



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

Date: October 25, 2016

Time: 12:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Venue: Hope Christian Reformed Church,

64 Buchanan Cres., Brantford N3P 2A5

Our Vision

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

Our Purposes:

-) Mutual encouragement
-) Mutual accountability
-) Shared Ministry

Our Values:

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

Officers of Classis: Chair: Rita Klein-Geltink Vice Chair: Ken Benjamins Stated Clerk: Dick Kranendonk	Synodical Deputies: William Koopmans, Classis Chatham Ray Vanderkooij, Classis Huron Herman Praamsma, Classis Toronto
Reporter: Faith CRC - Burlington	Ballot Committee: Members of Faith CRC, Burlington
Credentials Committee: Bethel CRC, Waterdown (convene) Calvary CRC, Flamborough (report)	Overture Committee #1 (8.1 and 8.2) Calvin CRC, Dundas (convene) New Street CRC, Burlington (report) Overture Committee #2 (8.3 and 8.4) First CRC, Hamilton (convene) Immanuel CRC, Hamilton (report)

CREDENTIALS:

1. The credentials shall be returned to the Stated Clerk by email no later than October 4, 2016 with CC: (copy) emailed to your delegates. Please note that there are additional questions on the credentials. Please fill them out as well.
2. The credentials will be forwarded to the Credentials Committee to review the contents. The Committee will email their report to the Stated Clerk by October 11, 2016. This will be emailed by the Stated Clerk to all the delegates.

OVERTURES:

The Overtures Committee will email their report to the Stated Clerk by October 11, 2016 for distribution to the delegates of Classis as required.

EMAIL ADDRESS:

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

CANDIDATE EXAMINATION:

Please note that the sermon on the passage, Ephesians 3:14-21, assigned to Adam Veenstra to be preached in the presence of the sermon critics is included in this agenda beginning on page 7. Adam has also provided two other sermons, one on an Old Testament passage and one on a Lord's Day of the Heidelberg Catechism.

The two additional sermons are not included in the agenda, but if any delegate or synodical deputy wishes to receive copies, they are available electronically. If you wish to receive them, request them from the Stated Clerk at: clerk@classishamilton.ca.

EVENING MINISTRY SESSION:

Refugee Resettlement: Many of our churches are responding to the call to welcome refugees into our communities. Some churches are already walking alongside newcomers; others are beginning the process of discernment. Still others feel called to walk alongside refugees who do not have a sponsoring church. Come and join in a facilitated conversation as we consider the call to welcome the refugee. Come to share your learnings and challenges. Invite your refugee resettlement teams to attend this evening's session commencing at 7:30 PM.

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MEETING DETAILS

12:30 PM	OPENING DEVOTIONS
OPENING WORSHIP	
1. OPENING WELCOME AND PRAYER	CMT Chair: Ken Benjamins
2. DEVOTIONS AND SHARING OF MINISTRY	Hope CRC
3. PRAYER FOR HOST CHURCH	Ken Benjamins
4. CALL TO ORDER	Rita Klein-Geltink
4.1. Approval of Agenda	
4.2. Attendance Overview of delegates present/absent	Dick Kranendonk

1:15 PM	ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION
5. EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATE ADAM VEENSTRA	Vice Chair, Ken Benjamins
5.1. Introduction of Candidate	Bruce Adema
5.2. <u>Practica</u> (<i>ten minute time limit in light of March 22, 2016 minutes</i>)	Bruce Adema
Inquiry into the Candidate's relationship to God and commitment to ministry	
5.2.1. Questions by delegates and synodical deputies.	
5.2.2. Motion to proceed.	
5.3. <u>Sermon Evaluation</u> (<i>no time limit</i>)	Daryl DeKlerk
Written and preached sermons to be evaluated (see Appendix #1 for preached sermon).	
5.3.1. Questions by delegates and synodical deputies.	
5.3.2. Motion to proceed.	
5.3.3. Concurrence by synodical deputies	
5.4. <u>Biblical and Theological</u> (<i>minimum of thirty minutes</i>)	Andrew Zomerman
Inquiry into the candidate's biblical and theological judgement, competence and soundness.	
5.4.1. Questions by delegates and synodical deputies.	
5.5. Executive Session:	
5.5.1.1. Motion to admit the candidate to the ministry of the Word in the Cristian Reformed Church and preliminary consideration,	
5.5.1.2. Prayer,	
5.5.1.3. Synodical deputies leave for their own deliberations,	
5.5.1.4. Delegates vote by ballot,	
5.5.1.5. Synodical deputies return and present written statement.	
5.5.1.6. Motion to destroy ballots	
5.6. Executive Session ends	
5.6.1.1. Remarks	
5.6.1.2. presentation of certificate (if admitted)	
5.6.1.3. Prayer for the candidate	
6. FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES PRESENTATION	Lesli Van Milligen

3:00 PM	REFRESHMENT BREAK
7. CANADIAN MINISTRIES PRESENTATION	Darren Roorda
7.1. Provide the update information on direction of Canadian Ministries in regards to the Ministry Plan	

- 7.2. Integrate the above with a brief presentation on the National Gathering
- 7.3. Introduce Al Postma (newly minted Classis Renewal Coordinator and previously pastoring in Thunder Bay, Ontario)
- 7.4. Have a time for feedback/Q &A

8. CMT REPORT (INCLUDING CLASSICAL MINISTRY COMMITTEES) (Appendix #3) Ken Benjamins
RECOMMENDED THAT: Pastor Kevin DeRaaf be elected as the Chair of Classis for the calendar year 2017.

RECOMMENDED THAT: Classis approve the work of the CMT to date.

9. SAFE CHURCH PRESENTATION Fred Bennink

10. STAFF REPORTS

- 10.1. Mission Director (Appendix #4.1) and verbal report Marian Lensink
- 10.2. McMaster/Mohawk Chaplain (Appendix #4.2) Michael Fallon
- Verbal Report Seth Adema

11. INTERIM COMMITTEE Henry Kranenburg

- 11.1. Interim Committee Report (Includes Stated Clerk’s report, *Appendix #5*)
RECOMMENDED THAT: the guidelines in the report regarding the Article 10 as approved by the CIC be received and that these be included as an appendix to the Rules of Procedure.
- 11.2. Election of Delegates, Functionaries and Committee Members (*Appendix #6*)
- 11.3. **RECOMMENDED THAT:** Classis Hamilton, for the next two years (2017, 2018) delegate to Synod two pastors, one elder and one deacon, and review this decision in the fall of 2018 (Appendix #5, SECTION B)
- 11.4. Amendments to the Rules of Procedure (Appendix #5, SECTION C)
RECOMMENDED THAT: the amendments of the Rules of Procedure listed in Appendix #5, SECTION B. of the Agenda be adopted.
- 11.5. Budget for 2016 (Appendix #7)
RECOMMENDED THAT: the classical ministry share budget for 2017 of \$72.47 per active confessing member be approved.
- 11.6. Approval of Classical Interim Committee and Stated Clerk’s Work
RECOMMENDED THAT: Classis approve the work to date of the Interim Committee and of the Stated Clerk as communicated by means of the minutes and written reports submitted to the churches.
- 11.7. Balloting Committee Report
RECOMMENDED THAT: the ballots be destroyed.

12. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT Calvary CRC

13. CHURCH VISITORS SUMMARY REPORT Jake Ellens

Due to a computer virus that destroyed the data files on Jake’s computer, the files need to be reconstructed. The written report will be included with the addendum to the agenda.

14. OVERTURE COMMITTEE #1 REPORT New Street CRC

- 14.1. Shalom Manor & Gardens Chaplaincy (Appendix #8.1 and 8.2)
EBENEZER CRC, JARVIS OVERTURE: That beginning January 2017, that Classis Hamilton begin reducing their ministry share assessment by 25% per year over the course of four years so

that by 2022, Classis Hamilton will no longer collect a classical ministry share for the Shalom Manor chaplaincy.

SHALOM MANOR & GARDENS PROPOSAL: The Board of Shalom Manor and the Shalom Manor Chaplaincy Committee propose:

1. That both Classes approve the transfer of governance of the Chaplaincy program to the Board of Shalom Manor;
2. That, upon approval, a transition team will oversee the formation of a steering committee reporting to the Shalom Manor Board to supervise the work of the Chaplain;
3. That funding continue to be provided by the two Classes for a period of 5 years to enable the development of a new funding model;
4. That the Classes be provided a FINAL REPORT in time for the February 2017 meetings of Classes.

15. OVERTURE COMMITTEE #2 REPORT Immanuel CRC, Hamilton

15.1. Funding for Crosstowne by CHHMC Funding (Appendix #8.3)

CHHMC RECOMMENDATION: That Classis Hamilton approve supporting the Crosstowne church plant in the amount of \$3,000.

15.2. Pulpit Supply Stipend by Bethel CRC (Appendix #8.4)

15.3. **BETHEL CRC, WATERDOWN OVERTURE:** That Classis Hamilton change the “Pulpit Supply Guidelines” by adjusting the amount given to guest preachers from \$100 to \$150 per service.

16. RESPOND TO DELEGATE REPORTS (Appendix #9) Ken Benjamins

17. RESPOND TO MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS (Appendix #10) Ken Benjamins

6:45 PM – 7:30 PM DINNER

18. EVENING MINISTRY SESSION – Welcome, devotions and introduction Marian Lensink
REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT – Facilitator Katie Karsten

9:30 PM Closing Devotions Rita Klein-Geltink

Assigned Sermon Text: Ephesians 3:14-21

Message: “Love Story”

Introduction

Not too long ago I went to the movies and saw *The Light Between Oceans*, and one of the ads told me that it was my chance to “experience the romance”. It was definitely billed as a love story.

When I got to the theatre, it had such an eclectic mix of people—seniors, young adults, a few families with teenagers, couples, and singles.

And it struck me that deep down, we’re all game for a good love story. No matter who we are. We can’t help but clap at the end of a will-they-or-won’t-they storyline, or cheer for couples who finally get together, and I have personally seen a table full of big, burly, small town farmers openly crying at a good wedding speech.

