**From Council of River City Church, Cambridge:**

We would like Classis to explore new and creative ways to hold Classis meetings.

By way of example, we suggest the following model for consideration:

* Replace each full-day Classis meeting with 2 evening meetings that follow an “A” meeting (or, “Week 1”, “B” meeting (or, “Week 2”) format.

Each “A” meeting would be via Zoom (so delegates could participate from home). This meeting would address the more “run-of-the-mill” business items that Classis must attend (e.g., church visitor reports, most guest reports, break-out discussion sessions on various topics, etc.).

Each “B” meeting would be in person and would include the weightier matters – which really are best addressed in person (e.g., examinations, overtures discussions, times of collective prayer, etc.).

This will reduce 3 full-day meetings per year to 6 evening meetings per year.

Grounds:

1. We are having an incredibly difficult time getting office bearers to attend Classis meetings, particularly our two mid-week Classis meetings.
2. It is difficult for anyone who is not retired or self-employed to get an entire workday away. A model like this would help us get more variety of faces (a plethora of office-bearers) at our Classis meetings.
3. We notice that most of the faces at Classis meetings remain the same. If we wish to get new faces at Classis (particularly younger office bearers), we would do well to learn what some of the impediments may be.
4. Covid taught the church many valuable lessons. One lesson is that we can do things more efficiently by utilizing technology (we’ve already seen [and become convinced of the fact] that meta is a great technology to make voting at Classis meetings more efficient).
5. In our high-paced, high-stress culture, it is more and more difficult to get people to commit to long meetings or conferences. By way of example: Synod has been reduced from being a 2-week commitment to being a 1-week commitment; the Leadership Summit has been reduced from 2.5 days to 2 days. This model helps us (and our office bearers) better steward their limited resource of time).
6. This model still maintains our fellowship (arguably, it enhances our fellowship because instead of seeing one another 3x/year for a full-day, we’ll be seeing one another 6x/year for an evening meeting.

So, instead of having our next Classis meeting taking all day on say February 21, we’d have an “A” zoom meeting on the evening of February 14, and an in-person “B” meeting on February 21.