

Press Release - Classis Ontario West, June 5, 6 2013

Rev R. Vermeulen called the meeting to order on behalf of the convening church of Trinity, Glanbrook. After opening the meeting in a Christian manner, Classis was declared constituted with all the churches properly represented. The officers were Rev W. Bredenhof as chair, Rev D. de Boer as vice-chair and Rev B. de Jong as clerk. The delegates were welcomed, and a special welcome was extended to Rev R. Stienstra of the URCNA and to Rev W. Van Hal of the URCNA who was present as a fraternal delegate. Also welcomed were the students present to be examined by the Classis.

Gerrit Bruintjes, Jeff Poort and Tyler Vandergaag presented the appropriate documents and were examined for permission to speak an edifying word. Classis heard the sermon proposals and examined these students in their knowledge of Doctrine and Creeds. Classis was assisted in the examinations by Rev W. den Hollander and Rev J. Huijgen. After discussing the results of the exams in closed session, Classis gave permission to these students to speak an edifying word in the churches, and the students promised to speak only the truth of Scripture as summarized in the confessions of the churches. Time was taken to give thanks to the Lord and to congratulate the brothers on their success in the examinations.

Rev Van Hal addressed Classis on behalf of the URCNA in his capacity as a member of the CERCU and brought greetings. He expressed appreciation for the fellowship between the two federations and the hope that the churches would be able to find federative unity in the future. Ben Schoof presented the appropriate documents and was examined for permission to be made eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Canadian and American Reformed Churches. Classis heard the sermon proposal and examined the student in his knowledge of Doctrine and Creeds and in Old Testament and New Testament Exegesis. Classis was assisted in the examinations by Rev J. VanWoudenberg. After discussing the result of the exams in closed session, Classis declared Ben Schoof eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Canadian and American Reformed Churches. The candidate promised to teach only the truth of the Word of God as summarized in the confessions of the church.

The chairman went on to ask the delegates of the churches the questions of Article 44 of the Church Order. The delegates responded that the ministry of the offices is being maintained and that the decisions of the major assemblies are being upheld. One church requested advice in a matter of discipline, and advice was given in closed session. Classis reviewed the treasurers report for expenses for the past year and will await the report of the auditors at a future Classis. Classis also received the report of the church of Kerwood that the archives of Classis are complete for 2012. The Church Visit Reports were received by Classis with thankfulness. Ebenezer Church in Chatham was appointed to be the convening church for the next Classis on September 18, 2013. The suggested officers were Rev D. de Boer as chair, Rev B. de Jong as vice-chair and Rev K. Kok as clerk. Classis adjourned overnight and reconvened the next morning to continue its agenda.

Calvin Vanderlinde and Theo Wierenga presented the necessary documents and were examined for permission to be made eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the churches. Classis heard the sermon proposal for Calvin Vanderlinde and decided not to continue the examination. Classis decided to extend the permission of Calvin Vanderlinde to speak an edifying word for one year. Classis heard the sermon of Theo Wierenga and went on to conduct examinations in Doctrine and in Old and New Testament exegesis. Classis was

assisted in the examinations by Rev J. Huijgen. After discussing the results of the exams in closed session, Classis decided that Theo Wierenga did not sustain the examination; Classis decided to extend the permission of Theo Wierenga to speak an edifying word for one year. The acts were adopted, and the press release was approved. Rev W. Bredenhof judged that censure was not needed and closed the meeting by asking the assembly to sing praise to God and by leading all present in a prayer of thanksgiving and intercession.

Vice-chair at the time,
Dave de Boer