

Press Release of Classis Northern Ontario

convened 17 Sept 2025 at 7:30PM at Orangeville Canadian Reformed Church.

On behalf of the convening church Rev. M. VanderLinde welcomed the delegates and called the meeting to order. He read from John 4:46-54 and requested the singing of Hymn 69:3.

In prayer the following matters were mentioned: the vacant churches in our classis; the expected arrival of Rev. ten Haaf to Arthur; the beginning of the Seminary semester, convocation, and the very near classical examinations; the passing of Rev. Moesker, other ministers emeritus from our classis, and the 75th anniversary of Orangeville Canadian Reformed churches as well as other churches in the federation.

The delegates from the church of Guelph Living Word examined the credentials and found them to be in good order. Classis was constituted. The officers proposed by the previous classis were appointed with the exception of the clerk: Rev. J. Ludwig as chairman, Rev. M. VanderLinde as vice-chairman, and Rev. B. Vanderhorst as clerk.

The agenda was adopted.

Several reports were received with thankfulness: a report on the classical archives from the church at Orangeville, a report from the treasurer, a report was received from Owen Sound for auditing the books of the treasurer, a report was received from the Committee for Needy Churches, and a report was received from Fergus Maranatha for auditing of the books of the fund for needy churches.

Question period according to Article 44 of the Church Order was held. The churches reported that the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued and the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured. No church(es) asked for advice.

Correspondence was received from the Archive church (Owen Sound) regarding whether or not to digitize our archives, or to maintain the physical archive. A round of discussion was held. The Archive church was instructed to come to next classis with a report on costs to switch to digital.

The church at Owen Sound was appointed to convene the next classis. The suggested date is 10 December 2025 with 25 March 2025 as alternate. Suggested officers are as follows: chairman: Rev. E. Onderwater; vice-chairman: Rev. S. Vandavelde; clerk: Rev. J. Ludwig.

Appointments were made for classical examinations, church visitors, archives, auditing of the archives, treasurer, auditing of the records of the treasure, the committee for needy churches, and for auditing the books of the fund for needy churches.

The neighboring church list was reviewed.

For the committee of appeals, brother Steve Brouwer of Orangeville was appointed to the committee of appeals as primary, with brother James Jonker of Grand Valley as alternate.

Minister Delegates to Regional Synod were appointed: Primary delegates are Rev. T. Vandergaag and Rev. B. Vanderhorst. Rev. VanderLinde and Rev. Vandeveld were appointed as alternates.

Elder Delegates to Regional Synod were appointed: As primary delegate, Br. Derek Reinink (Arthur) was appointed with an alternate of Br. Tristan Venema; as primary delegate Br. Charles Groen (Brampton) was appointed with an alternate of Br. Michael Cooperwhite.

The church for invitation and appointments for observers to and from classis was entrusted with that task.

Question period was held. Censure according to article 34 was not deemed necessary. The chairman thanked the assembly for their brotherly manner during this classis.

The Acts were adopted and the Press Release was approved.

The chairman requested the singing of Psalm 92:1, 2 and then led in prayer. Classis was then declared closed.



Rev. Mark VanderLinde
Vice-chairman at Classis Northern Ontario, Sept 17, 2025.