

Press Release of Classis Central Ontario, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

The classis was convened by *Fellowship* Church of Burlington. On behalf of *Fellowship*, the Rev. J.L. van Popta called the meeting to order. We read Psalm 133 and sang the same. Rev. J. van Popta recalled the memorabilia: Dr. J. de Jong has moved to Shalom Manor; the Rev. J. Mulder could celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and faces some health concerns; Rev. G. Nederveen could celebrate his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the ministry; the *Burlington-Waterdown* Church continues to experience a vacancy in the office of minister; *Jubilee* Church in Ottawa has celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Rev. J. van Popta then led the assembly in prayer.

The delegates of *Ebenezer* Church reported that the credentials of the churches were in order and that all the churches were duly represented. Thus classis could be constituted. Appointed as officers were, Rev. J.L. van Popta as chairman; Rev. G.Ph. van Popta as vice-chairman; Rev. J. de Gelder as clerk.

The agenda was adopted.

Brother Ryan Kampen, student at the Theological College, presented himself to be examined for permission to speak an edifying word in the churches. After ascertaining that his supporting documents were in order, he was allowed to present his sermon proposal on Luke 7:31-35. During closed session, it was determined that the sermon was sufficient. The student manifested an aptitude for preaching the gospel. Classis, then, proceeded to the oral examination on doctrines and creeds. This was led by the Rev. J. de Gelder and focused on how the Reformed Confessions speak about the person and work of the Holy Spirit. In closed session it was determined that the examination was sufficient. On the basis of the examination, and in open session, Student Ryan Kampen was granted permission to speak an edifying word in the churches. Brother Kampen then signed the Form of Subscription for Students and Candidates in Classis Central Ontario. An opportunity was given for the brothers to congratulate Brother Kampen.

Classis welcomed the Rev. R. Anjema, representing Classis Southern Ontario of the United Reformed Churches, who brought greetings on behalf of his classis. As he is the pastor of Hope United Reformed Church of Woodbridge, he spoke thankfully about the very blessed contact between the United Reformed and the Canadian Reformed churches in the greater Toronto area. Rev. W. den Hollander spoke some fitting words in response expressing thanks to the Lord for the growing fellowship among the churches.

Under Question Period Church Order Article 44, the churches reported that the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued, that the decisions of the broader assemblies are being honoured, and that there is no need for advice from classis for the proper government of their churches.

*Bethel* Church requested that the Rev. S. 't Hart be released from service as minister. Rev. 't Hart has served as missionary in PNG for more than eleven years and has accepted a call to *Baldivis* Church in Western Australia. As all the documents were in order, Classis granted this release and commended the Rev. 't Hart to the Lord for his continued ministry of the word and sacraments. Rev. 't Hart has served as a faithful missionary-minister, and words of thanks were expressed to the Lord for what He did through His servant.

*Burlington-Waterdown* is appointed to be the convening church for the next classis which will be on either June 12<sup>th</sup> or September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Suggested officers are: chairman, Rev. W. den Hollander; vice-chairman, Rev. J.L. van Popta; clerk, Rev. G. Nederveen.

No questions were asked during personal question period. The chairman ruled that there was no need to exercise censure *ad* Church Order Article 34.

The acts were adopted and the press release approved.

After classis sang Hymn 40:5, Rev. De Gelder led in closing prayer.

G. van Popta  
Vice-chairman, *e.t.*