

Press Release: Classis Niagara August 2008

Rev C.J. VanderVelde called the meeting to order on behalf of the convening church of Tintern and requested the delegates to sing from Hymn 40:1, 2. He also read from Revelation 1:9-20 and asked in prayer for a blessing over the meeting. He welcomed the brothers, including Rev J. Huijgen attending for the first time as a delegate, and Rev R. Wynia, present for a colloquium. The guests were also welcomed.

The delegates of the Church of Tintern examined the credentials. All delegates were present with one being an alternate. None of the churches had provided any instructions. Classis was declared constituted. The suggested moderamen took their places: Rev S.C. Van Dam as chair, Rev K. Kok as clerk, and Rev D. de Boer as vice chair. Rev Van Dam thanked the church of Spring Creek for the preparations for Classis. Special circumstances were remembered. In particular the church of Smithville is now vacant after the departure of Rev Souman. Rev J. Huijgen was installed into his office in the church Attercliffe. Also, br Rolf den Hollander, examined at the previous Classis Niagara, accepted the call to Winnipeg Grace and will shortly need to undergo his peremptory examination by a Classis Manitoba.

The agenda was adopted without changes.

Rev J. Huijgen was asked if he would sign the subscription form. The form was read, and Rev Huijgen confirmed before the delegates his commitment to carry out his work faithfully in agreement with the Confessions and the Church Order of the Canadian Reformed Churches.

The church of Lincoln requested a Colloquium for Rev Wynia. The necessary documents were presented by the Church of Lincoln. Rev K. Kok led the first part of the colloquium with a discussion on doctrine. Rev VanderVelde led the next part of the colloquium, focusing on the Church Order of the Canadian Reformed Churches. In closed session Classis decided that the Colloquium was satisfactory. In open session Rev Van Dam congratulated Rev Wynia and expressed thankfulness for the gifts and knowledge he has received and wished him the Lord's blessing in his work as the Lord's servant in Lincoln. The Church at Tintern was asked to represent Classis Niagara at the installation of Rev Wynia.

Rev Joel Dykstra expressed greetings to the assembly on behalf of Classis Southern Ontario of the United Reformed Churches of North America and wished the Lord's blessings to the Churches. Rev Van Dam thanked Rev Dykstra and expressed thankfulness for the growing unity and bond between the churches of the respective federations.

The chairman questioned the churches according to Article 44, C.O. The churches affirmed that they maintain the ministry of the offices and that they uphold the decisions of the major assemblies. There were no requests for the advice of Classis.

The Church of Tintern reported that the archives of Classis are complete and have been properly kept by the church of Attercliffe during the past year. The church of Grassie reported that the books of the treasurer have been audited and found to be complete and in good order. The treasurer was discharged for the period covered by the audit and thanked (in absentia) for his work. A report was received from the classis treasurer. The assessment for Classis for the upcoming year will be \$1 per communicant member and \$2 per communicant member for Regional Synod.

The Church of Smithville had previously submitted its Report re: the Fund for Needy Churches to the churches. Classis decided to assess the churches an amount of \$35 per communicant member for the support of the Church at Bluebell.

The Church at Attercliffe was appointed to be Convening Church for the next Classis Niagara on December 17, 2008. Suggested officers: Rev VanderVelde as chair, Rev Kok as vice chair, and Rev Van Dam as clerk. Br D. VanAmerongon Sr was reappointed as treasurer. Rev Kok and Rev Huijgen were appointed as church visitors, with Rev VanderVelde as alternate. Rev Huijgen and Rev Kok were appointed to Regional Synod 2008 in Chatham with Rev VanderVelde and Rev Van Dam as alternates. Elders W. Oosterhoff and F. Stoffels were also delegated with elders H. Olij and J. Van Zanten as alternates. The Church at Attercliffe was directed to invite fraternal delegates to the next Classis. Rev Van Dam is appointed to represent Classis Niagara at the next Classis Southern Ontario of the URCNA.

Personal question period was used. The Acts of Classis were read and adopted. The Press Release was read and approved.

Rev Van Dam led in prayer and asked the brothers to sing from Psalm 133:1, 2. The chairman then closed the meeting.

D. de Boer,

Clerk at the time