Our friend the apostle Paul is no different. He can’t but be moved when in the presence of true love. And his desire is that others would know that love as well.

And so our passage today is from his letter to the Ephesians. It’s a prayer that he includes in his letter, asking that the people of Ephesus would be strengthened by Christ being in them. But it is also all about love!

So we’ll be reading today the final verses of Ephesians chapter 3, verse 14 through 21. It can found in your pew Bibles, and will also be up on the screen if you’d like to following along.

Beginning at verse 14:

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

This is the word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Every story is a love story—wanting it, chasing it, losing it, finding it, knowing it, understanding it. And the story Paul outlines here is no different.

The Bible is a love story. The story of God's love for his people. For us!

And even when it is not explicitly stated as it is here, it is splashed out on the page.

From the very beginning, God has poured out his love for creation. From the time he created us, to his sacrifice on the cross to save us from certain death. And each and every day that we spend in his presence, in this amazing world...

Paul himself has experienced the love of God. Experienced firsthand the effects of Christ's sacrifice and the grace he offers. And so his prayer is that they may be strengthened by that!

Because he wants them to experience that love.

And to live a new life in Christ.

That is the thrust of the entire book of Ephesians!

And so he offers up this prayer, that these things would come as we are strengthened by Christ in us.

Context

By the time this letter was written, the church in Ephesus has been established, and the Jews and Gentiles of the city have come together recognizing that they are a family gathered under their Heavenly Father.

Having recognized that fact, he now desires more for them. This prayer grows out of his awareness of what God is doing among believers, and that there are key gifts of love and power ready for them to experience.

The city of Ephesus was actually located at the intersection of several important trade routes, and was a large commercial centre in the ancient world.

Paul writes to them not so much to address a particular concern, but to help give them a general better understanding of God interaction with his people, and purpose for their lives.

Our passage today actually picks up the prayer that he began in the first verse of chapter 3, before being distracted, in a way: he couldn't help but expand upon God's grace, and is now bringing himself back to the prayer in verse 14.

The Jewish and Gentile believers, as outlined in earlier chapters of the book, are now seen as one body. Chapter 2 tells us that we are "no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people". And so the desire is that they be united by knowing God's love and exhibiting it to each other. That love would be what we are rooted and established in.

That love would be our foundation.

It's suggested by some Biblical scholars that Paul's prayer, despite its length and language, really asks for just one central thing: that the people, including modern readers today, be strengthened by Christ in us. For the deepest experience of being alive in him.

But the purposes and implications of that help make up/craft the greatest love story ever told. Between God and his children.

Paul wants to see us strengthened in Christ so that we might know that love, and that we would be filled with his fullness.

Main Points

1. That We May Know Love

Paul wants to see the readers strengthened by God's spirit so that they will intimately know Christ's presence and love.

Commentators have said that love is the "source and the goal", both of this passage, and of the entire Gospel message: Christ's love enables us to be strengthened, and the knowledge of it is what we should aspire to. For ourselves, and for those around us.

His desire that we should know Christ's love, then, shows the depth of Paul's emotion. It's often called his "affectionate prayer".

The strength is a spiritual strength that comes when Christ dwells within their hearts.

The need to put this prayer into the letter shows what a priority it is, that we may know love.

It's been said that to be strengthened by Christ is to experience his love, and it puts us on the path of understanding love. To being a part of the story.

Because there's a difference between knowing God, or just knowing about him. And what Paul is praying over us today is that we would really know him.

That through Christ and the working of the Spirit within us, we would experience his love and come to know who he really is. Be in relationship with him.

And since it is a relationship, it is mutual: Christ wants to know us! He desires to be with us. His love for us is so great that he came to be with us!

In the forward to the book *Love Does*, its author Bob Goff is described by fellow author Donald Miller as a man who "loves effortlessly, as though love packs annually in snow on a mountain, melting and rushing through him in an infinite loop. There's no explanation for a man who can love this well save God. I think...[he] knows God, and I think God's love flows through him."

Bob is described as a man who is living the love story Paul has prayed about. A man who has experienced the love of Christ, rooted himself in it and been strengthened by it, and is fueled by it to go out and love others.

Fueled, and strengthened, to recognize that he shares a Heavenly Father with both Jews and Gentiles, and so he has a responsibility to them.

Knowing what love is might not change much in us. But knowing how love feels, knowing what love does, that can have immeasurable impact on our lives!

In that same book there is a story about Bob when he was much younger, and decided to drop out of high school, pack up his belongings, and start a new life working across the country at a national park. It was a bit of a spontaneous decision, and on his way out of town he figured maybe he should stop and let his friend Randy know what he was doing. Randy was probably a decade or so older, and had been a mentor and a bit of an older brother for him.

So Bob drove to his house, got him out of bed, and as he was saying goodbye, Randy said "I'm with you". But he didn't just mean metaphorically, he didn't mean he was just going to wish him well. Within a few minutes Randy had packed a bag and was sitting next to him in the passenger seat.

Less than a week later they were back home, and Bob realized it might not have been the best plan. Only when he was dropping Randy off did he realize that his wife was also home. And they had just been married. Only a couple days before he left with him.

Bob says it was then that he realized that Randy really loved him. Because he didn't just say "I'm with you", but he really, truly was. And it changed him. He became that author that seems to love effortlessly.

We also have someone who really loves us. And he doesn't just say "I'm with you", but really, truly is. And that can change us! Help us become people who love.

To know that Randy loved him, to really know? Nothing compares. And to know that Jesus Christ loves us? Nothing compares.

Nothing compares with knowing that Jesus doesn't just say "I'm with you", but came down and joined us. He is Immanuel, "God with us." In the manger, on the cross, with the people of Ephesus, and all of us here today.

Christ strengthens us being dwelling in us, being with us. Pouring out his love over us.

In his prayer Paul desires that we may know Christ's love. That we may know how wide and long and high and deep is that love. And he uses this language to demonstrate just how infinite this love is. A love unlike we could have ever known before.

1 John 3:1 assures us "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

I don't think you need me to tell you that love can sometimes be hard to find in our world. Sometimes we don't find it where we're meant to, or where we expect to. In some places it seems to have disappeared altogether!

And so in our love story we find ourselves wanting it, chasing it, losing it.
But in Christ we find it. He allows us to know, understand it, and share it. .

2. That We May Be Filled

When we have recognized the love that Christ has for us, when we are strengthened by Christ in us, it is so that we may also be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

And this is something that Paul says cannot be grasped by us: this love surpasses our knowledge.

I'm sure a lot of little kids have done that little back-and-forth with their parents...one of them says "I love you more than you love me!" The other, "Not possible!"

With Christ, it actually is not possible. He is able to do more than we could ever ask or imagine. He loves us more than we could ask or imagine! It's not unknowable, but it also can't be fully known. It's that wide and long and high and deep.

And it's only by be strengthened by him, together, that we can even catch a glimpse of that together, that we can begin to be filled with that fullness of God.

Paul is praying for an extravagant outpouring of spiritual strength and love, and he does it with confidence, because he knows that Christ's strength and love are inexhaustible. They never run dry.

And so as Christ dwells in us, he will continue to dwell in us and continue to strengthen us. The Spirit in our inner being is not separate from the indwelling of Christ: the Spirit is the power of God at work!

His capacity for giving us that strength "far exceeds [our] capacity for asking—or even imagining", and so he takes the initiative, and fills us with what can only come from his love.

This strength, this love, this fullness, is what equips us to live lives that are more than just about joining Christ in heaven someday, but living full lives here, now, today. Being a part of the Kingdom come and the Kingdom yet to come.

And because this fullness is beyond our understanding, it encourages us to go beyond our understanding. That's what Paul is asking for. A love story that seems impossible to us.

Because sometimes it does feel impossible to carry on. To face what may seem impossible. To do what we have been called to do.

To love our neighbours. To love our families. To love our selves.

I only just recently started working out regularly...to which I will give you all a moment to have a nice quiet laugh, because, yes, it is ridiculous that this bookworm is actually "working out". I've enrolled in a start-up program with a coach from one of my previous churches, and it is tough! There is a nutrition plan to go with it, and so the rest of the staff in the office at the Hub can attest to the fact that I am sore, hungry...and cranky!

The workouts are run through this DVD, and there's a trainer on it who always says things like "I'm only going to ask you to do what you can. And then some more!"

And for the first few days, and if I'm honest still on most days, that seems pretty impossible. How could I do more?

One of the strategies that has been helping in pushing through is to start praying about it. Involving God in my workouts. If our whole world belongs to God, that involves my whole body. And so that body gets filled. By a fullness, a strength, that he gives me, that we can all draw on to do these things that may seem impossible. To workout. To follow. To love.

It reminds me of one of those inspirational quotes that you find on walls and bracelets and quoted on Facebook. It's that "You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

That is, of course, from that great source of wisdom...Winnie the Pooh.

And it's true! Sort of. We are all these things. But only because of Christ in us.

Only because he is braver than we believe, he stronger than he may seem to us, and he is smarter than we sometimes think.

We are these things only because he fills us with the fullness of God, giving us his bravery, his strength, his wisdom. His love.

Conclusion

Paul knows that God's abilities and resources extend far beyond what we even imagine, and even together as the church we can only hope to come even close to grasping the fullness of it. And so in the doxology of his prayer he offers it up to the one who is able to do immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine. That it might all be for his glory!

And he asks for what goes far beyond us. So that we can see and do what is far beyond us! That God would make his love known to us and equip us. That God would let us experience this amazing love story. It is Paul's prayer, it is the church's prayer, it is *my* prayer, and I would venture to guess the prayer of many of us here today.

When we love, when we are loved, it can be the greatest challenge. But as some commentators have pointed out, when it is the love of Christ, it is also the greatest safety, the greatest comfort and pleasure. It is, truly, the greatest love story ever told.

