



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

Date: **October 27, 2020** **Time: 8:45 AM – 12:00 NOON**

Venue: Via Zoom, administered from the host church, Hope CRC, Brantford

Officers of Classis: Chair: Ben Ponsen Vice Chair: Joel Bootsma Stated Clerk: Dick Kranendonk	Synodical Deputies: Not Needed
Reporter: Immanuel CRC, Hamilton	Ballot Committee: Hope CRC, Brantford
Credentials Committee: Immanuel CRC, Hamilton First CRC, Hamilton	Overture Committee Not Needed

CREENTIALS:

1. The credentials shall be returned to the Stated Clerk by email no later than October 6, 2020 with a copy emailed to each of your delegates. Please note that there are additional questions on the credentials. Please fill them in as requested.
2. The credential questions and observations (except for the ministry share pledges) will be sent to the Credentials Committee for advice to Classis. The Committee will send their report to the Stated Clerk by October 13, 2020. Their report will be emailed to all the delegates by the Stated Clerk.

DELEGATE PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING:

It is recommended that each council decide where their three delegates will meet to participate in the Zoom meeting together. CIC made this recommendation for the following reasons:

- Some potential delegates may have difficulty participating on Zoom because of a poor internet connection.
- By meeting together in one location at church, a private home, or at a business, the local church delegates will have the opportunity to consult with each other as would be the case at an in-person meeting of classis.

Whatever location is chosen, it will be important that it has a large TV screen so that all three delegates can maintain physical distancing while at the same time being able to view the proceedings. Modern TVs have an HDMI connection which will allow the proceedings to be projected from a laptop to the TV screen by means of a connecting cable.

It is strongly suggested that you identify one or more IT experts within your congregation as soon as possible to help set up the equipment for the day of classis. It is left to each local church whether they wish to have guests present at their chosen location.

One delegate from each local church will receive a Zoom invite with meeting ID & password on October 26th for the full Classis meeting. It is our goal to accomplish all of the meeting business in the morning. **Please indicate on your credentials which delegate should receive the invite.**

Voting will **NOT** be done via polls on Zoom. The delegate seated at the laptop will be asked to convey the vote of all three delegates by a show of one, two or three fingers. So, when the chair asks the question by saying “all those in favour,” the delegate at the laptop will put up one, two

or three fingers. When the chair asks “all those opposed,” the delegate at the laptop will raise the appropriate number of fingers. If a demand is made for a ballot vote, each delegate will submit their vote by email to clerk@classishamilton.ca.

EMAIL ADDRESS:

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

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CLASSIS MEETING DETAILS

8:45 AM	ORIENTATION ON ZOOM
9:00 AM	OPENING WORSHIP AND EXERCISES
OPENING WELCOME AND PRAYER BY CMT CHAIR	Gareth Harker
1. DEVOTIONS AND SHARING OF MINISTRY	Hope CRC
2. PRAYER FOR THE HOST CHURCH AND THE DAY	Joel Bootsma
9:30 AM	ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION
3. CALL TO ORDER	Ben Ponsen
3.1. Attendance	Dick Kranendonk
This will be accomplished by each delegate sitting at the laptop indicating the number of delegates present as previously stated on the credentials. If	

there is a change in delegates from the credentials, please send the name, office, and email address to clerk@classishamilton.ca.

- 3.2. Delegates declare agreement with the Covenant for Office-bearers (The Covenant for Office-bearers will be included in the addendum.) Ben Ponsen
- 3.3. Declaration that classis is properly constituted.
- 3.4. Approval of Agenda
4. CLASSIS MINISTRIES TEAM Gareth Harker
 - 4.1. Chair's Report (Appendix #1.1)
 - 4.1.1. **RECOMMENDED THAT:** Bruce Adema be elected as the Chair of Classis for the period November 1, 2020 until May 31, 2021.
 - 4.1.2. **RECOMMENDED THAT:** John Demik be elected as a member of the Classis Ministry Team (See Appendix #3.1)
 - 4.2. Classis Hamilton Campus Ministry Committee
 - 4.2.1. **RECOMMENDED THAT:** Willemina Zwart and Shae-Lynn Knevel be elected as members of the Campus Ministry Committee (Appendix #3.1)
 - 4.3. Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee
 - 4.3.1. **RECOMMENDED THAT:** Jackie Bootsma be elected as member of the Home Missions Committee (Appendix #3.1)
 - 4.3. External Ministry Reports (Appendix #9)
 - 4.3.1. **RECOMMENDED THAT:** The external reports from the Canadian Ministries Director, World Renew, Diaconal Ministries Canada, Calvin Theological Seminary, Redeemer University, and Resonate Global Mission be received for information.
 - 4.4. **RECOMMENDED THAT:** Classis approve the work of the CMT to date as reported to the churches in the Minutes and in this Agenda, Appendix #1.
5. CLASSIS INTERIM COMMITTEE (Appendix #3) Gillian Bruce
 - 5.3. **RECOMMENDED THAT:** Classis adopt the following procedure to be followed in appeals under Church Order, Article 30-a:
 1. Each party will make an opening statement summarizing the issues as they understand them which must be limited to the specific issue under appeal.
 2. The appellant, or his/her representative, will make a more detailed presentation including stating the policy authorities to which the appeal is made. In the process of outlining the case, the appellant may call witnesses with direct knowledge of the issues.
 3. The respondent will proceed in the same way as the appellant with the same right to call witnesses.
 4. If either party asks witnesses to speak, the other party will have the right to ask them questions. The delegates also have the right to ask questions of witnesses, but only as to fact or for clarification.
 5. The appellant and respondent will have the right to summarize their cases and participate in the preliminary deliberation dealing with facts and further clarification.
 6. The Chair of Classis, or a person designated by the Chair, then enters into prayer for the deliberations.
 7. Both the appellant and respondent will then recuse themselves.
 8. The delegates then enter into their own deliberation and vote by ballot whether they sustain the appeal or not.
 9. The Chair of Classis then invites the parties back into the meeting and announces the decision.
 10. Unless there are other subsidiary issues to be addressed, the session will be closed with prayer for all concerned.

- 5.4. **RECOMMENDED THAT:** Classis approve William Koopmans, Ken Tigchelaar, Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo, Gillian Bruce and Ben Ponsen as a single slate of nominees to serve as directors of the corporation to be elected during the annual meeting of members later in the morning.
- 5.5. **RECOMMENDED THAT:** Classis elect Ralph Koops as a church visitor for a second term and Michael Bootsma as a church visitor for a first term. (See Appendix #3.1)
- 5.6. **RECOMMENDED THAT:** Classis extend the license to exhort of Al Wolters for another three years. Al reported has preached an average of twelve times each year for the past three years. The request has been supported by the Meadowlands Fellowship CRC.
 GROUNDS:
1. Al Wolters currently is the only licensed exhorter in Classis Hamilton.
 2. There is a need as evidenced by the fact that Al has been preaching an average of a dozen times during each of the three previous years, and
 3. The request has been supported by his home church.
- 5.7. **RECOMMENDED THAT:** the budget for 2021 and the classical per active member ministry shares in the amount of \$81.51 as described in this Agenda, Appendix #4 be approved.
- 5.8. **RECOMMENDED THAT:** Classis approve the work of the CIC to date as reported to the churches in the CIC Minutes and in this Agenda, Appendix #3.
6. SUMMARY CHURCH VISITORS REPORT (Appendix #5)
- 6.1. **RECOMMENDED THAT:** the summary report presented by the church visitors be received as information. (NOTE: The recommendations from Hagersville Community CRC were already dealt with by the CIC in its April 15, 2020 minutes. The other two will be raised at this meeting.)
7. ADJOURN FOR ANNUAL MEETING
8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING To be Chaired by Gillian Bruce
- 8.1. Establish Quorum (By-Law 5.2)
 - 8.2. Proof of Notice for the Meeting (By-Law 5.4)
 - 8.3. Approve Minutes of AGM 2019 (See Appendix #6)
 - 8.4. Election of Members of the CIC (By-law 5.1) (See Appendix #7)
 - 8.5. Approve the Audit Report on the 2019 Financial Statements (Corporations Act 96.1) – (See Appendix #8)
RECOMMENDED THAT: the audited financial statements and the Auditor’s report thereon for fiscal 2019 be approved. (See Appendix #8)
 - 8.6. Appoint the Auditor (By-Law 5.1.c)
RECOMMENDED THAT: DBK Accounting Professional Corporation be re-appointed as auditor for fiscal 2020.
 - 8.7. Closing of Annual General membership meeting
9. RETURN TO REGULAR CLASSIS SESSION Ben Ponsen
10. CLASSIS STAFF REPORTS – no verbal reports this time (Appendix #2) Michael Fallon and John Bijl
11. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE First CRC, Hamilton Reporting
12. REIMAGINING MINISTRY SHARES Peter Elgersma
13. DENOMINATIONAL RESTRUCTURING Darren Roorda
- 13.1. Please be sure to view this video before the meeting. It will not be shown at the meeting.
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UYczOMINm_hEGnMuufcpvQtO4H8g5Np2/view
 - 13.2. Please see the chart at the end of Appendix #9.1.
-
- 12:00 Noon Closing Devotions Vice-Chair of Classis

APPENDIX #1 – CLASSIS MINISTRIES TEAM REPORTS

APPENDIX #1.1 – CMT REPORT

**Classis Hamilton Ministry Team (CMT)
September 16, 2020**

Greetings delegates of Classis Hamilton,

As with many of our Classical, local, and denominational committees and ministries, 2020 has been an unusual and challenging year for the Classis Ministry Team (CMT). Since Classis convened last February, the CMT has met virtually a couple of times to review reports and minutes from Classis committees, review the agenda for the October meeting of Classis Hamilton, and address any items assigned by Classis in February.

We are pleased to announce that Bruce Adema (Bethel, Waterdown) has agreed to be the chair of Classis for 2020-21, beginning his term after the October Classis meeting. We are deeply appreciative of the hard work that Ben Ponsen (Maranatha, York) as chair this past year and wish him God's blessing as he discerns where he might best serve Classis going forward.

Despite the challenges faced on campus at both McMaster and Mohawk, the Classis Campus Ministry Team would like to continue moving forward with its plan to hire a part-time chaplain at Mohawk. They have secured some funding from Resonate; and are requesting a lift of the hiring freeze imposed by Classis when the COVID-19 shut down began. The Classis Youth Ministry Team continues to solicit feedback from individuals and congregations to help shape ministry to youth and young adults in Classis Hamilton, and we look forward to their reporting of their findings. The Classis Home Missions Team also continues to move forward in its discernment process for planting a church in the Greater Hamilton Area. We look forward to hearing a plan from them soon. We would also like to draw attention to their partnership with Willemina Zwart and the South Coast Beach Project, and encourage the churches of Classis to consider who among their young adults may benefit from this unique ministry opportunity.

We are also pleased to announce that John Demik (Mount Hope) has agreed to join our committee, pending the approval at Classis on October 27. With Ken Benjamins now officially completing his two terms in faithfully serving on the CMT, we are looking for a new pastor delegate to serve on the team. If you believe you (or your pastor) may be gifted for this role, please contact a member of the CMT

On behalf of the Classis Ministry Team,
Blessings,
Gareth Harker

CMT Members: Gillian Bruce (CIC Liaison), John Bijl (Youth / Meadowlands Fellowship), Tara Vreugdenhil (Mount Hope), Dick Kranendonk (Clerk of Classis - *ex officio*)

APPENDIX #1.2 – CLASSIS HAMILTON HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Home Missions Committee of Classis Hamilton – Fall 2020 Report

“So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.” Acts 26:19

We are thankful for the support of Classis Hamilton as we pray and work toward a church plant in 2021. Covid -19 has slowed our momentum but we continue to envision a new ministry in the Classis developing over the next 12 months.

In light of Covid-19 we have begun to meet monthly to pray together about a future church plant. We meet via Zoom on the third Thursday of every month at 8pm and all are invited who want to pray for a future missional outreach. For more information or to get the Zoom link contact Marian Lensink at mlensink@crcna.org.

We are requesting an additional \$5,000 for our church planting fund in the budget plans that we submitted. This helps to build a bit of a buffer until additional funds come in for the start of a church plant.

We gave out two missional church grants. One to the South Beach Project led by Willemina Zwart. The other was for a missional project associated with Hagersville CRC.

We encourage missional engagement through the Go Local program of Resonate and the shortened virtual version called Joining God in the Neighbourhood. Marian will be leading a cohort this fall that starts on September 29 and we encourage members of Classis Hamilton churches to give this webinar format a try in a future cohort. It is a wonderful time to listen to God’s word, discern how God is working in your neighbourhood and come along side. Please contact Marian for more information.

We would like to ask Classis to approve a new member for our committee. Jackie Bootsma is a member of Ancaster CRC.

