



# CLASSIS EASTERN CANADA of the Christian Reformed Church

Webpage: [Classis Eastern Canada](#)

## Classis Eastern Canada MINUTES October 16, 2021 ZOOM Meeting

### Classis meeting officers

Chairperson: Rev. Paul VanderKooy; Vice-chairperson: Rev. Joe Groeneveld  
Clerk: Rev. Bernie Bakker

**Committees:** Credentials                      Classis Interim Committee  
Overture                                      Fredericton and Ottawa Calvary Delegates  
Transcription of Minutes              Ottawa Calvin and Kentville Delegates

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Next Meeting	March 4 – 5, 2022 [exact date/place TBD] Chair – Rev. Joe Groeneveld; Vice – Rev. Dan Meinema

## Delegates to Classis Eastern Canada [CEC]

<b>Church</b>	<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Elder</b>	<b>Deacon</b>
Athens CRC	Dan Zylstra	David Morgan	Lisa Dullemond*
Brockville Bethel	Jack van de Hoef	Joanne Wiekamp	
Charlottetown	Don Draayer [Interim Pastor]	Allan McIsaac	Adam DeVries
Cornwall Immanuel	Vacant	-----	----
Dixon's Corners Community	Aaron Thompson	Cindy Byker	Lis Vandenberg
Fredericton	Dan Hoogland		Emily Kitts
Halifax All Nations	Dave Vroege	Len Diepeveen	Emily Hutten
Kemptville First	Ken deBoer [Interim Pastor]	Don Hekman	Cora Beking
Kentville	Justin Halbersma	John Holleman	Ben Bentley
Milford Faith Community	Paul Vanderkooy	Henry Tennapel*	Doug Hankinson
Montreal First	James Kralt	Karen Bastian	Joanne Bastian
Ottawa Barrhaven Fellowship	Rick Nanninga	Albert DeVries	Betty Sparling*
Ottawa Calvary	Pieter Heerema	Graham Johnson	Harry Rylaarsdam
Ottawa Calvin	Craig Hoekema	George Zekveld	Scott Bandy*
Ottawa Kanata Community	Chris Schievink	Marie Bergsma	Grace Sontrop
Pembroke Zion	Vacant	Pieter Slagter	Debbie Van Starkenburgh*
Renfrew Hebron	Daniel Meinema	Laura Ten Hove*	Ray Beimers
Truro	Nick Baas	Charlene Blaauwendraat*	Karla Winham
Williamsburg	Gregg Lawson	John Guthrie*	Anjo Norg

*\*First time delegate*

1. **Constitution of Classis and Opening Devotions** – 8:30 am EST
  - 1.1. Rev. James Kralt, chair of previous CEC meeting, opened with 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. Rev. Lesli Van Milligan, Regional Catalyzer Ontario and Eastern Canada for Faith Formation Ministries, leads in devotions. She takes the delegates through “Seeking God’s Face Together” in these turbulent times of COVID, racial tensions, etc. Psalm 46, Proverbs 3:5-6, and Philippines 1:6 are used as a basis to give gratitude for the past, to reflect on what God is teaching us in the midst of present noise, and to listen and discern where God is leading us today. Congregations are encouraged to become familiar with the denominational resources related to Our Journey 2025; see [CRCNA Our Journey 2025](#)
2. Rev. Paul VanderKooy serves as chair and Rev. Joe Groeneveld is vice chair for the meeting. The delegates are present.
  - 2.1. The chair explains some details re a ZOOM meeting; thanks to Ron Hosmar and Michelle DePooter for serving as technicians for the meeting; ministry representatives and guests are welcomed. A total of 70 people registered for the ZOOM meeting.
3. **Reports**
  - 3.1. Stated Clerk [Bernie Bakker] – Agenda Att. 1
    - 3.1.1. Stated Clerk’s report received for information
    - 3.1.2. **Motion: that CEC approve the work of Stated Clerk.** **Adopted**
  - 3.2. Classis Interim Committee [Gregg Lawson, chair] – Agenda Att. 2
    - 3.2.1. The following preparations were made for the Classis meeting: Lesli Van Milligan will lead in opening devotions; committee of Pre-Advice for Human Sexuality overture; plus ministries encouraged to send in video or written reports as this will be a ZOOM meeting.
    - 3.2.2. The proposed budget from FAC is recommended for CEC.
    - 3.2.3. Support was given to CMLT for financial support to Brad Bootsma, a seminary student in PEI being supported by Classis Hamilton.
    - 3.2.4. We recommend that Bart Mooibroek be the CEC representative on Redeemer University College Board.
    - 3.2.5. The Safe Church question will be put on Classis Credentials for all councils to answer.
    - 3.2.6. Rev. Dan Hoogland was appointed Classis counselor to Charlottetown CRC.
    - 3.2.7. **Motion: that CEC approve the work of the Classis Interim Committee.** **Adopted**
  - 3.3. Credentials Committee [Jack Van de Hoef]
    - 3.3.1. Credentials were received from all councils except Cornwall.
    - 3.3.2. Regarding Safe Church question – all councils answered “yes” except Renfrew who are working on updating their Safe Church Policy and Truro does not have a policy, but does have a committee, but need to work on getting more people trained.
    - 3.3.3. It is recommended to spend 15 – 30 minutes to discuss post COVID reluctance.
    - 3.3.4. **Motion: that CEC approve work of Credentials Committee** **Adopted**
  - 3.4. Finance and Administration Committee [Eva Reitsma, treasurer] Agenda, Att. 3
    - 3.4.1. The proposed 2022 CEC Budget was presented by Eva Reitsma. There are few changes from last year. The per member amount comes to \$77.66.
      - 3.4.1.1. **Motion: that CEC adopt the 2022 budget as presented.** **Adopted**

