



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

Date: May 24, 2016 Time: 1:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Venue: Ebenezer Christian Reformed Church, 211 139B Talbot St. E. (Hwy 3), Jarvis N0A 1J0

Officers of Classis: Chair: Rita Klein-Geltink Vice Chair: Daryl DeKlerk Stated Clerk: Dick Kranendonk	Synodical Deputies: Not required
Reporter: Hope CRC - Brantford	Ballot Committee: Members of Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis
Credentials Committee: Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis Ancaster CRC, Ancaster	Overture Committee Not required

CREENTIALS:

1. The credentials shall be returned to the Stated Clerk by email no later than May 3, 2016 with CC: (copy) emailed to your delegates. Please note that there are additional questions on the credentials. Please fill them in where desired.
2. The credential questions and observations will be forwarded to the Credentials Committee so that they will be able to advise Classis. The Committee will email their report to the Stated Clerk by May 10, 2016. Their report will be emailed by the Stated Clerk to all the delegates.

OVERTURES:

The Overtures Committees will email their reports to the Stated Clerk by May 10, 2016 for distribution to the delegates of Classis as required. There are no overtures to deal with.

EMAIL ADDRESS:

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

Joining God in Mission: The Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee will lead our evening session. We believe God is calling us to consider new areas of ministry and planting as we seek to reach our communities with the love of Jesus. We'll begin by looking to scripture; we'll consider our specific contexts. We'll take some time to begin to discern what God might be leading us to in our Classis and churches. Members of your congregation who are interested in greater missional activity are encouraged to join in our discussion. Everyone is welcome.

CLASSIS MEETING DETAILS.....	3
APPENDIX #1 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES.....	5
APPENDIX #2 – CLASSIS MINISTRIES TEAM REPORTS.....	6
APPENDIX #2.1 – CMT REPORT.....	6
APPENDIX #2.2 – CHCC REPORT.....	7
APPENDIX #2.3 – PULPIT SUPPLY STUDY REPORT.....	8
APPENDIX #3 – CLASSIS STAFF REPORTS.....	12
APPENDIX #3.1 – MISSION DIRECTOR REPORT.....	12
APPENDIX #3.2 – McMASTER UNIVERSITY/MOHAWK COLLEGE CHAPLAIN REPORT.....	14
APPENDIX #4 – CIC AND STATED CLERK’S REPORT.....	16
APPENDIX #5 – DELEGATE, FUNCTIONARY AND COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS.....	18
APPENDIX #6 - EXTERNAL REPORTS:.....	19
APPENDIX #6.1 - WORLD RENEW.....	19
APPENDIX #6.2 - REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.....	21
APPENDIX #6.3 – CALVIN COLLEGE BOT.....	22

CLASSIS MEETING DETAILS

1:00 PM	OPENING WORSHIP AND EXERCISES
OPENING DEVOTIONS AND MINISTRY IN CANADA	Ken Benjamins
1. DEVOTIONS AND SHARING OF MINISTRY	Ebenezer CRC
2. PRAYER FOR THE HOST CHURCH	Ken Benjamins
1:45 PM	ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION
3. CALL TO ORDER	Rita Klein-Geltink
3.1. Approval of Agenda	
3.2. Attendance	Dick Kranendonk
4. ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Chair: President Henry Kranenburg
4.1. Establish Quorum (By-Law 5.2)	
4.2. Proof of Notice for the Meeting	
4.3. Approval of Minutes of AGM 2015 (Appendix #1)	
4.4. Election of Members of the CIC (By-law 5.1)	
4.5. Approval of the Audit Report on the 2015 Financial Statements (Corporations Act 96.1) – <i>(Separate document distributed with this agenda)</i>	
RECOMMENDED THAT: the audited financial statements and the Auditor's report thereon for fiscal 2014 be approved.	
4.6. Appointment of Auditor (By-Law 5.1.c)	
RECOMMENDED THAT: David M. den Boer be re-appointed as auditor for fiscal 2016.	
4.7. Closing of Annual General membership meeting	
5. CMT REPORT (INCLUDING CLASSICAL MINISTRY COMMITTEES) (Appendix #2)	Ken Benjamins
5.1. Chair's Report (Appendix #2.1)	
5.1.1. John Span to address classis about his vision for his role as Global Mission Capacity Builder.	
5.1.2. Liz Van Harten will present the outlines of the Connections Project initiated in our region by the denomination as a result of the Lilly Foundation Grant. The CMT has already agreed to participate in this project (see CMT Minutes of February 25, 2016).	
5.2. Candidacy Committee Awards (Appendix #2.2)	
The Candidacy Committee has awarded two forgivable loans for the 2016-17 seminary year to be used at Calvin Theological Seminary. The loans are in accordance with the policy adopted by classis so there are no policy concerns. Furthermore, classis has approved a total budget amount for the 2016-17 seminary year of \$60,000 CAD. The two awards at \$15,048 USD works out to about \$43,000 CAD so it is well within the approved budget amount.	
RECOMMENDED THAT: Classis approve the forgivable loans awarded for the 2016-17 seminary year to Ben Verkerk and Derrek Ellens in the amount of \$15,048 USD each.	
5.3. Pulpit Supply Study Report (Appendix #2.3)	
RECOMMENDED THAT: Classis approve the recommendations to amend Rules of Procedure 10.3 and the revised Guidelines contained in the report.	
5.4. Response to External Reports (Appendix #7)	
5.5. RECOMMENDED THAT: Classis approve the work of the CMT to date as reported to the churches in the Minutes and the attached Appendix #1.	
6. CLASSIS MINISTRIES REPORTS	
6.1. CMT and Missions Director (Appendix #3.1)	Marian Lensink
6.2. McMaster/Mohawk Chaplain (Appendix #3.2)	Michael Fallon