If you have further questions please contact me. We would request 10 minutes at the Fall Classis meeting to answer any questions, to encourage people to join our monthly prayer meeting or a Joining God in the Neighbourhood cohort and to pray for a future church plant.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Sinclair (chair)

APPENDIX #2 – CLASSIS STAFF REPORT

APPENDIX #2.1 – McMASTER & MOHAWK CHAPLAINS' REPORT



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



Dear Classis Representatives

September 2020

Yesterday I read a letter from Susan Tighe, our Provost. In that letter Dr. Tighe notified all our departments that in addition to our current, fall term being online, our winter term will now be online as well. Last week Mohawk College made a similar decision. While many of us felt that this was likely to happen, it is still disappointing news. We had been hoping that we would be back on our respective campuses come the winter term. It was not an easy decision, but as Dr. Tighe noted, our President and Senior Administration want our students, faculty, and staff to be safe. This decision also protects our student's families, including their vulnerable grandparents.

In any case, McMaster was the first University to say it was going online, so we knew from mid summer that the fall term would be virtual, and we have been preparing accordingly. In brief, we have combined the two branches of our ministry in all our online gatherings. Our 'All Things' and 'Solid Rock' Fellowships are now one online fellowship and the same goes for our men and women's groups, Fully Alive and Revive Again.

I will be directing and planning our new combined fellowship and our Leadership Meetings. Alia Dieleman (our senior women leader) will lead 'Revive Again' our Women's group with Rachel Raakman our new women's leader. Our two new men's leaders, Owen Bruce and Micah Machiela will lead 'Fully Alive' our Men's group. Each of these small groups are open to both Mac and Mohawk Students.

Last year, I was Ben Wimmers, Field Placement Supervisor for Mac Div. and Ben and I co-lead 'Fully Alive' together. This year I will not be Ben's FPS, but I was able to renew his 'Baker Emerging Leader' grant, so he will continue to be our McMaster ministry intern, but we are shifting his focus. This year Ben will focus on reaching out to Christian and non-Christian students with an eye toward increasing our ministries' diversity.

I have been in conversation with our Dean of Students and VP at McMaster, Sean Van Koughnett and Maxine Carter Director of Social Inc at Mohawk. If they grant us permission to get together in the flesh with safety protocols in place, we are thinking we will do some social /fun things so students can get to know each other. That is still up in the air, so we will have to see what happens there.

With both our campuses going virtual for the fall semester, it is going to be challenging to connect with new students. So, if you know of anyone heading (virtually) our way, I would appreciate you taking the time to connect us. And yes, please continue to pray for us as we face a challenging year of ministry.

Sincerely

Michael

Dr. Michael D/ Fallon <fallonm@mcmaster.ca>

APPENDIX #2.2 – YOUTH MINISTRY CHAMPIONS’ REPORT

Classis Youth Champion Report – No written report this time.

APPENDIX #3 – CIC AND STATED CLERK’S REPORT

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

1. Safe Church Director:

CIC replaced the previous Safe Church Team with volunteer Safe Church Director(s), (Judy Cook and Gina Taylor each took on aspects of the task most suited to their expertise and interests). They will be reporting to the CIC at each meeting and CIC will note items of interest to the local churches in its minutes. The job description is attached as Schedule A.

2. Abuse Insurance Coverage:

The stated clerk has been in communication with Gina Taylor who has informed him that all classis churches except for Hagersville Community CRC have safe church policies in place. She is following up with all the churches to determine whether they have abuse coverage and to provide her with copies so that classis will be in a position to obtain its own abuse insurance coverage. We ask the local churches to cooperate with this important request.

3. Appeal Process Under C.O., Article 30-a:

CIC recommends to classis that it adopt the following procedure to be followed in appeals under Church Order, Article 30-a:

11. Each party will make an opening statement summarizing the issues as they understand them which must be limited to the specific issue under appeal.
12. The appellant, or his/her representative, will make a more detailed presentation including stating the policy authorities to which the appeal is made. In the process of outlining the case, the appellant may call witnesses with direct knowledge of the issues.
13. The respondent will proceed in the same way as the appellant with the same right to call witnesses.
14. If either party asks witnesses to speak, the other party will have the right to ask them questions. The delegates also have the right to ask questions of witnesses, but only as to fact or for clarification.
15. The appellant and respondent will have the right to summarize their cases and participate in the preliminary deliberation dealing with facts and further clarification.
16. The Chair of Classis, or a person designated by the Chair, then enters into prayer for the deliberations.
17. Both the appellant and respondent will then recuse themselves.
18. The delegates then enter into their own deliberation and vote by ballot whether they sustain the appeal or not.
19. The Chair of Classis then invites the parties back into the meeting and announces the decision.
20. Unless there are other subsidiary issues to be addressed, the session will be closed with prayer for all concerned.

4. Hiring Freeze:

At its April meeting, the CIC adopted a hiring freeze policy in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This primarily affected the proposed Mohawk College campus chaplain. The Campus Ministry Committee has now requested that the hiring freeze be lifted. CIC has approved lifting the hiring freeze.

5. New Nominee to Serve on the CIC:

Jake Ellens informed CIC that he would not stand for election to another term on the CIC. He was asked to recruit a new nominee. The first term nominee is Ken Tigchelaar who provided the following bio. *“Ken was born and raised in Dundas CRC. Married Karen Colyn in 1985, and blessed*

with 4 children and now 5 grandchildren! We live in Rockton Ontario and operate K&K Greenhouses. He served as Deacon for two terms at Calvin Dundas. Then 3 terms at Providence Christian school. Approximately 6 years as chair. He also served as chair of the building Committee 2003. He served many terms as Elder at Calvin, including a number of times as Chair. Karen and Ken have also run an Alpha course at their church for the last few years and have been very blessed by their participation in all these things. If there is an opportunity for Ken to work with CIC, he would look forward to seeing what God has in store.”

The continuing nominees are:

- Gillian Bruce – Term #5
- Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo – Term #6
- William Koopmans – Term #4
- Ben Ponsen – Term #2

6. C.O., Article 55 Request:

Acting on behalf of classis, CIC decided to permit Elders Gerald Bruulsema, Arlene Bennink, and Mark Bassie to administer the sacraments during the vacancy at Ancaster CRC. During its deliberations of this request, an observation was made that classis might be well served to have a discussion about what the word “need” means in our classis in the context of Church Order, Article 55. It was agreed that such a discussion could best take place in a classis meeting when a specific request was not being addressed. It was further agreed that such a discussion should take place only upon receipt of an overture from one of the churches of classis.

7. Forgivable Student Loans:

Since Classis could not meet in May, on its behalf CIC approved the following student loans as recommended by the Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee:

Brad Bootsma: 3 rd year M.Div. CTS (Distance)	\$21,750.60	75%	\$16,279.20
Matthew Guichelaar: 3 rd year M.Div. CTS	\$10,485.60	100%	\$10,485.60
Joshua Schoon: 2 nd year M.Div. CTS	\$23,120.00	100%	\$23,120.00
Jennifer Heidinga: 1 st year M.Div. (Distance)	\$15,123.54	75%	\$11,342.66
Nina Drenth: 3 rd M.Div. Wycliffe College, U of T	\$4,000.00	50%	\$ 2,000.00
Joline Venstra: 3 rd year McMaster Divinity	\$5,073.00	50%	\$ 2,536.50
Ben Wimmers: 3 rd year McMaster Divinity	\$5,000.00	50%	\$ 2,500.00
Total CAD:			\$ 68,263.96

8. Special Executive Session:

According to the requirements of Church Order Supplement Article 30-a, 3, a meeting needs to be arranged prior to January 2021 to meet deadline for the Josiah Bokma appeal. In view of the continued COVID-19 pandemic, it might not be possible to hold an in-person special executive session of classis within the prescribed timeframe. It had been agreed with the appellant and the respondent that hearing the appeal in person was desirable. The agenda addendum will include specific recommendations after CIC has consulted with Kathy Smith and Dee Recker as well as with the appellant and the respondent.

9. License to Exhort Renewal:

Al Wolters has sent a request to have his license extended. CIC’s recommendation is included in the details of the agenda.

10. New Stated Clerk Recruitment:

The current stated clerk will be retiring at the end of June 2021. CIC asks the churches to nominate individuals who might be suitable for this position.

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

SCHEDULE A

Classis Hamilton Safe Church Director Job Description

PURPOSE:

The purpose for the Safe Church Director (Director) position is to assist classis and its member churches in establishing, reviewing, implementing and monitoring safe church and abuse of power issues.

REPORTING:

The Director reports to the CIC three times each year at least eight weeks prior to each classis meeting with a summary report to full classis at its Winter meeting.

APPOINTMENT:

The Director must be a confessing member of church of classis. The Director may be a co-directorship, but will be referred to as the Director, and must be approved by Classis. The Director is appointed for a three-year term with eligibility for one additional three-year term.

TASKS:

1. *Education:* The Director, upon request of a local church council, or its designated committee, will provide training, resources, or workshops on various topics related to Safe Church Ministry and will assist council, or its designated committee, to establish and implement safe church policies that are approved by their insurance provider, as evidenced by its abuse and harassment coverage certificate. The form and scope of the assistance will take into account each church's particular ministry context. This personalized help will include the determination of who must obtain a police check and how that can be done with a minimum of effort and cost.
2. *Support:* The Director, upon request of a local church council, or its designated committee, will provide expert advice and consultation to ministry leaders.
3. *Advisory Panel:* The Director, upon request of a local church council, or its designated committee, will, in conjunction with the CRCNA Safe Church Ministry, arrange an Advisory Panel as requested and appropriate.
4. *Monitoring:* Within the provisions of Church Order, Article 42, classis assigns the Director to visit the council, or designated committee, of each church in classis on a yearly basis to evaluate the safe church policies and practices relating to safe church and abuse of power.
5. *Insurance Verification:* The Director will seek to obtain a copy of the abuse and harassment insurance certificate* from each church and send it to the stated clerk of classis so that classis may be able to obtain its own insurance. Should a church not be willing or able to provide the Director with the requested insurance certificate, that will be included in their quarterly and summary reports.
6. *Abuse and Harassment Policy for Classis:* The Director will develop and monitor the abuse and harassment policies for classis itself and report on the status of the applicable policies at each winter classis meeting. More than one policy may be required because of campus chaplaincy requirements.

- * **Note:** The insurance provider of classis requires at least 90% of the member churches to have a minimum abuse and harassment insurance coverage in the amount of \$2 million. This information is shared with the Director for information purposes. The Director is not required to comment on the amount, or possible coverage restrictions, of the certificate provided by each church.

APPENDIX #3.1 – DELEGATE & FUNCTIONARY NOMINEES

CHAIR OF CLASSIS:

Bruce Adema – is a pastor and member of Bethel CRC, Waterdown who is being nominated by the CMT to serve as Chair of Classis from November 1, 2020 until May 31, 2021.

CAMPUS MINISTRY COMMITTEE:

Willemina Zwart – is a member of Immanuel CRC, Simcoe and an ordained minister of the CRCNA. She is the Missional Pastor of the South Coast Beach Project of Immanuel, Simcoe.

Shae-Lynn Knevel – is being proposed as the alumni representative for a second term.

CLASSIS MINISTRIES TEAM:

John Demik – is a member of Mt. Hope Community CRC and has previously served as elder and chair of council.

HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE:

Jackie Bootsma – is a member of Ancaster CRC.

CHURCH VISITORS:

Ralph Koops – is a retired pastor and member of Hope CRC, Brantford and has agreed to let his name stand for a second term as a church visitor on team A.

Michael Bootsma – is a pastor and member of Immanuel CRC, Hamilton and has agreed to let his name stand for a first term as a church visitor on team B.

