

Press Release of Classis Ontario-West – 23 March 2011 (Chatham)

On behalf of the convening church of Chatham, elder Andy Vanderveen welcomed the delegates and guests, and led in opening devotions. After the credentials were examined and found to be in good order, classis was declared to be constituted. As suggested by the previous classis, Rev. R. Vermeulen was appointed as chairman, Rev. R. Bredenhof as vice-chairman, and Rev. J. Ludwig as clerk. The chairman mentioned some items of memorabilia, including the ongoing vacancies of the church at Chatham and Grand Rapids, and that the church of Hamilton-Providence had moved into their new building.

The brothers of the convening church were thanked for their work in preparing for the classis, and then the agenda was adopted.

Brother David Winkel of the Theological Seminary requested to be examined in order to receive permission to speak an edifying word in the churches. After submitting the required documents, the brother presented his proposal on Psalm 125 and was examined in the creeds and confessions. In closed session the sermon proposal and examination were judged sufficient, and brother Winkel was granted permission for one year. After the examination, the assembly gave thanks to the Lord in prayer and song.

The questions outlined in Article 44 of the Church Order were asked, and 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. Two churches asked for and received advice in matters of discipline.

One item of correspondence was received and answered. Classis gratefully received reports of visitations brought to the churches of Grand Rapids, London, Ancaster, Chatham, Kerwood, and Glanbrook. These reports spoke of faithfulness to the Word of God, the confessions, and the Church Order. Verbal reports were given on ecumenical contacts with assemblies of the OPC, RCUS, and URCNA. The final report and financial statements of the classis Fund for Needy Students were noted with gratitude.

Glanbrook was appointed as convening church of the next classis, to be held on June 15. Suggested officers for the next classis were Rev. R. Bredenhof (chairman), Rev. J. Ludwig (vice-chairman), and Rev. W. Bredenhof (clerk). Personal question period was held, and censure according to Article 34 (CO) was considered unnecessary. The Acts were read and adopted, and the press release was approved. The vice-chairman closed the meeting with prayer.

For Classis,
Rev. Reuben Bredenhof (vice-chairman, *e.t.*)