7. INTERIM COMMITTEE Henry Kranenburg
- 7.1. Interim Committee Report (Includes Stated Clerk’s report, Appendix #4)
- 7.2. **RECOMMENDED THAT:** Classis modify Rule of Procedure 10.2.4 by adding the following after the current sentence “to be included with the agenda and noted in the CIC report to allow for discussion as needed.” The full sentence will then read: “The Counselor shall render a written report of his work to Classis upon completion of his task to be included with the agenda and noted in the CIC report to allow for discussion as needed.”
- 7.3. **RECOMMENDAD THAT:** the Classis approve the change in the heading of Rule of Procedure 13.5 to read “Audit Review Committee” in place of the current heading “Finance Committee”.
- 7.4. Election of Delegates, Functionaries and Committee Members (Appendix #5)
- 7.5. Approval of Classical Interim Committee and Stated Clerk Work
RECOMMENDED THAT: Classis approve the work to date of the Interim Committee and of the Stated Clerk in so far as this has been disclosed in minutes previously distributed to the churches and in Appendix #4.
- 7.6. Balloting Committee Report
RECOMMENDED THAT: the ballots be destroyed.
8. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT Credentials Committee
9. SPEAKERS:
- 9.1. Wytse Van Dijk to make a brief presentation about his service and experience serving on the Calvin College BOT for the past six years.
- 9.2. Henry Brouwer, Regional Coordinator, Climate Witness Project, will help make churches more aware of climate change and help them reduce their energy usage in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
10. BREAKOUT SESSIONS Marian Lensink
- Delegates will be invited to participate in one of 4 breakouts around Faith Formation, Global Mission, Justice and Mercy, and Servant Leadership. Denominational agencies and leaders will share what their ministries are doing, as together we consider ways to live into our specific callings. Some of the agencies listed below are tentative and are provided to give delegates some idea as to what will be presented.
- 10.1. **Faith Formation**
Faith Formation Ministries
- 10.2. **Global Mission**
Christian Reformed World Missions
Salaam 2.0 Project
- 10.3. **Mercy and Justice**
World Renew
DMC
- 10.4. **Servant Leadership**
Leadership Development of Youth
Redeemer University College
-
- 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM DINNER
-
11. **JOINING GOD IN MISSION:** Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee
-
- 9:00 PM Closing Devotions Rita Klein-Geltink
-

APPENDIX #1 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

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

Date: May 26, 2015 **Time:** 2:50 PM

Venue: Bethel Christian Reformed Church, 616 Dundas St. E., Waterdown, Ontario

Note: This meeting took place immediately prior to the meeting of Classis Hamilton.

1. Constitution of the Meeting (*By-law 5.2*)
A quorum of both churches (with one delegate absent) and of individual members of the corporation being present, the meeting was declared to be duly constituted for the transaction of business.
2. Proof of Notice for the Meeting (*By-law 5.4*)
IT WAS NOTED THAT: notice of the meeting was sent to the clerks of the classis churches and members of the CIC on April 14, 2015.
3. Election of the Classis Interim Committee (CIC) who serve as members of Classis Hamilton until the May 2016 meeting of Classis (*By-law 4.2.2*).
(*Clerk's Note: The counting of the ballot took place during the "Classis Meeting"*)

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

Henry Kranenburg John den Otter
Ken Benjamins Mark Vandervliet
Henk Van Tuyl John Huyser
Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo

Serving on the CIC by virtue of office (also reconfirmed for one year):

Dick Kranendonk – Stated Clerk
Marian Lensink – Mission Director
Bruce Adema – Chair of Classis (*for Classis Meetings 2015*)

4. Audited 2014 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 2014 are approved.
5. Auditor for 2015
On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** David M. den Boer be reappointed as auditor for fiscal 2015.
6. Closing of AGM
There being no further business, the AGM was terminated.

President

Reporter

APPENDIX #2 – CLASSIS MINISTRIES TEAM REPORTS

APPENDIX #2.1 – CMT REPORT

Classis Ministry Team Report (CMT)

May, 2016

The Classis Ministry Team continues to provide leadership and direction to all the activities of Classis. After a number of visioning exercises our committee has decided to view classical activities along the line of three arrows.

- **We look up**—in shared worship to build each other up in Christ.
- **We look in**—to insure that all our classical ministries are functioning well.
- **We look out**—so that we may “be used by God to renew the greater Hamilton region...”

The areas in which we do our ministry are broad enough to provide sufficient flexibility to address the various opportunities and challenges that come our way. One new venture recently approved by the CMT is “The Connections Project.” Via Skype Derek Atkins and Lis VanHarten were able to meet with the CMT to explain the purpose and goals of this multi-faced ministry. We look forward to their presentation at the May Classis meeting.

The CMT oversees the work of Marian Lensink, our Missions Director, and the ministries of Home Missions, Campus Ministry, Youth, Candidacy Committee, Safe Church Team (and Shalom Manor). Marian will report on some of these ministries in her report.

Regarding Campus Ministry: Dr. Michael Fallon’s final Sabbatical proposal was approved by the CIC on April 7. We wish him God’s blessing as he embarks on his well-deserved time away from the regular routines of campus ministry. One of Michael’s goals is to update his PhD dissertation. This will help insure his academic standing at Mac Master. It will also help him understand and serve the Dutch Reformed community (the topic of his study) in a better way. Campus Ministry has recently struck up a committee to find an interim Chaplain.

Regarding the Candidacy Committee: We are thankful that Corey Van Huizen was ordained as a minister in Caledonia, Michigan. We wish God’s richest blessings to Nathan Klingenberg, Wim De Vries, and Mark De Vos who hope to be declared eligible for call at our upcoming Synod! And we continue to pray for Courtney Mooney, Ben Verkerk, Josiah Bokma and Derek Ellens who are at different stages in their preparation for ministry.

The Candidacy Committee’s report is found in the next appendix. They recommend that Classis approve the disbursements of funds for the following students:

- Ben Verkerk: Entering 2nd year at CTS: \$15, 048.00 (full Tuition)
- Derek Ellens: Entering 1st year at CTS: \$15, 048.00 (full tuition)

Finally, we note that Andrew Zomerman will take over as chair of the Candidacy Committee. We thank Chris Schoon for his excellent service as chair. Chris will continue to serve the committee as a regular member.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Benjamins, Chair of the CMT

**Classis Hamilton Candidacy Committee
Report to Classis Hamilton**

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

We are delighted to report the several students with whom we have been walking anticipate graduation and candidacy this year. Below are updates on each of the students we are following:

- **Corey Van Huizen:** graduated (CTS) in December 2015 and has been called & ordained as a minister in Caledonia, Michigan.
- **Nathan Klingenberg:** graduating (CTS) & anticipates being declared a candidate at Synod in June.
- **Wim DeVries:** graduating (CTS) & anticipates being declared a candidate at Synod in June.
- **Mark DeVos:** completing EPMC & anticipates being declared a candidate at Synod in June.
- **Courtney Mooney:** continuing with EPMC, currently working with John Bowers at Crosstown in Milton, ON; Chris Schoon serves as her mentor, Rita Klein-Geltink is also on her mentor committee.
- **Ben Verkerk:** completing his 1st year at CTS; will be doing a summer internship with the national parks ministry
- **Josiah Bokma:** coming home from his work at the Nehemiah Center in Nicaragua this summer to complete his MDiv (Tyndale) and EPMC requirements. He anticipates being declared a candidate at Synod 2017 (next year).
- **Derek Ellens:** has been a leader in our McMaster Campus Ministry for the past several years. He is graduating from McMaster University this spring and entering CTS in the fall.
- We also have a couple first year Redeemer students who have already indicated to members of our committee that they intend to enroll at CTS after completing their undergraduate work. One of those students, Aren Plante, is serving as a young adult advisor to Synod this year.

