

*Press Release of
Classis Niagara December 12, 2012*

1. Opening of classis

On behalf of the church at Grassie, br. Fred Bosscher opened the meeting by requesting singing, reading Scripture and leading in prayer. After finding the credentials in good order, classis was declared constituted. The following brothers formed the moderamen as per the suggestion of the previous classis: chairman – Rev. D. Wynia; vice-chairman – Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer; clerk: Rev. J. Huijgen.

2. Memorabilia

As memorabilia, the chairman mentioned that the church at Dunnville has received a new minister in the person of Rev. J. VanWoudenberg. Prof Geertsema is doing remarkably well. The church at Blue Bell is considering the Lord's calling for their future as their numbers continue to diminish.

3. Agenda

With the addition of a proposal from the church at Dunnville and a piece of correspondence from the church at Blue Bell, the agenda was adopted. Rev. Joel Dykstra was seated as a fraternal delegate from Classis Ontario East of the United Reformed Churches.

4. Approbation of Call

The documentation regarding Dunnville's call to Rev. J. VanWoudenberg and his acceptance was inspected by the moderamen. They reported that all was in good order. Classis then approbated the call and expressed thanks to the Lord for this joyful development.

5. Question period ad Article 44, C.O.

The church at Grassie seeks and receives concurring advice in a case of church discipline as per Article 68, CO.

6. Proposals

The church at Dunnville proposed to change the classis regulations to overtly permit and thus regulate the use of email communication in the convening of classis. Discussion ensued and some questions were raised regarding the particulars. Classis expressed agreement in principle with the proposal but requested Dunnville to consider reworking it to address the concerns raised and to come to a subsequent classis with a revised proposal.

7. Correspondence

A letter was received from the church at Blue Bell outlining the recent developments within their congregation and seeking advice. Blue Bell as congregation is shrinking to the point where a consistory will soon no longer be able to function and the church is considering what to do. An open discussion was held, general support was offered but it was stressed that Blue Bell needs to take the initiative and come with a proposal to a subsequent classis.

8. Reports

The Spring Creek church reports that the archives of classis have been inspected and two minor documents were found to be missing. This is noted by classis. Spring Creek also points out that classis regulations call for the 'nearest church' to inspect the archives held by

the church for the archives. Accordingly, it is noted that this task falls to the church in Dunnville from this point forward.

9. Appointments

- a. Convening church for the next classis - Lincoln
- b. Date of the next classis – March 06 2013; if cancelled, then June 12
- c. Suggested officers for the next classis – Rev. C. Bouwman (chair); Rev. J. Huijgen (vice-chair); Rev. D. Wynia (clerk)

10. Fraternal delegate

Rev. Joel Dykstra is given an opportunity to address classis and he briefly remarks with appreciation at how familiar we are becoming with one another.

11. Closing of Classis

Personal question period was not made use of. The chairman declared that censure according to Article 34 CO was thankfully not necessary. After the Acts and the Press Release were each read and approved by the assembly, Rev. Wynia led in prayer of thanksgiving. Thereupon classis was declared closed.

For Classis Niagara December 12,
Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer, clerk at that time