

## **Press Release of Classis Niagara, December 11, 2013, Attercliffe, Ontario**

On behalf of the convening church, Rev. Jan Huijgen called the meeting of the delegates to order. He asked the delegates to sing Hymn 25:1,3, read from Romans 16:20-27, and spoke some words on this passage. He welcomed everyone present.

As memorabilia he mentioned that the Church of Grassie remains vacant, there was a graduation at the seminary with the appointment of a fifth professor, that the seminary is putting on a conference around the important topic of hermeneutics, and that Candidates Vanderlinde and Wierenga both sustained peremptory examinations at other recent classes.

After the credentials were all found to be in order, classis was declared constituted. Rev. Huijgen served as chairman, Rev. Peter Holtvluwer as clerk, and Rev. John VanWoudenberg as vice-chairman.

After the adoption of the agenda, Attercliffe reported on invitations sent out to other churches for fraternal delegates. Several churches sent in letters of regret that they could not attend.

In connection with Article 44 of the Church Order all the churches indicated that the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued and that the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured. One church asked for and received advice in a matter of discipline.

Classis dealt with a request from the Church of Dunnville to rescind the decision of Classis Niagara Sept 11, 2013 to delegate Rev. VanWoudenberg as fraternal observer to an upcoming classis of the RCUS in Iowa, considering Dunnville's supervision at Bluebell. Dunnville noted that:

- a. no church suggested that classis send a delegate to this RCUS classis;
- b. The Church of Dunnville in particular, though tasked with the supervision of Bluebell to which there is a bit of a RCUS connection, did not ask for anything like this;
- c. The churches in classis Niagara are quite far removed from this RCUS classis;
- d. The RCUS and the Canadian Reformed Churches already have contact via committees of the broadest assemblies, and via classes in Western Canada and Western USA.

Classis decided to not rescind this decision as the rationale was not deemed convincing.

It was noted that as of March 31, 2014, the Church of Dunnville will cease providing oversight to the former Bluebell congregation.

Classis received an audit of the classical archives. This audit reported that some documents were missing. Classis requested the Church caring for the archives to get the archives up to date.

Br. Ludwig reported on a very positive visit he made as a delegate from Classis to Classis Ontario East of the United Reformed Churches of North America.

The following arrangements were made for the next classis: convening church: Dunnville; date: March 19, 2013 (alternate: June 11, 2013); chairman: Rev. Wynia; Vice-chairman: Rev. Holtvluwer; clerk: Rev. Huijgen

The convening church for the next classis was instructed to invite fraternal delegates from the URCNA, OPC, and RCUS, as well as an observer from the FRCNA

Rev. Huijgen was delegated to serve as fraternal delegate to the upcoming URCNA classis in this area if this happens before next Classis Niagara.

After the Acts were adopted and Press Release approved, prayer was offered and thereafter the meeting was closed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John VanWoudenberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline.

Rev. John VanWoudenberg (vice chairman)