

Press Release of Classis Niagara held on June 21, 2017 in the Smithville Canadian Reformed Church

Opening

On behalf of the convening church Rev. C. Bouwman opened the meeting by welcoming all present. He requested that we sing Psalm 24:1, 5 followed by the reading of Rev.5. After reflecting on the message of this passage he led in prayer, making special note of Attercliffe's ongoing vacancy after receiving a decline on their call to Rev. D. Wynia while Lincoln gratefully continues under his pastorate, Smithville's ongoing search for a co-pastor and the recent 25th anniversary of Rev. and Mrs. Van Woudenberg. He also remembered with sorrow the recent developments in our sister churches in the Netherlands.

Examination of Credentials and Constitution of Classis

The credentials were examined by the convening church and found to be in good order. Upon the examination of the credentials, Classis was declared constituted.

Appointment of Executive Officers

The suggested officers from Classis Niagara March 22, 2017, Rev. J. Van Woudenberg as chairman, Rev. R.J. den Hollander as vice-chairman, and a delegate from Spring Creek, in this case, Rev. P.H. Holtvliwer as clerk were appointed.

The chairman thanked the church at Smithville for their preparations. Additionally he noted that since the last Classis Rev. J. Mulder and Dr. J. de Jong passed away and that Dr. N.H. Gootjes and his family continue to deal with his ongoing health trials. He noted Rev. C. Bouwman's recent return from a teaching trip to China. He also welcomed Rev. R.J. Kampen as observer.

Adoption of the Agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted.

Question period (Art.44 CO)

The chairman asked the questions according to Art.44 of the Church Order. Each of the churches indicated that the ministry of the office-bearers was being continued, the decisions of the major assemblies were being honoured and that they did not require the judgement and help of classis for the proper government of their church.

Correspondence

Classis entered closed session to deal with an appeal. The appeal that was submitted was declared admissible. Classis entered into discussion regarding the appeal. The appeal was denied.

Reports

The Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries submitted a written report on their attendance at the meeting of Classis Ontario-East (URCNA) on Sept. 22, 2016 at the Trinity ORC in St. Catharines, Ontario. Minutes of that Classis were also shared. They make special note of Rev. J. Bouwers' (member of CERCU – Committee for Ecumenical Relations and Church Unity) response to their greeting in which he shared that despite recent overtures to the

URCNA Synods, CERCU is convinced of the necessity of ongoing contact with the Canadian Reformed Churches. The report is received with gratitude.

Appointments

According to the schedule, the church of Spring Creek is appointed as the convening church for the next Classis. It will be convened, D.V., on Sept. 13, 2017 (or if deemed not necessary then, Dec. 13, 2017). The suggested officers are Rev. D. Wynia as chairman, Spring Creek delegate as vice-chairman and Rev. J. Van Woudenberg as clerk.

Personal Question Period

Personal question period was not made use of.

Brotherly Censure (Art.34 CO)

With gratitude the chairman noted the good harmony at the meeting and deemed brotherly censure not necessary.

Adoption of the Acts and approval of the Press Release

The Acts were read and adopted and the Press Release approved for publication.

Closing

The chairman closed the meeting by requesting the singing of Psalm 24: 2, 3, 4 and leading in prayer.

For Classis Niagara June 21, 2017,
Rev. Rolf den Hollander
Vice-president at that time.