Canadian Ministries Director

Fall Classis Handout, 2016

Preamble:

This one sheet represents the culmination of months and years of conversations and input from various sources and people. Starting with how the CRCNA is born out of the gospel and called by Jesus to the Great Commission. Please ensure you read this with an awareness of the following pieces which I am more than happy to explain:

- Cross Canada Classis conversation in 2013 with Ben Vandezande
- 'Imagining Ministry in the CRC in Canada' report, 2013
- "Cultivating Binationality" - May 2014
- Strategic Planning listening tour across Canada with local leaders and laypeople, 2014
- *Our Journey 2020* – the binational Ministry Plan
- Survey process and results done with Classis representatives 2015
- National Gathering 2016 conversations and survey
- Board of Trustees (Canada Corp) input from 2014-16

A fuller list of what EVERY agency and ministry is committing themselves to do in Canada is available upon request. This represents just a key portion understood through the lens of the Canadian Ministries Office.

This sheet addresses the question(s): "What does this input mean for us now? What direction are we heading? What is being worked on in the present and what behaviours are being adopted for today's ministry context in Canada?"

Cost: Fiscally, there has been only a 1% increase in budget for Canadian Ministries from 2014-2016. Up until this point we have gone through many changes and increased our effect all through budget reallocations, use of gifts in kind and proper focusing of monies. In the coming year the increase request will be met to a large part separate from Ministry Share.

2016-2017: Transitioning to Ministry Action in Canada

Here is what Canadian ministry leaders have told us is currently most important to them as they serve in their positions:

Ranking	Desired Future	Weighted Average	#1 choice	
1	Church & Community	3.88	43%	WHAT
2	Discipleship	3.84	34%	
3	Leadership	3.23	15%	
4	Collaborator	2.17	3.17%	HOW
5	Identity	2.02	6.5%	

**results of the National Gathering participants which mirror the results of the cross-Canada survey done through classis*

Consequently, as a result of our identity in Christ and our identity as Reformed believers in the CRCNA, here is what the Canadian Ministries Office will be focusing on in the year ahead, starting with the assumed behaviours:

Identity: Who we are in Christ as Reformed believers?

1. Strengthening Communication –
 - a. As a denomination to our Canadian context
 - b. With churches and lay
 - c. Churches amongst themselves
 - d. To laypeople and ‘seekers’
2. Make available short ‘offering length videos’ identifying who Christ has made and is calling the CRCNA to be (currently available at: www.crcna.org)
3. Development of communication and tools for increased awareness of who we are and what we do as the CRCNA in Canada. Secondly, to provide ease of use of the many resources within the CRCNA and its faithful partners for local leaders (Canadian directory, website, new leaders gathering, hosting local churches. Ultimately this will produce the beginning of a Canadian communications plan and part time position)

Collaboration: How all the parts work together for maximum impact.

1. *ServiceLink* Mandate: The reformation of *ServiceLink* means that we will have one ministry that makes it their work to understand and consider all the resources and tools available in all the parts of the CRCNA so as to best work for local churches in discerning the right path to facing a ministry challenge. *(A handout at classis describing this change is available)*
2. Strengthening regionalization of ministry delivery for local churches through the development of a 3 year strategic project in a 4 classis regions within Canada (*Connections region 1 – Classis Hamilton, Huron, Niagara and Toronto*)

Church and Community: How we engage the people around us.

3. Expansion of what social justice participation means for/with/on behalf of local churches
 - a. By November 2016: A cross agency supported Social Justice Mobilizer being hired in order to partner with local churches to assist in making their leaders enact gospel focused justice a part of their local DNA with accompanying digital tools
 - b. Web content continues to increase to resource local churches (www.crcna.org/Canada)
 - c. Centre for Public Dialogue is increasing its working files beyond in order to resource churches on more fronts
4. Expanded efforts of Aboriginal ministry connection for your local church (ie. Blanket Exercise)
5. Pilot Project involving a multi functioning – (missional and leader oriented) CRC App for cell phone use available to all members of a church in order to increase relationship connectivity to the church by the user– to be piloted in 4 classes with plans to expand in following year
6. The reforming of a *ServiceLink* to a relationally oriented, multi-agency representative, relationally motivated denominational Customer Service ministry that has as its only ‘target’ the local church. You should be expecting to be in increased contact with them over time

Discipleship: Growing as believers

7. Youth Ministry Pilot Project will transition from Pilot Project and experimentation to ‘expected behaviour’ vis-a-vis the Youth Champions within each classis
8. Increasing emphasis on inter-generational ministry and faith for every generation
9. Continued work toward the production of material (ie. council, elder and deacon training) with emphasis on spiritual leadership

Leadership: Strengthening leaders in the church

10. Continued strength of our classis leadership and structure through regular meetings and collaboration.
11. Preparing for a shared Canada-wide meeting of stated clerks and classis representatives together with a Youth Champions meeting running concurrently. Preparations for a 2nd gathering of newly ordained Canadian leaders is underway for 2018
12. Chaplaincy: identification of key challenge and growth areas with the goal of developing a comprehensive plan for chaplaincy in addressing Canadian opportunities
13. Beginning development of classis meeting model(s) for discussion by Canadian classis leaders in 2017-18
14. Development of increased depth of key leaders in the local church (ie. council chairs, elders and deacons and other key leaders) through the development of resources and strengthening key relationships with *Dunamis*, Timothy Leadership Training and key local leaders (ie. LDN)
15. Increased partnership with local church office administrators in enhancing their capacity, awareness of resources, and tools which would help local churches to communicate with other local churches and build community with information they already have

APPENDIX #3 – CLASSIS MINISTRIES TEAM REPORTS

Classis Ministry Team Report (CMT)

The Classis Ministry Team continues serve Classis by providing leadership, focus and direction to our ministries as a whole. Our team has been busy. We report on some of the highlights of our work and ministry. Marian Lensink continues to explore the mix of Mission Director for Classis and her new role in our denomination's "Connections Project." Overall the two roles dovetail together very nicely. Marian will speak about her changing role at the Classis meeting.

One of the exciting things happening in the Campus Ministry is the new addition of Seth Adema, our new interim chaplain, as Michael Fallon is currently on Sabbatical. All of this is new for Seth, Michael and Classis Hamilton. We pray that Campus Ministry may continue to promote the mission of Christ in the realm of academia!

The Classis Hamilton Youth Ministry Team is venturing to sponsor a Classis Hamilton Youth retreat in September 2017. The Team is hoping to secure financial support for this from Classis.

The work of the Candidacy committee continues. Nathan Klingenberg and Wim Devries are eligible for call and talking to churches. We continue to pray for Mark De Vos, Courtney Mooney, Ben Verkerk, Josiah Bokma and Derek Ellens as they continue their studies.

We also report on the various vacancies in Classis Hamilton. Ken Benjamins moved from Hope CRC in Brantford to Calvin CRC in Dundas. He was installed on August 7. Gareth Harker sustained his Classical exam in August and was ordained as Pastor of Calvary CRC of Flamborough on September 11. Mount Hamilton continues to seek a new pastor. A name was put forward to the congregation but he did not receive enough votes. Mount Hamilton recently voted to move their location to the Mount Hope area. They are looking at a building to buy. This is a huge endeavor! We wish them well! Ebenezer Jarvis is reconsidering their calling process before they extend a call to someone to serve with Daryl DeKlerk. Ebenezer hopes to have things in order by the end of September. Maranatha CRC of York is in conversation with Rev. Ben Ponsen. He will be preaching at Maranatha in late September. We rejoice with York in their complete and new facilities! We wish Adam Veenstra well as he is examined at the October meeting.

The CMT continues to "fine-tune" its relationship with the Interim Committee—and the Audit Review Committee. Each committee has its own mandate but there is overlap. After some discussion we confirmed that when it comes to budget matters, the role of the CMT is simply to review and understand the *rationale* for the various expenditures so that we can speak to that during the CIC budget review meeting.

In the upcoming season the CMT plans to begin new discussions to create an overall Classical Ministry plan.

The CMT says good bye to Victor Laarman who has served the CMT well. He has accepted a call to serve the CRC in Collingwood. We wish him well! May God continue to bless the church's ministry in the Hamilton region—and elsewhere around the world!

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Benjamins
Chair of the CMT

APPENDIX #3.1 – SHALOM MANOR CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

**SHALOM MANOR AND GARDENS CHAPLAINCY REPORT
SEEING GOD IN THE ORDINARY AND EXTRA ORDINARY
MAY-AUGUST 2016**

The Bible says that every day is an opportunity for us to have front row seats to the blessings and the gifts of God.

Sometimes those blessings are seen in extra ordinary ways, other times the blessings are hidden in the ordinary.

This past quarter, I've been blessed to see the gifts of God in both.

For example, this past Sunday, history was made as we were able to celebrate God's goodness through the sacrament of infant baptism. Heather Wonder (The Gardens Social Coordinator who is currently on Maternity Leave) and her husband Philip made arrangements to have their baby daughter Aurora Sophia baptized.

As we were getting ready for the service I thought of Abraham and Sarah who had a baby in their old age and named him Isaac or "Laughter" because that's what God does; he turns our sorrow into laughter.

And then I thought about celebrating an infant baptism in a long term care facility, and only God could have made it happen that the baby's last name is Wonder. So I thought it would be appropriate to title my message, "The Wonder of Baptism." Only God.

So God's blessings have been seen in the extra ordinary ways, but they've also been displayed in the ordinary.

For example, singing at Shalom is a pretty regular and ordinary occurrence. One of the places where singing happens is Sunrise Court. With services now happening on Thursday afternoons rather than Wednesday mornings, the surprise is that the residents were far more alert and engaged.

One resident in particular is one of the reasons I love leading worship on Sunrise Court.

For much of the service, the posture of this particular resident is eyes closed, head down; sleeping.

But when we start to sing, something happens. Suddenly she sits up, and looks right at me. When she does this, I return the gaze and sing in her direction. In response she sings along with me word for word.

Whenever I see this, I am reminded that in this world and in our lives we will have trouble, but the one who has overcome the world and gives us life is always with us. So while our bodies age and eventually die, our souls never die. They just expand with life until the day we are free of the broken bodies we live in and we get new bodies that never tire, never get old and never die.

So I feel privileged to be able to work at Shalom to do the job I do, because it gives me a front row seat to see the blessings and the gifts of God, both in the extra ordinary and the ordinary things of life.

