

CLASSIS EASTERN CANADA of the Christian Reformed Church

ZOOM Meeting-----March 6, 2021

Classis Eastern Canada MINUTES

Classis meeting officers

Chairperson: Rev. James Kralt;	Vice-chairperson:	Rev. Nick Baas
Clerk: Rev. Bernie Bakker		

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Next Meeting	October 15-16 [exact date/place TBD] Chair – Nick Baas; Vice – ???	

Delegates to Classis Eastern Canada [CEC]

Church	Pastor	Elder	Deacon
Athens CRC	Dan Zylstra	Jared DeJong	Randy Terpstra
Brockville Bethel	Jack van de Hoef	Hugo Hoogenraad*	Jason McInnes*
Charlottetown	Vacant	Allan McIsaac Willem De Haan	Pete Nieuwhof*
Cornwall Immanuel	Vacant		
Dixon's Corners Community	Aaron Thompson	John DeVries	Lis Vandenberg*
Fredericton	Dan Hoogland	Roger Drost	
Halifax All Nations	Dave Vroege	Kevin Walker	Holly Bell*
Kemptville First	Medical leave – Ken G.; Interim Ken deBoer	Gary Ruyf	Justin Proper
Kentville	Justin Halbersma	John Holleman	Ben Bentley
Milford Faith Community	Paul Vanderkooy	Danielle Wilke	Doug Hankinson
Montreal First	James Kralt	Sandra Penner	Daniel Theroux
Ottawa Barrhaven Fellowship	Rick Nanninga	Linda Miller-Nesbit*	Tom Luimes
Ottawa Calvary	Pieter Heerema	Graham Johnson	Harry Rylaarsdam*
Ottawa Calvin	Craig Hoekema	George Zekveld	Jonah Ellens
Ottawa Kanata Community	Chris Schievink	Aaron Helleman	Val Ogden
Pembroke Zion	Vacant		Jane Wouda*
Renfrew Hebron	Daniel Meinema	Ed Oegema*	Ray Beimers*
Truro	Nick Baas	Rebecca Sooksam*	Karla Winham
Williamsburg	Gregg Lawson	John Menkhorst*	Anjo Norg

*First time delegate

1. Constitution of Classis – 9 am

- 1.1. Pastor Dan Meinema of Hebron CRC, Renfrew leads in opening devotions. Dan focuses on Genesis 8:1 reminding us that we are not forgotten; God remembers us, always; God always has time for his people. God cares and is with us in our meeting and fellowship. Prayer.
- 1.2. All congregations are represented by their delegates and Classis Eastern Canada is declared to be constituted.
 - 1.2.1. Immanuel CRC, Cornwall not able to send delegates.
- 1.3. The chair Rev. James Kralt; vice Rev. Nick Baas; and clerk Rev. Bernie Bakker serve the meeting of CEC.
- 1.4. The chair explains some details re a ZOOM meeting; thanks to Ron Hosmar and Michelle DePooter for serving as technicians for the meeting; visitors are welcomed: Leslie van Milligen, Faith Formation; Richard Smit, World Renew. A number of alternate delegates and guests are present for the meeting.

2. Reports

- 2.1. Stated Clerk [Bernie Bakker] Agenda Att. 1
 - 2.1.1. Stated Clerk's report received for information

2.1.2. Motion: that CEC approve the work of Stated Clerk.

- Adopted
- 2.2. Classis Interim Committee [Gregg Lawson, chair] Agenda Att. 2

- 2.2.1. CEC Safe Church Policy Agenda Att. 2a
 - 2.2.1.1. The Safe Church Team has been working on this document for CEC and for presentation to our insurance company.
 - 2.2.1.2. Motion: that CEC adopt the above policy

