

Press Release, Classis Ontario West, Providence Hamilton Canadian Reformed Church, October 1, 2014

Rev W. Bredenhof welcomed everyone on behalf of the convening church of Providence Hamilton. After opening the meeting in a Christian manner, Classis was declared constituted with Rev J. Ludwig as chair, Rev D. de Boer as vice chair and Rev R. Bredenhof as clerk. Items of memorabilia were remembered.

The agenda for Classis was adopted. Br Jeff Poort presented the necessary documents and underwent the peremptory examination. Br Poort present a sermon on 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. He was examined in Old Testament exegesis, New Testament exegesis, Doctrine and Creeds, Church Polity, Diaconiology, Ethics, Bible Knowledge and Church History. In closed session, Classis reviewed the examinations and decided that Br Poort sustained his peremptory examination. The delegates of Regional Synod concurred with the decision of Classis. Br Poort signed the Form for Subscription. On behalf of Classis, the chairman congratulated Br Poort and his wife. Classis approved the call extended by Grace Kerwood church to Br Poort. Classis appointed Pilgrim London church to represent the church of Classis at the ordination and installation of Br Poort on October 19, 2014 in Kerwood. The delegates of Classis rejoiced with prayer and singing.

Rev W. Van Hal spoke words of greeting and encouragement on behalf of the United Reformed Churches and in his role as a committee member of CERCU.

Classis discussed an overture from Cornerstone Hamilton to revise Church Order, Article 51, Mission. The proposed revision would follow the text of the relevant article in the Proposed Joint Church Order intended for use in a unified federation of Canadian Reformed and United Reformed congregations. The proposal was adopted and the overture will be submitted to the next Regional Synod East.

The chairman asked the questions of Article 44, C.O. The delegates affirmed that the ministry of the office bearers is being maintained in the churches and that the decisions of the major assemblies are being upheld. One church asked for advice in matters of supervision and advice was given.

The Cornerstone Hamilton church asked for concurring advice for the constitution of a new consistory in the Hamilton area. Classis gave concurring advice, judging that the proposal had the support of the overseeing consistory, that the new congregation will be financially viable, and that there will be sufficient men to serve as office bearers. The delegates gave thanks with singing.

Classis approved an assessment of \$3 per communicant member for Classis expenses and an assessment of \$31 per communicant member for the Fund for Needy Churches.

Classis appointed elders P. Kingma and K. Temple as delegates to Regional Synod East, Toronto, November 12, 2014, with elders J. VanPopta and D. Ten Haaf as alternates. Classis also delegated the ministers Rev D. de Boer and K. Kok, with Rev J. Ludwig and Rev R. Bredenhof as alternates.

Classis appointed Grace Kerwood to convene the next Classis on December 10, 2014, with March 11, 2015 as an alternate date. Suggested officers will be Rev. R. Vermeulen chair, Rev R. Bredenhof vice chair and Rev W. Bredenhof clerk.

Opportunity was given for personal questions. The chairman ruled that censure was not required. The Acts and Press Release were adopted. The meeting was closed with prayer and singing.

Vice Chair at the time,

D. de Boer