



CLASSIS NIAGARA OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



*To encourage, equip, and empower churches and ministries
to engage God's people in mission!*



Website: classisniagara.ca; e-mail: statedclerkniagara@gmail.com

120th meeting of Classis
Wednesday, May 25, 2022 - held at Smithville CRC
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Chair: Rev. Mike Vandyk; **Vice-chair:** Rev. Erick Schuringa; **Stated Clerk:** Wendy de Jong

AGENDA

classisniagara.ca/may-2022/

DELEGATES, PLEASE NOTE:

- Please email your completed Classical Credentials form - [Credentials Form](#) by **May 20** to statedclerkniagara@gmail.com.
- All the documents needed are posted on the Classis Niagara website on the second tier – classisniagara.ca “Classis Agenda & Meeting Documents.” If you prefer a hard copy, please print your own.
- The Core Value highlighted in this meeting is *Leadership Development*. This session of Classis will also include the Annual General Meeting.
- Voting will be done by a show of hands as much as possible. If an official vote is required, we will use the **Mentimeter App**. Please download this app on your phone or device beforehand.
- All delegates will be asked to affirm their agreement with the *Declaration of Agreement with the beliefs of the CRC* with the reading of the Statement below.

1. PRAYERFUL DEPENDENCE ON GOD

Engaging in prayer with expectant hearts and minds so that our classis, churches and individual members are prayerfully dependent on God.

1.1	Welcome & Opening: Rev. Mike Vandyk and members of the Leadership Development Team	9:00
1.2	Committee appointment confirmations: <u>Credentials</u> – delegates of Jubilee (chair) & Mountainview (reporting) <u>Advisory</u> re overtures/protests: delegates of Grace (chair) and Covenant (reporting)	9:20
1.3	Roll Call and Report of the Credentials Committee - presented by Mountainview CRC	9:25
1.4	Constitution of Classis by the Chair, Rev. Mike Vandyk Affirmation by delegates of the <i>Niagara Declaration of Agreement</i> with the Beliefs of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. “We are assembled as delegates to this meeting of Classis Niagara to deliberate and decide on the matters on the Agenda before us. We promise to do this work in obedience to the revealed will of our Lord Jesus Christ and in full agreement with what we as Christian Reformed Churches confess. We believe that the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, the only infallible rule for faith and life. We affirm three creeds—the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed—as ecumenical expressions of the Christian faith. We also affirm three confessions—the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort—as historic Reformed expressions of the Christian faith, whose doctrines fully agree with the Word of God. Along with these historic creeds and confessions, we recognize the witness of Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony. As we deliberate and make decisions consistent with these beliefs, to the best of our ability and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we commit to respectful dialogue on matters discussed in the spirit of Eph 4:2, “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.” In this way we seek to build up the unity and well-being of the church of Jesus Christ in the Niagara Region. <i>[After the reading of these words, delegates are asked to rise to indicate their agreement with the beliefs of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.] Adopted by Classis Niagara, May 2019</i> Classis declared constituted	9:30
1.5	Report of the Overtures Advisory Committee <i>(if overtures are received the committee will report at that point in the agenda.)</i>	
1.6	Shalom Manor Chaplains report: Rev. Peter Janssens	9:35

2. COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIPS – Part 1

Encouraging God's people to engage in the various relationships and activities of the church with accountability so that our institutional and relational obligations are met.

2.1	Classis Ministry Council report – Rev. Erick Schuringa (<i>page 5</i>) MOTION: To approve the work of the Classis Ministry Council	9:45
2.2	Stated Clerk, Pulpit Supply and Classis Functionaries Report (<i>page 7</i>) – Wendy de Jong MOTION: To approve the work of the Stated Clerk MOTION: To approve these nominations and positions	9:50
2.3	Rules & Regulations: (<i>sent separately</i>): Wendy de Jong MOTION: To approve the modifications to the Rules & Regulations.	9:50
<i>MORNING BREAK – 10:15-10:30 am</i>		

3. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Providing opportunities to develop, equip and encourage lay and ordained leaders in every context and at every level to be on mission with God.

3.1	Leadership Development Team interactive presentation: A taste of Wayfinder: Equipping Christian leaders to think, act and lead like Jesus in the face of division.” This 2-hour interactive workshop will be led by Monica Risch of The Colossian Forum. <i>LUNCH BREAK – 12:30-1:30 pm</i>	10:30
3.2	Classical Ministry Leadership Team: <i>deferred to the October meeting</i>	
3.3	Youth Ministry Champion Report: <i>deferred to the October meeting</i>	
3.4	Calvin Theological Seminary: Presentation by Rev. Shawn Brix	1:45
3.5	Redeemer University: Greetings from President David Zietsma	2:00

4. DISCIPLES MAKING NEW DISCIPLES

Empowering and equipping churches and individuals to multiply ministries that will reach their local communities so that not-yet Christians may embrace Christ as Lord.

4.1	Brock Campus Chaplaincy Ministry Report: (<i>page 16-17</i>) Chaplain Zack DeBruyne	2:15
4.2	Niagara International Students Report: Hilda VanderKlippe	2:20
4.3	Village Church Report: Mark De Vos	2:30
4.4	The Table: (<i>page 18-19</i>) Terence Schilstra	2:40
4.5	Bridge Church Plant: Karin Vermeer or Hans Branderhorst	2:50

2. COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIPS – Part 2

Encouraging God's people to engage in the various relationships and activities of the church with accountability so that our institutional and relational obligations are met.