3.4.2. Councils are reminded to submit the Denomination Pledge to the CEC treasurer.

3.4.2.1. **Motion:** Classis appoints CKDM of Cornwall for audit review of CEC 2022 Financial Statements. **Adopted**

3.5. Personnel Committee [Dave Vroege]

3.5.1. Dave shared positions that needed to be filled; complete Personnel list at end of this document.

3.6. Classis Ministry Leadership Team [Craig Hoekema] – Agenda Att. 5

3.6.1. See Agenda Att. 5 for list of seminary students supported by Classis.

3.6.2. The following changes were recommended to the CMLT Mandate:

3.6.2.1. Mandate II: “full time” is removed. “Rationale: With the growing trend toward and emphasis on bi-vocational ministry in the CRC, we don’t want to exclude from support those students who feel called to such an arrangement.” **Adopted**

3.6.2.2. Mandate XI” add c. “Members of our Classis pursuing other seminary degrees or diplomas that are intended to support the life and ministry of the church beyond the CRC may apply for a one-time grant of up to \$3000 as an indication of Classis’ support and encouragement. These funds would be provided in the final year of the student’s program and will not be subject to repayment. Rationale: In March of 2021, Classis approved a \$3000 grant for Rosalyn Berti who is studying at Calvin Seminary but is not intending to enter ministry in the CRC. Because this was a precedent-setting decision, CMLT was asked to revisit our mandate and propose a consistent approach for future similar situations. Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan has a somewhat similar policy from which we borrowed some of the language.” **Adopted**

3.7. Classis Resonate Global Mission Team [Rick Nanninga]

3.7.1. Christian Direction [Mission Montreal] video report in the agenda. For more info go to their website at [Christian Direction - Montreal](#).

3.7.2. Winston Visser, CEC Mission Consultant’s report/video are found in the Agenda Att. 6a & 6b.

3.8. Ottawa Campus Chaplaincy [Sid Ypma, Charlie DeSchiffert]

3.8.1. Charlie gives update on Campus ministry financial support from CEC and the four Ottawa churches. Other congregations to have offerings for OCC.

3.8.2. Sid shares about Campus ministry by interviewing Aidan Elliot, a student at Ottawa U. Aidan shares about the impact OCC has had on his life as a student leader. God’s presence on the campus enables relationships with other students especially in these times of COVID.

3.9. Ministry to Seafarers, Montreal [Michelle DePooter] – Agenda Att. 8a & 8b

3.9.1. In addition to the video and written reports in the Agenda Michelle shares about helping to getting seafarers vaccinated in the Port of Montreal. Delegates are reminded that Christmas parcels will again be distributed to the seafarers.