For action:

Each May, we provide our recommendation to Classis for disbursement of funds (as forgivable loans) during the upcoming school year. This year, we have two students for whom we are recommending financial support for during the 2016-2017 academic year. We request that Classis Hamilton approve the disbursements of these funds in the following amounts:

- **Ben Verkerk: Entering 2nd year MDiv at CTS full tuition \$15,048.00USD**
- **Derek Ellens: Entering 1st year MDiv at CTS full tuition \$15,048.00USD**

Logistical Note:

After serving as chair of our committee for the past several years, Chris Schoon is stepping out of that role after the May 2015 Classis meeting. He will continue to serve on the committee. Andrew Zommerman has agreed to serve as our committee chair going forward.

APPENDIX #2.3 – PULPIT SUPPLY STUDY REPORT

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee Regarding Pulpit Supply

Mandated to evaluate the purpose and effectiveness of our current Classical Appointment system and propose a new set of guidelines that both reflects the vision of Classis Hamilton and the diversity of ministry approaches in our churches (see excerpt from Minutes of the October 27 Meeting of Classis Hamilton – Schedule A).

Committee members: Anthony Elenbaas, Mark Vandervliet, Ed Witvoet

Our committee did the following research to lay the groundwork for our recommendations:

- Viewed the recorded discussion held at the October 27, 2015 meeting of Classis Hamilton
- Polled other Classes in Canada to review “best practices”
- Polled the churches of Classis Hamilton to be able to reflect the diversity of ministry approaches within our Classis.
- Reviewed our Rules of Procedure (10.3) and Guidelines for current policy and practice

Our review of the above yielded a range of practices but suggested a fairly uniform commitment to share the burden of vacancy among churches. Within Classis Hamilton the majority consensus was to continue the practice of providing pulpit supply to vacant churches albeit with varying expectations of the frequency of such supply. The practice is appreciated, but feels burdensome in its current state. To address this, we’ve adjusted it to only cover one Sunday a month instead of two.

We heard churches on both sides on whether to supply for evening services, but found the case made for keeping evening supply more compelling, as this maintains the spirit of Church Order Article 51a – to “assemble for worship, ordinarily twice on the Lord’s Day ...”. This is reflected in the recommendation that a pulpit supply assignment is provided on a “per Sunday” rather than a “per service” basis. We note in response to the concern of sending a church’s employed pastor on evening service assignments (when, for instance, it may interrupt discipleship activities) that arrangements can be made within the guidelines between churches to send a pastor other than the sending church’s employed pastor.

We also recognized that much of the difficulty faced this past year centered around a lack of clear communication regarding schedules. We therefore clarified and streamlined the rules and guidelines, and made provision for all documents and latest updates to be available in one place and one place alone—the Classis Hamilton website. Additionally, updates will only be made to the schedule at set intervals throughout the year.

Finally, our recommendations are guided by Classis Hamilton’s Vision, Purposes, and Values of “***Mutual*** encouragement,” “***Mutual*** accountability,” and “***Community (vs. isolation)*** Ministry (vs. administration)” “to be used by God to renew the greater Hamilton region through a gospel movement ***of healthy and vibrant churches, ministries and members.***” {our emphasis added}. This presumes churches working together to negotiate an arrangement.

Recommendations

To accomplish the mandated Pulpit Supply proposal, we recommend the following:

1. Revise the relevant Rules of Procedure Article 10.3 as follows (also presented side by side in Schedule B):

10.3 CLASSIS PULPIT SUPPLY (proposed)

1. As an expression of our Vision for “healthy and vibrant churches, ministries and members” through mutuality and community, we understand providing pulpit supply support to be a communal matter—churches helping each other, rather than pastors helping churches.
2. Churches experiencing a vacancy of an ordained pastor shall be entitled to request Classis pulpit supply for one Sunday per month from September through May. Such a request must be made to the Stated Clerk of Classis.
 - 2.1. A two-pastor congregation, with a vacancy of the pastor whose primary function was preaching may request Pulpit Supply.
 - 2.2. Congregations, who obtain the services of a full, or part-time stated-supply minister, may request Pulpit Supply.
 - 2.3. A church whose minister is a synodical delegate shall be entitled to Classis pulpit supply for one Sunday while its minister attends Synod.
3. Provision of support is to be based upon the worship practices of the receiving congregation (all services normally scheduled for that Sunday).
4. The Pastor must be a minister in good standing in the CRC.
5. A church which receives Classis pulpit supply shall remunerate the sending church at the rate set by Classis and reviewed periodically. The travel expenses incurred by the guest minister as s/he fills the Classis appointment shall be paid directly to her/him by the church receiving her/his services, at a rate determined periodically by Classis.
6. The Classis Interim Committee shall be responsible for preparing a [pulpit supply schedule](#). Such schedule shall be posted on the Classis Hamilton website (only) to maintain consistency. http://www.classishamilton.ca/files/ClassisHamilton/classical_appointments_2015_2016_r6.pdf
7. Classical appointments will not be scheduled on the following days: New/Old Year’s days, the first Sunday in January, Palm Sunday, Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.
8. Ordinarily the Stated Clerk will maintain a [list of retired ministers](#) and other licentiates available to preach on the Classis website. http://www.classishamilton.ca/files/ClassisHamilton/pulpit_supply_list_for_classis_hamilton.pdf

2. Revise the associated guidelines as follows:

PULPIT SUPPLY GUIDELINES – CLASSIS HAMILTON

Pulpit Supply is arranged in accordance with Classis Hamilton [Rules of Procedure](#) Article 10.3.

http://www.classishamilton.ca/files/ClassisHamilton/rules_of_procedure_of_classis_hamilton_issue_2015_3.pdf

The churches are encouraged to negotiate the details between the sending and receiving churches. These commitments have been covenanted together and may therefore be considered obligations of collegiality and a sharing of burdens.