2.4	<p>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING -- Chair: Rev. Erick Schuringa <i>Agenda details, documents & motions on page 10-12 and on the Classis website</i></p> <p>2.4.1 Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on May 26, 2021 2.4.2 Election of Members to the Board of Directors 2.4.3 Approval of the Financial Statements for 2021, presented by Treasurer, Joanne Drenth-VanDyke & to Approve the work of the Treasurer 2.4.4 Approval of the Auditors Report of the 2021 Financial Statements 2.4.5 Approval of the appointment of Grant Thornton, LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, as auditors for 2022</p> <p>REGULAR SESSION RESUMES</p>	3:00
2.5	Council of Delegates & Canada Corp board report – Wendy de Jong	3:20
2.6	Interim Executive Director report – (page 13-14) Terry Veldboom	3:30

5. AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY

Encouraging God's people by intentionally sharing life and story together so that classis is being transformed into a community of grace and truth.

	Church Visitors – <i>deferred to the October 2022 Classis meeting</i>	
5.1	Regional Pastors report: (page 20)	
5.2	Church Counselor & Oversight Committee reports: Rev. Erick Schuringa and/or Rev. Peter Tuininga	3:45
5.3	Closing Prayer & Adjournment – Rev. Erick Schuringa	4:00
	<p>Denominational & other reports – Received for Information</p> <p>World Renew Spring 2022 Diaconal Ministries Canada Spring 2022 Living the Call - Mercy & Justice Ministries Redeemer University Report Spring 2022</p>	

Next meeting: October 26, 2022 -- host church needed

Agenda Deadline: September 14, 2022

Chair: Rev. Erick Schuringa; *Vice-chair:* Rev. Jeff Klingenberg

Credentials Committee: Mountainview (*Chair*); Providence (*Reporting*)

Overture Advisory: Covenant (*Chair*) and Riverside (*Reporting*)

Following meeting: Wednesday, February 23, 2023

– unless we are able to schedule a weekend retreat earlier in February

AGENDA 2.1 - CLASSIS MINISTRY COUNCIL

Classis Niagara of the Christian Reformed Church MINUTES - Classis Ministry Council, March 30, 2022

1	<p>Attendance: Wendy de Jong, Joanne Drenth-VanDyke, Frank Engelage, Karen Gerritsma, Janet Ryzebol, Erick Schuringa, Colin Vander Ploeg</p> <p>Opening Prayer: Colin read from Matthew 17 and shared some thoughts on how God carries us through both high times and low times and offered prayer, remembering in particular Rev. Fred VanderBerg who has recently been diagnosed with cancer.</p>
2	<p>Minutes & Items carried forward</p> <p>Classis Ministry Council minutes of February 9, 2022 -- Approved</p> <p>Classis Niagara Minutes of February 23, 2022 – Approved</p> <p>Follow-up on Credentials items from Mountainview CRC – The intent of this request on Mountainview’s credentials was a recommendation that Church Visitors assess the building entry, culture, displays, etc. to help churches make their buildings more welcoming to visitors. It was noted that new Church Visitors will need to be appointed and encouraged to resume these visits which haven’t occurred since Covid began. The practice of some years ago where churches were given sets of questions related to the core theme with those responses being shared at Classis meeting was an informal yet effective way to gauge church health and may be worth reinstating.</p>
3	<p>Stated Clerk Report: The Ecclesiastical Credentials for Rev. Duane VanderLaan will be sent to Classis Huron at his request. Wendy plans to attend the Stated Clerks Conference on August 4 in conjunction with Inspire 2022. The Redeemer Board has nominated Andrew Regnerus to serve on behalf of Classis Niagara. The CMC concurs with the nomination which becomes official after the May 25 Classis meeting.</p> <p>Covenant, in conjunction with the CRCNA Safe Church Office, would like Classis Niagara’s support for them to host an Abuse of Power training workshop on April 23, 2022, aimed primarily at elders, deacons and pastors, with Safe Church team members invited to attend if they wish. Dr. Amanda Benckhuyzen and Becky Jones will be leading the workshop. The CMC is supportive and will make funds from the Safe Church budget line available for costs not covered by the Safe Church office.</p> <p>The Rules & Regulations have been updated, primarily the sections dealing with the Overture Advisory & Credentials committees. The document from Pastor Church Resources has been added as a new appendix. The core team committee section will be left as is until after the retreat. Wendy will prepare a document outlining the changes for presentation at the May 25 Classis meeting.</p> <p>Erick reported that plans for the closure and final service of June 6 at Fruitland CRC are ongoing. They are working with legal counsel to ensure everything related to the building & property transfer to Cairn Christian School, archives, and records, etc. are dispersed in compliance with regulations. Mountainview has offered to absorb any elders and deacons whose terms are not completed if they so desire, as well as memberships, possibly creating a Fruitland neighbourhood.</p>
4	<p>May 25, 2022, Meeting Agenda: The meeting will be held in person at Smithville CRC. Providence has indicated they will be bringing an Article 17 request in connection with the release of Rev. Darren Roorda. Providence has been in conversation with the Executive of Canada Corp and requested representation from them at the Classis meeting. Dr. Kathy Smith’s advice has been sought as well. Agreed to place this on the agenda immediately after the lunch break. Wendy will connect with the Synodical Deputies.</p> <p>The core theme is Leadership Development. The team will continue trying to get more surveys submitted from the churches. They anticipate needing approximately an hour at the meeting and will prepare opening devotions. This meeting will also include the annual Membership Meeting. To date we are not aware of any further discussions taking place in regard to the January 29, 2022, Canadian Catalytic Conversation.</p>

