



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

Date: October 16, 2018 **Time:** 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Venue: Calvary Christian Reformed Church,
265 Middleton Rd., Flamborough, ON L9H 5E1

Our Vision

To be used by God to renew the greater Hamilton region through a gospel movement of healthy and vibrant churches, ministries, and members.

Our Purposes:

- Mutual encouragement
- Mutual accountability
- Shared Ministry

Our Values:

- Community (vs. isolation)
- Ministry (vs. administration)
- Missions (vs. maintenance)

Officers of Classis: Chair: Anthony Elenbaas Vice Chair: Gareth Harker Stated Clerk: Dick Kranendonk	Synodical Deputies: James Dekker, Classis Niagara Ray VanderKooij, Classis Huron Herman Praamsma, Classis Toronto
Reporter: First CRC - Hamilton	Ballot Committee: Members of Calvary CRC, Flamborough
Advisory Committee: Hagersville Community CRC (convene) Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis (report)	Credentials Committee Mt. Hope Community CRC, Mt. Hope (convene) Maranatha CRC, York (report)

CREDENTIALS:

1. The credentials shall be returned to the Stated Clerk by email no later than September 25, 2018 with CC: (copy) emailed to your delegates. Please note that there are additional questions on the credentials. Please fill them out as well.
2. The credentials will be forwarded to the Credentials Committee to review the contents. The Committee will email their report to the Stated Clerk by October 2, 2018. This will be emailed by the Stated Clerk to all the delegates.

OVERTURES:

The Overtures Committee will email their report to the Stated Clerk by October 2, 2018 for distribution to the delegates of Classis as required.

EMAIL ADDRESS:

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

COVENANT FOR OFFICE-BEARERS IN THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH (2012)

We believe the inspired Word of God as received in the Old and New Testaments of Holy Scripture, which proclaims the good news of God's creation and redemption through Jesus Christ. Acknowledging the authority of God's Word, we submit to it in all matters of life and faith.

We affirm three creeds—the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed—as ecumenical expressions of the Christian faith. In doing so, we confess our faith in unity with followers of Jesus Christ throughout all ages and among all nations.

We also affirm three confessions—the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort—as historic Reformed expressions of the Christian faith. These confessions continue to define the way we understand Scripture, direct the way we live in response to the gospel, and locate us within the larger body of Christ.

Grateful for these expressions of faith, we promise to be formed and governed by them. We heartily believe and will promote their doctrines faithfully, conforming our preaching, teaching, writing, serving, and living to them.

Along with these historic creeds and confessions, we also affirm the witness of Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony as a current Reformed expression of the Christian faith that forms and guides us in our present context.

We also promise to present or receive confessional difficulties in a spirit of love and fellowship with our brothers and sisters as together we seek a fuller understanding of the gospel. Should we come to believe that a teaching in the confessional documents is irreconcilable with God’s Word, we will communicate our views to the church, according to the procedures prescribed by the Church Order and its supplements. Further, we promise to submit to the church’s judgment and authority.

We honour this covenant for the well-being of the church to the glory of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Delegates will be asked to indicate their affirmation of the Covenant by standing when asked by the Chair of Classis to do so.

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MEETING DETAILS

9:00 AM

OPENING DEVOTIONS

OPENING WORSHIP

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. OPENING WELCOME AND PRAYER | CMT Chair |
| 2. DEVOTIONS AND SHARING OF MINISTRY | Calvary CRC |
| 3. PRAYER FOR HOST CHURCH | Joel Bootsma |
-

10:00 AM

REFRESHMENT BREAK

10:15 AM

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 4. CALL TO ORDER | Chair of Classis |
| 4.1. Attendance Overview of delegates present/absent | Stated Clerk |
| 4.2. Affirmation of Covenant for Office-Bearers | Chair of Classis |
| 4.3. Approval of Agenda | Chair of Classis |
| 5. CANADIAN MINISTRIES PRESENTATION (Maximum 30 Minutes) | Darren Roorda |
| 5.1. CRCNA Ministry Plan Discernment Discussion (see Appendix #1) | |
| 6. STAFF REPORT | |
| 6.1. McMaster/Mohawk Chaplain (Appendix #2) | Michael Fallon |
| 7. CMT REPORT (INCLUDING CLASSICAL MINISTRY COMMITTEES) | Chris Schoon |
| 7.1. MOTION: to receive the Reports from World Renew, Redeemer University College, Diaconal Ministries Canada as information, and Calvin Theological Seminary (see Appendix #8). | |
| 7.5. Presentation by Classis Hamilton Youth Ministry Team: | |
| 7.6. Presentation by Classis Hamilton Campus Ministry Committee: | |
| 7.7. Presentation by Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee: (See Appendix #3.1) | |
| 7.7.1. MOTION: to approve disbursements from the Student Support Fund for Brad Bootsma in the amount of USD \$15,972.00 (100% of tuition) as a forgivable loan for his full-time enrolment in the M.Div. program at Calvin Theological Seminary for the 2018-2019 academic year. | |
| GROUNDS: | |
| ○ This request fits with current practice and within the policy and procedures adopted by Classis Hamilton. | |
| ○ Brad was, very recently admitted by CTS admissions into the 4 year M.Div. program starting this Fall after successful completion of spring courses for the 1 year "Pastoral Leadership certificate" program. | |
| 7.7.2. MOTION: to approve disbursements from the Student Support Fund for Jolene Veenstra in the amount of CAD \$1050.00 (50% of tuition costs) as a forgivable loan for her part-time enrolment in the M.Div. program at McMaster Divinity College for the 2018-2019 academic year. | |
| GROUNDS: | |
| ○ This request fits with current practice and within the policy and procedures adopted by Classis Hamilton. | |
| ○ Jolene was recently admitted to the M.Div. program at McMaster Divinity School for the Fall term. She is pursuing completion of the program in 9 years and plans to candidate at that time. | |

- 7.8. **PRESENTATION BY Classis Hamilton Safe Church Committee**
- 7.9. **PRESENTATION BY Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee:**
- 7.10. Approval of CMT's Work
 - 7.10.1. **MOTION:** to approve the work of the CMT to date as reported to the churches in their Minutes.

12:00 PM LUNCH BREAK

8. HUMAN SEXUALITY DISCUSSION Synodical Committee Members

3:00 PM REFRESHMENT BREAK

9. CHURCH VISITORS SUMMARY REPORT IN STRICT EXECUTIVE SESSION (See Appendix #4)

10. CLASSIS INTERIM COMMITTEE REPORT (See Appendix #5) Ken Benjamins

- 10.1. CIC and Stated Clerk's Report (Appendix #5.1)
- 10.2. Election of Delegates, Functionaries and Committee Members (Appendix #5.2)
- 10.3. **MOTION:** to approve the budget and classical ministry shares for 2019 (Appendix 5.3).
- 10.4. **MOTION:** to repeal the existing Rules of Procedure and replace it with the new one in Appendix #5.4).
- 10.5. **MOTION:** to approve the work of the CIC as reported in its minutes of May 31, 2018 and September 6, 2018 as well as in Appendix #5.
- 10.6. Balloting Committee Report
- 10.7. **MOTON:** to destroy the ballots.

11. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT Ebenezer CRC

12. ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT Meadowlands Fellowship CRC

- 12.1. Article 23 Position Description from Faith CRC (See Appendix # 6)
- 12.2. Examination of Mike Collins (See Appendix #7)

6:00 PM Closing Devotions Chair

APPENDIX #1 – CRCNA MINISTRY PLAN DISCERNMENT DISCUSSION

Discussion Exercise:

As we prepare for the Canadian National Gathering, we wish to engage in small group discussions at Classis. Your church will be sending delegates to the meeting and as such, a short conversation amongst your leaders will help in a discussion to be held at the Classis meeting itself.

The conversation centres around 2 questions:

1. Have **each** council member discern and highlight 2 to 3 of the following needs/emphases/challenge that they believe to be a necessary next best-step for the Christian Reformed Church in North America to consider. Ask them to think about things such as *'What is working in your church? What isn't working? What haven't you tackled at classis that needs to be discussed and worked on? It may help you prioritize from the list below.*
 - a. Reconciliation (emphasized at Synod 2018)
 - b. Classis health and restructuring (Strategic Planning and Adaptive Change Team – [SPACT])
 - c. Denominational Agencies and Ministries finding sufficient ways for Celebrating, Learning, and Listening in Partnership with CRC Members, Congregations, and Classes (SPACT)
 - d. Progress in Becoming a Multicultural Church in pace with the changing North American Context (SPACT)
 - e. An Increased Awareness that Something Is Missing with Regard to Discipleship, Spirituality, and Being Spirit-Led (SPACT)
 - f. Lay Leadership emphasis for Engaging the Challenges before the Denomination (SPACT)
 - g. Working to have Congregations, Classes, and Denominational Ministries deal with the Continuous Process of Change (SPACT)
 - h. De-emphasizing the Operation and Sustainability of Our Centralized Ministry Delivery System to an increasingly local approach (SPACT)
 - i. Moving toward a New Financial Paradigm (SPACT)
 - j. Denominational Ministries and Local Congregations adapting to Changing Patterns of Ministry and Partnership Alignments in the Global Church (SPACT)
 - k. building bridges with newcomers to Canada and sharing the gospel (CNG 2016)
 - l. Working with Classis to become missionally motivated and equipping meetings (Canadian National Gathering – [CNG 2016])
 - m. Increased focus on making the word central and improvement in preaching (CNG 2016)

- n. Emphasizing the equipping of CRC laity to be missional (CNG 2016)
- o. Prayer and spiritual practices becoming a chief means of practice among the CRC (esp. those in leadership) (CNG 2016)

List any others of your own consideration, below...

- p.
- q.
- r.

2. As a council, **together**, determine the 3 highest priorities from the above list and answer “*Why did you choose them?*”

Answer in the blank space below:

APPENDIX #2 – CLASSIS STAFF REPORT



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



Dear Representatives of Classis Hamilton

October 2018

While I always find myself writing this fall report at the very last minute, I enjoy sitting down and putting it together. Amid a very busy time, this task forces me to stop and reflect on my initial priorities as I stand on the cusp of another academic year. At this time, most of my logistical work – University administration, speaker and room bookings (with McMaster and Mohawks' continuing growth, obtaining gathering space is becoming more challenging) have been dealt with or pushed back for a month. So, what are my initial priorities? For the fall start up, I find my focus is traditionally on four things – our student leaders, campus outreach, faculty mentors and special 'start up' events. In this report I will just share some thoughts on the first of these priorities.

Our student leaders are amazing! I am not exaggerating when I say - they are key to the work we do on our campuses. Whereas I direct our two main campus fellowships, 'All Things' and 'Solid Rock Mountaineers' our retreats and some of our special events with the assistance of our student executive. It is our student leaders that run all our weekly small groups, direct our sports' teams, head up our charity programs, etc. What you may find interesting is that most of our Student Leaders are not from Classis Hamilton, nor are they always Christian Reformed.

Why do these young people from other churches and denominations make such a heart commitment to our ministry? Why do they pour so much of themselves into this work? I do not know all the reasons, but some are clear. They are nominated by their peers and elected into their 'office.' When that takes place, we recognise that as being a legitimate call by God. So, there is the appeal of doing 'God's work.' That said, something else has usually taken place before that. Most, if you ask them, (and I do) will say that they were positively influenced by a student leader that went before them. This leader often had character traits that deeply resonated with them. As a result, they want to cultivate similar character traits and like the leader that went before them, be a positive influence on others.

What is my role in all this? I train them, I provide them with opportunities to lead and I give them critical feedback. Every weekly executive meeting begins with a discussion on leadership. The genesis of that discussion maybe a story from the Bible, a leadership book, a current event, or a 'guest leader.' These discussions provide us with a theoretical frame work on leadership which we combine with the practical lessons the SLs are learning leading their small groups or working in their co-ops. Many of our student leaders have told me that this very intentional mentorship has been the most important thing they have taken away from our ministry.

How do I see them? I see them as a gift from God. Occasionally I need to tell certain students to not over extend themselves in the ministry. That their first calling is to the high and holy office of University Student. So yes, I do not see them not as a tool to help me with our ministry programs, I see them as the ministry. My focus is on who they are and how they stand in this world before God and their fellow man. Let me close with one final observation on why these leaders are so committed. Why - because they see it as their ministry. We (Classis Hamilton) are in covenant with our student leaders. That covenant gives them an ownership stake, a voice that needs to be listened to and heeded. They would not make that level of commitment if they did not feel a sense of ownership. Please pray for them.

Dr. Michael Fallon
fallonm@mcmaster.ca
289-880-6134

Michael

APPENDIX #3 – CLASSIS MINISTRIES TEAM

APPENDIX #3.1 – CLASSICAL CANDIDACY COMMITTEE REPORT

CHCC Report to Classis Hamilton – October 2018

Ordinarily, Classis procedure stipulates that the CHCC make its recommendations for student funding in the Spring Classis Meeting. In light of reasons listed below and current CHCC policy to receive and consider late applications by way of exception, **we make the following motions** toward immediate financial assistance from Classis Hamilton Student Support Fund:

1. That Classis Hamilton approve disbursements from the Student Support Fund for **Brad Bootsma** in the amount of USD \$15,972.00 (100% of tuition and books) as a forgivable loan for his full-time enrolment in the M.Div. program at Calvin Theological Seminary for the 2018-2019 academic year.
 - This request fits with current practice and within the policy and procedures adopted by Classis Hamilton.
 - Brad was, very recently admitted by CTS admissions into the 4 year M.Div. program starting this Fall after successful completion of spring courses for the 1 year “Pastoral Leadership certificate” program.
2. That Classis Hamilton approve disbursements from the Student Support Fund for **Jolene Veenstra** in the amount of CAD \$1050.00 (50% of tuition costs) as a forgivable loan for her part-time enrolment in the M.Div. program at McMaster Divinity College for the 2018-2019 academic year.
 - This request fits with current practice and within the policy and procedures adopted by Classis Hamilton.
 - Jolene was recently admitted to the M.Div. program at McMaster Divinity School for the Fall term. She is pursuing completion of the program in 9 years and plans to candidate at that time.

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

- Student **Derek Ellens** has entered his third year of residential studies at CTS. He has completed both his internships already and will have one extra semester (September 2019 to December 2019) to complete his M.Div. degree.
- Candidate **Courtney Mooney** has been offered a part-time chaplaincy position in the Milton area.
- Candidate **Mark Devos** was recently ordained as Senior Pastor at The Village Church in Thorold, ON.
- Candidate **Ben Verkerk** was recently ordained as Senior Pastor at Covenant CRC in Winnipeg, MB.

CHURCH VISITOR'S REPORT: 2018

Addressing the Questions of Church Order Article 42

- The visitors addressed the requirements of Church Order Article 42 and in each instance the councils responded affirmatively.

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

- We rejoice that Mount Hamilton, now Mount Hope is blessed with a “new” pastor and that the church has relocated to Mount Hope. This move was a major undertaking and we pray that the Lord will bless the ministry of Mount Hope and that the local community will be encouraged to join the fellowship of believers.
- Hagersville CRC is planning a new church building.
- Several churches received added attention from the church visitors due to concerns raised by members. For these churches the visitor’s provided additional reports dealing with the specifics of each situation. These reports have been forwarded to the Classis Interim Committee (CIC) who will process the reports for consideration at the October Classis meeting in Executive session.

Below are excerpts from our reports to the councils containing concerns as well as specific blessings.

Ancaster

- Pastor Rita shared that Ancaster CRC has gone through a strategic planning process, and she is glad to see implementation happening.
- The church has recently hired a part-time worship co-ordinator
- Pastor Adam preaches once a month and his role is primarily faith formation.
- Both pastors are encouraging people to share their faith stories during worship services or in small group settings.
- The elders love working alongside others who are passionate about visiting.
- The deacons celebrated that they are not being inundated with requests from within, which is creating space for them to connect out into the community, both with money and with being a connecting link to other resources in the communities.

Brantford – Hope

- Pastor William joined in Sept 2017 and so far, the transition has gone well.
- Hope has 2 services, - both are well attended. Pastor William does a good job of encouraging attendance.
- Hope has many varied and vibrant ministries, many which engage the community. Some new ministry initiatives to the marginalized of Brantford were started this year
- Hope continues to support refugee families. Support has been excellent so far.

Burlington - New Street

- Burlington CRC has been blessed with a large GEMS ministry with several girls attending from outside the church; youth groups tends to fluctuate in attendance between six and sixteen; some twenty youth will attend a SERVE project this summer, and a number of youth will attend the All Ontario Convention.
- Deacons are focused on maximizing opportunities in the community with support to missionaries local and abroad, as well as working on support for a refugee family.
- Overall, Burlington CRC continues to find a good balance for its ministries and getting things done.

Burlington - Faith

- Faith Burlington is presently vacant, but Council confirmed that they have a Calling Committee which consists of a 10-person team. They are active, and the committee is doing well.
- Pastor Kevin DeRaaf, the immediate past minister preaches one out of four sermons a month; however, this will end once a full-time pastor is called and installed.
- Council members are satisfied that worship services are good and are very well attended. They mentioned that “home churches” provide pastoral care but did mention that they are not connected very well to the marginalized.
- The deacons enjoy their work of reaching out to those in need. It was mentioned that the church sponsored a refugee family.
- A concerned member asked to meet with the church visitors. The concern encompasses a complex matter and impacts a number of people. The church visitors have met with a number of those involved and are continuing their work in the hope of reconciliation.

Dundas - Calvin

- The pastor, elders, and deacons provide pastoral care to the congregation. At the time of meeting, about 90% of the visits were held, with some more to come. "Doing them is always a blessing," said one elder adding
- Pastor Ken's preaching is a blessing. There is also a sense that they are coming together as new pastor and the new way of doing things is starting to feel more natural.
- The deacons feel very blessed. They need to deal with surpluses instead of dealing with not enough. They are distributing money outside their community because of this generosity, by both reaching out, and seeing people coming to them.
- There has been a sense of unity and a feeling of people pulling in the same direction and regular elder visits are being made.
- Evening service attendance is about 70% of the morning service. This too was celebrated.

