

**Press Release of Classis Northern Ontario April 4, 2008, held at Brampton, Ontario.**

On behalf of the convening church of Brampton Rev. M. VanLuik called the meeting to order and requested the singing of Hymn 21:1, 3. He read Isaiah 52:1-12, led in prayer and reflected briefly on the passage that was read. He then welcomed both the delegates and guests.

The delegates from Owen Sound examined the credentials and found them to be in order. Classis was declared constituted and the officers proposed by the last classis took their places, Rev. Kampen as chairman, Rev. Feenstra as vice-chairman and Rev. Geurts as clerk.

The chairman noted that since the last classis Rev. W. den Hollander declined his call from Elora, Rev. W. Slomp declined his call from Owen Sound and Rev. J.E. Ludwig declined his call from Elora. Rev. S. 't Hart, the missionary of Toronto who is supported by the churches of this classical region, has received calls 2 calls from churches in Australia. The ongoing health concerns of Dr. Gootjes were also remembered. After these items of memorabilia the agenda was adopted.

After presenting the documents required for an examination to receive permission to speak an edifying word in the churches, Brother Ryan deJonge presented his sermon proposal on Deuteronomy 8:2-3. In closed session it was decided to continue the examination and then in open session he was examined on Doctrine and Creeds. In closed session it was decided that Brother deJonge had sustained the examination and then in open session he was informed that he is granted permission to speak an edifying word in the federation of the Canadian Reformed Churches for a period of 15 months upon the successful completion of his third year of studies. Brother deJonge promised not to preach anything in conflict with the doctrine of the Word of God, summarized in the Confessions of the Canadian Reformed Churches. Rev. VanLuik led in a prayer of thanksgiving and an opportunity was given to offer congratulations to Brother deJonge and his family.

After presenting the documents required for an examination to receive permission to speak an edifying word in the churches, Brother Ken Bergsma presented his sermon proposal on Matthew 9:9-13. In closed session it was decided to continue the examination and then in open session he was examined on Doctrine and Creeds. In closed session it was decided that Brother Bergsma had sustained the examination and then in open session he was informed that he is granted permission to speak an edifying word in the federation of the Canadian Reformed Churches for a period of 15 months upon the successful completion of his third year of studies. Brother Bergsma promised not to preach anything in conflict with the doctrine of the Word of God, summarized in the Confessions of the Canadian Reformed Churches. Rev. VanWoudenberg led in a prayer of thanksgiving and an opportunity was given to offer congratulations to Brother Bergsma and his wife.

Classis received a report on a visit made by Rev. E. Kampen to the Synod of the ERQ on March 29, 2008.

Classis received a report from the Committee of Examiners regarding the procedure of examining students for permission to speak an edifying word in the churches. The brothers were asked to take this back and to prepare a proposal for a future classis. Any proposal will first be sent to the churches.

All the churches affirmed that the ministry of the office bearers is being continued and that the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured. The church of Guelph asked for and was given the advice of Classis on a matter of discipline.

The church at Elora was appointed to convene the next Classis on Friday June 20, 2008 at 9:00 am. It was proposed that Rev. VanLuik serve as chairman, Rev. Geurts as vice-chairman and Rev. Kampen as clerk.

Rev. Ferguson of the OPC was given the opportunity to address classis. He gave the greetings of the Ecumenicity committee and of his own church. Rev. Lankheet of the URCNA left a message that he was not able to attend.

The church of Elora was instructed to extend an invitation to the next classis to Classis Southern Ontario of the URCNA, to the ERQ and to the Presbytery of Michigan and Ontario of the OPC.

Question period was made use of. Censure according to Article 34 C.O. was not necessary. The Acts of Classis were adopted. The Press Release was approved.

The chairman requested that Classis sing Hymn 48:1, 4, led in prayer and then declared Classis closed.

For Classis,  
Rev. W. Geurts, clerk at that time.