

Press Release of the meeting of the churches in the region of Classis Niagara on March 06, 2013
at Lincoln Canadian Reformed Church, ON,

On behalf of the convening Church of Lincoln, rev. D. Wynia welcomes all and invites us to sing Hymn 47: 2, 5 and after that, reads 2 Corinthians 2: 12-3:6. He leads us in prayer.

The credentials are found to be in order and classis is constituted. A special welcome is extended to rev. John Bouwers of the Immanuel United Reformed Church in Jordan.

The following officers take their place. Chairman: Rev. C. Bouwman Clerk: Rev. D. Wynia Vice-Chairman: Rev. J. Huijgen. After this, the agenda is adopted.

Memorable facts are that rev. VanWoudenberg is present for the first time. Rev Wynia has received a call from the church at Fergus-North.

Rev. VanWoudenberg is requested to sign the subscription form for classis. He expresses his agreement by signing the form.

In Question Period ad Art. 44 C.O. the delegates are asked the pertinent questions, which are then answered. One church requests advice, which is dealt with in closed session.

The Reformation church in Bluebell presents its letter regarding the future of the congregation in Bluebell. This letter had been sent to the delegates before classis. A brotherly discussion is held. The delegates of Blue Bell explain their assessment of the current situation. Classis is requested to consider "to grant house congregation status to Blue Bell, and allow them to continue for the period of a year or until the congregation in Bluebell decides on its own accord to disband". After a few rounds, Classis pauses that discussion.

The church visitation reports to the churches at Attercliffe, Dunnville, Grassie, Smithville and Tintern are read and received. With thankfulness to the LORD it is observed that the churches in the area desire to live in harmony with the Word of God, in the unity of the faith and in submission to the adopted Church Order.

After lunch brother rev. John Bouwers of the Immanuel URC extends fraternal greetings on behalf of the URCNA. He appreciates the relationship we have as we look forward to further growth as federations.

A committee was struck to draft a response to the church at Blue Bell. It is decided to assign the group in Blue Bell to the supervision of the consistory of the church at Dunnville. The chairman speaks words of encouragement to the brothers of Blue Bell and the delegates of Dunnville.

The convening church for the next Classis will be Smithville. The date for the next classis is D.V. June 12, 2013 (alternate date: September 11, 2013).

The suggested officers for the next Classis are: Chair: rev. J. Vanwoudenberg. Clerk: rev. C. Bouwman. Vice-chair: rev. D. Wynia.

Rev. Wynia is delegated to Classis Ontario East of the URCNA March 21, 2013 in St. Catherines.

The convening church will invite fraternal delegates from the OPC, URCNA and RCUS, as well as an observer from the FRC, for the next classis.

The personal question period is made use of. During censure according to Art. 34 C.O. it is observed that no censure is needed. Words of encouragement are expressed.

The Acts are adopted as read. And the Press Release is approved. The chairman closes the meeting by requesting us to sing psalm 46: 1, 3 and leads us in closing prayer.

For classis Niagara e.t. Rev. J. Huijgen, vice-chair.