



ADDENDUM

To the Agenda of Classis Hamilton of the CRCNA
Meeting Saturday, February 22, 2025
 9:00 a.m. to no later than 4:30 p.m.

Hosted by Hagersville Community CRC, Hagersville, ON
At their new location!
 (44 Main Steet S, Hagersville, ON)

(Agenda)

1. **Delegates & Alternates** (didn't fill in your credentials? Use this [form](#) now!)

Congregation	Deacon	Elder	Minister
Bethel CRC, Waterdown		Tess Tigchelaar	John Glasbergen, (Elder)
Calvary CRC, Flamborough	Ben Boekestein alt. Richard Vandenberg	Jan Vander Hout alt. Nick Groen	Benj Vander Meulen, (Elder)
Calvin CRC, Dundas	Paul deGroot	Jerry Noordam	Ken Benjamins
Ebenezer CRC, Jarvis	Fred Zandstra	Darryl VanBentham	N/A
Faith CRC, Burlington	Julie Pyper	Jillian Langendoen	Cara deHaan
First CRC, Hamilton	Nella Sandrock alt. Lisa Nightengale	Jules de Jager	N/A
Grace Community CRC, Ancaster	Dan Hagen	Rob Fluit	Mark Verbruggen
Hagersville Community CRC		Davis Miedema alt. Jake Elgersma	Steven Eckersley
Hope CRC, Brantford	Phil Louwse alt. Ben Koerssen	Dave Guichelaar alt. John Hensen	Doug Nieuwstraten alt. William Koopmans
Immanuel CRC, Hamilton	Clarence Beeksma	Arthur Bosua	Anthony Elenbaas
Immanuel CRC, Simcoe	Bert Stam	Mark Vandervliet alt. Joss deGroot	Ernie Rauwerda, (elder)
Maranatha CRC, York	Bryan VanBentham	Jerry Haanstra	N/A
Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Ancaster	Kevin Ritske	Ed Witvoet	Everett Vander Horst
Mount Hope Community CRC			
New Hope Church, Hamilton (emerging church)			

2. **Revised Overture Advisory Team** (see [RoP](#) section 7.3) & [Advice for Overture Advisory Teams](#)
 - a. **Grace Community, Ancaster** (replaces Immanuel Hamilton)
 - b. **Immanuel, Simcoe**

3. **Classis Interim Committee (CIC) Report** (see Agenda 8 a.) **Ken Benjamins**
 - a. [Report found here](#)
 - b. Suggested Motion: ***That Classis Approve the work of the CIC***

4. **Stated Clerk's Report** **Ed W. Visser**
Marguerite Ridder
 - a. [Prayers for Synod 2025](#) (Prayer initiative - you can be involved)

 - b. [Guidance on the Meaning of "Affirming the Confessions"](#) **General Secretary, Zack King**
 (Intro to the document linked above: *A number of members and assemblies in the CRC have asked, in the wake of Synod 2024's decisions about gravamen, whether "full agreement" with the confessions allows any space at all for officebearers who are wrestling with particular doctrines. In some minds, the decisions of Synod 2024 have set an impossibly high bar for church leadership, one which leaves no room for even ordinary human musings about matters of faith.*)

 - c. **Repeat from October 22 Agenda: 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](#)

 - d. **Stated Clerks' Gathering Jan 15-17, 2025, in Miami, FL.**
 - i. Every two years, the stated clerks from across the CRCNA are invited to attend a stated clerks' gathering. [Here's a link to some photos and description](#) (On facebook). I was able to attend.
 - ii. Twenty-five stated clerks were present, some with spouses. Seven of the eleven Canadian SCs were present.
 - iii. The Canadian SCs met a week later via zoom to talk about Classis Quinte's communication.
 - iv. Among the twelve staff and presenters were Amanda Benckhuysen (Safe Church Consultant), Dave Den Haan (Classis and Church Leader Consultant), Al Postma (Executive Director - Canada), Zack King (General Secretary), Susan LaClear (Director of Candidacy), Ashley Medendorp (Coordinator of Synodical Operations), Lesli van Milligen (Director of Thrive), and Joel Vande Werken (the new Director of Ecclesiastical Governance).