The [Classis Hamilton schedule](#) provides for pulpit supply **One Sunday each month** (ordinarily the 3rd) from September through May. The specific Sunday within each month may be mutually negotiated. No assignments will be made for the months of June thru August in order to encourage the use of Seminarians seeking summer assignments.

Assignments will, as much as possible, be distributed evenly among sending congregations. Changes in pulpit vacancies will ordinarily be adjusted in the schedule only once prior to each of **three** periods (Sept – Nov; Dec – Feb; Mar – May) approximately 6 weeks in advance of each period.

Expenses will be paid on a per service basis as follows:

- One hundred dollars (\$100.00) per service should be sent by the receiving church to the sending church. Discussion may be held between the sending and receiving church in the event that the recipient of this fee may be the alternate pastor or for extra services.
- Mileage (\$0.50 per km for 2016) will be paid by the receiving church to the visiting pastor.

The church will ordinarily send the pastor employed on staff. The sending church must convey in advance to the receiving church (with their agreement) which pastor will fill the vacant pulpit.

To meet the pulpit supply assignments, congregations with pastoral vacancies as well as sending congregations may make use of the [published contact list](#) of additional ordained Pastors and Commissioned Pastors in Classis Hamilton, as well as those licensed to exhort.

Sending churches are encouraged make contact with the receiving church prior to a classical appointment to verify whether any changes need to be made; please arrange these changes among yourselves. Remember to notify the churches and/or pastors involved of any changes (please consider a nominal 4 to 6 weeks as a reasonable advance notification/negotiation period).

Grounds

1. Continuing the practice of Classis Pulpit Supply and doing so in the suggested format is consistent with Classis' stated Vision, Purposes, and Values, as well as the feedback from the churches of Classis, reflecting a commitment to share the burden of vacancy among churches.
 2. In response to the burdensome feel of the current practice, offering one Sunday of Classis Pulpit Supply a month as opposed to two ensures that the burden borne by the churches of Classis remains reasonable, even if a significant number of churches are vacant.
 3. One Sunday of Classis Pulpit Supply a month alleviates the necessity of changing the schedule as frequently as is the case under the current system when churches drop from a request of two Sundays/month of supply to one, lessening confusion and administration.
 4. The Church Order states "assembl[ing] for worship, ordinarily twice on the Lord's Day" as the norm of the denomination's worship life, encouraging congregations to continue this practice. As such, it is appropriate that Classis continue to support churches with second services through Classical Appointments.
 5. The recommendations above provide and encourage clearer communication of schedules and expectations among the churches of Classis.
-

Schedule A: Committee Mandate

1. OVERTURES COMMITTEE #2

Overtures Committee #2 presented its report in relation to the overture received from Bethel CRC, Waterdown regarding pulpit supply for vacant churches. Overtures Committee #2 presented two recommendations in response:

- 1.1. On motion was duly made, seconded and carried, **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** Classis set aside ½ hour at its October meeting to discuss the value and concerns around our current system of Classical Appointments.

The discussion took place at this point and demonstrated a relatively wide range of views regarding pulpit supply and the challenges faced by church pastors in meeting the needs of both their own congregations and desires of vacant churches. The reporter of Overture Committee #2 made notes of the comments made and will present these to the committee charged with providing Classis with further advice.

- 1.2. On motion was duly made, seconded and carried, **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** Classis Hamilton ask the CMT to form a committee to evaluate the purpose and effectiveness of our current Classical Appointment system and propose a new set of guidelines that both reflects the vision of Classis Hamilton and the diversity of ministry approaches in our churches. The committee ought to take into consideration the concerns raised by the Bethel CRC overture, the results of the Classis discussion and seek further input from the individual churches and pastors of Classis.

Schedule B: Rules of Procedure Comparison

10.3 CLASSIS PULPIT SUPPLY (original)	10.3 CLASSIS PULPIT SUPPLY (proposed)
<p>1) Churches without a minister shall be entitled to request Classis pulpit supply for two Sundays per month from September through May.</p> <p>a. A two-pastor congregation, with one vacancy will be allowed one Sunday per month.</p> <p>b. 1.2. Congregations, who obtain the services of a full, or part-time stated-supply minister, may ask for one Sunday per month.</p> <p>2) Ordinarily the Stated Clerk will maintain a list of retired ministers and other licentiates willing to help out on the Classis website.</p> <p>3) A church whose minister is a synodical delegate shall be entitled to Classis pulpit supply for one Sunday while its minister attends Synod.</p> <p>4) A church which receives Classis pulpit supply shall remunerate the church whose minister provides the service at the rate set by Classis and reviewed periodically. The travel expenses incurred by the guest minister as s/he fills the Classis appointment shall be paid directly to her/him by the church receiving his/her services, at a rate determined by Classis.</p> <p>5) The Classis Interim Committee shall be responsible for preparing a pulpit supply schedule.</p>	<p>1) As an expression of our Vision for “healthy and vibrant churches, ministries and members” through mutuality and community, we understand providing pulpit supply support to be a communal matter—churches helping each other, rather than pastors helping churches.</p> <p>2) Churches experiencing a vacancy of an ordained pastor shall be entitled to request Classis pulpit supply for one Sunday per month from September through May. Such a request must be made to the Stated Clerk of Classis.</p> <p>a. A two-pastor congregation, with a vacancy of the pastor whose primary function was preaching may request Pulpit Supply.</p> <p>b. Congregations, who obtain the services of a full, or part-time stated-supply minister, may request Pulpit Supply.</p> <p>c. A church whose minister is a synodical delegate shall be entitled to Classis pulpit supply for one Sunday while its minister attends Synod.</p> <p>3) Provision of support is to be based upon the worship practices of the receiving congregation (all services normally scheduled for that Sunday).</p> <p>4) The Pastor must be a minister in good standing in the CRC.</p> <p>5) A church which receives Classis pulpit supply shall remunerate the sending church at the rate set by Classis and reviewed periodically. The travel expenses incurred by the guest minister as s/he fills the Classis appointment shall be paid directly to her/him by the church receiving her/his services, at a rate determined periodically by Classis.</p> <p>6) The Classis Interim Committee shall be responsible for preparing a pulpit supply schedule. Such schedule shall be posted on the Classis Hamilton website (only) to maintain consistency.</p> <p>7) Classical appointments will not be scheduled on the following days: New/Old Year’s days, the first Sunday in January, Palm Sunday, Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.</p> <p>8) Ordinarily the Stated Clerk will maintain a list of retired ministers and other licentiates available to preach on the Classis website.</p>

APPENDIX #3 – CLASSIS STAFF REPORTS

APPENDIX #3.1 – MISSION DIRECTOR REPORT

Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: “God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.” Matt. 28: 18-20 (MSG)

The Great Commission. We’ve all read it; we’re pretty familiar with it. Perhaps reading it in this paraphrase from the Message, you see something different than you’ve understood before.

