

**Press Release of  
Classis Ontario West  
Held 28 May & 6 June 2025**

**Opening of Classis**

On behalf of the convening church (Ancaster CanRC), Rev. P. Holtvluwer opened the meeting with reading and singing from Ps. 48. He then led in prayer, remembering the following matters: thankfulness that GS 2025 could complete its work in peace and harmony; gratitude for the completion of another year of studies at CRTS; the continued vacancies of Caledonia and Hamilton-Cornerstone; the students presenting themselves for examination. The credentials were found to be in good order. Classis was declared constituted.

The following brothers formed the moderamen as per the suggestion of the previous classis: Chairman – Rev. K. Kok; Vice-Chairman – Rev. J. Temple; Clerk – Rev. T. VanBeek. Rev. Kok thanked the church of Ancaster for convening classis and completing all the preparatory work. After deciding which agenda items would be dealt with on 28 May, and those that would be dealt with 11 June, the agenda was adopted with minor emendations.

**Licensure Examinations:**

Four CRTS students submitted sermon proposals and each proposal was deemed sufficient to proceed with an examination in doctrine and creeds. After being examined the following brothers were granted permission to speak an edifying word in the churches: Br. Zachary Bonura, Br. Jayden Houweling, Br. Caleb Poppe and Br. Thomas VanLeeuwen.

**Question Period As Per CO Art. 44:** By God's grace, all of the churches were able to affirm that the ministry of the Gospel is being faithfully continued and the decisions of the broader assemblies are being honoured. One church asked for advice regarding the execution of the disciplinary process.

**Correspondence Received:**

A request to extend the permission to speak an edifying word was made by the following brothers: Raoul Kingma and Adam Werkman. Both of these brothers are currently involved in pursuing advanced theological education with an eye to serving in the ministry in due course. These requests were granted and, after promising not to teach, preach anything contrary to God's Word as summarized in the confessions, each of the brothers was given permission to speak an edifying word, for a one-year (12 month) period, with the possibility of further extension upon request.

Letters of fraternal greeting from the HRC and Classis Michigan of the URCNA were received and read with thankfulness.

**Reports:**

With thankfulness, Classis received the various church visitation reports from the past year. It was noted that there is reason for sincere gratitude to the LORD for His continued care for the churches during the course of the past year. A report was received from Br. Brian Vanderhout (Classical Treasurer), providing a financial accounting for the period 1 April 2024

to 31 March 2025. Classis also received a letter from Hamilton-Cornerstone attesting to the fidelity of the financial statements provided by Br. Vanderhout, and thanking Br. Vanderhout for his thorough and conscientious labours. A report regarding the status of the Classical archives was received from Grace-Kerwood. A number of outstanding matters related to the completeness of those archives were discussed. Finally, Classis received a report from an ad hoc committee tasked with interacting with the church at Grand Rapids.

### **Appointments:**

- Next meeting of Classis: 17 September 2025
- Convening church: Living Hope (Caledonia)
- Suggested Officers:
  - Chair: Rev. J. Temple
  - Vice-Chair: Rev. T. VanBeek
  - Clerk: Rev. S. VanLeeuwen
- Classical Treasurer: Br. Brian Vanderhout
- Church For Auditing the Classical Books: Hamilton-Cornerstone.
- Archival Church: Pilgrim (London)
- Review of the Archives: Grace (Kerwood)
- Church Visitors: Rev. K. Kok (Convenor)
- Committee of Examiners: Revs. Holtvluwer, Kok, VanWoudenberg
- Committee of Appeals: Brs. B. Faber, F. Oostdyk, H. VanDooren (Alternates: T. Beijes, B. Harsevoort, B. Stieva – in that order)
- Fund For Needy Churches: Ancaster
- Fund For Needy Churches (Audit): Hamilton-Providence
- Inter-Church Committee: Brs. P. Engbers, J. Jansens, J. Temple.

### **Adjournment of Classis:**

Personal question was made use of. With thankfulness, the chairman could conclude that there was no need for Christian censure (cf. Article 34 CO). The chairman then led in thanksgiving prayer and classis was adjourned until 8:30am on 11 June 2025.

### **Re-Opening of Classis:**

The chairman called the meeting to order. All of the properly credentialed delegates were found to be present and the chairman led in opening devotions. In Rev. Temple's absence, Rev. Vreugdenhil was appointed to serve as Vice-Chairman.

### **Preparatory Examinations:**

Four CRTS students submitted sermon proposals to classis. In closed session, classis deemed that the proposals of Brs. Mitchell Bosveld, Reese Gaillard and Joshua Schouten were sufficient to continue their examinations. The sermon proposal submitted by Br. Damon Bosveld was not deemed sufficient to proceed with his examination. Due to illness, Br. Mitchell Bosveld could not be present and Classis decided to reconvene on 2 July, in order to complete his examination. In turn, Brs. Gaillard and Schouten were examined in open session in the areas of OT exegesis, NT exegesis, and Doctrine & Creeds. In closed session, Classis determined that each of these brothers had sustained their examinations. After each of these brothers gave their promise not to teach, or preach, anything contrary to Scripture or the confessions, Classis granted each of them a certificate of candidacy for the ministry,

lasting for a period of three years (36 months).

**Adjournment of Classis:**

Personal question was made use of. With thankfulness, the chairman could conclude that there was no need for Christian censure (cf. Article 34 CO). The chairman then led in thanksgiving prayer and classis was adjourned until 6:30pm on 2 July 2025.

**Re-Opening of Classis:**

The chairman called the meeting to order. All of the properly credentialed delegates were found to be present and the chairman led in opening devotions. Br. Mitchell Bosveld was examined in the areas of: OT exegesis, NT exegesis and Doctrines and Creeds. In closed session, Classis determined that Br. Bosveld had sustained the examination. After promising that he would not teach, or preach, anything contrary to Scripture, or the confessions, he was granted a certificate of candidacy for the ministry, lasting for a period of three years (36 months).

**Closing of Classis:**

With thankfulness, the chairman could conclude that there was no need for Christian censure (cf. Article 34 CO). The Acts of Classis and the Press Release were read and approved. The chairman then led in thanksgiving prayer and classis was declared closed.

*For Classis Ontario West 28 May, 11 June & 2 June 2025 - Rev. J. Temple (vice-chairman at that time)*