

## **Press Release of Classis Central Ontario-October 21, 2016 in Burlington, ON**

On behalf of the convening church, Rev. C.J. VanderVelde welcomed the delegates, the deputies of Regional Synod, Revs. P. Feenstra and D. Wynia, as well as the fraternal delegates, Rev. M. Overgaauw of Grace URC of Simcoe County as a representative of Classis Ontario East (URCNA), Rev. D. Ventura of Living Hope URC, Waterdown, representing Classis Ontario West (URCNA) and Rev. D. Bylsma of Living Hope Presbyterian Church, Beamsville representing OPC, Presbytery of Michigan and Ontario. Rev. C.J. VanderVelde called the meeting to order and led the opening devotions. The following matters of memorabilia were noted and included in prayer: the death of Rev. W. Pouwelse in the Netherlands at the age of 88 years who formerly served in the federation in the churches at Burlington-Waterdown and Langley. The death of Mrs. Wilma deJong in the Netherlands, wife of Rev. D. deJong, minister emeritus of Burlington-Ebenezer. The upcoming 88<sup>th</sup> birthday of Rev. J. Mulder on November 2, 2016, minister emeritus of Burlington-Waterdown.

The credentials were examined and found to be in good order with all primi delegates present. Classis was constituted. The officers suggested by the previous classis took their place: Rev. J. vanPopta as chairman, Rev. G. Bruintjes as clerk, and elder R. Ludwig as vice-chairman. The agenda was adopted.

Rev. A.B. Roukema of Burlington-Ebenezer signed the Classis Form of Subscription.

Br. Jake Torenvliet presented the required documents to undergo a peremptory examination. He delivered his sermon proposal on Matthew 14:22-33. In closed session the sermon proposal was discussed and judged sufficient to continue with the rest of the exam. In open session br. J. Torenvliet was informed of this decision, and the rest of the examination took its course, with Rev. G. Bruintjes examining in Old Testament, Rev. C.J. VanderVelde in New Testament, Rev. G. Bruintjes on knowledge of Scripture, Rev. J. vanPopta in doctrine and creeds, and Rev. J. vanPopta in church history. During the morning examination session senior classes from Grace Christian School observed the proceedings. Following the lunch break, Rev. M. Overgaauw brought greetings on behalf of the URCNA and Rev. A.B. Roukema responded on behalf of Classis. Rev. D. Bylsma brought greetings on behalf of the OPC and Rev. G. Bruintjes responded in kind. The examination of br. J. Torenvliet continued with Rev. G. Bruintjes examining in ethics, Rev. A.B. Roukema in church polity and Rev. C.J. VanderVelde in diaconology. In closed session Classis evaluated the examination and decided that it was sustained and there were no objections to admitting candidate Jacob Torenvliet into the ministry of the Word in the Canadian and American Reformed churches. The deputies of Regional Synod concurred with this decision. In open session br. J. Torenvliet was informed of the decision. Rev. J. deGelder led in a prayer of thanksgiving and opportunity was given to congratulate br. J. Torenvliet. A certificate of admittance to the ministry was presented on behalf of Classis. The call of br. J. Torenvliet to the church at Flamborough was approbated. The ordination will take place on Sunday, November 13, 2016 at 11 a.m. Burlington-Ebenezer was delegated to represent Classis.

Br. Johan Bruintjes presented the required documents to undergo a preparatory exam. He delivered his sermon proposal on 2 Timothy 2:8,9. In closed session the sermon proposal was discussed and judged sufficient to continue with the rest of the exam. In open session br. J. Bruintjes was informed of this decision, and the rest of the examination took its course, with

Rev. A.B. Roukema examining in Old Testament, Rev. J. vanPopta examining in New Testament, Rev. C.J. VanderVelde examining in doctrines and creeds. In closed session Classis evaluated the examination and determined that it was sustained and br. Johan Bruintjes could be admitted as a candidate to the ministry of the Word in the Canadian and American Reformed churches. In open session br. J. Bruintjes was informed of the decision. Rev. C.J. VanderVelde led in a prayer of thanksgiving. Candidate J. Bruintjes signed the Classis Form of Subscription. An opportunity was given to congratulate J. Bruintjes and a certificate of candidacy from Classis was presented.

Burlington-South presented a report that the Classis Archives were inspected and found in good order. A report of the Classis treasurer was tabled recommending that the assessment for Classis remain at 0.00 per communicant member for the calendar year 2017. This recommendation was adopted.

Burlington-Waterdown reported that the books of the Classis treasurer were inspected and found to be in good order.

Burlington-Waterdown reported that the books of the Needy Church Fund were inspected and found to be in good order.

Rev. C.J. VanderVelde reported on his attendance at Classis Southwestern Ontario September 21, 2016 of the URCNA as a fraternal delegate.

The Classis ad hoc committee submitted a report on the Lord's Supper admission per CCO June 10, 2016. The report was deemed admissible. A motion was made by Flamborough to defer the item to the next Classis to allow for additional time to review the report. Classis decided to defer the item to the next Classis.

A proposal was submitted by Toronto requesting the removal of regulation 7.9 from the Classis Regulations regarding Observers from the Free Church of Scotland. Classis decided to remove regulation 7.9 from the Classis Regulations.

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, that the decisions of the assemblies were being honored and no advice of Classis was requested.

The following appointments were made:

1. The convening church for the next classis is Flamborough which is scheduled for December 9, 2016 at Ebenezer Church.
2. The suggested officers are: Rev. G. Bruintjes (Chairman); Flamborough elder (Vice-chairman), Rev. A.B. Roukema (Clerk).
3. Numerous appointments were made according the Classical Regulations.
4. Delegates to RSE, Nov.9, 2016 Revs. A.B. Roukema and J. vanPopta ; with alternates Rev. G Bruintjes and an alternate Elder (in that order); Elders Bert Knol and Jack Vanderee with alternates Mark Deboer and Andrew Kieft (in that order).

Question period was held. Censure according to Article 34 was not deemed necessary. The Acts were adopted and the Press Release approved, after which Rev. J. vanPopta closed in prayer.

For Classis Central Ontario,  
R. Ludwig (Vice-chairman at that time)