 - e. Suggested Motion: ***That Classis Approve the work of the Stated Clerk***

5. **Credentials Advisory Team Report** (to be received later)

6. **Additional Reports or Communications Received** (to be included in the Consent Agenda)
- a. [Calvin University Report Winter 2025](#) (Going Beyond in 2024: A Year in Review)
 - b. [Overture and Communication Process](#) (Link to CRCNA)
 - c. [Synod Resources](#) (link to CRCNA)
 - d. [Redeemer University Winter 2024](#)
 - e. [Campus Ministry Committee Report](#) (Taken up at Agenda 12. B.)
 - i. My term (Anthony Elenbaas) is up on the Campus Ministry Committee as of this meeting of Classis—I am also taking a call elsewhere.
 - ii. In light of that, the CMC **recommends that Mark Verbruggen be approved as a new pastor member of the Campus Ministry Committee.**

7. **Selection of Delegates for Synod 2025**

a. **Protocol:**

- i. There are **four openings** (and their alternates) that are to be filled: 1. *Minister*, 2. *Elder*, 3. *Deacon*, and a 4th, which Classis Hamilton has decided will also be a *Minister*.
- ii. The **CIC suggests** that we'll select the **minister** delegates for **1 & 4 first**, and **then** their respective alternates.
- iii. Synodical Rules about **Commissioned Pastors**.
 - (1) A Cmsd Pastor serving **solo** in an organised church may be delegated as a **minister**.
 - (2) A Cmsd Pastor serving in an **emerging** church & associate **staff** positions may be delegated as **elder**.

b. **Synod Information:**

- i. *As a reminder, delegates must be actively serving in the appointed role **at the time of synod**. Stated Clerks are also responsible to indicate whether interpretation is needed for any of their delegates.*
- ii. *Elder and deacon delegates must be ordained in their respective offices at the time of synod (ministers should not be appointed to serve as elders or deacons unless serving in the office of elder or deacon at the time of synod).*
- iii. *Please also give careful consideration to the decision of Synod 2019, which encouraged that “each classis include **at least one woman or one ethnic minority person in its delegation**” (Acts of Synod 2019, pp. 814-15). Synod 2019 also encouraged classes “to send one or more delegates to synod for two consecutive years, if possible, to build continuity from synod to synod” (Acts of Synod 2019, pp. 809-10).*

c. **Expectations of Delegates**

- i. Delegates are expected to attend the **virtual convening session on May 28, 2025, 7:00 - 10:30 pm Eastern**.
- ii. Delegates are expected to **arrive on time and attend all scheduled meetings of synod on June 13-19, 2025**.
- iii. Delegates, and alternates, are asked to complete the [Delegate to Synod Information](#) form by **March 15 or earlier**.
- iv. As a reminder, all delegates who need to cross an international border will need a passport or Nexus card. Please give yourself a minimum of 8 weeks for this process.
- v. The document, [What to Expect as a Delegate to Synod](#), is a helpful tool to learn more about the logistics and expectations for Synod 2025.

d. **Minister Availability** (of those who responded) - there are **two groups**

i. *Those **available** to be delegated*

	Minister	Served Before	Years Delegated	Available to be Delegated
1	Mark Verbruggen	yes	2001, 2004? 2008, 2015	yes
2	Everett Vander Horst	yes	2004	yes
3	Doug Nieuwstraten	yes	2023	yes
4	William Koopmans	yes	1992, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2009, 2013, 2019	yes
5	Ken Benjamins	yes	1995, 2003, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2022	yes

ii. *Those **not available***

1	Joel Bootsma	yes		no
2	Anthony Elenbaas	yes	2018, 2022	no
3	Cara DeHaan	yes		no

e. Nominations for **Elder** and **Deacon** for Delegation to Synod 2025

i. We need **one elder and alternate**, and **one deacon and alternate**

ii. **Elder Nominees**

- (1) Adrian Guldemon (Grace Community, Ancaster)
- (2) Rob Brouwer (Meadowlands Fellowship, Ancaster)
 - (a) [brief bio](#)

iii. **Deacon Nominees**

- (1)
- (2)