- Adopted
- 2.2.2. Motion: that CEC add an additional question to the Classical Credentials ensuring all CEC churches have their own Safe Church Policy and adhere to it.
 "Does your church have (a) an up-to-date safe church policy; (b) a safe church committee to oversee policy directives; (c) a process for training and screening staff and volunteers in keeping with your policy?" Adopted
- 2.2.3. CIC forwarded the name of Rev. Dan Meinema as CEC delegate to the COD and Echo Macleod as CEC delegate to World Renew board.
- 2.2.4. Motion: that CEC approve the work of the Classis Interim Committee. Adopted
- 2.3. Credentials Committee [Jack Van de Hoef]
 - 2.3.1. First CRC Montreal is asking other churches to share resources or best practices regarding worship, diaconal ministries, etc. that they found helpful during the pandemic.
 - 2.3.2. The church is referred to <u>https://www.crcna.org/covid19</u>. Churches are invited to share their specific practices with Montreal.
 - 2.3.3. Motion: that CEC approve work of Credentials Committee Adopted
- 2.4. Finance and Administration Committee [Eva Reitsma, treasurer]
 - 2.4.1. 2020 Financial Statements Agenda Att. 3
 - 2.4.1.1. Motion: that CEC approve the 2020 Financial Statement as presented
 - 2.4.2. Remittances 2020 Agenda Att. 3a

- Adopted Received for Information
- 2.4.3. Guidelines for 2021 Education Grant Agenda Att. 3b
 - 2.4.3.1. As CEC has funds leftover from the 2020 budget the FAC is recommending a grant offering to the churches of Classis to assist them in continuing education for both paid church ministry staff or volunteer church ministry leaders, and staff of existing ministries sponsored by Classis Eastern Canada. This grant of up to \$800 will be available to each congregation/ministry to send persons on training seminars (virtual or in-person) or to bring in training for persons.
 - 2.4.3.2. Motion: that CEC adopt the above recommendation. Adopted
 - 2.4.3.3. The application form is found at the end of Att. 3b
- 2.4.4. FAC Recommendations re Change in Minutes Agenda Att. 3c
 - 2.4.4.1. FAC moves that minute 17.1.1 of the March 6-7, 2020 be changed to "The FAC moves for the 2020 Classis Eastern Canada to amend its congregation member's rate from \$88.10 to \$68.43 per member. This comes as a pro-rated per member reduction of \$19.67.
 - 2.4.4.1.1. Grounds: "This amendment reflects the overage for the 2019 budget in a fair and equitable manner, while maintaining balance in the year over year budgets as requests are received."
 - 2.4.4.1.2. Motion: that CEC adopt the above recommendation. Adopted
 - 2.4.4.2. The FAC moves that minute 2.3.2 of the October 24, 2020 be changed to "The FAC moves for the 2021 Classis Eastern Canada to amend its congregation member's rate from \$83.59 to \$68.43 per member. This comes as a pro-rated per member reduction of \$15.

- 2.4.4.2.1. Grounds: "This amendment reflects the overage for the 2020 budget in a fair and equitable manner, while maintaining balance in the year over year budgets as requests are received."
- 2.4.4.2.2. Motion: that CEC adopt the above recommendation. Adopted

2.5. Personnel Committee Balloting [Dave Vroege]

- 2.5.1. Treasurer [alternate] remains vacant
- 2.5.2. FAC Gerry Pot 2nd term March 2024
- 2.5.3. Synodical Deputies Regular Rev. Dave Vroege, 1st term July 2024

