

CLASSICAL CREDENTIALS

For ministers, elders, and deacons, and delegates from emerging churches

To Classis **NIAGARA**

To convene on Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at Bethel CRC, 17 Robinson Road, Dunnville

The council of _____ Christian Reformed Church of _____ has appointed _____ (minister), _____ (elder), and _____ (deacon) as delegates to the meeting of the classis referred to above. If a church is without a minister or the minister is unable to attend, an elder shall be delegated in place of the minister. The alternate delegates are _____ (minister), _____ (elder), and _____ (deacon). The council also delegates to the meeting _____ (campus minister).¹

In addition, the following officebearers from the emerging church, _____ are delegated²: _____, _____, and _____.

We instruct and authorize them to take part in all deliberations and transactions of classis regarding all matters legally coming before the assembly and transacted in agreement with the Word of God according to the conception of it embodied in the doctrinal standards of the Christian Reformed Church, as well as in harmony with our Church Order.

We testify that our council faithfully adheres to the doctrinal standards of the Christian Reformed Church and diligently and effectively attends to ministry within our congregation, community, classis, denomination, and the broader kingdom of God.

Questions Under Church Order Article 41

Church Order Article 41 calls classis to assist its member churches in the following way:

In order to assist the churches, the classis shall allocate sufficient time at its meetings to respond to requests for advice or help from the churches, and at a minimum of one meeting annually shall allocate sufficient time to discuss at least one ministry issue that the classis considers to be especially important.

1. In what aspect of your ministry would you like the assistance of classis?

2. What aspect of ministry would you like to discuss at classis?



By order of the council,

_____, president
 _____, clerk
 _____, date

¹ Synod 2022 decided that councils may delegate campus ministers, who are ordained officebearers under their care, to the meetings of classis (cf. Church Order Supplement, Article 40-a, section d).

² Synod 2007 decided that a classis—a gathering of organized churches—may amend its own rules and invite emerging churches to delegate three officebearers *with vote* to the meetings of classis (cf. Church Order Supplement, Article 40-a, section c).

NOMINATIONS: From our congregation we would like to nominate:

For a committee of classis:

Pastor representative on the Classis Niagara Safe Church Team (typically involves 2 meetings per year)

For a Classis Niagara representative:

World Renew Board member - 3 year term

Council of Delegates & Canada Corp board member – 3 year term

(see 5.8 in the agenda for more information)

Additional comments:

Please note - The CMC suggests that for our October meeting and our February retreat, Classis Niagara allows time and space for councils to figure out how they want to respond to Synodical decisions around the HSR. This will also allow us time to incorporate conversation together about the future direction of Classis at the retreat - recognizing that how we respond to and interact with Synod will affect what our future together looks like. We have included, for your information, a thorough document from another Classis highlighting some of the issues. Simply put, we are requesting that issues are not raised around standing in agreement with the Covenant of Office-bearers until we have had taken the opportunity to meet and discuss the implications of such actions.

The communication from Classis Alberta North is being sent along for consideration and/or helpful information. They have given permission to other classes to share this document.

By order of the council,

_____, president

_____, clerk

_____, date