Flamborough - Calvary

- The church is undertaking a Community Opportunity Scan. The Scan defines an area; identifies a community and asks questions as to how to engage the community and the church. In the next few months the church will be undergoing a re-visioning process.
- The elders enjoy the visits they made to various members of the church but acknowledged there was not much elder training.
- Council is encouraged by Pastor Gareth's work. He meets with the elderly, sermons and visitation are good and he is continually developing into the role of Senior Pastor.
- The church is engaged in a discussion about women in office. Council shared with us the process that is being followed. In June the visitors were asked to attend a council meeting as observers as council brought forward a motion to approve women to the office of deacon.

Hagersville - Community

- A new facility is being planned, which will enhance ministry opportunities into the community. This is a major endeavour for the congregation and they request prayer moving forward.
- Council has adopted an unusual governance structure The Board of Directors or Board is distinct from Council; no members of the Board service as Council members. This transition, which is a work in progress, has taken a considerable amount of time.

Hamilton - First

- When the deacons were asked about blessings and challenges, they celebrated a very healthy benevolence fund allowing them to give to those less fortunate. Being a part of the CAP program and a member of True City churches is also a blessing.
- When the elders were asked about blessings and challenges, a 1st time elder spoke of the blessing of visiting with people and is so thankful that the council continues to support and encourage visits. Other elders agreed that the visits are very enriching, yet communication with their pastorates is always a challenge.
- The elders would like to see their congregation filled with the Holy Spirit, causing people to be more active in prayer, liveliness and volunteering.
- In terms of engaging with the Pastor, it was mentioned that at every consistory meeting, Pastor Chris is asked a theological and a personal/practical question on how things are going. Pastor Chris' preaching is well-received, and they appreciate his intellectual rigor.

Hamilton - Mount

- Mount Hamilton has faced several challenges, not having a pastor for a number of years and coming the realization that selling the church property has both positive and negative aspects. Mount Hamilton is thankful for having a new minister and finding a new location in Mount Hope. Council is enthusiastic about the renovation of the new church building and are pleased with the opportunity to not only worship in this new building but having an opportunity to reach out to a new community
- Pastor Roelof has an interest in church planting and sees relocating to Mount Hope as a wonderful opportunity to reach out to the community in the hope of introducing others to Christ.
- On reflection several council members marveled at God's amazing timing and planning in providing a pastor, a new property and the opportunity to sell. They expressed gratitude. The chair asked if we could continue to pray for them as they anticipate some bumps along the way.

Jarvis - Ebenezer

- Ebenezer has been working through very significant leadership challenges this year which has occupied much of Council's time and energy.
- To help bring understanding and direction they have formed an ad-hoc committee, sought the advice of a seasoned pastor and engaged Pastor Church Resources.

Simcoe - Immanuel

- Simcoe is continuing a journey of renewal that began a few years ago. Changes were implemented with the goal to help present the gospel in a way that addresses the cultural and spiritual needs of the Simcoe community.
- Some changes caused friction among members and wonderings about the mission and vision of the church and if the changes are reformed and in agreement with scripture.
- Immanuel's story continues to unfold, and more work is required to begin understanding and reconciliation among leadership and members.
- The church visitors have asked Classis to continue a dialogue with Immanuel to help ensure their changes are biblically sound.

Waterdown - Bethel

- Several council members shared how much they appreciated being an elder and building relationships within the congregation.
- One Elder mentioned that both the Cadets and GEMS now have a combined event on Sunday morning. The celebration occurred recently resulted in very good attendance. Since there are number of Cadets and GEMS who do not attend Bethel their parents attended the service and it was good to make connections with them to plant seeds and to build relationships.
- Recently a new endeavor known as "Ragman" which is a dinner theatre; choral singing; solos and interpretation of Walter Wangerin's "The Ragman" was very well received.
- Deacons shared how much they enjoy their work in the diaconate and have an opportunity making contacts with the community and being involved with assisting people that have moved to Maranatha Homes. They enjoy outreach and helping people with finances in any way they can.
- The church has been undergoing a re-visioning. This has been an ongoing process with final approval expected at the next congregational meeting.
- In the spring of 2017 the church visitors were asked to meet with several concerned members about certain issues. Following significant communication with both council and the concerned members the visitors produced a report containing several recommendations.
- Prior to and following this year's annual visit several more members asked to meet with the church visitors to express concerns. The visitors listened to the concerned members and met with council, following which the visitors issued a report.

General Observations

- AODA adoption remains a mixed story with adoption not yet at 100%
- We pray that the Lord may continue to provide pastors for the vacant churches.
- We continue to see Councils explore novel, non-traditional governance structures to improve overall decision-making efficiency.
- Do we stay true to CRC church polity as we seek to be innovative?

Church Visitors Called for Advice

- The church visitors have been called for advice since several churches have members who have concerns about church leadership. For some churches the issues are on going and the visitors are continuing to meet in an effort to assist.

Visitor's advice given to councils that requires Classis approval

- The church visitors have provided written recommendations for two churches and these reports have been forwarded to the Classis Interim Committee (CIC) who will process the reports for consideration at the October Classis meeting in Executive session.

Common trends or problems which merit the attention of Classis

- Overall there is a sense of wellbeing within the churches and ministries that are doing well. There is much to be celebrated. Sadly, this year we have seen more issues and concerns from members than we have seen for some time.

Recommendations for Classis

- That Classis assist in ensuring that either the recommendations in the reports to the churches are carried out or whatever other advice Classis can provide to the churches that will be helpful.

Submitted by Church Visitors:

Team A Pastor Jeff Klingenberg, Pastor Siebert VanHouten and Wayne Visser

Team B Pastor Jeff Vandermeer, Pastor Jack Kerkhof and Jake Ellens

Note: Pastor Jeff Vandermeer took leave in May 2018 and Pastor Siebert assisted with the remainder of the visits with Bethel CRC.

APPENDIX #5 – CLASSIS INTERIM COMMITTEE

APPENDIX #5.1 – CIC AND STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Following are the actions taken by the CIC since the May 22, 2018 meeting of Classis Hamilton:

1. To obtain a legal opinion regarding the scope and application of the *Employment Standards Act* (ESA) on current and potential staffing of classis positions. The CIC decided that the opinion should also address the effect of the ESA on positions with the local churches of classis as well as related agencies.
2. Discussions were held regarding the necessity for Classis Hamilton to have a standing Safe Church Advisory Panel. The Safe Church Team has recently been reconstituted and an answer to this question, hopefully, will be forthcoming in due course.
3. The CIC decided that there is a need to establish an official address for all permanent documents. Immanuel CRC, Hamilton, has agreed to let its address be the official address of Classis Hamilton.
4. The CIC appointed the following corporate officers for the 2018-19 year:
 - a. Ken Benjamins – President
 - b. Jake Ellens – Vice-President
 - c. Ida Kaastra- Mutoigo – Secretary
 - d. Brenda DeGroot – Treasurer
5. As assigned by Classis Hamilton at its October 2016 meeting, the CIC was to come with a recommendation regarding the election of the 4th position to serve as delegate to synod for the October 2018 meeting of classis. CIC concluded that the 4th position should continue to be filled by an active ordained pastor. This recommendation has been included in the proposed Rules of Procedure that classis is asked to approve.
6. CIC also decided that a clear hiring policy should be adopted by Classis Hamilton and included in the Rules of Procedure. The hiring policy has been included in the proposed Rules of Procedure that classis is asked to approve.
7. At its May 31, 2018 meeting, CIC discussed the appointment of the Youth Ministry Catalyst position as assigned by classis at its May 22, 2018 meeting. It was decided to further address it at its September 6th meeting after receipt of the ESA legal opinion.
8. CIC received the resignation of Jeff Vandermeer as church visitor. Siebert VanHouten was found willing to fill in during the resulting vacancy.
9. CIC decided to include \$1,600 in the 2019 budget to make provision for eight 'gatherers' from Classis Hamilton to be sent to the National Gathering to be held in Edmonton in 2019.
10. CIC approved the Annual Charity Information Return (T3010) and authorized Ida Kaastra- Mutoigo to sign the return on its behalf.
11. The legal opinion referred to in point 1 above was received. Observations and decisions were made as follows:
 - a. It was observed that classis does not appear to have a direct concern under the ESA, since positions occupied by persons in their "*pursuit of a livelihood*" appear to be paid above the minimum wage rate.
 - b. The opinion cautions against a fixed hourly rate. It may be prudent to remunerate all classis staff members who are dependent, at least in part, on remuneration from classis for their livelihood to be paid an annual stipend or salary. If an hourly rate is to be paid, record keeping and time evaluation of hours spent would appear to be required. Failure to do that could lead to potential challenges.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** Ordinarily classis will continue to remunerate all classis staff with an annual stipend or salary.
 - c. Based on the legal opinion received, the CIC will not set a salary scale for classis employees.

- d. It was decided to send the legal opinion to the churches since it could be of benefit to them in their hiring practices.
12. After receiving the legal opinion regarding the scope and application of the ESA, the CIC decided to proceed with the matter of the Youth Ministry Champion at its September 6th meeting. It was decided that the confusion about the possible two parallel positions of Youth Ministry Champion and Youth Ministry Catalyst could best be resolved by acknowledging that the two are in reality one and the same position. A letter received from Faith Formation Ministries helped CIC to come to this conclusion. Since classis had already appointed John Bijl as the Youth Ministry Champion in 2017, CIC decided that the only matter to be settled would be his annual stipend. A subcommittee of the CIC was appointed to negotiate an annual stipend with John. The Youth Ministry Team was consulted in this and they are happy with this process.
 13. Questions have been raised in the past as to whether classis is protected in case of abuse and harassment charges, at least for its legal defense in such matters. A clear response was received from the classis insurance provider to the effect that Classis Hamilton cannot obtain coverage for abuse and harassment since insurance providers are unable to properly assess their risk. The only way this could be accomplished is where all classis local churches would be covered by the same insurance provider. Classis currently appears to be exposed to significant legal expenses if any of the churches should be faced with abuse litigation. CIC decided to obtain the legal views of its solicitor to find out whether there is any way classis can protect itself.
 14. The CIC asked Immanuel CRC, Hamilton to serve as the permanent official address of Classis Hamilton. Canada Revenue Agency requires such an address. CIC is thankful to Immanuel CRC, Hamilton for its willingness to be the official address. CIC is purchasing a four drawer, two hour fire resistant filing cabinet to store all permanent documents.
 15. CIC reviewed the letter from the denomination outlining the decisions of Synod 2018 that affect classis. Assignments were made to various classical standing committees to address the matters.
 16. CIC received reports from church visitors with concerns. As a result of these concerns, CIC appointed committees to advise classis at its next meeting. The mandate of the committees is: (a) to review the reports of the church visitors and (b) to allow for further input from the parties concerned.
 17. Reviewed the budget for 2019 as prepared by the Audit Review Committee and, with a few amendments, recommends it to classis for approval. The resulting classical ministry shares for 2019 are also recommended to classis for approval.
 18. The classis agenda and timeline for the October meeting were reviewed and adjustments were made.
 19. The August 24th classis contracta meeting was reviewed.
 20. A final classical counselor reports was received from Joel Bootsma with respect to the calling process of Ron Vanden Brink. Joel reported that everything had taken place in accordance with synodical guidelines.
 21. A request was received from the denominational candidacy committee for a person to serve on that committee. The request for a possible nominee has been referred to the classical candidacy committee. The local churches are also asked to determine if someone in their congregation would be interested to serve in that capacity. For further information, go to <https://www.crcna.org/candidacy>.
 22. The Stated Clerk continued to devote between 10 and 15 hours per week to deal with emails received from individuals and churches, communications to and from the denominational office in both Grand Rapids and Burlington, communications, both email and telephone, with various classis staff and committees, consultations with the chairs of CIC and CMT, preparations of classis and CIC agenda and minutes, updating the website and other miscellaneous matters. Many of these matters also required research time. As an indication of the work volume, 1,525 emails were sent during the past year in addition to the many emails that were received, read and either filed or deleted.

APPENDIX #5.2 – DELEGATE, FUNCTIONARY AND COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

The CIC presents the following nominees to fill vacancies currently existing.

Church Visitors, Team B

Ken Benjamins – Ken is pastor at Calvin CRC, Dundas and has served as Church Visitor in the past. His term as member of the CIC and CMT will end in May 2018 so he is willing to take on this appointment.

Nominee for Council of Delegates

William Koopmans – William is the pastor at Hope CRC, Brantford and has previously served the denomination as president of synod and in a number of other capacities. He meets all the current nomination requirements, including being a pastor.

NOTE: If local churches wish to present an additional nominee, please submit the name and contact information to the Stated Clerk no later than October 2, 2018 so that the information can be included in the agenda addendum and on the printed ballot.

Nominee for Calvin College

Willemina Zwart. The representative from Region #4 will have completed her first term in June 2019. If there are no objections, Wilhelmina will be appointed for a second term by Synod 2019.

NOTE: If a local council has objections, please submit them to the Stated Clerk no later than October 2, 2018 so that the information can be included in the agenda addendum.

APPENDIX #5.3 – BUDGET FOR 2019

Notes - 2019 Classis Hamilton Budget

Line Item	2019 Amount	2018 Amount	Notes
Classis Expense Fund - Conferences	\$2450	\$700	Includes \$1600 for National Gathering representatives
Classis Expense Fund - Honoraria Stated Clerk	\$7175.00	\$7000.00	Represents COLA increase of 2.5%
Classis Expense Fund - Honoraria Bookkeeper	\$6150.00	\$6000.00	Represents COLA increase of 2.5%
Classis Expense Fund - Prayer Coordinator	-	\$500	Item not funded due to lack of prayer coordinator
McMaster Campus Ministry - Salary	\$91,447	\$89,216	Represents COLA increase of 2.5%
Classical Candidacy Committee -	\$30,000	\$60,000	Represents a decrease in students this year.
Home Missions Committee	\$32,500	\$22,500	Represents a \$10k increase for church plant
Shalom Manor Chaplaincy	\$21,490	\$32,235	Represents Classis Hamilton decrease in funding according to the schedule: 2018 - \$32,235 2019 - \$21,490 2020 - \$10,745 2021 - \$0

CLASSIS HAMILTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

	2019 Budget	2018 Budget	2018 (Thru July) Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Actual
Classis Expense Fund					
Receipts:					
Bank Interest	1,500.00	1,500.00	706.93	1,500.00	1,126.87
Classis Ministry Shares	38,525.00	30,750.00	14,556.81	39,596.00	39,671.90
	40,025.00	32,250.00	15,263.74	41,096.00	40,798.77
Disbursements:					
Delegates and Meals	3,000.00	2,500.00	1,353.06	2,500.00	1,982.14
Office Expense	2,500.00	2,500.00	122.77	2,000.00	1,814.30
Conferences	2,450.00	700.00	850.00	700.00	955.00
Mileage	2,000.00	2,500.00	512.05	2,500.00	1,403.70
Honoraria-Stated Clerk	7,175.00	7,000.00	2,426.65	5,304.00	5,304.00
Honoraria-Bookkeeper	6,150.00	6,000.00	2,080.00	5,202.00	5,202.00
CPP & EI Expense	1,000.00	1,100.00	149.92	1,500.00	308.66
Classical Ministry Director	-	-		12,240.00	6,541.68
Pastor's Retreat	1,000.00	1,000.00		1,000.00	-
Safe Church Team	1,500.00	500.00		1,500.00	18.71
Prayer Co-ordinator **	-	500.00		500.00	
Professional Fees (Accounting)	5,000.00	4,800.00	4,833.21	4,800.00	4,677.30
Professional Fees (Legal)	1,000.00	1,000.00		200.00	3,499.87
The Bridge App	5,100.00	5,100.00	5,100.00	-	
Technology	400.00	400.00	259.85	400.00	259.85
Insurance	1,750.00	1,750.00	1,663.20	1,750.00	1,566.63
	40,025.00	37,350.00	19,350.71	42,096.00	33,533.84
Surplus/(Shortage)	-	(5,100.00)	(4,086.97)	(1,000.00)	7,264.93

CLASSIS HAMILTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

	2019 Budget	2018 Budget	2018 (Thru July) Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Actual
McMaster Campus Ministry					
Receipts:					
Classis Ministry Shares	115,417.00	110,066.00	52,087.44	110,085.00	110,253.64
CR Home Mission Grant	8,000.00	8,000.00	5,000.00	8,000.00	9,000.00
Emerging Leadership Grant	2,000.00	2,000.00		2,000.00	
Other Grants	1,000.00	1,000.00		1,000.00	
Conference Fees/Other	4,000.00	6,500.00	89.10	2,500.00	868.00
Donations	2,000.00	4,000.00	1,816.05	4,000.00	1,821.70
	132,417.00	131,566.00	58,992.59	127,585.00	121,943.34
Disbursements:					
Salary	91,447.00	89,216.00	53,082.43	87,210.00	112,426.00
Transportation	4,500.00	4,500.00	2,149.69	4,500.00	4,113.37
Books	500.00	300.00	172.98	300.00	544.52
CPP and EI	4,300.00	4,300.00	3,819.42	4,100.00	5,442.89
Honararium	100.00	100.00		100.00	
Pension Fund	6,670.00	6,500.00	3,250.00	6,325.00	6,325.00
Life and Medical	2,500.00	2,500.00	1,382.82	2,500.00	2,213.27
Office Supplies	250.00	350.00	262.08	250.00	378.60
Shared Cost -Office	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	1,472.32
Lecturers, Conf, Retreats	5,000.00	6,500.00	2,065.25	5,000.00	945.27
Assist to Chaplain	5,500.00	5,500.00	2,750.02	5,500.00	5,500.06
Advertising	400.00	400.00	128.00	400.00	128.00
Meals & Hospitality	4,500.00	4,500.00	2,759.13	4,500.00	4,195.15
Technology	300.00	450.00		450.00	38.88
Emerging Leader Program	2,000.00	2,000.00		2,000.00	
Abraham Kuyper Series	4,000.00	4,000.00		4,000.00	
Extra Length Grant	200.00	200.00		200.00	
	132,417.00	131,566.00	72,071.82	127,585.00	143,723.33
Surplus/(Shortage)	-	-	(13,079.23)	-	(21,779.99)

