

**CLASSIS EASTERN CANADA
Of the Christian Reformed church
AGENDA**

[Classis Eastern Canada Webpage](#)

Winter/Spring ZOOM Meeting – March 2, 2024

Classis Eastern Canada meeting will be held via ZOOM technology on Saturday, March 2, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 5 pm.

Councils:

Please begin the process of selecting delegates, fill in the **Classis Credentials** [see email attachments] and return to the Stated Clerk cecstatedclerk@gmail.com by February 21, 2024.

Consider setting a special Council meeting prior to Classis to review the agenda for and with the delegates. The Agenda, written reports, and video presentations from various ministries are part of this email. Council is encouraged to view and discuss them with the delegates as we will NOT read or view them at the classis meeting.

Each delegate is asked to register online; click here [CEC March 2, 2024 ZOOM Registration](#) This will give us your info including email address which is necessary for entry to the ZOOM site for the meeting.

On Saturday, March 2 at 8 am EDT the ZOOM Waiting Room opens for registration. Only those pre-registered will be admitted to the meeting. Our meeting will begin at 9 am EDT meeting.

Go to [Classis Eastern Canada](#) or email cecstatedclerk@gmail.com for more information.

Officers and Appointments

Chair: Rev. Sid Ypma; Vice: Rev. Brad Bootsma; Clerk: Rev. B. Bakker

Correspondence:

Credentials: Brockville & Athens

Ministerial Credentials:

Overtures/Correspondence: Milford and Dixons Corners

Transcription of Minutes: Cornwall and Ottawa Calvin

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WELCOME TO CLASSIS EASTERN CANADA!

We are thankful you are a delegate from your church council for this upcoming meeting. In this section is a *Classis Primer* to help you navigate your experience here (especially if it is your first time). You'll find an explanation of all the various committees that you see on the agenda. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask the one of the officers of the day, or the stated clerk.

Classis Eastern Canada is a regional association of Christian Reformed Churches from Brockville/Athens all the way out to Charlottetown. We are one of 47 classes that comprise the Christian Reformed Church.

We meet twice each year, in March and October, to spend time together worshipping and learning, discuss and make decisions on our shared ministries, examine candidates for ministry, hear reports from our denominational ministries and other ministries with ties to the CRC, and more.

In general, our meetings are governed by [Church Order 2022](#) of the CRC and Classis Rules of Procedure [ask your church office for a copy]. At the beginning of the day, new delegates are asked to declare their agreement with the [Covenant for Office Bearers](#).

Who attends Classis meetings? Church Order Article 40 states: a. the council of each church shall delegate a minister, an elder, and a deacon to the classis. If a church is without a minister, or the minister is prevented from attending, another elder shall be delegated in place of the minister. **NOTE: An elder may not be delegated as a deacon.** Office-bearers who are not delegated may also attend classis and may be given an advisory voice.

If you are an elder or deacon delegate, we encourage you to participate fully in the discussion. Don't assume that your pastor will speak on your behalf. Our meetings are deliberative meetings. This means that you are not merely a representative of your council and your council should not/cannot instruct you how to vote. The point of the meeting is to hear all discussion before deciding how to vote. If something is unclear, please ask – if you are not sure about something, chances are good that there are more people who are unsure and need clarification as well.

If you need assistance, please don't hesitate to ask the stated clerk. We hope you enjoy your time at classis!

Classis Primer- Especially for First Time Delegates

Commonly Used Acronyms at Classis (CUAC)

CEC - Classis Eastern Canada
COD - Council of Delegates
CIC - Classis Interim Committee
CMLT - Classis Ministry Leadership Team
CRMT – Classis Resonate Mission Team
CRCNA - Christian Reformed Church in N.A.
CYMT - Classical Youth Ministry Team

DMC - Diaconal Ministries Canada
FAC - Finance & Administration Committee
M2S - Montreal Ministry to Seafarers
OCC - Ottawa Campus Chaplaincy
OMD – Outreach Mission Developer
RUC- Redeemer University College
SC - Stated Clerk

