

## **Press Release of Classis Ontario-West**

(March 24, 2010 in Kerwood, ON)

On behalf of the convening church, Rev. C.Kleyn called the meeting to order and led in opening devotions. The delegates of the convening church reported that all the credentials were in order. Classis was declared constituted. The appointed officers, as suggested by the previous classis, were Rev. B. DeJong, (chairman), Rev. J.Ludwig (vice), and Rev. W.Bredenhof (clerk). The chairman welcomed the delegates and guests, among whom were Rev. R. Klynsma, a fraternal delegate of the Covenant-East Classis of the Reformed Church of the United States, and Rev. John Ferguson, a fraternal delegate from the Presbytery of the Michigan-Ontario of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. The convening church was thanked for their work in preparing for classis. Mention was made of several special circumstances: Rev. J.VanWoudenberg declined the call extended by the church at Chatham; the church at Grand Rapids continues to be vacant; Rev. R.Vermeulen was ordained in Glanbrook on Oct.4, 2009; Rev. R.Bredenhof was installed in London on Nov. 22, 2009; the declining health of Dr. N.Gootjes and Dr. J.DeJong was remembered; Rev.C.Stam is recuperating from triple bypass surgery. The agenda was adopted. Four students, Abel Pol, Justin Roukema, Steve Vandervelde, and Ted VanSpronsen, presented themselves in order to receive permission to speak in an edifying word in the churches. The students were examined in alphabetical order after having submitted the required documents for the examination. In closed session the sermon proposals and the examinations in doctrine and creeds were judged sufficient to grant brs. A. Pol, S.Vandervelde, and T.VanSpronsen permission to speak an edifying word within the churches for approximately one year. After each of the examinations the assembly celebrated in song and in prayer to the Lord, and opportunity was given to congratulate the students. Since br. Justin Roukema's sermon proposal was considered insufficient, he was informed of this privately and in a pastoral way. The fraternal delegates were given an opportunity to address the assembly. The Form of Subscription was read and signed by the Revs. W. Bredenhof, R. Vermeulen, and R. Bredenhof. Question period according to Article 44 of the CO was held. The chairman asked the three questions contained in that article. All the churches answered that the ministry of the office bearers was being continued, and that the decisions of the major assemblies were being honoured. The church of Ancaster asked advice regarding the use of the Abbreviated Form for the Celebration of the Lord's Supper. Advice was given. The church at London asked advice for proceeding in the discipline of several members. Advice was given. The churches at Grand Rapids and Chatham requested pulpit supply up to December 2010. This request was granted. Classis received with gratitude reports of visitations to the churches at Glanbrook, Grand Rapids, Ancaster, Kerwood and London. These reports gave testimony to the desire and striving of these churches to remain faithful to the Word of God, the confessions and the Church Order. The following appointments were made: London as the convening church of the next classis; suggested officers for the next classis: clerk Rev. R.Bredenhof, chairman Rev.W.Bredenhof, vice-chairman Rev.B.DeJong; date and place of the next classis: June 16, 2010 in London. Personal question period was held. Censure according to article 34 was deemed unnecessary. The Acts were read and adopted, and the press release approved. Rev.J.Ludwig led in closing prayer.

For Classis,

Rev. J.Ludwig (vice chairman,*e.t.*)