

Press Release of Classis Niagara March 23, 2010

After opening with reading from Psalm 27, prayer, and the singing of Psalm 27:1,3 and 6, Rev. VanDam welcomed the delegates, candidate Ken Bergsma, present for his peremptory examination, and the deputies of Regional Synod East, Rev. DenHollander and Rev. Ludwig. The delegates of the convening church of Grassie reviewed the credentials and found them in order. Classis was constituted, and the moderamen, Rev. Huijgen (chairman), Rev. Wynia (vice-chairman) and Rev. DeBoer (clerk) took their places.

In his introductory remarks, Rev. Huijgen mentioned the following memorabilia: the recent opening of the new church building of the church of Dunnville, the call which has been extended to Rev. DeBoer by the church of Vernon, B.C., the ongoing vacancy in the Spring Creek church, since Rev. J. Louwse had declined the call extended to him by that congregation, the ongoing vacancy in the church of Smithville, and the upcoming general synod Burlington.

The provisional agenda was adopted with some minor adjustments.

Once it was confirmed that the required credentials were in order, classis proceeded to the peremptory examination of candidate Bergsma. Classis heard the sermon proposal, based on Joshua 1:6,7. Following discussion in closed session, it was determined that the sermon was sufficient to continue the examination, with the concurrence of the deputies of regional synod. Classis then continued the examination in the areas of Old Testament exegesis, New Testament exegesis, Doctrines and Creeds, Church History, Knowledge of the Contents of Holy Scripture, Ethics, Diaconology and Church Polity. Following the discussion of examination in closed session, classis determined that br. Bergsma had not sustained the examination. The deputies of regional synod concurred.

The chairman asked the questions of Article 44. The church of Smithville was provided with pulpit supply.

Lincoln is the convening church for the next classis, which is scheduled for June 16, 2010. Suggested officers are Rev. Kok, chairman, Rev. DeBoer, vice-chairman, and Rev. Huijgen, clerk. The chairman will attend the next Classis Southwestern Ontario of the URCNA on our behalf, if the classis takes place in our area.

Personal question period was made use of. The chairman judged that censure according to Article 34 was not necessary. The acts were read and adopted, and the press release was read and approved. Rev. Huijgen closed the meeting with the singing of Psalm 80:7,8 and prayer.