Peter Janssens

APPENDIX #4 – CLASSIS STAFF REPORTS

APPENDIX #4.1 – MISSION DIRECTOR REPORT

Mission Director Report ~ a smattering of the missional effort in my reach.

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.
2 Chron. 7:14

This has been a particularly dry summer. At the prompting of a member of one of our churches, our **Prayer Coordinator**, John Veenstra planned a prayer service together with Bethel CRC, on Aug. 17. Sixteen people gathered, giving thanks for rain that had fallen while acknowledging the agony of drought and our dependence on the God of all creation. This prayer time concluding by inviting the Spirit to do its renewing work in the hearts of all. An offering was taken for World Renew's efforts to supply food relief in African drought areas. A light rain fell as the evening concluded; we thank God. Thanks also to John for continuing to serve our Classis in the ministry of prayer.

Earlier this spring, I hosted a luncheon for **Coffee Break** leaders and directors. We had a time of sharing stories, and learning from each other. It was striking for us to realize that across the classis there were over 275 women in Bible study this past year. In addition, I've met with one woman who has worked with ESL Coffee Break; we are considering ways in which this material might be useful with churches supporting refugees.

At our last Classis Meeting, delegates spent some time around the theme of Joining God in Mission as we considered church planting for Classis Hamilton. Although we received no clear direction for the location of a church plant, the conversation was helpful to consider what God is doing among us, in the broad perspective of His mission. The **Classis Home Missions Committee** has discerned some possible next steps, and together we are following up on some of the suggestions that were raised that evening. I look forward to see what God might lead us to do.

The **Classis Youth Team** worked to plan a workshop for youth ministry leaders, on Sept. 10th. Lesli VanMilligan and Ron deVries, both of Faith Formation Ministries (CRCNA), provided resourcing for all leaders, including GEMS, Cadets, Teen Club and Youth Ministry. Over 20 leaders were in attendance.

A number of churches have been working this past year to develop their **small group ministry**. We've been meeting periodically together, sharing ideas and resources. On Sept. 10th, I facilitated a Small Group Workshop at Hope CRC in Brantford, where over 20 people gathered from a number of the Classis churches. The focus of the workshop was developing a deeper experience in our small groups, which includes relationships with God, with others in the church, and with our neighbours.

This season, I've been working to find a chairperson for the **Safe Church** ministry - someone who will take the lead, and give some direction for shared learning and mutual support for all churches in the area of Safe Church. We are planning a meeting for the whole team on Sept. 13 to discuss various ways that churches engage training for their volunteers. In addition, Fred Bennink of Ancaster CRC will be speaking about Safe Church priorities at the upcoming meeting of Classis Hamilton.

I've been gathering information about what our churches are doing in terms of **Refugee Resettlement**, and hope to find ways that churches can support one another and work together. We'll be focusing on this more intentionally during the evening session at the next Classis Meeting.

In addition to my work with Classis Hamilton, I've taken on a new position as Resource Coach for the **Connections Project**. This new denominational endeavour seeks to provide resourcing for congregations in their identified area of focus or need. In many ways this work will enhance what I'm

already doing as Mission Director. We've been working to plan a conference called The Accessible Gospel on Sept. 17th, which will focus on worship from various perspectives within the church. In my role as Resource Coach, I am eager to walk alongside churches in the Classis, in hopes of providing resources as well as connection with others in similar journeys. Please contact me if you'd like further info about the Connections Project.

Marian Lensink
Mission Director
marian@classishamilton.ca



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



Dear Representatives of Classis Hamilton

October, 2016

I am please to share that Dr. Seth Adema will be serving as our Interim Chaplain at McMaster University and Mohawk College for the upcoming fall and winter semesters. We believe that God has equipped Seth with the necessary gifts and temperament to serve in this role. As noted in the Home Missions guidelines for Campus Ministry, Seth is Reformed, relational, academic, entrepreneurial and hospitable to name but a few of the key criteria used to select Christian Reformed Chaplains.

We congratulate Seth and Emily, his wife for his successful defence of his PhD Thesis at Wilfrid Laurier this past summer. These years of experience in a public university – studying, engaging in research and teaching are considered “invaluable” to those seeking to serve in our specialized campus ministries. We also want to note that Seth is no stranger to the halls and classrooms of McMaster or our campus ministry. Seth earned his BA and MA at Mac in addition to serving as one of our senior, student leaders for two years. We feel his familiarity with the culture and focus of our ministry will serve him well as our interim.

Seth’s will faithfully continue our ministries mission to witness to the love and lordship of Jesus Christ at McMaster University and Mohawk College. What does this mean? It means a plethora of things but some of his key responsibilities will be to head up our two established fellowships - ‘All Things’ and ‘Solid Rock Mountaineers.’ Both of these fellowships meet weekly throughout the school year, approximately 60 times. These gatherings are our main venues for building Christian community among the Students, faculty and staff at McMaster and Mohawk as well as sharing our Biblical worldview. In addition to organizing speakers and meals for our fellowships, Seth will be directing and giving guidance to several small groups and sports teams as well as overseeing our worship gatherings. Seth is also going to take on organizing our CR-CM Student Summit. This was a new initiative our Mac & Mohawk ministry began last year. We had a dozen CRC Campus Ministries from across the province participate in it and for many of our denominational campus ministries it was the highlight event of the year.

Seth will be strongly supported on our two campuses by a dozen, seasoned student leaders. He will be investing in them and they will be investing in our ministry. One of the things our campus ministry is known for in the denomination is our student leadership program. It is humbling to recognise that we currently have three former student leaders in Calvin seminary.

While we note many of the ways Seth is gifted and prepared for this role, we also recognise that Seth does not have a preaching license. In regard to preaching, we feel that would be an unnecessary requirement in this interim role and we request that our churches do not invite him to preach during his time in this position. Seth will be speaking several times a week at McMaster and Mohawk and we want him focused on doing the work of Jesus Christ on our campuses during his time in this position. In addition to that, Seth also has a young family and we do not want them to be neglected.

Friends, please pray for Seth. We would also encourage Classis Hamilton to support our CRC ministry and Seth by having a small group or individuals from your church host one of our ‘All Things Dinner Fellowship’ nights. Seth will have strong support from our McMaster and Mohawk faculty and alumni Speaker’s Bureau, but one of the ongoing challenges is to find fellowship hosts. Please consider

supporting us with a meal. You will meet our students and faculty speakers and be invited to participate in the evening. These nights are an engaging, exciting time of learning about Christ and His Kingdom. God bless you all!

Michael

Dr. Michael D. Fallon
fallonm@mcmaster.ca
1 (289) 880-6134

APPENDIX #5 – STATED CLERK AND CIC’S REPORT

SECTION A. Significant decisions made by the CIC since the last classis meeting as previously communicated in the minutes that were sent to all the churches as well as some activities of the Stated Clerk.

1. CIC advises classis regarding the best way to elect delegates to future synods recorded in **SECTION B.** below.
2. Ensured itself that all classis staff members have been properly evaluated.
3. Assigned the proposal from the Shalom Chaplaincy Committee as well as the tabled overture from Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis to the original advisory committee that dealt with the Ebenezer CRC overture, together with some observations of the CIC. Details can be found in Appendix #8.1 and #8.2. Shalom chaplaincy governance and funding issues have been on the classis agenda since 2012.
4. Approved a number of amendments to the Rules of Procedure for recommendation to classis as recorded in **SECTION C.** below.
5. Adopted a policy providing whereby email approval may be solicited by the CIC when a time sensitive matter appears to be simple and without need for discussion. If a discussion results (other than for clarification), the matter shall be held over until the next scheduled CIC meeting. In a situation where a decision cannot be delayed, a special CIC meeting shall be arranged.
6. Adopted Guidelines for the Candidate Examination Process as assigned by the May 2016 meeting of classis. The Guidelines are recorded in **SECTION D.** below.
7. Assigned individuals to represent classis during installations and ordinations that took place since the May 2016 meeting of classis.
8. Dealt with various budget requests and approved additional expenditures for 2016 relating to the interim campus chaplain as well as the expenditure budget for 2017. Two items (Shalom chaplaincy and financial support of church plants outside of the geography of classis) involving principles were referred to an overture committee so that it will submit specific advice on these matters to classis.
9. Prepared the proposed classical ministry share requests for action by classis.
10. Reviewed the timeline for the classis agenda and made suggestions to reduce the overall time requirement to accomplish the administrative matters on the agenda.
11. Dealt with preparing agendas for two BoD and CIC meetings and distributing the respective minutes to the churches.
12. Attended two CMT meetings and distributed those meetings to the churches and as CMT liaison reported of developments and budget rationale of the Candidacy Committee back to the CMT.
13. Responded to or otherwise dealt with 1,078 email messages and requests for information from denominational agencies, churches, local churches, and others.
14. Participated in a video conference call with Canadian Ministries Director Rev. Darren Roorda, and Canadian Stated Clerks. Ken Benjamins will be joining the clerk to attend the bi-annual face to face conference to be held in January 2017. Further, CIC will monitor the downloading of work since that seems to be in an increasing trend.
15. Prepared the agenda and made arrangements for the August 30th classis meeting including arranging for synodical deputies and examiners for Gareth Harker’s classical diploma.
16. Sent minutes and agendas of Classis meetings to denominational offices, classis churches, classis pastors, classis retired pastors, Canadian stated clerks, and others as appropriate.
17. With the assistance of the CMT and CIC continued to develop the agenda, determine speakers, and attendant information, location for meetings, meeting timeline, and other related matters.

18. Communicated with and received mailings from the Synodical Services Office regarding synodical and procedural matters.
19. Prepared the classis meeting agenda and attachments for October 25, 2016.

Dick L. Kranendonk – Stated Clerk

SECTION B – SYNODICAL DELEGATE SELECTION

At the its Feb meeting, Classis H passed a motion to “appoint an ad hoc committee to recommend guidelines for the selection of officebearers to synod; asking specific input from the churches to guide their work, and to make their recommendations not later than to the October agenda for classis.” The Chair RULED THAT: the CIC is assigned with the task of appointing individuals to serve on the ad hoc committee approved in the previous motion.

