



## Agenda CLASSIS HAMILTON of the CRCNA

Meeting Tuesday, October 22, 2024,  
9:00 AM to no later than 4:30 PM

**Hosted by Hope CRC, Brantford**  
519- 759-7581 info@hopecrc.ca  
64 Buchanan Crescent, Brantford ON

<b>Officers of Classis:</b> Chair: Anthony Elenbaas Vice Chair: Joel Bootsma Stated Clerk: Ed W. Visser	<b>Synodical Deputies:</b> (not needed this time)
<b>Reporter:</b> Meadowlands Fellowship Ancaster	<b>Ballot Advisory Team:</b> Host Church: Hope CRC, Brantford
<b>Credentials Advisory Team:</b> Mount Hope Community Grace Community	<b>Overture Advisory Team:</b> Hope Brantford Immanuel Hamilton <a href="#">Advice for Overture Advisory Teams</a>

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### **BEFORE THE MEETING: Preparations**

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A. **ORIENTATION:** [FOR NEW DELEGATES](#) (Includes link to the Rules of Procedure)

B. **CREDENTIALS and Due Dates:**

1. Each church will fill in their [CREDENTIALS HERE](#), before **October 1, 2024**.

The credential form has **two sections**:

a. The **first** is for entering the **names and email addresses** of those you are **delegating** to Classis.

b. The **second** is for your answers and observations to the **"Questions Under Church Order Article 41"**.  
(A copy of your submission will be emailed to you).

2. The **Stated Clerk will forward** the Article 41 responses from the second section **to the Credentials Advisory Team**.

3. The **Credentials Advisory Team will email their report to** the Stated Clerk **by October 8, 2024**. Their report will be emailed by the Stated Clerk to all the delegates as early as with the Addendum mailing.

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer
2. Devotions & Sharing of Ministry
3. Prayer for the Host Church

Vice Chair of Classis: **Joel Bootsma**  
**Hope CRC, Brantford**  
**Joel Bootsma**

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**ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION**

9:45 a.m.

**4. Call to Order & Instructions for the Day**
**Anthony Elenbaas, Chair**

- a. **Affirmation** of the [Covenant of Office-Bearers](#)
- b. **Attendance Confirmed**
- c. **Classis Declared Constituted**

**Stated Clerk**  
**Chair**
**5. Approval**

- a. Of the Present **Agenda** and **Addendum**
- b. Of the following **Consent Agenda**

*A **consent agenda** allows Classis to approve the items below together without the need for discussion or individual motions. Items may be removed from the consent agenda on the request of the delegates. Removed items may be taken up either immediately after the consent agenda or placed later on the agenda at the discretion of the Chair.*

- a. **Approve** Minutes of [Classis Meeting May 28, 2024](#)  
 (Note: these minutes were reviewed and approved within days after the meeting by the CIC and the delegates who had attended).
- b. **Reports received from Classis' Ministries**
  - i. [Mohawk Solid Rock](#) from Abby Lobert
  - ii. [McMaster University](#) from Michael Fallon
- c. **Denominational Ministries Reports & Correspondence** (also see [Stated Clerk's Report](#))
  - i. [Calvin University](#) from Tony Kamphuis (Trustee)
  - ii. [Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees Ministry Highlights](#) from Mark VerBruggen
  - iii. [Redeemer University Fall Report](#) from David Zietsma
  - iv. [Becky's Playlist \(Thrive\)](#) from Becky Jones, Regional Connector, Canada East
  - v. [World Renew](#) from Jamie McIntosh (Executive Director)
  - vi. [Diaconal Ministries Canada](#) from Ron vanden Brink (National Director)
  - vii. [Resonate Global Mission](#) (Includes a link to a message) from Kevin DeRaaf, (Director)
  - viii. [Advancement Classis Report](#) from Roshani Morton
- d. Correspondence Received from Denominational Offices (see [Stated Clerk's Report](#))
- f. See **Addendum** for any additional reports (considered as part of this consent agenda as noted)

**7. Classis Interim Committee (CIC) Report**
**CIC Chair: Ken Benjamins**

- a. **CIC report (on addendum)**
- b. **Motion:** that *Classis Approve the work of the CIC*

