5125), or through the shared [resources](#) of all the ministry partners of the CRC (local church through CRC agency) feel free to reach out and let's do ministry together!  
But more than that, know that all of the staff of the CRC in Canada understands that we serve on behalf of the local church. We would love to be a part of your leadership challenges and opportunities. Feel free to reach out...and we can serve God in the same direction: in-person!
  - b. The formation of Regional Teams has been in the works over the past few years as the denominational entities have moved from pilot experiences through to larger projects. It has now become a denominational wide thrust to form regional teams of ministry personnel in an effort to serve as closely as possible to the local church. You may hear language about "Connections" or "Regionalization" over the next few years. For now, that language is not as important as simply knowing that more and more the efforts of the CRCNA is to be more deeply embedded into the local church experience and thrust in order to propel our shared vision together and serve you with excellence.
7. Just a heads - up for those of you who are newly ordained into ministry in the CRCNA: Keep your eyes open for plans toward a "New Pastors in Canada Gathering" to be held in January 2020 at the CRC offices in Burlington. It is meant to be a 2-3 day effort that will help orient you to all that is available to you as a significant local leader within the denomination.

Blessings to all of you,

Darren Roorda  
Canadian Ministries Servant/Director

## APPENDIX #8.2 – REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

### **Redeemer University College**

#### **Report to Classis Hamilton of the Christian Reformed Church: Spring 2019**

2019 is off to a great start! On March 1, the Inauguration of President Dr. Robert J. Graham was held in Redeemer's auditorium. It was a great night and a momentous occasion to usher in Redeemer's fourth president to serve the university and guide the pursuit of exceptional Christian higher education. Dr. Graham is committed to raising the bar and ensuring Redeemer is an accessible option for university students each year.

Redeemer will be putting Christian higher education within reach for many more students thanks to one of the year's most exciting announcements: a 42 per cent tuition reduction for Canadian undergraduate students. Supported by an \$11 million gift over five years, the new tuition and fee structure will make it possible for more students to participate in a Christ-centered university education on a spiritually vibrant campus.

Redeemer is also entering the final stretch of the 2020 Strategic Plan to renew the academic program and keep Redeemer sustainable for the next generation. We revitalized the core curriculum and increased opportunities for students to explore their careers and callings. These changes can be seen in the newly created Centre for Experiential Learning and Careers and many other initiatives. We are grateful for the support the Re Campaign has received in helping us to fulfill the strategic plan's objectives.

Later in the month, we are hosting a golf tournament on May 30, 2019 at Copetown Woods Golf Club. This is the final event in support of the Re Campaign for 2020. We hope to see many new and familiar faces enjoying a great round of golf and taking an opportunity to celebrate what is happening at Redeemer.

The need for churches and Christian universities to work together is more apparent today than ever, and Redeemer is committed to helping the church flourish as it shapes young people. On March 6, in partnership with Faith Formation Ministries, we hosted an event called "Renegotiating Faith: The Delay in Young Adult Identity Formation and What It Means for the Church in Canada" which highlighted a new life stage labelled "emerging adulthood". Studies show that the average shift into adulthood has been delayed by 5 to 7 years since the 1980s. We also hosted the Pastor Professor Exchange series which features keynotes on topics pivotal to churches and classrooms. At the February event, Dr. Marie Good spoke about her research in faith and well-being. It was a wonderful event exploring the positive effects that religious faith may have on the well-being of believers — and how church leaders might respond to these findings. We look forward to hosting the next event with speaker Jim Vanderwoerd on October 16 from 12pm-2pm.

And of course, graduation is quickly approaching! On May 25th, new graduates will join the ranks of over 6,000 alumni. Shams Shiddiqi, a current Religion and Theology major graduating this spring said, "One who takes advantage of all the program has to offer cannot leave the program unprepared for ministry." We praise God that young people are entering their next phase of life feeling ready for whatever may come.

Finally, the planning process for Redeemer's next strategic plan is already underway. It began with a series of leadership team retreats in the summer and fall of 2018, followed by a campus-wide survey in October and faculty and staff strategic planning forums in January. We look forward to rolling out the next strategic plan sometime in 2020 as we continue to ensure that Redeemer's Reformed Christian mission and vision remain vibrant, strong and relevant for the next generation of students.



Redeemer is truly grateful for the support of the Christian Reformed Church and in particular from the 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.

Sincerely,

David Zietsma  
Vice President, External Relations and Enrolment