Committees that exist for the duration of classis or for a specific time frame:

If your church is assigned to one of these committees, the delegates from your church (including you) make up the committee

- **Correspondence Committee:** This committee deals with paperwork not assigned to any of the other committees, such as paperwork from people who wish to be licensed to exhort (preach) in classis.
- **Credentials Committee:** Credentials are the forms that each church's delegates must bring to classis verifying that they are the duly appointed delegates from their church. The *credentials & instruction* committee is the committee that makes sure all credentials are duly received, and that issues raised on the credentials are brought to the attention of classis.
- **Ministerial Credentials Committee:** When a person desires to be examined to become a Minister of the Word, or a Commissioned Pastor, there are a number of documents that must be received by classis. The ministerial credentials committee is charged with making sure that all the documents are received and are in good order.
- **Overture Committee:** A formal request from a congregation (sometimes a committee) usually comes in the form of "overture," asking classis to do something. A committee (usually delegates from two churches) is assigned to study the overture and offer advice to classis on how it might deal with the overture.
- **Transcription Committee:** This committee is responsible to review the minutes of the classis meeting afterward and ensure that the minutes accurately reflect the decisions of classis. The minutes are subsequently reviewed and approved by the Classis Interim Committee (CIC).

Standing committees of classis

- **Classis Interim Committee – (CIC)** This committee takes care of matters that cannot wait until the next classis meeting, as well as preparing the agenda for classis meetings.
- **Classis Ministerial Leadership Team (CMLT)** - Administers funds for financial aid for and works with men and women studying to enter full-time ordained or non-ordained ministry within the CRC.
- **Classis Resonate Mission Team** - This committee work with congregations to develop new churches/ministries, encourage outreach and leadership development. The west committee supervises the work of the Outreach Ministry Developer.
- **Youth Ministry Team (CYMT)** - Assists local churches in the development of youth ministries and provide support for youth ministers and leaders.
- **Diaconal Ministry** – A team of diaconal coaches, pastoral advisors, and Diaconal Ministry Canada board member appointed to develop the work of mercy within Classis.
- **Finance & Administration Committee (FAC)** – oversees all matters pertaining to the budget of classis, including requests for new or increased ministry shares.
- **Oversight Committees:** Sometimes a team is needed to work with an individual pastor or with a church council to resolve certain issues. That team is usually called an Oversight Committee.
- **Personnel Committee** – Keeps an up-to-date record of those appointed to serve on classis committees and as delegates to denominational boards and agencies, and recruit nominees for open positions when necessary.

- **Safe Church Team – (SCT)** Helps churches to develop safe church communities and administers the counseling fund.

Other roles in classis:

- **Church Counsellors:** When a church is vacant or in the process of calling a pastor, the pastor from a nearby church is assigned as a counsellor to assist the council.
- **Church Visitors:** Each church and its council should be visited every other year by the “church visitors.” The church visiting teams are made up of a pastor and an elder, and the churches are assigned to a team based on geography.
- **Regional Pastor:** A regional pastor is appointed to the west side and the east side of classis to help provide pastoral care and encouragement to the pastors in the region.

Church Order

Much of the work done by classis is regulated by the Church Order of the Christian Reformed Church; [Church Order 2022](#).

The Church Order contains the rules and procedures that, by common consent, all the churches in the denomination abide by. Only a synod (the annual leadership meeting of the CRC) can change the Church Order.

