

Press Release of Classis Ontario West, June 18, 2008 at Ancaster, ON

1. Opening

On behalf of the convening church at Ancaster, Rev. G. vanPopta called the meeting to order. He read from Isaiah 40:1-11 and after a short meditation on this passage he then requested that Hymn 11:1,3 be sung. After this he led in prayer. Rev. G. vanPopta welcomed the delegates as well as the guests present.

2. Constitution

The credentials were examined by the convening church. All churches were lawfully represented and classis was constituted. The following officers were appointed:

Chairman – Rev. H. Versteeg

Clerk – Rev. G. vanPopta

Vice-chairman – Rev. D. Vandeburgt.

The chairman thanked the church at Ancaster for hosting the meeting. Under memorabilia it was noted that Rev. G. vanPopta had accepted the call to the church at Ottawa. The church at Ancaster was commended to the Lord's care in their vacancy. The agenda was adopted with the necessary amendments.

3. Preparatory Examination of br. Stuart Harsevoort

Br. Harsevoort was welcomed along with his wife and family. The necessary documents were presented and found to be in good order. The examination proceeded. Br. Harsevoort delivered his sermon proposal on Mark 1:14-15. In closed session Classis deemed the proposal sufficient and the examination continued in the following areas: Old Testament (Ezekiel 4); New Testament (Revelation 5); and Doctrine (Sin and man's repentance). In closed session Classis deemed the examination sufficient and br. Harsevoort was declared eligible for call in the Canadian and American Reformed Churches after he had promised not to preach anything contrary to the word of God as confessed in the Three Forms of Unity. Additionally permission was given to br. Harsevoort to speak an edifying word for the period of one year. After singing from Hymn 64:1,2 and a prayer of thanksgiving the assembly and guests were given an opportunity to congratulate br. Harsevoort and his wife Sherri.

4. Preparatory Examination of br. Cornelis Kleyn

Br. Kleyn was welcomed along with his wife Greta. All necessary documents were presented and found to be in good order. The examination proceeded. Br. Kleyn presented his sermon proposal on Isaiah 6:9-13. In closed session Classis deemed the proposal sufficient

and the examination continued in the following areas: Old Testament (Genesis 33); New Testament (1 Peter 1), and Doctrine (Scripture and confessions on covenant, election and justification). In closed session Classis deemed the examination sufficient and br. Kleyn was declared eligible for call in the Canadian and American Reformed Churches after he had promised not to preach anything contrary to the word of God as confessed in the Three Forms of Unity. After singing Hymn 58:1,2 and a prayer of thanksgiving the assembly and guests were given the opportunity to congratulate br. Kleyn and his wife Greta.

5. Question Period (Article 44 CO) was held and the delegates confirmed that the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued, the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured and no consistory needed the judgement and help of classis for the proper government of their church.

6. Correspondence

- a. The Church at Ancaster requests that Rev. G. vanPopta be granted a classical release as per Articles 5&9 of the Church Order. Classis decides to honourably release Rev. G. vanPopta. Additionally, the church at Ancaster requests both a counsellor as per article 45 of the Church Order and pulpit supply once a month. Classis appoints Dr. A. de Visser as counsellor and decides to provide pulpit supply once a month beginning August 2008.
- b. From br. DongWoo Oh there was a request to extend classical permission to speak an edifying word. Permission was granted for another year.
- c. From the Book of Praise Committee, by decision of Synod Smithers 2007, the Form of Subscription for use at Classis is received. Classis adopted this form for use.

7. Reports

- a. The church at Chatham provided its annual report for the fund for Needy Students.
- b. The Classis Treasurer, br. Brian Vanderhout, provided a financial report for the period May 1, 2007 to April 30, 2008.
- c. The Church at Hamilton gave an auditors report for the period Jan 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007. The report indicates the books are in good order. Classis discharges the treasurer of responsibility for the period indicated in the auditors report.
- d. The church at Kerwood reported that the archives of Classis Ontario West have been inspected and for the most part are complete and in good order. It was noted that the record of the

- signing of the classical subscription form by Rev. B. DeJong on March 26, 2008 was accidentally omitted from the Acts.
- e. Church visitation reports. In closed session church visitation reports were received for seven churches in the classical region.

11. Appointments

Classis made the following appointments

- (a) Next classis: Glanbrook (convening and hosting church) on September 10, 2008.
- (b) Officers: Rev. B. DeJong (chairman), Rev. R. Pot (clerk), Rev. J. Ludwig (vice-chairman).
- (c) Treasurer: br. B. Vanderhout
- (d) Auditing the books of the treasurer: Hamilton-Cornerstone
- (e) Archives: London
- (f) Inspecting the archives: Kerwood
- (g) Church Visitors: Rev. H. Versteeg, Rev. J. Ludwig alt. Rev. D. Vandeburgt
- (i) Classical Examiners: Rev. J. Ludwig and Rev. R. Pot.
- (j) Needy Students Fund: Chatham
- (k) Needy Churches Fund: Ancaster
- (l) Church for Ecumenical Relations: Kerwood

12. Personal Question period was held. During this time the delegates of the church at Kerwood informed the assembly that they had extended a call to Candidate C. Kleyn.

13. The chairman noted that censure was not needed and he expressed his appreciation for the brotherly co-operation.

14. The Acts were read and adopted.

15. The Press Release was read and approved.

16. Closing

The chairman requested the brothers to sing Hymn 41:1,2 and then lead in prayer.

For Classis, D. Vandeburgt
Vice-chairman at that time.