

Press Release: Classis Niagara September 29, 2010

On behalf of the convening church of Lincoln, Rev D. Wynia called the meeting to order and welcomed the brothers. Rev Wynia read from 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12. The brothers sang from Psalm 96:1, 2, 4. Rev Wynia led the meeting in prayer to ask the Lord's blessing.

The delegates of the church at Lincoln reported that all the credentials were in order and that the churches were properly represented. Classis was declared consistuted and the suggested officers took their places: Rev K. Kok as chair, Rev D. de Boer as vice-chair, and Rev J. Huijgen as clerk. Rev K. Kok thanked the church at Lincoln for their preparations and made mention of several special circumstances, including that (1) Rev P. Holtvluwer accepted the call extended to him by the church at Tintern, (2) the church at Smithville has extended a call to Rev J. Louwense of Neerlandia, (3) Rev R. Schouten is under doctors care after having been diagnosed with colon cancer, (4) the church at Lincoln can commemorate 40 years since its institution, and (5) the church at Bluebell can commemorate 25 years since joining the federation of the Canadian Reformed Churches.

After the adoption of the agenda, Rev K. Kok asked the delegates the questions of Article 44, C.O. The delegates answered that the churches do maintain the ministry of the offices and uphold the decisions of the major assemblies. In closed session, advice was given in a matter of discipline. The church at Smithville asked for and received pulpit supply once a month.

With proper documentation from Rev P. Holtvluwer and from the church at Carmen East and from the church at Tintern and from Classis Manitoba September 2010, Classis could approbate the call of Tintern to the Rev. Holtvluwer. Installation will be Oct 17, 2010 D.V.

Classis received correspondence in which greetings were given from Rev Doug Bylsma of the OPC in Beamsville, ON. Classis also received a letter from the church at Grassie, who have been appointed to supervise a Federational Fund for Needy Students. Classis instructed the Committee for the Fund for Needy Students for the churches of Classis Niagara to make the transition to the Federational Fund, after which the Committee will be discharged of its mandate. The church visitation reports of 2010 were read. All the churches of Classis were visited. In addition, the report of the visit made to the church in Attercliffe in 2009 was read. The reports outlined many reasons for thankfulness as the churches seek to remain faithful to Christ their head.

Classis received the report of the treasurer. The churches of Classis Niagara will be assessed \$2.00 per communicant member for the coming year (2011) for classis expenses. Classis also received the report of the church at Grassie that the books of the treasurer are in good order. The treasurer was thanked for his work.

The Committee for the Fund for Needy Churches submitted its report. The churches will be assessed \$47.00 per communicant member for the coming year (2011).

The following appointments were made. The Church at Smithville will be the convening church

for the next Classis Niagara on December 15, 2010. The suggested officers are: Rev S.C. VanDam as chair, Rev J. Huijgen as vice-chair and Rev K. Kok as clerk. Smithville was asked to invite fraternal delegates from the OPC, URCNA and RCUS and a fraternal observer from the FRCNA. Rev K. Kok and Rev J. Huijgen were reappointed as church visitors, with Rev D. Wynia as alternate. Rev K. Kok and Rev J. Huijgen were reappointed as deputies for examinations. Br D. VanAmerongen was reappointed as treasurer. Rev K. Kok will visit the upcoming Classis Southern Ontario of the URCNA. Rev D. de Boer and Rev J. Huijgen were appointed as delegates to Regional Synod, November 10, 2010, with Rev D. Wynia as first alternate and Rev K. Kok as second alternate. Brs L. Kingma and J. Van Zanten were appointed as delegates to Regional Synod, with br D. Bratcher as first alternate and br G. Alkema as second alternate. The church at Lincoln was appointed to represent the churches of Classis Niagara at the installation of Rev. P. Holtvluwer in Tintern on October 17, 2010.

After Question Period was made use of, Rev K. Kok judged that there was no need for censure according to Article 34, C.O. The Acts were read and adopted. The Press Release was approved for publication. Rev K. Kok read Psalm 46 and asked the brothers to sing Psalm 92:1, 2, 3. Rev Kok gave thanks in prayer and declared Classis finished.

Vice-chair at the time,  
D. de Boer