CLASSIS HAMILTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

2019 Budget	2018 Budget	2018 (Thru July) Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Actual
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Classical Candidacy Committee

Receipts:

Classis Ministry Shares	30,000.00	60,000.00	28,406.64	60,000.00	60,089.08
Interest on Candidacy Loans					

Disbursements:

Bank Fees			72.22		115.68
Candidate Benefits					
Loans Forgiven					
Loan Advances	30,000.00	60,000.00		60,000.00	10,146.87
Surplus/(Shortage)	-	-	28,334.42	-	49,826.53

Home Missions Committee

Receipts:

Classis Ministry Shares	32,500.00	22,500.00	10,641.75	6,000.00	6,000.00
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Disbursements:

Church Plant	30,000.00	20,000.00			
Missional Grants	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Miscellaneous	500.00	500.00		4,000.00	3,052.00
Surplus/(Shortage)	-	-	9,141.75	-	948.00

Shalom Manor Chaplaincy

Receipts:

Classis Ministry Shares	21,490.00	32,235.00	15,264.04	42,980.00	43,065.63
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Disbursements:

Shalom Manor	21,490.00	32,235.00	17,192.00	42,980.00	42,980.00
Surplus/(Shortage)	-	-	(1,927.96)	-	85.63

Youth Ministry

Receipts:

Classis Ministry Shares	5,000.00	14,300.00	6,761.00	3,400.00	3,404.71
Fall Retreat					9,505.00

Disbursements:

Youth Ministry Expenses	2,000.00	2,000.00	261.55	1,400.00	733.68
Youth Ministry Catalist	-	9,300.00			
Fall Retreat	3,000.00	3,000.00		2,000.00	12,636.96
Surplus/(Shortage)	-	-	6,499.45	-	460.93

CLASSIS HAMILTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

2019 Budget	2018 Budget	2018 (Thru July) Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Actual
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24,881.46

35,884.17

**same as last year
no budget was submitted

Classis Hamilton

CLASSIS MINISTRY SHARES

**Christian Reformed Church
Ministry Shares for 2019**

Denominational Shares:

	2019	2018
<u>To be sent to Burlington:</u>		
Back to God	44.41	44.41
Calvin College	3.70	4.40
Calvin Theological Seminary	36.27	36.27
Congregational Services Ministries	82.44	75.44
Synodical Administrative Services	39.19	39.19
Resonate Global Mission	108.52	108.52
Special Assistance Fund	3.73	3.73
	318.26	311.96
<u>To be sent to Redeemer:</u>		
Redeemer University College	69.57	67.05
Total Denom. Ministry Shares	387.83	379.01

Classical Ministry Shares:

	2019	2019 Budget	2018
<u>To be sent to Classical Treasurer:</u>			
Classis Expense Fund	11.00	38,525.00	8.44
McMaster Campus Ministry	32.96	115,417.00	30.20
Classical Candidacy Committee	8.57	30,000.00	16.47
Home Missions Committee	9.28	32,500.00	6.17
Shalom Manor Chaplaincy	6.14	21,490.00	8.85
Youth Ministry	1.43	5,000.00	3.92
Total Classical Ministry Shares	69.37	242,932.00	74.05

Church Membership	2019	2018
Ancaster	388	-21 409
Ancaster, Fellowship	248	-12 260
Brantford, Hope	384	12 372
Burlington	210	-1 211
Burlington, Faith	294	-34 328
Dundas, Calvin	184	-9 193
Flamborough, Calvary	220	-19 239
Hagersville, Community	136	3 133
Hamilton, First	235	8 227
Hamilton, Immanuel	305	-6 311
Hamilton, Mount Hope	102	-10 112
Hamilton, New Hope**	15	0 15
Jarvis, Ebenezer	221	6 215
Simcoe, Immanuel	125	-10 135
Waterdown, Bethel	175	-38 213
York, Maranatha	260	-11 271
TOTALS	3502	-142 3644

**same number as last year as they are have no members listed in yearbook

**CLASSIS HAMILTON MINISTRY SHARES
2019**

	Amount			Share			
	2019 Budget	% of Total	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	2018 Budget	2018/19 \$ Incr/(Decr)	2018/19 % Incr-/Decr
Number of Members	3,502		3,644			(142)	-3.90%
Classis Expense Fund	38,525.00	15.9%	30,750.00	11.00	8.44	2.56	30.36%
McMaster Campus Ministry	115,417.00	47.5%	110,066.00	32.96	30.20	2.75	9.11%
Classical Candidacy Committee	30,000.00	12.3%	60,000.00	8.57	16.47	(7.90)	-47.97%
Home Missions Committee	32,500.00	13.4%	22,500.00	9.28	6.17	3.11	50.30%
Shalom Manor Chaplaincy	21,490.00	8.8%	32,235.00	6.14	8.85	(2.71)	-30.63%
Youth Ministry	5,000.00	2.1%	14,300.00	1.43	3.92	(2.50)	-63.62%
	\$ 242,932.00	100.0%	\$ 269,851.00			-	
	69.37		74.05	69.37	74.05	(4.68)	-6.33%

APPENDIX #5.4 – REPLACEMENT OF RULES OF PROCEDURE

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF CLASSIS HAMILTON

The following two columns provide a comparison between the most recently approved Rules of Procedure and the proposed amendments. The most significant amendments are:

- 23. To remove all provisions identical to those contained in the Church Order.
- 24. To move the job descriptions to a document in the possession of the CIC since that body is also the board of directors responsible for all personnel.
- 25. To remove policy statements that are posted separately on the Classis Hamilton website, i.e., the forgivable loan application policy for students preparing for active ministry.

To help the reader understand some of the terms used, a definition section has been added at the beginning of the Rules of Procedure.

Version 2017.2	Version 2018.1
<p>1. INTRODUCTION</p> <p>Our Vision To be used by God to renew the greater Hamilton region through a gospel movement of healthy and vibrant churches, ministries, and members.</p> <p>Our Purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutual encouragement • Mutual accountability • Shared Ministry <p>Our Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community (vs. isolation) • Ministry (vs. administration) • Missions (vs. maintenance) 	<p>1 INTRODUCTION</p> <p>Our Vision To be used by God to renew the greater Hamilton region through a gospel movement of healthy and vibrant churches, ministries, and members.</p> <p>Our Purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutual encouragement • Mutual accountability • Shared Ministry <p>Our Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community (vs. isolation) • Ministry (vs. administration) • Missions (vs. maintenance)
	<p>3. DEFINITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. “appeal” means the right of church members and assemblies to request adjudication by the assembly next in order if it is believed that injustice has been done or that a decision conflicts with the Word of God or the Church Order. Appeals are normally assigned to an appeals committee to advise Classis regarding the matter at a subsequent meeting. b. “Church Visitor” means an officebearer appointed by Classis to serve on one of the two Church Visitor Teams mandated to ascertain whether the officebearers of the church faithfully perform their duties, adhere to sound doctrine, observe the provisions of the Church Order, and promote the building up of the body of Christ and the extension of God’s kingdom. c. “Classical Counselor” means an officebearer appointed by Classis to ensure that a church in the process of calling a minister of the Word observes ecclesiastical regulations and sound process. d. “CIC) means the Classis Interim Committee which also is the Board of Directors for all matters of property, i.e., cash, physical assets and personnel. e. “CMT” means the Classis Ministries Team. f. “committee” means the ministry committees of Classis but does not include the CIC in its function as Board of Directors of the Corporation and its

	<p>appointed committees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. “corporate matters” means those matters that are governed by the Ontario Corporations Act which are generally restricted to the administration of moneys received and the employment contracts of classis’ personnel. h. “credentials” means the document submitted to the Stated Clerk identifying the officebearers and the offices of those who are delegated to a particular meeting of Classis as well as various items of communication to Classis on which the local church council seeks clarification or advice, or on which it desires a discussion on the floor of the ensuing Classis meeting. i. “delegates” means those officebearers who are elected by their local church councils to deliberate and make decisions at both ecclesiastical and corporate meetings of Classis Hamilton. j. “ecclesiastical matters” means those matters that are governed by the Church Order where they are not in conflict with the Ontario Corporations Act, in which case the Ontario Corporations Act and General Operating By-law #1 will prevail. k. “officebearers” means all those who currently serve as ministers, elders, deacons, and commissioned pastors within the churches of Classis Hamilton. l. “overtures” means communications from church councils or classical committees requesting Classis Hamilton to make decisions for itself or to pass on a request for a decision to synod. Normally overtures will include one or more elements such as: a change in mutually covenanted articles in the Church Order or the Classical Rules of Procedure, the establishment of a new ministry, or the establishment of a new ministry position. m. “study committee” means individuals appointed by Classis to study a particular question placed before Classis by a local church council or a committee of Classis itself and come with recommendations to a future Classis meeting.
<p>3. GENERAL RULES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All ecclesiastical matters of Classis shall be governed by the Church Order of the Christian Reformed Church, as based on the Word of God and interpreted in the Reformed Confessions. These Rules of Procedure are to correspond to the Rules for Synodical Procedure. All Corporate matters are governed by General Operating By Law Number 1. 	<p>26. GENERAL RULES</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>All ecclesiastical matters of Classis shall be governed by the Church Order of the Christian Reformed Church. The purpose of these rules of procedure is to further flesh out provisions of the Church Order as they apply to the specific mission and operations of the ecclesiastical matters within Classis Hamilton. These Rules of Procedure shall apply to all activities of Classis, but upon majority vote, they may be suspended, amended, revised, or abrogated. (NOTE: All Corporate matters dealing with money and personnel are governed by</p>

<p>2. Classis shall meet three times per year. Each regular meeting shall ordinarily be held on</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. the fourth Tuesday of February 2.2. the fourth Tuesday of May (including the Annual General Membership Meeting) 2.3. the fourth Tuesday of October <p>3. Extraordinary meetings of Classis shall be called when</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. Classis so decides 3.2. at least five churches submit a request to the Classical Interim Committee for a meeting 3.3. the Classical Interim Committee and the Classis Ministry Team ascertains the necessity <p>4. 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.</p> <p>5. All regular sessions of Classis are open to all members of its churches. Officebearers of member churches may have the privilege of the floor when recognized by the Chair, except during “executive sessions” and “strict executive sessions.” During “executive session” all delegates, officebearers in member churches, members of the CIC and synodical deputies may be present. During “strict executive sessions” only the delegates, members of the CIC and synodical deputies may be present.</p> <p>6. While Classis is in session, delegates shall not be excused without the consent of the assembly.</p> <p>7. Any committee or agency requesting Classical funding will receive financial support the following year only if it submits for approval of Classis a proposed budget and a financial statement by the deadline for agenda material of the October meeting of Classis. Exceptions may be granted in extraordinary circumstances made known to the Interim Committee prior to the deadline for agenda materials for the October Classis meeting, or communicated and accepted during the previous May Classis meeting.</p> <p>8. Classis shall provide diaconal representation on Classical Committees where appropriate.</p> <p>9. These Rules of Procedure shall apply to all activities of Classis, but upon majority vote, they may be suspended, amended, revised, or abrogated.</p>	<p style="color: red;">General Operating By-Law Number 1.)</p> <p>1. Classis shall meet three times per year. Each regular meeting shall ordinarily be held on the fourth Tuesday of February; the fourth Tuesday of May; and the fourth Tuesday of October.</p> <p>2. Extraordinary meetings of Classis shall be called when</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. Classis so decides 2.2. at least five churches submit a request to the Classical Interim Committee for a meeting 2.3. the Classical Interim Committee and the Classis Ministry Team ascertains the necessity <p>3. 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.</p> <p>4. All regular sessions of Classis are open to all members of its churches. Officebearers of member churches may have the privilege of the floor when recognized by the Chair, except during “executive sessions” and “strict executive sessions.” During “executive session” all delegates, officebearers in member churches, members of the CIC and synodical deputies may be present. During “strict executive sessions” only the delegates, members of the CIC and synodical deputies may be present.</p> <p>5. Any committee requesting Classical funding will receive financial support the following year only if it submits for approval of Classis a proposed budget, set from time to time prepared by the Audit Review Committee, to be included by the CIC in with the agenda material for the October meeting of Classis. Exceptions may be granted in extraordinary circumstances made known to the Interim Committee prior to the deadline for agenda materials for the October Classis meeting, or communicated and accepted during the previous May Classis meeting.</p>
<p>4. CORPORATE STRUCTURE The Corporate Structure is dealt with in the General Operating Bylaw Number 1.</p>	<p>5. CORPORATE STRUCTURE The Corporate Structure is dealt with in the General Operating Bylaw Number 1.</p>
<p>5. CLASSIS MEETINGS 5.1 PREPARATORY MEASURES 1. The deadline for agenda materials shall be six weeks prior to the meeting of Classis. Councils shall receive the agenda materials no later than five weeks prior to the date of the scheduled Classis meeting. Late materials shall normally be referred to the next</p>	<p>6. CLASSIS MEETINGS 6.1 PREPARATORY MEASURES 1. The deadline for agenda materials shall be six weeks prior to the meeting of Classis. Councils shall receive the agenda materials no later than five weeks prior to the date of the scheduled Classis meeting. Late materials shall normally be referred to the next</p>

