

Press Release of
CLASSIS CENTRAL ONTARIO
held March 8, 2013 in Burlington

The convening church of Ottawa had requested that the Rev. Gijsbert Nederveen open the meeting on their behalf. The reason for this irregularity was that since there were only two items on the Agenda, the churches at Ottawa and Toronto participated in this classis via teleconference.

The meeting was called to order and after Rev. Nederveen had ascertained that the brothers from Ottawa and Toronto were present online, he led in opening devotions. In his prayer he remembered specifically the Rev. Doug Vandeburgt who because of health reasons had received a leave of absence. It was noted with thankfulness to the Lord that Rev. Vandeburgt is taking up some of his ministerial duties again. Also the needs of the Rev. Cornelis Kleyn family in Papua New Guinea was remembered as the Kleyns have struggled with some illness since moving to PNG. The needs of these brothers and their families were laid before the Lord.

In his opening remarks Rev. Nederveen welcomed in particular the Reverends Peter Feenstra and Jan Huijgen as Deputies for Regional Synod East. Their presence was required in view of the retirement of Rev. Jan DeGelder.

After the credentials were examined classis was constituted and appointed as its chairman the Rev. Gijsbert Nederveen, and as its clerk the Rev. John van Popta.

The main item on the agenda dealt with the retirement and release of the Rev. Jan DeGelder.

Flamborough Church requested the concurring advice of classis, and of the deputies of regional synod, to release as per Article 13 CO the Reverend Jan DeGelder from the duties of the office of minister of the Word in Flamborough effective July 1, 2013. The required documents were presented and after the officers of classis reviewed the financial arrangements and deemed them adequate, classis concurred with the decision of Flamborough council. The deputies of Regional Synod East gave their concurring advice.

As a consequence of this, classis decided to grant a most honourable release to the Reverend Jan DeGelder from his ministerial duties in Classis Central Ontario as of July 1, 2013, which is the date on which his retirement from active service in the Flamborough Canadian Reformed Church will take effect. Classis gave Rev. DeGelder a *Certificate of Release* and also provided the church at Flamborough with a copy of this certificate. Further, Classis commended the Rev. Jan DeGelder, in his retirement, to the Lord with sincere gratitude for the work which he has faithfully carried out during his fourteen years of service in this classis.

The chairman spoke some fitting words of farewell to Rev. DeGelder and some words of encouragement to the consistory members of Flamborough Church as they now face a vacancy. He also expressed gratitude to the Lord for what he has given to the churches in the person and ministry of our brother. Reverend DeGelder responded with some appropriate words of farewell to the classis and of thankfulness to God. The deputies of regional synod added some fitting words commending our brother to the Lord and the chairman thanked the deputies for their work. Classis appointed the church in Burlington-Fellowship to represent Classis Central Ontario at the farewell service of Rev. DeGelder on June 9, 2013.

Other matters:

Rehoboth Church at Burlington-Waterdown presented an audit of the Fund for Needy Churches.

The regular appointments for the next classis on June 14, 2013 were made. Toronto is the convening church. The suggested officers are Rev. Doug Vandeburgt as chairman, Rev. John van Popta as vice-chairman, and Rev. George van Popta as clerk.

After the standard items of Question Period, Censure According to Article 34 CO and the approval of the Acts and the Press Release were completed, the clerk closed the meeting with prayer.

For the Classis Central Ontario of March 8, 2013

G. Nederveen