5	<p>Treasurer's Report: Joanne highlighted a few items from the 2021 Financial Statements. These need to be signed and then included in the Membership Meeting agenda, along with the 2021 Budget to provide an overview of the differences between the actuals and the budgeted amounts, which are largely due to ministries not being very active because of the pandemic. Our bank account is linked with the denominational accounts at CIBC with unused funds invested jointly. Joanne gave an update on CMLT status of students and some follow-up that will be done. The alternate treasurer position will be posted in church bulletins.</p>
6	<p>Core Value Team Reports</p> <p>Authentic Community: With Andy Wunderink's resignation from the CMC, and the recommendation that the October meeting be a business meeting in anticipation of discussions around Synod, Wendy checked in with Andy and other members of this team. The original retreat theme of engaging our worship communities with the arts may be more suited to an all-day workshop aimed at all church members rather than Classis delegates. Since no speakers had been confirmed, and because the CMC saw a greater need to revisit the vision and core team mandates, it was agreed that we cancel the retreat arrangements made with Gethsemane Place. Joanne will connect with them about a refund of the deposit. Wendy will connect with the team and let them know of the change in focus, and check to see if Jericho House might be available for an overnight retreat in February 2023. Another option might be Rose City Kids, or one of the churches, without overnight accommodations.</p> <p>Covenantal Relationship: Colin indicated he does not wish to serve a second term but will stay on as chair until after the retreat where the proposal to merge Covenant Relations and Authentic Community can be discussed. He is still considering taking on the pastor role of the Classis Safe Church Team.</p> <p>Disciples Making Disciples: Janet reported that the plans are in place for the Witness workshop on April 6 led by Willemina Zwart. Classis Hamilton has also been invited. Bethany plans to run the program and will have several persons in attendance.</p> <p>Brock University Chaplaincy Team: Karen reported there are 3 new members from Trinity, Clarence Van Staalduinen, Tina Kuiper and James Eshuis, and 1 new member from Jubilee, Phil Dreise. The Campus Safe Church Policy is in place. The evaluation of Chaplain Zack deBruyne is underway. He is thankful the students can meet in person again and is working well with the other campus chaplains.</p> <p>Leadership Development: Karen reported they have about 20 people registered for tonight's seminar co-sponsored by Diaconal Ministries. The team hopes this event will give them some insight on how they can serve the churches in developing leadership.</p> <p>Prayerful Dependence on God: The main task of this team is to plan the combined Reformation Day Service. Perhaps that mandate is too narrow. This is another worthwhile consideration for the retreat to work out how the core teams' function without separating administration from ministry.</p> <p>Team membership: Authentic Community, Covenant Relations and Prayerful Dependence need new chairpersons and/or members. Several persons are suggested and will be followed up.</p>
7	<p>Adjournment: The next meeting is set for Wednesday, April 20, 9:30 am on Zoom to review the agenda. Erick closed with prayer and the meeting was adjourned.</p>

AGENDA 2.2 – STATED CLERK REPORT

The last two months have been rather quiet in terms of Stated Clerk activity. Most of my work has simply been the standard work of preparing agendas, writing minutes, and responding to email correspondence. I did take some time though to organize all my Classis electronic and paper files in a systematic and logical format leaving the inherited, less than logical structure happily behind.

Rev. Mike Collins has asked to be granted Emeritus Commissioned Pastor Status. His credentials will be held with Mountainview CRC. Rev. Jack VanderVeer has requested that his ministerial credentials be transferred to Classis Quinte under the supervision of First CRC, Kingston, and Rev. Duane VanderLaan’s credentials were transferred at his request from Jubilee Fellowship CRC to Classis Huron, under the supervision of Drayton CRC.

I will be attending a full day conference in early August held in Tinley Park, Illinois, in conjunction with the Inspire Conference. Along with connecting with other Stated Clerks, enjoying the opportunity to meet in person, the learning and sharing of best practices, etc., is very worthwhile. Classis contributes \$300 towards covering the cost of this event and I am grateful for the financial support and opportunity to attend.

AGENDA 2.2.1 -- Pulpit Supply for Classis Niagara from September – November 2022

[Pulpit Supply \(classisniagara.ca\)](http://classisniagara.ca)

	TRINITY CRC Currently only at 10:00 am	RIVERSIDE CRC 9:30 & 3:00 PM
September 11 September 25	Rev. Mike Vandyk Rev. Woodrow Dixon	Rev. Colin Vander Ploeg
October 9 October 23	Rev. Bob Loerts Rev. Steve deBoer	Rev. Peter Tuininga
November 13 November 27	Rev. Erick Schuringa Rev. Mike Vandyk	Rev. Jeff Klingenberg

Any scheduling changes should be arranged and confirmed by the pastor(s) and the council(s) of the church(es) involved. Two appointments per month shall be granted to these churches except for June, July, August, and December. Churches with an intern or part-time interim pastor will be granted one scheduled appointment per month. Appointments shall be distributed equally among the currently serving ministers of classis as scheduled by the Classis Ministry Council.

