



MINUTES for Winter / Spring ZOOM Meeting

Saturday, March 7, 2026 - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Officers and Appointments

Chair: Rev. James Kralt Vice-Chair: Rev. Ben Gresik Clerk: Greta Luimes

Credentials Committee

Bethel CRC Brockville

Overtures Advisory Team

Barrhaven Fellowship, Faith Community Milford, Athens CRC

Transcription of Minutes Committee

Dixon's Corners Community CRC

Why We Meet: Purposes

THE STATED PRIORITIES OF CLASSIS EASTERN CANADA

(Adopted March 2015)

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

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.

MINUTES for the day:

- 8:00 am ZOOM Registration opened for small group sharing and conversations
- 8:30 am Welcome and opening devotions based on Psalm 5:1-3 were led by host church – Pastor James Kralt - wait in expectation of the Lord. Our hope for today is that we can be attentive to what God is still doing, what is He saying to us as His church? We are aware of the challenges denominationally, at classis....we would love a word from God about what to do. People say – be faithful! Not a bad answer, but faithfulness is not the same as keep doing what you've always done, to try harder at what

you've done before. It involves an attitude of being ready, waiting...for when the word from God comes. Can we see a new movement of the Spirit? Let's be encouraged to keep ourselves in the Word, in prayer, and keep meeting together to lavish God's love on each other. Be faithful, having eyes open for God's faithfulness.

Last two verses of Psalm 5 – God surrounds the righteous with His favour. Prayer.

1. **Call to Order** by Chair of Classis – Pastor James Kralt
 - a. Introduction of the executive for the meeting as shown
 - b. Committee Appointments for this meeting as shown
 - c. Roll call of delegates (* first time) and welcoming of guests

Church	Pastor	Elder	Deacon
Athens	Andrew Vis	Henry Oosterhof	Mike Deakin*
Brockville	Ben Gresik	Elizabeth Brunsveld	
Charlottetown	Brad Bootsma	Don Mowat	April Jorritsma
Cornwall	xxx	Robert Walker	Kathleen Dixon
Dixon's Corners	Aaron Thompson	Tom Luimes	Lis Vandenberg
Fredericton	Dan Hoogland	Harry Drost	
Kemptville	Sid Ypma	Jackie Ritskes	Henry Ten Grotenhuis
Kentville	Justin Halbersma	John Holleman	Ben Bentley*
Milford	Paul VanderKooy	Jeff Bokma	Matt Smit
Montreal	James Kralt	Hank Benckhuysen	Ishrat Manzoor*
Ottawa Barrhaven	Anel Becker Ferreira	Charley DeSchiffart	Arnaldo Jimenez*
Ottawa Calvary	Rebecca Bokma	Kees Rystenbil*	Geert Rijke
Ottawa Calvin	Fred Horst (Elder)	Chris Ellens	David Voorberg*
Pembroke	xxx	Laura TenHove	
Renfrew	xxx	Casey VanderSleen	Cyndy Huyzer*
Williamsburg	Heine Veerman (elder)	Stuart Staal	Claude Helder

- d. Declared CEC meeting constituted

2. **Classis Ministry Reports (9:00 am)**

- a. Stated Clerk Report: Greta Luimes –
 - i. Motion: that Classis accept Bethel [CRC's letter](#) requesting the retirement of Jack Van de Hoef - **Approved**. Prayer was offered for Jack and Jane.
 - ii. Motion: that Classis approve the work of the Stated Clerk – **Approved**
- b. Classis Interim Committee (CIC) – Gregg Lawson
 - i. CIC chairperson [report](#) – Highlighted outstanding MOU for Ottawa Campus Chaplaincy and Mission Montreal, the upcoming Cdn National Gathering. Also noted appendix 1, a review of a new org chart re workings of CIC.
 - ii. Motion: that classis approve a change to the CEC Rules of Procedure to include the following under 'Convening and Constituting of Classis' – "IV. Ordinarily, at in person classis meetings,

*delegates will be asked to rise and affirm a Public Declaration of Agreement with the beliefs of the Christian Reformed Church In North America.” – **Approved via online voting***

- iii. Motion: *that classis approve the work of the Classis Interim Committee - **Approved***
- c. Personnel Committee – Dan Hoogland
 - i. Personnel Vacancies – see [sheet](#) and [ballot](#). Motion: to approve the ballot presented showing new terms and individuals - **Approved**
 - ii. Synodical Delegates – Motion: *that Classis Eastern Canada appoint the following as delegates to Synod 2026*
 - Elders – Jeff Bokma, Bill Byker alternate
 - Deacons – (CIC continued the search and approved – Clarence Dijkema; Lis Vandenberg alternate)
 - Pastor – Ben Gresik; Aaron Thompson alternate
 - Fourth delegate – Kees Rystenbil (elder): James Kralt delegate
Approved via online voting
 - iii. [Canadian National Gathering](#) – nominees are still required, considering diverse ages and ministry experience. Classis currently has 8 names to present
- d. Classical Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT) – Aaron Thompson – [report](#)
 - i. Aaron gave a brief overview of what the team does and the recent work they've been involved with. New members are encouraged to join.
 - ii. Motion: *that classis renew the license to Exort of Jonathan Patrick for a period of two years – **Approved***
 - iii. Motion: *that classis approve the work of the CMLT – **Approved***
- e. Classical Youth Ministry Team (CYMT) – Ron Hosmar - [report](#) received for information
- f. Classis Resonate Mission Team (CRMT) This is a period of transition, making new connections while work continues with Mission Montreal. Info offered “Witness Montreal”, a Resonate/Mission Montreal event for pastors with one emerging leader. Hoping for 20-30 people on May 25-27, 2026. Cost covered.
- g. Ottawa Campus Chaplaincy (OCC) – Ryan Farrell, Chaplain & Campus Minister - [report](#) – Offered summary of his role and the mission of the ministry. Prayer requests – discernment about our work at Carleton and Ottawa universities; the board and their leadership; for Ryan as he discerns how to invest his energy; logistical and admin work as an organization.

