

Press Release of Classis Ontario West on June 16, 2010

Representing the convening church of London, Rev. Reuben Bredenhof welcomed delegates and guests and opened the meeting of classis with Scripture reading before inviting the assembly to sing an opening hymn of praise. Prior to leading in prayer, Rev. Bredenhof recalled the following items of memorabilia: the church of Chatham's call to Rev. Clarence Bouwman of Yarrow, BC was declined; Grand Rapids and Chatham remain vacant churches; Rev. Wes Bredenhof was awarded a Th.D for a dissertation on the missiological relevance of the Belgic Confession; two new professors were appointed by the Burlington synod to teach at the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary-- namely, Dr. John Smith, to teach Old Testament studies, and Dr. Jason Van Vliet, to teach Dogmatics; the church of London celebrated its 50th anniversary in May.

Following the constitution of classis, Rev. Wes Bredenhof assumed the chair and invited Rev. Al Korvemaker of the Aylmer URC to bring greetings on behalf of the Ontario classis of the URCNA. Rev. Korvemaker expressed appreciation for the communication of the recent Burlington Synod to the upcoming URCNA synod. The chairman thanked Rev. Korvemaker for his remarks and expressed wishes for the Lord's blessing on the URCNA synod in London, ON.

Third year seminary student Justin Roukema delivered a sermon proposal on Psalm 122 which classis judged to be sufficient to continue with the examination in doctrine and creeds. Following this examination, classis granted Justin Roukema permission to speak an edifying word in the churches.

Three students who have recently completed their seminary training underwent preparatory examinations. Tony Roukema delivered a sermon proposal on Hebrews 3:1-2, Tim Sikkema on Genesis 28:10-22, and Arend Witten on John 4:46-54. Since these sermon proposals were judged to be satisfactory, each of the students was then examined in Doctrine and Creeds, Old Testament exegesis and New Testament exegesis. Having reached favourable assessments of their examinations, classis declared that Tony Roukema, Tim Sikkema and Arend Witten are eligible for calls in the Canadian Reformed churches.

Requests from two individuals for extensions to speak an edifying word were denied because they have affiliated with sister churches and thus removed themselves from the jurisdiction of churches in the federation. A request from the Grace Canadian Reformed Church of Kerwood to consider the examination schedule of the seminary in the scheduling of future classis meetings will be noted by the committee for examinations. Hamilton-Providence informed the assembly that Dr. John Smith

has accepted its call to be a minister of the Word and sacraments set apart for teaching at the seminary and requested a classis meeting in early September for a colloquium for Dr. Smith.

Various reports from classis personnel and committees were received with gratitude. Classis reappointed the following: Brian Vanderhout to a one year term as treasurer for classis; Revs. DeJong and Ludwig as church visitors and to the committee of examiners; London, to maintain the archives; Kerwood, to inspect the archives; Chatham, to administer the fund for needy students; Ancaster, to administer the fund for needy churches and; Kerwood, to serve as contact for ecumenical relations.

Question period was utilized and the chairman ruled that fraternal censure per church order article 44 was not required and then invited the assembly to sing a Psalm and led in closing prayer.

Rev. Bill DeJong, vice-chair