Churches receiving appointments shall reimburse the assigned minister for travelling expenses and the church for a per service cost at the rates set forth by Classis. If the sending church has one service and the receiving church has two, then the sending church receives payment for one service and the pastor receives payment directly for the second service, plus applicable mileage for both.

Pulpit Supply rates for Classis Niagara are \$150 per service, plus mileage at Canada Revenue rates for 2022 of \$0.61/km.

AGENDA 2.2.2 – FUNCTIONARIES REPORT – May 2022

Several Classis Committees have been unable to meet or plan events as a result of the pandemic. There are quite a few people whose term technically ended in May 2021 or May 2022, but until the teams regather or we are able to connect with each person to determine his/her desire to serve a second term, they have been left on the list. Only those changes we are aware of are noted here.

Celebrating Service

On behalf of the churches in Classis Niagara and the Classis Ministry Council, we'd like that to thank the following individuals for their service on a Classis committee. Each person gave generously of their time, skills, leadership and commitment, for which we are deeply grateful.

- **CLASSIS MINISTRY COUNCIL & AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY:** Andrew Wunderink asked to be relieved of chairing and serving on this committee in April due to his heavy involvement at The Hub.
- **COVENANT RELATIONS TEAM:** Pastor Colin Vander Ploeg will remain chair of this committee until the Classis visioning & restructuring retreat next February, but will finish serving on the CMC after the May Classis meeting.
- **BROCK UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY TEAM:** This team is comprised of 4 Jubilee & 4 Trinity members, Chaplain Zack DeBruyne and Assistant Chaplain Hilda Vander Klippe, and one or two student members. Members who retired this year are Albert Kok (Jubilee) and Brett Graham, Elissa VanBerkel, Rick Kok (Trinity).
- **CLASSIS SAFE CHURCH TEAM:** Jason Witteveen asked to be relieved of chairing and serving on this committee due to health concerns.

Seeking Approval

The following individuals have agreed to let their names stand as new or renewed members on committees of Classis Niagara. We are grateful for all they bring to these positions and for their commitment to these ministries.

- **CLASSIS MINISTRY COUNCIL:** Pastor Frank Engelage is the Vice-Chair
- **BROCK UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE:** Clarence Van Staalduinen, James Eshuis, and Tina Kuiper (Trinity), and Philip Dreise (Jubilee)
- **DISCIPLES MAKING NEW DISCIPLES:** Brandon Vermeer (Mountainview)
- **REDEEMER UNIVERSITY BOARD MEMBER:** Andrew Regnerus (Jubilee)

UNFILLED POSITIONS

- **PRAYERFUL DEPENDENCE ON GOD:** A member willing to be the CMC liaison
- **AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY:** New chairperson and one or two additional persons needed
- **COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIPS:** Two or three new members, one of whom will also serve on the CMC
- **SAFE CHURCH TEAM:** This team is still in need of a new Pastor member, and a Chair. There are several individuals from some of the churches working diligently in their own context, but there isn't an active committee at this time.
- **ALTERNATE TREASURER:**
- **REGIONAL DISABILITY ADVOCATE:**
- **WORLD RENEW REPRESENTATIVE:** Ideally this would be filled by a deacon who is also the World Renew rep of his/her home church.

AGENDA 2.2.3 – DRAFT SUGGESTED REVISIONS TO THE RULES & REGULATIONS

The Rules & Regulations went through an initial revision in 2019 but further revisions are being proposed to

- a) bring the rules in line with our practice which has been changing with the shift to online meetings and electronic use of forms, balloting, etc.,
- b) to clarify and differentiate between the tasks of Credentials committee and the Overture Advisory Committee.

Please note the following:

1. Strike through text will be deleted
2. Highlighted text is the suggested replacement
3. Section B – Standing Committees: Classis Ministry Council is out of date. The CMC recommends that we devote part of the February 2023 Classis retreat to revisiting the vision of the core teams with possible adjustments, therefore updating this section is on hold.
4. Appendix III – Advice for Overture Advisory Committees is new material provided by Pastor Church Resources.
5. Several other appendices, such as Safe Church, Brock Campus Ministry and CMLT have been updated with text previously approved by Classis in the last two years.

Changes can be found on pages

3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13-15, 18, 19, 32-36 (New), 37, 48-51

AGENDA 2.4 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA & MOTIONS

2.4.1 Approve the Minutes of the AGM held on May 26, 2021

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, MAY 26, 2021

CMC Chair Rev. Mike Vandyk led this portion of the meeting which brings *us into compliance with Canada non-profit corporation regulations*.

