

Press Release Classis of Northern Ontario, June 22, 2012.

Classis Northern Ontario was held on June 22, 2012 in the Canadian Reformed Church at Elora. Rev. Moesker on behalf of the convening church of Fergus North opened the meeting in a Christian manner. All the churches were properly represented and classis was constituted. Delegates of Regional synod were also welcomed. Rev. D.G.J. Agema served as Chairman of classis, Rev. M.H. VanLuik as Vice-chairman and Rev. J. VanWoudenberg as Clerk.

Classis dealt with the request from Fergus North to approbate the decision to dismiss their minister, Rev. Geurts from his duty as their minister according to article 11 C.O. In closed session classis discussed this request. Fergus North presented to Classis an information package that detailed the reasons for this request and gave details of the financial agreement with their minister. Classis came to the sad conclusion to approbate the request of Fergus North to dismiss their minister from his ministry in their congregation. The deputies of Regional Synod concurred with the decision of Classis to approbate this decision of Fergus North. Rev. Geurts remains eligible for call within the churches. Prayer was offered for Rev. Geurts and his family as well as the church at Fergus North.

Reports were given on church visits to the following churches: Guelph Emmanuel, Orangeville, Fergus North, Elora, Brampton, Grand Valley, Fergus Maranatha, Guelph Living Word, and Owen Sound. The visits were received with thankfulness and prayer was offered asking the Lord for his blessing over the churches.

The churches answered in the affirmative that the ministry of the office bearers is being continued and the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured (Art. 44 C.O.). Classis appoints Rev. P. Feenstra as church counselor to the church at Fergus North at their request.

The church at Guelph Emmanuel asked Classis to overture Regional Synod to amend Article 62 C.O. by adding the words, "The members remain under the supervision and care of their consistory until they are received as members into that sister-church." This change is proposed out of concern for the pastoral care of members who ask for an attestation but do not join the church in the area to which they move. Classis decides not to agree to this overture since the pastoral concerns can be addressed in other ways and need not be covered by an article in the Church Order.

The church at Guelph Emmanuel also asks Classis to overture Regional Synod to change the regulations of Regional Synod East. Classis agrees to overture Regional Synod to more specifically detail the appointments that need to be made on the agenda that are sent to the churches.

The next Classis was scheduled for September 21, 2012, to be convened by the Church at Grand Valley.

The chairman noted with thankfulness that the meeting could be conducted in brotherly harmony. After thanksgiving in prayer, the meeting was closed.

Rev. M.H. VanLuik

Vice chairman at that time.