<p>meeting of Classis.</p> <p>2. The Stated Clerk shall be notified of the names and email addresses of all Delegates no later than three weeks prior to the meeting of Classis. This notification will be communicated electronically using the Word document provided as a form along with the agenda for the meeting. Signed copies of the Credentials are not required. All overtures, appeals and reports shall be sent to the appropriate Committees of Delegates three weeks prior to the meeting of Classis.</p> <p>3. Ministry Committees are required to submit their reports to the CMT no later than eight weeks prior to the meeting of Classis. The CMT shall summarize the reports provided by the Committees and include these summaries in its report to the Delegates to be included in the classis agenda.</p> <p>4. The location of the classical meetings shall be decided by the Stated Clerk with input from the Classis Ministry Team together with the Classis Interim Committee. Care shall be taken that there is barrier-free access for those with disabilities.</p> <p>5. Travel expense reimbursement rates for those engaged in classical activities, shall be set by the Board of Directors and adjusted periodically.</p> <p>6. Classical delegates who lose wages while representing their council may by special exception be considered for remuneration from Classis, if their delegating churches are not able to cover such expenses, at a rate to be determined from time to time by the CIC.</p> <p>5.2 OFFICERS OF CLASSIS</p> <p>1. The officers of Classis shall be the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair • Vice-Chair • Stated Clerk <p>2. The Chair shall be elected by Classis, to a one-year term: The election will take place at the May meeting. The term shall commence on June 1st. Chairs require the commitment from their Councils to be appointed as Delegates for all Classis meetings in the term of their appointment.</p> <p>3. Through alphabetical rotation, in sequence of the churches as listed under Classis Hamilton in the Yearbook of the Christian Reformed Church, a vice-chair, and a reporter shall be provided for each meeting of Classis. The reporter of one meeting shall function as the vice-chair of the next meeting,</p> <p>4. Except for the Stated Clerk, officers shall ordinarily be ministers, but may also be elders or deacons.</p> <p>5.3 DUTIES OF OFFICERS</p> <p>5.3.1 THE CHAIR</p> <p>1. Shall ensure that the meeting is opened with devotions at the appointed time and shall receive the List of Delegates, their credentials and the list of names of the Delegates who have signed the Covenant for Officebearers. The Chair shall declare</p>	<p>meeting of Classis.</p> <p>2. The Stated Clerk shall be notified of the names and email addresses of all Delegates on the Credentials no later than three weeks prior to the meeting of Classis.</p> <p>3. All overtures and appeals reports shall be sent to the Delegates two weeks prior to the meeting of Classis.</p> <p>4. The location of the classical meetings shall be decided by the Stated Clerk with input from the Classis Ministry Team. Care shall be taken that there is barrier-free access for those with disabilities.</p> <p>6.2 OFFICERS OF CLASSIS</p> <p>1. The officers of Classis shall be the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair • Vice-Chair • Stated Clerk <p>2. The Chair shall be elected by Classis, to a one-year term: The election will take place at the May meeting. The term shall commence on June 1st. Chairs require the commitment from their Councils to be appointed as Delegates for all Classis meetings in the term of their appointment.</p> <p>3. Through alphabetical rotation, in sequence of the churches as listed under Classis Hamilton in the Yearbook of the Christian Reformed Church, a vice-chair, and a reporter shall be provided for each meeting of Classis. The reporter of one meeting shall function as the vice-chair of the next meeting.</p> <p>4. Except for the Stated Clerk, officers shall ordinarily be ministers, but may also be elders or deacons.</p> <p>5.</p> <p>6.3 DUTIES OF OFFICERS</p> <p>6.3.1 THE CHAIR</p> <p>1. Shall ensure that the meeting is opened with devotions at the appointed time and shall receive the List of Delegates, their credentials and the list of names of the Delegates. The Chair shall declare Classis</p>
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<p>Classis duly constituted.</p> <p>2. Shall establish the schedule and order of the day in conjunction with the CMT.</p> <p>3. Shall ensure, as much as possible, that business is conducted expeditiously and in the proper order and that delegates observe the rules of order and decorum.</p> <p>4. Shall place before Classis every motion that is made and seconded and shall clearly state every question before a vote is taken.</p> <p>5. Shall remain impartial on every matter under discussion. When the Chair wishes to participate in the discussion s/he shall relinquish the chair to the Vice-Chair. The Chair shall not resume the chair until the pending matter has been concluded. The Chair may speak, while holding the chair, only to state fact or to inform Classis regarding points of order.</p> <p>6. Shall duly exercise the prerogative of declaring a motion or a person out of order. If the ruling is disputed, Classis shall sustain or reject the ruling by majority vote.</p> <p>7. May cast the deciding vote when the classical vote is tied if s/he has not already voted.</p> <p>8. Shall not preside over matters that directly concern the Chair, the church s/he serves as an officebearer, or a Classis committee on which s/he serves</p> <p>9. Shall see to it that classical meetings are concluded with appropriate remarks and with prayer.</p> <p>10. Shall serve as an ex officio member of the Classical Interim Committee.</p> <p>5.3.2 THE VICE-CHAIR</p> <p>1. Shall assume all the responsibilities and duties of the Chair when the latter is not able to preside.</p> <p>2. Shall render all possible assistance to the Chair.</p> <p>5.3.3 THE STATED CLERK See mandates</p> <p>5.3.4 THE CLASSICAL BOOKKEEPER See Mandates</p>	<p>duly constituted.</p> <p>2. Shall ensure, as much as possible, that business is conducted expeditiously and that delegates observe the rules of order and decorum.</p> <p>3. Shall place before Classis every motion that is made and seconded and shall clearly state every question before a vote is taken.</p> <p>4. Shall remain impartial on every matter under discussion. When the Chair wishes to participate in the discussion s/he shall relinquish the chair to the Vice-Chair. The Chair shall not resume the chair until the pending matter has been concluded. The Chair may speak, while holding the chair, only to state fact or to inform Classis regarding points of order.</p> <p>5. Shall duly exercise the prerogative of declaring a motion or a person out of order. If the ruling is disputed, Classis shall sustain or reject the ruling by majority vote.</p> <p>6. Shall not preside over matters that directly concern the Chair, the church s/he serves as an officebearer.</p> <p>7. Shall see to it that classical meetings are concluded with appropriate remarks and with prayer.</p> <p>6.3.2 THE VICE-CHAIR</p> <p>1. Shall assume all the responsibilities and duties of the Chair when the latter is not able to preside.</p> <p>2. Shall render all possible assistance to the Chair.</p> <p>6.3.3 PAID STAFF (INCLUDING STATED CLERK) The "Staff Job Descriptions" is a separate standalone internal document including all job descriptions for remunerated positions and is administered by the Classis Interim Committee.</p> <p>6.3.4. The following principles will apply to the procedure for hiring employees of Classis:</p> <p>1. Since Classis is the hiring body, it is important that Classis have a direct voice in selecting its employees.</p> <p>2. The CIC has been mandated by Classis to serve as the Board of Directors and to act on its behalf between regular sessions of Classis.</p> <p>3. It is usually in the interest of Classis and its ministries that vacant positions be filled in a timely manner.</p> <p>6.3.5 The following procedure will normally apply in the hiring procedure:</p> <p>1. When there is a vacancy, the CIC in consultation with the CMT will appoint an ad-hoc search committee consisting of members of the responsible Classis ministry and one or more members of the CIC and CMT.</p> <p>2. CIC will provide the search committee with a salary range for the position.</p> <p>3. The search committee will be mandated to advertise</p>
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	<p>the position, interview candidates and recommend its preferred candidate to the CMT and CIC along with a salary recommendation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The CMT and CIC will review the recommendation of the search committee and, if satisfied that the recommendation is in the interest of Classis, the CIC will offer employment pending ratification by Classis. 5. The candidate may be expected to begin the work in the position prior to the Classis meeting, with the understanding that its continuance is dependent on Classis ratification. If the candidate does not desire or is unable to work in a provisional situation, the starting date may be delayed until after Classis ratification. 6. If the candidate has accepted an offer of employment, the candidate will be presented to the next meeting of Classis in the context of an introductory conversation/interview so that Classis and the person filling the position may meet and get to know each other. 7. Following that introduction/conversation, Classis will vote on a motion to ratify the work of the CMT and CIC in this matter.
<p>6. COMMITTEES AND FUNCTIONARIES OF CLASSIS MEETINGS</p> <p>6.1 THE REPORTER</p> <p>The Reporter shall prepare an appropriate report of the happenings at the meeting, and shall submit it for publication to every church of Classis and to the church publications during the week that Classis meets.</p> <p>6.2 DENOMINATIONAL AGENCIES AND ASSEMBLIES</p> <p>Classis shall elect or nominate delegates to the following agencies and assemblies as required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Calvin College (represented regionally) 2. Calvin Theological Seminary (represented regionally) 3. Redeemer University College 4. Resonate Global Missions 5. World Renew 6. CRC Synod 7. CRC Council of Delegates <p>6.3 REGIONAL FUNCTIONARIES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Synodical Deputy and Alternate 2. Regional Pastors <p>6.4 CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee shall be composed of two delegations from the churches, or four delegates to Classis. 2. The mandate of the Committee shall be to study the credentials of the delegates regarding the answers given to the questions from Article 41 of the Church Order, and the instructions that councils may send to Classis. 	<p>7. COMMITTEES AND FUNCTIONARIES OF CLASSIS MEETINGS</p> <p>7.1 THE REPORTER</p> <p>The Reporter shall prepare an appropriate report of the happenings at the meeting, and shall submit it for publication to every church of Classis and to the church publications during the week that Classis meets.</p> <p>7.2 DENOMINATIONAL AGENCIES AND ASSEMBLIES</p> <p>Classis shall elect or nominate delegates to the following agencies and assemblies as required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Calvin College (represented regionally) 2. Calvin Theological Seminary (represented regionally) 3. Redeemer University College 4. Diaconal Ministries Canada 5. World Renew 6. CRC Synod 7. CRC Council of Delegates <p>7.3 REGIONAL FUNCTIONARIES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Synodical Deputy and Alternate 2. Regional Pastors <p>7.4 CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee shall be composed of two delegations from the churches, or six delegates to Classis. 2. The mandate of the Committee shall be to study the credentials of the delegates regarding the answers given to the questions from Article 41 of the Church Order, and the instructions that councils may send to Classis.

<p>3. The Committee shall present a report and recommendations to the Clerk of Classis at least two weeks prior to the meeting of Classis.</p> <p>4. The Committee shall also advise Classis, in a written report on all matters presented on the credentials</p> <p>5. The Committee shall advise whether any voting related to their work is to be done by ballot.</p> <p>6.5 OVERTURES AND APPEALS COMMITTEE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee shall be composed of two delegations from the churches, or four delegates to Classis. 2. The mandate of the Committee shall be to study the overtures sent by the Councils of the member churches as received by the Stated Clerk. 3. The Committee will discuss its report with the church which submitted the overture to ensure both parties understand each other's position before submitting the report to the Stated Clerk. 4. The Committee shall present a report and recommendations to the Stated Clerk at least two weeks prior to the meeting of Classis. 5. The Committee shall advise whether any voting related to their work is to be done by ballot. <p>6.6 STUDY COMMITTEES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study Committee Members shall be appointed by Classis or by the Classical Interim Committee. 2. The mandate of a Study Committee shall be articulated by Classis or the Classical Interim Committee when a particular matter requires consideration beyond what can be reasonably provided during the meeting of Classis or in line with the mandate and ability of the CIC. 3. Study committees shall present their reports at least eight weeks prior to the subsequent meeting of Classis, or at such a time as determined by Classis. <p>6.7 BALLOTING COMMITTEE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The committee shall be composed of tellers supplied by the host church. 2. The mandate of the committee shall be to distribute and count the ballots when elections take place at the meeting of Classis. All elections involving persons shall be done by ballot. 3. The committee shall present a report of the balloting results to Classis. 	<p>3. The Committee shall present a report and recommendations to the Clerk of Classis at least two weeks prior to the meeting of Classis.</p> <p>7.5 OVERTURES AND APPEALS COMMITTEE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee shall be composed of two delegations from the churches, or six delegates to Classis. 2. The mandate of the Committee shall be to study the overtures sent by the Councils of the member churches as received by the Stated Clerk. 3. The Committee will discuss its report with the church or committee which submitted the overture to ensure both parties understand each other's position before submitting the report to the Stated Clerk. 4. The Committee shall present a report and recommendations to the Stated Clerk at least two weeks prior to the meeting of Classis. <p>7.6 STUDY COMMITTEES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study Committee Members shall be appointed by Classis or by the Classical Interim Committee. 2. The mandate of a Study Committee shall be articulated by Classis or the Classical Interim Committee when a particular matter requires consideration beyond what can be reasonably provided during the meeting of Classis or in line with the mandate and ability of the CIC. 3. Study committees shall present their reports at least eight weeks prior to the subsequent meeting of Classis, or at such a time as determined by Classis. <p>7.7 BALLOTING COMMITTEE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The committee shall be composed of tellers supplied by the host church. 2. The mandate of the committee shall be to distribute and count the ballots when elections take place at the meeting of Classis.
<p>7. ELECTIONS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All active ministers of Classis and where applicable, all nominated elders or deacons or confessing members of the churches of Classis who are 18 years of age or older, are eligible for election except where specific ordained offices are required, provided that Classis is assured they will allow their names to stand. 2. To be elected, nominees must receive at least 	<p>8. ELECTIONS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All active ministers of Classis and where applicable, all nominated elders or deacons or confessing members of the churches of Classis are eligible for election except where specific ordained offices are required, provided that Classis is assured they will allow their names to stand. 2. To be elected, nominees must receive at least

<p>50% + 1 of the valid votes.</p> <p>3. In electing minister delegates to Synod, the first ballot for each position will be an open ballot; on all subsequent ballots Classis will decide which nominees will stand based on the number results of the previous ballot without names attached. Ordinarily, alternates will be considered the two runners up with the highest vote.</p> <p>4. In electing elder and deacon delegates to Synod, voting shall take place from those elders and deacons who are in office at the time of the election and whose names are appropriately nominated. Ordinarily, the alternate for each office will be considered the runners up with the highest vote.</p> <p>5. First and second alternates are so named to order the priority in which they will be asked to fill in if an elected delegate is unable to fulfill his/her function. However, no two pastor delegates shall be members of one church.</p> <p>6. Delegates to Synod are expected to give a summary report of Synodical actions and decisions that will have impact on the life and ministry of Classis. This report is to be submitted to the CIC for processing as needed.</p> <p>NOTE: 7.3 to 7.5 above are in effect for the years 2017, 2018. During those years, the delegates to Synod will be two pastors, one elder and one deacon. This decision will be reviewed in the fall of 2018 (Adopted October 2016).</p>	<p>50% + 1 of the valid votes.</p> <p>3. In electing minister delegates to Synod, (first and fourth delegate) the first ballot will be an open ballot; on all subsequent ballots Classis will decide which nominees will stand based on the number results of the previous ballot without names attached. Ordinarily, alternates will be considered the two runners up with the highest vote.</p> <p>4. In electing elder (second) and deacon (third) delegates to Synod, voting shall take place from those elders and deacons who will be in office at the time of that synod meets and whose names are appropriately nominated. Ordinarily, the alternate for each office will be considered the runners up with the highest vote.</p> <p>5. Preferably, no two synodical delegates shall be members of one church.</p>
<p>8. MATTERS LEGALLY BEFORE CLASSIS</p> <p>1. Overtures from councils</p> <p>Substantive overtures appearing on the credentials of the delegates shall normally be referred to the next meeting of Classis</p> <p>2. Reports of classical delegates to denominational boards and of representatives of other agencies.</p> <p>3. Reports of standing committees, advisory committees, and study committees.</p> <p>4. Appeals and protests by church members or Councils when all the pertinent Church Order provisions have been met.</p> <p>5. All matters from church Councils as they appear on the credentials of the delegates. Significant and substantive requests for action, requiring the consideration of all Councils, shall normally be referred to the next meeting of Classis.</p>	<p>9. MATTERS LEGALLY BEFORE CLASSIS</p> <p>1. Overtures from councils</p> <p>2. All matters from church Councils as they appear on the credentials of the delegates. Significant and substantive requests for action, requiring the consideration of all Councils, shall normally be referred to the next meeting of Classis.</p> <p>3. Reports of classical delegates to denominational boards and of representatives of other agencies.</p> <p>4. Reports of standing committees, advisory committees, and study committees.</p> <p>5. Appeals and protests by church members or Councils when all the pertinent Church Order provisions have been met.</p>
<p>9. RULES OF ORDER</p> <p>9.1 MAIN MOTIONS</p> <p>1. When a delegate places a request for consideration and action of a particular, defined matter before Classis, the Chair shall consider it a main motion. Such a motion is properly before Classis when</p> <p>1.1. the mover is recognized by the Chair</p> <p>1.2. the motion is acceptable to the Chair in its</p>	<p>10. RULES OF ORDER</p> <p>10.1 MAIN MOTIONS</p> <p>1. When a delegate places a request for consideration and action of a particular, defined matter before Classis, the Chair shall consider it a main motion. Such a motion is properly before Classis when</p> <p>1.1. the mover is recognized by the Chair</p> <p>1.2. the motion is acceptable to the Chair in its</p>

<p>verbal or written form</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.3. the motion is seconded by another delegate 2. The Chair shall consider a main motion improper when <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. it conflicts with the Scriptures, the Reformed Confessions, the Church Order, or the laws of Canada or Ontario 2.2. another motion is being considered at the same time 2.3. it conflicts with an earlier decision of Classis 2.4. it interferes with Classis' freedom of action relating to a matter already introduced but not yet completed 2.5. it is not substantively different from a defeated motion 	<p>verbal or written form</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.3. the motion is seconded by another delegate 2. The Chair shall consider a main motion improper when <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. it conflicts with the Scriptures, the Reformed Confessions, the Church Order, or the laws of Canada or Ontario 2.2. another motion is being considered at the same time 2.3. it conflicts with an earlier decision of Classis 2.4. it interferes with Classis' freedom of action relating to a matter already introduced but not yet completed 2.5. it is not substantively different from a defeated motion 3. When an advisory committee brings a recommendation to not support a motion in an overture, the recommendation(s) in the overture shall take precedence. 4. When one or more delegates request that a motion with more than one part be divided, the Chair shall allow such a division, and each part shall be voted on separately, unless Classis decides this course of action is unnecessary.
<p>9.2 AMENDMENTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When a delegate places before Classis a request to alter the meaning or wording of a main motion before the vote is taken, the Chair shall consider this secondary motion an amendment to the main motion. Such an amendment is proper when it proposes to strike out, to insert, or to substitute words, clauses, sentences, or paragraphs of the main motion. 2. The Chair shall consider an amendment improper when <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. it nullifies the main motion 2.2. it radically alters the intent of the main motion 2.3. it is not germane to the main motion 3. When a delegate places before Classis a motion to amend the amendment before the vote on the amendment is taken, the Chair shall rule such a tertiary motion improper. 	<p>10.2 AMENDMENTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When a delegate places before Classis a request to alter the meaning or wording of a main motion before the vote is taken, the Chair shall consider this secondary motion an amendment to the main motion. Such an amendment is proper when it proposes to strike out, to insert, or to substitute words, clauses, sentences, or paragraphs of the main motion. 2. The Chair shall consider an amendment improper when <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. it nullifies the main motion 2.2. it radically alters the intent of the main motion 2.3. it is not germane to the main motion
<p>9.3 TABLING</p> <p>A motion to table or postpone the main motion is proper when the time frame for taking the matter from the table is included in the motion. Such a motion is not debatable.</p>	<p>10.3 TABLING</p> <p>A motion to table or postpone the main motion is proper. Such a motion is not debatable.</p>
<p>9.4 WITHHOLDING ACTION</p> <p>If Classis prefers not to take action regarding a matter, it may adopt a motion to withhold action.</p>	<p>10.4 WITHHOLDING ACTION</p> <p>If Classis prefers not to take action regarding a matter, it may adopt a motion to withhold action.</p>
<p>9.5 CHALLENGING THE CHAIR</p> <p>When a delegate is not satisfied with a ruling of the Chair, he may challenge the chair. The Vice Chair will assume the chair for the vote on whether to sustain the Chair in the ruling he made.</p>	<p>10.5 CHALLENGING THE CHAIR</p> <p>When a delegate is not satisfied with a ruling of the Chair, he may challenge the chair. The Vice Chair will assume the chair for the vote on whether to sustain the Chair in the ruling he made.</p>
<p>9.6 PROTESTING AND RECORDING OF NEGATIVE VOTES</p> <p>It is the right of any member to protest against any decision of Classis. Protests should be registered</p>	<p>10.6 PROTESTING AND RECORDING OF NEGATIVE VOTES</p> <p>It is the right of any member to protest against any decision of Classis. Protests should be registered</p>

