

Press release of Classis Central Ontario, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013, held at Ebenezer Church Burlington.

Bethel Church of Toronto was the convening church so, on their behalf, Brother John Van Dyk, an elder at Bethel opened the meeting in a Christian way. Jubilee Church of Ottawa examined the credentials of the churches and reported that they were all in order. Classis was constituted. Rev. Doug Vandeburgt served as chairman while Rev. George van Popta served as clerk. Since the brother who ordinarily would have been appointed as vice-chairman was away enjoying a sabbatical, and since the agenda for the meeting was light, it was felt that we could manage without a vice-chairman. Classis decided that the chairman and the clerk would prepare a press release, something normally written by the vice-chairman.

Because this classis was asked to give concurring advice to the request of Ebenezer Burlington to their decision to allow their pastor, the Rev. Bert Nederveen to retire, the Rev. Messrs. Peter Feenstra and Jan Huijgen were present in their capacity of deputies of Regional Synod East. The chairman welcomed them and mentioned some other items of memorabilia.

After reviewing the agenda, it was adopted.

Classis and the deputies gave concurring advice to Ebenezer Church to allow the Rev. Bert Nederveen to retire on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. Classis also released Rev. Nederveen from his duties within the classical resort. This was an important moment. Rev. Nederveen served in this classical area for more than 29 years, since he had been ordained in Brampton in February of 1984. When he conducts his final service in Ebenezer and preaches his farewell sermon there on August 25<sup>th</sup>, he will have been Ebenezer's pastor for twenty-two years. The chairman, the deputies, and the Rev. Nederveen all spoke some appropriate words to mark the occasion. Flamborough Church will represent classis at the August 25<sup>th</sup> service at Ebenezer.

Reports of the church visitations were read. The chairman thanked the visitors for their work and commended all the churches to the Lord's love and care.

As per Flamborough's request, classis appointed the Rev. Jan de Gelder as counsellor of Flamborough Church.

The chairman asked the three questions of Church Order Article 44, i.e., whether the offices are being continued, whether the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured, and whether the judgment or help of classis is need for the proper government of the local church. By way of their delegates, all the churches were able to answer the first two questions in the affirmative and the last in the negative.

Ebenezer Church was appointed as the convening church for the next classis which will be held, D.V., at Ebenezer on September 13. The suggested officers are: Rev. George van Popta as chairman, Rev. Doug Vandeburgt as vice, and Rev. John van Popta as clerk.

After personal question period was held, after the acts were adopted, and once fitting words had been expressed to the convening and hosting churches, the chairman concluded the meeting in a Christian way.

For Classis Central Ontario of June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Rev. Doug Vandeburgt and Rev. George van Popta, respectively chairman and clerk at that time.