Observations:

-) We recognize there are a number of options available in determining the selection of a delegate for the 4th, non-office specific delegate to Synod. Selection of that delegate could be by lottery from approved names, by rotation of office, by a fourth series of voting from remaining names of nominees or top voted remaining names of nominees. We discussed these various options.
-) We also noted that patterns of availability of officebearers seem to be fairly consistent. There are always ministers who are available (and more recently we have solicited input of those who specific interest in attending) there are a lesser number of elder nominees available, and some years Classis has had to consider sending less than the required number of delegates and nominees, this year which was the first, there was only one deacon delegate nominated and we had no alternate.
-) While there are a variety of matters discussed at Synod, we also spent time discussing the nature of Synodical meetings to assess whether there was value in considering one area of office/gift/expertise or another in determining how to fill this fourth position. Here the experience of our deacon delegate was an important piece. While all offices need to be represented and a part of the deliberations at Synod, the value of theological training is seen as an important part of the deliberations and assisting the deliberations at Synod

Recommendation: That Classis Hamilton, for the next two years (2017, 2018) delegate to Synod two pastors, one elder and one deacon, and review this decision in the fall of 2018.

Grounds:

1. Patterns of availability have shown in the past that interest and availability of pastors is generally high while interest/availability of elders (and this past year, deacons) can at times be a challenge.
2. A two year window will allow for a determination of actual interest/availability (as opposed to a need to fill a prescribed office-role) of elders and deacons in attending. If a higher interest/availability becomes clear over the two years, the election/selection process can be changed accordingly
3. Sending three delegates to Synod is very new and this two year period allows for some stability in elections before determining how the selection process can best meet the needs of Synod and the desired representation of Classis.
4. Theological training has always been an important part of our tradition; while the nature of Synod meetings may change over the next years, having theologically trained delegates is helpful and significant for Synod

SECTION C – RULES OF PROCEDURE AMENDMENTS:

1. Rule of Procedure **12.2.3**. regarding the work of the bookkeeper reads as follows: “Shall give a financial statement regarding classical and denominational ministry share receipts at each Classis meeting and provide Classis with an annual statement of classical and denominational receipts at the May Classis meeting.” This requirement cannot be met because of timing of the initial remittances by the churches to the bookkeeper. In light of this, the following amended wording was proposed for approval by classis:

RECOMMENDED THAT: Rule of Procedure 12.2.3 will read: “Shall give a financial statement regarding classical ministry share receipts at the October meeting and provide Classis with an annual statement of classical receipts at the May classis meeting.”

2. Rule of Procedure **5.2.4** states that the “officers shall ordinarily be ministers, but may also be elders.” The Stated Clerk is not an office bearer. Also, deacons are now delegated to classis like elders.

RECOMMENDED THAT: Rule of Procedure 5.2.4 be amended to state: “Except for the Stated Clerk, officers shall ordinarily be ministers, but may also be elders or deacons.”

3. Procedure **5.1.3**: The Committees are required to submit their reports to the Stated Clerk no later than eight weeks prior to the meeting of Classis. The Stated Clerk shall send the reports provided by the Committees to the Delegates as soon as possible after their receipt. This Rule was amended by requiring ministry committees to send their reports to the CMT. In light of that operational change, the RoP should be amended.

RECOMMENDED THAT: Rule of Procedure 5.1.3 be revised to state: “Ministry Committees are required to submit their reports to the CMT no later than eight weeks prior to the meeting of Classis. The CMT shall summarize the reports provided by the Committees and include these summaries in its report to the Delegates to be included in the classis agenda.”

SECTION D – CANDIDATE EXAMINATION PROCESS

Re: Classis May, 2016, “Ancaster request” assignment

Pastors KB, RK, and HK met on June 28, 2016 to discuss this on behalf of CIC and submit the following summary report to CIC.

Summary:

We recognize that the net result of the March 22, 2016, examination, while helping discern concerns in the readiness of a candidate as an examination ought to, in its process left some wounds and some wonder for both the candidate and ACRC, as well as for others who were there.

We want to recognize that there are a number of factors that contributed to the difficulty of the meeting. The expectation was for a positive examination, and discovery of sermon concerns, within the context of a short time frame, made it challenging to come to quick decisions as needed. We do not think there are specific policy or procedural weaknesses that bear the responsibility for this. Nor do we think there was an un-pastoral ‘flavour’ or intent in the preparation for and carrying out of the meeting.

Hindsight suggests some things that could have been managed differently for greater sensitivity, but that is hindsight. In the end the primary reason for the outcome is that the candidate's sermons did not meet the standards of Classis. But the process, and some of our role/decisions as a Classis, contributed to how that played out. We think there are some observations that can perhaps help to understand what happened, and some recommendations that can help us in the future.

Observations:

- The process for planning meetings and the timeline for getting agendas in the hands of delegates is important. These processes are in place and when followed will allow time for planning and addressing concerns that may arise
- A number of items raised in the ACRC request to Classis are addressed in the Church Order and/or Classis Hamilton Rules of Procedure. We recognize that even so, not all who attend as delegates or guests will necessarily be aware of those. This includes the process of requesting Executive session, freedom for questioning procedure, options for challenging the chair, or asking for information in order to better understand what is going on or is expected.
- While Classis, in care for the candidate and desiring to assist ACRC, moved to postpone the examination, such a motion does not really fit church order procedure. Technically, the primary question for a single exam is whether a candidate sustained it. If he/she doesn't, it is deemed to have been failed. Article 10 identifies what that means, including that such failure terminates the letter of call and a request for re-examination needs to be made specifically by the calling church if they so choose. Postponing the examination, while well intended, added some confusion to understanding what happened and/or needed to happen, and what the role of ACRC was in moving forward.
- When it appears that there may be significant concerns in an examination, such concerns should be discerned and discussed at least a week prior to the examination. If there appear to be reasons to postpone or cancel the examination that can then be considered in a timely way.

Guidelines:

1. That Classis do its best to ensure proper following of procedure as outlined in the CRC Church Order and the Classis Hamilton Rules of Procedure, including having the required sermon of the candidate in the hands of the clerk for distribution with the agenda (at least 5 weeks prior to the meeting).
2. That the sermon critics give clear indication of a negative critique of the written sermons at least one week prior to the examination, if that critique suggests not proceeding with the examination.
3. That the sermon critics go over their report with the candidate after the sermon on the required text has been preached, and at least two days prior to Classis meeting.
4. That Classis invite delegates and Synodical deputies who would like copies of the additional sermons to request them from the clerk. While Classis does not want to make Classis a committee of the whole, we believe this transparency and availability will be more helpful to the process and dialogue.
5. That the chair of Classis, when there is an examination, take time to explain the process, the goals of each section of examination, and the roles of all involved, before the examination begins. This will be of help to delegates who may be there for the first time, as well as experienced delegates who may be helped by a reminder. It will also be helpful to guests who are present at what is a public meeting, enabling them to both better understand and appreciate what the examination is about.

APPENDIX #6 – DELEGATE, FUNCTIONARY AND COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

The following are openings and nominated as of September 12, 2016.

CHURCH VISITORS

Wayne Visser (Team A) – second term

_____ (opportunity for local council to nominate an additional person)

Jake Ellens (Team B) – second term

_____ (opportunity for local council to nominate an additional person)

CLASSIS MINISTRY TEAM

Gareth Harker – first term

HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Everett Vander Horst – second term

Gerald Klein-Geltink – second term

McMASTER & MOHAWK CAMPUS MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Bruce Adema – second term

Aaron Schat – first term

CANDIDACY COMMITTEE

Femke Visser-Elenbaas – first term

CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The second term of Rev. M. Jeffery Klingenberg will expire on June 30, 2017 so a new clergy person nominee is required from Region 4 (Classes Chatham, Hamilton, Huron and Niagara) no later than October 25, 2016.

NEW MISSION AGENCY (Formerly World Missions and Home Missions)

Rev. A. Carel Geleynse will have completed his first term on June 30, 2017 and will be eligible for appointment to a second term unless a council submits a reservation to the Stated Clerk no later than October 25, 2016.

DENOMINATIONAL CANDIDACY COMMITTEE

The Candidacy Committee welcomes nominations for service on the committee. They have one slot opening next year and invite persons to express their interest. Also, they have been instructed by synod to appoint a **Continuing Education for Pastors** committee, composed of volunteers and some denominational staff. Please submit to us names of persons who would be gifted and interested in this area of service. They need these names for both categories by November 1, 2016.

APPENDIX #7 – CLASSICAL MINISTRY SHARE BUDGET

**CLASSIS HAMILTON MINISTRY SHARES
2017**

	Amount			Share			
	2017 Budget	% of Total	2016 Budget	2017 Budget	2016 Budget	2016/17 \$ Incr/(Decr)	2016/17 % Incr/Decr
Number of Members	3,616		3,720			(104)	-2.80%
Classis Expense Fund	45,596.00	17.4%	38,946.00	12.61	10.47	2.14	20.44%
McMaster Campus Ministry	110,085.00	42.0%	108,650.00	30.44	29.21	1.24	4.23%
Classical Candidacy Committee	60,000.00	22.9%	60,000.00	16.59	16.13	0.46	2.88%
Shalom Manor Chaplaincy	42,980.00	16.4%	40,381.00	11.89	10.86	1.03	9.50%
Youth Ministry	3,400.00	1.3%	800.00	0.94	0.22	0.73	337.22%
	<u>\$ 262,061.00</u>	100.0%	<u>\$ 248,777.00</u>			-	
	72.47		66.88	72.47	66.88	5.60	8.37%

