

**Press Release Classis Niagara of September 21, 2011
in Tintern, ON**

Opening

On behalf of the convening church, Rev. P. Holtvluwer called the meeting to order of delegates. He read Psalm 122 and opened in prayer. He then requested the delegates sing Psalm 122:1, 2. Rev. Holtvluwer welcomed all the delegates. He extended a special welcome to Rev. C. Bouwman who has accepted the call to the Smithville Canadian Reformed Church.

The delegates of the Spring Creek Canadian Reformed Church of Tintern examined the credentials. All the churches were represented. Classis was declared constituted. The officers were:

Rev. D. Wynia - Chairman
Rev. S.C. Van Dam - Clerk
Rev. K.A. Kok - Vice-Chairman

The chairman thanks the convening church for all the preparatory work. He notes that Rev. Bouwman has accepted the call extended to him by the church at Smithville. He also remembers the death of Sr. J. Geertsema, the wife of Prof. J. Geertsema. The agenda is adopted.

Classis proceeds to the approbation of the call of Rev. C. Bouwman. After the examination of the necessary documents, Classis approbates the call. The chairman welcomes Rev. Bouwman as a minister within this classical region. He then reads the classical *Form of Subscription*, after which Rev. Bouwman signs the *Form*.

The chairman asks the questions required in article 44 of the *Church Order*. The churches in Attercliffe, Blue Bell, Dunville and Grassie all request advice in matters of discipline. In closed session, advice is given.

A proposal from the Spring Creek Canadian Reformed Church of Tintern to amend the regulations of Classis is discussed. It is proposed that Classis establish a standing committee to aid both appellants and Classes in dealing with appeals. This proposal is defeated.

A letter is received from the Theological Seminary of the Canadian Reformed Churches. The request is made that if there are students to be examined for permission to speak an edifying word, Classis be convened at the end of May rather than in June. This letter is received for information and passed on to the churches to keep in mind if they are the convening church at that time of year.

The consistory of the Spring Creek Canadian Reformed Church of Tintern reported that it has examined the classical archives kept by the church of Attercliffe and that the archives were found to be in good order.

The consistory of the church of Grassie reported on the audit of the books of the classical treasurer, Br. D. Van Amerongen. The books were found in good order. Br. Van Amerongen is thanked for his work and released for the period from September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011.

The report of the classical treasurer is discussed. He suggests an assessment of \$2.00 per communicant member. Classis sets the assessment at this amount.

The consistory of the church of Smithville reports for the Fund for Needy Churches. The Church of Blue Bell has made a request for support for the next year. Classis decides to grant this support and an assessment of \$39.00 per communicant member is set.

For a variety of reasons, there is no written report of the church visitors available at Classis. An oral report of the visits made to the churches of Attercliffe, Dunville, Grassie, Lincoln, Smithville, and Tintern is given. A written report will be presented at the next Classis.

Classis made the following appointments:

For the next Classis -

The date of the next Classis: December 14, 2011

Convening church: Attercliffe

Proposed officers: Rev. C. Bouwman, chairman; Rev. S.C. Van Dam, vice-chairman;
Rev. D. Wynia, clerk

Br. D. Van Amerongen is appointed as classical treasurer.

The church at Grassie is appointed to represent Classis at the installation of Rev. C. Bouwman.

Revs. J. Huijgen and K.A. Kok are appointed as deputies for examinations.

Revs. C. Bouwman and K.A. Kok are appointed as church visitors, with Rev. D. Wynia as alternate.

The convening church for the next Classis is responsible to extend invitations to the United Reformed Churches, the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, the Reformed Churches of the United States, and the Free Reformed churches to send observers to the next Classis.

Rev. R. Wynia is appointed to represent Classis at the next Classis Southern Ontario of the United Reformed Churches, if that Classis is convened within classical region Niagara.

The following brothers were chosen as delegates to the next Regional Synod East. For elders, Brs. A. Kingma and C. Oosterhof were chosen as primary delegates; Brs. K. Jager and E. Feenstra (in that order) were chosen as alternates. For ministers, Revs. P. Holtvluwer and R. Wynia were chosen as primary delegates; Revs. D. De Boer and K.A. Kok (in that order) were chosen as alternates.

Personal Questions period was held. The chairman judged the Censure ad Art. 34 C.O. is not necessary. The Acts are read and adopted. The Press Release is read and approved. Rev. D. Wynia leads in a prayer of thanksgiving and closes Classis.

For Classis Niagara
September 21, 2011,
K.A. Kok, vice-chairman