

Press Release: Classis Ontario West, September 2017

Elder Bert Winkel called the meeting to order on behalf of the convening church of Providence Hamilton. He led the delegates and guests in a devotion and a prayer for blessing upon the meeting. The delegates of Providence Hamilton reported that all the churches were properly represented and declared Classis constituted. It was noted that the church of Blessings Hamilton was not represented, as they have decided to participate in Classis Central Ontario. Rev R. Vermeulen was appointed chair, Rev. D. de Boer vice chair, and Rev K. Kok clerk.

Rev R. Vermeulen thanked the convening church for their preparations. The proposed agenda was reviewed and adopted. Rev Vermeulen asked the churches to report their answers to Article 44, C.O. The churches answered unanimously that the offices are being maintained and that the decisions of the major assemblies are being upheld.

Four churches requested advice in matters of discipline and supervision. Advice was given in closed session, and these matters were addressed to the Lord in prayer. Arrangements were made for Classical pulpit supply for the Pilgrim London church.

Classis received a letter from Blessings Hamilton Church informing Classis of the decision of Blessings to withdraw from Classis Ontario West and to accept an invitation to join Classis Ontario Central. Classis decided to send a letter to Blessings Hamilton with a record of the decision of this Classis Ontario West as a response to their letter. Classis Ontario West noted in their decision that Classis Central Ontario made their invitation conditional upon approval of Classis Ontario West. This approval was neither sought nor given.

The report of the Classis treasurer was received. The assessment for the churches was set at \$5 per communicant member for Classis expenses. Ancaster reported that no assessment is needed for the Fund for Needy Churches.

The church visitation reports had been distributed previously, and the delegates were given opportunity to comment on them. Classis noted with thankfulness the good reports of the ministry being done in the churches of Classis Ontario West.

Classis made the following appointments. Classis appointed the following brothers to Regional Synod: ministers Rev R. Vermeulen and Rev J. Louwse, with Rev J. Ludwig and Rev K. Kok as alternates in that order, and elders A. Witten and A. den Hollander, with G. Bartels and W. Dokter as alternates in that order. Classis appointed Grace Kerwood to be the convening church for the next Classis, to be held December 13, 2017. Alternative date would be March 21, 2018.

After opportunity was given for personal questions, provision was made for the publication of the Press Release and the Acts. Rev Vermeulen judged that censure was not necessary and thanked the delegates for their participation and Christian spirit. Rev Vermeulen led the delegates in a closing devotion of praise and thanksgiving.

Vice chair at the time,

Dave de Boer