

Press Release of Classis Central Ontario, June 13, 2008

Opening: On behalf of the convening church at Toronto, Rev. W. den Hollander opens by reading 2 Timothy 2:1-8 and asking everyone to sing Hy. 46: 1, 2. He then leads in prayer. All the delegates are welcomed, as well as all visitors.

Constitution of Classis: The delegates from Ottawa examine the credentials. Everything is in order and all the *primi* delegates are present. Classis is declared constituted. The officers take their place: chairman – Rev. J. DeGelder; clerk – Rev. J.L. VanPopta; vice-chairman – Rev. W. den Hollander.

Memorabilia: The chairman thanks the church at Toronto for the preparations and opening of Classis. As memorabilia he mentions the church at Burlington-Waterdown, which is about to become vacant at Rev. Huijgen's departure; the church at Ottawa received an acceptance of the call by Rev. G. Ph. VanPopta; the church at Toronto will see their missionary, the Rev. 't Hart, go to the church of Baldivis, W.A.; the Rev. Bosch is enjoying good health and engaged for four months with work in Australia; the Rev. & sr. Huijgen celebrated their 25th anniversary; Prof. G.H. Visscher successfully defended his doctoral thesis; Dr. DeJong suffered a fall, breaking his hip; Dr. N.H. Gootjes has been relieved of his teaching duties at our Theol. College for health reasons, yet the teaching at the College could continue. He entrusts all these churches and members to the special mercies and blessings of our God!

Agenda: The agenda is adopted after a few additions: the reply of the Deputies art. 48 C.O., reporting upon the request of Classis Central Ontario, March 14, 2008; 2 instructions from the church at Burlington-Waterdown, namely the release from Classis Central Ontario for Rev. J. Huijgen, who accepted a call to the church at Attercliffe), and the appointment of a counsellor; 1 instruction from the church at Ottawa regarding the approbation of the call of Rev. G. Ph. VanPopta.

Reports: Upon request, the report of the Deputies art. 48 C.O. is tabled first. Classis went into closed session for the discussion of this report. After the matter had come to a judgment, a motion was made requesting that Classis be adjourned. Classis granted this request, with the provision that it would deal with the instructions of Burlington-Waterdown prior to this adjournment. Classis moves out of closed session.

Instructions: The church at Burlington-Waterdown requests the release from Classis Central Ontario of the Rev. J. Huijgen. Classis scrutinizes the required documentation, which is found to be in good order. Classis grants this request and the chairman and clerk sign the Certificate of Release. The chairman addresses the Rev. Huijgen with some appropriate words. The elder delegate of Rehoboth Church at Burlington-Waterdown extends an invitation to the churches to attend the farewell service, D.V. on June 22, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. The neighbouring church of Flamborough is appointed to represent Classis. The church at Burlington-Waterdown also requests the appointment of the Rev. J. DeGelder as a counsellor ad art. 45 C.O. Granted. Since the church at Ottawa had

asked Classis to make arrangements for a Classis Contracta with a view to the approbation of the call to the Rev. G. Ph. VanPopta, Classis decides to deal with this matter upon the continuation of Classis on June 27, 2008.

Question Period: is not used.

Censure according to art. 34 C.O.: The chairman observes with thankfulness that such censure is not necessary. He thanks the brothers for their good cooperation.

Acts and Press Release: the Acts of the proceedings on this day are read and adopted; also the Press Release to this point of the meeting of Classis is read and approved.

Closing: The chairman suggests the singing of Ps. 84: 1, 6. He leads in closing prayer and adjourns the meeting till June 27, 2008.

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Re-opening, June 27, 2008: The chairman of Classis, Rev. J. DeGelder, re-opens the meeting, which is a continuation of the June 13, 2008 meeting of Classis. He asks everyone to sing Ps. 147: 1, 2, reads Romans 12, and then leads in prayer. He reads the roll-call and notes that there are alternate delegates for the churches at Burlington-Fellowship and Flamborough. He reiterates the remaining matters on the agenda of Classis. Classis continues in open session. The chairman asks the delegates of the Fellowship church for the response of their Council to the decision of Classis in its first session. After ample discussion of their response, Classis decides that the recourse of Fellowship is to follow the way of appeal.

Reports: Church Visitation Reports – Visits to the church at Burlington Ebenezer, Burlington Fellowship, Burlington-Waterdown, Flamborough, Ottawa, and Toronto are reported on by the church visitors. These reports are received with thankfulness for the Lord's care and blessings on these churches and for the faithful leadership in these churches.

Question Period ad Art. 44 C.O.: The chairman asks the delegates the questions from art. 44 and the delegates answer in turn. The church at Flamborough asks advice concerning a request as per the Fund for Financial Aid to Students for the Ministry, which is managed by the church of Flamborough. Advice is given.

Instructions: The church at Ottawa requests the approbation of the call to the Rev. G. Ph. VanPopta. Classis examines the required documentation, which is found to be in good order. Classis grants the request. The chairman congratulates the church of Ottawa with her "new" pastor and teacher and wishes them the Lord's blessing on his ministry. He also addresses the Rev. G. Ph. VanPopta, who is present as guest at Classis, wishing him the Lord's blessing during this time of transition. Classis appoints the church of Burlington-Fellowship to represent Classis at the installation of Rev. G. Ph. VanPopta.

Correspondence:

1. A request for Revision re the appeal of Rev. D. de Jong at Classis Ontario June 9, 2006 is given in discussion. Classis declares this request admissible. Classis judges that, 1. Ebenezer is correct in its understanding that the funds received from Superannuation belong to the member church; 2.

Ebenezer must use these funds for the purpose of meeting its obligation under art. 13 C.O.

2. An appeal against Burlington-Fellowship re Women Voting privileges is given in discussion. Classis declares this appeal admissible according to art. 31 C.O. Classis deals with it in open session. Classis formulates its judgment in response to the appeal.

Appointments

- a. *Next Classis* – Convening church: Burlington Ebenezer, on September 12, 2008;
- b. Suggested officers: Rev. G. Nederveen – chairman; Rev. J. DeGelder – vice-chairman; Rev. W. den Hollander – clerk.

Question Period: is used. A question is raised for the purpose of receiving pastoral advice. At this time also, the Rev. J. Huijgen expresses words of appreciation and gratitude for the years he has been working in Classis Central Ontario. The chairman responds in kind.

Censure according to art. 34 C.O.: The chairman observes with thankfulness that such censure is not necessary and thanks the brothers for their good cooperation. The vice-chairman thanks the chairman for the manner in which he led the sessions of this Classis.

Acts and Press Release: The Acts are read and adopted. The Press Release is read and approved.

Closing: The vice-chairman suggests the singing of Ps. 122: 1, 3, and leads in closing prayer.

For Classis Central Ontario of June 13/27, 2008,
W. den Hollander, vice-chairman at that time