

Press Release of Classis Northern Ontario March 27, 2009

Classis Northern Ontario was held on March 27, 2009 in the Maranatha Canadian Reformed Church in Fergus, ON. All the churches were properly represented. Rev. D.G.J. Agema served as chairman for Classis. The main items on the agenda were three proposals pertaining to the function of classis and the approbation of a call.

The first proposal pertained to the Fund for Needy Churches. Since no Church had asked for financial assistance from the Fund for Needy Churches for quite some years and the size of the churches enables all to be self sufficient, the Church at Orangeville proposed to transfer the moneys in that fund (\$14,190) to cover general Classis expenses. Classis adopted this proposal.

The second proposal recommended that Classis adopt a set of guidelines for dealing with appeals. The aim of these guidelines is to avoid lack of clarity both in terms of expression and documentation which at times makes it difficult for a Classis to deal with an appeal. The proposal included the appointment of a Committee to make sure that all relevant materials are available for Classis. Classis adopted this proposal after some minor modifications. The churches will be asked to submit names of brothers deemed suitable to serve on this committee to the next classis, which will then appoint a committee. These guidelines will be available for the members of the churches through the local councils.

The third proposal concerned the revision of Classical Regulations to include procedures for examining students seeking permission to speak an edifying word as well as the procedure for a colloquium. This revision was seen as being necessary to enable all office bearers to know what is required for these examinations without being dependent on the collective memory of delegates. While Classis was in favour of the general direction, it asked the Committee of Examiners who prepared the proposal to rework it, incorporating the various comments and suggestions made and present it to the next Classis for approval.

Finally, the Church at Elora requested the approval of the call extended to Rev. C. J. VanderVelde. All the documents were found to be in order and the call was approved. Classis looks forward to having Rev. VanderVelde serve in the midst of the churches in this region.

The next classis was scheduled for June 26, 2009, to be convened by the Church at Fergus North.

The chairman noted with thankfulness that the meeting could be conducted in brotherly harmony. After thanksgiving in prayer, the meeting was closed.

Rev. E. Kampen

Vice chairman at that time