- 1.12.1 **MOTION:** To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on May 20, 2020: **CARRIED**
- 1.12.2 **MOTION:** To approve the election of Members to the Board of Directors consisting of Erick Schuringa, Colin Vander Ploeg, Janet Ryzebol, Karen Gerritsma and Andy Wunderink: **CARRIED**
- 1.12.3 **MOTION:** To approve the Financial Statements for 2020, presented by Treasurer, Joanne Drenth-VanDyke & to approve the work of the Treasurer: **CARRIED**
Joanne highlighted several items from the Financial Statements. The surplus has grown due to Covid since some planned expenditures did not happen and there are currently no seminary students being supported financially.
- 1.12.4 **MOTION:** To approve the Auditors Report of the 2020 Financial Statements: **CARRIED**
- 1.12.5 **MOTION:** To approve of the appointment of Grant Thornton, LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, as auditors for 2021: **CARRIED**

The Annual General Meeting was adjourned and regular session resumed.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the May 26, 2021 Annual General Meeting Minutes as presented:

2.4.2 Election of Members to the Board of Directors:

Frank Engelage - Vice-Chair
Karen Gerritsma - Leadership Development Team
Janet Ryzebol - Disciples Making New Disciples Team
Erick Schuringa - Chairperson
Colin Vander Ploeg - Covenantal Relationships Team & Vice-Chair

MOTION: Classis Niagara elects the above named individuals to serve as the Board of Directors of the Corporation:

2.4.3 Presentation of the Financial Statements for 2021, by the Treasurer, Joanne Drenth-VanDyke – See page 10, Auditor’s Report sent separately & [Classis Financials](#)

MOTION: To approve the Financial Statements for 2021 as presented, and to approve the work of the Treasurer:

2.4.4 Approval of the Auditors Report of the 2021 Financial Statements: See link above on the website under Classis Financials

MOTION: That Classis Niagara approve the audited 2021 Financial Statements:

2.4.5 Approval of the appointment of Grant Thornton, LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, as auditors for 2022

MOTION: That Classis Niagara approve the appointment of Grant Thornton as Auditors for 2022

AGENDA 2.4.3 - CLASSIS NIAGARA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2021

Classis Niagara - 2022 Budget

	2022 Budget	2021 Budget	2021 Actual
Member Count:	2,673	2,690	
<u>INCOME BY FUND</u>			
Ministry Shares Income			
Classis Expense Fund	28,600	26,702	26,712
Leadership Development Fund	12,100	25,900	26,277
Disciples Making Disciples Fund	138,845	136,360	136,906
Prayerful Dependence on God Fund	250	250	242
Authentic Community Fund	-	-	-
Covenantal Relations Fund	36,185	27,185	27,196
Total Ministry Shares Income	215,980	216,397	217,333
Total Ministry Shares per member	80.80	80.44	
Other Income			
Bank Interest/Miscellaneous Income	2,750	2,000	2,603
Donations & Grants - Brock Campus	-	-	1,660
Shalom Manor (Other)	-	-	134
Total Other Income	2,750	2,000	4,397
Transfers from Account Surpluses (see below)	32,000	18,000	-
TOTAL INCOME & TRANSFERS	250,730	236,397	221,730
<u>EXPENSES BY FUND</u>			
<u>Classis Expense Fund</u>			
Audit and Legal Fees	3,600	3,400	3,274
Delegates, Meals & Mileage	2,500	2,500	1,993
Liability Insurance	1,900	1,552	1,791
The Bridge App	6,800	4,700	6,548
Conferences and Retreats	800	800	1,350
Office Expenses	750	750	266
Website	500	500	467
State Clerk Remuneration	8,000	8,000	8,000
Treasurer Remuneration	6,500	6,500	6,500
Total Classis Expense Fund Expenses	31,350	28,702	30,189
<u>Leadership Development</u>			
Leadership Conferences/Retreats	4,000	2,800	-
Youth Champion	3,000	3,000	3,000
Youth Champion Retreat	400	400	-
Tuition Payments (CMLT)	10,000	15,000	3,020
Books (CMLT)	3,000	3,000	140
General Expenses	1,700	1,700	250
Total Leadership Development Expenses	22,100	25,900	6,410
<u>Disciples Making New Disciples</u>			
Brock Ministry Chaplain			
Chaplain Salary	76,650	74,150	68,858
Pension Assessment	9,845	9,845	9,840
Medical Insurance	5,400	5,400	5,247
CPP/EI	3,800	3,400	4,412
Professional Development	3,200	1,500	1,359
Travel Allowance	1,500	1,000	344

	2022 Budget	2021 Budget	2021 Actual
Brock Ministry Expenses			
Advertising	1,700	1,500	401
Student Resources	2,500	1,250	490
Hospitality (Coffee, Meals, Retreats)	3,500	3,500	1,094
CRCNA Retreat	1,000	1,000	-
Brock Parking Pass	2,000	900	2,056
Dues and Subscriptions	350	300	201
Liability Insurance	450	415	385
Office Supplies	750	500	457
Telephone	1,200	1,200	1,023
Brock Ministry - Resonate Grant Expenditures			1,660
Mission Development - other	2,500	-	10,000
Niagara International Student Ministry	2,000	-	2,097
The Table Ministry	10,000	7,500	10,000
The Bridge Church	25,000	25,000	25,000
General Expenses	500	-	-
Total Disciples Making New Disciples Exp.	153,845	138,360	144,924
<u>Prayerful Dependence on God</u>			
Worship expenses	250	250	-
Total Prayerful Dependence Fund Expenses	250	250	-
<u>Authentic Community</u>			
Classis Niagara Retreat	7,000	7,000	-
Total Authentic Community Fund Expenses	7,000	7,000	-
<u>Covenantal Relationships</u>			
Shalom Manor Chaplaincy Support	32,520	32,520	32,540
Safe Church Expenses	1,000	1,000	-
Abuse Survivor counselling coverages	500	500	-
Disability Advocates - DC Training	165	165	-
Muskoka Pastor & Spouse Retreat	1,000	1,000	-
Regional Pastors	1,000	1,000	-
Total Covenantal Relationships Expenses	36,185	36,185	32,540
TOTAL EXPENSES	250,730	236,397	214,063
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-	-	7,667

