

Press Release of Classis Ontario-West
(May 21 and 22, 2014 in Hamilton, ON)

On behalf of the convening church (Hamilton-Cornerstone) Rev. B. DeJong called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and led in opening devotions. The delegates of the convening church reported that all the credentials were in order. Classis was declared constituted. The appointed officers, as suggested by the previous classis, took their place: Rev. K. Kok, (chairman), Rev. J. Ludwig (vice chairman), and Rev. R. Vermeulen (clerk).

The convening church was thanked for its work in preparing for classis. The chairman mentioned the following items of memorabilia: the vacancy of Kerwood; Rev. R. Vermeulen declined the calls to Edmonton Immanuel and Burlington Ebenezer, and Rev. P. Aasman declined the call to Launceston, Tasmania.

The agenda was adopted. Five students, Johan Brintjes, Rick Vanderhorst, Steve VanLeeuwen, Gerard Veurink, and Randall Visscher presented themselves in order to receive permission to speak in an edifying word in the churches. After having submitted the required documents, the students were examined in alphabetical order. Their sermon proposals and the examinations in doctrine and creeds were judged sufficient to grant these five brothers permission to speak an edifying word within the churches for the period of one year. Three students, Gerrit Brintjes, Jeff Poort, and Tyler Vandergaag presented themselves for the purpose of being declared eligible for call. The required documents were in good order. After delivering their sermon proposals and being examined in OT and NT exegesis and doctrine and creeds, Classis decided to declare these three brothers eligible for call in the Canadian and American Reformed Churches. After each of the eight examinations the assembly thanked the Lord in prayer and opportunity was given to congratulate the students.

Two reports were presented:

1. Classis received with gratitude a report of the church visitors to Providence Canadian Reformed Church.
2. From the church at Kerwood regarding the inspection of the archives of classis in London.

The following appointments were made:

1. Church for auditing the books of the treasurer: Hamilton;
2. Church for taking care of the classical archives: London;
3. Church for inspecting the classical archives: Kerwood;
4. Church visitors: Rev. K. Kok and Rev. J. Ludwig (alt. Rev. B. DeJong).
5. Committee of Examiners: Rev. K. Kok and Rev. J. Ludwig.
6. Church for administering the Fund for Needy Churches: Ancaster.
7. Church as contact for ecumenical relations: Kerwood.
8. The convening church of the next classis: Hamilton-Providence
9. Suggested officers for the next classis: Chairman: Rev. J. Ludwig; Vice Chairman: Rev. R. Vermeulen; Clerk: Rev. R. Bredenhof.
10. Date and place of the next classis: Sept. 17, 2014 in Hamilton-Providence.

The fraternal delegate, Rev. W. Van Hal, a retired minister in the URCNA, on behalf of CERCU and the Classis of South-Western Ontario, addressed the assembly with words of greeting and encouragement.

The chairman asked all the churches the three questions set out in Article 44 and the churches responded appropriately. The church at Chatham asked advice regarding an organization called “Neighbour link” which puts volunteers from various churches in touch with people in need. Advice was given. Hamilton-Cornerstone requested concurring advice in a case of discipline. Advice was given. Cornerstone also informed classis of a grassroots initiative to institute a new church in the East Hamilton area. The church at Kerwood requested pulpit supply once per month for the summer and fall of 2014. This request was granted. Personal question period was held. Censure according to article 34 was deemed unnecessary. The Acts were adopted and the press release approved.

Rev. K. Kok led in closing prayer.

For Classis Ontario-West,
Rev. J. Ludwig (vice chairman, *e.t.*)