CEC Annual General Meeting of Membership – chaired by Gregg Lawson (corp chair)

- a. Meeting was called to order
- b. *Proposed Motion: to approve the following as Directors of the Corporation: Gregg Lawson, chair; Brian Vandenberg; Michelle DePooter; Ben Gresik; Ron Triemstra and Ron Hosmar - **Approved***
- c. [2025 Financial Statements](#) – Eva Reitsma, treasurer
*Proposed Motion: to receive the 2025 CEC Financial Statements as presented - **Approved***
- d. *Proposed Motion: to appoint MNP Cornwall for 2026 CEC financial review - **Approved***
- e. Meeting was adjourned

3. **Overture and Communications Committee**

- a. Brockville Bethel CRC – Classis Merger Study –
 - i. [Overture](#) – *Bethel Christian Reformed Church of Brockville overtures Classis Eastern Canada to study options for combining ourselves with other nearby classes and consider the practical impacts on the ministries and churches in Classis. This study would be organized by the Classis Interim Committee, and would be presented to Classis at an upcoming Classis Meeting.*
 - ii. Advisory team Athens delegates recommend a [Motion](#): that classis accede to the overture. **Approved via online voting**
- b. Calvin Ottawa – Ottawa Campus Ministry –
 - i. [Overture](#) - *the Council of Calvin CRC requests that CEC clarify if its institutional support (through ministry shares) for Ottawa CR Campus Chaplaincy is predicated on the understanding that the OCRCC mission, operation and messaging will remain guided by and conformance with the creeds and confessions of the CRCNA. A historical document was also provided.*
 - ii. Advisory Overture Committee [report](#) from Athens recommend a [Motion](#): to not accede to the overture. **Approved via online voting**
- c. Calvary Ottawa – Discipline of Officebearers –
 - i. [Overture](#) – *Calvary CRC overtures classis to ensure that the recommendations contained in the report of the task force to Develop Church Order Procedures to Discipline Officebearers (the Report) not conflict with applicable federal, provincial or state laws. Further resources were provided.*
 - ii. Advisory team Barrhaven delegates [report](#) recommends a [Motion](#): to accede to the motion and forward the overture to Synod for full adoption of its request. **Approved via online voting**

4. **Classis Ministry Reports Continued**

- h. Ministry to Seafarers (M2S) – Michelle DePooter - [report](#) – urged to keep seafarers in our prayers as they experience great challenges in the new war in the Middle East.
- i. Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) – Winston Visser - [report](#) – 25th anniversary of DMC.
- j. Safe Church – John Vedder – no report
- k. Disability Concerns – vacant – no report
- l. Credentials Committee – Brockville Bethel CRC – Ben Gresik will pursue requests on Cornwall's credentials sheet.

- m. Regional Pastors
 - i. Regional Pastor (West) – Jack Van de Hoef - [report](#) – encourage the conversation with Pastors and Councils – written and unwritten job descriptions
 - ii. Regional Pastor (East) – Paul VanderKooy - [report](#) – attended a Halifax worship service to thank Dave Vroege for his role in our classis and his work in the church. Gave him a devotional as a parting gift.

- n. Church Counselors
 - i. Zion CRC Pembroke – Rebecca Bokma – reached out – having difficulty scheduling Lords Supper without as many classical appointments as they would like
 - ii. Cornwall CRC – James Kraht – resuming relationship
 - iii. Calvin CRC Ottawa – Sid Ypma – attentive to current pastor calling situation
 - iv. Hebron CRC Renfrew – Rebecca Bokma – nothing to report
 - v. Williamsburg CRC – Andrew Vis – their search committee active and in conversations. Nothing official to report.

- o. Church Visitors
 - i. East Team I – Dan Hoogland – no report
 - ii. East Team II – Brad Bootsma – no report
 - iii. West Team I – Andrew Vis – no report
 - iv. West Team II – Aaron Thompson – good visit to Calvin CRC
 - v. West Team III – James Kraht – in touch with all churches on my list.

5. **Denominational Reports**

- a. Denomination – Al Postma & Zachary King - [letter](#)
- b. Council of Delegates – Joan DeVries – Banner [report](#) and [Highlights](#) – Joan gave a brief presentation about the work of the COD and encouraged participation in the Canadian National Gathering
- c. Resonate Global Mission – no report
- d. Mission Montreal – Jacynthe gave a brief report
- e. Thrive Ministries - [report](#) – Becky Jones
- f. World Renew – [report](#)
- g. Calvin Theological Seminary – no report
- h. Redeemer University - [report](#)
- i. Calvin University Report - [video](#) and [report](#)
- j. Classis Quinte Decision [Letter](#) – Ryan Braam

6. **Organizational Matters – Next Classis Meeting**

- a. Date: October 23-24, 2026
- b. Location: TBD
- c. Officers: Chair – Ben Gresik; Vice – TBD

7. **Closing** remarks, thanks and prayer – Vice Chair, Pastor Ben Gresik