

Press Release of Classis Northern Ontario, convened by Guelph Emmanuel on September 24, 2015

On behalf of the convening church Rev. Peter Feenstra called the meeting to order and led us in opening devotions. The Scripture reading was taken from Colossians 1:1-20 and we sang Psalm 72:1, 10. In prayer Rev. Feenstra asked the Lord for his blessing on the meeting. He welcomed Rev. Douglas Bylsma, a fraternal delegate from the Presbytery of Michigan/Ontario of the OPC.

All the churches were properly represented and classis was constituted. The agenda was adopted. The chairman took a few moments to note some of the happenings in Classis. Three churches are now vacant. Rev. VanderVelde received a call to the church at Burlington-Waterdown and moved there at the beginning of September, leaving the church at Elora vacant. Rev. Moesker will have his farewell sermon on Sunday and will soon be minister emeritus of the church at Owen Sound. Anticipating the vacancy Owen Sound called candidate Rick Vanderhorst but he declined the call that was extended to him. Grand Valley recently called candidate Randall Visscher.

Rev. Bylsma was given opportunity to address Classis. He brought greetings from the OPC and the Presbytery of Michigan/Ontario. He expressed appreciation that a fraternal delegate from Classis Northern Ontario attended their presbytery. He gave Classis some insight into the work going on and the challenges in the OPC and the Presbytery of Michigan/Ontario. The chairman thanked him for his greetings. It was also noted that correspondence was received from the contact persons for the URCNA and ERQ indicating that these churches would not be sending fraternal delegates to this Classis.

Regular September reports, dealing with such matters as the inspection of the Archives, report of the Treasurer and audit of the Classical Fund, and the Committee for Needy Churches, were received.

In response to the questions of Article 44 of the Church Order, all the churches indicated that the ministry of the office bearers was being continued and the decisions of major assemblies honoured. None of the churches requested the judgment and help of classis for the proper government of the church in a matter of discipline.

Upon the request of Owen Sound, Rev. Jack Moesker was appointed as their counsellor.

Classis made a variety of appointments as specified by the classical regulations (e.g. Examiners, Church Visitors). The next classis is scheduled for December 11, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. or the Thursday evening prior. The convening church for the next classis is Guelph Living Word. The convening church will invite observers from the OPC, ERQ URCNA and will respond to any invitations from these churches.

The following were delegated to Regional Synod East, 2015:

Elders: Gerrit Bos, Henk Nobel; alternates in order: John VanderWoerd, Brian Niezen

Ministers: Douwe Agema, Marc Jagt; alternates in order: Eric Kampen and Peter Feenstra.

Question period was held. Appreciation was expressed for the work of Rev. Moesker in this Classis and for the work he was able to do in the federation of churches. It was noted with thankfulness that censure

was not necessary as the meeting was conducted in good harmony. The Acts were read and adopted and the Press Release was approved. After singing Psalm 96:6, 7, 8 and prayer, Classis was closed.

On behalf of Classis, September 24, 2015

Rev. Peter Feenstra