APPENDIX #4 – BUDGET FOR 2021

CLASSIS HAMILTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

	2021 Budget	2020 Budget	Jul-20 Actual	2019 Budget	2019 Actual
Classis Expense Fund					
Receipts:					
Bank Interest	2,500.00	2,000.00	1,195.36	1,500.00	2,797.40
Quad Retreat					17,125.00
COVID 19 Wage Subsidy			2,133.02		
Classis Ministry Shares	41,017.86	25,000.00	11,543.55	38,525.00	38,521.35
	<u>43,517.86</u>	<u>27,000.00</u>	<u>14,871.93</u>	<u>40,025.00</u>	<u>58,443.75</u>
Disbursements:					
Delegates and Meals	3,000.00	3,000.00	806.09	3,000.00	2,809.75
Office Expense	2,500.00	2,500.00	280.68	2,500.00	2,469.54
Conferences	1,000.00	1,900.00	-	2,450.00	1,100.00
Mileage	2,000.00	2,000.00	614.75	2,000.00	2,121.44
Honoraria-Stated Clerk	7,763.46	7,611.24	2,537.12	7,175.00	7,462.05
Honoraria-Bookkeeper	6,654.40	6,523.92	2,174.64	6,150.00	6,396.00
CPP & EI Expense	500.00	1,000.00	157.13	1,000.00	461.97
Pastor's Retreat	-	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	17,889.98
Safe Church Team	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	1,500.00	423.12
Professional Fees (Accounting)	5,200.00	5,000.00	5,145.03	5,000.00	5,199.12
Professional Fees (Legal)	4,000.00	4,000.00	-	1,000.00	3,391.73
The Bridge App	6,000.00	6,000.00	4,989.12	5,100.00	5,100.00
Technology	400.00	400.00	259.85	400.00	319.25
Insurance	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,445.59	1,750.00	1,663.20
	<u>43,517.86</u>	<u>45,435.16</u>	<u>20,410.00</u>	<u>40,025.00</u>	<u>56,807.15</u>
Surplus/(Shortage)	(0.00)	(18,435.16)	(5,538.07)	-	1,636.60

CLASSIS HAMILTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

2021 Budget	2020 Budget	Jul-20 Actual	2019 Budget	2019 Actual
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McMaster Campus Ministry

Receipts:

Classis Ministry Shares	117,000.00	130,000.00	60,030.57	115,417.00	115,425.96
CR Home Mission Grant	16,000.00	8,000.00	6,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
Emerging Leadership Grant	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Other Grants	1,000.00	1,000.00	200.00	1,000.00	-
Conference Fees/Other	1,000.00	4,000.00	-	4,000.00	494.00
Donations	1,000.00	2,000.00	100.00	2,000.00	1,718.00
	<u>138,000.00</u>	<u>147,000.00</u>	<u>68,330.57</u>	<u>132,417.00</u>	<u>127,637.96</u>

Disbursements:

Salary	95,141.46	93,275.94	54,410.93	91,447.00	91,446.96
Transportation	4,500.00	4,500.00	1,260.20	4,500.00	4,762.61
Books	500.00	500.00	-	500.00	434.99
CPP and EI	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,096.89	4,300.00	3,953.18
Mohawk Ministry	30,000.00	13,000.00	-	-	-
Honararium	100.00	100.00	-	100.00	-
Pension Fund	6,900.00	6,775.00	3,387.50	6,670.00	6,670.00
Life and Medical	2,550.00	2,500.00	1,537.34	2,500.00	2,547.72
Office Supplies	500.00	500.00	457.21	250.00	1,058.79
Shared Cost -Office	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
Lecturers, Conf, Retreats	1,000.00	4,000.00	338.15	5,000.00	1,185.62
Assist to Chaplain	5,722.20	5,610.00	2,805.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Advertising	400.00	400.00	81.27	400.00	409.34
Meals & Hospitality	5,500.00	5,500.00	475.96	4,500.00	5,333.56
Technology	300.00	300.00	-	300.00	181.69
Emerging Leader Program	3,000.00	2,000.00	2,250.00	2,000.00	3,000.00
Abraham Kuyper Series	-	4,000.00	-	4,000.00	-
Extra Length Grant	-	200.00	-	200.00	-
	<u>160,863.66</u>	<u>147,910.94</u>	<u>71,350.45</u>	<u>132,417.00</u>	<u>126,734.46</u>

Surplus/(Shortage)

	(22,863.66)	(910.94)	(3,019.88)	-	903.50
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CLASSIS HAMILTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

2021 Budget	2020 Budget	Jul-20 Actual	2019 Budget	2019 Actual
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Classical Candidacy Committee

Receipts:				
Classis Ministry Shares	68,263.96	60,000.00	27,711.31	30,516.28
Interest on Candidacy Loans				5,646.10
Disbursements:				
Bank Fees			544.17	730.03
Candidate Benefits				8,306.80
Loans Forgiven				36,781.32
Loan Advances	68,263.96	60,000.00	-	30,000.00
Surplus/(Shortage)	-	-	27,167.14	(9,655.77)

Home Missions Committee

Receipts:				
Classis Ministry Shares	32,500.00	32,500.00	15,011.56	32,498.52
Grants				2,957.16
Disbursements:				
Church Plant	30,000.00	30,000.00	-	4,311.05
Missional Grants	2,000.00	2,000.00	500.00	1,000.00
Miscellaneous	500.00	500.00	-	66.67
Surplus/(Shortage)	-	-	14,511.56	30,077.96

Shalom Manor Chaplaincy

Receipts:				
Classis Ministry Shares	-	10,745.00	4,956.39	21,502.34
Disbursements:				
Shalom Manor	-	10,745.00	5,372.50	19,765.00
Surplus/(Shortage)	-	-	(416.11)	1,737.34

Youth Ministry

Receipts:				
Classis Ministry Shares	14,600.00	19,000.00	8,772.65	16,914.77
Fall Retreat				5,900.60
Disbursements:				
Youth Ministry Expenses	2,000.00	2,000.00	275.79	2,209.55
Youth Ministry Champion	12,600.00	12,000.00	7,082.42	11,898.96
Fall Retreat	-	5,000.00	-	9,969.72
Surplus/(Shortage)	-	-	1,414.44	1,262.86
NET INCOME	(22,863.66)	(19,346.10)	34,119.08	23,436.77

CLASSIS HAMILTON MINISTRY SHARES

2021

	Amount			Share			
	2021 Budget	% of Total	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	2020 Budget	2020/21 \$ Incr/(Decr)	2020/21 % Incr/-Decr
Number of Members	3,354		3,429			(75)	-2.19%
Classis Expense Fund	41,017.86	15.0%	25,000.00	12.23	7.29	4.94	67.74%
McMaster Campus Ministry	117,000.00	42.8%	130,000.00	34.88	37.91	(3.03)	-7.99%
Classical Candidacy Committee	68,263.96	25.0%	60,000.00	20.35	17.50	2.86	16.32%
Home Missions Committee	32,500.00	11.9%	32,500.00	9.69	9.48	0.21	2.24%
Shalom Manor Chaplaincy	-	0.0%	10,745.00	-	3.13	(3.13)	-100.00%
Youth Ministry	14,600.00	5.3%	19,000.00	4.35	5.54	(1.19)	-21.44%
\$	\$ 273,381.82	100.0%	\$ 277,245.00			-	
	81.51		80.85	81.51	80.85	0.66	0.81%

**McMaster Campus Ministry fund is lower then budgetted because our fund balance is quite high. This will allow our total budget to remain almost the same as last year. Ministry Shares per person is up due to less members.

**Classis Hamilton
Christian Reformed Church
Ministry Shares for 2021**

CLASSIS MINISTRY SHARES

Denominational Shares:

	2021	2020
<u>To be sent to Burlington:</u>		
Back to God	43.52	44.41
Calvin College	2.10	3.00
Calvin Theological Seminary	35.54	36.27
Congregational Services Ministries	80.70	82.44
Synodical Administrative Services	45.44	39.19
Resonate Global Mission	106.35	108.52
Special Assistance Fund	3.65	3.73
	317.30	317.56
<u>To be sent to Redeemer:</u>		
Redeemer University College	70.44	69.34
Total Denom. Ministry Shares	387.74	386.90

Classical Ministry Shares:

	2021	2021 Budget	2020
<u>To be sent to Classical Treasurer:</u>			
Classis Expense Fund	12.23	41,017.86	7.29
McMaster Campus Ministry	34.88	117,000.00	37.91
Classical Candidacy Committee	20.35	68,263.96	17.50
Home Missions Committee	9.69	32,500.00	9.48
Shalom Manor Chaplaincy	-	-	3.13
Youth Ministry	4.35	14,600.00	5.54
Total Classical Ministry Shares	81.51	273,381.82	80.85

Church Membership	2021		2020
Ancaster	333	-15	348
Ancaster, Fellowship	288	12	276
Brantford, Hope	374	2	372
Burlington	213	12	201
Burlington, Faith	281	-3	284
Dundas, Calvin	187	3	184
Flamborough, Calvary	181	-4	185
Hagersville, Community	105	-12	117
Hamilton, First	224	-10	234
Hamilton, Immanuel	295	-16	311
Hamilton, New Hope**	15	0	15
Jarvis, Ebenezer	216	-23	239
Mount Hope, Community	94	-6	100
Simcoe, Immanuel	111	-14	125
Waterdown, Bethel	169	-5	174
York, Maranatha	268	4	264
TOTALS	3354	-75	3429

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

Classical Statistics 2020

Classis Hamilton
Organized 1952

*Emerging Church
*Campus Ministry
*Milestone Church

City, State/Province	Organization Name	Most Recent Year	*Average Sunday Attendance	Total Families	Professing Members Under 18	Total Professing Members	Non-Professing Members	Total Members	Inadequate Professions Over 18	Bible Professions of Faith of Children	Members Left/From Other Chks.	Growth				Decline			
												Received From Other	Professing Members Through Evangelism	Received Through Children	Professing and Non-Professing Members Received From Other	Professing Members Received From Other	Professing Members Received From Other	Professing Members Received From Other	Professing Members Received From Other
Arcaster	ON Arcaster CRC	2019	300	152	9	352	190	542	10	15	16	6	0	3	2	5	1	0	4
Arcaster	ON Meadowlands Fellowship Christian Reformed Church	2019	400	133	13	326	146	472	25	2	7	9	2	6	6	5	1	0	4
Brantford	ON Hope CRC	2019	450	155	0	385	203	588	11	7	7	2	0	7	1	3	3	4	0
Burlington	ON Faith Church	2019	210	127	1	350	141	491	68	2	8	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Burlington	ON New Street CRC Burlington	2019	139	69	4	229	82	311	12	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	8
Dundas	ON Calvin CRC	2019	225	75	3	215	80	295	25	3	1	9	0	4	1	3	1	1	2
Flamborough	ON Calvary Christian Reformed Church of Flamborough	2019	245	98	4	266	125	391	81	0	1	4	0	2	0	3	1	3	1
Hagersville	ON Hagersville Community CRC	2019	80	53	0	119	76	195	14	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2
Hamilton	ON First Hamilton CRC	2019	240	80	5	245	125	370	16	6	0	5	0	3	9	0	2	2	22
Hamilton	ON Immanuel CRC	2019	300	130	2	324	133	457	27	2	9	0	0	4	7	0	2	2	107
Hamilton	ON * McMaster University and Mohawk College CRC Campus Ministry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hamilton	ON + New Hope CRC	2019	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jarvis	ON Ebenezer CRC	2019	280	115	0	321	151	472	105	1	9	1	0	3	2	1	1	8	33
Mount Hope	ON Mount Hope Community CRC	2019	100	35	0	111	23	134	17	2	5	5	0	0	1	0	4	0	0
Simcoe	ON Immanuel CRC	2019	125	60	1	135	58	193	23	2	5	2	0	2	1	10	2	2	0
Waterdown	ON Bethel CRC	2019	116	117	1	278	74	352	108	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	1
York	ON Maranatha CRC of York	2019	320	150	0	329	162	491	61	0	0	9	0	8	0	0	0	2	0
Total (17)			3610	1549	43	3985	1769	5754	603	44	73	53	2	49	29	33	32	207	
Organized Congregations (15)			3530	1549	43	3985	1769	5754	603	44	73	53	2	49	29	33	32	207	
Emerging Congregations (1)			80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (1)			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (17)			3610	1549	43	3985	1769	5754	603	44	73	53	2	49	29	33	32	207	

*Column added in 2018
**In reporting this year's statistics, supervising councils were asked to include in their membership only the number of members in their church and the number of members attending any emerging church(es) under their supervision.

CHURCH VISITOR'S REPORT: 2020

Addressing the Questions of Church Order Article 42.b

- In each case, the visitors addressed the requirements of Church Order Article 42.b and in each instance the councils responded affirmatively.

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

- The over-arching situation here is...Covid-19. This pandemic and our national responses have changed so many areas of life in our country, including church life, ecclesiastical life, spiritual life, social life and family life, and the intersection of all of those. Hence, the pattern and the plan of church visiting for this past year was halted (we pray only temporarily) in the middle of March, when the province locked down. We pray that all congregations take this opportunity to define and redefine their priorities.
- Pray that the searches for new pastors in the Hagersville and the Mt. Hope CRC are blessed with success.

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

Dundas - Calvin

- They have a blended worship style giving glory to God; the members feel strengthened by the worship and by the preaching.
- Many members are involved in outreach programs (e.g. mission trips, 541 Eatery)
- Elders visit people in their districts and encourage and build each other up; the elders and pastor work well together and feel blessed in their work.
- The deacons are active in their tasks, finding it a blessing to help those in need.
- It was noted that there is some concern that it is becoming more difficult to be part of the CRC denomination with some of the changes and thoughts being discussed.