## 8. Stated Clerk's Report

Ed W. Visser

### a. Post-Synod notes from the Classis Interim Committee (CIC)

- i. The CIC is aware that members, office bearers, councils, classes, and agencies of the CRCNA, are dealing with several questions and challenges in light of recent synodical decisions.
- ii. The CIC is on the trajectory of implementing the decisions of Synod as much as possible, but we realize that this is new, unfamiliar and challenging territory for many members of the CRC and her office bearers.
- iii. Therefore we encourage patience as we come to terms with synodical decisions and discern how and when to implement the new direction.
- iv. In the meantime, regarding the Covenant of Office Bearers, the CIC has decided to maintain status quo. That is, the Chair of Classis will ask the delegates to indicate their affirmation of the Covenant by standing. New Office Bearers or first-time delegates to Classis will sign the Covenant.
- v. When to implement the annual Re-signing the Covenant, will be a decision of Classis Hamilton in the form of a resolution to be presented in the future on the Classis agenda.
- vi. Again, all this calls for patience. Some of us have been thinking and praying about this for some time. Others are only now becoming familiar with the synodical decisions and implications.
- vii. So that we are all informed and prepared as much as possible to make decisions as members, councils and Classis, several very helpful and informative materials sent to us from denominational offices, are assembled in the stated clerk's report.
- viii. To date, the CIC has not been made aware of any officebearers or congregations in our Classis that fall under Synod 2024's decisions regarding limited suspension or discipline.
- ix. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we navigate forward.

### b. Zachary King, General Secretary & Al Postma, Executive Director Canada, and THRIVE, have generated some letters and documents to assist individuals, churches and Classis in light of the decisions of recent Synods.

- i. [Letter to Classis Clerks regarding Limited Suspension](#) Zachary King, General Secretary
- ii. [A Letter to Classes](#) Zachary King, General Secretary
- iii. [A Video Greeting from Zachary King and Al Postma](#) [link to YouTube]
- iv. [A Letter to Classes from Al Postma](#) Al Postma, Executive Director, Canada
- v. [Synod 2024 FAQ Document](#)
- vi. [Unofficial Summary of the Background and Decisions of the CRCNA Re. Same-sex Sex & Marriage](#)
- vii. [Summary of Synodical Decisions \(2022, 2023, and 2024\)](#) [pg 4-6]
- viii. [Process for Affiliation](#)
- ix. [Disaffiliation Process Outline \(for Classis\) -updated 2022](#)
- x. [Church Functionaries and Committee Members and Guidance on Limited Suspension](#)

### c. As of September Friday the 13th, we have received a copy of the **Certificate of Amendment** and **Articles of Amendment** for our records. At this point, Classis Hamilton is **aligned with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA)**. So, that's good news!

### d. [Gather March 20-22, 2025, in Houston](#) (Reps from Classis Hamilton plus four other Classes)

- i. [Frequently Asked Questions about Gather](#) (Please read)
- ii. **From Zachary King's letter (above);** *I want to encourage all our classes to participate in the Gather initiative. Gather is a series of events in 2024 and 2025 intended to inspire, encourage and bring together CRC leaders from across North America. This is an intentional effort at renewal. At each event, five classes will come together to celebrate how God is moving in our communities and our churches. We'll pray and worship, share our stories and challenges, and discern where God is leading us in our mission. Each classis will be represented by 15 members and leaders from its churches.*
- iii. **CIC is inviting individuals** who are excited about Gather as described above and wish to attend, to forward their names to the stated clerk. CIC will assemble the final list of attendees.

- e. **Bethel CRC**, requests that **Rev. Anthony Elenbaas** be approved as their **Church Counselor**.
  - i. This would be a second approval since Rev. Elenbaas was asked to be their counselor in their search for an STM.
  - ii. **Motion:** *That Classis Appoint Rev. Anthony Elenbaas as Church Counselor for Bethel CRC.*
- f. **Motion:** *that Classis Approve the work of the SC*