Addendum - 2017 Classis Hamilton Ministry Shares

Line Item	2017 Amount	2016 Amount	Notes
Classis Expense Fund	\$45,596.00	\$38,946.00	Included is \$6000 for Classis Home Mission (\$3000 for Milton Church Plant, \$2000 reserve, \$1000 expenses). Included is 50% reduction in hours for Missions Director. Included are 2% increases for honoraria and salary. The amount of ministry shares required for Budget 2016 was lower due to a \$17,735 deficit to be covered by existing reserve. This fund is no longer has the capacity to facilitate lower ministry share amounts.
McMaster Campus Ministry	\$110,085.00	\$108,650.00	Included is 2% increase for Chaplain salary. Does not include costs for Interim Chaplain January-April 2017. This cost is covered by fund reserve and not by shares.
Classis Candidacy Committee	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	This fund will have \$19,500 uncommitted funds at end of budget year 2016.
Youth Ministry Committee	\$3400.00	\$800	Represents: \$2000 for Classis Youth Retreat \$400 for Faith Formation (Burlington Office) \$1000 for committee expenses

CLASSIS HAMILTON CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCHES

Number of Contributors by Church

	Yearbook:	2016	2015	2014	2013
Church		Active Prof. Members	Active Prof. Members	Active Prof. Members	Active Prof. Members
1	Ancaster	413	399	391	422
2	Ancaster, Fellowship	229	264	247	223
3	Brantford, Hope	380	389	398	388
4	Burlington	206	220	222	219
5	Burlington, Faith	318	319	321	313
6	Dundas, Calvin	224	256	239	245
7	Flamborough, Calvary	225	218	213	230
8	Hagersville, Community	131	127	117	78
9	Hamilton, First	224	226	213	242
10	Hamilton, Immanuel	319	325	327	362
11	Hamilton, Mount Hamilton	118	124	136	150
12	Hamilton, New Hope	28	26	26	26
13	Jarvis, Ebenezer	214	224	231	246
14	Simcoe, Immanuel	136	164	136	151
15	Waterdown, Bethel	210	197	200	180
16	York, Maranatha	241	242	254	231
TOTAL:		<u>3616</u>	<u>3720</u>	<u>3671</u>	<u>3706</u>

NOTE: The ministry shares for 2017 are based on the statistics of the 2016 Yearbook.
 Professing Members less (professing members under 16 and inactive members)

APPENDIX #8 – OVERTURES

APPENDIX #8.1 – EBENEZER CRC, JARVIS RE SHALOM CHAPLAINCY FUNDING

To: Clerk of Classis Hamilton

From: The Council of Jarvis-Ebenezer CRC

Date: April 10, 2015

Re: Overture Regarding Classical Ministry Share for Shalom Manor Chaplaincy

Background: Classis Hamilton has long been a faithful supporter of Shalom Manor since the first formation committee originated back in 1964. And since 1986, Classis Hamilton and Classis Niagara have jointly supported the chaplaincy with classical ministry shares starting with its first chaplain, Rev. De Bruyne. Since 1992, the chaplaincy was upgraded to a full time position to best meet the spiritual needs of Shalom Manor residents and staff. The 2015 total overall cost of the chaplaincy at Shalom is estimated to be \$102,711.

The current ministry share is determined on a per member basis by dividing the cost to be covered less estimated collections and a private donation divided by the sum total of professing members from Classis Niagara and Classis Hamilton. For 2015, with a share of \$11 per member: Classis Hamilton contributes \$40,381 and Classis Niagara \$30,393. Additional offerings and donations from residents and a \$5000 pledge from a non-CRC church are expected to bring in \$31,937 to cover the remaining chaplaincy costs for 2015.

Changing Situation: The almost 30 year history of Shalom's chaplaincy support is worthy of celebration. And there is little doubt as to its continuing importance. This history reflects our faithfulness to our elderly members as well as our obedience to God's Word. Scripture is quite clear that the care of not just the orphan but the widow is an important piece of social justice responsibilities in God's eyes.

So the necessity of care is still present; however, multiple changes have taken place over the years where we find that more and more Classis Hamilton members no longer consider Shalom Manor their first choice. Since 1983 a large number of senior residents from Jarvis Ebenezer and Immanuel Simcoe, and Hagersville Community have chosen to reside at Parkview Meadows. Other churches can site their own examples as well. In order to be true to Scripture, serious consideration must be given to be sure that for each church-our senior members are receiving the necessary support and spiritual care at their respective facility. Partially due to the large number of seniors requiring additional care as well as increasing hospital visits, Ebenezer changed its pastorate model to a co-pastorate in the Fall of 2010.

This population shift of Classis Hamilton residents away from Shalom is further complicated when you consider that Ontario's Community Care Access Centre now regulates the movement of senior residents into long term care. While there are still some admission honor agreements in place with the province, the greater likelihood is that based on the geographics, CCAC is more likely to place Niagara area residents in need of urgent placement into a local facility such as Shalom thereby reducing the number of beds available to Classis Hamilton area residents and church members. However, it should be noted that Classis Hamilton continues to pay the larger portion of the ministry share based on classis numbers. Classis Hamilton has 3671 while Classis Niagara has 2763. A growing number of churches within our classis have no members at Shalom Manor nor do they expect to in the future. For 2015, Classis Hamilton has only 14 members at Shalom Manor according to the 2015 Spiral Directory.

Overture: The Council of Jarvis Ebenezer CRC by means of this overture propose a long-term wind down of the ministry share for the chaplaincy itself. **We propose that beginning January 2017, that Classis Hamilton begin**

reducing their ministry share assessment by 25% per year over the course of four years so that by 2022, Classis Hamilton will no longer collect a classical ministry share for the Shalom Manor chaplaincy.

Grounds:

- 1) In order to discuss funding changes, an overture is required per the CIC. The April 2, 2015 minutes of the Classis Hamilton CIC indicated that the CIC would not be offering future funding recommendations for Shalom Manor. In the minutes - (It was noted that the churches now have the information pertaining to the ministry, and so, may bring forward an overture to request changes to the formula if they so desire.) Hence an overture is necessary.
- 2) The movement of seniors from our own churches into more localized long-term care facilities such as Parkview Meadows will continue. As Scripture warrants continuing care for our seniors, our support dollars for their spiritual care will in essence need to follow our seniors to remain obedient. We anticipate this need will only grow as the baby boomers in our church retire and eventually require long-term care.
- 3) This proposal only looks to eliminate over 5 years, the classical ministry share portion of the chaplaincy—not the ending of the chaplaincy program itself. Each church congregation can still prayerfully determine for themselves whether to provide chaplaincy funding to Shalom Manor through their deacons via offerings if they feel led to do so.
- 4) The 18 months offered in this proposal before the reductions begin should provide more than sufficient time to find replacement dollars and assess future commitments on a church by church basis. The subcommittee made up of Classis Niagara, Classis Hamilton, and the Shalom Board have already offered some very helpful alternatives for consideration including formalizing a weekly budget envelopes for Shalom residents regardless of denomination at worship services as well as contacting other non-CRC churches whose members are represented at Shalom Manor.
- 5) A growing number of Classis Hamilton churches such as Ebenezer have no residents in the population of Shalom Manor, nor do we expect to in the future.
- 6) While not all Shalom residents receiving spiritual care can support the chaplains, many could consider commitments towards covering the cost. In fact, many other Christian Homes are self-sufficient. 306 CRC Holland Christian Home residents in Brampton contribute 100% of the cost for three ministers totalling \$280,000. HCH has approximately 800 residents. Parkview Meadows Chaplaincy Cost is covered through their general fund as well as Ontario provincial granting assistance totalling roughly \$40,000 for the part-time care of 64 residents in Gardenview. This cost is further minimized by utilizing the local ministerials to offer two services per week as well as on-call back-up support by Pastor John Huyser at Ebenezer and Pastor Richard Moorse from St. Paul's Anglican in Jarvis.

APPENDIX #8.2 – PROPOSAL FROM SHALOM MANOR AND GARDENS CHAPLAINCY

Subject: A Joint Proposal from the Shalom Manor Board and the Shalom Manor Chaplaincy Committee for Chaplaincy Ministry at Shalom Manor & Gardens

Purpose: To set out a process whereby Shalom Manor agrees to assume the governance and oversight of the work of the Chaplain with continuing financial partnership of both Hamilton and Niagara Classes of the CRC and of other member churches.

Background:

The Chaplaincy Committee at Shalom Manor has functioned for many years as a committee overseeing the chaplaincy program reporting to both Classis Niagara and Classis Hamilton. The two classes have funded the Chaplain who ministers to all residents and their families as well as staff, both of Reformed and other Christian faith heritages. In the past few years this funding support has been questioned by some churches, some of whose elderly members have been choosing long-term care Homes other than Shalom Manor.

The Shalom Manor Chaplaincy Committee and Shalom Manor Board realize that some aspects of the chaplaincy relationship need to change. In keeping with the original recommendations establishing Shalom Manor and adopted by Classis Hamilton in 1965, the Home has expanded "... so that if other groups of people of Reformed Faith want to join, they could do so". We feel it is time to open up the chaplaincy program beyond the CRC as well.

This Joint Proposal will take some time to achieve. In the interim, both the Chaplaincy Committee and the Shalom Manor Board are committed to collaborating closely with each other and with both Classes with respect to funding and governance.

This Interim Report outlines a proposal to move forward with a shared vision for chaplaincy.

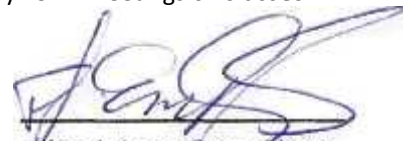
The Proposal:

The Board of Shalom Manor and the Shalom Manor Chaplaincy Committee propose:

1. That both Classes approve the transfer of governance of the Chaplaincy program to the Board of Shalom Manor;
2. That, upon approval, a transition team will oversee the formation of a steering committee reporting to the Shalom Manor Board to supervise the work of the Chaplain;
3. That funding continue to be provided by the two Classes for a period of 5 years to enable the development of a new funding model;
4. That the Classes be provided a FINAL REPORT in time for the February 2017 meetings of Classes.



Shalom Manor Board
Eric DeVries, Chair



Chaplaincy Committee
Frank Engelage, Chair

APPENDIX #8.3 – OVERTURE TO FUND CROSTOWNE CHURCH PLANT

Support of Crosstowne Church Plant (included in 2017 Budget)

CMT recommended and CIC concurred that the following recommendation be treated as an overture from the Classis Hamilton Home Missions Committee and that it be referred to an advisory committee for advice to classis.