Alternate Rev. Gregg Lawson, 1st term July 2024

- 2.6. Classis Ministry Leadership Team [Craig Hoekema] Agenda Att. 5
 - 2.6.1. Craig gives update on students CEC supports. See report for more info.
 - 2.6.2. The CMLT is requesting Classis' permission to give support to Rosalynn Berti of Calvin CRC, Ottawa by paying \$3,000 to Calvin Seminary. Rosalynn is the Assistant Director at Snider Mountain Ranch about 100 km east of Fredericton, NB. She started Calvin Seminary's online Masters of Arts in Ministry Leadership program this January.
 2.6.2.1. Motion: that CEC adopt the above request Adopted
 - 2.6.3. Jacob Zwiers and Mike Vlaming request renewal of licensure to exhort.
 - 2.6.3.1. Motion: that CEC renew Jacob Zwiers licensure to exhort for two years, i.e. March 2023 Adopted
 - 2.6.3.2. Motion: that CEC renew Mike Vlaming licensure to exhort for two years, i.e. March 2023 Adopted
- 2.7. Classis Resonate Global Mission Team [Rick Nanninga]
 - 2.7.1. Rick reports on the team's desire to focus on Church Planting. Global Resonate Mission is hosting workshops to encourage churches and classes in promoting bivocationally ministry for church planting.
 - 2.7.2. At this time the team is looking for more members...prayer coordinator, deacon representative, and non-clergy members. Please contact Rick for more info.
 - 2.7.3. An expression of thanks to Glen Smith who last year stepped down as executive director of Mission Montreal; a gift of appreciation was given to Glen and his wife.
 - 2.7.4. Jacynthe Vaillancourt of Mission Montreal shares about the work of ministry in the setting of transitioning leadership and COVID.
 - 2.7.5. Mission Montreal, Tim Keener video Agenda Att. 6a
 - 2.7.6. CEC Missions Consultant, Winston Visser video Agenda Att. 6b
 - 2.7.6.1. Shares about the work of mission...listening to God so He can bear fruit through ministry. Winston is taking the Crossroad Discernment facilitator workshop.
 - 2.7.6.2. Winston is offering churches no cost pulpit supply by himself (one per month) on behalf of the Mission Team. This would be a service and sermon commending congregations for their faithfulness in challenge and crisis, so as to encourage continued missional engagement in congregation, community, and creation. Please contact Winston at wvisser@crcna.org.
- 2.8. Ministry to Seafarers, Montreal [Michele DePooter] video attached to agenda
 - 2.8.1. Michelle thanks congregations for Christmas parcels for seafarers.
 - 2.8.2. She asks us to remember in the crew of ship now in Montreal who had crew member die in Europe...prayer for crew and his family in India.

- 2.8.3. Michelle had a voice in being part of a team putting together COVID protocol for seafarers welfare across Canada and world.
- 2.9. Ottawa Campus Chaplaincy [Sid Ypma] Agenda Att. 7 for video presentation.
 - 2.9.1. The ministry is changing its names from Ottawa Christian Reformed Campus Chaplaincy to Ottawa Campus Chaplaincy.
- 2.10. Diaconal Ministry
 - 2.10.1. Karla Winham [CEC Maritime diaconal coach] shares about the work she and Anita Hogeveen [CEC West diaconal coach] do with deacons in various congregations. They also help host a one day packed with workshops related to diaconal ministry in both east and western half of classis.
- 2.11. Safe Church [Paul VanderKooy] Agenda Att. 10a
 - 2.11.1. Paul shares about the Safe Church Training Strategy. Please read carefully.
 - Each church to submit name of their Safe Church coordinator to Safe Church Team.
 - Each church to ensure their Safe Church policy is being reviewed and updated.
 - On March 31 there will be training session with all contact persons.
 - In April there will be an Abuse Prevention workshop for West and East churches.
 - The Safe Church Team is still looking for a CEC Safe Church Coordinator. There is a honourarium for this position.

2.12.	Church	Counselors

- 2.12.1. Cornwall Pastor James Kralt
 - 2.12.2. Pembroke Pastor Dan Meinema
- 2.13. Church Visitors
 - 2.13.1. Renfrew Sid Ypma
 - 2.13.1.1.Report on file

2.14. <u>Regional Pastors</u>

2.14.1. Regional Pastor (East) [Dave Vroege] – Agenda Att. 11a

2.14.2. Regional Pastor (West) [Jack Van de Hoef] - Agenda Att. 11b RFI

3. Human Sexuality Overture Committee Report – Fredericton and Ottawa Calvary Att. 12a-c 3.1.1. Background: CEC received two overtures regarding the "Report of the Committee to articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality". One overture was from the Church Councils of All Nations CRC Halifax, John Calvin CRC Truro and Kanata Community CRC, Ottawa Kanata; and the other overtures was from Athens CRC. The Pre-Advice Committee to Classis Eastern Canada is made up of delegates from two congregations: Fredericton CRC and Ottawa Calvary CRC. Rev. Hoogland has been designated as chairperson. After learning on Friday, February 19, 2021 of the Council of Delegates' decision to cancel Synod 2021, we recommend the following.

