

**Press Release of Classis Northern Ontario September 19, 2008, held at Elora, Ontario.**

On behalf of the convening church of Elora Brother Peter Scharringa called the meeting to order and requested the singing of Hymn 64:1, 2. He then read 1 Timothy 2 and led in prayer. He welcomed the delegates and gave a special welcome to Rev. Folkerts of Listowel URC. A number of points of memorabilia were mentioned. Both Owen Sound and Elora are still vacant. Rev. VanWoudenberg has received calls to both Smithville and Elora. Rev. Versteg has accepted the call extended to him from the church in Toronto for mission work in PNG.

The delegates from Brampton 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. VanLuik as chairman, Rev. Geurts as vice-chairman and Rev. Kampen as clerk. The agenda was adopted with a few additions.

Reports were received with thankfulness for church visitations made to Brampton, Elora, Fergus North, Fergus Maranatha, Grand Valley, Guelph, Orangeville and Owen Sound. The Lord was thanked in prayer for all the blessings that He has given to His churches and was asked for His continuing care and guidance.

A report was received from the church at Orangeville regarding the inspection of the archives of Classis Northern Ontario. The archives are in good order.

A report was received from the church at Guelph regarding the Fund for Financial Aid to Students of the Ministry. The Fund balance is \$5,770.61 and there have been no requests for assistance over the past year. The recommendation that there be no assessment for 2009 was adopted.

A report was received from the church of Fergus Maranatha regarding the audit of the books for the Fund for Financial Aid to Students of the Ministry. The books are in good order.

A report was received from the Committee for Needy Churches. The Fund balance is \$14,109 and there have been no requests for assistance over the past year. The recommendation that there be no assessment for 2009 was adopted.

A report was received from the church of Fergus Maranatha regarding the audit of the books of the Fund for Needy Churches. The books are in good order.

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. Fergus Maranatha asked for advice and it was given. Guelph asked for advice on a matter of discipline. In closed session concurring advice was given to proceed with the 2<sup>nd</sup> announcement.

Elora asked for continuing pulpit supply. They were reminded that the last Classis granted this for the duration of their current vacancy.

An appeal was received from two bothers and a sister and was dealt with in closed session.

Rev. Folkerts was given the opportunity to address Classis. He extended the greetings of the URC churches in southern Ontario and he gave words of encouragement, also for the process of church unity.

Letters were received from the Theological College indicating that brothers Ken Bergsma and Ryan Dejonge have completed the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of their studies.

The church of Fergus-Maranatha was appointed to convene the next Classis on Friday December 12, 2008 at 9:00 am. It was proposed that Rev. VanWoudenberg serve as chairman, Rev. Kampen as vice-chairman and Rev. VanLuik as clerk.

The following appointments were made:

1. Examination of students:
  - a. Committee of examiners: Rev. Feenstra, Rev. VanWoudenberg
  - b. Examiner on Old Testament exegesis: Rev. M. VanLuik
  - c. Examiner on New Testament exegesis: Rev. VanWoudenberg
  - d. Examiner on Doctrine and Creeds: Rev. Feenstra
  - e. Examiner on Knowledge of Scripture: Rev. Geurts
  - f. Examiner on Church History: Rev. Kampen
  - g. Examiner on Ethics: Rev. Kampen
  - h. Examiner on Church Polity: Rev. Geurts
  - i. Examiner on Diaconology: Rev. Agema
2. Church Visitors: Rev. Agema, Rev. Feenstra (coordinator), Rev. VanLuik, Rev. VanWoudenberg, Rev. Kampen, Rev. Geurts.
3. Church for taking care of the archives: Owen Sound
4. Treasurer: F. Hoekstra, 885 30<sup>th</sup> Street West, R.R.# 7, Owen Sound, ON N4K 6V5.
5. Church to audit the records of the treasurer: Owen Sound
6. Church for Financial Aid to Students for the Ministry: Guelph
7. Church for auditing the books of the Fund for Financial Aid to Students for the Ministry: Fergus-Maranatha
8. Committee for Needy Churches: C. VanRaalte (2009), J. Hutten (2010) and F. Westrik (2011).
9. Church for auditing the books of the Fund for Needy Churches: Fergus-Maranatha
10. Neighbouring Churches:
  - for Brampton: Guelph
  - for Fergus Maranatha: Elora
  - for Fergus North: Owen Sound
  - for Grand Valley: Orangeville
  - for Guelph: Fergus Maranatha
  - for Orangeville: Brampton
  - for Owen Sound: Grand Valley

The following ministers were appointed as delegates to Regional Synod East November 12, 2008: D. Agema & P. Feenstra. As alternates: M. VanLuik & W. Geurts (in that order). The following elders were also appointed as delegates: C. Poppe & J. Post. As alternates: A. Kingma & G. Nordeman (in that order).

The convening church of the next Classis was instructed to invite observers from the URCNA, the OPC and the ERQ and if possible to send a delegation to their assemblies.

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 Psalm 111:1, 2, led in prayer and then declared Classis closed.

For Classis,  
Rev. W. Geurts, vice-chairman at that time.