

Press Release of Classis Ontario West, June 17, 2009 at Hamilton, ON

On behalf of the convening church at Hamilton, Rev. Bill DeJong called the meeting to order. He welcomed all present. He read from Ezekiel 1 and after a short meditation on this passage he then led in prayer. After prayer all present sang from Psalm 46:1,2.

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

Chairman – Rev. John Ludwig

Clerk – Rev. Cornelis Kleyn

Vice-chairman – Rev. Doug Vandeburgt

Under memorabilia the following items were mentioned

- The Eben-ezer Canadian Reformed Church of Chatham extended a call to Rev. Ted VanRaalte which he declined. This church has now extended a call to Rev. William den Hollander.
- Rev. Wes Bredenhof accepted the call extended to him by the Providence Canadian Reformed Church (Hamilton).
- The vacant churches of Classis were commended into the care of the Lord.

The agenda was adopted with the necessary amendments.

Br. Rodney Vermeulen was welcomed. The necessary documents were present and in good order. The examination proceeded. Br. Vermeulen presented his sermon proposal on Matthew 13:44-46. In closed session Classis deemed the proposal sufficient and the examination continued in the following areas: Old Testament (Jonah 3); New Testament (2 John); and Doctrine (Church and sacraments). In closed session Classis deemed the examination sufficient and, after he had promised not to preach anything contrary to the word of God as confessed in the Three Forms of Unity, br. Vermeulen was declared eligible for call in the Canadian and American Reformed Churches. Additionally permission was given to br. Vermeulen to speak an edifying word for the period of one year. After singing from Psalm 47:2 and praying the assembly and guests were given an opportunity to congratulate br. Vermeulen and his wife Anita.

The chairman gave opportunity to the fraternal delegates to bring greetings. Rev. Peter Moelker brought greetings from the Presbytery of Michigan and Ontario of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. The chairman responded with words of thanks for the presence of Rev. Moelker and for the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Rev. Peter Vellenga

brought greetings from Classis Southern Ontario of the United Reformed Churches. The chairman responded with words of thanks for the presence of the delegates from the United Reformed Churches and commended these churches into the Lord's care.

Br. Jason Van de Burgt was welcomed in connection with his desire to speak an edifying word in the churches. All necessary documents were present and in good order. The examination proceeded. Br. Van de Burgt presented his sermon proposal on Matthew 14:22-36. In closed session Classis deemed the proposal insufficient. Br. Van de Burgt was informed of this by the executive who proceeded to pray with this brother.

Question Period (Article 44 CO) was held and the delegates confirmed that the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued and that the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured. Instructions from the churches were received as follows:

- The church at Chatham requests Classis to appoint Rev. Henry Versteeg as counsellor from June-September 2009. Classis granted the request.
- The church at London requests pulpit supply one Sunday per month. Classis granted the request.
- The church at Grand Rapids requests pulpit supply one Sunday per month beginning in August 2009. Classis granted the request. This church also requests that Rev. Bredenhof be appointed as their counsellor. Classis granted the request.

Classis received the following correspondence:

- a. An appeal from seven members of Trinity Canadian Reformed Church. This appeal was dealt with in closed session. Classis denied the appeal.
- b. From br. Stuart Harsevoort a request to extend for another year classical permission to speak an edifying word as a candidate. Classis granted the request.
- c. From br. DongWoo Oh there was a request to extend for another year classical permission to speak an edifying word as a candidate. Classis granted the request.
- d. The church at Ancaster requests that Classis approbate the call extended to and accepted by Rev. Ludwig. Classis approved the call. The church at Ancaster informs Classis that the installation of Rev. Ludwig will take place, d.v. on Sunday, August 9, 2009. The church at Hamilton-Cornerstone is appointed to bring greetings at the installation. The church at Hamilton-Providence is appointed to represent Classis at the farewell of Rev. Ludwig.

- e. Providence church requests that Classis approbate the call extended to and accepted by Rev. Bredenhof. Classis approved the call. The Providence church informs Classis that the installation of Rev. Bredenhof will take place, d.v. on Sunday, September 13, 2009. Classis appointed the church at London to represent Classis at this installation.
- f. Trinity church requests that Rev. Vandeburgt be granted a classical release. Classis decided to most honourably release Rev. Vandeburgt. The farewell service will take place, d.v., on Sunday, August 2, 2009 in the pm service. Classis appointed the church at Kerwood to represent Classis at this farewell. Additionally, Trinity church requests Classis to appoint Rev. J. VanVliet as counsellor. Classis agreed to this request.
- g. From the Eben-Ezer Canadian Reformed Church at Chatham a proposal to have General Synod appoint a Deputy Church responsible for the Needy Student Fund. Classis advised the church at Chatham to reframe the proposal so that Classis might overture Regional Synod to have General Synod adopt the proposal.
- h. From the Theological College a letter confirming that four students examined by Classis on March 11, 2009 had successfully completed their third year of studies.

Classis received the following reports:

- a. The church at Chatham provided its annual report for the fund for Needy Students. Classis received the report with thankfulness.
- b. The Classis Treasurer, br. Brian Vanderhout, provided a financial report for the period May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009. Classis received the report with thankfulness.
- c. The Church at Hamilton gave an auditors report for the period Jan 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009. The report indicates the books are in good order. Classis discharged the treasurer of responsibility for the period indicated in the auditors report.
- d. The church at Kerwood reported in its capacity as Contact for Ecumenical Relations indicating that they continue to fulfill their mandate.
- e. The church at Kerwood reported that the archives of Classis Ontario West have been inspected. They are complete and in good order as of November 5, 2008.
- f. Church visitation reports. In closed session church visitation reports were received for all the churches in the classical region. They were received with thankfulness to the Lord.

Classis made the following appointments

- (a) Next classis: Convened by Hamilton-Providence on September 9, 2009 and hosted by Hamilton-Cornerstone.
- (b) Officers: Rev. Kleyn (chairman), Rev. Ludwig (clerk), Rev. DeJong (vice-chairman).
- (c) Treasurer: br. Brian Vanderhout
- (d) Auditing the books of the treasurer: Church at Hamilton-Cornerstone
- (e) Archives: Church at London
- (f) Inspecting the archives: Church at Kerwood
- (g) Church Visitors: Rev. Ludwig and Rev. DeJong, alternate Rev. Bredenhof
- (i) Classical Examiners: Rev. Ludwig and Rev. DeJong
- (j) Needy Students Fund: Church at Chatham
- (k) Needy Churches Fund: Church at Ancaster
- (l) Church for Ecumenical Relations: Church at Kerwood

Personal Question period was made use of.

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

The Acts were read and adopted.

The Press Release was read and approved.

The chairman requested the brothers to sing Psalm 145:1 and then led in prayer.

For Classis, Doug Vandeburgt
(Vice-chairman at that time)