I’ve heard it said that Jesus words can really be understood to mean, “As you go about your business, go and make disciples.” Or as Peterson has stated, “Go out and train everyone you meet.” Added to that, we have the promise that Jesus is with us every day, as we go about our disciple making.

As I consider the work of encouraging mission within the classis, I believe it begins with **making disciples**. I’ve been working with a few churches, in the area of discipleship, considering ways of rejuvenating existing small groups, or developing new ministry. **Small groups** provide the context for discipleship, for growing to become more like Jesus. They also provide a good context for deeper missional activity in your church and community. If your church is interested in going deeper with small groups, please be in touch with me.

One specific component of discipleship is prayer, 2 Chron. 7:14 says: ***If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*** Within the Classis we are seeking to grow the heart for prayer, as we gather prayer teams together from time to time. I continue to work with John Veenstra, Classis Prayer Coordinator. He is available to consult with your prayer team. Please consider ways in which you can become a praying church.

Discipleship also needs to happen in the context of safe places. In my work with the **Safe Church Team**, we invited Gerri Nyman, to give a presentation on Child Abuse. As a registered social worker with much experience in child protection services, Gerri gave a very comprehensive workshop for the team. Al Karsten also shared about his work with recruiting more foster families within our churches. Foster parenting provides a beautiful picture of God’s love and care for the most vulnerable. More foster families are needed.

There are still some churches that have not connected well to the Safe Church team. Our meetings are great opportunities for mutual learning and support. Please ensure that your church sends a representative to each meeting of the Safe Church Team.

The **CH Youth Team** together with John Bijl, the Youth Ministry Champion with Faith Formation Ministries are working to meet personally with youth leaders of each church for support, encouragement and listening. Youth Leaders have truly appreciated these coaching conversations.

In the end of February, I worked with some chaplains to plan an evening workshop around **Ministry to Seniors**. Over 50 people were in attendance, as we engaged good discussion of helpful ideas for visiting seniors in our neighbourhoods and communities. We are considering a follow-up workshop.

The **Classis Home Missions Committee** is pursuing what God might be calling us into with regard to church planting. We are looking ahead to the Classis Meeting where we will be inviting the churches of

classis to begin to discern where God might be leading us in terms of missional activity and church planting. Please encourage others to join us as well.

I'm having some conversations with various churches about receiving and supporting **refugees**. God calls us to welcome the stranger; many hearts are stirring in this regard. I am eager to see what God might do as various churches work together to support families seeking refuge.

At our next Classis Meeting we'll be having some breakout sessions where we will hear further about some of the ministries of our denomination. This will also be a time to share what would be helpful for our churches as we engage deeper mission.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to see where God will lead us, as we seek to follow Jesus in Mission.

Marian Lensink, Classis Mission Director
marian@classishamilton.ca

APPENDIX #3.2 – McMASTER UNIVERSITY/MOHAWK COLLEGE CHAPLAIN REPORT

Dear Friends,

Spring has finally arrived and with its arrival our academic year is beginning to wind down. As I write this, I am remembering our McMaster and Mohawk “End of Year Celebration and Graduation Banquet” this past Saturday night (April 9th) in Ancaster. This year we have 18 students from our ministry graduating. It was a night filled with music, stories and testimonies, and yes, many tears were shed.

In this report I would like to briefly note some of the significant events that have taken place this semester. However, before I do that, I would like to take some time to offer a word of “thanks” to some key people that blessed our ministry this year.

Christian Reformed Campus Ministry is embodied many ways. Love of God, love of learning and love of the university are central to our Reformed vision. Our ministry at McMaster and Mohawk has been blessed to do this in covenant community. I would like to mention some of the people that make up that community.

First of all, I would like to recognize three of our student leaders who are graduating: Saskia Van Arragon, Shae-Lynn Knevel and Derrek Ellens. I am pleased to note that Shae has some promising job opportunities connected to her program and that in the Fall, Saskia will be heading to Graduate School and Derek will be joining some of our former student leaders at Calvin Seminary. I want to congratulate them on their fine academic accomplishments and to thank them for the work they put into their leadership positions. They have been a blessing!

I would also like to thank our current and returning student leaders. These are Rachel Batenburg, Katherine Maz, Heather Driese, Travis Golem, John De Gelder, Adam Vanderleest and Steven Nightingale. All these student leaders committed themselves to this ministry and did more than was asked of them. It is in large part due to their efforts that we had such a vibrant, meaningful year.

Last Month on Maundy Thursday we installed several new student leaders, Curtis Hoekstra, Andre Du Pree, Jenna Voortman, Kaithlyn Lammers, Mark Vanderleest and George Zhai. These new leaders will work with our veteran (seasoned) leaders to run our Men’s and Women’s Bible Studies, Volunteer Programs, Out Reach Programs, Sports Teams ... and so on.

Our Classis steering committee this year was composed of Rev, Bruce Adema, Prof. Bob Brown, Lisa Nightingale, Justin Adema, Anita Van Geest & Dr. Daniel Machiela. Our McMaster University ‘All Things’ and Mohawk College ‘Solid Rock’ Fellowships would like to thank you for coming to all our social events and showing us your care, concern and love through word and deed.

Another group we would like to acknowledge are our Faculty Mentors and Denominational representatives. People who came and shared their passion for learning about God’s world. These people were an inspiration to us – Dr. Michael Le Roy (President of Calvin College), Dr. Aaron Schat, Prof. Paul Heerema, Dr. Nathan Cooper, Dr. Daniel Machiela, Prof. Bob Brown, Ida Kaastra Mutoigo, Joshua Kooiman, Seth Adema, Dr. Al Wolters, Dr. Chris Schoon & Pastor Rita Streutker Klein-Geltink to name but a few.

We also want to recognize our many ‘Hosts’ from Classis that have blessed us this year with the gift of a home cooked meal. Sometimes our hosts were individuals, sometimes small groups – let me just say, that your contribution of a meal was instrumental in us being able to build community and share our Reformed Kingdom vision with so many. Thank you!