<p>immediately, or during the session in which the matter concerned was acted upon. Protest must be registered individually and not in groups. Delegates may, if they feel the need, ask to have their negative vote recorded. Such requests must be made immediately after the vote is taken.</p> <p>9.7 DIVIDING THE QUESTION When one or more delegates request that a motion with more than one part be divided, the Chair shall allow such a division, and each part shall be voted on separately, unless Classis decides this course of action is unnecessary.</p> <p>9.8 RECONSIDERING DECIDED MATTERS A delegate who voted with the prevailing side shall have the right to present a motion to reconsider the original matter when he offers weighty reasons. His motion shall be presented at the meeting of Classis when the original matter was decided, and shall propose a new discussion and a new vote. A delegate who voted with the minority in the original vote shall not be able to raise the matter at the same meeting but shall be able to present a motion to reconsider the matter at a subsequent meeting of Classis.</p> <p>9.9 RESCINDING A PREVIOUS DECISION A motion to rescind a previously adopted matter shall only be presented at a subsequent meeting of Classis, and not at the same meeting during which the original decision was made. Note: Should Classis make a decision which is at variance with a decision of a previous Classis, without having rescinded the earlier decision, the most recent decision shall invalidate all previous decisions.</p> <p>9.10 DECORUM 1.— A delegate may speak only after being recognized by the Chair. 2.— When a speaker fails to adhere to the point under discussion, or becomes unnecessarily lengthy in his remarks, the Chair shall interrupt and insist on brevity and clarity. 3.— A delegate ordinarily shall speak no more than twice on the same pending issue. 4.— When the Chair believes that a motion under consideration has been debated sufficiently, he may propose cessation of debate. If a majority of Classis sustains this proposal, discussion shall cease and the vote shall be taken. 5.— A delegate may move to cease debate when he considers the issue to have been adequately discussed. Should the motion to cease debate carry, the speakers who have requested the floor shall be allowed to speak, after which the vote on the main motion shall proceed.</p> <p>9.11 MANNER OF VOTING 1. The delegates of Classis shall vote in a manner selected by the Chair by the raising of one hand, saying "yes", or saying "aye" to the question</p>	<p>immediately, or during the session in which the matter concerned was acted upon. Protest must be registered individually and not in groups. Delegates may, if they feel the need, ask to have their negative vote recorded. Such requests must be made immediately after the vote is taken.</p> <p>10.7 RESCINDING A PREVIOUS DECISION A motion to rescind a previously adopted matter shall ordinarily be presented at a subsequent meeting of Classis, and not at the same meeting during which the original decision was made. Note: Should Classis make a decision which is at variance with a decision of a previous Classis, without having rescinded the earlier decision, the most recent decision shall invalidate all previous decisions.</p> <p>10.8 MANNER OF VOTING 1. The delegates of Classis shall vote in a manner selected by the Chair by the raising of one hand, saying "yes", or saying "aye" to the question</p>
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<p>whether they are in favour or opposed to the adoption of the motion.</p> <p>In the process of electing persons to various positions, or in significant or sensitive matters, the method of voting shall be by ballot. The Chair may rule a motion to require a ballot, or a delegate may make a motion that a vote on a particular matter be taken by ballot.</p>	<p>whether they are in favour or opposed to the adoption of the motion.</p> <p>In significant or sensitive matters, the method of voting shall be by ballot. The Chair may rule a motion to require a ballot, or a delegate may make a motion that a vote on a particular matter be taken by ballot.</p>
<p>10 CLASSIS DUTIES</p> <p>10.1 CHURCH VISITORS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Church Visitors and alternates shall be appointed by Classis for a term of three years, beginning and ending in May. There will be a minimum of two teams of three elders/ministers each. All are eligible for re-election to a maximum of two terms. An elder, once elected, shall complete the three-year term as church visitors, even after leaving office. 1.1. The number and lists of churches shall be assigned to each team by the CIC. 1.2. Church Visitors teams will notify councils in writing/email of a desired visit early enough so that a meeting of council may be held before the visit. 1.3. Church visitors shall function according to the regulations of the CO and the pertinent synodical decisions. 1.4. Church visitors shall be available to churches to give advice when called upon by a council. 2. Church visitors visits will include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. Asking a report from the church on ministry according to Article 42. 2.2. Asking about office bearer training, the structure and practice of the involvement of the church/pastor in joint pulpit exchanges or shared (preaching) series participation. 2.3. Asking whether the church is administering the 'Continuing Education Learning Covenant' for pastors and ministry staff as an opportunity for spiritual growth and professional training. 2.4. Asking about ministry share giving. 2.5. Asking whether the church has an "Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Policy" in place and, if so, whether they have implemented that policy. 3. Church visitors shall <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. As soon as possible submit to the Council a written report of their visit. A final version of this report is to be forwarded to the Stated Clerk of Classis. 3.2. Provide a written summary report each October regarding the visits they have made during the previous year. This report is to be circulated with the agenda and shall contain 	<p>11 CLASSIS DUTIES</p> <p>11.1 CHURCH VISITORS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Church Visitors and alternates shall be appointed by Classis for a term of three years, beginning and ending in May. There will be a minimum of two teams of three officebearers each. At least one member of each visiting team shall be a minister. All are eligible for re-election to a maximum of two terms. An officebearer, once elected, shall complete the three-year term as church visitors, even after leaving office in the case of an elder or deacon. 1.1. The number and lists of churches shall be assigned to each team by the CIC. 1.2. Church Visitors teams will notify councils in writing/email of a desired visit early enough so that a meeting of council may be held before the visit. 1.3. Church visitors shall function according to the regulations of the Church Order and the pertinent synodical decisions which is on the CRCRN website and can be found here https://www.crcna.org/sites/default/files/2015_church_visiting_guide.pdf. 1.4. Church visitors shall be available to churches to give advice when called upon by a council. 2. Church visitors shall <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. As soon as possible submit to the Council a written report of their visit. A final version of this report is to be forwarded to the Stated Clerk of Classis. 2.2. Provide a written summary report for each October classis meeting regarding the visits they have made during the previous year. This report is to be circulated with the agenda and shall

<p>the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.2.1. a statement that the questions in CO Article 42 have been addressed. 3.2.2. any particular blessings, concerns, practices or situations that they have become aware of in a particular church that deserves the actions or attention of Classis. Councils concerned will be notified of this prior to the submission of the report. 3.2.3. any advice they have given which needs Classis' approval 3.2.4. common trends and/or problems they have become aware of and which the church visitors believe merit the attention of Classis 3.2.5. any recommendations for Classis to deal with <p>4.—Classis will hold discussion on these reports (the state of the church) during the October session.</p> <p>10.2 CLASSICAL COUNSELORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upon request of a church without its own pastor, Classis shall appoint a Counselor to serve the church on Classis' behalf through advice and counsel. 2.—The Counselor's duties shall include signing of the "Letter of Call" on behalf of Classis, having been assured that the council has complied with all synodical regulations pertaining to the issuance of a call. 3.—The Counselor shall be reimbursed by the Church for his mileage or other expenses. 4.—The Counselor shall render a written report of his work to Classis upon completion of his task to be included with the agenda and noted in the CIC report to allow for discussion as needed. <p>10.3 CLASSIS PULPIT SUPPLY (SEE APPENDICES, 14.1 FOR ADDITIONAL "GUIDELINES")</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As an expression of our Vision for "healthy and vibrant churches, ministries and members" through mutuality and community, we understand providing pulpit supply support to be a communal matter— churches helping each other, rather than pastors helping churches. 2.—A church whose minister is a synodical delegate shall be entitled to Classis pulpit supply for one Sunday while its minister attends Synod. Congregations that become vacant are added to the pulpit supply list upon written request to the Stated Clerk. Congregations that have TWO pastors involved in preaching, where one of the Pastors leaves, may request pulpit supply via the Stated Clerk. This will be granted when said pastor was involved in preaching in 3 or more services per month. Likewise, a congregation who obtains the services of a full or part-time stated supply minister may ask for pulpit supply if their pulpit vacancy is 3 or more services a month. 3. Provision of support is to be based upon the worship 	<p>contain the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.2.1. a statement that the questions in CO Article 42 have been addressed. 2.2.2. any particular blessings, concerns, practices or situations that they have become aware of in a particular church that deserves the actions or attention of Classis. Councils concerned will be notified of this prior to the submission of the report. 2.2.3. any advice they have given which needs Classis' approval 2.2.4. common trends and/or problems they have become aware of and which the church visitors believe merit the attention of Classis 2.2.5. any recommendations for Classis to deal with. <p>11.2 CLASSICAL COUNSELORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upon request, Classis shall appoint a Counselor to serve the church on Classis' behalf through advice and counsel in accordance with the provisions of the Church Order, Article 42-c. <p>11.3 CLASSIS PULPIT SUPPLY (SEE APPENDICES, 14.1 FOR ADDITIONAL "GUIDELINES")</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As an expression of our Vision for "healthy and vibrant churches, ministries and members" through mutuality and community, we understand providing pulpit supply support to be a communal matter— churches helping each other, rather than pastors helping churches. 2. Provision of support is to be based upon the worship practices of the receiving congregation (all services
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<p>practices of the receiving congregation (all services normally scheduled for that Sunday).</p> <p>4. The Pastor must be a minister, commissioned pastor, or licensed exhorter in good standing in the CRC.</p> <p>5. A church which receives Classis pulpit supply shall remunerate the sending church at the rate set by Classis and reviewed periodically. The travel expenses incurred by the guest minister as s/he fills the Classis appointment shall be paid directly to her/him by the church receiving her/his services, at a rate determined periodically by Classis.</p> <p>6. The Classis Interim Committee shall be responsible for preparing a pulpit supply schedule. Such schedule shall be posted on the Classis Hamilton website (only) to maintain consistency.</p> <p>7. Classical appointments will not be scheduled on the following days: New/Old Year's days, the first Sunday in January, Palm Sunday, Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.</p> <p>8. Ordinarily the Stated Clerk will maintain a list of retired ministers and other licentiates available to preach on the Classis website.</p>	<p>normally scheduled for that Sunday).</p> <p>3. The Pastor must be a minister, commissioned pastor, or licensed exhorter in good standing in the CRC.</p> <p>4. The Classis Interim Committee shall be responsible for preparing a pulpit supply schedule. Such schedule shall be posted on the Classis Hamilton website (only) to maintain consistency.</p> <p>5. Ordinarily the Stated Clerk will maintain a list of retired ministers and other licentiates available to preach on the Classis website.</p>
<p>11. EXAMINATION AND LICENSURE</p> <p>11.1 EXAMINATION OF A MINISTER FROM ANOTHER DENOMINATION UNDER ARTICLE 8</p> <p>1. A Colloquium Doctum is a friendly interview with a minister from another denomination who wishes to enter the ministry of the Christian Reformed Church. other than an ordained minister from the Reformed Church of America who intends to remain a minister of the RCA. (The procedure for calling a minister from the Reformed Church of America who intends to remain a minister of the CRA shall be dealt with in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8 D.)</p> <p>2. Application for a Colloquium Doctum shall be made to the Classis Interim Committee in either of two ways:</p> <p>2.1. By the Council that desires to extend a call</p> <p>2.2. By the minister personally (if there is as yet no calling church)</p> <p>3. Before a Colloquium Doctum may be scheduled, all synodical regulations pertaining to calling ministers from other denominations must be met, in accordance with Church Order Supplement Article 8 E.</p>	<p>12 EXAMINATIONS AND LICENSURE</p> <p>12.1 EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES UNDER CHURCH ORDER ARTICLES 7 AND 10</p> <p>1. Organizational Arrangements The Classis Interim Committee shall prepare all arrangements for the Classis examination. No credentials are required from the candidate since the synodical declaration of candidacy is adequate affirmation that the physical and academic requirements have been met. The Stated Clerk shall send a copy of the requirements and procedure to the candidate.</p> <p>12.2 EXAMINATION OF A MINISTER FROM ANOTHER DENOMINATION UNDER ARTICLE 8</p> <p>1. A Colloquium Doctum is a friendly interview with a minister from another denomination who wishes to enter the ministry of the Christian Reformed Church.</p> <p>2. Application for a Colloquium Doctum shall be made to the Classis Interim Committee in either of two ways:</p> <p>2.1. By the Council that desires to extend a call</p> <p>2.2. By the minister personally (if there is as yet no calling church)</p> <p>2.3. Upon receipt of the application, the Classis Interim Committee shall make all necessary arrangements for the Colloquium Doctum in accordance with synodical and Classis regulations. Cf. Church Order Supplement</p>

<p>4. Upon receipt of the application, the Classis Interim Committee shall make all necessary arrangements for the Colloquium Doctum in accordance with synodical and Classis regulations. Cf. Church Order Supplement Article 8 E.</p> <p>5. One minister from Classis shall be appointed to conduct the Colloquy before Classis.</p> <p>6. The remainder of the Colloquium Doctum shall follow the procedure for the "Classis Deliberation and The Admittance to Ministry" found above (cf. 4.3.4.).</p> <p>11.2 COMMISSIONED PASTOR UNDER ARTICLE 23 {Removed since it is the Church Order}</p> <p>11.3 LICENSURE TO EXHORT UNDER ARTICLE 43-b</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Licensure to exhort in the churches of Classis may be granted to those who request it, after the need for such service has first been established. 2. The examination for licensure to exhort shall be limited to members of the Christian Reformed Church who are gifted, well informed, consecrated, and able to edify the churches. 3. Classis shall require the following documents from the applicants: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. A recommendation from the applicant's council 3.2. Written request for licensure from the applicant, including the reasons for the request 4. The Classis Interim Committee shall assign a sermon text to the applicant and arrange for the applicant to lead a worship service in the applicant's home church, using that assigned text for the sermon. The committee shall also arrange for two sermon critics who shall attend the worship service and report to Classis. 5. The Classis Interim Committee shall arrange for an examination of the applicant in the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1. Knowledge of the Scriptures, Reformed Confessions, and theology 5.2. Sermon evaluation 5.3. Practica and Ethics 6. Licensure shall be for three years, after which it may be renewed every three years at the written request of the exhorter and by the approval of Classis. 	<p>Article 8 E.</p> <p>2.4. One minister from Classis shall be appointed to conduct the Colloquy before Classis.</p> <p>12.3 COMMISSIONED PASTOR UNDER CHURCH ORDER ARTICLE 23 The CIC is responsible to ensure that all documentation required prior to the examination is in order.</p> <p>12.4 LICENSE TO EXHORT UNDER CHURCH ORDER ARTICLE 43-b</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Licensure to exhort in the churches of Classis may be granted to those who request it, after the need for such service has first been established. 2. The examination for licensure to exhort shall be limited to members of the Christian Reformed Church who are gifted, well informed, consecrated, and able to edify the churches. 3. Classis shall require the following documents from the applicants: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. A recommendation from the applicant's council 3.2. Written request for licensure from the applicant, including the reasons for the request 4. The Classis Interim Committee shall assign a sermon text to the applicant and arrange for the applicant to lead a worship service in the applicant's home church, using that assigned text for the sermon. The committee shall also arrange for two sermon critics who shall attend the worship service and report to Classis. 5. The Classis Interim Committee shall arrange for an examination of the applicant in the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1. Knowledge of the Scriptures, Reformed Confessions, and theology 5.2. Sermon evaluation 5.3. Practica and Ethics 6. Licensure shall be for three years, after which it may be renewed every three years at the written request of the exhorter and by the approval of Classis.
<p>12 STANDING COMMITTEES</p> <p>12.1 GENERAL PROVISIONS</p> <p>1. Every committee of Classis (not including</p>	<p>13 STANDING COMMITTEES</p> <p>13.1 GENERAL PROVISIONS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Classis Hamilton, through its standing committees, seeks "to be used by God to renew the greater Hamilton region through a gospel movement of healthy and vibrant churches, ministries and members." 2. Every committee of Classis (not including

<p>committees of the Board of Directors, in accordance with the General Operating Bylaw Number 1) serves Classis but shall not replace Classis in its ecclesiastical responsibilities in any way. All committee work of Classis appointed committees shall receive the approval of Classis before becoming effective.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. All committee members shall normally serve their full term. Committee members shall normally be elected for a three-year term and shall not serve more than two consecutive terms of office. 3. Standing committee members and various functionaries shall be elected in May. Synodical delegates are elected in January. 4. The Church Visitors shall ordinarily be appointed at the May meeting of Classis from nominees presented by the Classis Interim Committee. 5. Advisory committees shall be appointed at least four weeks prior to the meeting of Classis. The Stated Clerk, in consultation with the CIC, shall assign the specific issues to each committee in sufficient time before the meeting to enable the committee to prepare a well-articulated set of recommendations. 6. Classis shall reimburse travel expenses incurred by committee members while on Classis business, but shall not compensate for lost wages. Classis shall reimburse the travel expenses of board delegates which are not covered by the agency, but Classis shall not compensate for lost wages. 7. Standing committees shall elect their own officers; Classis, however, shall determine the officers of advisory or study committees by appointing as chairman and convener the first person/church named, and by appointing as reporter the second person/church named. 	<p>committees of the Board of Directors, in accordance with the General Operating Bylaw Number 1) serves Classis but shall not replace Classis in its ecclesiastical responsibilities in any way. All committee work of Classis appointed committees shall receive the approval of Classis before becoming effective.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. All committee members ordinarily shall serve their full term. Committee members ordinarily shall be elected for a three-year term and ordinarily shall not serve more than two consecutive terms of office. 4. Standing committee members and various functionaries ordinarily shall be elected in May. Synodical delegates are elected at the winter classis meeting. 5. Advisory committees shall be appointed at least five weeks prior to the meeting of Classis. The Stated Clerk, in consultation with the CIC, shall assign the specific issues to each committee in sufficient time before the meeting to enable the committee to prepare a well-articulated set of recommendations. 6. Classis shall reimburse travel expenses incurred by committee members while on Classis business, but shall not compensate for lost wages. 7. Standing committees shall elect their own officers.
<p>12.2 CLASSIS INTERIM COMMITTEE (CIC)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preamble: Classis Hamilton seeks "to be used by God to renew the greater Hamilton region through a gospel movement of healthy and vibrant churches, ministries and members." Classis has a Classis Interim Committee (CIC) in order to enable Classis churches, ministries and members to contribute to this over-arching mission. Classis shall annually elect a minimum of 5 members (excluding the Stated Clerk, Missions Director and Treasurer, who shall be present at meetings of the CIC and the corporation but not as members if they receive remuneration from Classis) from a slate presented by the CIC in accordance with its needs of gifts, skills, knowledge, experience and commitment to the mission, vision and ministry of Classis. 2. Mandate: The CIC is to provide effective and efficient administrative and ministry support 	<p>13.2 CLASSIS INTERIM COMMITTEE (CIC)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mandate: Classis has a CIC in order to enable Classis churches, ministries and members to contribute to the over-arching mission of Classis by providing effective and efficient administrative support for ecclesiastical matters and responsibility for the administration relating to all property matters.

