

Press Release of Classis Niagara March 21, 2012

On behalf of the convening church at Attercliffe, Rev. J. Huijgen welcomes the delegates and the Grade 5 class of ACRES. He asks those present to sing from Hymn 84:1, 2, 3, 4, leads in prayer and reads from Titus 1.

The credentials are examined and found to be in order. Classis is declared constituted and the officers suggested by the last classis take their place. Rev. C. Bouwman is chairman, Rev. D. Wynia clerk and Rev. S.C. Van Dam vice-chairman. The chairman thanks the church at Attercliffe for their work in convening classis.

The chairman ask the questions set out in Article 44 of the Church Order. The churches at Blue Bell and Tintern have matters with which they would like to receive the help of classis.

The documents pertaining to the acceptance of the call to Grand Rapids by Rev. K. Kok are examined: the letter of call from the church at Grand Rapids, the letter of acceptance by Rev. Kok, the certificate of release and ecclesiastical attestation from the church at Blue Bell. Classis grants the request of the church at Blue Bell to release Rev. Kok from his duties in Blue Bell and issues a classical certificate of release. The chairman thanks Rev. Kok for his work in Classis Niagara over the years and wishes him the Lord's blessing as he serves the church at Grand Rapids. Classis appoints Rev. Holtvluwer as counselor of the church at Blue Bell. Classis grants Blue Bell's request for pulpit supply once a month beginning in September 2012.

The overture re "regulations on appeals" from the church at Tintern is dealt with. This proposal is adopted and the classical regulations will be amended.

The church at Tintern seeks advice on matters of discipline. In closed session, advice is given. A summary of the 2011 church visitation reports is given. The church visitation reports made in 2012 are given.

The convening church for the next classis is Blue Bell and the date is set for June 20, 2012 with the proviso that an earlier May date is possible should a theological student request to be examined. The suggested officers are Rev. De Boer as chairman, Rev. Bouwman as clerk, and Rev. Wynia as vice-chairman. Rev. Holtvluwer is appointed to serve in the examination coordination committee to replace Rev. Kok. Rev. Bouwman is appointed as a fraternal delegate to attend the URCNA Classis to be convened on March 28, 2012 in St. Catharines.

Personal question period is made use of. Rev. Kok speaks words of farewell, expressing appreciation for the good working relationship in this classical region and the unity of the faith among the saints. It is determined by the chairman with thankfulness that nothing censurable was said or done during the meeting. The Acts of Classis is presented and adopted. The press release is presented and adopted. The chairman invites the delegates to sing Ps 27:1 and closes the meeting with prayer.

For Classis,

Rev. S.C. Van Dam, vice-chairman at that time