

Press release Classis Ontario West held 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010.

Rev J. Ludwig, minister of the convening church, welcomes all present, including visitors. A special welcome is extended to Dr J. Smith who is present for his colloquium. Rev. Ludwig reads from Psalm 105:1-11 and invites all present to sing from Psalm 105:2,3. He then leads in opening prayer. The convening church verifies that the credentials of all delegates are in order. One church's credentials included an instruction.

Classis is constituted. The executive takes its place as decided on by last classis. Rev. R. Bredenhof as chairman; Rev. R. Vermeulen as vice-chairman; Rev C. Kleyn as clerk.

Rev.R. Bredenhof thanks the convening church for its work in hosting classis. The following items of memorabilia are mentioned: Grand Rapids' call to Candidate T. Roukema was declined as was Chatham's call to Candidate A. Witten. These churches are commended to God's continued care.

The chairman extends a welcome to guests from the Seminary. Dr. Smith's wife, Darlene, as well as other guests were also welcomed.

After some additions the agenda is adopted.

A colloquium is held with Dr J. Smith as per article 5 of our Church Order with a view to the approbation the call extended to him by the Providence Church of Hamilton. Rev. B. DeJong leads a discussion with Dr J. Smith regarding church doctrine. Delegates are given the opportunity to ask any follow up questions. Rev. J. Ludwig leads the discussion on church polity. Again the delegates are given the opportunity to ask questions.

Classis goes into closed session to discuss the colloquium. Classis deemed the discussion with Dr J. Smith to be satisfactory. In open session, Dr J. Smith is advised of this. After reading the subscription form for ministers of the Word, the chairman invited Dr. Smith to sign the subscription book.

In thankfulness to the Lord all present were invited to sing Psalm 118:1. The chairman offered a prayer of thanksgiving.

After noting that all required documents are in order classis approbates the call that Providence Canadian Reformed Church extended to Dr. Smith. Dr. Smith is to be set aside as professor of Old Testament at the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary. Chairman wishes Dr. Smith God's blessings as he takes up his task at the theological seminary.

The churches were asked whether the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued, whether the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured, and whether there is any matter in which the consistories need the judgment and help of classis for the proper government of their church. The churches responded appropriately. Advice was given to one of the churches in a case of discipline.

Classis discusses a letter from the Covenant Canadian Reformed Church of Grassie. The church at Grassie was appointed by General Synod 2010 to administer a federation wide fund for needy students. The church at Chatham, which currently administers the needy student's fund for the classis, is instructed to share all regulations and procedures used with the church at Grassie. Classis decides to

continue to administer its own fund until the federation wide fund is operational. As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 any remaining funds will be forwarded to the new fund operated by Grassie.

A report from the Needy Students Fund and a corresponding audit report were received by classis. No assessment from the churches is required for this year.

A report from the Needy Churches Fund administered by the church at Ancaster and a corresponding audit report were received by classis. No requests for funds have been received. No assessment from the churches is required for this year.

A letter was received from the classis' treasurer. The assessment is to remain at \$4.00 per communicant member.

The church at Chatham is appointed as convening church and host of next classis which is scheduled for the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, DV. Should that classis not be necessary the alternate date is set at the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The following officers are suggested: Chairman: Rev. R. Vermeulen; Vice-chair: Rev. R. Bredenhof; Clerk: Rev. J. Ludwig.

After voting the following brothers elders are appointed to attend Regional Synod East scheduled for November: Brs Allard Gunnink and Brs Frank Oostdyk. First alternate: Br Rick Lenting (Watford). Second alternate: Br. Dave Bosma. After voting the following ministers are appointed: Rev. R. Bredenhof and Rev. B. DeJong. First alternate: Rev. R. Vermeulen. Second alternate: Rev. C. Kleyn.

Personal question period is held. The chairman deemed that censure according to article 34 of the Church Order was not necessary.

The acts are adopted and the press release is approved.

The meeting is invited to sing Hymn 62:1. The chairman then leads in thanksgiving prayer.

Rev. Rodney Vermeulen, vice-chair.