3.10. Joe, vice chair prayed for the above ministries.

3.11. Diaconal Ministry – Karla Winham, New Ground Program Coordinator, Diaconal Ministries

- 3.11.1. Renne Wall of Truro is the new Diaconal Coach in the East. We thank Anita Hoogveen who is stepping down as coach in the West. Thank you for your service. Diaconal Ministries is looking for a new Diaconal Coach for the West.
- 3.11.2. Please remember the new name for Operation Manna, it's New Ground.
- 3.12. Youth Ministry – Joe Groeneveld and Ron Hosmar
- 3.12.1. Youth Ministry is beginning to pick up as we adjust to COVID guidelines.
- 3.12.2. SERVE trips are still happening under the new name THEREFOREGO Ministries, <https://www.thereforego.com/>
- 3.13. Safe Church [Paul VanderKooy] – Agenda Att. 10
- 3.13.1. Safe Church is looking for a coordinator; there is a stipend.
- 3.13.2. Safe Church continues to offer training workshops for councils.
- 3.13.3. The CRCNA has a Code of Conduct for leaders in all churches. See a copy at: [CRCNA - Code of Conduct](#)
- 3.14. Church Counselors
- 3.14.1. Cornwall – Pastor James Kralt RFI
- 3.14.2. Pembroke – Pastor Dan Meinema RFI
- 3.14.3. Charlottetown – Pastor Dan Hoogland RFI
- 3.14.4. Kemptville – to be appointed
- 3.15. Church Visitors
- 3.15.1. No visits to report on.
- 3.16. Regional Pastors
- 3.16.1. Regional Pastor (East) [Dave Vroege] – Agenda Att. 11a RFI
- 3.16.2. Regional Pastor (West) [Jack Van de Hoef]- Agenda Att. 11b RFI
- 3.16.3. A reminder that there are educational grants for pastors. See Dave or Jack.
4. **Human Sexuality Overture Committee Report** – Ottawa Calvary & Fredericton delegates
- 4.1. Materials in Agenda – Att. 12a; 12b; Classis Overture Committee of Pre-advice
- 4.1.1. Overture from All Nations, Halifax; John Calvin, Truro; Community, Kanata; Athens
- 4.1.2. Calvin CRC Ottawa Communication
- 4.2. **Background:** In the winter of 2020-21 Classis Eastern Canada assigned the delegates of Fredericton CRC and Calvary CRC (Ottawa) to offer pre-advice on two overtures received in response to the “Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality Report”.
- The committee made three recommendations, which were approved by the March 2021 Meeting of Classis EC:
- that churches resubmit these overtures for discussion at a later classis meeting allowing for the possibility of more delegates gathering together in person.
  - that the four councils involved in authoring the two overtures work together to merge their concerns into a single overture.
  - 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.
- In September 2021, the delegates of Fredericton CRC and Calvary CRC were re-appointed to serve as on the committee. We received a revised, combined, and resubmitted overture from

the four councils who authored the two previously submitted overtures. We also received a communication from Calvin CRC (Ottawa) detailing a response to the overture, which we have received for information.

Though our primary task was to provide advice to classis on whether to accede or not accede to the overture, our recommendations were again shaped by the need to meet virtually for the October 2021 meeting.

#### 4.3. Recommendations:

4.3.1. 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:

- o An in person conversation is a better setting for this topic than a virtual meeting.
- o Delaying the deliberation would create additional space for conversations on this topic to take place within councils and local congregations.
- o Delaying the deliberation until the March 2022 meeting of classis would still allow provide time for the overture to be submitted to Synod 2022 in good order, should classis approve it.

**Motion: that CEC adopt above motion**

**Adopted**

4.3.2. We recommend that the councils and congregations of Classis Eastern Canada discuss the content of the overture, the communication from Calvin CRC and the “Synodical Report from the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-Laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality” leading up to this deliberation.

##### Grounds:

- These conversations are an essential part of preparing for deliberations on these issues at upcoming Classis meetings.
- Several congregations and councils have not yet had conversations on either the report or the overture.

**Motion: that CEC adopt above motion**

**Adopted**

**Notes:** Resources for these conversations are available through Pastor Church Resources and the Hekman Library at Calvin University.

4.3.3. We recommend that Rev. Bernie Bakker, Classis Clerk, be given the floor to share his experience of leading discussions with pastors, councils and congregations using the above training resources.

##### Grounds:

Rev. Bakker’s experience in facilitating these discussions will highlight the importance and benefit of dialoguing about contentious issues within the church.

