

Press Release of Classis Niagara held on January 13, 2010

On behalf of the convening church, Rev. D. De Boer welcomes all the delegates as well as Rev. Ludwg and Rev. Den Hollander as Regional Synod East deputies, and in particular Candidate Ken Bergsma. He invites all present to sing Ps 118:1, 2 and reads Ephesians 2 and leads in prayer.

The credentials are examined and found to be in order. Classis is declared constituted and the officers suggested by the last classis take their place. Rev. D. De Boer is the chairman, Rev. Wynia as clerk and Rev. S.C. Van Dam as vice-chairman. The agenda was adopted.

Candidate Ken Bergsma then presented himself for his preemptory examination according to Article 5 C.O. After it was determined that his documentation was in order, Classis proceeded to examine Candidate Bergsman. He presented his sermon proposal on 1 Peter 2:4-10. In closed session, Classis considered the sermon proposal to be sufficient and continued with the examination. Examinations were conducted in the areas of Old Testament exegesis and New Testament exegesis. Rev. J. Dykstra of Wellandport URC gave fraternal greetings on behalf of the United Reformed Churches of North America and spoke words of fellowship. Rev. Van Dam responded on behalf of Classis with words of appreciation.

After lunch, the examination of Candidate Bergsma continues in the areas of Doctrine and Creeds, Church History, Knowledge of Scripture, Ethics, Diaconiology and Church Order. Classis went into closed session to discuss the result of the examination. Candidate Bergsma did not sustain the exam.

The chairman asks the questions re Article 44 of the Church Order. The church at Smithville asks advice regarding matters of pastoral oversight. In closed session, advice is given.

The report of the church at Smithville regarding the request for financial assistance for the year 2010 for the church at Blue Bell is received. Classis decides to grant the church at Blue Bell its request and assesses the churches at \$32 (Cnd.) per member. The report from the church at Spring Creek examining the classical archives is received. The archives were found to be in good order.

The convening church for the next classis is Grassie and the date is set for March 24, 2010. The suggested officers for the next Classis are: Rev. J. Huijgen as chair, Rev. D. De Boer clerk, and Rev. D. Wynia, vice-chairman. Observers to the next classis will be invited. Personal question period is made use of.

It is determined by the chairman with thankfulness that nothing censurable was said or done during the meeting. The Acts of Classis is presented and adopted. The press release is presented and adopted. After inviting the delegates to sing Ps 121:1, 4, the chairman closes the meeting with prayer.

For Classis,

Rev. S.C. Van Dam, vice-chairman at that time