3.1.1.1. We recommend that the churches resubmit these overtures for discussion at a later classis meeting allowing for the possibility of more delegates gathering together in person. Grounds:

RFI

RFI

RFI

- 3.1.1.1.1. An in person conversation is a better setting for a topic of such importance than a virtual meeting.
- 3.1.1.1.2. Delaying the deliberation would create additional space for intentional conversations on this topic to take place within councils and local congregations.
- 3.1.1.1.3. Motion: that CEC adopt the above recommendation. Adopted
- 3.1.1.2. We recommend that the four councils involved in authoring the two overtures work together to merge their concerns into a single overture. Grounds:
 - 3.1.1.2.1. There are significant areas of overlap between the overtures.
 - 3.1.1.2.2. There is adequate time for the four council to collaborate on the task of submitting one overture to Classis Eastern Canada
 - 3.1.1.2.3. Motion: that CEC adopt the above recommendation. Adopted
- 3.1.1.3. We recommend that the councils and congregations of Classis Eastern Canada be intentional about discussing the content of these overtures and of the "Synodical Report from the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-Laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality" during the time leading up to this deliberation. Grounds:
 - 3.1.1.3.1. These conversations are an essential part of preparing for deliberations on these issues at upcoming Classis meetings.
 - 3.1.1.3.2. Motion: that CEC adopt the above recommendation. Adopted
- 3.1.1.4. Note: Resources for these conversations are available through Pastor Church Resources and the Hekman Library at Calvin University.
- 4. Charlottetown Church Visitor report [Craig Hoekema] Agenda Att. 20
 - 4.1. In our report to Classis in October 2020, Dave Vroege and I noted that we'd had repeated contacts with Pastor Josh Schatzle and the Council of Charlottetown CRC over the summer due to a growing concern about the 'fit' between the gifts and passions of Pastor Josh and the make-up and needs of Charlottetown's congregation. We noted as well that Sean Bakker and David DenHaan of Pastor Church Resources (PCR) have been participating in those conversations since June. This has led to a separation of the two parties with Pastor Josh's ministry in Charlottetown ending this month. As there was never an ordination service CEC is not asked to approve the separation agreement. For the full report see Agenda, Att. 20.
 - 4.2. Motion: that CEC is asked to adopt the following: As part of that package, we are asking Classis to approve a contingency fund of up to \$9000 CAD to be given to Pastor Josh Schatzle in the event that he and his family demonstrate need of additional financial support prior to August 31, 2021. Any such request would be submitted to Bernie Bakker and Craig Hoekema who would make a determination of need. Grounds:
 - 4.2.1. There are a number of factors that make Josh's circumstances uniquely challenging and that make transitioning right now more complicated than normal (e.g. being in-between denominations, no legal status in Canada after March 31, a closed international border, and other complications related to the pandemic). As such, we're concerned about doing what we can to help relieve any financial

uncertainties for Josh and his family so that they can seek God's next call with as much peace-of-mind as possible.

- 4.2.2. Our liaison committee believes that Charlottetown has offered a fair severance package according to the precedents of other Article 17 separations in the CRC. In our desire to care well for Josh, we also do not wish to place a financial burden on Charlottetown that might affect their ability to move forward with transitional ministry.
- 4.2.3. The Finance Committee has confirmed that Classis is able to afford such a contingency due to diminished expenditures since the pandemic began. Adopted

5. Denominational Representatives

- 5.1. <u>Council of Delegates</u> [Bernie Bakker, Greta Luimes] Agenda Att. 13, 13a RFI
- 5.2. Canadian Ministry Director Winter Report Agenda Att.14
- 5.3. World Renew [Richard Smit] Agenda Att. 12
 - 5.3.1. Richard reports on work and World Renew. This is his last report as his term is finished and he gives an update on his health as he deals with cancer. He testifies that the Lord is his strength in this time. Prayer is offered for Richard and his family.
- 5.4. <u>Calvin and Redeemer Universities</u>
 5.4.1. Sid gives update re Redeemer; his term is up in fall so CEC is looking for a representative with expertise in lawyer or accounting or human resource. We are asked to forward names to Sid.
- 5.5. <u>Resonate Global Mission</u> no report