Basic Rules of Order

- **A main motion** - This is a motion that requests an action of Classis. It must be supported, or seconded, and discussed before a vote is held. It must be presented in written form at request of chair or clerk.
- **A motion to amend** - This is a proposal to alter a main motion in language or in meaning before a final action is taken on the motion.
- **A motion to defer action, withhold action, or table** - When Classis deems it advisable, it may decide to table a motion temporarily. Tabling a motion implies that the meeting will resume consideration of it at a later hour.
- **Objection to a ruling by the chair** - If any member of Classis is not satisfied with the ruling of the chair the matter is referred to the assembly for decision.
- **Right of protest** - It is a right of any member to protest any decision of Classis. Protests should be registered immediately or during the session in which the matter was acted upon. Members may, if they desire, ask to have their negative vote recorded.
- **Call for the division of the question** - At the request of one or more members of Classis, a motion consisting of more than one part may be divided and voted upon separately.
- **A motion to reconsider or rescind** - If any member of Classis desires, for weighty reasons, reconsideration of a matter already decided upon at that meeting of Classis, one of the following methods may be used:
 - A motion to reconsider may be offered only by a person who has voted with the majority. The purpose of this motion is to propose a new discussion and a new vote.
 - A motion to rescind has as its purpose to annul or to reverse a previous decision.
- **Discussion** - To obtain the floor, a speaker must first be recognized by the chair and, when speaking, must stand, when possible, and address the chair.

The Stated Priorities of Classis Eastern Canada

(Adopted March 2015)

- i. Classis will act as a resource to support local churches and ministries.*
- ii. Classis will foster opportunities for meaningful communication.*
- iii. Classis will provide leadership development, discipleship, and training.*
- iv. Classis will support youth ministry and campus ministry.*
- v. Classis will encourage growth and outreach.*

Saturday, March 2, 2024 Detailed Agenda

All reports are sent with the agenda emailed to all churches; it is assumed that delegates have read written reports and viewed all video Reports if any sent out.

Please note that there may be some late reports.

Joys and Concerns – throughout the meeting each church is asked to share two joys and two concerns; last church listed is asked to pray for each church.

8:00 am ZOOM Registration opens – link sent to church and those registered

8:15 am Small Group Intros and Conversations

1. 8:30 am Welcome and opening devotions, led by host church – Pastor Dave Vroege
 - a. Roll call
 - b. Declare CEC constituted
 - c. Welcomes and introduce the executive for the meeting

2. 8:45 am Chair Rev. Sid Ypma; Vice: Rev. Brad Bootsma; Clerk: Rev. B. Bakker
 - a. Opening remarks and Welcome to guests
 - b. Committee Appointments
 - i. Correspondence: n/a
 - ii. Credentials: Brockville & Athens
 - iii. Ministerial Credentials: n/a
 - iv. Overtures/Communications: Dixon Corners & Milford
 - v. Transcription of Minutes: Cornwall & Ottawa Calvin

3. Classis Ministry Reports [9 am]

- a. *Stated Clerk:* Bernie Bakker Att. 1
- b. *Standing Committees of Classis*
 - i. Classis Interim Committee – Gregg Lawson Att. 2
 1. CIC Ad Hoc Committee for Developing Priorities Att. 2a
 - ii. Personnel Committee – Dave Vroege
 1. Personnel Vacancies Att. 3a
 2. Nominee for Ecumenical & Interfaith Att. 3b&c
 3. Synodical Delegates – we be voting throughout the meeting Att. 3a
 - Delegates to previous synod at end of Personnel

- c. Classical Ministry Leadership Team – Craig Hoekema Att. 4
- d. Classical Youth Ministry Team – Joe Groeneveld Att. 5
- e. Classis Resonate Mission Team – Sid Ypma
 - i. Outreach Mission Developer - Winston Visser Att. 6
 - ii. Montreal Mission Att. 7
- f. Finance and Administration – reports coming later as Att. 8+++ Att. 8

10:05 am Joys and Concerns - Athens, Ottawa Calvary, Truro, Renfrew, Williamsburg

10:15 am Break Time [15 min]

- g. Ministry to Seafarers, Montreal – Michelle DePooter Att.9
- h. Ottawa Campus Chaplaincy – Ryan Farrell Att. 10
- i. Diaconal Ministries Canada Classis Att. 11
 - i. Diaconal Ministry Coach East – Rene Wall
 - ii. Diaconal Ministry Coach West – Chris Smid
 - iii. Diaconal Ministry Canada Board – Peter Van Harmelen
- j. Safe Church – John Vedder – no written report
- k. Disability Concerns – vacant
- l. Credentials Committee Report

