

Press release of Classis Central Ontario, September 16, 2011, convened by Fellowship Church at Ebenezer Church in Burlington.

On behalf of Fellowship Church, the Rev. John van Popta opened the meeting with the reading of John 5:1-15 and some edifying words. After we sang Psalm 80:1 & 7, Rev. Van Popta led us in prayer. He then welcomed all the delegates, including the Rev. Henry Van Olst, fraternal delegate of Classis Southern Ontario of the URCNA. The delegates of Ebenezer Church reported that all the churches of the classis were duly represented by two delegates. At that point, Rev. Van Popta declared classis constituted. The moderamen were Rev. John van Popta (chairman), Rev. George van Popta (vice-chairman), and Rev. Douglas Vandeburgt (clerk).

We entered into closed session for the church visitation reports for Ebenezer, Fellowship, Rehoboth, Flamborough, Jubilee, and Bethel Churches, which were all thankfully received.

In open session other reports were read and received: inspection of archives, treasurer's report, inspection of the treasurer's books, committee for needy churches and the report of its inspection. Flamborough is asked to report to a future classis regarding the merging of the classical fund with the national one administered by Covenant Church at Grassie. As per the recommendation of the committee for needy churches, classis granted Jubilee Church financial assistance for the next year. Brother Malcolm Wildeboer of Jubilee expressed the gratitude of the consistory and congregation for the ongoing and loving support of the churches of classis.

Question period *ad* Church Order article 44 was held and revealed that the work of the office bearers continues, that the decisions of the broader assemblies are honoured in all the churches, and that none of the churches needed special advice.

Rev. Henry Van Olst brought greetings on behalf of Classis Southern Ontario of the URCNA and expressed thankfulness for the wide variety of contacts our respective churches enjoy. Rev. George van Popta responded and asked Rev. Van Olst to return our greetings to his classis.

The Church at Flamborough asked that the regulations of classis be amended to reflect that, as of the last general synod, we no longer need a classical fund for needy students since but we now have a national fund. Classis decided that the regulations do not need to be amended but that, rather, the pertinent articles be stricken.

Classis dealt with an appeal in which a brother disagrees with a decision of a church to consider Article 176 (Women voting in the election of office bearers) of General Synod Burlington as settled and binding. The appeal was denied.

Arrangements were made for the next classis which will be convened by Rehoboth at Ebenezer on December 9. Rev. De Gelder will serve as chairman, Rev. John van Popta as vice-chairman, and Rev. George van Popta will be the clerk.

All examiners and church visitors are reappointed as are churches for taking care of and inspecting archives. The treasurer, Brother H.J. Sloots of Burlington, was reappointed. Various committees were reappointed. Brother Ed Jans of Flamborough was appointed to the committee for needy churches until 2014. The treasurer of this committee is Brother Leo Kampen of Burlington.

As there will be a regional synod in Fergus on November 9th, 2011, classis appointed the following as its delegates: Elders Rob Hofsink and Leo Kampen with G.J. Nordeman as first alternate and Art Van Halteren as second; Ministers, Rev. W. den Hollander and Rev. John van Popta with Rev. George van Popta as first alternate and Rev. G. Nederveen as second alternate.

The Acts were adopted and the Press Release was approved. The chairman asked the vice-chairman to end the meeting with prayer after which the classis was closed.

G.Ph van Popta
Vice-chairman, *e.t.*