

**Press Release of Classis Central Ontario held on September 15, 2017 in the Ebenezer Canadian Reformed Church, Burlington ON.**

**Opening:**

On behalf of the convening church Rev. A.B. Roukema opened the meeting by welcoming all present. He lead in the reading of Colossians 1: 1 – 14 followed by prayer. The meeting was then invited to sing Ps. 46: 1 & 5.

**Examination of credentials and constitution of Classis:**

The credentials for the delegates of the churches comprising Classis Central Ontario (CCO) were examined by the delegates of Bethel Canadian Reformed Church and found to be in good order. Credentials were also received from Blessings Christian Church for Blessings' delegates seeking to be seated as part of Classis Central Ontario in response to the invitation to do so issued by Classis Central Ontario of March 10, 2017. This matter will be added to the agenda of Classis.

**Appointment of executive officers:**

The executive suggested by the previous Classis was appointed, with Rev. J. VanPopta of Fellowship as Chair, Elder L. Kampen of Ebenezer as Vice-Chair, and Rev. G. Brintjes of Bethel Toronto as Clerk. Classis was declared constituted. The chairman thanked the Ebenezer church for the preparations it had made to convene this classis. He also noted, as matters of memorabilia and special observation, that:

- All churches in CCO have a Pastor for the first time in many years.
- We have some retired pastors in our midst as they continue to work among the churches (Rev. Nederveen, Rev. Versteeg)
- Rev. C. Bosch will be delivering his final sermon in Burlington - Fellowship on Sept. 17, 2017.
- The presence of representatives from Blessings Christian Church, representatives from the URC churches, and several guests.

**Adoption of the agenda:**

The proposed agenda was adopted with some additions respecting correspondence received.

**Admittance of Blessings Christian Church:**

After discussion Blessings Christian Church is seated at Classis.

## Addresses:

Rev. H. Versteeg was given the opportunity to address Classis with respect to his retirement. He expressed his appreciation for the support of Classis Central Ontario over the many years.

Rev. A. Bezuyen, on behalf of the URC federation, addressed Classis with appreciation for the continuing good relationship between our two federations.

## Form of Subscription:

Reverends B. DeJong and H. Jagersma were requested to sign the Form of Subscription, which they did. Rev. W. Bosch affirmed his signature made at a previous Classis.

## Reports:

The following reports were received:

1. Report of the Church inspecting the Classis Archives.
2. Report of the Classis Treasurer.
3. Report of the Church auditing the books of the Classis Treasurer.
4. Report of the Church auditing the books of the Needy Churches Fund.

## Proposals:

Burlington Rehoboth presented an Overture to Classis recommending that General Synod Edmonton 2019 approve the use of the new OPC-URCNA *Trinity Psalter Hymnal*, 2017 in public worship in accord with the adopted Art. 55 CO. After discussion Classis supported the Overture and will therefore forward it to Regional Synod East, November 8, 2017 in accordance with the ecclesiastical manner.

## 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 and that the decisions of the major assemblies were being honoured. To the question whether any church required the judgement and help of Classis at this time for the proper government of their church, one church asked for advice and advice was given.

## Appointments:

The regular appointments were renewed or newly made, as required. Additionally, appointed as delegates to Regional Synod East to be convened November 8, 2017 are:

Ministers - C. Vandervelde, A.B. Roukema (Alternates: G. Bruintjes, J. VanPopta in that order)

Elders - Bill VanHuisstede, Chris VanPopta (Alternates: Bruce DeBoer, John Krikke in that order)

According to the schedule, Burlington – Fellowship is appointed as the convening church for the next classis. It will be convened D.V. on December 8, 2017; alternate date of March 9, 2018. The suggested officers are Rev. G. Bruintjes as chairman, Burlington-Fellowship delegate as vice-chairman, and Rev. A.B. Roukema as clerk.

### **Personal question period:**

Personal question period was 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 the Press Release:**

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

### **Closing:**

The chairman closed the meeting by requesting the singing of Hymn 52: 1 and leading in thanksgiving prayer.

For Classis Central Ontario September 15, 2017

Leo Kampen

Vice-chairman at that time.