Recommendation (submitted by CHHMC): That Classis Hamilton approve supporting the Crosstowne church plant in the amount of \$3,000.

Grounds:

1. As our committee seeks to keep church planting on the radar for Classis Hamilton; we feel that it is beneficial for us to develop a relationship with Crosstowne, building goodwill for our mutual benefit. Crosstowne and Pastor John Bouwers have much to teach us as we seek God's will around church planting and learn about current church planting methodology.
2. As a Classis, we recently affirmed church planting as part of our mandate, but also clearly said 'not yet.' Assisting Crosstowne is a good and fair reflection of the 'already and not yet' reality of Classis Hamilton and church planting. This support fits our mission as a committee and Classis.
3. Although Crosstowne Church is not formally part of Classis Hamilton (it is supported by Classis Toronto), it borders our Classis. Milton has always been a geographically confusing area, bordering as it does, on three Classes (Toronto, Hamilton and Huron). It is one of the fastest growing areas in Canada, and is a ministry worthy of our support.
4. The Church Planter, John Bouwers, who comes from Classis Hamilton originally, has never had formal financial support from Classis Hamilton since the launch of this ministry. Our Committee feels that we should have been more engaged in supporting Crosstowne from the beginning.

APPENDIX #8.4 – OVERTURE RE PULPIT SUPPLY REIMBURSEMENT

Overture to Classis Hamilton – Regarding Preaching Fees

A. Introduction

The churches of Classis Hamilton benefit greatly from the services of preachers who fill our pulpits when the pastor is away, or when our churches are experiencing pastoral vacancy. These preachers prepare well, take the time to travel to our churches, and lead us in worship. We are all grateful for the stewardly use of these brothers and sisters' gifts, and their commitment to the Lord's Church.

However, our remuneration of these preachers does not align with our appreciation. Despite the many hours they expend, and the tremendous expertise required of them, we give them only \$100 per service. Considering these facts, and understanding that some of our preachers depend on these funds as supplements to income, it is time to raise the amount our churches give to guest preachers as remuneration.

We attach Classis' current Pulpit Supply Guidelines, as well as a Banner article by Rev. Leonard VanderZee, dated December 31, 2014, for further perspective on this matter.

B. OVERTURE: Bethel CRC of Waterdown overtures Classis Hamilton to change the "Pulpit Supply Guidelines" by adjusting the amount given to guest preachers from \$100 to \$150 per service.

a. Grounds:

- i. This number better reflects the time expended and the expertise required from our guest preachers.
- ii. Some who serve as guest preachers depend on these funds as income supplements.
- iii. This change signals our respect and esteem for those who preach the Word for us in our times of need.
- iv. The amount given has not changed for many years (at least six years, probably more), despite continuing increases in the cost of living.

Respectfully submitted,

Peg VanderMeer, Clerk
Bethel Christian Reformed Church, Waterdown ON

ATTACHMENT 1:

PULPIT SUPPLY GUIDELINES – CLASSIS HAMILTON

Pulpit Supply is arranged in accordance with Classis Hamilton Rules of Procedure Article 10.3.

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 is encouraged to send the pastor employed on staff as much as it is possible. In the event that it is not possible, the sending church must convey that in advance. 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)

ATTACHMENT 2:

I Am Your Pulpit Supply

By Leonard Vander Zee
December 31, 2014

Don't preachers have a drawer full of sermons?

I am your "pulpit supply"—a term that ranks with "vacant church" for strange ecclesiastical language. I'm a semi-retired Christian Reformed minister who fills in for ministers who have a Sunday off. I enjoy getting around to various congregations and keeping my preaching skills sharpened.

I receive an average of around \$80 for preaching at a church, though I've been paid anywhere from \$50 to \$250 (once) over the past few years. For what, exactly, you ask? After all, don't preachers have a drawer full of sermons? Don't I just need to pick one on Sunday morning and go with it?

Here's my routine—and I bet it's not far from the norm.

I begin a week or two before the preaching date, when the church asks for my text, sermon topic, and title. They usually also ask for a hymn to follow the sermon. I often lead at least part of the worship service, so I need to look over the order of worship, which the church emails to me.

I have lots of sermons on file. But I don't have a "traveling sermon" that I preach wherever I go. Instead, I consider the liturgical season, the congregation, and what's happening in the world, and then I choose an appropriate sermon for that occasion.

The week before the preaching engagement I go over the sermon. Typically I see ways that illustrations or applications don't work because they were intended for their original context or are out of date.

Sometimes I discover that my thinking has changed on a particular text. These developments usually lead me to make substantial changes.

The Saturday night before preaching, I spend a couple of hours going over the sermon. I do the same for another couple of hours early Sunday morning. Then there's the drive to the church, about two hours spent there, and the drive home.

All told, there is an absolute minimum of eight hours of work involved, but usually more like 12 or 15. So the average payment of \$80 works out to about \$10 an hour—more likely \$5 to \$7. Contrast this with what, say, a plumber might get for eight hours, and on a weekend.

I preach at my home church three or four times a year for free. I think of it as sharing my gifts and experience with my congregation, just like the Sunday school teacher or youth group volunteer. But when I'm asked to go to another church to preach, it's not charity. I don't depend on the income, but it's the kind of work for which a "worker deserves his wages" (Luke 10:7).

Do you know what your church pays for pulpit supply? Is it fair? Some churches have not changed the "pulpit supply" budget line for years or even decades. Maybe it's time to take a look.

APPENDIX #9 - DELEGATE REPORTS:

APPENDIX #9.1 - BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



Board of Trustees Report to Classis

Zone 4 - Classes Hamilton, Niagara, Huron and Chatham

Rev. Jeff Klingenberg, Hagersville Community CRC

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Calvin Theological Seminary, thank you for your continued support of your seminary community. There are a number of talking points that I would like to highlight for you and your congregations . . .

CTS STUDENTS and FACULTY

- J In mid-March, the Dies Natalis (Birthday of the Seminary) marked the 140th Anniversary of the ministry of Calvin Theological Seminary that began in 1876 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, but now impacts the world.
- J Convocation Address from Dr. Mary Vandenberg in keeping with the occasion of her being granted tenure and being the first woman serving as a tenured faculty member at Calvin Seminary.
- J Dr. Cory Wilson began his ministry as Assistant Professor of Missiology and Missional Ministry. In addition, he is Director of the Institute for Global Church Planting and Renewal which hosted the Missional Living of Scripture Conference on November 18-19, 2015. Conference videos are available at the seminary website.
- J We also anticipate the closing of a chapter of ministry at CTS for Dr. Darwin Glassford (Professor of Church Education) as he seeks to continue bridge the work of the church and the academy. He has served and will be serving as Executive Pastor at Harderwyk CRC in Holland, MI.

CTS PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

- J The Board has made the following recommendations to Synod 2016:
 - J Dr. Danjuma Gibson as Associate Professor of Pastoral Care for three years, effective July 1, 2016.
 - J Dr. Geoffrey Vandermolen as Director of Vocational Formation for three years, effective July 1, 2016.
 - J Recognition and Appreciation for years of service are planned for Rev. Al Gelder (Director of Mentored Ministries – 5 years), Rev. Lugene Schemer (Theological Librarian – 16 years), Dr. Cal Van Reken (Professor of Moral Theology – 25 years) and Dr. Arie Leder (Professor of Old Testament – 29 years).
- J September 8th marked the first day of classes at Calvin College including the new site located behind bars at Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia, Michigan. On April 29, Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary joined together for a Convocation marking the accreditation of that site as a Calvin College location. Twenty students are having their lives transformed by education.
- J A second cohort (40 students) began in the fall in our newly established Hispanic Ministry Certificate Program. We are grateful for this way of reaching many Hispanic leaders who would not otherwise be able to access theological training.
- J We also marked the key involvement of the CRC and Calvin Theological Seminary by a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the NIV. That involvement continues with Dr. Michael Williams serving as a member of the Committee on Translation.

- J We are grateful for every student and are about ready to launch a new version of “Facing Your Future” in the summer of 2017 (notice of launch in the fall of 2016) that we hope aids high-school students in their discerning their call to ministry.
- J One such discernment setting has been the development of Calvin College Jubilee Fellows students being placed in a Ministry Year after they graduate where they work and serve in a church that has committed to be involved in the Church Renewal Lab a program that is currently directed by Rev. Keith Doornbos.

CTS DEVELOPMENT

- J One source for Continuing Education is the Center for Excellence in Preaching which is ably directed by Rev. Scott Hoezee. In 2015, the CEP website users downloaded over 1.3 million pages. No prior year had been higher than 750,000!
- J This summer, Director of Admissions and Enrollment Management Aaron Einfeld and President Jul Medenblik are hoping to visit a number of places and people in China. We have seen a great interest in Reformed theological education from China.

***Please continue praying for Calvin Theological Seminary...
Pray for Professor Dean Deppe as he continues in his journey of treatment for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma.***

www.calvinseminary.edu

APPENDIX #10 - MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

APPENDIX #10.1 - WORLD RENEW



Fall 2016 Report to Classis Hamilton

Submitted by Peter Bulthuis, Associate Director of Church Relations

Autumn greetings to the delegates of the churches of Classis Hamilton. Thanks again for your incredible support for the work being done by YOUR World Renew. Just one manifestation of this support is the total amount of your (CDN) offerings through last fiscal year (July 1 – June 30): \$443,324.06 (not including gifts from individuals). So: thank you so much! Thanks for all your other support in the kingdom as well: churches in relationship with programs and projects; churches hosting missionaries; individuals and groups volunteering with DRS, and in so many other ways. And thanks especially to the board members in Classis Hamilton: Jason DeBoer and Ed Scharringa: you have been a blessing to both the Board and to this classis.

