

Press Release – Classis Ontario West, Hamilton (Cornerstone), 24th May 2017

On behalf of the convening church, Rev. John Louwse welcomed delegates and other observers. He invited those present to sing Psalm 24:1,2, read Scripture at Acts 1:1-11 and led in prayer. The following items were remembered by way of memorabilia: Dr. J. De Jong's passing into glory; Rev. B. de Graaf's recent furlough; London congregation remains vacant as does the urban mission project that they oversee; Rev. J. Ludwig remains on sabbatical until the end of June.

The convening church examined the credentials and found them to be in good order. Classis was constituted. The officers suggested by the previous classis took their place. Rev. Jeff Poort as chairman; Rev. Rodney Vermeulen as vice-chair; Rev. Dave deBoer as clerk. The chairman thanked the hosting church. The agenda was adopted.

Student Cody Swaving requested to be examined (C.O. Art. 21) with a view to being given permission to speak an edifying word in the churches. He presented his sermon proposal on 1 Timothy 6:11-16. Having deliberated in closed session classis deemed the sermon proposal sufficient to continue with the examination. Br. Swaving was then examined on the Doctrine of Revelation. After deliberation in closed session classis deemed the examination sufficient to grant Br. Swaving permission to speak an edifying word in the churches. This permission was granted once classis had heard br. Swaving's verbal promise not to preach or teach anything contrary to God's Word as summarized in the Three Forms of Unity. A prayer of thanksgiving was offered and opportunity was given to congratulate the brother and wish him God's blessing.

Question period according to Article 44 of the CO was held. All the churches answered that the offices are being maintained, and that the decisions of the assemblies are being honored.

Glanbrook requested advice on a matter of discipline which was given in closed session.

Hamilton-Blessings requested advice regarding an invitation to join Classis Ontario Central. The delegates expressed appreciation to Blessings Hamilton for their contribution to and membership in Classis Ontario West. The delegates discussed the procedure and impact of this proposal. The majority of delegates reported on behalf of the churches a preference for Hamilton-Blessings to remain in Classis Ontario West. Classis was not convinced of the merits of the proposal of Classis Central Ontario.

London requested and was granted pulpit supply for the months August through December.

Hamilton-Blessings submitted a proposal to change the Regulations of Classis Ontario West so that Hamilton-Blessings would be included in the list of churches of this classis in article 1 of the regulations. This proposed change was adopted. Further Hamilton-Blessings submitted a proposal to change Article 4.2 to remove the requirement that multiple printed copies of the agenda, reports, proposals and appeals be mailed to the churches of classis. This proposed change was adopted. The updated regulations will be distributed to the churches of classis.

Both brs Iwan Borst and Han Gil Lee received a one year extension to their preaching consent after classis considered their requests.

Church visits were reported on. Written copies of the reports will be tabled at the next classis meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was received with appreciation. Kerwood submitted the Classis Archives Report. Missing documents will be submitted to the archiving church – London.

The following appointments were made:

1. Convening church for the classis meeting scheduled for 13th September is Hamilton-Providence.
2. Suggested officers: Chairman: Rev. Rodney Vermeulen; Vice-Chair: Rev. Dave deBoer; Clerk: Rev. Bill deJong.
3. Classis Treasurer: Brian Vanderhout
4. Church for Auditing the Books of the Treasurer: Hamilton-Cornerstone
5. Church for Maintaining the Classis Archives: London
6. Church for Inspecting the Archives: Kerwood
7. Church Visitors: Revs. DeJong, Kok, Louwse and Ludwig, deBoer, Vermeulen
8. Committee for Examinations: Revs. Kok and Ludwig
9. Church for Administering the Needy Churches Fund: Ancaster
10. Church as Contact for Ecumenical Relations: Kerwood

Personal question period was not made use of. With thankfulness censure as per art. 34 was deemed unnecessary. Those assembled then sang Hymn 84 and the chairman closed the meeting in prayer.

For Classis Ontario-West

Rev. Rodney Vermeulen (vice-chair at that time)