8. **Overtures Received and CIC's Proposals**

- a. Classis Hamilton has received **two overtures** from Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Ancaster, and one **other matter** for consideration from **Classis Quinte**.
- b. However, at the October 2024 meeting of Classis the Chair stated, ***that it might be best if we wait with the overtures until we've had our guided discussion in our February meeting, and that churches take the results of that discussion for any overture to the following meeting.*** Art. 22, iv, (3).
- c. It's clear that overtures asking for a change in a practice or policy of Classis, could be delayed till a subsequent meeting of Classis. However, the overtures from Meadowlands are **meant for Synod 2025**, and Classis needs to accede or not accede to them, so that they can be submitted to Synod on or before the **deadline of March 15**. [If Classis accedes to an overture then it is sent to Synod as belonging to Classis. If Classis does not accede to an overture, then Meadowlands may submit it to Synod on its own]

- d. Since a two hour facilitated session of Listening Circles is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. on **Feb. 22, 2025**, **CIC proposes that**,
- i. **a second, shorter, meeting of Classis** be held during the **evening** of **Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025**, at Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Ancaster (they have been asked and agreed to host). Delegates from Feb. 22 will be the delegates for Feb. 25. The doors open at 7 p.m., and the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Our meeting will be no longer than 2 hours, likely less. The **only items on the agenda** are the following two **overtures** and the **material from Classis Quinte** (further explained below)
- (1) [2025 Overture –Reorganize the CRCNA as two distinct Christian Reformed Churches, one in Canada and one in the United States \(U.S.\)](#)
 - (2) [2025 Overture - Prohibit concealed handguns at all ecclesiastical assemblies](#)
 - (3) [Ecclesiastical gathering of Canadian Churches](#) (Classis Quinte)
- ii. **Recommendations from CIC:**
- (1) ***That Classis Hamilton hold a second meeting on Tuesday, Feb, 25, 2025, starting at 7:30 p.m., at Meadowlands Fellowship, with the same delegates and credentials as on Feb. 22, with only 3 items on the agenda: two overtures from Meadowlands, and the material from Classis Quinte.***
 - (2) **Regarding the material and 4 requests from Classis Quinte,**
 - (a) **Quinte states, “In summary, Classis Quinte requests all Canadian Classes to:**
 - (i) *Pray for the planning of this gathering*
 - (ii) *Recommend an office bearer for the steering team [first zoom meeting Feb 27, 2025]*
 - (iii) *Send communication about potential agenda items*
 - (iv) *Be prepared to nominate 4 delegates, later this year”*
 - (b) **CIC recommends**
 - (i) Prayer (i) is always right, and the other matters (iii) & (iv) will be taken up by CIC for further processing for the May meeting of Classis as appropriate, and,
 - (ii) ***that the churches send nominees to the stated clerk. CIC will select an officebearer for the steering team which is to meet by zoom on Feb 27, 2025.***

9. Preparation for our Facilitated Listening Circles on Feb. 22, 2025

- a. Please read **Agenda for Classis, Feb. 22, 2025**, Item 15, **Classis Conversation, pg 4**.
- b. [Here is the complete script](#) that the facilitators will be using for our Listening Circles. However, **Sean Baker offered this word of caution: “resist the urge to bring prepared remarks to the circle. Instead, reflect on the questions ahead of time, and, if you really feel you must, you might write down a couple of ideas or themes on a note card, but otherwise, come prepared to listen and share as the Spirit leads in the circle”**. Sean further says that the “circles will go much better if each delegate is familiar at least with [Synods '22, '23, and '24 Summary of Decision \(2025.01.27\)](#) and, if they have time, the [FAQ](#)”.

Ed W. Visser, SC