

*Press Release of
Classis Niagara September 13 AD 2017*

Opening of classis

On behalf of the church at Spring Creek, Elder Nick VandenOever opened the meeting in a Christian manner. An examination of the credentials took place, which were found to be order. Classis was declared constituted.

The following brothers formed the moderamen as per the suggestion of the previous classis: chairman – Rev. D. Wynia; vice-chairman – Elder Nick VandenOever; clerk: Rev. J. VanWoudenberg. Rev. Doug Bylsma, a fraternal delegate on behalf of the OPC, was welcomed.

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

Question period ad Article 44, C.O.

All the churches are continuing the ministry of the office-bearers as well as honouring the decisions of the broader assemblies. Three churches sought the concurring advice of classis in situations of discipline. Two churches received the advice as requested, while one did not.

Proposals

Point 7.1 on the agenda was moved to point 9.5.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence received.

Reports

The report from the classical treasurer was not available at this time, but arrived later in the meeting and was tabled.

The report of the audit of the books of the classical treasurer had been made available, both by email prior to the meeting and at the meeting and was tabled.

Rev. John VanWoudenberg read a prepared report on the inspection of the classical archives.

Elder Frank Ludwig read a report of the Deputies for Neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries.

Next he introduced a proposal from the same committee regarding “Concurrent Classes CanRC & URC”. It appeared that all churches in Classis Niagara have discussed this proposal and are in favour of it’s implementation.

Appointments

The church at Attercliffe was appointed to convene the next classis on December 13, 2017 or, if cancelled, then March 7, 2018. Suggested officers for the next classis are Rev. C. Bouwman (chair); Rev. J. VanWoudenberg (vice-chair); Rev. D. Wynia (clerk).

Re-appointed were the classical treasurer, the church of Grassie to audit the books of the classical treasurer, the church of Attercliffe to take care of the classical archives and the church of Dunnville to inspect same.

The committees who arrange examinations and church visitations will remain as is.

Rev. Bouwman and Rev. VanWoudenberg were delegated to the upcoming Regional Synod East, with Rev. denHollander as 1st alt. and Rev. Wynia as 2nd alt.

For the same the elders K. Jager and N. VandenOever were delegated, with elders R. Nordeman as 1st alt. and B. VanAndel as 2nd alt.

Rev. Doug Bylsma was given the opportunity to address classis. In his address he conveyed greetings and updated classis on the OPC’s current statistics and activities. Some interaction took place with the brothers present. He was thanked for his attendance and detailed report.

Closing of Classis

Personal question period was not made use of. The chairman declared that censure according to Article 34 CO was, thankfully, not necessary. The Acts and the Press Release were each read and approved by the assembly. Rev. Wynia, as chairman, lead in thanksgiving prayer, after which classis was declared closed.

For Classis Niagara September 13, 2017 – Elder Nick VandenOever (vice-chairman at that time).