

Press Release of Classis Ontario West, September 21, 2011, convened by the American Reformed Church of Grand Rapids and held in Kerwood, ON.

On behalf of the convening church, Elder J. Kooistra opened the meeting by reading Psalm 36:5-12. Prayer was offered up for the Lord's blessing on the meeting. The brothers sang together Psalm 133:1,2. All the delegates were welcomed. Some items of memorabilia were mentioned including the promotion to glory of Sr. J. Geertsema, the churches at Chatham and Grand Rapids remain vacant, and Candidate Ted Van Spronsen accepted a call to the Free Reformed Church at Busselton, Western Australia.

The delegates from Grand Rapids reported that all the churches were duly represented by two delegates. Classis was declared constituted and the executive took their seats. Rev. J. Ludwig served as chairman, Rev. W. Bredenhof as vice-chairman, and Rev. B. DeJong as clerk.

Br. Steve Vandavelde, a recent graduate of our seminary, presented himself for a candidacy examination. After listening to his sermon proposal on Amos 9:11-13, classis decided to proceed with the examination. Br. Vandavelde was examined in OT and NT exegesis and doctrine and creeds. After discussing the results of the examination, classis declared him eligible for call.

The chairman asked the delegates the questions from article 44 of the Church Order. The work of the office bearers is being maintained, the decisions of the assemblies are being honoured, and none of the churches required the judgment of classis in disciplinary or other matters. The Eben-ezer church (Chatham) requested pulpit supply and this was granted.

A proposal was tabled from the Grace church (Kerwood) regarding the numbers of sermons in classis examinations for students and candidates. Classis decided to maintain the present practice of having students and candidates submit one sermon.

A request was tabled from our seminary regarding the timing of ecclesiastical examinations for licensure. Classis decided to schedule spring classes for the fourth Wednesday in May, beginning in 2012.

A letter was received from the classis treasurer (br. Brian Vanderhout) proposing that the classis assessment be reduced from \$4.00 to 3.00 per communicant member for 2012. Classis decided to adopt this proposal.

The Cornerstone church (Hamilton) was appointed as the convening church for the next classis, scheduled to be held December 14, 2011. The suggested executive: Rev. W. Bredenhof (chairman), Rev. B. DeJong (vice-chairman), Rev. C. Kleyn (clerk).

Delegates were chosen for the upcoming Regional Synod East (November 9 @ Fergus) as follows: as ministers, Rev. R. Bredenhof and Rev. J. Ludwig with Rev. C. Kleyn and Rev. R.

Vermeulen as alternates; as elders, brs. A. Witten and A. Gunnink with br. J. Jager and br. F. Oostdyk as alternates.

Opportunity was provided for personal questions. Rev. P. Aasman (seated as an advisor to classis as a missionary of Ancaster) informed us of plans to institute the Streetlight Christian Church within a year's time. Censure was deemed unnecessary. The Acts and Press Release were approved and the assembly concluded in the usual Christian fashion.

W. Bredenhof
Vice-chairman of that classis