A. Staff Changes:

There have again been a number of changes in the Canadian World Renew team in Burlington:

- J Dan Galenkamp took a position elsewhere at the end of July, and we are looking forward to Maria Oliveira's return in early September.
- J Kristen VanderBerg has been appointed to the position Director of Communications for the CRCNA (Congrats, Kristen!)
- J Samantha Bondy (IDR) has taken a position with DMC.
- J We expect Michelle Kikkert to return from her parental leave later this fall; we will need to say goodbye to her replacement: Cam Philips.
- J Kathryn Teeluck has joined the Refugee office, while Pam DeWilde has taken employment elsewhere.
- J Peter Timmerman will shortly have left the SAMT; Steve Sywulka (formerly with World Renew in Niger) will take over leading that team. Peter will be missed!

Lots of changes; lots of blessings; God is good all the time.

B. Important Synodically-Approved Offering Dates, 2016-2017:

- Oct. 10: Thanksgiving:** The offering today is for the Program Fund, the rock-bottom foundation of the work of World Renew.
- Nov. 6: World Hunger:** This is a major campaign with World Renew, supported by devotionals and other resources for individuals and families. The theme this year is: *Changing the Story*. Resources will have been sent to all Canadian CRCs highlighting **Christ as the great story-changer**.
- Dec. 25: World Renew:** Traditionally, the Christmas offering supports World Renew's programs in any of the 20+ countries where we work with partners to share the love, grace and mercy of our Lord.
- Mar. 5: CFGB:** World Renew's total funding for food assistance, food security and conservation agriculture programs through CFGB in 2015/16 was \$9,212,797, which is about \$1.58 million more than the previous fiscal year. Offering resources will be sent to the churches early in 2017.
- April 23: Refugee Sunday:** The refugee sponsorship work being done churches across Canada will be both celebrated and encouraged. Thanks, churches of Classis Hamilton, for your part in this!
- May 14 (Mother's Day): Maternal and Child Health:** This theme is one that has been a strong thread throughout much of what World Renew does.

For more information and resources, please visit www.worldrenew.net/churchresources.

C. Community Development: Stories of Transformation:

1. "Agriculture helps me to reach my ambitions", says 40-year old Juliana from Ngoma village in Tanzania. Through training and assistance from World Renew and our partner, the African Inland Church of Tanzania, she has been growing and selling sweet potatoes...enough to buy a sewing machine...making clothes for her family, and for sale. By the end of 2016, she expects that her house will be completed!

2. The El Nino food crisis affects millions in east and southern Africa, and World Renew is responding in many ways, in partnership with local Christian churches and organizations, CFGB and Global Affairs Canada. 1000s of people are being fed, and many communities are being trained in new agricultural methods. **AND, there's a great story of transformation and partnership that is coming out of the Bowden Prison Institution in central Alberta. A chapel walk-a-thon, for food for hungry people in Ethiopia. Sept. 10.**

Please read more at www.worldrenew.net

D. Disaster Response: North America (DRS) and International (IDR):

1. "The Ft. McMurray fire recovery process will take a considerable amount of time", says Andy Ryskamp, interim director of DRS. World Renew will continue to work with the local recovery committee to explore what clean-up services might be provided to smoke-damaged homes. And DRS will continue to work with the Northern Alberta Diaconate and Alberta churches in monitoring gaps in recovery services.

2. World Renew is also involved in disaster response after the Ecuadorian earthquake (April 16, 2016). Working through a local Christian organization, and working with Tearfund UK, World Renew has been providing necessities for 10,000 people in six communities.

E. Refugee Settlement Activities:

1. As of the beginning of July, 72 applications for refugees have been submitted by CRCs since Jan., 2016, and the total number of family members sponsored by Christian Reformed churches: 194, up from a total of 184 in 2015 (through the World Renew Refugee Sponsorship Ministry).

2. In the words of a member of a sponsoring church: "Sponsoring is much more fun than I ever dreamt it would be. And there's lots of help from the congregation. Besides registering for English classes, we have them over for dinner on a regular basis....And we just have fun with them. They're our friends."

F. Justice:

1. Justice and advocacy are key parts to World Renew's work in North America and globally. So much so, that we partnered with a few other agencies and organizations to develop two publications: **BIBLICAL ADVOCACY 101** (have a look and order [here](#)), and an excellent small group, 10-lesson study guide on justice: **LIVE JUST.LY** (the Canadian book has just been finished, read a short testimonial on the US version [here](#), and is available through Faith Alive: 800-333-8300)

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

There are so many ways in which World Renew can support you and your church, and you and your church can support the kingdom work of World Renew. Establish an "Advocacy and Justice Ministry" team in your church (and use that newly-published **LIVE JUST.LY, CDN** book....more on that book in the very near future!); stay involved with the **GOOD SOIL** Campaign; connect with the **FREE A FAMILY** campaign; get ready for the **GIFT CATALOGUE**, consider how World Renew can assist in your global engagement, through the new **GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES** program. Please check [here](#).

Contact Peter Bulthuis (pbulthuis@worldrenew.net; 800-730-3490, ext. 4237) for more ideas on what you can do. To learn more about World Renew's ministry, please visit www.worldrenew.net.

Blessings,



Peter Bulthuis



FALL 2016: CLASSIS HAMILTON

It's a busy and exciting fall at Redeemer. On September 14, we will formally launch a new Core curriculum. The new Core connects faith and learning, anchoring students' particular areas of study in a broader liberal arts context. Our students are being prepared to serve God in vocations and careers in a rapidly changing world.

We are also in the midst of planning for the launch of Redeemer's Centre for Experiential Learning and Careers this spring. The Centre will expand the number of experiential learning opportunities for our students over the coming years! We continue to build on last year's successful launch of a new Media and Communication Studies program. We are also rooted in Redeemer's 2020 Strategic Plan, which aims to enhance the student learning experience, raise Redeemer's public profile and ensure responsible financial stewardship.

There is much to look forward to at Redeemer, even as it addresses challenging circumstances. One of the most significant circumstances, as you may know, is that Redeemer's Board and Redeemer's President, Dr. Hubert Krygsman, mutually agreed that it was time for new leadership at Redeemer. As a result, President Krygsman will be stepping down as of October 31. We are grateful for his faithful service, the many initiatives begun during his tenure, and for the smooth transition that is now underway. Please join us in praying that God will provide wisdom and direction during this leadership transition period, even as we continue to live out Redeemer's vital mission for impactful university-level learning from a Reformed Christian perspective.

In coming months, we would love to stay in touch with your ministry staff and congregation through digital channels. We offer a monthly bulletin announcements email for bulletin editors, and newsletters of Redeemer stories and events for congregants, at www.redeemer.ca/subscribe.

COMING EVENTS

ENGAGING OUR MUSLIM NEIGHBOURS SEPTEMBER 27

How do we engage our Muslim neighbours and coworkers in a way that authentically honours Christ? Join us for a panel discussion with experts from Arabic and non-Arabic contexts.

YOU ARE WHAT YOU LOVE

OCTOBER 27

How can we reshape our desires in order to answer God's call? What sorts of spiritual habits do we need before we can truly connect our worldview with our worship? Join us for a free talk by James K.A. Smith, as he digs into these questions and his new book *You Are What You Love*.

FRONT

NOVEMBER 21 - 26

Judith, a proud matriarch, makes bomb detonators for the war in a London factory. Her husband is missing and her two children are being forced to grow up much too quickly. See Robert Caisley's *Front*, a story of one woman's perseverance in face of the Blitz, performed in the Redeemer Auditorium. Matinees and evening performances are available.

Visit www.redeemer.ca/events to learn more.



I came to Redeemer so I could continue to grow in my faith and receive an excellent education. What I didn't realize is that Redeemer also fills a lot of other needs. I found myself immersed in small classes and growing alongside my classmates, now friends. My professors work hard to help me succeed—shaping my worldview and pushing me to take on more responsibility.

Anna Marie Benjamins '16 (Hope CRC), science major



DIACONAL MINISTRIES
CANADA

Dear Friends,

July 01, 2016

Diaconal Ministries Canada's (DMC) mission is *to inspire, equip and encourage deacons, churches and their partners as they join in God's transforming work in communities.*

There are some exciting changes ahead for DMC. See highlights below:

1. Transition #1:

After serving for more than 14 years as the National Director of DMC, Hans Kater will be retiring as of June 30th. Looking ahead, we are delighted to share with you that as of August 1st, Ron Vanden Brink will be joining DMC to fill the position of National Director. Ron and his wife Monica have resided in Kelowna BC where Ron has served as a pastor for the last ten years at *The Well*. Ron gained ministry experience by serving Cornerstone church in Salmon Arm, BC (1994-2003) and New Hope church in Calgary, AB (2003-2006). Ron may be reached by contacting the Diaconal Ministries Canada office (see below) or rvandenbrink@crcna.org.

2. Transition #2:

Madeline Robins is retiring in August after 32 years of working with World Renew and DMC. Her gracious presence will be missed as well as her many competencies. Blessings, Madeline!! And, beginning July 25, 2016 – Samantha Bondy will be DMC's Administrative Coordinator. Her email address is sbondy@crcna.org

3. Deacons & Classis & Synod:

All classes in Canada now include deacon delegates and 9 out of 12 Classes sent female delegates to Synod. Praise God! Just a reminder – if you wish to include deacon, justice or community engagement “equipping” workshops at future classis meeting, contact us at the number below.

4. DMC's Executive Committee for 2015-16:

Chair – Melissa Van Dyk (Vancouver, BC)	Secretary – John Knibbe (Calgary, AB)
Vice-Chair – Peter Kralt (Beamsville, ON)	Treasurer – Lesley Toussaint (Toronto, ON)

5. DMC's Website and Facebook:

Join the DMC network by becoming a friend on Facebook. [Click here](#) and like the page! The sign-on is easy or you can go to our website for our blog. Stories are featured on a regular basis.

6. Diaconal Ministry Developers (DMDs):

In addition to our 6 staff members, there are also close to 20 [DMDs](#) across Canada who are equipped to serve diaconates and churches.

7. Resources:

Contact us or visit the website for resources in DMC's 3 strategy areas. These areas of ministry are 1) engaging communities, 2) equipping deacons and 3) doing justice.

Hans Kater & Ron Vanden Brink

3475 Mainway, PO Box 5070 Stn LCD I, Burlington, ON L7R1Y8 •
1.800.730.3490