

## **Press Release of Classis Ontario-West June 15, 2011 in Glanbrook, ON**

On behalf of the convening church at Glanbrook, Rev. R. Vermeulen welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order, and led the opening devotions. In prayer he remembered, among other things, the continuing vacancies of Grand Rapids and Chatham, and the ongoing health concerns of Dr. N. Gootjes, Dr. J. DeJong, and sr. A. Geertsema. The delegates of the convening church reported that all the credentials were in order, and that all the delegates were present. Classis was declared constituted. The appointed officers, as suggested by the previous classis, were Rev. R. Bredenhof (chairman), Rev. J. Ludwig (vice-chairman) and Rev. W. Bredenhof (clerk). The chairman thanked the convening church for their preparations for classis. After some additions the agenda was adopted.

Br. J. Roukema of the church at Ancaster presented himself to Classis to be examined with a view to being declared eligible for call within the churches. After it was determined that the necessary documents were in order, br. Roukema delivered a sermon proposal on Rm.12: 1, 2. After discussing the proposal in closed session, Classis deemed it sufficient to continue with the rest of the examination. At this point Rev. R. Stienstra, emeritus minister of the United Reformed Church of Dunnville, arrived and was welcomed. Br. Roukema was examined in OT exegesis, NT exegesis, and doctrine and creeds. After deliberating in closed session classis decided to declare him eligible for call. In open session the brother was informed of the decision. He promised not to teach anything in conflict with the Word of God as summarized in the confessions. After singing and prayer opportunity was given to congratulate candidate Roukema.

Br. Steve Vandavelde of the church at Glanbrook presented himself to Classis to be examined with a view to being declared eligible for call within the churches. After it was determined that the necessary documents were in order, br. S. Vandavelde delivered a sermon proposal on Matt. 7: 24-27. After discussing the proposal in closed session, Classis deemed it insufficient. Br. S. Vandavelde was informed of this privately and in a pastoral way.

Br. Ted VanSpronsen of the church at Hamilton-Providence presented himself to Classis to be examined with a view to being declared eligible for call within the churches. After it was determined that the necessary documents were in order, br. T. VanSpronsen delivered a sermon proposal on Mk.2: 18-22. After discussing the proposal in closed session, Classis deemed it sufficient to continue with the rest of the examination. Br. VanSpronsen was examined in OT exegesis, NT exegesis and doctrine and creeds. After deliberating in closed session classis decided to declare him eligible for call. In open session the brother was informed of classis' decision. He promised not to teach anything in conflict with the Word of God as summarized in the confessions. After singing and prayer opportunity was given to congratulate candidate VanSpronsen.

Question period according to art.44 of the Church Order 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. Two churches needed the judgment or help of classis for the proper government of their church. Chatham requested a new counselor and pulpit supply. Rev. R. Bredenhof was appointed as the new counselor and pulpit supply was granted beginning in November. Grand Rapids' request for pulpit supply was also granted.

A proposal was received from the church at Hamilton-Providence requesting that "Missions" be made a regular item on the agenda of classis. This proposal was not adopted. A proposal was received from the church at London to amend the Classis Regulations in view of the recent discontinuation of the classical Fund for Needy Students and its replacement by a federational fund. This proposal was adopted. A proposal was received from the church at Kerwood to make the preparatory exam lengthier than the peremptory, to have a student hand in three sermons for both the preparatory and peremptory exams, and to exempt a candidate from the peremptory exam if he is called in the same classical region in which he had his preparatory exam. This proposal came late to the churches and so, after some preliminary discussion and advice, the church at Kerwood was encouraged to

resubmit to the next classis.

A letter from Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary was received informing us that br. David Winkel successfully completed his third year of study. A verbal request was made by br. Steve Vandavelde for extension of licensure for one year. This request was granted.

The following reports were received:

- a. Grace Canadian Reformed Church of Kerwood concerning Classis Archives.
- b. Report from Classis Treasurer for period ending April 30, 2011.
- c. Audit of the Classis' Treasurer's books for period ending April 30, 2011.
- d. Church Visitors' Reports. Reports of visits to the Providence and Cornerstone churches are read and received.
- e. Report of Fraternal Delegate to Classis Michigan of the URCNA. Rev. W. Bredenhof reported on his visit to a recent classis.

The following appointments were made:

- a) **Arrangements for next Classis Ontario West:**
- b) Convening church: Grand Rapids  
Date: Wednesday September 21, 2011  
Place: Grace church @ Kerwood
- c) **Suggested officers for the next Classis:**  
Chairman: Rev. J. Ludwig  
Vice-chairman: Rev. W. Bredenhof  
Clerk: Rev. B. DeJong
- d) **Classis Treasurer:** Brian Vanderhout
- e) **Church for Auditing the books of the treasurer:** Hamilton-Cornerstone
- f) **Church for Maintaining the Classis Archives:** London
- g) **Church for Inspecting the Archives:** Kerwood
- h) **Church Visitors:** Revs. B. DeJong and J. Ludwig (alternate: Rev. W. Bredenhof)
- i) **Committee for Examinations:** Revs. B. DeJong and J. Ludwig
- j) **Church for Administering the Needy Churches Fund:** Ancaster
- k) **Church as Contact for Ecumenical Relations:** Kerwood

The opportunity was given for questions. Christian censure according to article 34 was deemed unnecessary. The adoption of Acts and approval of Press Release was deferred to the executive. The clerk led in thanksgiving prayer and classis was closed.

For Classis Ontario West, June 15, 2011.

Rev. J. Ludwig (vice chairman at that time)