



**Christian
Reformed
Church**

**Minutes of a Classis Contracta Meeting of
CLASSIS HAMILTON OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

Date: September 24, 2019

Time: 7:00 PM

Venue: Faith CRC, 2265 Mountainside Drive, Burlington, ON

Chair: Benjamin Ponsen

Vice-Chair: Everett Vander Horst

Stated Clerk: Dick Kranendonk

Reporter: Rita Klein-Geltink

Synodical Deputies:

James Dekker

Classis Niagara

Gary van Leeuwen

Classis Huron

Hendrik Bruinsma

Classis Toronto

Delegates:

Church	First Name	Last Name	Title
Ancaster CRC	Rita	Klein-Geltink	Pastor Delegate
Ancaster CRC	Lois	Verboon	Elder Delegate
Ancaster CRC	Jennifer	Kikkert	Deacon Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Everett	Vander Horst	Pastor Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Jeanette	Lodewyks	Elder Delegate
Meadowlands Fellowship	Marcia	Hosmar	Deacon Delegate
Hope	William	Koopmans	Pastor Delegate
Hope	Phil	Louwerse	Deacon Delegate
New Street	Joel	Bootsma	Pastor Delegate
New Street	Geoff	Weinstein	Elder Delegate
New Street	John	Dekker	Deacon Delegate
Faith	Henry	Hess	Elder Delegate
Faith	Rob	Schaafsma	Elder Delegate
Faith	Gerri	Nyman	Deacon Delegate
Calvin	Ken	Benjamins	Pastor Delegate
Calvin	David	Numan	Elder Delegate
Calvin	Peter	Vos	Deacon Delegate
Calvin	John	Mantel	Elder Alternate
Calvary	Gareth	Harker	Pastor Delegate
Calvary	Bas	Hania	Elder Delegate
Calvary	Ben	Boekenstein	Deacon Delegate
Calvary	Randy	Slump	Elder Alternate
Calvary	Richard	Vandenberg	Deacon Alternate
Hagersville Community	Mark	Laing	Elder Delegate
Hagersville Community	Brian	Paterson	Deacon Delegate
First Hamilton	Hayden	Regeling	Pastor Delegate
First Hamilton	Jules	de Jager	Elder Delegate
First Hamilton	Kim	Schat	Deacon Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Michael	Bootsma	Pastor Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Glenda	Hornsveld	Elder Delegate
Immanuel, Hmltn	Linda	Deys	Deacon Delegate
New Hope	Greg	Sinclair	Non-Voting Delegate
Mt. Hope Community	Greg	Schuurman	Elder Delegate
Mt. Hope Community	Mark	Demik	Elder Delegate
Mt. Hope Community	Doug	Nagtegaal	Deacon Delegate
Ebenezer	Wim	de Vries	Pastor Delegate
Ebenezer	Dan	Wyngaarden	Elder Delegate
Ebenezer	Phil	Helder	Deacon Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Jeff	Vandermeer	Pator Delegate
Immanuel, Smc	Ernie	Rauwerda	Elder Delegate
Bethel	Bruce	Adema	Pastor Delegate
Bethel	Peter	van der Meulen	Elder Delegate
Bethel	Chris	DeWeerd	Deacon Delegate
Maranatha	Ben	Ponsen	Pastor Delegate
Maranatha	Paul	Heeg	Elder Delegate
Maranatha	Jake	Termorshuizen	Deacon Delegate

Meeting Details

1. WELCOME

Chair of Classis, Benjamin Ponsen, welcomed everyone present, especially the synodical deputies.

2. DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER

The Chair of Classis led in opening prayer for the deliberations during the first part of the meeting.

3. AFFIRMATION OF COVENANT FOR OFFICEBEARERS

The Chair of Classis asked the delegates to show their agreement with the Covenant as printed in the agenda for the meeting by standing.

4. CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT

The chair of Classis gave some preliminary comments regarding the two portions of the evening. Regarding the second portion, the chair announced that since the denomination has two positions on women in ecclesiastical office, the Council of Calvin CRC of Dundas, and Rev. Willem Devries of Ebenezer, Jarvis, informed Classis that they will not participate in the examination of candidate Cara DeHaan, citing supplement item 3-a of Church Order article 3-a. The chair stated that Classis would respect their decisions. The chair also noted that although the two parties do not favour women in ecclesiastical office, they wish the best for Cara and for her ministry at Faith CRC.

5. ATTENDANCE

The stated clerk noted that the list of attendees was as shown above. Since this had been called as a classis contracta meeting, the minimum of two delegates per church was not required. The Chair of Classis then **RULED THAT**: the classis contracta meeting was properly constituted.

6. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair of Classis informed the meeting that it would be conducting the first part of the meeting in executive session.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION DECLARED

7.1. Church Order, Article 14-e Application

Mr. Steve Baarda had applied to Classis Hamilton to once again be declared eligible for a call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America after having been released from his last congregation 13 years ago. Article 14-e states that:

"A former minister of the Word who was released from office may be declared eligible for call upon approval of the classis by which such action was taken, with the concurring advice of the synodical deputies. The classis, in the presence of the deputies, shall conduct an interview that examines the circumstances surrounding the release and the renewed desire to serve in ministry. Upon acceptance of a call, the person shall be reordained."

7.1.1. Following an introduction by the Classis Interim Committee of the circumstances of his release, an extensive interview with Steve Baarda was conducted.

7.1.2. After Steve Baarda was excused, a deliberation took place.

7.1.3. A **MOTION** was duly made and seconded to declare Steve Baarda eligible for a call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church.

7.1.4. Ken Benjamins offered a prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the consideration of the decision at hand.

7.1.5. The synodical deputies were excused to prepare their recommendation.

- a. The Chair of Classis appointed the delegates of Mount Hope Community CRC as the balloting committee.
- b. Delegates voted by ballot.
- c. The balloting committee reported that the motion to declare Steve Baarda eligible for a call to the ministry of the Word was **DEFEATED**.

7.1.6. The synodical deputies returned and stated that they concurred with the decision of classis. They provided a written statement to that effect. The Chair of Classis thanked the synodical deputies.

7.2. **Alternative Motion**

7.2.1. A delegate introduced a second motion to allow Steve Baarda the opportunity to continue the process toward being declared eligible for call. The motion read as follows:

7.2.2. On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** the Classis Interim Committee establish an oversight committee to work with Mr. Baarda toward the anticipated goal of readmission as a minister of the Word as per C.O. Art. 14-e. (cf. the guidelines set by decisions of Classis Hamilton, Sept. 19, 2006).

7.3. **Return of Steve Baarda**

7.3.1. After returning to the meeting, Steve Baarda was informed of the decision of classis and the synodical deputies. Steve was also informed that he would be given some time to decide if he would like to proceed with the establishment of an oversight committee.

7.3.2. The Chair of Classis prayed for Steve and declared executive session ended.

8. **MEETING BREAK**

9. **EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATE CARA DEHAAN**

9.1. At 8:30 pm, the Chair of Classis called the meeting back to order. He read a few verses from Ephesians 4, briefly reflected on them, and offered prayer.

9.2. Gareth Harker introduced the candidate and proceeded to examine her in the area of **Practica**, an inquiry into the candidate's relationship to God and commitment to ministry. Opportunity for discussion was given to the delegates and synodical deputies.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** Classis proceed to the next area of inquiry.

9.3. **Sermon Evaluation:** The report of the candidate's preached sermon and the manner in which she conducted a worship service at Faith CRC, Hamilton, on Sunday September 22, 2019 was presented by Joel Bootsma. The reporter also provided a critique of the written Old Testament and Catechism sermons submitted by the candidate. Opportunity for discussion was given to the delegates and synodical deputies.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** Classis proceed to the next area of inquiry.

The synodical deputies concurred.

9.4. **Biblical and Theological Position:** Rita Klein-Geltink examined the candidate on her biblical and theological judgment, competence, and soundness. Opportunity for additional questions was given to the delegates and synodical deputies.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chair declares an executive session and asked all those present who were not delegates, members of the CIC, or office bearers in their local churches to leave the meeting.

10.1. **Motion to Admit:** A motion was duly made and seconded to admit Cara DeHaan to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church. A preliminary consideration followed.

10.2. Everett Vander Horst offered a prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the consideration of the decision at hand.

10.3. The synodical deputies were excused to prepare their recommendation.

10.3.1. The Chair of Classis requested the delegates from Mount Hope Community CRC to also serve as the balloting committee for this part of the meeting.

10.3.2. After having been given opportunity for further discussion, delegates voted by ballot.

10.3.3. The motion to admit Cara DeHaan to the ministry of the Word was unanimously **APPROVED.**

10.3.4. The synodical deputies returned and stated that they concurred with the decision of classis. They provided a written statement to that effect. The Chair of Classis thanked the synodical deputies.

10.4. Motion to Destroy Ballots:

On motion duly made, seconded and carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:** the ballots for both matters dealt with at the meeting be destroyed.

11. END OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

11.1. The Chair of Classis declared executive session ended and invited Cara DeHaan and guests back into the meeting.

11.2. The Chair of Classis congratulated Cara DeHaan on behalf of classis and presented her with the Classical Diploma. He also gave her words of encouragement as she begins her ordained ministry at Faith CRC Burlington, Ontario.

12. CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

12.1. The Vice Chair offered a word of prayer for Cara DeHaan and offered thanks for the outcome of the deliberations followed by singing the doxology.

12.2. Henry Hess, Chair of Council of Faith CRC, announced that the ordination of Cara DeHaan will take place on Sunday, September 29, at 10 am.

12.3. The Chair of Classis declared the meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm.

The next classis meeting will take place on October 22, 2019 at the Denominational offices in Burlington, Ontario.