Hagersville - Community

- The council is rather excited about where they're at. They noted that they are coming out of a pruning phase. People have left; that is saddening but not discouraging. The town is expanding, leading to opportunities for ministry.
- Of late, the congregation has begun asking: "What can we do in the community?" They started "community dinners". It's a joint venture with some other churches in town. The congregation wants to continue to focus on what God has called them to do, and is beginning to redefine what that means.
- The elders find the most rewarding part of their task: loving people; listening; praying.
- They've gone from 80 to 50 worshipers. They say they likely need to have an open forum to listen, to pray and to think. They need to hear where our families are at. They need to find where God is leading us. They say: "**Classis, please pray for us**". And yet, even given that: "*there's a very positive vibe here!*"
- (see further recommendations below)

Jarvis – Ebenezer

- the church strives to follow God’s will in their lives. They look after each other; they are concerned about the people who are and aren’t here.
- It was noted that there are struggles’ particularly with the youth and younger families. Quite a number of younger folks have left the church, with many going to other denominations.
- Pastoral Care is carried out by the office bearers; it was perceived as very rewarding for both the office bearers and the congregations. The Pastoral Care workers meet together regularly for mutual growth and support. The deacons are also involved with new types and levels of pastoral care beyond their traditional roles. They are spending concerted time with youth (at the encouragement of the deacon chair) in a number of community-building events and activities.
- There is a concern: when people stop coming to church, their memberships are eventually lapsed, but that is painful. There is a team that meets and visits with them.
- The council notes a bit of a frustration with being unable to find excellent catechism material. It was suggested that this can be addressed at classis, and/or with the Faith formation team at the denominational level (See recommendations below.)

Hamilton - Immanuel

- In terms of the worship services, there is heartfelt, music-led worship. There are great praise-teams, great song choices, the worship is cohesive. In fact, the worship team(s) help organize the services. The Biblical, textual preaching is well-received.
- With respect to discipleship: there is a functioning youth group; there are “Faith Families”; there is an Alpha group growing.
- With respect to pastoral care: there are six districts and 2 youth districts. In each district, there are two elders (a pastoral elder and a ministry elder). The “Congregational Care teams” meet once per month. These teams are made up of the ministry elder, the pastoral elder, the deacon, the congregational care worker and the hospitality worker.
- The deacons are doing a(nother) refugee sponsorship. They’ve done many across the past years; in fact, once they supported ten refugees at one time. A Refugee Group is now being set up.
- Immanuel is grateful to serve in their local community, both as a physical presence, as well as making funds available in various local agencies. They see there is much to be done in the community.
- Immanuel has developed an intriguing model of pastoral visiting. (See recommendations below.)

Mount Hope - Community

- Even though they are vacant, they have been blessed by Sunday worship; they find it uplifting for all members.
- Council expressed there seems to be a bonding after their former pastor left; there is healing; there are yet some raw feelings. Council expresses their thanks to area pastors who helped them through this process.
- The members are beginning to feel at home in Mt. Hope. They continue to seek their place in the town; they have done a Community Opportunity Scan, with positive results coming from that in getting involved in the community in different ways
- There is a good youth program, with an intern from Redeemer.

- Council realizes that being without a pastor put more onus on the elders and deacons.
- Elders visit all members and encourage and build each other up; deacons are active in their tasks in the church and community.
- There is currently a search committee in place to seek a new pastor.

Church Visitors Called for Advice

- The church visitors have been called by a member for advice on how to go forward. The visitors had conversations with the member and the church, and the issue is being resolved.

Visitor's advice given to councils that requires Classis approval

- None at this time.

Common trends which warrant the attention of Classis

- There is an increasing connection with, and desire to be connected to, the local context; that is, the community “just outside the building’s walls”.
- There were a couple of quite common threads/trends of concern:
 1. The departures of young people and younger families to congregations beyond the CRC.
 2. The increasingly articulated desire for our church to appear and to be “relevant”.

Recommendations for Classis:

From Hagersville:

- *Safe Church Policy*: the council recognizes this is important; perhaps Classis could create a template of that policy to offer the individual churches. Maybe a small church can take the lead, since it is important for small churches who may not have the staff or background to create such a policy well.
- This church recommends that the *current pulpit supply system* should NOT be eliminated. Retaining this system allows a church to see greater diversity; to have a window on the rest of classis.

From Hamilton Immanuel:

- Immanuel has developed an *intriguing model of pastoral visiting*, and is excited about offering it to other congregations. Classical CRCs are welcome to connect with them for information.

From Jarvis Ebenezer:

- The council notes a bit of a frustration with being unable to find excellent catechism material. **It was suggested that this can be addressed at classis**, and/or with the Faith Formation team at the denominational level.

Submitted by Church Visitors:

Team A Peter Bulthuis, Pastor Ralph Koops and Pastor Siebert VanHouten.

Team B Pastor Ken Benjamins, Jerry Bulthuis, and Pastor Jack Kerkhof.

Humbly submitted,
Peter Bulthuis

APPENDIX #6 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

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

Date: May 28, 2019 **Time:** 3:00 PM

Venue: Ancaster Christian Reformed Church, 70 Garner Rd. E., Ancaster, Ontario

1. Constitution of the Meeting (*By-law 5.2*)

A quorum of both churches (with seven delegates absent) and of individual members of the corporation being present, the president, Ken Benjamins declared the meeting to be duly constituted for the transaction of business.

2. Proof of Notice for the Meeting (*By-law 5.4*)

THE PRESIDENT RULED THAT: notice of the meeting was sent to the clerks of the classis churches and members of the Classis Interim Committee on April 17, 2019.

3. Approval of Minutes

On motion duly moved, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** the minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting were approved.

4. Election of the Classis Interim Committee (CIC) who serve as individual members of Classis Hamilton until the May 2020 meeting of Classis (*By-law 4.2.2*).

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

Jake Ellens	Gillian Bruce
Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo	William Koopmans
Rita Klein-Geltink	

5. Audited 2018 Financial Statements

On motion duly moved, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon for fiscal 2018 are approved.

6. Auditor for 2019

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** DBK Accounting Professional Corporation is re-appointed as auditor for fiscal 2019.

7. Closing of AGM

There being no further business, the AGM was terminated.

President

Reporter

APPENDIX #7 – BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS (CIC)

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

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

Ken Tigchelaar (first term) – He is a member of Calvin CRC, Dundas.

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

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

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

Ben Ponsen (second term) – He is pastor of Maranatha CRC, York.

RECOMMENDED THAT: The slate of names noted above be elected for a term ending May 31, 2021.

APPENDIX #8 – AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of
Classis Hamilton of the Christian Reformed Church

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Classis Hamilton of the Christian Reformed Church, which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2019, and the statements of revenues and expenses, changes in restricted fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at December 31, 2019, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

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

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

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

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

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT, continued

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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

Can't Show FIRM.jpg

Hamilton, Ontario
April 16, 2020

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

CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	ASSETS	
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 138,210	\$ 161,816
Accounts receivable	46,847	27,623
GST/HST recoverable	981	732
Prepaid expenses	934	6,534
	<u>186,972</u>	<u>196,705</u>
Other Assets		
Loans receivable (Note 3)	224,759	189,602
	<u>\$ 411,731</u>	<u>\$ 386,307</u>
	LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 7,492	\$ 5,505
	EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES	
Classis Expense Fund	47,483	45,950
McMaster Campus Ministry	30,006	29,102
Classical Candidacy	233,878	244,038
Shalom Manor	12	(1,725)
Future Church Planting	92,860	62,782
Quad Classis Retreat	-	655
	<u>404,239</u>	<u>380,802</u>
	<u>\$ 411,731</u>	<u>\$ 386,307</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board

Director _____

Director _____

CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	2019 Classis Expense Fund	2019 McMaster Campus Ministry	2019 Classical Candidacy	2019 Shalom Manor	2019 Future Church Planting	2019 Quad Classis Retreat	2019 Total	2018 Total
FUND BALANCES, beginning of year	45,950	29,102	244,038	(1,725)	62,782	655	380,802	313,526
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	1,533	904	(10,160)	1,737	30,078	(655)	23,437	67,276
FUND BALANCES, end of year	<u>47,483</u>	<u>30,006</u>	<u>233,878</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>92,860</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>404,239</u>	<u>380,802</u>

CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES - CLASSIS EXPENSE FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
REVENUES		
Classis ministry shares	\$ 56,137	\$ 50,560
Fall retreat	5,200	-
Interest income	2,797	1,848
	<u>64,134</u>	<u>52,408</u>
EXPENSES		
Conferences and professional development	11,440	9,090
Insurance	1,663	1,663
Meals and hospitality	3,398	2,125
Office, postage and general	7,660	6,367
Professional fees	8,591	5,023
Safe church team	388	1,156
Salaries and benefits	26,218	16,944
Travel	2,970	1,638
Youth ministry	273	-
	<u>62,601</u>	<u>44,006</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	<u>\$ 1,533</u>	<u>\$ 8,402</u>

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES - MCMASTER CAMPUS MINISTRY

REVENUE		
Classis ministry shares	\$ 115,426	\$ 110,034
Grants from churches and other organizations	11,718	11,816
Conference fees	494	89
	<u>127,638</u>	<u>121,939</u>
EXPENSES		
Assistant to chaplains	5,500	5,500
Conference fees and professional development	1,621	2,379
Emerging leader	3,000	1,000
Meals and hospitality	5,334	4,940
Office, postage and general	1,897	2,411
Salaries and benefits	104,619	102,955
Travel	4,763	4,114
	<u>126,734</u>	<u>123,299</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	<u>\$ 904</u>	<u>\$ (1,360)</u>

CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES - OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS
DECEMBER 31, 2019

	Classical Candidacy 2019	Shalom Manor 2019	Future Church Planting 2019	Total 2019	Total 2018
REVENUE					
Ministry shares	\$ 30,012	\$ 21,502	\$ -	\$ 51,514	\$ 92,319
Future Church share	-	-	32,499	32,499	22,517
Interest income	5,646	-	-	5,646	4,622
Grants	-	-	2,957	2,957	-
	<u>35,658</u>	<u>21,502</u>	<u>35,456</u>	<u>92,616</u>	<u>119,458</u>
EXPENSES					
Loans forgiven	36,781	-	-	36,781	18,210
Grants	-	19,765	-	19,765	36,207
Candidate benefits	9,037	-	-	9,037	4,808
Classis home missions	-	-	5,143	5,143	-
Meetings and travel	-	-	235	235	-
	<u>45,818</u>	<u>19,765</u>	<u>5,378</u>	<u>70,961</u>	<u>59,225</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	<u>\$ (10,160)</u>	<u>\$ 1,737</u>	<u>\$ 30,078</u>	<u>\$ 21,655</u>	<u>\$ 60,233</u>

CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	<u>\$ 23,437</u>	<u>\$ 67,276</u>
Change in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	(19,224)	(2,726)
GST/HST recoverable	(249)	103
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,987	904
Prepaid expenses	<u>5,600</u>	<u>350</u>
	11,551	65,907
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Loans receivable	<u>(35,157)</u>	<u>(19,809)</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash	(23,606)	46,098
Cash, beginning of year	161,816	115,718
Cash, end of year	<u><u>\$ 138,210</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 161,816</u></u>

CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

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

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

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

(a) FUND ACCOUNTING

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

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

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

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

(b) REVENUE RECOGNITION

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

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

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

(c) CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

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

(d) CAPITAL ASSETS

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

(e) USE OF ESTIMATES

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

CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

(f) FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

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

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

(g) VOLUNTEER SERVICES

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

(h) FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION

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

3. LOANS RECEIVABLE

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

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

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

CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

4. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

Liquidity Risk

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

Foreign Currency Risk

The organization is exposed to foreign exchange risk in United States dollars. The organization is exposed to this risk when an obligation in a foreign currency to another organization or individual, is different at the time of settlement than it was at time that the obligation was determined. The organization reduces its exposure to foreign exchange risk by carefully monitoring exchange rates on its obligations and attempts to maintain adequate foreign currency balances in its bank to discharge its related foreign currency obligations. In the opinion of management the foreign exchange risk exposure to the organization is low and is not material. As at year end, the organization had \$2,453USD in cash (2018 - \$USD1,315).

Credit Risk

The organization does have credit risk in candidate loans receivable of \$224,759 (2018 - \$189,602). Credit risk is the risk that one party to a transaction will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the other party to incur a financial loss. Management mitigates this risk by having agreements in place. Also, the organization is not dependant on the repayment of these loans given their intention is to forgive the loans.

5. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Subsequent to the year end, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the overall economy and many organizations. The organization continues to function as staff have the ability to work from home, no employees have been layed off yet. Management does not at this time expect a significant impact on the organization.

APPENDIX #9 – EXTERNAL REPORTS
APPENDIX #9.1 – CANADIAN MINISTRIES

Fall 2020 Classis letter: from the Canadian Ministries Servant

I always understand this 'Report to Classis' as an accountability letter. We in leadership at a denominational ministry wish to be completely transparent about the work that we are involved together with/for you. As such, feel free to ask any questions you may have of this report and I will ensure you are served in the proper way. My contact info is droorda@crcna.org and 289-208-9918 (cell).

First, allow me to share with you (probably for the umpteenth time) what the shared purpose of the leadership in Canada is. When the leaders of our ministries sit down at the same table - or by Zoom- we have this on the top of our agenda and/or on placards on the table. It is our purpose statement:

***Purpose:** To be used by God to facilitate a gospel movement of healthy and vibrant Christian Reformed churches, ministries, and members throughout Canada, so that the renewing work of Jesus will transform the people we serve, the places we live and connect to His work around the globe.*

We exist to serve you and the communities we are a part of so as to extend His Kingdom!