<p style="color: red;">and accountability to the bodies and churches of Classis as well as manage and be accountable for its corporate affairs.</p> <p>3. Key Responsibilities</p> <p>3.1. Communication: To facilitate timely and effective flow of communication within the organizational structure and routing received information and requests to the appropriate bodies for consideration. This would include items such as assembling and publishing agenda, keeping updated minutes, websites, rules of procedure, and recorded copies of all Classis communication. CIC will report its own work and the work of the Stated Clerk at each Classis meeting and determine the time allotment necessary for administrative matters.</p> <p>3.2. Scheduling: To attend to the scheduling of all regular and special meetings of Classis, pulpit supply, Classis examinations and make arrangements with host churches.</p> <p>3.3. Appointment: To oversee the timely recruitment, selection, and nominations of the stated clerk, church visitors, regional pastors, church counselors, committee membership and the like. This oversight does not in any way reduce the primary responsibility of ministries, committees or teams from recruiting and nomination their own members and/or replacements.</p> <p>3.4. Ecclesiastical Matters: To handle all matters relating to church order and Classis rules of procedure including credentials, requests, overtures to Classis or Synod, and other correspondence of a church order nature.</p> <p>3.5. Legal Matters: To ensure that all corporate and legal matters as stated in General Operating Bylaw Number 1 are properly pursued and implemented.</p> <p>3.6. Reporting: To provide oversight, support, accountability, evaluation and feedback to the church counselors, regional pastors, church visitors, and website development.</p> <p>4. Membership: The membership of the Classis Interim Committee shall consist of at least those persons filling the following positions renewable for a maximum of 6 terms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President • Vice President • Representative of the Classis Ministry team • Members-at-Large <p>5. Corporate Reasonability (see Bylaws) The CIC members shall not have the right to vote at meetings of Classis unless they are also delegated from one of the member churches.</p>	<p>2. Key Responsibilities:</p> <p>2.1. Communication: To facilitate timely and effective flow of communication within the organizational structure of classis.</p> <p>2.2. Appointment: To oversee the timely recruitment, selection, and nominations of the stated clerk, church visitors, regional pastors, church counselors and the like.</p> <p>2.3. Ecclesiastical Matters: To process all matters relating to Church Order and classis Rules of Procedure including credentials, requests, overtures to Classis or Synod, and other correspondence of a church order nature.</p> <p>2.4. Legal Matters: To ensure that all corporate and legal matters as stated in General Operating Bylaw Number 1 are properly pursued and implemented.</p> <p>3. Membership: The membership of the Classis Interim Committee shall consist of five (5) persons filling the following positions renewable for a maximum of 6 one-year terms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President • Vice President • Representative of the Classis Ministry team • Members-at-Large
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<p>6. Meetings: The CIC shall meet as required to fulfill its mandate.</p> <p>12.3 CLASSIS MINISTRY TEAM (CMT)</p> <p>1. Preamble: Classis Hamilton seeks “to be used by God to renew the greater Hamilton region through a gospel movement of healthy and vibrant churches, ministries and members.” Classis has formed the Classis Ministries Team (CMT) for the purpose of enabling Classis Ministries, Committees and Denominational Ministries to contribute to this over-arching mission.</p> <p>2. Mandate: The CMT is to provide a big picture leadership that enables Classis to effectively pursue its vision and embody its values of mutual encouragement, ministry and mission. The CMT also is to provide, support, evaluation and feedback to the shared Ministries/Committees/Denominational Ministries of Classis Hamilton.</p> <p>3. Chair: serving on a rotating 1 year, renewable term.</p> <p>4. Key Responsibilities</p> <p>4.1. Leadership: To assist Classis in discerning and developing its overall mission/vision/values by being attentive to the ways in which God is moving in our region and in our ministries and by being proactive in pursuing innovative ways in which we can join in that mission.</p> <p>4.2. Structures: To establish, maintain, and modify Classis structures in a manner consistent with the mandate above. All modifications are subject to the approval of Classis.</p> <p>4.3. Shape: To determine the overall shape of the Classis agenda and to call additional meetings as necessary in collaboration with the CIC. The CMT will shape the agenda collaboratively through input received from other committees, the clusters, the Stated Clerk and the Classis Mission Director.</p> <p>4.4. Staffing: To provide oversight, support and accountability of the Classis Mission Director in consultation with the CIC.</p> <p>4.5. Relationships: To establish and maintain relationships of support and accountability with each Classis Ministry/Committee and the Denominational Ministries pertaining to Classis Hamilton.</p> <p>4.6. Communication: To provide effective and concise written and/or oral reporting of the Classis Ministries/Committees and Denominational Ministries pertaining to Classis Hamilton.</p> <p>4.7. Effectiveness: To constantly carry on evaluation of its effectiveness in fulfilling its mandate pertaining to Classis Hamilton. This will include, but not be limited to, evaluating its reporting structures and communication methods.</p> <p>5. Membership</p>	<p>4. Meetings: The CIC shall meet as required to fulfill its mandate.</p> <p>5. Accountability: The CIC shall report on its own work and the work of the Stated Clerk at each Classis meeting and determine the time allotment necessary for administrative matters.</p> <p>13.3 CLASSIS MINISTRY TEAM (CMT)</p> <p>1. Classis has formed the CMT for the purpose of enabling Classis Ministries, Committees and Denominational Ministries to contribute to the over-arching mission of Classis.</p> <p>2. Key Responsibilities</p> <p>2.1. Leadership: To assist Classis in discerning and developing its overall mission/vision/values by being attentive to the ways in which God is moving in our region and in our ministries and by being proactive in pursuing innovative ways in which we can join in that mission.</p> <p>2.2. Structures: To establish, maintain, and modify Classis structures in a manner consistent with the mandate above. All modifications are subject to the approval of Classis.</p> <p>2.3. Shape: To determine the overall shape of the Classis agenda and to call additional meetings as necessary in collaboration with the CIC.</p> <p>2.4. Communication: To facilitate effective and concise written and/or oral reporting of the Classis Ministries/Committees and Denominational Ministries pertaining to Classis Hamilton.</p> <p>3. Membership</p>
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<p>5.1. CMT shall consist of up to 7 members (including the Stated Clerk, Classis Mission Director, Chair of Classis ex officio, and CRCNA Connections Coordinator ex officio).</p> <p>5.2. Standing team members shall be recruited by the CMT members for presentation to Classis Hamilton. They shall serve for a 3 year term with a single option for renewal.</p> <p>5.3. The following should be considered when nominees are recruited:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">5.3.1. Deeply rooted in Christ</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">5.3.2. Life experience and personally mature</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">5.3.3. Ministry in sight and evaluative ability</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">5.3.4. Passion for Classis and Denominational Ministries</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">5.3.5. Demonstrated skill in achieving the mandate</p> <p>5.4. Team roles shall be determined by the standing team.</p> <p>6.— Meetings: The CMT shall meet as required to fulfill its mandate.</p> <p>7. Accountability: The CMT is accountable in all its actions to Classis Hamilton as a whole. Its work will be reported and requires approval of each meeting of Classis.</p> <p>12.4 CLASSIS HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE (CHMC)</p> <p>1. The structure of the committee:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1.1. Ordinarily shall be composed of six members;</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1.2. Two of the members shall be active ministers within Classis;</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1.3.— One member shall be Classis delegate to the Board of Christian Reformed Home Missions (CRHM);</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1.4.— The Regional Director of CRHM and a member of the Classis Ministry Team will serve as advisors and resource person.</p> <p>2. The mandate of the committee:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">2.1. To promote, encourage and facilitate workshops, conferences, and other resources which will provide the congregations of Classis Hamilton with opportunities to discuss, learn and implement strategies and ideas for evangelism, outreach and Missional living.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">2.2. To promote, cooperate and assist in initiating and/or secure funding for planting new churches within Classis Hamilton.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">2.3. To work in partnership with the Board of CRHM and the Classis Hamilton Missions Coordinator regarding new</p>	<p>3.1. CMT shall consist of up to 7 members and the CRCNA Connections Coordinator <i>ex officio</i>.</p> <p>3.2. CMT members shall be recruited by the CMT for presentation to Classis Hamilton. They shall serve for a 3 year term with a single option for renewal.</p> <p>4. Accountability: The CMT is accountable in all its actions to Classis Hamilton as a whole. Its work will be reported and requires approval of each meeting of Classis.</p> <p>13.4 CLASSIS HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE (CHMC)</p> <p>1. Mandate: To maintain contact with representatives of the local congregations of Classis Hamilton regarding outreach, evangelism and Missional activities in order to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Discern God’s leading</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. Promote resources, workshops, conferences etc., for Missional learning and growth</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">c. Identify and encourage collaboration where such will enhance the ministry.</p> <p>2. The structure of the committee:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">2.1. Ordinarily shall be composed of six members;</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">2.2. Two of the members shall be active ministers within Classis;</p> <p>3. The tasks of the committee:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">3.1. To promote, encourage and facilitate workshops, conferences, and other resources which will provide the congregations of Classis Hamilton with opportunities to discuss, learn and implement strategies and ideas for evangelism, outreach and Missional living.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">3.2. To promote, cooperate and assist in initiating and/or secure funding for planting new churches within Classis Hamilton.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">3.3. To work in partnership with Resonate Global Missions regarding new and continuing mission opportunities within</p>
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<p>and continuing mission opportunities within Classis Hamilton. Encourage collaboration where such will enhance the ministry being advanced.</p> <p>2.4. To spend time intentionally listening to the Holy Spirit in prayer in order to discern where God is leading with regard to Missional activity and opportunities within Classis Hamilton</p> <p>2.5. To maintain contact with representatives of the local congregations of Classis Hamilton regarding outreach, evangelism and Missional activities in order to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Discern God’s leading Promote resources, workshops, conferences etc., for Missional learning and growth Identify and encourage collaboration where such will enhance the ministry. <p>3. The committee shall report at every meeting of Classis.</p> <p>12.5 CLASSICAL AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE The mandate for this committee has been moved to the Board of Directors who oversee all finance/property matters, as required by the Ontario Corporations Act, on behalf of Classis, and will be included in their mandate (By Laws).</p> <p>12.6 McMASTER UNIVERSITY AND MOHAWK COLLEGE CAMPUS COMMITTEE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Preamble One of the expressed purposes of the Christian Reformed congregations that make up Classis Hamilton is to partner together in shared ministry. Classis has agreed to “decide upon and oversee purposeful ministries that reach out to our local communities and region with the love of God. We will prayerfully seek, establish, and maintain these shared ministries as a Classis and, where appropriate, partner in the leadership and financial needs of these ministries.” The McMaster University & Mohawk CR Campus Ministry is one such shared ministry of Classis Hamilton. Mandate To further the work of the Campus Ministry and its Chaplain, Classis Hamilton has formed and mandates a committee to support and supervise (in conjunction with the Christian Reformed Home Missions Regional Leader and the Christian Reformed Home Missions Campus Educational Mission Leader) the work of the Chaplain, and to evaluate and establish direction for the campus ministry together. Tasks The mandate of the committee shall include, but not be limited to, the following tasks and 	<p>Classis Hamilton. Encourage collaboration where such will enhance the ministry being advanced.</p> <p>3.4. To spend time intentionally listening to the Holy Spirit in prayer in order to discern where God is leading with regard to Missional activity and opportunities within Classis Hamilton</p> <p>[2.5 Moved to Mandate above]</p> <p>2. The committee ordinarily shall report at every meeting of Classis.</p> <p>13.5 McMASTER UNIVERSITY AND MOHAWK COLLEGE CAMPUS COMMITTEE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Preamble: One of the expressed purposes of the Christian Reformed congregations that make up Classis Hamilton is to partner together in shared ministry. Classis has agreed to “decide upon and oversee purposeful ministries that reach out to our local communities and region with the love of God. We will prayerfully seek, establish, and maintain these shared ministries as a Classis and, where appropriate, partner in the leadership and financial needs of these ministries.” The McMaster University & Mohawk CR Campus Ministry is one such shared ministry of Classis Hamilton. Mandate: To further the work of the Campus Ministry and its Chaplain, Classis Hamilton has formed and mandates a committee to support and supervise (in conjunction with the Resonate Global Missions Regional Leader) the work of the Chaplain, and to evaluate and establish direction for the campus ministry together. Tasks: The mandate of the committee shall include, but not be limited to, the following tasks and responsibilities:
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<p>responsibilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. Provide an environment of on-going support for the chaplain, his/her family, the ministry and its core participants through dialogue and prayer. 3.2. Provide on-going supervision to the chaplain to ensure that the work is in accordance with expressed purposes of the ministry and in promotion of a life of healthy balance, personal wellness, and spiritual vitality. 3.3. Engage in annual intentional times of chaplain and campus ministry evaluation and review in order to re-focus the direction of the ministry where/as appropriate to the changing context of the campus. 3.4. Assist the chaplain in promoting the campus ministry and in sharing the fruit of its cultural engagement with the member churches of the classis. 3.5. To attend to the financial sustainability of the ministry in accordance with the budget approved by Classis Hamilton that may be augmented by additional fundraising. All moneys received, whether as a result of fundraising or otherwise, must be deposited in the bank account administered by the Classis Audit Review Committee. <p>4.—Budget The committee shall prepare an annual budget for the subsequent calendar year to be submitted to the Classis Audit Review Committee before the end of June each year.</p> <p>5.—Procedure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1.—Regular meetings should be held at minimum three times each year. The most appropriate meeting dates in order to be prepared for classis are to be held at least two weeks before the Classis agenda deadlines. 5.2.—Prior to the meeting, an agenda shall be made available to its members. 5.3.—Times of sharing Scripture, prayer and the lives of one another should be encouraged and become an integral part of each meeting. 5.4.—A secretary shall make written minutes of each meeting. Within the week of the meeting, the minutes shall be completed and forwarded to the members for their review and action (if necessary). Immediately after review, the minutes shall be sent to the Stated Clerk of Classis. 5.5.—The committee shall designate one of its members to prepare a written report to 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. Provide an environment of on-going support for the chaplain, his/her family, the ministry and its core participants through dialogue and prayer. 3.2. Provide on-going supervision to the chaplain to ensure that the work is in accordance with expressed purposes of the ministry and in promotion of a life of healthy balance, personal wellness, and spiritual vitality. 3.3. Engage in annual intentional times of chaplain and campus ministry evaluation and review in order to re-focus the direction of the ministry where/as appropriate to the changing context of the campus. 3.4. Assist the chaplain in promoting the campus ministry and in sharing the fruit of its cultural engagement with the member churches of the classis. 3.5. To attend to the financial sustainability of the ministry in accordance with the budget approved by Classis Hamilton that may be augmented by additional fundraising. All moneys received, whether as a result of fundraising or otherwise, must be deposited in the bank account administered by the Classis Audit Review Committee.
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~~the CMT and, if requested by the CMT, be present to verbally report at each meeting of classis.~~

6. The members of the McMaster University and Mohawk College Campus Ministry Committee shall be comprised of classically approved members primarily from Classis Hamilton who are committed to a Reformed witness and familiar with the university or college context. One of the Committee members shall be a member of the Chaplain's calling church. The Committee shall include:
 - One Campus Chaplain (non-voting)
 - Two ministers serving within the bounds of Classis Hamilton
 - Two members of the faculty of McMaster University and/or Mohawk College
 - Two alumni of McMaster University and/or Mohawk College
 - Up to four McMaster University and/or Mohawk College students
 - One member at large
7. Terms of service:
 - 7.1. Members shall normally be elected for a three year term and shall not serve more than two consecutive terms of office.
 - 7.2. Members shall be elected by Classis at its Fall meeting. The committee shall elect its own officers.
 - 7.3. By the Fall meeting of Classis, the committee shall recommend to the Stated Clerk the names of people for appointment to the committee.
 - 7.4. Student members shall serve at the determination and request of the committee and its Chaplain for a one year term renewable for up to four years.

~~8.—The committee shall meet regularly to support and supervise, in conjunction with the Regional Director of Home Missions and the Campus Ministry Director, the work of the Campus Chaplain, and to evaluate the campus ministry.~~

12.6 CLASSICAL CANDIDACY COMMITTEE (CCC)

1. The Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee (CHCC) serves Classis Hamilton and its congregations by offering support to students from within our classis who are pursuing graduate studies towards full time ordained ministry in the Christian Reformed Church of North America via Church Order Articles 6, 7, 8 or 23.

Article 6: Seminary Graduates seeking ordination as a Minister of the Word in the CRCNA;

Article 7: Those with extraordinary gifts seeking ordination as a Minister of the Word in

4. The members of the McMaster University and Mohawk College Campus Ministry Committee shall be comprised of classically approved members primarily from Classis Hamilton who are committed to a Reformed witness and familiar with the university or college context. One of the Committee members shall be a member of the Chaplain's calling church. The Committee shall include:
 - One Campus Chaplain (non-voting)
 - Two ministers serving within the bounds of Classis Hamilton
 - Two members of the faculty of McMaster University and/or Mohawk College
 - Two alumni of McMaster University and/or Mohawk College
 - Up to four McMaster University and/or Mohawk College students
 - One member at large
5. Terms of service:
 - 5.1. Members shall normally be elected for a three year term and shall not serve more than two consecutive terms of office.
 - 5.2. Members shall be elected by Classis at its Fall meeting. The committee shall elect its own officers.
 - 5.3. By the Fall meeting of Classis, the committee shall recommend to the Stated Clerk the names of people for appointment to the committee.
 - 5.4. Student members shall serve at the determination and request of the committee and its Chaplain for a one year term renewable for up to four years.

13.6 CLASSIS HAMILTON CANDIDACY COMMITTEE (CHCC)

1. The Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee (CHCC) serves Classis Hamilton and its congregations by offering support to those from within classis who are preparing for full time ordained ministry in the Christian Reformed Church of North America via Church Order Articles 6, 7, 8 or 23.

