

Press Release of Classis Niagara held on Mar.9, 2016 in the Spring Creek Canadian Reformed Church of Tintern

Opening

On behalf of the convening church Rev. Peter Holtvlüwer opened the meeting by welcoming all present. He requested that we sing Psalm 67 followed by the reading of the same. After reflecting on the message of the Psalm he led in prayer, making special note of the health of sr. Dinie Huijgen who was recently given a clean bill of health, the receipt and acceptance of the call extended to Rev. Jan Huijgen by the Coaldale CanRC, the imminent vacancy of Attercliffe, the receipt and decline of the call extended to Rev. Dick Wynia by the Flamborough CanRC, the preparations for General Synod May 2016 by the church at Dunnville, the passing away of Rev. Klaas Stam, former minister serving in this Classical region and the ongoing health concerns of Drs. Jack De Jong and Nicolaas Gootjes.

Examination of Credentials and Constitution of Classis

The credentials were examined by the convening church and found to be in good order. It is noted that all the *primi* delegates are present except for from the church at Grassie, their alternate being in attendance. Upon the examination of the credentials, Classis was declared constituted.

Appointment of Executive Officers

The suggested officers from Classis Niagara September 16, 2015, Rev. Jan Huijgen as chairman, Rev. Rolf den Hollander as vice-chairman, and Rev. Peter Holtvlüwer as clerk were appointed.

The chairman thanked the church at Spring Creek for their preparations. He also welcomed Rev. Ryan Kampen as observer, expressing the prayer that the Lord would allow him an opportunity to continue serving in the churches.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as received at Classis.

Question period (Art.44 CO)

The chairman asked the questions according to Art.44 of the Church Order. Each of the churches indicated that the ministry of the office-bearers was being continued, and the decisions of the major assemblies were being honoured. Only the church at Smithville requested advice in a matter of discipline. The remaining churches did not request the judgement and help of classis for the proper government of their church. Classis entered closed session to deal with the request of Smithville. After some discussion concurring advice was given.

Reports

In closed session, church visitation reports were given of visits held at the Canadian Reformed Churches at Attercliffe, Dunnville, Grassie, Lincoln, Smithville and Tintern. It was noted with gratitude that all reports could conclude with thankfulness that things are being done according to the Word of God, that the office-bearers are fulfilling the duties of their office and calling faithfully and that the Church Order is being observed.

The Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries submitted a written report on their attendance at the meeting of the OPC Presbytery of Michigan and Ontario on Friday Sept. 18, 2015 (9:00 A.M - 3:00 P.M) at the Grace Covenant OPC in Sheffield, Ontario. A request was made to ensure such reports are sent to the convening church in a timely manner so that they can distribute to the local churches to review it. The reminder was duly noted. The report is received with gratitude.

Appointments

According to the schedule, the church of Attercliffe is appointed as the convening church for the next Classis. It will be convened, D.V., on June 15, 2016 (or if deemed not necessary then, Sept.14, 2016). The suggested officers are Rev. Dick Wynia as chairman, Rev. Peter Holtvlüwer as vice-chairman and Rev. John Van Woudenberg as clerk.

Due to the upcoming departure of Rev. Jan Huijgen who was one of the organizers for examinations, Rev. Dick Wynia was appointed to join Rev. Peter Holtvlüwer on the committee.

Personal Question Period

Personal question period was made use of.

Brotherly Censure (Art.34 CO)

With gratitude the chairman noted the good harmony at the meeting and deemed brotherly censure not necessary.

Adoption of the Acts and approval of the Press Release

The Acts were read and adopted and the Press Release approved for publication.

Closing

The chairman closed the meeting by requesting the singing of Hymn 67:1, 7 and leading in prayer.

For Classis Niagara Mar.9, 2016,
Rev. Rolf den Hollander
Vice-president at that time.