AGENDA 2.5 - CRRNA Canada Board & Council of Delegates Report

A verbal report on the May 3-5 COD meeting will be presented at the meeting. This article gives an update on activities of the CRCNA Canada Board activities in early April. [another-step-canadian-crc-journey](#)

AGENDA 2.6 - Interim Executive Director Report – Spring 2022

As Spring arrives in various degrees across Canada and COVID restrictions are being lifted, we find ourselves in yet another liminal space. Many churches are experiencing a tentative return to in-person worship and resumption of various ministry and discipleship programs. I'm sensing that a priority is to be very relational; reconnecting with our members, reaching out and checking in, letting them know that they are cared for, and inviting and encouraging them to re-engage at a pace and level that they are comfortable with. I encourage us to also be attentive to our pastors and church leaders and recognize the need for their care and encouragement as they have been largely carrying the ball these past two years; discerning, adapting, pivoting, balancing and in many instances addressing and diffusing a variety of tensions. May we be exemplary in gentleness and kindness for others and with ourselves.

Preparations are well underway for Synod 2022. Synod is expected to meet in person in Grand Rapids, June 9 - 16, with several advance sessions (being held virtually) devoted to prayer, the convening session and advisory committees ([Synod 2022 Schedule](#)). As was the case at the winter classis meetings, the Human Sexuality Report is the principal item to be addressed. Please be in prayer with me for Synod.

The Structure and Leadership Team (SALT) report and recommendations are also on the agenda of Synod 2022 and continue to be advanced in the interim. Rev. Dr. Zachary King is being presented as the [General Secretary](#) nominee. It is expected that the Chief Administrative Officer and the Transitional Executive Director for Canada will also be identified in advance of Synod.

Additional detail on these matters and other initiatives impacting the CRC in Canada are listed below.

Canadian Restructuring: I acknowledge with much appreciation, the interest and participation of the Christian Reformed Church in Canada in these ongoing conversations about the future of the CRC in Canada. The Canadian Catalytic Conversation, January 29, 2022, attended by four delegates from each Classis in Canada was a pivotal event. Follow-up discussion at the winter classis meetings resulted in several overtures to Synod with respect to the [Structure and Leadership Taskforce \(SALT\) report and recommendations](#). And the conversation continues.

The Board of the CRCNA Canada will meet in a workshop on April 9 to consider the troubled history associated with the Canadian Ministry Director position, board dynamics and the ongoing relationship of the CRCNA Canada Board/Council of Delegates to the CRC in Canada.

A proposal based on the extensive consultation and work of the Canadian Restructuring Team in 2020 which also responds to the SALT recommendation to “establish the Canadian office” is to be presented to the CRCNA Canada Board in May. And the hiring of a Transitional Executive Director for Canada is expected in the next several weeks. It is intended that these efforts will set the stage for a transitional period during which healing and restoration can take place, conversation can continue, and a more definitive plan can be developed. The premise is that the denominational structure and ministry of the CRC in Canada would be relational, relevant and reciprocal with the local church.

Hearts Exchanged: [Hearts Exchanged](#) is a learning and action journey designed to equip members of the CRC to engage with Indigenous people as neighbours and fellow image-bearers. We are approaching the end of phase two, which includes groups (cohorts) in every region across Canada (15 groups, 250

participants). Participants are being deeply impacted. We anticipate hosting another round of cohorts in the Fall of 2022. Eventually, we will land in phase three at the CRC Canadian national gathering in 2023. Learn more about Hearts Exchanged 2.0 in this [quick five minute video](#).

Canadian National Gathering: Hearts Exchanged will be the centrepiece of the next Canadian National Gathering - save the date - May 25 - 28, 2023. Planning is under way for this significant and exciting event, to be held in Ottawa.

Indigenous Justice and Reconciliation: The role of the Senior Leader for Indigenous Justice and Reconciliation is being expanded in order to lead and guide this Canadian ministry priority and the CRC's commitment to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action. This leader will work with the Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee and our three Indigenous ministry centres in Edmonton, Regina and Winnipeg to invigorate our CRC response and propel the CRC in Canada on a journey of reconciliation.

Ministry Shares: We are so appreciative of the ongoing support of the CRC in Canada for denominational ministry, as exemplified by ministry share contributions and designated ministry offerings. Many of these ministries exist to serve the local church ([Congregational Ministries](#), [Calvin Theological Seminary](#)). Other denominational ministries serve as an expression of the local church to the world around us ([ReFrame Ministries](#), [Resonate Global Mission](#)). Your pledges for 2023 serve as an encouragement and reminder that we are in mission together (relational), that ministry services to and for the local church need to be relevant, and that together the relationship and ministry is reciprocal in nature.