Last week we had our end of year review at our McMaster ‘All Things’ Fellowship. (We are still in classes at Mohawk so our Mohawk Review is still to come). Derek and Saskia chaired our McMaster meeting. We had a very good open discussion. One thing that was noted and celebrated was that we had received a message from Ida from World Renew that we had raised enough funds with from our “International Women’s Day Initiative” to put 6 women in Uganda into the Bee Keeping Business. This is

the 2nd year in a row that our students had committed to pray for and raise money to support World Renew. Taken together with last year's funds we have now put 16 women in the Bee Keeping Industry. There was a lively discussion around all the programs. "All Things," our Fellowship Night, 'Abraham Kuyper Speaker,' 'Ontario University & College Summit' 'Fully Alive' our Men's Group, 'Revive Again' our Women's Group. Outreach Program, Volunteer Program with 541, Welcome BBQ, Christmas Social, St. Patrick's Day Celidh, Algonquin Retreat, the different components of the Re-Creation Wilderness Ministry programs back-packing, camping etc. As it was still to come much of our latter discussion revolved around our End of Year Celebration and Graduation Banquet.

We talked about where we need to grow as a community and how we can better promote our presence and mission. Some initial plans were made for some of our summer programs and next year. We talked about the need to keep bringing in quality Reformed speakers that present the Reformed world view in ways that make our students excited about being Christian, and for those who happen to be CRC, excited about being Christian Reformed. We welcome visitors from our supporting congregations to come and join us on these special evenings.

I have said this many times but I think it is worth repeating. To be involved in Christian Reformed Campus Ministry is to be on the cutting edge of our denomination's ministry. Our chaplains and campus ministry teams are out there in academia being 'agents of re-creation' in many different ways. They are building relationships with faculty, administration and students serving as missionaries witnessing to Christ to those who do not know him. They are serving as pastors, walking with students through life's deep valleys, showing the love of our savior to those who are hurting. They are professors/ teachers engaging the university intellectually, bringing Christ to the centre of academics, bearing witness to the truth that "our world belongs to God." All of this they do through the work of the Holy Spirit and in covenant. In covenant with God, in covenant with each other and in covenant with God's creation.

This is what we are engaged in the entire academic year, and at the end of that year we look forward to meeting with our colleagues, to gather together, to embrace each other, to share our loads, to cry, to get refreshed spiritual and intellectually and as always, to celebrate the great things that the Lord has done on our campuses.

Please continue to pray for all involved in representing our Christian Reformed Campus Ministry at McMaster and Mohawk and all our CR-CMA chaplains across Canada and the United States.

Thank you. Michael

Dr. Michael D. Fallon
McMaster University, Room 231
Phone 905-525-9149 ext. 24123
fallonm@mcmaster.ca

APPENDIX #4 – 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. Appointment of Members to the Classis Approved Ad Hoc Committee: Classis assigned the appointment of individuals to serve on the ad hoc committee to advise classis as to the best way to elect delegates to future synods. This committee is to report in time for the October agenda deadline, i.e., September 13, 2016. **NOTE:** One volunteer was presented as of April 7, 2016. The stated clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of the churches once again.
2. Shalom Manor and Gardens Chaplaincy: Clarification of the decision by Classis Hamilton to table the motion regarding the overture from Ebenezer CRC to reduce and eliminate the ministry share funding over a period of four years beginning in 2017. The request of the Shalom Manor and Gardens Chaplaincy Committee (SMGCC) to Classis Hamilton and Classis Niagara was to defer action on this overture until such time as they are able to provide a draft report regarding both a change in funding and partnership participation in this ministry. The Chair of classis had ruled that the overture motion be tabled until the May 2016 meeting of Classis Hamilton. However, this would mean that the SMGCC would need to have their draft report in to Classis Hamilton by April 12, 2016. The SMGCC has informed the CIC that it is not possible for them to meet that date. The CIC has interpreted the motion to table the Ebenezer overture in such a way that the SMGCC will be able to provide a meaningful draft proposal and, therefore, that the motion is tabled until the October meeting of Classis Hamilton.
3. Request from Peter Beimers: Peter Beimers is a member at Maranatha CRC in Woodstock. He has a licence to exhort in Classis Chatham and is inquiring about what he would need to do to have it extended to Classis Hamilton or what he would need to do to have a licence to exhort in in our classis. He is a Calvin Seminary graduate, MA in Missions and Church Growth, and is now making a concentrated effort to be called to a church as a pastor or 2nd staff pastor. He did start in the MDiv track, but had trouble with Hebrew so after 2+ years he made the switch to MA. He also hope to contact various churches with vacant pulpit within about a 2 hour drive radius from Woodstock to offer himself as a possibility as an Interim Pastor. CIC decided that Peter Beimers’ request is to be included in the agenda of the May classis meeting with the request that the Credentials Committee advise on this matter.
4. By-Law Discussion: The CIC went through the ad hoc committee’s completed work by going through the proposed changes line by line. Although no decisions were made. CIC decided that presenting the complete By-law comparisons at this time might be confusing to the churches and delegates. Consequently, a document will be prepared addressing the matters that are deficient in the current By-law with specific recommendations for action to be presented to classis as soon as the CIC believes the issues and recommendations are clear enough to be presented.
5. Board and Audit Review Committee: To improve the process and structure for meeting fiduciary obligations, the Board of Directors (with the agreement of the CIC) dissolved the former Finance Committee and established an Audit Review Committee in its place consisting of a minimum of three individuals serving on the Board of Directors. The task of the Audit Review Committee will be to recommend financial management policies to the Board of Directors and to monitor the proper implementation of those policies by the Treasurer and Bookkeeper. The budget development function of the former Finance Committee will be carried out by the Treasurer in consultation with the Bookkeeper for direct consideration by the CIC. Consequently, the heading of Rule of Procedure 13.5 is amended to read as Audit Review Committee.

6. Sabbatical of Dr. Michael D. Fallon: The CIC reports that the policies for granting a sabbatical to Dr. Michael D. Fallon, campus ministry chaplain, have been met and approved by it so that the Board of Directors is now authorized to approve the related additional expenditures to be incurred by the Campus Chaplaincy Committee during the 2016-17 calendar years.
7. Budgeting Process: The CMT, through their assigned liaison persons, is working with the various classical committees to ensure that all budgetary requests coming to the CIC have clear rationale for proposed expenditures and ministry share requests included so that the CIC will be able to properly answer questions raised on the floor of classis.
8. Church Counselor Reports: There have been no reports from church counsellors on the agenda of classis meetings for the past number of years because of the classis meetings reorganization. Counselors are asked to report to CMT for its pre-classis meeting and include a summary of their report in the CMT report to Classis as the update regarding their activities. In addition, Rule of Procedure 10.2.4 states that: "The Counselor shall render a written report of his work to Classis upon completion of his task." The CIC recommends that classis modify Rule of Procedure 10.2.4 by adding the following after the current sentence "to be included with the agenda and noted in the CIC report to allow for discussion as needed." The full sentence will then read: "The Counselor shall render a written report of his work to Classis upon completion of his task to be included with the agenda and noted in the CIC report to allow for discussion as needed."