Article 6: Seminary Graduates seeking ordination as a Minister of the Word in the CRCNA;

Article 7: Those with extraordinary gifts seeking ordination as a Minister of the Word in the CRCNA;

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>the CRCNA;</i></p> <p><i>Article 8: Those ordained in other denominations and seeking ordination as a Minister of the Word in the CRCNA;</i></p> <p><i>Article 23: Those seeking ordination as a Commissioned Pastor in the CRCNA</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The CHCC shall ordinarily be comprised of five individuals, at least two of which will ordinarily be Ministers of the Word. 3. The CHCC will regularly encourage pastors and councils to seek out youth with leadership gifts for ordained ministry in the CRC through at least the following means: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Actively promoting discernment events such as Calvin Theological Seminary’s annual “Facing Your Future” summer program, “Discerning Your Call” weekend seminars, and local initiatives to encourage discernment of calling to ordained ministry in the CRCNA. b. Annually publishing candidacy requirements and funding possibilities for CRC ordained ministry through the agenda of Classis Hamilton, church bulletin notices, and the Classis Hamilton Website. c. Acting as Classis Hamilton's source for up-to-date information regarding CRC candidacy requirements through Church Order Articles 6,7,8, 23. 4. The CHCC will receive and process applications from students preparing for ordained ministry in the CRCNA consistent with the CHCC Policies and Procedures documents approved by Classis Hamilton. The policies are contained in the following box: 5. The CHCC will interview all prospective students, focusing on their character, knowledge, skills, experience, gifts, their internal and external call, and financial need. 6. The CHCC will be available to students preparing for ordination, and along with the Synodical Candidacy Committee, guide them through the steps toward ordination. The CHCC will assign one committee member to each student supported by Classis Hamilton as a means of encouragement and accountability. 7. The CHCC will keep an up-to-date list of seminaries which Classis Hamilton allows for funding toward ministry training and ordination in the CRCNA. 8. The CHCC will make recommendations to Classis Hamilton regarding financial assistance for Students. Assistance will be offered in the form of forgivable loans, based upon need and available resources. Though all students will be given due consideration, preference will be given to students enrolled at Calvin Theological Seminary, our denominationally 	<p><i>Article 8: Those ordained in other denominations and seeking ordination as a Minister of the Word in the CRCNA;</i></p> <p><i>Article 23: Those seeking ordination as a Commissioned Pastor in the CRCNA</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The CHCC shall ordinarily be comprised of five individuals, at least two of which ordinarily will be Ministers of the Word. 3. The CHCC will regularly encourage pastors and councils to seek out youth with leadership gifts for ordained ministry in the CRC through at least the following means: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Actively promoting discernment events such as Calvin Theological Seminary’s annual “Facing Your Future” summer program, “Discerning Your Call” weekend seminars, and local initiatives to encourage discernment of calling to ordained ministry in the CRCNA. b. Annually publishing candidacy requirements and funding possibilities for CRC ordained ministry through the agenda of Classis Hamilton, church bulletin notices, and the Classis Hamilton Website. c. Acting as Classis Hamilton's source for up-to-date information regarding CRC candidacy requirements through Church Order Articles 6, 7, 8, and 23. 4. The CHCC will receive and process applications from students preparing for ordained ministry in the CRCNA consistent with the CHCC Policies and Procedures documents approved by Classis Hamilton. The policies are available on the Classis Website at the following link: http://www.classishamilton.ca/files/ClassisHamilton/chcc_policies_and_procedures.pdf 5. The CHCC will interview all prospective students, focusing on their character, knowledge, skills, experience, gifts, their internal and external call, and financial need. 6. The CHCC will be available to students preparing for ordination, and along with the Synodical Candidacy Committee, guide them through the steps toward ordination. 7. The CHCC will make recommendations to Classis Hamilton regarding financial assistance for Students. Assistance will be offered in the form of forgivable loans, based upon need and available resources. Though all students will be given due consideration, preference will be given to students enrolled at Calvin Theological Seminary, our denominationally
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<p>supported school for training pastors. Financial assistance in the form of Forgivable Loans will be offered as outlined in the CHCC Policies and Procedures documents.</p> <p>9. The CHCC will forward amounts of all forgivable loans to the Classis Audit Review Committee for tracking purposes. The CHCC will also make the Audit Review Committee aware of any situations where repayment plans need to be coordinated between students and the Audit Review Committee as outlined in the CHCC's Policies and Procedures documents, such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> when students do not accept a call to a qualified ordained ministry position in the CRCNA; when students enroll in additional graduate theological education; when students withdraw from the candidacy program. Repayment plans will be coordinated according to the accepted terms of the Forgivable Loan Agreement. <p>10. The CHCC will develop and keep current policies for funding application and forgivable loans and procedures for application of students.</p> <p>12.7 CLASSICAL SAFE CHURCH TEAM</p> <p>1. Mandate: The Classis Abuse Response Team (CART) is a group of representatives of member churches. Each member of the team must be approved by Classis.</p> <p>2. Advisory Panel: When requested by a church Council, to form a fact finding panel when an allegation of abuse has been made by an adult survivor against a present or former church leader* when the accused is currently a member of the church making the request. The panel is to provide a written report on its findings along with recommendations to Council.</p> <p>3. Education: To provide education to Classis churches upon request to either pastors, councils, congregations, etc. on the dynamics of abuse and to assist in establishing abuse prevention policies.</p> <p>4. Support: To provide initial and ongoing support to victims and/or offenders of abuse in the areas of civil/criminal proceedings, family breakdown, the stress of relationships within the church and personal impacts. The Team is committed to ongoing training of the dynamics of abuse.</p> <p>5. Accountability: The team is accountable to Classis. A written report of activities is to be prepared for each Classis meeting. This report is to be attached to the Classis agenda.</p> <p>6. Note: Church leaders include pastors, chaplains, ordained and non-ordained staff, professional staff, paid and unpaid staff, council members, directors, superintendents, teachers, counselors, supervisors and all volunteers.</p> <p>12.8 CLASSIS HAMILTON YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM</p> <p>Vision: God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, calls us to nurture the covenant youth of Classis Hamilton and those they invite to grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus Christ</p>	<p>supported school for training pastors. Financial assistance in the form of forgivable loans will be offered as outlined in the CHCC Policies and Procedures documents.</p> <p>8. The CHCC will forward amounts of all forgivable loans to the Classis Audit Review Committee for tracking purposes. The CHCC will also make the Audit Review Committee aware of any situations where repayment plans need to be coordinated between students and the Audit Review Committee as outlined in the CHCC's Policies and Procedures documents, such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> when students do not accept a call to a qualified ordained ministry position in the CRCNA; when students enroll in additional graduate theological education; when students withdraw from the candidacy program. Repayment plans will be coordinated according to the accepted terms of the Forgivable Loan Agreement. <p>9. The CHCC will develop and keep current policies for funding application and forgivable loans and procedures for application of students.</p> <p>13.7 CLASSICAL SAFE CHURCH TEAM</p> <p>1. Mandate: The Classis Abuse Response Team (CART) is a group of representatives of member churches. Each member of the team must be approved by Classis.</p> <p>2. Advisory Panel: When requested by a church Council, to form a fact finding panel when an allegation of abuse has been made by an adult survivor against a present or former church leader* when the accused is currently a member of the church making the request. The panel is to provide a written report on its findings along with recommendations to Council.</p> <p>3. Education: To provide education to Classis churches upon request to either pastors, councils, congregations, etc. on the dynamics of abuse and to assist in establishing abuse prevention policies.</p> <p>4. Support: To provide initial and ongoing support to victims and/or offenders of abuse in the areas of civil/criminal proceedings, family breakdown, the stress of relationships within the church and personal impacts. The Team is committed to ongoing training of the dynamics of abuse.</p> <p>5. Accountability: The team is accountable to Classis. A written report of activities is to be prepared for each Classis meeting. This report is to be attached to the Classis agenda.</p> <p>6. Note: Church leaders include pastors, chaplains, ordained and non-ordained staff, professional staff, paid and unpaid staff, council members, directors, superintendents, teachers, counselors, supervisors and all volunteers.</p> <p>13.8 CLASSIS HAMILTON YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM</p> <p>Vision: God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, calls us to nurture the covenant youth of Classis Hamilton and those they invite to grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and</p>
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and to join Him in his great work of reconciliation.

Mission: The mission of the Classis Hamilton Youth Ministry Team is to be used by God to encourage, promote and facilitate the development and growth of healthy, vibrant Youth and Young Adult Ministries in Classis Hamilton congregations.

The mandate of the committee shall be:

- a. To encourage healthy youth ministry from age 11 to 25, focused on youth (gr.'s 9-12), College & Careers and Young Adult Ministries (post high school to 25yrs)
- b. To coordinate the Classis Hamilton youth services
- c. To listen to the joys and concerns of youth, youth ministry groups, churches or Classis and respond to these voices in a timely fashion
- d. To make recommendations to Classis which reflect youth-ministry needs
- e. To encourage and promote leadership training for youth leaders
- f. To encourage and promote leadership development training for our youth
- g. To support the Classis youth champion who links us with the work of the CRC's Faith Formation Ministries concerning matters of mutual interest
- h. To establish an annual budget to promote and support the work of the Classical Youth Ministry Team
- i. To send our minutes to the clerk of Classis and to report briefly to Classis up to three times a year through the Classis Ministries Team (CMT) representative.

Membership:

1. The committee shall consist of a minimum of ~~5~~ members who reflect the commitment and expertise that Classis deems necessary. Preferably members will represent each of the following areas of ministry (plus a number of at-large positions):
 - 1 Pastor
 - 1 youth educator,
 - 1 ~~elder/classis representative~~
 - 1 parent of adolescent/teenage youth
2. The committee shall appoint a secretary and a chairperson/convener.
3. Terms of serving will be three years with option to renew.
4. The committee shall appoint 2 members to serve as delegates to ~~the OYMC (Ontario Youth Ministries Committee)~~.

to join Him in his great work of reconciliation.

Mission: The mission of the Classis Hamilton Youth Ministry Team is to be used by God to encourage, promote and facilitate the development and growth of healthy, vibrant Youth and Young Adult Ministries in Classis Hamilton congregations.

The mandate of the committee shall be:

- a. To encourage healthy youth ministry from age 11 to 25, focused on youth (gr.'s 9-12), College & Careers and Young Adult Ministries (post high school to 25yrs)
- b. To coordinate the Classis Hamilton youth services
- c. To listen to the joys and concerns of youth, youth ministry groups, churches or Classis and respond to these voices in a timely fashion
- d. To make recommendations to Classis which reflect youth-ministry needs
- e. To encourage and promote leadership training for youth leaders
- f. To encourage and promote leadership development training for our youth
- g. To support the Classis youth champion who links us with the work of the CRC's Faith Formation Ministries concerning matters of mutual interest
- h. To establish an annual budget to promote and support the work of the Classical Youth Ministry Team
- i. To send our minutes to the clerk of Classis and to report briefly to Classis up to three times a year through the Classis Ministries Team (CMT) representative.

Membership:

1. The committee shall consist of a minimum of ~~5~~ **6** members who reflect the commitment and expertise that Classis deems necessary. Preferably members will represent each of the following areas of ministry (plus a number of at-large positions):
 - 1 Pastor
 - 1 youth educator,
 - 1 parent of adolescent/teenage youth
 - 1 youth in high school**
 - 1 Classis Youth Champion by virtue of office**
2. The committee shall appoint a secretary and a chairperson/convener.
3. Terms of serving will be three years with option to renew.
4. The committee shall appoint 2 members to serve as delegates to **and champions of Faith Formation Ministries (one adult and one youth or young adult).**



Dick Kranendonk
Stated Clerk, Classis Hamilton

August 31, 2018

Dear Dick,

I am writing on behalf of Faith Christian Reformed Church of Burlington, ON. As you are aware, we are currently vacant and actively searching for the new lead pastor whom God has prepared for us.

As this search continues, our Search Team has proposed that we engage Mike Collins as a commissioned pastor to work with us in our desire to become more missional as a congregation. Our mission/vision statement is "Reaching Out, Reaching Up, Reaching In." Mike's work would focus on the "Reaching Out" aspect of our calling.

Our Consistory and Council have discussed this proposal and concluded that it would be beneficial to our congregation and that Mike is an appropriate person to lead it. We note that he recently spent two years working successfully in a similar position as a commissioned pastor in Classis Niagara at Providence CRC, Beamsville.

I am writing on behalf of Council to respectfully request that Classis Hamilton approve the attached Position Description. We are proposing to call Mike to this position under Article 23 (a) of the Church Order for a period of one year, while our search for a lead pastor continues.

We also respectfully request that Classis expedite this process if possible, as we are hoping that Mike will be able to begin his service this fall.

Yours in Christ,
Henry Hess, Chair of Council
Faith Christian Reformed Church
Burlington, ON

Job Title:	Pastor of Missional Growth
Position Type:	Full time 1-year contract
Location:	Faith Church and neighbouring community Mountainside Drive, Burlington ON
Reporting structure:	The Pastor of Missional Growth is accountable to Consistory with general supervision through the Administration Committee.
Job Description	
<p>Purpose One of the three pillars of our vision at Faith Church is <i>Reaching Out (Reaching Up, Reaching In)</i>. To us this means being missional people who reach out and bless our greater community by stepping into the lives of our neighbours so that they can experience the church as a place to be loved, to belong, and to taste and see that the Lord is good. The role of Pastor of Missional Growth is to train and mobilize our church such that, in Jesus' name, we serve those around us. This full-time contract role is intended to help Faith Church grow in key areas of our mission and vision, creating a solid foundation on which we can continue to build.</p> <p>Core Responsibilities The Pastor of Missional Growth will lead in building a missional culture at Faith Church that bears fruit within our community through diligent engagement in these core responsibilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meet regularly with staff, ministry leaders, and Council to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Train and coach in what it means to be missional in all we do b. Review systems, processes and programs with an eye for optimizing their missional focus and identifying and removing barriers to fully engaging our mission and vision c. Ensure that Faith Church is equipped with volunteer leaders, processes, and resources to maintain and grow our missional culture and carry on our missional work beyond the end of the contract period 2. Explore our community and find new opportunities for Faith Church to engage in blessing those around us <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide leadership in mobilizing our church to engage in these missional opportunities 3. Preach at least twice per month, on average, with a focus on biblical teaching in what it means to be a missional community, the hands and feet of Jesus <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Occasionally lead in the Lord's Supper or baptisms <p>Role Expectations The Pastor of Missional Growth will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate through word and action what it means to live a missional life. 2. Be committed to the mission and vision of Faith Church (see attached). 3. Work with and encourage staff and Council to understand missional principles in the context of Pastoral Care 4. Actively engage in relationship building within our church and community, exploring opportunities for partnerships with other churches or community agencies 5. Communicate effectively with church leadership, staff, ministry leaders and congregation 6. Work in a team environment, actively engage, encourage, and provide leadership for ministry staff 7. Take initiative and work well independently 8. Be open-minded, full of grace and a good listener <p>Qualifications</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exhibit a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and a life of growing in the fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control). 2. Recognition by Classis Hamilton as a Commissioned Pastor in accordance with CRCNA church order. 3. Demonstrated recent success in a similar role 	

APPENDIX #7 – EXAMINATION OF MIKE COLLINS



August 31, 2018

Dear Dick,

In addition to our request that classis approve the position description for Mike Collins, we are requesting that Mike's examination be waived, based on his previous examination by Classis Niagara and his effective service in a similar position with Providence CRC, Beamsville.

A letter of evaluation and commendation from Providence CRC will be provided separately.

Many thanks,

-Henry

APPENDIX #8 – CRC AND RELATED AGENCY REPORTS:

APPENDIX #8.1 - WORLD RENEW



Classis Hamilton Report – Oct. 23, 2018

Submitted by Peter Bulthuis, Associate Director of Church Relations

In Christ's parable of the sheep and the goats in Matt. 25, "the righteous (will) answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" (vs. 37 – 40).

Thank you, Classis Hamilton, for your loving church donations of a total of \$179,822.28 from January 1, 2018 to July 1, 2018, partnering with World Renew in helping to feed, to clothe, to look after, to visit, to lift up and to support.

A. General Update

The Jeremy Benjamin cross-country I AM NOT MY OWN tour! Check out his website: iamnotmyown.org. Jeremy and his family have been travelling from Charlottetown to Victoria/Nanaimo from June 3 – end of October (bypassing southern Ontario, where he will hold his tour during the winter-time). The [blog](#) that Lara is writing is just amazing! The tour will culminate in May of 2019 at the CRC National Gathering, where he will be the worship leader, playing the I Am Not My Own audience/congregation-sung tracks which he will have gathered during his tour and lumped onto each other to create a virtual choir of over 10,000 voices! World Renew is supporting this worship and fund-raising tour with logistical and other forms of assistance. Among other things, Jeremy is raising funds and awareness for the work of World Renew and CFGB in Nigeria, in the areas of food security, peace building and justice, trauma healing, and development.

B. Upcoming Offering Dates

Here are World Renew's upcoming offering dates for the rest of 2018, as approved by Synod.

Thanksgiving, Oct. 8: Designated for the Free A Family® program, in which the donations help assist communities and families to break free from poverty and to live a life of renewed hope in Christ.

Sunday, Nov. 4: World Renew is inspired by the knowledge that Jesus, the Life of the world who grants abundant life to all who believe in Him, sustains His creation and is making everything new. For that reason, the theme for this year's World Hunger Campaign is UZIMA, the Swahili word for life that captures the essence of life as Jesus intended it to be.

Christmas Day, Dec. 25: Disaster response, development and peace-building and justice are the hallmarks of the core activities through which World Renew partners with communities worldwide. Your church's offering on this Christmas Day will help 1000s of people experience the love, mercy and grace of Christ.

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 Honduras. (please, do wander through the website for more stories: www.worldrenew.net/stories.)

When you think of a hardworking farmer, you may not think of a stay-at-home mother with seven children, but Pilar Martinez from Cañada Galana, Honduras, is both. She has her own plot of land that she



works with the help of her husband to provide enough food for their five daughters and two sons. Though she works hard with great motivation, she has had her share of struggles in the past.

For farmers, grain storage is essential, but Pilar did not have an efficient way to store her seeds and grains. They often got wet and rotted, or were invaded by insects and mice. The seeds she planted, which were of low quality and had to be purchased every season, resulted in poor yields. And, although she knew a lot about farming, she had no knowledge of sustainable farming practices.

When Pilar heard about the work that World Renew and its partner organization, *Diaconía Nacional*, was doing in

her community, she decided to join in and has not looked back. “Since the beginning of the program, many blessings have come to my life,” she says. She now has a grain storage silo and is able to enjoy all of her harvest, instead of sharing it with bugs and rodents or losing it to mold and rot. She has access to high-quality seeds that produce a better yield. And, best of all, Pilar now has training in proper use of the silo; selection, classification, and harvesting of seed; and sustainable practices like using mulch as ground cover and kitchen food waste for organic compost.

