



Agenda and Support Materials

October 23 and 24, 2026

Community Christian Reformed Church - Dixons Corners

[4485 Brinston Rd, Brinston ON K0E 1C0](#)

CLASSIS PURPOSE

The **Stated Properties** of Classis Eastern Canada as a regional gathering of Christian Reformed churches were presented in March 2015 as follows:

- 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.
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Serving Classis:

Rev. Ben Gresik, Chair

Greta Luimes, Stated Clerk

Rev. Aaron Thompson, Vice-Chair

Credentials Committee: Delegates of Calvary CRC (Ottawa)

Transcription Committee: Delegates of Barrhaven CRC (Ottawa)

Synodical Deputies: Philip Apoll - Classis Ontario SW
Bob Loerts - Classis Niagara
Moses Kang - Classis Hudson

Pre-Meeting Process and Information:

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.

All delegates/guests are asked to fill in the online [Registration Form](#) so the host church can make arrangements for airport pickup, overnight accommodations, food allergies, etc.

Please read this [letter to delegates](#) from the classis Chairperson.

Meeting Focus: You will find many usual agenda items planned for this meeting. Synod 2026 adopted a 10-year Church Planting & Renewal vision, asking every classis to commit to pray for disciples who make disciples, leaders who develop leaders, and churches that participate in God's

mission. A significant portion of the meeting will be hearing about this vision and discerning some early steps for our Classis and Churches.

Internet: Internet access may be intermittent during the Classis meetings. We recommend downloading this Agenda and its supporting documents to your device in advance so you won't need to rely on the church's Internet, if possible.

Attendance: Classis delegates are expected to remain present for the entire session until adjournment. Since session dates are known well in advance, delegates are responsible for clearing their schedules to stay for the full meeting. Maritime delegates have been given permission to leave the meeting earlier due to flight considerations and preparation for the Sabbath. They will continue with the items on the classis agenda as they gather in the airports.

Accommodations: Billeting will be arranged for two nights through the host church. Billeting is encouraged for most attendees due to the early morning start at 8 a.m. both days. Arrival Thursday evening is strongly urged.

Orientation for Delegates to Classis: [Refer to this document](#) for important orientation items. This is especially useful for first-time delegates. All delegates should be familiar with the [Rules of Procedure](#), considered throughout the meeting.

Reports and Information: all reports and information related to this meeting are linked to this agenda. Simply hover over the blue underlined agenda item and you will connect to the Classis Eastern Canada website where all the documents are held. (You may get a message asking if you really want to open that document – you can click ‘yes’. It is safe.) Close documents as we finish with them, usually by clicking the back arrow in the top left corner of your screen. That will take you back to the agenda (where you’ll have to find your place again).

It is assumed that all reports and information have been read by each delegate prior to the meeting. Please note that there may be some late reports added as links to the agenda prior to the meeting. Please check at www.classiseasterncanada.ca under the tab marked “Meetings” for an updated agenda from time to time.

Voting: Voting will be done by a show of hands as much as possible.

Notes:

1. All meals will be served at the church.
2. Delegates will sign in and receive a nametag **prior to the meeting.**
3. The agenda timeline is a guide only, and may be adjusted by the officers as the meeting proceeds.

AGENDA for Friday, October 23, 2026

8:00 am Breakfast at CCRC

8:45 am Welcome, Worship and Devotions - led by host church & Aaron Thompson

9:15 am Roll call, introductions of officers, etc.

[Public Declaration of CRCNA Beliefs](#) - *Delegates are asked to stand to affirm their subscription as the Declaration is read. First-time delegates should have signed the Declaration when checking in.*

Declare Classis constituted.

Motion: to adopt the agenda for the October 23-24, 2026 meeting of Classis Eastern Canada

Classis Ministry Reports for Approval

- [Stated Clerk Report](#): Greta Luimes
 - Motion: that Classis approve the work of the Stated Clerk
- Classis Interim Committee (CIC) Consent Agenda - *A consent agenda allows Classis to approve the items below together without the need for discussion or individual motions. Items may be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion on the request of the delegates. Removed items may be taken up either immediately after the consent agenda or placed later on the agenda at the discretion of the Chair.* – Aaron Thompson, CIC vice-chairperson will chair since Ben Gresik is a member of the CIC committee

Motion:

- That classis ratify the 'un-retirement' of Wiston Visser in order to have him serve a contract with the Cornwall CRC
- That classis approve the appointment of Heidi Blokland as the regional delegate (CEC, Quinte, Toronto) to the Calvin Theological Seminary Board
- That classis approve the work of the [Classis Interim Committee](#) as outlined in their report
- That classis approve the persons indicated on the [Personnel listing](#) to their various terms as indicated
- That classis approve the work of the [Classical Youth Ministry Team](#)
- Ministry Leadership Team [Report](#) (CMLT) – Aaron Thompson
 - Motion: that classis approve the work of the CMLT

Classis Ministry Reports

- [Classis Resonate Mission Team](#) (CRMT) – CEC vacant
- [Ottawa Campus Chaplaincy](#) (OCC) – Doug VandeKamp, CEC board representative
- [Ministry to Seafarers](#) (M2S) – Michelle DePooter, Lead Chaplain
- [Diaconal Ministries Canada](#) (DMC) - CEC vacant
- [Ministry Youth Team](#) (CMYT) - Ron Hosmar
- [Safe Church](#) – John Vedder, Team Leader