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

APPENDIX #5 – DELEGATE, FUNCTIONARY AND COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

The following are openings and nominated as of September 14, 2015. Nominations will be accepted up to and including at the Classis meeting itself.

CLASSIS INTERIM COMMITTEE

In accordance with Rules of Procedure 12.1.1, Dick Kranendonk needs to be nominated as Stated Clerk and in that capacity to serve on the CIC for and additional one-year term.

RECOMMENDED THAT: Dick Kranendonk be re-elected as Stated Clerk for an additional one-year term commencing June 1, 2016.

According to General Operating By-Law Number 1, Section 13.3, and Rules of Procedure 13.2.1, the minimum number of CIC members must be elected annually by the delegates at the May classis meeting.

CIC members, other than the Stated Clerk, Chair of Classis and Mission Director, may not serve for more than six one-year terms consecutively. The Stated Clerk and Mission Director serve on the CIC by virtue of their office.

Following are the incumbent members:

Incumbent members to be re-elected:

Henry Kranenburg

Mark Vandervliet

Ken Benjamins

Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo

Proposed new member:

Brenda De Groot

RECOMMENDED THAT: The slate of names noted above is presented to classis for election for a one-year term commencing June 1, 2016.

Members by virtue of their office (not required to be elected):

Rita Klein-Gelting (New person elected each October)

Marian Lensink (Serves for as long as she is the Mission Director)

Dick Kranendonk (Serves if re-appointed Stated Clerk in accordance with Rule of Procedure 12.1.1.)

CLASSIS MINISTRY TEAM

Victor Laarman (second term)

CANDIDACY COMMITTEE

Andrew Zomerman (second term)

APPENDIX #6 - EXTERNAL REPORTS:

APPENDIX #6.1 - WORLD RENEW



Classis Report for Spring, 2016 Classis Hamilton *Submitted by Peter Bulthuis, Associate Director of Church Relations*

Greetings to the delegates of the churches to the spring meeting of Classis Hamilton. We pray that this meeting may provide support for your churches, may enable planning for engagement for members of the congregations, and blessed collaboration among everyone in attendance. Let me thank you for the churches' financial support during this fiscal year (July 1 – March 31): \$356,346.90. And thank you for your other support as well: churches connecting with countries and missionaries, volunteers who go out with DRS, and members who pray for the work of World Renew. Thanks to the six Ambassadors in the churches in Classis Hamilton. And thanks to board members Ed Scharringa and Jason DeBoer (who is also the Board treasurer), and David Schuurman, "College Student Member at Large" at Redeemer.

A. Staff Changes:

Again, there have been a number of staff changes in World Renew:

- Recently, two of our staff have been blessed with the birth of children: Laura Chiarot received the gift of Callie Irene on March 9, and Vanessa Hannah-Matthews received the gift of Jonah Matthew on Feb. 4. We will miss them while they're away.
- The HR portion of Laura's position is being taken by Xochilt (pronounced "Zochie") Flores; another part has been taken by Anne (pronounced "Annie") Varghese.
- Vanessa's position is being taken by Jonathan Self.
- Maria Rolim Campos has been hired to provide (part-time) support in a number of areas in World Renew.
- We are grateful that God always provides staff members to carry on His wonderful work.
- And yet, we regret to inform you that Ron Willett, director of Disaster Response Services (headquartered in US) has resigned that position. We pray that a replacement may be found soon.

B. Important Synodically-Approved Offering Dates, 2016:

- May 22: Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (focusing largely on the Free A Family® program): The health theme has been a strong thread throughout much of what World Renew does.
- Oct. 10: Thanksgiving: This offering will highlight the agricultural support World Renew offers the communities with whom we work (although any World Renew program can be emphasized here).
- Nov. 6: World Hunger: This is a major campaign (Oct. 16 – Nov. with World Renew, supported by devotionals and other resources for individuals and families.
- Dec. 25: World Renew: The traditional Christmas offering has been one that supports World Renew's programs in any of the countries in which World Renew works with partners to share the love, grace and mercy of our Lord.

In all of these cases, churches will receive resources for your members. For more information and resources, please visit www.worldrenew.net/churchresources. Thanks so much for all your support!

C. Community Development: Stories of Transformation:

So many stories! So many blessings! Please have a look at www.worldrenew.net/what-we-do. One example is from Mark VanderWees in Nicaragua, who recently spent some time evaluating a program in a community in the mountains of central Nicaragua. "A number of things impressed me about this

community, but the main thing that stuck out was the way the younger generation was so empowered and engaged in telling the story of their community.” The complete story (<http://www.worldrenew.net/our-stories/team/mark-vanderwees/fruit-our-work-nicaragua>) is a story of hope, courage and joy.



Young people in Nicaragua proudly illustrate their real hope for their community

D. Disaster Response: North America and International:

In North America, there are a number of sites looking for volunteers: Ocean County, New Jersey (Hurricane Sandy, Oct. 2012), Open dates: May 14—June 4, and two week assignments through the summer: June 4—18, June 18—July 2, July 16—30. As well: San Marcos, Texas (flooding, May/October 2015). This site opened on March 19, will run through the end of May, close for the summer, and reopen in the fall.

Please go to www.worldrenew.net/drs. If you want to volunteer, do check out “Planning a Short Term Missions Trip” on that page.

Internationally, World Renew continues its work in over 20 areas, one of which is El Nino mitigation in Africa. For example, in ETHIOPIA: in February, World Renew and its partner, World Alive, provided food (50kg of maize flour, 2L of oil, 5kg of pulses and 500g of salt) and sweet potato vines to 230 farming families (1,210 people) in three villages. An assessment conducted after the distribution indicated that the needs were even greater. In March, World Renew began providing food to 380 families in 9 villages. World Renew would like to expand this up to 1,000 households by June if funding allows. We anticipate that this food assistance may be needed for up to another year (until March 2017) due to the current drought conditions. Do check out www.worldrenew.net/idr.