5.6.	South Coast Beach Project letter	Att. 18
5.7.	<u>Calvin Seminary</u> – Shawn Brix	Att. 19

6. Other Items

- 6.1. Throughout the meeting Joys and Concerns from all the congregations which were shared and prayed. We are thankful for the Lord's care and presence in the work of ministry.
- 6.2. We thank the chair his leadership in taking us through ZOOM meeting. Chair closed in devotion and prayer.
- 7. Organizational Matters Next Classis Meeting
 - 7.1. Fall Date: October15-16, 2021

 Location: TBD
 Officers: Chair Rev. Nick Baas; Vice –
 Agenda deadline August 31, 2021
 CEC agenda to be sent out by September 10, 2021
 - 7.2 Spring Date: March 4-5, 2022 Location: TBD

RFI

CLASSIS EASTERN CANADA – Personnel [March 2021] In compliance with privacy legislation, contact information is not published. Please contact clerk.

POSITION	NAME	Term	Term end
Stated Clerk (cecstatedclerk@gmail.com)	Bernie Bakker	1	2021 Oct
Alternate Clerk	John Venema	1	2023 Oct
Treasurer (cectreas@gmail.com)	Eva Reitsma	3	
Alternate Treasurer		1	
Regional Pastor (E)	David Vroege	2	2022 Oct
Regional Pastor (W)	Jack Van de Hoef	1	2023 Oct
Licensure to Exhort	Michael Vlaming		2023 Mar
	Jacob Zwiers		2023 Mar
Chaplains Ministry to Seafarers	Michelle DePooter		
Ottawa Campus	Sid Ypma		
Commissioned Pastors	Michelle DePooter		
	Ron Hosmar		
	Justin Halbersma		
Classis Interim Committee	Michelle DePooter	2	2023 Mar
	Bernie Bakker, clerk; ex officio		
	Gregg Lawson, Chair	1	2023 Mar
	Jack Van de Hoef	2	2023 Oct
	Brian Vandenberg	1	2022 Mar
	William DeHaan	1	2022 Oct
	Ron Hosmar	1	2023 Oct
Personnel Committee	Dan Hoogland, chair	1	2022 Oct
	Bernie Bakker, clerk; ex officio		
	Dave Vroege	3	2023 Oct
	Vacancy		
Classis Resonate Mission Team	Rick Nanninga chair	2	2022 Mar
Outreach Ministry Developer	Winston Visser	1	2022 Mar
Member-at-Large - deacon			
Pastor	Chris Schievink	2	2023 Oct

Member-at-Large - Maritime	Nick Baas	2	2023 Mar
	John Scholman	1	2023 Mar
	Aaron Thompson	1	2023 Oct
Classis Prayer Coordinator	Vacancy		
Diaconal Ministry			
Diaconal Ministry Canada – board representative	Peter Van Harmelen	1	2023
Western Diaconal Conf; Pastoral Adviser	Dan Meinema	1	2022
Diaconal ministry developer (E)	Karla Winham		
Eastern Canada Diaconal Conf. (W)	Ian White, chair		2021 Oct
Pastoral Adviser	Vacancy		
Diaconal ministry developer (W)	Anita Hoogeveen		
Classis Ministry Leadership Team	Craig Hoekema, chair	2	2021 Oct
	Eva Reitsma, ex-officio		
	Dan Zylstra	2	2021 Oct
	Aaron Thompson	1	2021 Oct
Financial Administration Committee	Eva Reitsma, treasurer		
	Dale Poel	5	2022 Oct
	Ron Hosmar, chair	2	2023 Mar
	Jackie Lauziere	2	2023 Mar
	Gerry Pot	2	2024 Mar
Youth Ministry Team (W)	Ron Hosmar secretary; pastor rep	5	2021 Oct
	Joe Groeneveld chair	4	2023 Oct
	John Verburg <i>vice</i>	6	2023 Oct
	Holly Byker	1	2023 Mar
	Karen Bastian	1	2020 Mar
	Adrian Brobbel	1	2021 Oct
	Presleigh Klein	1	2023 Mar
	Victoria De Schiffart	1	2023 Mar
Ministry to Seafarers Montreal Chair	George Zekveld	1	2021 Oct
Treasurer	John Luimes (Q <i>uinte</i>)	2	2022 Mar

