

Press Release of Classis Ontario-West Dec. 14, 2016 in Hamilton, ON

On behalf of the convening church, Rev. Bill DeJong welcomed the delegates and as observer Rev. Hilmer Jagersma of Blessings. He also welcomed Rev. S. Swets, minister of Rehoboth URC in Hamilton and a member of CERCU. Rev. DeJong 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, and their families; Rev. B. deGraaf as he takes his furlough, and the call of Lighthouse Ministries extended to Rev. Tony Zekveld. He also thanked Cornerstone for hosting on behalf of Blessings.

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. J. Ludwig as chairman, Rev. R. Vermeulen as clerk, and Rev. J. Poort as vice-chairman.

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.

Rev. Steve Swets spoke words of encouragement to the assembly and expressed appreciation for the unity that he has experienced and the mutual benefits both federations have received from working with each other. He encouraged the body to continue in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A proposal was brought forward by the Trinity (Glanbrook) consistory recommending changes to the examination procedures of Classis Ontario West. Going through the recommendations. Classis gave feedback to various recommendations and asked for the proposal to be refined.

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

The following appointments were made:

1. The convening church for the next classis is Hamilton-Cornerstone which will be held on March 22, 2016 (alt. date: May 17, 2017) in Cornerstone.
2. The suggested officers are: Rev. Jeff Poort (Chairman); Rev. Rodney Vermeulen (Vice-chairman), Rev. Dave de Boer (Clerk).

Personal Question period was held. With thankfulness, censure as per Art 34 was not deemed necessary. The assembly agreed to have the Acts and the Press Release approved by the executive. The assembly then sang from Hy 18:1 and Rev. John Ludwig closed in prayer.

For Classis Ontario-West,
Rev. Jeff Poort (Vice-chairman at that time)