- 9. **Classis ad-hoc committee from Classis with Bethel CRC, Waterdown** **Anthony Elenbaas**
  - a. **Background**, At the May 2024 meeting of Classis Hamilton, it was decided: *That the Ad-Hoc Committee for Reconciliation at Bethel CRC, in conversation with the CIC on Classis' behalf, be empowered to facilitate Bethel's transition back to the regular Church Order provisions of Church Visitors and calling process preparations (Church Counselor) between the Spring and Fall Classis meetings, provided that the committee has satisfied itself that Bethel's STM process has reasonably met its aims. The Ad-Hoc Committee will offer a report of progress to the October meeting of Classis.*
  - b. **Report**, Bethel has continued its journey with STM, Rev. Derek Bouma, and together with him has made a plan going forward for working through the issues that initially brought the mandate of this committee into existence (see our report to the May meeting for more). Therefore your ad-hoc committee recommends the following:
    - c. **Recommendations**,
      - i. *That the regular process of Classical church visiting be re-established for Bethel CRC, Waterdown.*
      - ii. *That the ad-hoc committee for reconciliation at Bethel be dismissed with thanks.*
- 10. **Classis Church Counsellor Reports:** (reporting only if needed)
  - a. Bethel CRC – Anthony Elenbaas
  - b. Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis – Jack Kerkhof
  - c. Immanuel CRC, Simcoe – Doug Nieuwstraten
  - d. Maranatha CRC, York – Joel Bootsma
  - e. Calvary CRC, Flamborough –

11. **Church Visitors' Report** ([Summarizing the Reports from both Teams](#)) (15 minutes) **Ken Benjamins**

**REFRESHMENT BREAK** (15 minutes) **10:45 a.m.**

- 12. **Classis' Ministries**
  - a. **Candidacy Committee** ([report](#) include motions approved by CIC) **Cara DeHaan**
  - b. **Motion:** *that Classis Approve the work of the Candidacy Committee*
  - c. **Campus Ministry Committee** **Anthony Elenbaas**
    - i. Introduction of **Abby Lobert**
      - (1) upon recommendation of the Campus Ministry Committee, the Classis Interim Committee, hired Abby Lobert, as Chaplain at Mohawk College.
      - (2) **Conversation** with Abby facilitated by Anthony Elenbaas
      - (3) Motion: ***That Classis ratify CIC's Decision to hire Abby Lobert as part time Chaplain at Mohawk College***
    - ii. Mohawk College Report – Abby Lobert ([report](#) approved in consent agenda)
    - iii. McMaster Report – Michael Fallon (report linked in consent agenda)

d. **Motion:** that *Classis Approve the work of the Campus Ministry Committee*

e. **Classical Home Missions Committee**

**Michael Bootsma**

f. **Motion:** That *Classis Approve the work of the Home Missions Committee*

13. **Credentials Advisory Team Report** (to be included on the addendum)

14. **Presentation of the Proposed Budget for Classis Hamilton Ministries**

**Ken Tigchelaar**

a. [Classis Hamilton Proposed Budget for 2025](#) (Includes actual 2023 and budget 2025 and Ministry Shares)

b. [Classis Hamilton Ministry Shares from Churches](#)

c. **Note:** Total proposed budget is \$272,133.00, down from \$300,793.00 in 2024, a 9.5% decrease, which results in a cost per member for Classis ministry shares of \$98.24 down from \$105.58 in 2024, a 7% decrease.

Motion: ***That Classis adopt the proposed budget for Classis Hamilton Ministry for 2025***

**LUNCH BREAK**

**12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

15. **Synod delegate's Report** (5 Minutes\*)

(\*time requested)  
**Doug Nieuwstraten**

16. **COD, Canada Ministry Report** (15 Minutes\*)

**William Koopmans**

17. **Resonate Global Mission** (20 Minutes\*)

**Beth Fellingner & Willemina Zwart**

18. **ThereforeGo Ministries** (15 Minutes\*)

**Rick Zomer** (Executive Director)

*(ThereforeGo Ministries works with churches across Canada and the United States to offer **SERVE**, a week-long church-based mission experience for high school students).*

19. **Calvin University** (report linked in the consent agenda) (10 Minutes\*)

**Tony Kamphuis**

20. **Upcoming Dates for Classis** (also see the Classis Calendar)

a. **For Saturday, February 22, 2025** Meeting of Classis

i. **Agenda material Due** **Jan 07, 2025**

ii. **Credentials Due** **Jan 21, 2025**

iii. **Addendum Material Due** **Feb 04, 2025**

iv. **Classis Meets** **Saturday, Feb 22, 2025, Hosted by Hagersville Community CRC**

21. **Adjournment**

a. **Closing Remarks & Prayer**

**Chair**

b. **Adjournment Declared**

**Chair**