Pandemic:

Churches: I have been impressed by the flexibility and resolve of our churches across Canada. It is my hope that such flexibility will continue over time. Our staff has responded glowingly in serving local churches in providing many ways to 'make it through' this time of uncertainty. Thanks for the great collaboration and cooperation.

Tools: The Bridge App has essentially quadrupled in usership and impact on many levels because of the high need of churches to have an effective digital tool for keeping their church connected. We believe the last few years has proven to be just what God intended to make us ready for this time. There have been many improvements including Automatic Chequing so feel free to start for the first time - or give it another look!

Revenue: Through the pandemic, we did lay off one staff person. We also qualified for the federal government grants through Mid August. As of the writing of this report, we are not sure where we will be in September in terms of Revenue. Like many of you in your local church setting, we are unsure as to if people are unable to provide support, if they are waiting while they keep some reserve or if there is indeed going to be a realized loss. We will be adjusting accordingly. In all of this we are grateful to have been able to stay the course of ministry support and look forward to how our organizational restructuring process will fit with this changing revenue reality.

Ministry Shares ReImagined: Ministry Shares ReImagined has become a reality and we will all be adjusting to its change in process. We are trying to serve you as church leaders by putting together a communications plan and helpful information for you to consider as we move forward. This classis meeting is an opportunity for us all to learn and ask questions together. I would note TWO essential pieces of information when it comes to moving forward on ReImagining Ministry Share:

- A. Given the new realities about being compliant to rules and regulations of the Canadian government, we are now in a situation where all monies provided in Canada through Ministry Share will be directed and controlled by Canadian leadership! The leaders who do this kind of

controlling are not just me, Darren, writing the report - but the directors you have elected to the board of directors of the Canadian side of the CRC, the Canada Corporation. This is a big 'added-value' of this process. It means we can be far more intentional about how we use our monies together. Note: Other denominations who have gone through this process have experienced an increase in revenue generation and we hope the Lord will bless us similarly.

- B. The Canadian side of the church has been consistently great supporters of ministry. Over the last 25 years we have only once dipped below 70% of Ministry Share request! In the past several years that has tracked as high as 72.4%. The most recent year, 2019=71.3% What a healthy and generous track record! In an effort to maintain this consistency we wish to maintain transparency and openness about how ministry is being conducted and where your funds are going - and as such maintain trust.

For more information feel free to reach out to Peter Elgersma at peigersma@crcna.org

Canada Revenue Agency and issues around binationality:

Re-organizing: The demand of achieving compliance has meant a little bit of a loss on ensuring everyone felt well-informed. My apologies. I wish we could have done more - but we did our level best to ensure we shared what we absolutely could. By the time you have read this report you may have also seen some video production on the crcna.org/canada website and/or that has come to your attention in another form. But for now, perhaps [this article](#) from the Christian Courier would be helpful.

Ministry Planning - TOGETHER!: On the opportunity side of this change, we on the Canadian side have the clear advantage of re-thinking how we do ministry together.

What is important to the churches? What are going to be our areas of concentration? What areas should we do differently than in the US side of the church? And how do we organize our ministry most effectively to accomplish particular goals made in Canada?

And others. This classis meeting may provide an opportunity for you as delegates to provide feedback through to the cross-Canada team working on this called "[The Canadian Restructuring Team](#)." Perhaps we will be even able to "reduce the footprint" as was requested by Synod 2016.

Canadian Restructuring Team: This team, as aforementioned, is going through the significant work of writing a report/proposal for the Canada Corporation board of governors to vote on that will concetize the goals, priorities and appropriate structure for the CRCNA in Canada. We look forward to engaging with you around this topic and receiving feedback during the course of our meetings in the fall and winter. This work is being done via a consultant and likely one member of your classis. Ask them if you have any questions. The team members are:

Greta Luimes (Eastern Canada)
Bev Bandstra (BC South East)
Kevin DeRaaf (Hamilton)
Paul vandersteen (Niagara)
Elly Boersma (Niagara)
Liz Tolkamp (BC South East)
Dan Brown (Quinte)
Hayden Regeling (Hamilton)
Paul Verhoef (Alb South Sask)

It is our goal to simplify, increase effectiveness and make more efficient the nature of our ministry in Canada!

Racism and the Canadian landscape: As with all of you in your local landscape, you know this is on the hearts and minds of everyone. Denominationally in Canada, we are being mindful of our response(s) in a number of ways. These include:

- a) Adapting when the times/occasions are that we speak with a Canadian accent on a given issue when making a denominational statement
- b) Organizing how ministry staff are organized in support of serving our churches well in this area
- c) Doing a thorough evaluation of our programs and policies as we conduct our review of HR matters this year in hopes of aligning all our behaviours to the Canadian context
- d) Building self awareness and sanctification in this area amongst our leadership group especially by taking the Intercultural Leadership Inventory
- e) Highlighting 'Reconciliation' as a key focus in places like staff devotions, key conversations amongst staff and church leadership

Indigenous Ministry: Fitting with the concentration on Reconciliation, we are especially thankful for our Indigenous Ministry Centres in Canada and the personnel in our Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee. A few highlights include:

- a) All 3 centres (Winnipeg, Regina and Edmonton) all essentially remained open during the pandemic as frontline workers serving the most vulnerable!
- b) The centres received government funding for support
- c) Significant grant funding was also realized over the course of the pandemic and thus, very helpful.
- d) The Winnipeg centre will be working toward Indigenous director-level leadership beginning this year as they transition through job-sharing amongst Shannon Perez and the current director Michele Visser-Wikkerink
- e) CIMC's chairperson is Priya Andrade. We are grateful for her work in this new role.

Please consider how your church or yourself can connect to these vital places of grace.

As an added bonus, I put you all on notice that something called "*Hearts Exchanged 2.0*" is coming! It builds off an event in the early 2000s when people from across the CRCNA came together to reflect and share so that they might become one in understanding. This time, the Canada Corp has approved the construct of another event such as this - but this time amongst Canadians alone. This is in fulfilment of a Synodical directive which will have both countries leaning into the shared hope of embracing Indigenous Ministry in their context in a robust way in the CRCNA. *Hearts Exchanged 2.0* will be done in association with the next Canadian National gathering likely held on the eastern side of the country. Stay tuned....you'll be hearing more shortly.

For more information feel free to reach out to Shannon Perez at sperez@crcna.org

Canadian National Gathering: Due to several factors the 2022 Canadian National Gathering which was meant to be held in its next regularly scheduled 3-year slot will *likely* be pushed back a year to 2023. I am considering forming the team very soon to begin conversations and planning around this...so if you are desirous of serving on the team, let me know.

Inspire: Inspire 2021 will be held (the Lord willing) August 5-7 at the Tinley Park Convention Center near Chicago, Illinois. The theme of this 3 day event is "Inspired to be one" and will include plenary speakers who help us explore being one with God, with each other, with our neighbors/communities, and to be one in mission. There will also be 60+ exciting workshops aimed at all sorts of congregational ministry leaders. From Sunday school teachers and coffee break leaders, to deacons and elders, to refugee resettlement and racial reconciliation teams, there will be something for everyone at Inspire.

Right now the plans are to be in person in Illinois for this event. However, we are holding off on paying any major invoices or finalizing contracts as long as possible so that we can get an idea of whether or not such a gathering will be feasible. The website provider we are considering might also make it possible to do some of the key content as a virtual conference if we decide to go that route.

For more information please feel free to reach out to Kristen at kvanderberg@crcna.org

Good Governance for Better Missions (GGfBM): We have a dream. The dream is that every church in Canada will be so well served by a strong leadership/council that there will be countless calories to burn on mission - instead of finding elders, re-organizing structure, re-writing job descriptions for staff etc. This dream is in the beginning stages of reality as we begin to foster concentrated efforts in learning across CRCs in Canada. For now, let me offer you 3 things:

- A) A Christian take on good governance for the church - read [Institutional Intelligence](#) by Gordon Smith (Pres. of Ambrose University). The book is short and masterful. And his [blog](#) is equally as good for practitioners. The GGfBM project will continue with his presence and participation at key times.
- B) A link to the Network site where much of this reading material will be housed. It's a new site - read and grow!
- C) The possibility to enter into a pilot project that will pair your church with a group of people to be coached through the intentional improvement of your leadership!

All of this is important not because governance is more important than mission, but because good governance should support and encourage a flourishing of mission in your church.

For more information, please feel free to reach out to Lesli at lvamilligen@crcna.org

Worship Ministry (in Canada): The largest worship survey (in terms of number of respondents) has happened in the CRCNA. But this time, the survey was restricted to Canadian respondents. It was completed through *Not My Own Ministries* of Guelph Ontario and has led to some interesting findings and proposals which the board will be entertaining this fall. All of this is to teach us how it is that we might best serve Canadian churches in this often under-focused area. More to come through the winter and spring of next year. Hopefully though, in a way that helps generate concentrated effort around this ministry for Canadian churches through our Worship Ministries CRCNA.

For more information please feel free to contact Peter at pelgersma@crcna.org

Ecumenism: Two main entities exist in Canada that can serve your churches well in terms of resources and material via our membership in them. They are the [Canadian Council of Churches](#) (inclusive of Project Ploughshares) and the [Evangelical Fellowship of Canada](#). These are places that also engage our country by way of connecting to the government in a number of ways. So, your voice is given greater weight when it comes to a voice in parliament around a topic such as 'Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples' or 'Medical Assistance in Dying.' I am so grateful for our high participation in these circles by many CRC people volunteers. Much more than many, many denominations in Canada. In other words, we are having influence.

Again, allow me to thank you for your co-participation in the ministry that is the CRCNA. It is a pleasure serving you and a pleasure ensuring God's grace continues to move in and through all of our churches. During this pandemic I have been delighted to be part of many, many conversations with local leaders like yourself and I am impressed at your resilience, courage and flexibility. I pray that our efforts will be multiplied by God for His good purposes.

I see it happening when

Feel free to reach out to me at any point.

Darren Roorda - Canadian Ministries Servant

droorda@crcna.org

289-208-9928 or 800-730-3490 x 4301



August, 2020

Dear Canadian Christian Reformed Church Members,

I am writing to you on behalf of the directors of the CRCNA Canada Corporation, We are the board on the Canadian side of the Christian Reformed Church. The directors are comprised of one member elected from every classis plus three at-large directors.

It has come to our attention over the past several months that there is ongoing confusion within Canadian churches around the decisions made by the directors as we take steps towards becoming fully compliant with all legal and income tax requirements.

To help address the confusion and answer any lingering questions you may have, we have asked Carters Professional Corporation (one of Canada's leading charitable law experts with whom we have been working) to answer the questions we have been receiving. Following is the "Legal Question & Answer" they have prepared. We hope it will clarify things for you.

Also find included affirmations from Mr. David van der Woerd (the denomination's Canadian lawyer) as well as the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (an oversight body serving Christian charities).

We trust that the following information will help you better understand the necessity of the directors' actions and can help demonstrate that we have been acting in the best interests of the church we all love.

As always, if you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Darren Roorda (droorda@crcna.org), myself, or your Classical CRCNA Canada Corporation director. We are eager to address any misunderstandings that may exist and then work together to pursue Christ's mission for the Christian Reformed Church in North America (Matthew 28: 18-20), known as *The Great Commission*.

For His sake and glory,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. DeRuyter".

Andy DeRuyter, Chair, CRCNA Canada Corporation
**Christian Reformed Church in North America - Canada Corporation
(CRCNA Canada)**

**Legal Question & Answer from Carters Professional Corporation
Dated July 23, 2020**

1. *What is the Canada Corp? Is it a decision-making body or should the dual-nation shared Council of Delegates make all organizational decisions? Or Synod? Or someone/something else?*

CARTERS RESPONSE: CRCNA Canada is a registered charity under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) with an effective date of charitable status of December 9, 1980 and has been designated by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) as a charitable organization. CRCNA Canada is also a federal not-for-profit corporation incorporated by certificate and articles of amalgamation dated July 4, 2018 and is governed by the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*. CRCNA Canada is a party to a Joint Ministry Agreement with the Christian Reformed Church in North America – Michigan Corporation (“CRCNA US”) dated September 26, 2013. We understand that CRCNA-Canada and CRCNA-US, together with other corporate entities, make up the Christian Reformed Church in North America (the “CRCNA”). It is our understanding that the “Council of Delegates” is composed of the individuals who make up the board of directors of CRCNA Canada and CRCNA US. We also understand that there are 15 Canadian directors and 38 US directors. These individuals are stated as functioning as the “Joint Ministry Committee” required under the Joint Ministry Agreement.

As a federal not-for-profit corporation, CRCNA Canada has a board of directors that is statutorily responsible to manage or supervise the management of the activities and affairs of the corporation. Under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada), the Canadian board of directors is responsible for ensuring that CRCNA Canada is constituted and operated exclusively for charitable purposes and that all resources of which are devoted to charitable activities carried on by the organization itself. As a consequence of this requirement under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada), CRA requires that a registered charity must have direction and control over its “own activities”, i.e., where a Canadian registered charity works on a cross-border basis with other charities or other organisations outside of Canada, there must be sufficient autonomy in place between both entities so that the Canadian registered charity can demonstrate, in addition to being a separate Canadian legal entity, that it carries out its own activities independent of the charity or organisation in the other country that is not a Canadian registered charity.