4. Guest Speakers [11:00]

- a. CRCNA General Secretary – Rev. Zach King Att. 18
- b. Redeemer University President - David Zietsma Att. 20
- c. Calvin University - Roseanne Lopers-Sweetman or Tony Kamphuis Att. 21

11:50 am Joys and Concerns – Pembroke, Kentville, Dixon Corners, Ottawa Barrhaven, Brockville

12 – 12:30 pm Lunch Break

12:30 pm Joys and Concerns – Cornwall, Charlottetown, Ottawa Kanata, Dixon Corners, Montreal

5. Classis Ministry Reports continued

- a. *Regional Pastors and Church Counselors*
 - i. Regional Pastors
 - 1. Regional Pastor (West) – Jack Van de Hoef Att. 16
 - 2. Regional Pastor (East) – Dave Vroege Att. 17
 - ii. Church Counselors
 - ii. Zion CRC Pembroke – Dan Meinema

- iii. Cornwall CRC – James Kralt
- iv. Calvary CRC Ottawa – Chris Schievink
- v. Athens – Jack Van de Hoef
- vi. Fellowship Ottawa Barrhaven – Sid Ypma

i. Church Visitors

- i. Team East #1 [Halifax, Milford, Truro] – Dan Hoogland
- ii. Team East #2 [Charlottetown, Fredericton, Kentville] – Craig Hoekema
- iii. Team West #1 [Brockville, Ottawa: Kanata & Calvary; Renfrew] – Sid Ypma
- iv. Team West #2 [Athens, Ottawa: Barrhaven, Cornwall, Pembroke, Williamsburg] – Aaron Thompson
- v. Team West #3 [Dixons Corners, Kemptville, Ottawa: Calvin, Montreal] – Joe Groeneveld

6. Overture and Communications Committee

- a. Calvary CRC, Ottawa – Churches in Protest Communication Att. 22
- b. Kanata Community CRC, Ottawa – Overture on Covenant of Office Bear'... Att. 23
- c. Kanata Community CRC, Ottawa – Overture to work with Classis Quinte Att. ??

2:45 pm Joys and Concerns – Fredericton, Ottawa Calvin, Kemptville, Halifax

3 pm Break Time [15 min]

7. Denominational Reports

- a. Canadian Ministries Director – Al Postma Att.18
- b. CRCNA General Secretary – Att.18
- c. Council of Delegates – Dan Meinema Att.
- d. Resonate Global Mission – Beth Fellingner Att.
- e. World Renew – Echo McLeod, Marg van Oord Att.19
- f. Calvin Theological Seminary – Att.
- g. Redeemer University – Bart Mooibroek Att. 20
- h. Calvin University Report – Roseanne Lopers-Sweetman or Tony Kamphuis Att. 21

8. Organizational Matters – Next Classis Meeting

- a. Date: October 18-19, 2024
- b. Location: TBD
- c. Officers: Chair – Brad Bootsma; Vice –TBD

9. Closing remarks and prayer.

Agenda – Flexible Timeline

All reports are sent with the agenda emailed to all churches; it is assumed that delegates have read written reports and viewed all video Reports if any sent out. Please note that there may be some late reports.

Saturday, March 2, 2024 [Note – Eastern Standard Time ZONE]

Joys and Concerns – throughout the meeting each church is asked to share two joys and two concerns; last church listed is asked to pray for each church.

8:00 am ZOOM Registration opens – link sent to church and those registered

8:15 am Small Group introductions

8:30 am Opening Devotions – All Nations CRC Halifax, NS

9:00 am Stated Clerk & Classis Interim Committee Reports

9:30 am Classis Ministry Reports

10:15 am Breaktime

11:15 am Guest speakers

12:00 pm Lunch Break

1:00 pm Classis Ministry and Denominational Reports continued

4:00 pm Closing prayer