

Press Release of Classis Ontario West, convened on November 5, 2008 in Chatham, ON.

#### OPENING

On behalf of the convening church of Chatham, Rev. H. Versteeg opened the meeting by inviting all present to sing Ps 68:1,2. He then read Isaiah 52:1-12, and spoke some appropriate words about Christ gathering His church, and the beauty of the feet of those who bring good news (v.7). He welcomed all the delegates and guests, in particular Candidate Cornelis Kleyn, and the deputies of regional synod who were present for the peremptory examination, and led in prayer.

#### CONSTITUTION OF CLASSIS

After the delegates from the church of Chatham examined the credentials, it was reported that all the churches were lawfully represented, and classis was declared constituted. Classis appointed the following officers: Chairman: Rev. D. VandeBurgt; Vice-chairman: Rev. R.E. Pot; Clerk: Rev. B. DeJong. These brothers then commenced their respective duties, and the chairman expressed thanks to the convening church for preparing for and hosting classis. As memorabilia, mention was made of the ongoing vacancies of the churches of Ancaster and Hamilton Providence, and the call Rev. R.E. Pot has received from the church of West Albany, Australia. Ongoing health concerns of some of the emeritus ministers and professors in our classical region were remembered, and they and their families were commended to the care of the Lord.

#### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The provisional agenda was adopted.

#### EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATE C. KLEYN (Art. 3 & 5 C.O.)

The church of Kerwood requested a peremptory exam of Candidate C. Kleyn, with a view to his ordination to the ministry on November 16, 2008, DV. The deputies for Regional Synod East, Rev. P. Feenstra, and Rev. C. VanderVelde were present for this part of classis. Candidate C. Kleyn presented the documents required for a peremptory exam, which were found to be in good order. He then presented his sermon proposal on Psalm 70. In closed session classis considered the sermon proposal sufficient to proceed with the rest of the examination. Candidate Kleyn was examined in his exegesis of Holy Scripture according to the original text, his knowledge of Holy Scripture, the doctrine of the church, the history of the church, the commandments of the Lord with respect to their significance for the Christian life, the church order, and the requirements for the exercising of the various duties of the offices. In closed session, and with the cooperation and concurring advice of deputies of the regional synod, classis judged the examination to be sufficient. Candidate Kleyn promised not to preach or teach anything which is not in accordance with the Reformed confessions, by signing the classical subscription form for ministers of the Word. Thanks and praise to the Lord were expressed through the singing of Hy 64:1,2, after which the chairman led in prayer and gave opportunity for words of congratulations and encouragement to be expressed to Candidate Kleyn and his wife. Having received a declaration from the church of Kerwood that the proper announcements had been made and that the congregation had given its approval to the call, Classis approved the call.

#### QUESTION PERIOD (Art. 44 C.O.)

Question period according to Article 44 of the Church Order was held. The churches declared that the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued, and the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured. The church of London requested the advice of classis in a matter of discipline.

#### APPOINTMENTS

Classis made the following appointments:

1. Convening church for next Classis: Grand Rapids, March 8, 2009

2. Suggested officers for next Classis: Chairman: Rev. H. Versteeg, Vice-chairman: Rev. B. DeJong, Clerk: Rev. D. VandeBurgt.

#### PERSONAL QUESTION PERIOD

Personal Question Period was held and made use of.

#### BROTHERLY CENSURE (Art. 34 C.O.)

The chairman judged that censure according to Art. 34 C.O. was not necessary.

#### ADOPTION OF ACTS AND PRESS RELEASE

The Acts were read and adopted. The Press Release was read and approved for publication.

#### CLOSING

After the singing of Psalm 134:1,2,3, the chairman led in prayer, and declared the meeting closed.

For classis, R.E. Pot

vice-chairman at that time