2. *Where did the impetus for a review of CRCNA Canada’s compliance with Canadian laws and regulations come from? Why has the alleged non-compliance only been brought up now if compliance regulations are not new?*

CARTERS RESPONSE: The impetus for these changes came from letters and conversations that CRCNA Canada had received from local churches concerning whether or not CRCNA Canada, as currently structured, was in compliance with the *Income Tax Act* (Canada). As a result of hearing from concerns raised at the local church level around the appropriateness of existing arrangements between CRCNA Canada CRCNA US, the CRCNA Canada board of directors sought an external legal opinion in addition to speaking with the historical legal counsel for CRCNA Canada, as well as the Canadian Council of Christian Charities.

The impetus also came from the current job description of the Canadian Ministries Director of CRCNA Canada to “remind the CRCNA Canada Corporation what is involved to be in compliance with all corporate, legal, and income tax requirements and equip, advise, and ensure that the directors of the CRCNA Canada Corporation fulfill fiduciary responsibilities as corporate directors, officers and trustees”.

3. *How old are these regulations in Canada?*

CARTERS RESPONSE: The current wording of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) concerning a requirement that resources be used for activities carried on by the charitable organization itself date back to 1950. CRA’s current interpretation of these provisions are set out in Guidance CG-002, *Canadian Registered Charities Carrying Out Activities Outside Canada* dated July 8, 2010 and CG-004, *Using an Intermediary to Carry out a Charity’s Activities within Canada* dated June 20, 2011. The issue of direction and control mechanism was reviewed by

the Federal Court of Appeal in cases from the early 2000s, with a more recent case upholding those earlier decisions in 2015. These cases involved charities conducting activities outside of Canada through agents as intermediaries and not binational religious denominations or similar cross-border arrangements. For more information about CRA's requirement concerning "direction and control" and the relevant case law, reference can be made to a paper that Terrance S. Carter recently co-authored on the topic of "Direction and Control: Current Regime and Alternatives" available at:

<http://www.carters.ca/pub/article/charity/2020/Direction-and-Control-Current-Regime-and-Alternatives.pdf>.

4. *Is non-compliance with CRA and the ITA real? Have there been denominations in Canada who have suffered any consequences for not complying with Canadian regulations?*

CARTERS RESPONSE: In our experience, registered charities in Canada that operate on an international basis have had these issues raised by the Charities Directorate of CRA in the course of CRA charity audits and these charities have had to make structural changes in order to comply with the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) as a result of having to enter into a compliance agreement with the Charities Directorate. It is also widely known that numerous charities have had their charitable status revoked for non-compliance, many of them Christian. The CRA publishes a list of these decisions on a regular basis.

5. *Why did the Canada Corp have to act so quickly when non-compliance came to the forefront? Why did it seem that it was done "secretly"?*

CARTERS RESPONSE: Acting on legal advice, the board is implementing changes in order to address the risk concerning non-compliance with the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) based upon a legal opinion prepared by Carters Professional Corporation. These changes to date, and additional changes to come concerning the governing documents of CRCNA Canada, address issues concerning how CRCNA Canada is able to evidence direction and control over its charitable property that is shared with CRCNA US and that CRCNA Canada is able to direct and control its own activities. There is no basis that we are aware of to support the suggestion that changes may have been done secretly, as these changes have been a matter of ongoing discussion between CRCNA Canada and CRCNA US boards. The legal opinion has not been shared because if it was made available publicly the existing solicitor/client privilege attached to it would be waived and the comments contained in the legal opinion would be available to be produced in litigation against CRCNA Canada and/or its directors and officers or by CRA in the course of a CRA audit.

6. *What proof is there that CRCNA Canada was off-side when CRA did not even approach us to indicate such? What behaviours were exhibited by the CRCNA that demanded this level of response?*

CARTERS RESPONSE: In general, it is not a good idea to set out specific examples of non-compliance identified in the legal opinion in a public document that could then be referred to by CRA. At present, there is no evidence that CRA is aware of or has presented a concern to CRCNA Canada that it is not in compliance with the *Income Tax Act* (Canada). However, the legal opinion indicated that, based upon a number of indicia that CRA generally looks at when auditing a charity that operates on a cross border basis, a reasonable conclusion could be made that there is a distinct possibility that CRA might conclude that there is insufficient separation between CRCNA Canada and CRCNA US with a resulting lack of direction and control over the operations of CRCNA Canada.

7. *What dangers are there to the institutional denomination of the CRCNA if this situation isn't remedied?*

CARTERS RESPONSE: There are no changes to the faith component of the CRCNA denomination that are required, including the continued pre-eminence of Synod in matters of faith, doctrine and practice. The legal opinion provided is only with respect to matters of compliance for the CRCNA Canada corporation from a corporate and tax law standpoint in Canada. Canadian regulators have no jurisdiction over the CRCNA denominational matters that relate to CRCNA US.

However, from the perspective of CRCNA Canada, where CRA is of the view that there is insufficient separation between a Canadian registered charity and a charity or organisation in another country, and as a consequence the board of directors of the Canadian charity cannot be said to have direction and control over its own activities, CRA could decide to give notice of its intention to revoke the registered charitable status of the Canadian charity pursuant to paragraph 168(1)(b) of the ITA for ceasing to comply with the requirements of the ITA for registration and/or impose a penalty under subsection 188.1(4) of the ITA for CRCNA-Canada making its resources, including staff, available to a non-qualified donee (e.g. non-Canadian registered charity), which penalty is 105% for a first infraction and 110% for a repeat infraction.

The more realistic outcome, though, from our experience in working with many charities involving CRA charity audits is that CRA would take an “education first” approach and require the charity to enter into a compliance agreement to ensure that the charity will come into compliance with the requirements of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) within a stated period of time. If the charity failed to do so, then the charity would likely be facing revocation of its charitable status with the corresponding loss of its ability to issue charitable donation tax receipts, receive gifts from other registered charities, as well as the possibility of a revocation tax applying.

8. *Are there other church traditions/denominations that have worked through becoming CRA compliant as a dual-nation church?*

CARTERS RESPONSE: Yes, in an effort to be compliant with Canadian law, many registered charities that operate in conjunction with an international charity or on a cross-border basis with a charity in the US or other countries have been able to work through complying with CRA and its interpretation of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada). In our experience it is better to do so before these issues are raised by CRA rather than during the course of a CRA charity audit.

9. *Practically speaking, will this lead to a split between the two national sides of the church?*

CARTERS RESPONSE: No. There is no reason why CRCNA Canada and CRCNA US cannot continue to operate on a cross-border basis in coordinating their resources and operating on a joint basis. The legal opinion provided by Carters Professional Corporation did not opine on questions related to the ecclesiastical relationship between CRCNA Canada and CRCNA US or whether there should be a “split” of the CRCNA.

10. *Can CRA compliance still include some form of unity of the CRCNA across borders?*

CARTERS RESPONSE: Yes, since CRCNA Canada and the CRCNA US share a common faith, there is no reason not to continue the sharing and co-ordination of faith matters through a common Synod or an on-going coordinating committee, such as the Council of Delegates. To the extent that CRCNA Canada and the CRCNA US undertake religious or other charitable programs and activities involving charitable resources on a joint basis, they could do so through a joint ministry arrangement by means of the utilization of a joint ministry committee or other arrangements reflecting the requirements of CRA for direction and control.

11. *What danger was the local church in, if any, when it came to the fact that the CRCNA Canada was not in complete compliance with CRA regulations? Will upcoming changes impact them in any way?*

CARTERS RESPONSE: Based upon our understanding, local churches would not be directly impacted by the issues faced by CRCNA Canada because each local church maintains its own separate registered charity status. As such, even in a worst-case scenario and CRCNA was to lose its charitable status or become subject to a penalty because of non-compliance, the charitable status of each local church would not be impacted. However, local churches would of course lose the benefit of all of the ministry services that are currently available through CRCNA Canada

12. *Is the CRC Synod going to be involved in the process too? Will CRCNA Church Order need to change?*

CARTERS RESPONSE: Yes, there is no reason why CRCNA Canada cannot continue to coordinate this process with Synod or through other internal governance practices of the larger denomination, provided that CRCNA Canada is able to evidence compliance with the CRA requirements for direction and control. We understand that CRCNA Canada is of that view that in keeping with Synodical procedure on ecclesiastical matters, certain parts of the Church Order documentation may need to change to reflect this compliance. A review of bylaws and other documentation, such as the Church Order, is being implemented in the course of this fiscal calendar of the CRCNA (ending June 30, 2021)

13. *Why is the church being told what to do by a lawyer? In other words, doesn't the church decide what it should do and how it should behave before we get told what to do by a lawyer? Isn't the ecclesiastical process more important?*

CARTERS RESPONSE: The larger church or denomination is not being told what to do by a lawyer, nor should it be. The legal advice given pertains only to compliance for CRCNA Canada as a federal not-for-profit corporation and as a registered charity under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada). There is no reason why CRCNA Canada cannot continue to be a fully functioning part of Synod as a cross border ecclesiastical body.

14. *How does the distinction between “temporal” and “ecclesiastical” matter when it relates to meeting Canadian regulations?*

CARTERS RESPONSE: The issue is not primarily one of 'ecclesiastical' versus 'temporal'. Rather, the issue is one of CRCNA Canada being able to exercise sufficient direction and control in carrying over its “own activities” (inclusive of all temporal matters). The key point is that CRCNA Canada must always remain in control of its own programs and activities. The only exception to this rule is with regards to matters of religious doctrine, teaching and practice that can be determined by a religious body other than the Canadian registered charity, such as Synod. This latter description of religious doctrine, teaching and practice is also referenced in this legal Q&A as 'ecclesiastical.'



David A. van der Woerd
Direct line:(905) 572-5803
E-mail :dvanderwoerd1@rossmcbride.com

August 24, 2020

VIA E-MAIL – droorda@crcna.org

ORIGINAL BY REGULAR MAIL

The Christian Reformed Church In North America-Canada Corporation
P.O. Box 570, Stn LCD I,
3475 Mainway
Burlington, Ontario
L7T 3Y8

Attention: Andy DeRuyter, Chair

Dear Sir:

RE: The Christian Reformed Church In North America-Canada Corporation
("CRCNA-Canada ")
Charitable Status Review
Our File No. 10932-023

It has been a legal requirement of the CRCNA-Canada ever since it was established (and a requirement of every Canadian registered charity) that it must maintain "direction and control" over all of its resources. Because the CRC operates in Canada, in the United States and worldwide, it has always been a challenge to balance this legal obligation with its global mission vision. As CRCNA-Canada's legal relationship with CRCNA-US has evolved through the years, questions have been raised about its current structures and practices. The board of directors of CRCNA-Canada decided to have its current practices reviewed by an independent charity law expert to ensure that it remained compliant with Canadian tax law and policy.

As the Canadian denominational lawyer, I participated in CRCNA-Canada retaining Carters Professional Corporation as expert legal counsel. When Carters made its report along with recommendations for adjustments to be made, I reviewed it. I agree with the report and the recommendations and have encouraged the volunteer board as it now takes steps to make adjustments suggested in the report, so that CRCNA-Canada can remain compliant with the law.

Carters also prepared a helpful Legal Q and A document for CRCNA-Canada to use to explain in abbreviated terms some of the questions that CRC supporters may have about the report and the changes that are being made because of it. I recommend the Legal Q and A for distribution to interested CRC supporters who wish to know more.

Ross & McBride LLP • Barristers &
Solicitors 10th Floor - Commerce Place
1 King St. West, Hamilton, ON L8P 1A4 Canada

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P.O. Box 907
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Phone: 905-526-9800
Fax: 905-526-0732
www.rossmcbride.com

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I am writing this letter in support of the CRCNA-Canada's volunteer board as it tries to fulfill its fiduciary responsibility by engaging in this difficult task. I encourage CRC members to support the board as it administratively guides the CRC in Canada while fostering its ecclesiastical fellowship with other CRC ministries in the US and beyond.

Sincere yours,
ROSS & McBRIDE LLP
Per:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'DA van der Woerd', written over a rectangular stamp area.

David A. van derWoerd



CANADIAN COUNCIL of CHRISTIAN CHARITIES
ADVANCING MINISTRY TOGETHER

July 28, 2020

Greetings Darren,

I have enjoyed our past extensive correspondence regarding the matters addressed in the Carters Professional Corporation (CPC) Legal Q&A document you have shared. It is good to see that the CRCNA followed CCCC's suggestion to seek a formal legal opinion on these complex cross border issues. That was a prudent step. I can confirm that the information provided in this document is consistent with what we discussed and with CCCC's positions on these matters. The CRCNA has been given very good guidance by the CPC on how to comply with the *Income Tax Act* and meet the Canada Revenue Agency's administrative expectations.