Rev. Bakker encourages councils to use the resources of PCR to train facilitators to use the Challenging Conversations Toolkit for congregational listening circles regarding the Human Sexuality Report. [Challenging Conversations Toolkit](#)

This request was granted by the chair.

## 5. Denominational Representatives

5.1. Canadian Ministry Director [Terry Veldboom] - Agenda Att.13

5.1.1. Written report with video links in Agenda, Att. 13

5.1.2. Council of Delegates [Dan Meinema, Greta Luimes] Agenda Att. 14

5.1.2.1. Dan gives update on recent COD meeting. A summary will be sent to churches soon. Dan and Greta answer questions from the delegates regarding the COD’s work on the SALT report. This is important as the Canadian Corporation seeks to be in

compliance with the CRA. We are reminded to keep the Canadian staff and COD delegates in our prayers.

5.2. World Renew [Echo MacLeod] Agenda Att. 15

- 5.2.1. The delegates watch a recent video report on recent events in Haiti, India, and Afghanistan as it relates to the recent earthquake, vaccine role, and humanitarian aid.
- 5.2.2. Echo gives a verbal update. Disaster Responses are hoping to start up again. Volunteers are encouraged to consider this important recovery ministry.

5.3. Calvin and Redeemer Universities

Att. 16 & 17

- 5.3.1. Reports received for information.

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 this ZOOM meeting. Chair closed in devotion and prayer.

7. Organizational Matters – Next Classis Meeting

- 7.1. March 4 – 5, 2022; Location: TBD; Agenda deadline – January 10, 2022

Officers: Chair – Rev. Joe Groeneveld; Vice – Rev. Dan Meinema

- 7.2 Fall Date: October 14 – 15, 2022  
Location: TBD

**CLASSIS EASTERN CANADA – Personnel [March 2021]**

*In compliance with privacy legislation, contact information is not published. Please contact clerk.*

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Term end</b>
<b>Stated Clerk</b> ( <a href="mailto:cecstatedclerk@gmail.com">cecstatedclerk@gmail.com</a> )	Bernie Bakker	2	2024 Oct
Alternate Clerk	John Venema	1	2023 Oct
<b>Treasurer</b> ( <a href="mailto:cectreas@gmail.com">cectreas@gmail.com</a> )	Eva Reitsma	3	
Alternate Treasurer		1	
<b>Regional Pastor (E)</b>	David Vroege	2	2022 Oct
<b>Regional Pastor (W)</b>	Jack Van de Hoef	1	2023 Oct
<b>Licensure to Exhort</b>	Michael Vlaming		2023 Mar
	Jacob Zwiers		2023 Mar
<b>Chaplains</b> <i>Ministry to Seafarers</i>	Michelle DePooter		
<i>Ottawa Campus</i>	Sid Ypma		
<b>Commissioned Pastors</b>	Michelle DePooter		
	Ron Hosmar		
	Justin Halbersma		
<b>Classis Interim Committee</b>	Michelle DePooter	2	2023 Mar
	Bernie Bakker, <i>clerk; ex officio</i>		
	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
<b>Personnel Committee</b>	Dan Hoogland, chair	1	2022 Oct
	Bernie Bakker, <i>clerk; ex officio</i>		
	Dave Vroege	3	2023 Oct
	Vacancy		
<b>Classis Resonate Mission Team</b>	Rick Nanninga chair	2	2022 Mar
<i>Outreach Ministry Developer</i>	Winston Visser	1	2022 Mar
<i>Member-at-Large - deacon</i>	Karla Winham	1	2024 Mar
<i>Pastor</i>	Chris Schievink	2	2023 Oct



