

Press Release of Classis Central Ontario-December 9, 2016 in Burlington, ON

On behalf of the convening church, Rev. J. Torenvliet welcomed the delegates, The meeting was opened in the usual Christian manner.

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. G. Bruintjes as chairman, Rev. A.B. Roukema as clerk, and elder R. VanderLaan as vice-chairman. The agenda was adopted.

The following matters of memorabilia were noted. The congregations of Burlington South and Ottawa as they await answers to the calls they have extended. We also remember Candidate J. Bruintjes as he deliberates the calls he has. We also remember the many retired ministers and their wives in CCO especially Rev. J. Mulder in his senior years and declining health. The chairman welcomed the fraternal delegate, Rev. D. Ventura of Living Hope URC, Waterdown, representing Classis Ontario Southwest (URCNA), and invited him to be seated in the assembly.

The Form of Subscription was read and then signed by Rev. J. Torenvliet.

The Classis ad hoc committee submitted a report on the Lord's Supper admission as mandated by CCO June 10, 2016. The report, which included an appendix from Burlington Fellowship, was deemed admissible. A discussion ensued. Classis having reviewed the committee report, decided that Burlington-Fellowships practice of inviting guests with only a strong verbal warning from the pulpit is not in line with the Church Order.

Question period according to Article 44 of the Church Order 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. The Bethel consistory requested advice regarding the approbation of Rev. Versteegs retirement. They are advised to submit this for the June Classis.

The following appointments were made:

1. The convening church for the next classis is Ottawa which is scheduled for March 10, 2017 at Ebenezer Church. Alternate date of June 9, 2017.
2. The suggested officers are: Rev. A.B. Roukema (Chairman); Ottawa elder (Vice-chairman), Rev. VanderVelde (Clerk).

Question period was not made use of. Censure according to Article 34 was not deemed necessary. Rev. D. Ventura was given opportunity to speak and brought greetings. Rev. J. Torenvliet responded with fitting words of encouragement and appreciation.

The Acts were adopted and the Press Release approved, after which Rev. Bruintjes led in closing prayer.

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