Please also pass on our thanks to the board of the CRCNA for its support of CCCC via your on-going membership with us. It is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gilbert Langerak BCS
Manager, Member Support

1 - 43 HOWARD AVE • ELMIRA ON • N3B 2C9 • PH: 519-669-5137 • FX: 519-669-3291 • www.cccc.org

ADVANCING MINISTRY TOGETHER

The CRCNA in Canada: Restructuring for Priority Alignment with the cross-border mandate (Draft)

Dear Classis Delegates (Fall 2020),

In connection with the short video you are watching prior to (or during) your classis about the restructuring process in Canada, the Canadian Restructuring Team (CRT) is pleased to share with you a first draft of the Canadian ministry priorities. This is content that is high level and still needs details which will come as we enter into an engagement process with stakeholders throughout the CRCNA in Canada. These priorities have been situated in this document after the mission, vision, and value proposition of the church. They link to the current cross-border ministries for the whole denomination. It is our hope that these Canadian ministry priorities will help to increase the collaboration and contextualization that is necessary for meaningful, relevant, and Jesus-centred ministry. Your insight and wisdom are most welcome, moving forward.

CRCNA Mission: As people called by God, we gather to praise God, listen to him, and respond. We nurture each other in faith and obedience to Christ. We love and care for one another as God's people. We commit ourselves to serve and to tell others about Jesus. We pursue God's justice and peace in every area of life.
CRCNA Vision: The Christian Reformed Church is a diverse family of healthy congregations, assemblies, and ministries expressing the good news of God's kingdom that transforms lives and communities worldwide.
Canadian Value Proposition (New - This is a statement that clarifies the unique contributions of the denomination to the local church and the people it serves): This is Our Commitment to Canadian CRC Churches. We commit to offering a: Compelling Biblical Vision Partnership for Ministry Excellence A Reformed Voice throughout Canada Global Impact

CRCNA Ministry Priorities (Our Journey 2025) (aka: "bi-inational")			
Cultivate prayer and spiritual disciplines	Listen to the voices of every generation	Grow in diversity and unity	Share and live the gospel
Canadian Ministry Priorities (draft)			
Deeper: God calls me to live a life of spiritual renewal and continued growth that is grounded in scripture	Bolder: In the Godly pursuit of key justice matters integral to the Canadian church	Wider: Opening ourselves to our great Canadian mosaic	Further: Embodying Gospel convictions everywhere
Result Expected for Each Canadian Priority			
Increased commitment to practices for developing a Christian faith that is growing and impactful	Churches are places of listening and learning, and are open to questions of injustice, sin and brokenness	The richness of diversity is evident within our churches, leadership and partnerships	An established culture of practicing the way of Jesus in our neighbourhoods and the world with abundant resources

APPENDIX #9.2 – DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA

Warmest Greetings from Diaconal Ministries Canada!

I'm not sure about you but I've been finding much comfort in the psalms lately, and more particularly, Psalm 62. There's a lovely chorus that runs through it:

*Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him.
Truly He is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken.*

The Message puts it this way:

*God, the one and only—I'll wait as long as he says.
Everything I hope for comes from him, so why not?
He's solid rock under my feet, breathing room for my soul,
An impregnable castle: I'm set for life.*

What comfort for these days we're living in!

Resting in the knowledge of our heavenly Father's presence in our lives, Diaconal Ministries Canada continues to work with deacons all across Canada - to equip and support them in the work they do in their own contexts. And this has never been truer than in these recent months during the Covid-19 crisis.

From the earliest weeks of the shut-down, Diaconal Ministries wanted deacons to know they are not alone as they serve and equip their churches during these challenging times. [Our Diaconal Coaches and Field Staff](#) spent many hours reaching out to every single CRC diaconate in Canada - to check in and offer support. Coaches also hosted regional Zoom calls over the past months to help deacons connect with one another and to offer support and resources. Here's what one deacon shared with us recently:

"We feel very supported by our Coach and others who provide workshops and information. It was really great to be able to see each other on Zoom and to hear how other churches in our classis are reacting to and serving their communities during the Covid-19 Pandemic. [Our gathering] was well focused and I especially appreciated the opportunity to be part of this discussion while staying at home. I feel blessed. I am finishing my term as Deacon soon, but thought this was one of the best meetings I have been a part of....keep going!!"

(Karen Haveman, Ontario deacon)

A [Covid-19 Resource Page](#) was placed on our website, filled with practical tips and best practices. We also partnered with our friends at World Renew Canada to offer Covid-19 Grants to churches who longed to do diaconal work during this time but lacked the resources. So far **seventeen (17) churches** have received funding for community initiatives! We have also co-led four (free) webinars to educate deacons and ministry

leaders in the areas of mental health issues and the effects of inequality during Covid-19 and to encourage and equip them to reach out both locally and globally.

While we have much to celebrate and we continue to trust in our Heavenly Father, we also acknowledge the challenges that have come during the pandemic. Like many churches, we have experienced substantial financial constraints. As you can imagine, all of the above new initiatives take extra time, money, and staff. Our primary funding comes from annual Diaconal Ministry Shares and our NewGround Offering (held in May). Because churches were not gathering in their usual ways, our NewGround Offering was only able to bring in approximately 10% of our budgeted revenue. As well, when ministry share giving is down, ministry suffers.

In spite of this, we continue to be grateful. As we read on in Psalm 62, verse 8 tells us: *“Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge.”*

And so we carry on, blessed by the ongoing support and encouragement we receive from churches and classes like yours. May God continue to bless and guide us all as we carry out the ministries He calls us to.

For your information, here is our Board Executive for 2020-21:

Chair – Erica Snippe-Juurakko (Thunder Bay, ON)...erica.snippejuurakko@gmail.com

Vice-Chair – Martin Slofstra (Toronto, ON).....martinslofstra9@gmail.com

Secretary – Norm Haayema (Leduc, AB).....normhaayema@gmail.com

Treasurer – Rose Saller (Pontypool, ON)..... rosesaller@gmail.com

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

Respectfully submitted,

ron vanden brink
National Director, Diaconal Ministries Canada



Classis Hamilton Report – fall, 2020

Submitted by Peter Bulthuis, Canadian Director of Church and Community Engagement

The churches of Classis Hamilton continue to be a blessing for participants in World Renew's programs; who struggle with poverty or live in crises not of their making. Thank you for your continued financial support for the communities being served on your behalf. The Christian Reformed Churches in Classis Hamilton have donated \$284,488.30 for this work during this fiscal year.

Much of the work and its delivery have certainly changed since before mid-March of this year. All the activities in which World Renew is involved, have pivoted. This report will give some examples of the ways in which your agency is now delivering the global support you care about.

This report is a snapshot in time; it was written during mid-August; situations will likely have changed when this is read. What is sure, is that God remains faithful, his church is kept in His hands, and World Renew is continually working to respond to the situation as it changes.

This report is accompanied by a video which will have been sent to the stated clerk, Dick Kranendonk, specifically for this meeting of Classis Hamilton.

A. General Updates:

Responding to the seismic changes around the world, every team of World Renew has shifted its direction and emphasis, though not their vision: World Renew *envision*s a world where people experience and extend Christ's compassion and live together in hope as God's community. Every team has doubled down to ensure that global participants receive the support that is required and has been promised; that immediate COVID-19 needs are being met; that constituents in Canada receive transparent reports; that the love and grace of God is being shared in innumerable ways.

World Renew has continued to work with Diaconal Ministries Canada in providing webinars dealing with help and health during Covid, learning from inequality during Covid, and World Renew's global response to Covid (four already so far). We are currently developing webinars dealing with racism in Canada. That same partnership has lead Diaconal Ministries Canada and World Renew to grant over \$60,000 to 16 churches who have applied for funds to offer support in their communities. The number of participants being supported weekly, is over 1000 persons.

If you have the opportunity, do open this page: www.worldrenew.ca/corona.

B. Upcoming Important Dates and Activities

World Renew is grateful for the support that has been given for almost 60 years, as we continue to be *compelled by God's deep passion for justice & mercy, we join communities around the world to renew hope, reconcile lives, and restore creation*. This would not be possible without the power of God and his sustaining providence, and the love, care and support of the donors and the churches in Canada and the US.

Through the fall and into the winter, various church campaigns occur that are meant to educate and encourage folks in the churches to participate in the work of World Renew.

These campaigns focus on:

Oct. 12: Thanksgiving. This focuses on greater learning about World Hunger, through the *World Hunger curriculum* which is distributed through the churches, and will likely be distributed online this year.

Nov. 1: World Hunger Sunday. Continued emphasis on the World Hunger Campaign.

Dec. 25: An offering for World Renew.

Throughout the Advent season, the *Gift Catalogue* will be distributed (paper and online, along with the opportunities of using “*The Giving Tree*”).

C. Community Development: Pivoting to include COVID-19 Responses

Unfortunately, more than 300 million people in Africa, which is 40% of the population of Africa — and 2.4 billion people globally — lack access to clean water. Women and girls are often responsible for gathering a family’s water and in some remote African villages walk up to 4 hours/day to do so. Around the world, women consume 200 million work hours/day collecting water. As family water collectors and keepers, women are important agents for health in the fight against COVID-19 and other diseases.



Suggesting simple things like storing household water in frequently washed, covered containers can improve health. For instance, where installing systems for running water is challenging, or as an interim measure, tippy tap water systems can quickly be implemented to provide clean water hand-washing stations. Just a jug of water, a foot pedal, and some soap, all suspended on a wooden frame, ensures clean hands and helps prevent the spread of disease.

In communities where **World Renew** local partners have already constructed water systems, we are helping them to spread the word about vital sanitation and hygiene principles. Our partners are safely sending local instructors or using radio and cell phones to share messages about handwashing with soap and clean water, safe water storage, proper waste management, and other practices to help prevent transmission of COVID-19 and other diseases. As well, **World Renew** partners are teaching and equipping mothers to use clean water in cooking and gardening so they can protect their children from serious waterborne illnesses and also keep their little ones healthy with home-grown, nutritious food.

Clean water can help stop disease transmission, and prevent water-borne illnesses; clean water delivery is sustainable when the community is involved with every step of its provision.

D. International Disaster Response (IDR)

World Renew’s IDR response is based on three pillars: *prevention* of the spread of the virus (information distribution), *protection* (appropriate equipment), and *provision* (continued food distributions). In the past short while, World Renew has supported 1.2 million people in 17 countries, with soap, food, masks and more.

One example of the provision is in **The Philippines**.

“COVID-19 dampened the spirit of many families, especially the poorest among the poor but our simple way of helping them rekindled their hope,” said Jeff Cosico, World Renew’s Program Manager in the Philippines.

An elderly woman staring in happy disbelief at a large amount of food she is allowed to carry home. A mother crying with relief over powdered milk for a small child who had not had milk for days. A group of blind massage therapists exclaiming “thank you!” as they gather essential food items to take back to their hungry family members.

These are just a few of the hopeful sights World Renew staff witnessed as relief packages were distributed to 575 families in the Philippines who have been struggling because of a loss of daily wages as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For this COVID-19 response project, World Renew partners identified and prioritized vulnerable beneficiaries such as elderly people, people with disabilities, nursing and pregnant women, rickshaw drivers, security guards, and farm labourers. Nearly half of the households that were given these packages had few other forms of support as the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Most of the families were living on an income of under 5,000 pesos per month (approximately \$135 CAD) but then they lost their daily wages with the “stay at home” restrictions.

For the 575 recipient households, these food packages and hygiene items—funded by the ACT Alliance and the generosity of World Renew donors—have been a blessing and a lifeline during this difficult time. On their behalf, Jeff says with gratitude, “*Madamo gid nga salamat!*” (Thank you very much)!”

Another region where World Renew continues to respond, is in Lebanon, both supporting Syrian refugees, and in assisting response efforts in Beirut. On Tuesday August 4, an explosion took place in the Lebanese capital of Beirut, causing enormous damage, killing at least 190 people, injuring 6,500, and leaving more than 300,000 homeless. Hospitals are struggling to cope. In addition to the loss of life and health impacts, damage to buildings and infrastructure has been extensive. In the port where the explosion took place, major grain silos, which store a significant amount of the country’s grain, have been destroyed. This loss is causing significant concerns for the nation’s food security. The port in Beirut is also a key point of access for humanitarian aid within the Middle East region. Reports from partners suggest that humanitarian



assistance that was on ships in port when the explosion took place have been destroyed.

According to Nabil Costa, Executive Director of the Lebanese Society for Education and Social Development (LSESD), **World Renew’s long-time partner**, “this calamity could not have come at a worse time for a country on the brink of financial collapse and social implosion while the number of coronavirus cases have surged in recent days.”

Our partner in Beirut, MERATH, the relief arm of LSESD, is well-positioned to respond to the needs of affected communities. Very soon after the explosion, the

government of Canada offered to match donations made in response to this disaster from Aug. 4 – 24. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, folks began to send donation in to World Renew, to a total of \$480,000. Those funds will be well used to support and assist both the disaster response and the recovery in Beirut. World Renew, for the people of Beirut, thank all those who have donated.

