

Press Release of Classis Niagara, Sept 14, 2016, Dunnville, Ontario

On behalf of the convening church, Rev. John VanWoudenberg called the meeting of the delegates to order. He asked the delegates to sing Psalm 27:1-3, read from the same Psalm, and spoke some words on this passage.

Prior to leading in prayer he mentioned as memorabilia and matters for prayer that:

- Rev. Peter Holtvluwer from Tintern received a call to the Free Reformed Church of Byford, Western Australia,
- the Church of Attercliffe remains vacant,
- the Church of Smithville has not yet received a second minister,
- another class of students has graduated from CRTS,
- a new study season in the churches has begun.

After prayer he welcomed all the delegates as well as Rev. Norman VanEeden Petersman (fraternal delegate from classis Ontario East of the URCNA), Rev. Ryan Kampen, and Elder Frank Ludwig (one of the deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries).

After the credentials were found to be in order, classis was declared constituted. Rev. Clarence Bouwman served as chairman, Rev. Dick Wynia as clerk, and Rev. VanWoudenberg as vice-chairman.

In connection with Article 44 of the Church Order all the churches indicated that the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued and that the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured. Two churches asked for and received advice in several matters of discipline.

The church of Dunnville submitted an overture to adopt voting procedures for the classical regulations. Classis decided to ask Dunnville to amend it in light of some of the discussion and to submit it to the next classis.

Classis appointed Rev. Wynia to serve as Counselor for Attercliffe.

Classis received a report from the treasurer as well as an audit report. Classis adopted the proposal of the treasurer to not assess the churches for the upcoming year as there are currently sufficient funds.

Classis received a report on the inspection of the classical archives which noted that these were in good order.

Rev. VanEeden Petersman addressed classis on behalf of Classis Ontario East of the URCNA. He reflected on some of the decisions of the recent General Synod of the URCNA pertaining to the Canadian Reformed Churches. He also gave a bit of an update on some local mission efforts. The chairman responded with appropriate words.

The Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries submitted a report of contacts in the past year. Classis thanked the deputies and requested them to submit this report to the churches in classis Niagara before the next classis and to serve this classis with proposals for how to move forward.

The following arrangements were made for the next classis:

- Suggested date: Dec 14, 2016 (if cancelled, Mar 8, 2017)
- Convening Church: Grassie
- Suggested officers:
 - Chairman: Rev. Rolf DenHollander
 - Clerk: Rev. Bouwman
 - Vice-chairman: Rev. Wynia

The following appointments were made:

- Classis Treasurer: Br. Dave VanAmerongen (sr.);
- Church to Audit the books of the treasurer: Grassie
- Church to care for the archives: Attercliffe
- Church to inspect the archives: Dunnville
- Church Visitors: all the ministers with Rev. Bouwman as convener
- Committee for Arranging Examinations: Rev. Holtluwer and Rev. Wynia
- Delegates to Regional Synod East, Nov 9, 2016:
 - Ministers: Rev. DenHollander; Rev. Wynia; (alternates: Rev. Holtluwer; Rev. VanWoudenberg (in that order));
 - Elders: Elder Peter Feenstra; Elder Ken Jager (alternates: Elder Frank Ludwig; Elder Herman Poort (in that order)).
- Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries: br. Bert Gritter and br. Frank Ludwig

Classis mandated the church at Attercliffe, to:

1. Delete agenda item 11 (Inviting Fraternal delegates and observers to the next classis) from Art. 7 of the Classical Regulations given the decision of a previous classis to appoint deputies for contact;
2. Add the following in brackets to Art. 7, agenda item "Adoption of the Acts," of the Classical Regulations: "and deciding what portions of the Acts are to be sent to the

Classes/Presbyteries of neighbouring churches in EF". Classis did this noting that this simply makes explicit the decision of a previous classis to appoint deputies for contact.

After the Acts were adopted and Press Release approved, prayer was offered and thereafter the meeting was closed.

Rev. John VanWoudenberg (vice chairman)