Bridge App: Use of the [Bridge App](#) continues to grow, particularly the GIVE function. The Bridge App aims to be relational, missional and local in a distinctively CRC way with the emphasis on the local congregation. Over \$4.3 million in donations were facilitated for local congregations through the Bridge App in 2021.

Denominational Resources: The denomination has a wealth of resources including regional staff who are available to encourage, advise, and support the local church in its ministry and mission.

Terry Veldboom
Acting Executive Director (Canada)

AGENDA 4.1 – Brock University Chaplain’s Report, Zack DeBruyne

My hope and prayer is that I do not need to begin a report ever again with the sentence, “It has been an unprecedented year...”. But here we are, at the end of another *unprecedented* year mashed together with a seesaw of online and in-person meetings, mandates, guidelines, and limitations on our ability to gather in ways that are so central to the flourishing of any Campus Ministry.

As September began, there was hope on the horizon, and yet we were still unable to gather for in-person Bible studies, toonie suppers, community events, or even one-on-one spiritual guidance and counselling. The lack of in-person connection and community inevitably leads to a difficult time engaging and creating a flourishing community (as we all know too well after two or more years of Zoom Bible studies).

And yet, despite the disconnectedness of this year, God has been intimately connected to Brock Campus Ministry, the students who call this community home, and to the whole of the University. The Holy Spirit is not limited by an online connection or in-person discussion. The overwhelming love of Christ Jesus is received by students in desperate need of grace, no matter if they are sitting on their couch in their pajamas or in our counselling office at the Faith and Life Centre. The power and glory of God is experienced by faculty, students, and staff even when we cannot imagine God being at work in our midst. This has been the hope that I’ve grasped tightly onto throughout this year, and a hope that I’ve encouraged all of my students with.

As I speak about the connectedness of God to Brock Campus Ministry in the 2021/22 school year, it is important to celebrate the specific ways that we have seen and experienced God at work. One of the ways that we’ve seen God working is through our [Internship Program](#). Beginning this year, we had 4 student-interns, passionate about the Gospel and seeing the good news of Jesus made known to fellow students. Rhoda, J.D. Karen, and Sabrina all stepped into these roles this year and led a number of initiatives throughout the school year. From weekly Bible studies to a Leadership in Faith event, to a series of discussions entitled “Sin, Sexuality, and Faith”. Each of these student interns spent time dedicated to intentionally growing in their own faith and spiritual identity through the practicing of a weekly spiritual discipline (such as [solitude](#)), weekly one-on-one discipleship meetings, and supported exploration of their own questions of faith.

This year we are also celebrating the growth and establishment of our growing BCM community. Every Monday night we gather for a Bible study (you can find the material that I create [here](#)). The group fluctuates as anything that takes place within the rhythm of a University does. Anywhere from 10 to 20 students gather each week in a big circle and I lead a directed, Biblically-based, discussion on the topic of the week. One of the most notable discussions we had this year was the topic – [What does the Bible say about disagreeing?](#) Each week, students who identify as Christian, non-Christian, Atheist, and everything in-between fill the chairs in our space. The opportunity of these Bible studies is not to have the students agree and respond noddingly to everything that I say. Our goal is not to create faithful clones to Pastor Zack’s beliefs. Rather, to create space for students to think critically, authentically, and theologically together (this aligns with our four-fold BCM Vision: *welcome unconditionally, wonder freely, wrestle faithfully, worship wholeheartedly*). A community where students can honestly bring forward their own struggles, doubts, and concerns with the Christian faith. To express their own personal journeys and expressions of faith and spirituality. To participate in a meaning-making space, and to come away understanding the power and presence of God in all areas of their life. From the classroom, to a cup of coffee with a classmate, to the basketball court. That the power and grace of God influences every area of their lives, not just Bible study on a Monday night.

Another grace-filled door that God has opened throughout this year has been the Christian Reformed Churches connection to Brock University, in my role as the Manager of the Faith and Life Department. This role has provided the Campus Ministry, and all faith-oriented programming at Brock University, a seat of influence at the table that shapes the very structure and form of the University. As a Department Head, I have the joy and responsibility to represent the needs of students, faculty, and staff of faith to the University. Whether this is seeking for more spaces for students to worship, accommodation for religious needs, or the role that Chaplains can play to provide religious and spiritual supports to the whole of campus. What is truly incredible about this newly established title is that it provides a voice for people of the Christian faith and all religious identities within the structure of the University itself. An example of this would be my seat on the [President’s Advisory Committee for Human Rights, Equity and Decolonization](#). A committee focused on anti-racism, anti-ableism, anti-ageism, and seeking to promote religious equity across Campus. My role is to represent the needs of people of faith and Brock University – particularly how the University can provide a more holistic support to students, faculty, and staff who are seeking to flourish in their faith, even while at a public University. My prayer is that this role would continue to provide opportunities for the CRC to have a voice and influence in the very structure of the University itself. What a gift.