Christian School, Beirut; 5 km from the blast site.

E. Refugee Settlement Activities:

During COVID-19, World Renew’s Refugee Sponsorship and Resettlement team has been actively engaged with providing support to all sponsoring churches. With the start of the pandemic, travel restrictions were put into effect.

-some churches who were expecting refugees to arrive soon had to shift plans abruptly as travel was cancelled.

-other churches who were currently assisting



families who had arrived had to be flexible and creative in their support and settlement of newcomers now in the new context of COVID-19.

-other churches have continued to submit new applications for future sponsorships.

In all these different situations, the Refugee Program team has provided information and support to churches through email, phone and zoom meetings. Regular 'COVID-19 Update' letters have been shared and included information about sponsorship gathered from various official sources.

As travel is gradually reopening, the refugee team is now assisting churches in developing quarantine plans for newcomers. Churches have adapted and responded well and in creative ways to the challenges of sponsoring and resettling newcomers during COVID-19; churches continue to reach out in support of refugees through the submission of new sponsorship applications.

The following are some statistics of the work of churches and the Refugee Sponsorship and Resettlement Team in sponsoring and resettling refugees:

42 CRCs and 25 bCRCs/community sponsors are currently waiting for refugees to arrive. These sponsors have submitted a total of 108 sponsorship applications (60 for CRC, and 48 for BCRCs)

20 CRCs and 12 bCRCs/community sponsors are currently settling 141 of newcomers

29 CRCs and 8 bCRCs/community sponsors are currently working on submitting applications for 161 refugees

We are grateful for the continued accompaniment of sponsoring churches and for their love and compassion shown for the many refugees that had to flee their homes for safety in a new land, assisting newcomers to feel welcome and to find a new home in Canada in this challenging context.

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

-Pray for the communities and partners with whom World Renew works around the world, that God will sustain them, and help them to thrive, even in this Covid-19 time.

-If your church has not done so yet, consider sponsoring a refugee of family. Contact Rebecca Walker at rwalker@worldrenew.ca.

-Pray for the many refugees waiting for travel to resume as their situation in countries of asylum are precarious and are deteriorating further with COVID-19.

-As you prepare your budget for the year 2021, consider including World Renew as a line item, to support the work that it does on your behalf.

Encourage your church to partner with a church or community outside North America. Call the office. Contact Peter Bulthuis (pbulthuis@worldrenew.ca ; 800-730-3490, ext. 4237), or Maria Oliveira (moliveira@worldrenew.ca , 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.ca

Blessings,



Peter Bulthuis, Director, Church and Community Engagement Canada

Calvin Theological Seminary – Fall 2020 Highlights

Since 1876, Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) has worked on your behalf to faithfully prepare leaders who can nurture disciples and serve the church. Calvin Seminary is a vital and hospitable learning community in the Reformed Christian tradition.

Our desire is not just to train pastors, but to also form church leaders who can cultivate communities of disciples for Jesus Christ.

Currently Calvin Seminary has around 300 students in various programs including our Latino/a Ministry Certificates. In addition, the school hosts a number of classes, weekly community events, chapel services, conferences, lectures, and other learning opportunities.

Ministry Highlights:

- May 23, 2020, marked the original Calvin Theological Seminary Commencement date. COVID-19 may have changed how we celebrate, but it could not change our celebrating our 61 graduates who came from Brazil, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Kenya, South Korea and the United States.
- Created the first ever 2020 Virtual Celebration of Graduates Commencement
Video: <https://vimeo.com/420427114>
- Held the third biennial *Loving Your Neighbor Conference* on July 6-7, 2020, focused on Forming Citizens of God's Kingdom in Prison and upon Reentry. The conference became a virtual event and the entire conference can be found here – <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7340817>
- Launched two fully online Master of Arts programs: MA in Ministry Leadership and MA in Bible and Theology. These join other Distance Learning options, which include Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, and the same MA programs offered in the hybrid-distance format (usually requiring one week on campus each semester).
- Along with Calvin University, presented timely, fully online summer courses to address ministry during this pandemic. Around 300 persons took a course from options included under the heading of Ministry in a COVID-Shaped World - <https://www.calvinseminary.edu/academics/covid-19-courses>

We do plan on offering similar options in October and November. Here is some more data on this summer's offerings:

16 summer online Ministry in a COVID-shaped Worship classes, facilitated by Calvin Theological Seminary

12 Calvin Theological Seminary faculty instructors taught

310 students/life-long learners participated

Included 3 courses conducted in Spanish

- Welcomed the first cohort of twelve students to be accepted into the new Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree which is led by co-program directors Dr. Danjuma Gibson and Dr. Geoff Vandermolen.
- Welcomed the first two students to an expanded Ph.D. degree for New Testament and saw Dr. Jeffrey A.D. Weima identified as the Deppe Family Doctoral Chair in New Testament.

- As we face the fall, we invite your prayers for our faculty, staff, students and Board members. We are preparing for face to face instruction in the fall, but we are ready to pivot to online education for all. We are glad for a robust distance education program that is the preference of many students at this time.

We would especially invite you to pray for international students during this global pandemic. We have five students (from South Korea) who will begin their Th.M. program by taking the Research Methods class online and then (D.V.) plan to move to Grand Rapids to physically attend Calvin Seminary in 2021.

- Thank you for your ministry of prayer, support and encouragement! We are glad that we are C.T.S. - Called To Serve!

For the June 2020 CRCNA Council of Delegates, we prepared a video that was recommended to all the churches. Here is the link to that video -- <https://vimeo.com/425890630>



Redeemer
University

777 GARNER ROAD EAST
ANCASTER, ON L9K 1J4

Redeemer Fall Classis Report 2020 – Classis Hamilton

Redeemer students have returned to campus this fall! We are thankful for something we have always taken for granted, namely, the ability to have students studying and living in community. The Fall 2020 semester will be unlike any other in Redeemer’s history. While many students are returning for in-person classes, Redeemer has prepared for dual-delivery this fall by investing in classroom technology that will allow students who have chosen to study remotely to be included in the lectures and class discussions. Surrounding this unique, innovative university learning experience is a comprehensive campus plan, building on the Framework released in June, that prioritizes student, faculty, and staff safety during COVID-19. Extensive preparations have been made to reduce the risks posed by the virus and Redeemer’s approach has met or exceeded standards set out by public health authorities.

Redeemer’s strategic plan “*Learn. Forward.*” was released this past spring and includes many exciting initiatives. Our vision is to develop Kingdom-centred, innovative graduates making a profound impact in a rapidly changing, complex, and digital world. Key priorities of the plan include increasing Reformed Christian worldview integration into the classroom and campus life, preparing our students to be innovative, problem-solving critical thinkers who reflect the love and hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, expanded degrees and a contemporary, sustainable campus, as well as enhancing a healthy culture of care and collaboration for employees.

Some of the exciting projects that have arisen out of the strategic plan include new residential and learning spaces and renovations to existing facilities to better serve a growing student population. Construction has already begun on a new residence facility with additional learning space. For a more extensive version of Redeemer’s 2025 strategic plan, you can visit <https://www.redeemer.ca/strategic-plan-2025>.

Redeemer’s recent name change to **Redeemer University**, has created a unique opportunity to rethink Redeemer’s brand. We went through an exciting rebranding process over the last year that resulted in a vibrant and fresh look for Redeemer, reflecting that we are moving forward and adapting to a changing world while still remaining anchored in the Reformed Christian tradition. We invite you to read about and



watch the exciting rebranding process and the meaning behind the new logo at redeemer.ca/rebrand.

We are also thankful that in late August, Hank de Jong joined us at Redeemer as Associate Vice President, External Relations. Hank is a Redeemer alumnus and brings a wealth of experience in local and international stakeholder relations, fundraising and leadership development. He has served as the Executive Director at EduDeo Ministries (formally Worldwide Christian Schools) since 2003. In his role, Hank will be overseeing development, church relations and more, and so you should expect to hear from him in the future. You can read more about Hank [here](#).

As we move into a new and uncertain school year, we are encouraged by our theme for the year: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." -2 Corinthians 12:9. As uncertainty and unrest continues to surround us, our Sovereign God's grace is the only certainty. He has ever been faithful to his people, and his grace is sufficient to carry his people through the obstacles we face.

We continue to seek God's wisdom and ask that you would pray for Redeemer as we encounter new challenges and changes, all while continuing to prepare students to follow Christ's call to transform culture and communities. We are thankful for your partnership in this increasingly important mission.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Graham, PhD
President



MINISTRY 2021

MINISTRY SHARES UPDATE

Dear Classis Delegates,

Thank you for the faithful and generous financial support that your congregation has given to Resonate Global Mission over the years! Whether through ministry shares, supporting a specific ministry, or giving through offerings, you have a reverberating effect that reaches both around the corner and around the world.

We know your church will be prayerfully considering what to give toward denominational mission work as the ministry shares program is changing. **Your committed giving through offerings to Resonate and through ministry shares multiplies mission work around the world.**

What's more, Resonate can help **deepen** your passion for mission, **strengthen** your capacity to follow God on mission, and **amplify** the impact you and your church have in your neighborhood and around the world. We can do more together than we can on our own!

The vision that unites us: we want to see communities of disciples joining in God's mission and faithfully proclaiming and living out the good news of Jesus.

By engaging with God's mission through Resonate, your church is joining a bigger story of worldwide mission. Thank you for your generosity, and for providing a full network of support for ministry leaders both in North America and around the world.

In Your Neighbourhood

Your church is **sent**, and Resonate's regional staff can provide personalized coaching and consulting to help you join God's mission right where he has placed you.

Around the World

Your church is a **sender**, helping people join God's mission in whatever place he's called them to go. Through volunteer trips, supporting sons and daughters of your congregation, or partnering with others, Resonate can help your church be a part of the worldwide body of Christ!

YOUR GIVING DOES MORE THROUGH RESONATE

Your mission workers need more than a cheque—they need partners in ministry, like you, and support from Resonate. That's why ministry shares and offerings have such an impact: Your support enables:

- Coaching and consultation to help Christian Reformed churches join God's mission in their neighbourhoods
- Church planting and revitalization
- Campus ministry
- Missionaries working in more than 40 countries
- Continuing education and training for mission workers
- Resources during the COVID-19 emergency
- Vital support for missionaries including logistical support and schooling for missionary kids
- Networks of prayer, care, and pastoral support
- A way for your church to send sons and daughters of your congregation whom God has called to mission

MINISTRY SHARES LAY A SOLID FOUNDATION

Your ministry share giving is important because ministry leaders depend on the solid foundation of your support and partnership. Your gifts fund a worldwide network of prayer and support! Currently, ministry shares provide just over 34% of Resonate's total income. This form of shared giving is why your church is able to do more than you could alone.

See how your church sends missionaries around the world, starts new churches, trains pastors and leaders, extends the gospel, and much more at www.crcna.org/ministryshares. Resources available here would make a great introduction for new members to your church council.

GIFTS AND OFFERINGS BUILD COMMUNITY

When you partner with Resonate, you are a part of a global body of Christ. You work with those who serve, teach, encourage, and lead people in faith. That's the bigger picture your church can be a part of through your gifts and offerings!

By working together with ministry partners around the world, we build community and capacity for mission—your giving goes further through Resonate!

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Right now, ministry leaders worldwide are putting their efforts toward responding and adapting to the new needs they find in their communities.

We are grateful that you are walking this journey with them—**you are helping to introduce people to “the God of all comfort**, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”

These words from 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 give us a picture of the role a mission agency can play during a pandemic. **You are making it possible for people both around the corner and around the world to discover and deepen their faith** through your gifts and prayers.

Responding to the coronavirus pandemic has been a massive undertaking and, through Resonate, **you are joining a global effort to ensure that ministry continues**. Your faithful giving has provided emergency assistance to missionaries, church planters, campus ministers, and other mission workers:

- Counseling and pastoral support
- Emergency grant funding for ministry support
- Special grant funding for new outreach projects
- Technology grant funding for ministry to move online
- Assistance in accessing emergency government programs

On behalf of ministry leaders in more than 40 countries, **we thank you for standing with us and declaring that gospel mission is essential.**

Serving with you,



Kevin DeRaaf
Acting Canada Director



CHURCH OFFERINGS

As you look to the new ministry season and review the calendar, we ask that you continue to support both the international and domestic work of Resonate. Synod encourages churches to take offerings for Resonate on the following dates:

September 13, 2020

The beginning of Mission Emphasis Week

September 20, 2020

The end of Mission Emphasis Week

April 4, 2021

Easter

May 23, 2021

Pentecost

This year, we have received a myriad of requests for special and emergency support for ministry during COVID-19. Will you please prayerfully consider increasing your gifts so that Resonate ministry leaders will be able to respond, adapt, and continue proclaiming and living out the gospel?

Connect with Resonate anytime by emailing
connect@resonateglobalmission.org