

Press Release for Classis Central Ontario – June 9th, 2016

Rev. JL van Popta, delegate of the convening church Burlington Fellowship opened the meeting in a Christian manner.

The Ebenezer delegates inspected the credentials and reported that the churches were lawfully represented and that there was one instruction. Also present on behalf of Regional Synod were the Revs P Feenstra and J Huigen.

Classis was then declared to be constituted.

The proposed officers were appointed: Chairman: Rev C J Vandervelde, Vice-Chairman: Brother R Jager (elder delegate of the convening church) and Clerk: Rev JL van Popta.

The assembly adopted the provisional agenda with 2 changes.

At this point in the meeting the subscription form for Classis Central Ontario was read by the clerk and signed by Rev Vandervelde. (The form was not available at a previous classis.)

Jubilee church requested concurring advice according to Article 13 of the CO regarding the honorable release of their minister Rev. G Ph van Popta due to declining health. His retirement is to begin on September 1st, 2016 DV. This request was granted by classis. The chairman spoke words of thankfulness for the work that Rev van Popta has done in our federation for 29 years and some words of encouragement regarding Rev van Popta's declining health. Rev van Popta was given the opportunity to respond with words of thanks.

The Deputies of Regional Synod Rev. P Feenstra and Rev. J Huigen concurred with the request for early retirement, and Rev Feenstra took the opportunity to thank Rev. van Popta for his work and read a few words from Scripture.

The Clerk read the certificate of release which was duly signed and a copy was given to Rev van Popta and to the Jubilee delegates.

The Church at Burlington Fellowship was delegated to represent Classis at Rev van Popta's farewell worship service.

Rev Vandervelde closed this part of the meeting in a prayer of thanksgiving after which the delegates had the opportunity to encourage Rev van Popta and to thank him for his work.

The chairman noted that Flamborough and Jubilee (in September) were now vacant churches in Classis Central Ontario. Burlington Ebenezer was congratulated on Rev AB Roukema accepting the call to their congregation. He will be installed in August. The chairman also remembered the retired ministers Revs C Bosch, D de Jong, J Mulder, J DeGelder, G Nederveen and W Den Hollander in their circumstances.

In closed session, the six annual church visitation reports were read into the meeting. Thankfulness was expressed by the chairman for the spirit of cooperation during these visits.

Rev JL van Popta reported on a visit to the URCNA classis held March 10th in Nobleton Emmanuel URC. Chairman requested prayer by churches in our Classis for the upcoming URC Synod.

Question Period according to Article 44 of the Church Order was held. The churches responded with their appropriate answers.

A letter from brother Johan Bruintjes requesting that the next classis normally to be held on September 14, 2016 be convened instead on October 21st, 2016. This request was granted.

The following appointments were made:

Examination committee members to replace Rev. G Ph van Popta and G Bruintjes: Rev CJ Vandervelde and Rev JL van Popta.

Alternate church visitor to replace Rev. G Ph van Popta: deferred until next Classis.

Convening church of the next classis: Rehoboth and officers were suggested.

Date for the next classis: October 21st, 2016 at 9 am at Ebenezer.

Counsellor for Ottawa Jubilee: Rev JL Van Popta.

Pulpit supply for Ottawa was scheduled for once per month during their vacancy.

The Chairman ruled that censure according to Article 34 was not necessary.

The Acts were adopted and the Press Release was read and approved and the clerk Rev. JL van Popta led in closing prayer.