

Press Release of Classis Ontario-West – 23 May 2012 (Kerwood)

On behalf of the convening church of Kerwood, elder R. Lenting welcomed the delegates and guests and led in opening devotions. After the credentials were examined and found to be in good order, classis was declared constituted. As suggested by the previous classis, Rev. R. Vermeulen was appointed as chairman, Rev. R. Bredenhof as vice-chairman, and Rev. J. Ludwig as clerk. The chairman mentioned some items of memorabilia, including the vacancy of the church at Kerwood and the recent hospitalization of Prof. Geertsema.

The brothers of the convening church were thanked for their work in preparing for the classis, and the agenda was adopted with some additions.

Brother Ben Schoof, a third year student at the Theological Seminary, requested to be examined in order to receive permission to speak an edifying word in the churches. After submitting the required documents, the brother presented his proposal on Philippians 3:20-21 was examined in the creeds and confessions. Classis judged the sermon proposal and examination to be sufficient, and Schoof was granted licensure for one year. After the examination, the assembly gave thanks to the Lord.

Brother Calvin Vanderlinde, also of the seminary, requested to be examined in order to receive permission to speak an edifying word. Upon providing the necessary documentation, the brother presented his proposal on Mark 3:28-30 was examined in the creeds and confessions. The sermon proposal and examination were deemed satisfactory by classis, and Vanderlinde was granted permission for one year. The assembly then gave thanks in song.

Brother Theo Wierenga of the Theological Seminary also requested to receive permission to speak an edifying word. After the required documents were reviewed, the brother presented his proposal on Luke 16:19-31 and was examined in the creeds and confessions. The sermon proposal and examination were considered sufficient, and Wierenga was given licensure for a period of one year. At the completion of this examination, classis offered its gratitude to God.

A one-year extension of the permission to speak an edifying word was granted by classis to brother David Winkel. With thanksgiving, Classis approbated the calls that had been extended to and accepted by Rev. Dave De Boer and Rev. Ken Kok, for ministry in the churches of Chatham and Grand Rapids, respectively.

The questions outlined in Article 44 of the Church Order were asked, and 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. One church received concurring advice in a matter of church discipline.

A report on the inspection of the classis archives was reviewed with gratitude. A report from the classis treasurer was received, as was a positive report on the inspection of the books of the treasurer. Classis gratefully received the report of a church visitation brought to Ancaster, which spoke of this church's faithfulness to the Word of God, the confessions, and the Church Order.

London-Pilgrim was appointed as convening church of the next classis to be held on September 19, the Lord willing. Suggested officers for the next classis were Rev. R. Bredenhof (chairman), Rev. J. Ludwig (vice-chairman), and Rev. W. Bredenhof (clerk). Various classical appointments were made for the upcoming year.

Personal question period was held, and censure according to Article 34 of the Church Order was considered unnecessary. The Acts were read and adopted and the press release was approved. The chairman closed the meeting with prayer.

For Classis,
Rev. Reuben Bredenhof (vice-chairman, *e.t.*)