

Press Release for Regional Synod East held November 12, 2014 at Toronto

Delegates were welcomed by br. Gerald Boot on behalf of the consistory of Bethel CanRC of Toronto. Br. Boot led us in opening devotions, reading from Philippians 2:1-18, and we sang together from Hymn 44. Under memorabilia, br. Boot then gave a review of the history and circumstances of the Bethel congregation, which celebrates the 60th anniversary of its institution this year. He remembered the vacant churches, the churches that have received ministers, the various mission projects, foreign and domestic of the churches of Regional Synod East. He also reminded us of the work of the Seminary, and of the circumstances and ongoing involvement of emeritus ministers and professors.

The credentials were examined and declared to be in good order.

The following brothers were elected to serve as executive: Rev. Bouwman was elected to serve as chairman; Rev. Wynia to serve as vice-chairman, and Rev. Bredenhof to serve as clerk, and when the elected officers took their places, Regional Synod East November 12, 2014 was declared constituted. Rev. Bouwman expressed appreciation on behalf of the delegates for the work done by Bethel Toronto in preparation for Regional Synod.

The agenda was adopted as presented.

There was no correspondence.

Regional Synod discussed an overture that came from Classis Ontario West, advocating that Article 51 of the Church Order be expanded, using articles drawn from the Proposed Joint Church Order, entitled, The Church's Mission Calling, and The Church's Evangelism Calling. Following some discussion to clarify the character of any decision we might make on the overture, it was agreed that if we would adopt it, that would indicate that we endorse its contents as worthy for consideration by the general synod.

It was observed that the Regulations for Regional Synod East had not been followed with respect to this overture. In Point I. B. ii, we have agreed that proposals which are to be considered by Regional Synod are to be sent to all of the churches in the Regional Synod one month before the Synod is scheduled to convene. The overture was not in fact sent around to all of the churches, and as a result, Regional Synod decided that the matter could not be dealt with at this Synod.

Following some discussion, we reached a consensus that in the Acts of Regional Synod, the attention of the convening church of the next Regional Synod East would be drawn to this item, so that it can be placed on the agenda of that meeting, and circulated in good time among all the churches of Regional Synod East, in accordance with the regulations.

The report of the treasurer, br. D. VanAmerongen was approved, and at his recommendation, the assessment is set at \$1.00 per communicant member for the coming year. The review of the Covenant Canadian Reformed Church of Grassie of the treasurer's books was received and br. VanAmerongen Sr. was discharged for the period October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014.

Reports of Deputies of Regional Synod East ad Article 48 CO were received from Revs. Huijgen and Rev. P. Feenstra, indicating that they concurred with the decisions of Classis Central Ontario September 12, 2014, and of Classis Ontario West October 1, 2014, that the peremptory

examinations respectively of br. Gerrit Bruintjes and br. J. Poort were deemed satisfactory. Revs. W. DenHollander and J. Ludwig reported that they concurred with the decision of Classis Ontario North December 11, 2013 that the peremptory examination of br. T. Wierenga was deemed satisfactory.

The report of the Grace Canadian Reformed Church of Brampton on the archives of Regional Synod East was received.

Br. D. VanAmerongen was reappointed as treasurer for Regional Synod East for the coming year. Covenant Canadian Reformed Church of Grassie was reappointed to serve as church for auditing the books of the treasurer.

Deputies for Regional Synod East according to Article 48 C.O. were reappointed, with the exception of Rev. W. Bredenhof, who has accepted a call to Tasmania, and will be leaving the country. Rev. B. DeJong of the Cornerstone Canadian Reformed Church of Hamilton was appointed in his place.

Bethel Canadian Reformed Church of Toronto was reappointed to maintain the archives of Regional Synod East, and Grace Canadian Reformed Church of Brampton was reappointed to inspect the archives.

Regional Synod East November 11, 2015 will be convened by the church of Grand Valley.

Question period was not made use of. The chairman expressed his gratitude that censure as per Article 34 was not necessary.

The Acts were read and adopted; the Press Release was read and adopted.

Vice-chairman at that time, Rev. Dick Wynia