Press Release of Regional Synod Grand Valley, November 11, 2015

On behalf of the convening church br Ed Niezen called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM, and led the assembly in appropriate opening devotions, calling on the name of the Lord for his blessing on the proceedings of the day.

Upon the examination of the credentials it was evident that all primary delegates appointed by the respective classes were present. Rev DJG Agema was appointed to serve as chairman, Rev C Bouwman as vice chairman, and Rev J. Ludwig as clerk. Upon the constitution of Regional Synod, the appointed officers took their seats.

After the adoption of the agenda, the chairman gave opportunity to the delegates to speak to the various items of correspondence on the agenda. Concerning the correspondence received by Synod, the following was decided:

1. An appeal from br A Sikkema concerning the fact that an overture sent to Classis Ontario West referencing him without his knowledge was upheld. It would have been proper that he be advised and given opportunity to interact.
2. An appeal from br J vanderMeer concerning an overture sent to Classis Ontario West referencing him was noted. He requested Regional Synod to make public, in some appropriate way, the decisions of Regional Synod Lincoln 2013 concerning his appeal to that Synod. This was granted.
3. An overture from Classis Ontario West to pass on to General Synod a request to amend Art 51 *Church Order* was not adopted.
4. An overture from Classis Ontario West to pass on to General Synod a request to amend Art 14 *Belgic Confession* was not adopted.

At the appropriate hour, a moment of silence was granted to remember those who died to defend the peace we've enjoyed over the years, and then to sing our national anthem.

Visitors from the United Reformed Churches of North America, Revs F. Folkerts and M. Overgauw, received a warm welcome and were given the privilege of the floor. Regional Synod received an encouraging address from the brothers expressing appreciation for the contact we have together as churches and hoping for growth in further unity.

Various reports were received as follows:

a. The treasurer of Regional Synod East advised on the financial health of the Synod treasury. Given the costs expected in relation to the upcoming General Synod, each church will be assessed $1 per communicant member. Mileage remuneration was set at .45 cents per kilometer.
b. The audit of the treasurer's books found those books to be in good order. The treasurer was discharged for the work of this period.
c. Deputies ad Art 48 CO reported satisfactorily on their work, specifically in relation to the retirement of Rev J. Moesker.
d. The archives of Regional Synod were found to be in good order.
e. The church in Toronto advised Synod that the Liason/Deputy with the Registrar General of the Province of Ontario under the Marriage Act 1990 is now br Karl J. Veldkamp. Br Cornelis Lindhout has fulfilled this role for many years, which was acknowledged with deep gratitude.

Deputies were appointed for various tasks within the Regional Synod. Of note are those appointed to attend General Synod Dunnville, 2016: Elders: brs Gerrit Bos, Lammert Jagt, Rick Ludwig, Carl Oosterhoff, Jeff Temple, John vanderWoerd (alt: Brian Niezen, Theo Flach & Terry Medemblik – in that order); Ministers: brs Douwe Agema, Dave deBoer, Peter Feenstra, Eric Kampen, John vanWoudenberg, Dick Wynia (alt: Rodney Vermeulen, Rolf

denHollander & Clarence Bouwman – in that order). Nominated for the Board of Governors was br Clarence Bouwman, with br Dave deBoer as alternate.

The church of Grand Rapids was appointed as convening church for the next Regional Synod to be held on November 9, 2016.

The chairman judged that Christian censure was not necessary; instead, he gratefully complimented the brothers for their good cooperation. The Acts of Regional Synod 2015 were read and adopted, as was also the Press Release.

The chairman lead the meeting in closing devotions, and Regional Synod was declared closed.

C Bouwman
Vice Chairman e.t.