- [Mission Montreal](#) - Jacyntha Vaillancourt
- Disability Concerns – CEC vacant

Classis Budget for Approval

- FAC Report - Eva Reitsma Budget 2027
 - [Recommendations](#) from FAC to CIC re budget
 - [CMYT](#)
 - Mission Montreal - [Budget](#);
 - M2S - [Budget](#); [5-year plan](#); [Financial Statements 2025](#)
 - Motion: that classis approve the CEC [budget for 2027](#)

10:30 am Refreshment Break

11:00 am [Classis Eastern Canada purpose review](#)

11:15 am [Table Groups - Sharing and Conversations re classis purpose, etc.](#)

11:30 am [Table Groups share with larger assembly](#)

11:45 am [Prayers for the Joys and Concerns of each church shared with larger group](#)

12:30 pm Lunch Break

1:30 pm Welcome Synodical Deputies for the next two items - Philip Apoll, Bob Loerts

Introduce Ryan Farrell - Motion: The Council of Calvary CRC requests that Classis Eastern Canada approve Pastor Ryan Farrell's release from ordained ministry according to Article 14b, effective the date of the CEC meeting of March 2027.

1:45 pm Introduce Chris Smid - ([Covenant of Joint Supervision](#); [Request for Approval](#); [SHP Job Description](#))

Motion: That classis approve the Job Description (Article 12c) for Chris Smid as chaplain

2:00 pm Introduce Paul Vanderkooy - Motion: That classis approve the retirement of Rev. Paul Vanderkooy, effective April 4, 2027 via article 18a as per his [letter of request](#)

2:15 pm **Classis Ministry Updates (if any)**

1. Credentials Committee - *The Credential Committee will have reviewed the credentials and will make recommendations about the questions/comments submitted on the credentials forms.*
2. Regional Pastors
 - a. Regional Pastor (West) – Jack Van de Hoef
 - b. Regional Pastor (East) – Paul VanderKooy
3. Church Counselors
 - a. Zion CRC Pembroke – Rebecca Bokma
 - b. Cornwall CRC – James Kralt
 - c. Calvin CRC Ottawa – Sid Ypma

- d. Hebron CRC Renfrew – Rebecca Bokma
- e. Williamsburg CRC – Andrew Vis

4. Church Visitors

- a. East Team I – Dan Hoogland
- b. East Team II – Brad Bootsma
- c. West Team I – Andrew Vis
- d. West Team II – Aaron Thompson
- e. West Team III – James Kralt

- 2:30 pm [Overture](#) - advisory committee presentation and discussion - Charlottetown and Fredericton CRCs
- 3:00 pm Refreshment Break
- 3:30 pm **Learning together about the Abuse of Power - Thrive**
- 4:30 pm Free Time and/or Classis Trivia game
- 5:00 pm Dinner
- 6:00 pm Chair declares Strict Executive Session
Appeal to Classis
 - 1) All visitors and non-delegates will be asked to leave the room (with the exception of the chair, and vice-chair of CIC, the clerk of classis and all members of the advisory committee). Delegates will be informed of the rules on confidentiality.
 - 2) A printed copy of the advisory group's report will be distributed. They will present on the appeal.
 - 4) The appellant will be invited in and allowed to make an oral presentation. A representative from the safe church committee may accompany them. They will be asked to leave afterwards.
 - 5) The respondent will be invited in and allowed to make an oral presentation. They will be asked to leave afterwards.
 - 6) Classis will deliberate on the recommendations in the advisory group's report and make a decision.
 - 7) The written copies of the report will be collected for destruction, the appellant and the respondent will be informed of the decision, and it will be noted in the minutes that an appeal was taken up and was either sustained or denied.
- 8:30 pm Closing Prayer and Dismissal to homes and billets

AGENDA for Saturday, October 24, 2026

- 8:00 am Breakfast at CCRC (Prayer Room open - led by CCRC elder?)
- 9:00 am Welcome, Worship and Devotions - led by CCRC Youth Group
- 9:20 am Synod 2026 report / presentation by CEC delegates
- 9:35 am General Secretary Zach King's Fall Update
- Project Antioch (10-year vision for CRCNA church planting and renewal) - Martin Spoelstra
[Letter](#) from Church Planting Strategic Plan Implementation Team;
[Letter](#) from Senior Leadership;
- 10:15 am Refreshment Break
- 10:30 am Canadian National Gathering Insights - Al Postma (see more [here](#))
- 11:30 am Individual church groups - summary discussion in breakout rooms
- 12:00 pm Lunch (Deacon's Lunch with John Wildeboer in Media Room)
- 1:00 pm Churches sharing in open meeting
- 1:30 pm **Denominational Reports - Questions on what you've read?**
- Denomination – Al Postma
 - [Ministry Shares](#) - Roshani Morton
 - Canadian Indigenous Ministries
 - Council of Delegates – Gregg Lawson (at-large rep)
 - [Thrive Ministries](#) - Becky Jones - video and Elder Essentials handout
 - [World Renew](#)
 - [Calvin Theological Seminary](#) – Shawn Brix
 - [Redeemer University](#)
- 2:00 pm Final Encouragements - Al Postma, ED Canada CRC
- 2:15 pm Organizational Matters – Next Classis Meeting
- Date: March 6, 2027
 - Credentials due: February 19, 2027
 - Agenda items due: January 23, 2027
 - Officers: Chair – Aaron Thompson; Vice – TBD
- Closing remarks and prayer – Chair, Pastor Ben Gresik
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