Thank you so much for your continued prayerful and financial support, Classis Hamilton. You helped impact 548,000 beneficiaries, helped build or repair more than 4400 shelters, and helped buy and distribute 451 metric tonnes of food.

E. Refugee Settlement Activities:

The Refugee office in Word Renew, staffed by Rebecca Walker and Pam De Wilde, have been working overtime (literally!) to support the increased number of churches applying to be refugee sponsors. A VERY recent major decision (reversal, actually) was that the government, on March 31, decided to accept sponsorship applications through the end of that day. The original cut-off date had been February 29. So now more churches can assist more refugees. Praise God for that.

At the time of this writing, the applications in process (these are cases where the applications/refugee story has been received and we are working towards finalizing for submission) – 100 cases; including 26 Syrian cases. Arrivals for 2016 - churches have welcomed more than 75 refugees to Canada since the beginning of 2016, close to 60 of them Syrian.

Do check www.worldrenew.net/refugees, and www.crcna.org/Canada/social-justice-canada/refugees and/or contact Rebecca Walker at rwalker@worldrenew.net, or Pam De Wilde at pdewilde@worldrenew.net.



At the end of May we look forward to Commencement for Redeemer's 31st graduating class. Over 200 passionate, talented graduates will depart Redeemer to pursue careers or further studies in our communities and around the world. Whatever they do, wherever they go, they will bring a sense of Kingdom vision – an understanding of God's call on their lives. Maybe it's in politics, business, medicine or law. Some will be teachers, pastors and counsellors, while others will become artists, social workers, musicians and writers. Redeemer alumni will also be parents, church members, neighbours and friends. Our last issue of *Tangents* magazine featured Redeemer alumni who are bringing about shalom through the practice of law and working with indigenous communities.

As part of our focus on program enhancement in the Redeemer 2020 Strategic Plan, a new program in Ministry is being developed. Rev. Ken Herfst has been appointed to the Department of Religion and Theology to develop the program, which will leverage the interests of many of our students – and prospective students - who minister through music and worship, through working with children and youth, and through community engagement, sports and recreation.

While we have had to take measures to reduce our executive and staff complement, we are confident that by investing in strategic programs, enhancing our profile to a broader Christian community, and ensuring financial stewardship, we can sustain Redeemer for generations to come.

We are grateful to you, our church partners, for supporting Redeemer through prayer, by encouraging young people to consider Redeemer after high school, and by contributing ministry shares and special offerings.

Visit www.redeemer.ca/churches to find out more about resources for churches, including an intensive one-week Leadership in Ministry course

COMING EVENTS

Redeemer is hosting a number of events this summer and fall that may be of interest to you, your ministry staff and your congregation:

Summer RAYS is Redeemer's weekly multi-sports and activities camp for kids ages 5 to 13. Each of the 8 camp weeks in July and August emphasize participation, cooperation, skill development and most of all fun! To learn more and to register, please visit redeemerroyals.ca/rays.

This summer, Redeemer is offering two one-week intensive programs for church leaders, teachers and others interested in ministry: "Teaching Scripture and the Christian Faith" (July 4-8, taught by Dr. Syd Hielema), and "Leadership in Ministry," (July 11-15, instructor to be announced). For more information, visit www.redeemer.ca/ministry-intensives.

Looking to complete an AQ course? Redeemer is offering "Math Part I" and "Teaching Students with Intellectual Needs – Giftedness" this summer in a blended online and in-class format. For more information or to register, visit www.redeemer.ca/continuing-teacher-education.

Redeemer's annual **Church Showcase** provides an opportunity for students to be aware of your church and opportunities to worship or volunteer with you. This year's Church Showcase will be held on



The emphasis on Christ and community here at Redeemer has transformed the way in which I see my story and my life as a part of God's story. Not only have my classes and professors prepared me for a career as a teacher overseas, but being a part of the Student Life community has provided an environment in which I have flourished spiritually, socially and emotionally.

Jessica Strydhorst '17 (Meadowlands CRC) is in her fourth of five years in the concurrent education program.

APPENDIX #6.3 – CALVIN COLLEGE BOT

Report from the Board of Trustees of Calvin College

To: Classis Hamilton

Date: March 10, 2016

During this academic year the Board of Trustees (BOT) of Calvin College has met twice already, Oct. 28-31, 2015 and Feb. 3-6, 2016, and will meet once more in May. The October session was in the form of a retreat, with opportunity to become acquainted with the eight new board members. It was a time of reflection on the board's tasks, community building, worship and renewal.

This year's total enrolment and the number of incoming students are similar to last year's, i.e., 3,990 overall with 1026 of those incoming. This is a little below expectation and below the longer-term goal of 4,200, which is the current capacity of the campus. The strong US dollar makes Calvin a less attractive option for international students, including Canadian. It is encouraging to note that the diversity of the student body continues to increase.

The Higher Learning Commission completed an accreditation review of the college over the past year and the outcome was favourable. Given the financial challenges of the college and the changing educational landscape, a process of prioritization has taken place, also of the academic program. This has led to a few programs being ended. Even though the process was transparent and involved faculty, this kind of reduction is never without pain.

The board discussed options for restructuring the debt and its amortization which is to begin in 2017. In this connection it was also informed of the deferred maintenance needs of ageing facilities. The board agreed that the college should continue to investigate strategies for reducing the debt, for seeking a favourable amortization schedule, and for preserving budget capacity for essential upkeep.

Part of the meetings are spent on orientation and on board development. Presentations and discussions centre on board governance, the oversight of educational quality, the fiduciary role of the board, and the ensuring long-term financial sustainability. The BOT spends time on understanding the current challenges of higher education, specifically the challenges facing Calvin.

Recent board actions include the approval of

- a tuition increase of 3.49% and room and board increase of 1.55% for the 2016-17 academic year,
- a prepayment on the taxable bonds of \$11 million using funds from the Principal Reduction Campaign,
- a budget to remodel the Commons dining room,
- a report from the Graduate Studies Task Force,
- the establishment of a Center for Faith and Writing, and
- a number of tenure and tenure-track faculty (re)appointments.

Since this is my last year of six years of service on the board of Calvin College, this is my final report. It has been a pleasure to represent your classis in this capacity, and I am grateful for your confidence. As a denomination we are blessed with an institution such as Calvin College which seeks to serve our Lord in the sphere of Reformed Christian higher education, and we are encouraged to remember it in our prayers.

Respectfully yours, Wytse van Dijk