

Press Release of Classis Northern Ontario June 26, 2009.

Classis Northern Ontario was held on June 26, 2009 in the Maranatha Canadian Reformed Church in Fergus, ON. All the churches were properly represented. Rev. J. VanWoudenberg served as chairman for Classis. The main items on the agenda were the Preparatory examination of two brothers as well as the approbation of the call of Rev. J. Moesker to the Owen Sound Canadian Reformed Church.

The chairman remembers that Rev. t'Hart has completed his work on the mission field in Papua New Guinea and that Rev. Versteeg has been installed as the new missionary by the church at Toronto. This is the second time that Rev. Versteeg will work as missionary under the direction of the church at Toronto. He also welcomes Rev. VanderVelde who is at classis for the first time and at the request of the chairman he signs the Classical subscription form.

Br. Ryan deJonge is given the opportunity to present his sermon proposal on Luke 17:11-19. Classis deems the sermon proposal to be sufficient and continues the examination in Old Testament and New Testament exegesis and the doctrine of the church. Classis deems the exam sufficient and declares Ryan deJonge eligible for call in the Canadian Reformed Churches.

After lunch br. Ken Bergsma presents his sermon proposal on John 14:6. The sermon is deemed sufficient and the examination continues in Old Testament and New Testament exegesis and the doctrine of the church. Br. Bergsma did not sustain his examination. Classis decides to extend the right to speak an edifying word for another year to this brother.

Rev. P.J. Vellenga spoke to Classis on behalf of the United Reformed Churches encouraging us in the work of unity that continues between the churches. Rev. VanWoudenberg responded with words of encouragement expressing thankfulness for the contact with the URC and the desire that the work toward unity may be blessed by the Lord. Rev. J. Bouwers was also present at Classis as a representative of the URC.

Church visitation reports are read for the following churches: Brampton, Elora, Fergus Maranatha, Fergus North, Grand Valley, Guelph, Orangeville and Owen Sound. Classis received these reports with thankfulness noting that the churches continue to be faithful in their work and that the Lord continues to be faithful to his church.

The Church at Owen Sound requested the approval of the call extended to Rev. J. Moesker. All the documents were found to be in order and the call was approved. Classis looks forward to having Rev. Moesker serve in the midst of the churches in this region.

The church at Fergus North asks Classis to support a proposal to be sent to Regional Synod, suggesting that Art. 38 of the C.O. be changed by deleting the last part of the article so that the article in whole reads, "In all churches there shall be a consistory

composed of the minister of the Word and the elders who, as a rule, shall meet at least once a month.” Classis rejected the proposal for the reason that the grounds given by Fergus North were insufficient.

Classis appoints six brothers to serve on the appeals committee. Brother Archie Bax is appointed as the convener of the committee. The next classis was scheduled for September 25, 2009, to be convened by the Church at Grand Valley.

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

Rev. M.H. VanLuik
Vice chairman at that time.