

Classis Central Ontario

Press Release - March 10, 2017

The convening church was Jubilee Church. Their delegate Elder Chris van Popta, called the meeting to order and welcomed the delegates and the guests present in the gallery. A special welcome was given to Minister-Elect of Jubilee Church, Rev. Winston Bosch. After some opening remarks, Br. C. van Popta led the assembly in a time of Christian devotion to God.

The delegates of Flamborough examined the credentials of the delegates in attendance and found that they were in order with all primi delegates present.

The executive suggested by the previous classis was appointed: Rev. A. B. Roukema of Ebenezer as Chairman, Elder Br. C. vanPopta of Jubilee as Vice Chairman, Rev. C. J. Vandervelde of Rehoboth as Clerk. Classis was declared constituted, and the executive took their seats at the table.

In memorabilia, the chairman noted the health concerns of several of the retired ministers in our classis, as well as the work that many of them continue to do. Since the last classis, Jubilee church, then vacant, has received a positive outcome to their call to Rev. W. Bosch.

The first order of business attended to was the approbation of the call Jubilee Church extended to Rev. W. Bosch of St. Paul Church in Repentigny, Quebec, a congregation of l'église réformée du Québec (ERQ). Jubilee submitted the required documents to classis for review. Upon finding the documents complete and in good order, a brotherly colloquium took place with Jubilee Church's minister-elect. The brothers of classis enjoyed speaking with Rev. Bosch about his doctrine and knowledge of Reformed Church Polity.

During a closed session, classis heartily agreed the colloquium was satisfactory. This favourable conclusion was shared with Rev. W. Bosch in open session after which the Chairman read the Subscription Form for ministers of Classis Central Ontario. Rev. W. Bosch signed the form to complete the approbation of his call to Jubilee Church. Rev. George vanPopta, pastor emeritus of Jubilee Church, led the assembly in a prayer of thanksgiving, seeking the Lord's blessing on Rev. W. Bosch's transition to Jubilee Church, and his ministry there. Rev. George vanPopta was delegated to attend Rev. W. Bosch's installation. Rev. W. Bosch was then invited to take a seat at classis as a fraternal delegate from the ERQ.

Classis adopted the following proposal of Fellowship Church:

Upon approval of C.O.W., that Blessings Christian Church of Hamilton be seated at C.C.O. in Sept 2017. Grounds:

- 1. The relocation of Blessings Christian Church to Classis Central Ontario would redress inequities between two (2) Ontario classes in terms of number of churches and size of membership.*
- 2. The churches of a newly aligned Classis Central Ontario could formally collaborate on missional endeavors and assist each other in discussing methods and strategies for bringing the gospel to the urban centers of Ontario.*

Rev. W. Bosch brought Christian greetings from the ERQ and shared encouraging words from scripture. Rev. John van Popta responded in kind and offered thoughts and prayers on behalf of C.C.O. to the ERQ. He also asked God for his grace upon St. Paul during their upcoming vacancy.

Question period according to Article 44 of the Church Order was held. The chairman asked the churches whether the ministry of the office bearers is ongoing, whether they are honouring the decisions of the major assemblies, and whether there is any matter in which the consistories need the judgment and help of the classis for the proper government of their church. Classis thankfully noted that all the churches answered: "yes, yes, and no" respectively.

Classis made appointments according to its conventional schedule. The convening church for the next classis is Bethel, scheduled for June 16 at Ebenezer Church. The alternate date is set for September 15, 2017. The suggested officers are Rev. C. Vandervelde (Chairman); Bethel Elder delegate (Vice Chairman), Rev J. L. van Popta (Clerk).

After a brief question period, the chairman addressed the assembly and determined that Christian censure according to Art. 34 C.O. was not necessary.

The Acts of Classis and the Press Release for classis were read and approved for publication after which Rev. A.B. Roukema closed classis with a prayer of thanksgiving.

For Classis Central Ontario, March 10, 2017

Elder Chris vanPopta, Vice Chairman at the time