Finally, our community of students has grown significantly this year, despite all of the challenges. The desire for a *family* of Christian students felt heavier than ever – particularly coming through the masked isolation of lockdowns and distancing. Brock Campus Ministry has been a haven for students. Some who call the CRC home, others who have never heard of the denomination, and still others who have never set foot in a church. Our ever-growing community gathers weekly for a number of activities – from backyard campfires, to hikes along to Bruce trail, to weekly Scripture read-togethers (this year we read through Philippians, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, and Titus) and Bible studies, to games of pick-up soccer; we continue to grow in our Biblical grounded relationally focused approach to welcoming students into our Campus Ministry. One particularly amazing series of events we hosted this semester were our [Worship Nights](#). Our prayer was that these spaces would bring together *all Christian students* on-campus to one common community. Historically, the Christian groups have been a bit separate from one another, seeking to keep distance and not overlap ministry. Myself and a few of my student leaders felt that God had put on our hearts to try to mend those gaps and create some space for all Christian students to come together, build community, and worship. God worked by His Spirit, and the Faith and Life Centre was filled with singing students from all walks of faith and life.

As we look to another year ahead, we have the joy of welcoming 6 incoming interns from a variety of different giftings and passions for ministry. We are anticipating a full return to in-person, on-campus programming. We ask for your prayers that Brock Campus Ministry would continue to faithfully offer a space for students to come to believe in Jesus, grow in their faith, and continue to make disciples wherever they go. Thank you for all of your prayer and support in this unprecedented year. As Paul writes to the church in Philippi, “³ *I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now...*”



Downtown Thorold

Seeking the peace of the city. Jer. 29:7

10 Things happening at The Table, Downtown Thorold | Spring 2022

1. This Spring, Table Leader Brian Fournier started Care Connect in Downtown Thorold. Care Connect is a timely post-pandemic support group for people of all walks of life looking for community and a place to share their joys and struggles. Check out this front-page article in Niagara this Week to learn more:
<https://www.niagarathisweek.com/community-story/10599270-the-power-of-community-thorold-groups-providing-a-safe-space-to-talk/>
2. The Table continues to have 4 unique gatherings in downtown Thorold that meet each week cultivating faith in Jesus, community and mission in our neighbourhood.
3. The Table continues to cultivate relationships with newcomer neighbours in downtown Thorold. Recently, one Iranian family expressed interest in learning more about faith in Jesus and baptism.
4. The Table has hired a Children's Ministry Coordinator! Our new team member, Aaron, will focus on cultivating relationships, faith and mission with kids of all ages in downtown Thorold. Aaron starts May 24, 2022.
5. This summer, The Table hopes to host a weekly gathering for kids at a neighbourhood park to host sports, games and connect with new kids and families.
6. After a long pandemic, our Table family is back serving and volunteering in the inner-city school in downtown Thorold. For example, each week one Table member delivers an average of 140 lunches for kids at the school.
7. The Table continues to host a coffee hour on Friday mornings for parents from the local school. Recently, this group welcomed a mom from Vietnam who just arrived in Canada.
8. This Spring, pastor Terence was on various radio stations, including Canada, the U.S., Great Britain and Australia to talk about his book *Peace of the City; A Handbook for Missional Communities* -- which tells the story of The Table and the missional practices of a community on mission. <https://peaceofthecity.ca>
9. The Table continues to foster discipleship relationships throughout downtown Thorold
10. The Table continues to be blessed by the prayers and offerings from our amazing church partners! Thank you for your partnership in the gospel!



Kids learning about God



Gathering for worship



Praying for our neighbourhood



Making disciples of Jesus

The Table, Downtown Thorold
thetable.downtown@gmail.com
905.359.4004

AGENDA 5.1 - April 21, 2022, Classis Niagara Regional Pastor's Report, Jim Dekker

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this report to Classis Niagara. First of all, I must apologize for not doing as much of this work as I should (just like a Calvinist...). Last summer I was able to meet personally with three pastors over lunch, two times with spouses; Rose joined me for one of those couples' lunches.

Over the course of six months, I had long conversations with two pastors both by phone and in person during some significant crisis times in their ministries. As far as I know those pastors have resolved those crises satisfactorily for both themselves and their congregations. Keep each other in prayer at all times.

As well, because of the generous budget for this position, I offered all the pastors in my area a copy of M. Craig Barnes' recent book, *Diary of a Pastor's Soul*. Three took up the offer. We got FREE shipping to their homes because Rose has Amazon Prime!

In mid-September my life changed a lot because I had a hip replacement, from which it took some months to recover. For some weeks my activity as Regional Pastor was limited to few emails and phone calls.

Several times toward the end of 2021 the CRC's Pastor-Church Resources (PCR) team made a generous offer to pastors burdened with all the heaviness of Covid to provide a time of rest and reflection, with the approval of Councils; I passed that notice to the pastors. I am not aware of any of the pastors on my list who applied for such a grant, though one of the pastors was able to take a three-month sabbatical in the last half of 2021.

In this year I have been in touch with two pastors and hope to find opportunities to visit or go for lunch with all before summer.

The Regional Pastors Conference planned for November in Arizona was cancelled because of Covid restrictions. I couldn't have attended anyway because of the hip surgery.

Every few months PCR offers Zoom calls with small cohorts of Regional Pastors, which have always proved to be helpful times of conversation and encouragement.

I wish I were able to attend the May Classis Meeting in person, but Rose and I will be on our way to Thunder Bay where I will preach at the memorial service of a dear friend who died a year ago. The family was not able to have a public service, but now that is finally possible.

Thank you for your trust. May God bless you all in your lives and ministries.