

Press Release of Classis Ontario-West Oct. 5, 2016 in Kerwood, ON

On behalf of the convening church, Rev. K. Kok welcomed the delegates, the deputies of Regional Synod, Revs. M. Jagt and D. Wynia, and Rev. W. Van Hal, retired minister of Woodstock URC and a member of CERCU. Rev. K. Kok called the meeting to order and led the opening devotions. The following matters were remembered in prayer: the continuing vacancies of London and Providence; the retired professors, Dr. DeJong, Gootjes, Geertsema and their families, and the recent CRTS convocation and graduation.

The credentials were examined and found to be in good order. Classis was constituted. The officers suggested by the previous classis took their place: Rev. K. Kok as chairman, Rev. J. Poort as clerk, and Rev. J. Ludwig as vice-chairman.

Br. Hilmer Jagersma presented the required documents to undergo a peremptory examination. He delivered his sermon proposal on Luke 10: 25-37. In closed session the sermon proposal was discussed and judged sufficient to continue with the rest of the exam. In open session br. H. Jagersma was informed of this decision, and the rest of the examination took its course, with Rev. J. Ludwig examining in Old Testament, Rev. D. Deboer in New Testament, and Rev. K. Kok in doctrine and creeds, Rev. J. Poort in church history, Rev. R. Vermeulen in knowledge of Holy Scripture, Rev. P. Aasman in ethics. After lunch Rev. J. Louwse examined br. H. Jagersma in Diaconiology and Rev. J. Ludwig in church polity. In closed session classis evaluated the examination and decided that there were no objections to admitting candidate Hilmer Jagersma into the ministry of the Word in the Can/Am. Reformed churches. The deputies of Regional Synod concurred with this decision. In open session br. Hilmer Jagersma was informed of the decision, and signed the Form of Subscription. Rev. J. Ludwig led in a prayer of thanksgiving and opportunity was given to congratulate br. Jagersma.

Rev. W. Van Hal spoke words of encouragement to the assembly and expressed appreciation for the fellowship that he enjoys when attending classis.

Classis decided to approbate the call to br. H. Jagersma by Hamilton-Blessings.

Question period according to Article 44 of the CO was held. All the churches answered that the ministry of the office bearers was being continued, and that the decisions of the assemblies were being honored. The church of Ancaster requested that Rev. J. Ludwig be relieved of all his classical/federational responsibilities during his sabbatical. This request was granted. The church of London asked for pulpit supply for January through July of 2017. This request was granted. The church at Chatham requested advice in a case of discipline. Advice was given.

Br. Johan Brintjes requested a one-year extension for permission to speak an edifying word. His request was granted.

A report of the classis treasurer was tabled recommending that the assessment for Classis increase from \$4.00 to \$5.00/communicant member for the calendar year 2017. This recommendation was adopted. Classis also decided that the churches be assessed \$1/com. member for the remainder of 2016.

The church at Ancaster, which administers the Fund for Needy Churches, presented a report recommending to financially support the church at Grand Rapids at \$19/communicant member for 2017. This recommendation was adopted.

The audit of the records of the classical treasurer by Cornerstone Can. Ref. Church was received stating that the financial statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016 were in good order.

The following appointments were made:

1. The convening church for the next classis is Hamilton-Blessings which will be held on December 14, 2016 (alt. date: Mar. 8, 2017) in Cornerstone.
2. The suggested officers are: Rev. J. Ludwig (Chairman); Rev. J. Poort (Vice-chairman), Rev. R. Vermeulen (Clerk).
3. Delegates to RSE, Nov.9, 2016 Revs. D. Deboer and J. Ludwig; with alternates Revs. K. Kok, and R. Vermeulen (in that order); Elders Art Witten and Arie DenHollander; with alternates Ben Harsevoort and Keith Sikkema (in that order).
4. The church at Cornerstone was appointed to represent the churches of Classis Ontario-West at the ordination of Candidate H. Jagersma.

Personal Question period was held. Censure ad art 34 was not deemed necessary. The Acts were adopted and the Press Release approved, after which Rev. J. Poort closed in prayer.

For Classis Ontario-West,  
Rev. J. Ludwig (Vice-chairman at that time)