Secretary	Bert Wissink (Eastern Canada)	1	2021 Oct
	Sandra Penner (Eastern Canada)	1	2021 Mar
Member at Large	Gerard Bondt	2	2022 Oct
Church Visiting Teams			
East Team I (Truro, Milford, Halifax)	Dan Hoogland	1	2022 Oct
East Team II (Charlottetown, Kentville, Fredericton)	Craig Hoekema	2	2023 Oct
West Team I (Brockville, Ottawa Kanata, Ottawa Calvary, Renfrew)	Sid Ypma		2021 Oct
West Team II (Ottawa Barrhaven, Athens, Cornwall, Pembroke, Williamsburg)	Aaron Thompson	1	2023 Oct
West Team III (Kemptville, Dixon's Corners, Montreal, Ottawa Calvin)	Joe Groeneveld	1	2022 Oct
Church Counselors (vacant congregations)			
Charlottetown			
Cornwall	James Kralt		
Pembroke	Dan Meinema		
Synodical Deputy alternate	Dave Vroege Gregg Lawson	1 1	2024 June 2024 June
Council of Delegates	Dan Meinema	1	2024 June
Calvin College (Region 3 - CEC/Quinte/Toronto)	Alicia Sinclair	1	2022
Calvin Theological Seminary (Region 3)	Dan Brown	2	2022
World Renew	Echo MacLeod	1	2024 June
Redeemer University	Sid Ypma	2	2021 Oct
Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue	Colin Conrad	2	2022 (Mar)
Historical Committee	Jean Lauziere		
Banner Correspondent	Krista Dam-Vandekuyt		
Safe Church Executive	Gayla Postma, <i>past chair</i>		
Ottawa Calvary	John Vedder, member <i>at large</i>	1	2018 (Mar)
Halifax	Rachel Boehm. chair	2	2021 (Mar)
Pastoral Adviser	Paul Vanderkooy	1	2022 (Oct)
	Wilma Mulder treas., counselling fund		ongoing

Safe Church Team	
Athens	Raven Lyons
Brockville	Mike Van Dyke
Charlottetown	Geesje Niehuis
Cornwall	Sandra Eckersley
Dixon's Corners	
Fredericton	Tammi Boonstoppel
Halifax	Rachel Boehm
Kemptville	Ault VanBokhorst
Kentville	Gerrit Carree
Metcalfe, Living Hope	Benjamin Sapper
Milford	Cheryl Woodworth
Montreal	Natalie Klein
Ottawa Barrhaven	Monique Heidinga
Ottawa Calvary	John Vedder
Ottawa Calvin	Jake Brunsting
Pembroke	Jane Wouda
Ottawa Kanata	Megan Mooibroek
Renfrew	Ed Oegema
Truro	Nicole Boertjes
Williamsburg	Nicole Van't Foort
Disability Concerns	Michele Glyselinck
Synodical Delegates to CRCNA Synod	Minister, Elder, Deacon, & Officebearer
2018 Dan Mienema (Alt. Nick Baas); Richard Smit, Joyce Luimes (Alt Gerrit Tenyenhius); Jack van de Hoef (alt. Piet Heerema)	
2019 Aaron Thompson (Alt. Ken Gehrels); Ron Hosmar (Tony Verheul); Mike Fekkus (Alt. Joyce Luimes); Dan Meinema	
2020 Andrea Baas (Alt. Dan Zylstra); Ron Hosmar (Alt. Dick VanVeldhuizen); Cor Dykstra; John Vedder (Alt. Aaron Thompson)	