With all of these improvements, Pilar has seen more success as a farmer. The silo allows her to store seeds and grains for a longer time. Now that she knows how to harvest seeds from what she produces each season, she no longer has to spend money on seeds annually. Her crops are benefiting from the new sustainable methods of farming that she applies and she is enjoying higher yields.

Pilar also recognizes changes in her own confidence and abilities. “In many cases,” she says “I have been able to face different situations head on because I now have much more knowledge.”

D. Disaster Response

Update International: Bangladesh (Rohingya): As you may know, we met the goal of \$100,000 for the *One Day's Wages* campaign to build community kitchens for Rohingya refugees. This is incredibly helpful as it allows our response to Rohingya refugees to continue. We're in the process of strategic planning for how best to move forward with future projects. August 25 marked the 1-year of the break out of violence against the Rohingya people by the Myanmar government. While we don't have any big updates planned, World Renew appreciates all that you as churches and individuals have done to help share about this enormous need over the last year.

Uganda (Latrines): The campaign for building latrines for South Sudanese refugees in Uganda is still ongoing, and we're excited at how things have been going so far. As of right now, we're at about \$65,000. Our goal was \$100,000 - so we're excited to see how close we'll get.

Syrian Civil War: We continue to provide food assistance every month to Syrian families in both Syria and Lebanon affected by the war. Since the Syrian war began (2012), we have received \$3.0 million in donations, which has been leveraged and matched to total \$16.3 million in support to over 204,000 people!

International Disaster Response is necessarily fluid. For updates, please see www.worldrenew.net/idr

Update Domestic: Canada:

In British Columbia, World Renew (DRS) is:



-Partnering with Mennonite Disaster Services, World Renew DRS volunteers are in William's Lake repairing homes damaged by 2017 wildfires.

-Providing financial support to build new homes for three families who lost their homes to 2017 wildfires.

-Monitoring the wildfires currently burning across BC.

In Ontario, World Renew (DRS) is:

-Monitoring the wildfires in Northern Ontario.

Update Domestic: United States:

In California, World renew (DRS) is currently involved in these ways:

-Wildfires are burning throughout the state, covering over 230,000 acres. World Renew DRS has been on daily conference calls to monitor the situation.

-A needs assessment will take place in Santa Rosa/Sonoma County in September in response to past wildfires.

-There is a one week group in Lake County this month helping with some home repairs from past wildfires and caring for evacuees of the current wildfires.

....and working in 14 states and Puerto Rico with monitoring, needs assessments, rebuilding.

Disaster Response is necessarily fluid. For updates, see www.worldrenew.net/disaster-response-services.

E. Refugee Settlement Activities, January 1/18 to August 20/18 in your Classis:

Applications Submitted – 2 applications (2 refugees) submitted by 1 church

Newcomer Arrivals – 1 application / 1 refugee welcomed by 1 church

Applications in Process, Submitted before Jan. 1 / 18 – 7 applications (15 refugees) in process for 5 churches

Totals for Canada:

Applications Submitted – 30 applications (84 refugees) submitted by 18 churches.

Newcomer Arrivals – 25 applications / 71 refugees welcomed by 14 churches.

Applications in Process, Submitted before Jan. 1/18 – 43 applications (98 refugees) for 21 churches.

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

There are so many ways in which you can participate, to which the King can reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

- Learn about the **Global Engagement Opportunities** program and see how your church can become involved at <https://www.worldrenew.net/global-engagement-opportunities-churches>
- Check with your church or group, to see if a World Renew workshop/speaker would fit into your/their plans: <https://worldrenew.net/speakers-and-workshops>.
- Increase your church's involvement in justice and advocacy: <https://www.worldrenew.net/advocacy>.
- Tell your network about World Renew; suggest that they sign up for the newsletter: <https://www.worldrenew.net/enews>.

Contact Peter Bulthuis (pbulthuis@worldrenew.net; 800-730-3490, ext. 4237), or Chris Orme (corme@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

APPENDIX #8.2 - REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Redeemer University College

Report to Classis Hamilton of the Christian Reformed Church: Fall 2018

At Redeemer, growth in Christ and education go hand-in-hand, fostering Christian leaders who make an impact in a rapidly changing world. This fall, the Redeemer community will continue to consider how we can offer ourselves wholeheartedly to God, waiving our conditions and saying, “Here I am.” These words, taken from Exodus 3:4, are the theme on campus for the year.

As we consider the opportunities to serve that God has in store for us, we are also encouraged by God’s faithfulness to Redeemer and his work through our students, faculty and alumni. Redeemer hit a number of milestones in 2017 and 2018, which we had opportunity to reflect on in our digital annual report, available at redeemer.ca/annual-report.

It is exciting to share with you, first, news of two new university leaders, who will begin their service in the 2018-19 academic year. Dr. Robert J. Graham has been appointed as the university’s fourth president and officially starts on August 13. Graham, who holds a PhD in sociology from the University of Cincinnati and a Master of Gerontological Studies from Miami University, brings to Redeemer ten years of experience in senior leadership at two Christian universities. Learn more about Graham’s appointment at redeemer.ca/redeemer-names-fourth-president.

Dr. Karen Dieleman has been named dean of humanities and also comes to Redeemer with a great deal of experience in Christian higher education. As a full professor of English, she currently holds three academic leadership roles at Trinity Christian College in Chicago: chair of the English department, area chair of the humanities and chair of Trinity’s personnel committee. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Dieleman to campus in January 2019.

This summer, we celebrated these appointments and noted another significant milestone for the institution: the university has now launched all of its 2020 Strategic Plan initiatives. Together these initiatives — including the new Core curriculum, Centre for Christian Scholarship, Media and Communication Studies program, Centre for Experiential Learning and Careers and Urban and Intercultural program — are renewing Redeemer’s academic program, raising the university’s profile and securing a stable financial foundation for the future.

Redeemer’s Centre for Experiential Learning and Careers (CELC), for example, has now met its 2017 launch goal and tripled the number of co-op programs that Redeemer offers. While supporting ten internship opportunities in a variety of programs, the career centre has established co-op programs in Kinesiology and in the new Urban and Intercultural Ministry program.

The *Re* Campaign, which funds the 2020 Strategic Plan, is nearing its \$20 million goal with over \$17.5 million raised. Thanks also to our generous campaign donors, Redeemer’s long-term debt is now at \$18.6 million, down from over \$30 million in 2010. A reduction in interest expenses on long-term debt also frees up capital to invest back into the university — keeping the academic program relevant and tuition affordable.

In addition to the initiatives of the 2020 Strategic Plan, Redeemer has expanded and renewed its health and life sciences labs and offered an intensive summer research fellowship for high school students. During the fellowship this past August, grade 11 and 12 students unpacked real-world questions in chemistry and the health sciences alongside Redeemer sciences faculty and undergraduate students. At the end of the week, each group of student researchers had the opportunity to present their findings. The 16 high school students left the fellowship with practical lab skills, a deeper understanding of what it means to study science as a Christian and new connections with Christians in the sciences. It was a pleasure to be able to invest in these high school students as they prepare to make an impact as Christian leaders in the sciences.

For churches and ministry teams in particular, Redeemer kicks off the Pastor/Professor Exchange series on October 16. With events offered twice per year, the series brings pastors and Redeemer professors together to learn from one another. Each event will feature a keynote on topics important to church leaders, congregations and the classroom. Learn more about the inaugural October 16 event and the series at redeemer.ca/pastor-prof-exchange and see all upcoming Redeemer events at redeemer.ca/events.

As we look forward to what the coming academic year will bring, we are so grateful for the Christian Reformed Church's faithful financial support to Redeemer. Church members who believe in our mission continue to make a lasting impact on our students.

David Zietsma, PhD
Vice President, External Relations and Enrolment



*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.*

Diaconal Ministries Canada Fall Report to Classis

August 1, 2018

Dear partner of Diaconal Ministries Canada,

Warmest greetings to you, your church and your Classis!

As you likely know, I have been the National Director of Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) for two years now – and it really has been a pleasure to serve the church in this way. During those two years however, I have noticed that there is some confusion regarding how DMC is funded and how our annual “Ministry Shares Invoices” came to be, so I have decided to dedicate this report to answering those questions.

First, it's important to point out that Diaconal Ministry Shares (formerly “Dues”) are not the same as *Denominational* or *Classical* Ministry Shares. In a nutshell, 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 representatives from every CRC Classis (and/or Diaconal Conference) in Canada met and approved the organization of DMC. Each year the DMC Board, made up of representatives from every Canadian Classis, reviews and approves the amount – and each year these amounts, along with audited financial statements, are presented at DMC's Annual General Meeting. (As an important side note, this year's AGM will take place on September 28 @ 7:30pm EST in the CRCNA Burlington office – and, for the first time, Deacons will also be able to participate via Facebook live. Stay tuned for more information!)

Still not sure what we're talking about? Here's a bit more history:

Believe it or not, all of this goes back to the 1950s. That's right – we've dug through our archives and discovered that the first “Diaconal Conferences” were formed and hosted meetings (organized *by* deacons *for* deacons) in the late 1950's. From the Maritimes to British Columbia, deacons formed “conferences” and met to share experiences and resources, develop workshops and training events, and find ways to assist each other and their congregations. These meetings were so popular that at one point there were as many as 10 different CRC Diaconal organizations (called Conferences) across Canada. ***And our records show that in each region these Conferences were funded via a “Ministry Share” style of dues collection.*** That is, already back then, Canadian Deacons covenanted together to pay a ‘per professing member’ amount to support their Conferences.

Over time, and with the help of the Canadian arm of the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC, now known as World Renew), the number of Diaconal Conferences expanded and contracted as the various local organizations merged and/or folded. Then one day, in 1998, at a Classis Renewal Gathering in Chicago, Canadian folks representing the various Diaconal Conferences, along with representatives from Home Missions (now Resonate Global Mission) and AGENDA, Classis Hamilton – October 16, 2018

CRWRC, met over lunch and began dreaming about pooling their Diaconal experiences, resources and training materials nationally. They dreamed about forming a Diaconal “umbrella” organization which would oversee the training of deacons right across Canada. Soon the napkins on that table (the only paper they had available) were filled with circles, triangles and arrows pointing from east to west and west to east. Leaders’ names were written in the various provinces and before long, a committee was formed with hope that one day their dreaming would evolve into reality.

It was an exciting time and, after a few more years of discussions (and maybe some more napkin drawings), all of the individual conferences (except one in Northern Alberta) were merged and in 2001, Diaconal Ministries Canada was formally constituted. DMC soon hired a National Director as well as other staff, and began organizing training materials, a robust website and timely regional events. At the same time, ***the funding model which had served each regional conference so well for so many years was approved to be adopted by the national organization.*** So, in reality, this model has now been in place since the 1960s.

Over the years, this way of funding has proven to be a very stewardly and cost-effective way to ensure that DMC is able to fulfill its mission. Through these ministry shares (aka “dues”), DMC has been able to do the following:

- Hire a National Director and 2 full-time regional leaders, along with 17 part-time Diaconal Ministry Developers (DMDs) whose job it is to *Inspire, Empower and Equip Deacons as they animate congregations to join in God's transforming work in the communities across Canada*;
- Make personal contact with approximately 90% of diaconates every year;
- Develop new materials as requested, including devotions for deacons’ meetings;
- Develop and maintain a robust website with resources available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The website includes information in the areas of *Community Engagement and Development* (including Community Opportunity Scans and Operation Manna Coaching and Grants), *Stewardship, Justice and Mercy*;
- Provide a monthly blog/e-newsletter called “e-Quip”;
- Maintain a “just in time” learning presence on Social Media;
- Provide regional training in specialized areas as requested (including “Helping Without Harming” workshops);
- Provide oversight, advice and trainers for regional Days of Encouragement;
- Respond to every request it receives for information, encouragement and training.

I hope the above information has helped you understand how DMC is funded and how it manages to maintain its robust agenda. All in all, Diaconal Ministry Shares is a remarkably efficient system, with low overhead costs. It enables every CRC member in Canada to stretch their dollars further, and be involved in a variety of diaconal ministries more effectively and efficiently than any of us could do on our own. So, thank you! Thank you for partnering with us in fulfilling the vision which God has given us to inspire, equip and encourage Deacons (both ordained and non-ordained), 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.

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

Thanks again, and may God continue to bless and guide us all, as we carry out the ministries He calls us to.

DMC's Executive for 2017-18:

Chair – Erica Snippe-Juurakko (Thunder Bay, ON)

Vice-Chair – Martin Slofstra (Toronto, ON)

Secretary – Norm Hasyema (Leduc, AB)

Treasurer – Scott Plante (Hamilton, ON)

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Respectfully submitted:



Ron Vanden Brink

National Director, Diaconal Ministries Canada



Calvin Theological Seminary Communication Points – July 2018 Update

Commencement 2018: May 19, 2018, was a historic day for Calvin Seminary. On that day, we honored 60 graduates who received diplomas recognizing their work in programs ranging from certificate programs to the Ph.D. level. Six students received either a Certificate in Latino Ministry or a Certificate in Family Care through our Latino Ministry program where all courses are taught in Spanish. In addition, ten graduates earned their degree primarily through distance education.

As a global seminary, we were blessed with graduates coming from the following 12 countries: Canada, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, South Korea, and the United States.

From Across the Globe to Learn Together: August 20 is the date of International Student Orientation and it will reflect again how Calvin Seminary is a global seminary. Our incoming class has students entering from Brazil, China Indonesia, South Korea as well as Canada and the United States. We invite prayers for these international students as well as for all other students new to CTS this year or continuing their programs of study. The formal beginning of our new academic year will occur with Convocation on Wednesday, September 5, with Rev. Scott Hoezee (Director of the Center for Excellence in Preaching) marking the 143rd year of ministry service for Calvin Seminary from her beginning in 1876.

This academic year will also take place in the context of the 400th Commemoration Anniversary of the Synod of Dordrecht (1618-1619). Calvin College and Calvin Seminary are hosting a Canons of Dort conference on September 14-15, 2018. Dr. Karin Maag, the Director of the Meeter Center, editor of the Calvin Theological Journal and author of the book – Does the Reformation Still Matter? is organizing this conference.

Serving Latino/a Leaders Through Two New Online Courses in Spanish: In the fall, Dr. Mariano Avila will teach a completely online course in Spanish on Ephesians, followed by an Old Testament course, also in Spanish, in the spring. Online courses allow persons to live, work and minister where they are, while receiving a Calvin Seminary education through a cohort-based class model. Until now, our online and hybrid courses were only available in English. Institutional support allows us to offer the Spanish language courses at a significant discount. Register for these masters level courses by going to www.calvinseminary.edu/espanol

Loving Your Neighbor Conference: Ministry Among Migrants, Immigrants and Refugees: Two years ago, Calvin Seminary held a “Loving Your Neighbor” conference that was well received by those who attended or later viewed sessions. This summer, July 30-August 1, the conference returns with a focus on ministry among migrants, immigrants and refugees. Dr. Paul Lim from Vanderbilt University will be our keynote speaker, and will be joined by other prominent thinkers, including Dr. Matt Kaemingk who will share from his latest book, Christian Hospitality and Muslim Immigration in an Age of Fear. To still register, visit calvinseminary.edu/neighbor We do anticipate that after the event that many of these presentations will be made available via video and even future Forum articles.

Why Attend a Seminary? Why Attend Calvin Theological Seminary? New Forum Issue! What does it mean to be called to ministry? How does a seminary equip people for that calling? How do we connect the church and the classroom together in training leaders of the church? Those questions and more are the theme of a special edition of the Forum, a semi-annual magazine that addresses questions and themes being discussed at the local church by providing theological content and insights. The summer/fall 2018 issue will focus on the theme of “Church Discipline”. Browse archived versions of the Forum at <http://www.calvinseminary.edu/ministry-connections/publications/forum-archive/>

Center for Excellence in Preaching (CEP) – Not Just for Preachers! For thirteen years the Center for Excellence in Preaching, directed by Rev. Scott Hoezee, has sponsored seminars and workshops to help preachers and parishioners in their ministry. The CEP website is a wonderful resource to hear good sermons, find insights on Bible passages, and identify good books to read. While geared toward pastors, the site can be beneficial to anyone in the church. The site has had a recent spike in traffic. Through the first four months in 2018, we averaged 18,500 different visitors per month, had 125,000 visits overall, and saw over half a million pages of materials downloaded. Why not check it out yourself and see why the CEP website receives, on average, over 1,000 visits every day! <http://cep.calvinseminary.edu/>
Retirement of Professor Michael Williams: [A few weeks before commencement, Dr. Michael Williams shared a “Last Chapel” as part of his retirement. His reflections were consistent with a life that loves the Word of God and desired to teach it well to the next generation. You can watch this presentation by going to http://www.calvinseminary.edu/2018/05/03/professor-michael-williams-last-chapel/](http://www.calvinseminary.edu/2018/05/03/professor-michael-williams-last-chapel/)

[Please join us in giving thanks for Dr. Michael Williams’ years of faithful service to Calvin Theological Seminary \(1995-2018\) as Professor of Old Testament.](#)

New Podcasts: We recently launched a new way for people to connect with the conversations at Calvin Seminary – our own podcasts. Please share the news and you can find out more by going to <http://resoundpodcast.com/episodes/>

Financial Outlook: We are blessed with looking back on a positive year for the budget of 2017-2018, but knowing that we are looking for our annual formation fund budget of needs beyond ministry shares of \$1.6 million dollars. We are deeply grateful for the faithful churches and individuals who invest their stewardship dollars in training and forming leaders for Christ’s church.

Prayer Request: Please continue praying for Calvin Seminary as we begin our 143rd academic year of study, welcoming students from around the world who have chosen Calvin Seminary for its hospitable learning community as well as biblical and theological depth of study!