<i>Member-at-Large - Maritime</i>	Nick Baas	2	2023 Mar
	John Scholman	1	2023 Mar
	Aaron Thompson	1	2023 Oct
<i>Classis Prayer Coordinator</i>	Vacancy		
<b>Diaconal Ministry</b>			
<i>Diaconal Ministry Canada – board representative</i>	Peter Van Harmelen	1	2023
<i>Western Diaconal Conf; Pastoral Adviser</i>	Dan Meinema	1	2022
<i>Diaconal ministry developer (E)</i>	Karla Winham		
<i>Eastern Canada Diaconal Conf. (W)</i>	Ian White, chair		2021 Oct
<i>Pastoral Adviser</i>	Vacancy		
<i>Diaconal ministry developer (W)</i>	Anita Hoogeveen		
<b>Classis Ministry Leadership Team</b>	Craig Hoekema, chair	2	2021 Oct
	Eva Reitsma, <i>ex-officio</i>		
	Dan Zylstra	2	2021 Oct
	Aaron Thompson	1	2021 Oct
<b>Financial Administration Committee</b>	Eva Reitsma, <i>treasurer</i>		
	Dale Poel	5	2022 Oct
	Ron Hosmar, <i>chair</i>	2	2023 Mar
	Jackie Lauziere	2	2023 Mar
	Gerry Pot	2	2024 Mar
	Vacancy		
<b>Youth Ministry Team (W)</b>	Ron Hosmar <i>secretary; pastor rep</i>	6	2024 Oct
	Joe Groeneveld <i>chair</i>	4	2023 Oct
	John Verburg <i>vice</i>	6	2023 Oct
	Holly Byker	1	2023 Mar
	Karen Bastian	1	2020 Mar
	Adrian Brobbel	2	2024 Oct
	Presleigh Klein	1	2023 Mar
	Victoria De Schiffart	1	2023 Mar
	Iena Van't Foort	1	2024 Mar

<b>Ministry to Seafarers Montreal</b> Chair	George Zekveld	2	2024 Oct
<i>Treasurer</i>	John Luimes ( <i>Quinte</i> )	2	2022 Mar
<i>Secretary</i>	Bert Wissink (Eastern Canada)	2	2024 Oct
	Sandra Penner ( <i>Eastern Canada</i> )	2	2024 Mar
<i>Member at Large</i>	Gerard Bondt	2	2022 Oct
<b>Church Visiting Teams</b>			
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	2	2024 Oct
West Team II (Ottawa Barrhaven, Athens, Cornwall, Pembroke, Williamsburg)	Aaron Thompson	1	2023 Oct
West Team III (Kemptonville, Dixon's Corners, Montreal, Ottawa Calvin)	Joe Groeneveld	1	2022 Oct
<b>Church Counselors</b> (vacant congregations)			
<i>Charlottetown</i>	Dan Hoogland		
<i>Cornwall</i>	James Kralt		
<i>Pembroke</i>	Dan Meinema		
<i>Kemptonville</i>	-----		
<b>Synodical Deputy</b> <i>alternate</i>	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	Bart Mooibroek	1	2024 Oct
Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue	Colin Conrad	2	2022 (Mar)
Historical Committee	Jean Lauziere		
Banner Correspondent	Krista Dam-Vandekuyt		
<b>Safe Church Executive</b>	Gayla Postma, <i>past chair</i>		
<i>Ottawa Calvary</i>	John Vedder, <i>member at large</i>	1	2018 (Mar)
<i>Halifax</i>	Rachel Boehm. <i>chair</i>	2	2021 (Mar)

<i>Pastoral Adviser</i>	Paul Vanderkooy	1	2022 (Oct)
	Wilma Mulder <i>treas., counselling fund</i>		ongoing
<b>Safe Church Team</b>			
<i>Athens</i>	Raven Lyons		
<i>Brockville</i>	Mike Van Dyke		
<i>Charlottetown</i>	Geesje Niehuis		
<i>Cornwall</i>	Sandra Eckersley		
<i>Dixon's Corners</i>	Keith Rook		
<i>Fredericton</i>	Tammi Boonstoppel		
<i>Halifax</i>	Rachel Boehm		
<i>Kemptville</i>	Ault VanBokhorst		
<i>Kentville</i>	Gerrit Carree		
<i>Metcalfe, Living Hope</i>	Benjamin Sapper		
<i>Milford</i>	Cheryl Woodworth		
<i>Montreal</i>	Natalie Klein		
<i>Ottawa Barrhaven</i>	Monique Heidinga		
<i>Ottawa Calvary</i>	John Vedder		
<i>Ottawa Calvin</i>	Jake Brunsting		
<i>Pembroke</i>	Jane Wouda		
<i>Ottawa Kanata</i>	Megan Mooibroek		
<i>Renfrew</i>	Ed Oegema		
<i>Truro</i>	Nicole Boertjes		
<i>Williamsburg</i>	Nicole Van't Foort		
<b>Disability Concerns</b>	Michele Glyselinck		
<b>Synodical Delegates to CRCNA Synod</b>	<i>Minister, Elder, Deacon, &amp; Officebearer</i>		
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)			