

Please note: Due to an oversight an item on the agenda was not mentioned in the press release. This is the revised press release adopted (on November 6th 2018) by the executive of that classis.

Press Release – Classis Ontario West, Hamilton (Eben-Ezer Chatham), 19th September 2018 and reconvened 17th October 2018

On behalf of the convening church, br. Mel DeBoer welcomed all present. He read Psalm 27:1-6 and invited everyone to sing Psalm 27:1,2. He led in prayer. 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. Ken Kok as clerk.

The chairman thanked the hosting church. He invited fraternal delegate Rev. James Sinke of the United Reformed Church of Woodstock to be seated at the table. The chairman expressed thankfulness that London has received a pastor and teacher in the person of Rev. Arend Witten. Thankfulness was also expressed with Hamilton Cornerstone in that Br. Darren Feenstra has accepted their call to be second pastor to the congregation. The ongoing vacancies in Chatham and Hamilton-Providence were also remembered. Finally, thankfulness was expressed that another academic year is underway at the CRTS.

Br. Jeff Temple, after receiving the approval of regional synod, requested to be examined by classis with a view to becoming eligible to speak an edifying word in the churches of Classis Ontario West as per art. 8 of the Church Order. He presented his sermon proposal on Psalm 122. Having deliberated in closed session classis deemed the sermon proposal sufficient to continue with the examination. Br. Temple was then examined in Old and New Testament exegesis as well as Doctrine and Creeds. In closed session classis found the examination sufficient to grant br. Temple permission to speak an edifying word in the churches of Classis Ontario West. Br. Temple promised 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 his wife. In addition classis decided on a period of testing which would end at classis May 2019. During this time br. Temple will be preaching in the churches of Classis Ontario West. Further br. Temple was encouraged to consult with CRTS to determine a course of study in preparation for the ministry.

Rev. James Sinke brought greetings from his classis, Classis Southwestern Ontario URCNA, and his congregation, Bethel in Woodstock. He expressed thankfulness for the very close ties between our respective federations as evidenced in a number of ways. He shared his federation's joy at the arrival of the new Trinity Psalter Hymnal. He also urged us to be patient as our respective federations increasingly grow together.

An overture from the Trinity Canadian Reformed Church of Glanbrook seeking to appoint synodical deputies to study the function and interpretation of the Church Order with a view to bringing about a more unified approach among our churches was not adopted.

The churches of classis were asked the questions specified in Article 44 of the Church Order. All confirmed that "the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued" and that "the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured." One church received advice as requested.

Classical financial support for the Grand Rapids congregation was decided upon. Hamilton Cornerstone's request to reconvene classis on October 17th for the examination of candidate Darren Feenstra was

granted. The classis treasurer's report was received with thankfulness. Delegates for Regional Synod East were selected with Rev. Arend Witten and Rev. Jeff Poort being primary minister delegates and Rev. Ken Kok and Rev. John Louwerse being alternates and Br. Terry Medemblik and Br. Art Witten being primary elder delegates and Br. Jake deJong and Br. Bernie Harsevoort being alternates.

The convening church for next classis scheduled for 19th December 2018 is Glanbrook.

Censure as per art. 34 was not deemed necessary. The chairman expressed thankfulness for the good working harmony of classis. The chairman closed this portion of the meeting in prayer. Classis was adjourned to reconvene on October 17th for the examination of Darren Feenstra.

Classis was reconvened at 9am on October 17th at Cornerstone Canadian Reformed Church. The chairman welcomed all present including guests and visitors. The chairman reopened the meeting by reading Psalm 80. He invited all to sing Psalm 80:3,4 and led in prayer. The credentials were examined and found to be in order.

Cornerstone Canadian Reformed Church requested that candidate Darren Feenstra undergo the peremptory examination so that he might be ordained to fulltime ministry in their congregation. All the necessary documents were found to be in order. Br. Feenstra presented his sermon proposal on John 15:1-8. In closed session the sermon was deemed sufficient to continue with the examination. In open session Br Feenstra was further examined on Old Testament exegesis, New Testament exegesis, Doctrine and Creeds, Church History, Bible Knowledge, Ethics, Diaconology and Church Polity. In closed session it was determined that the examination was sufficient. The deputies of Regional Synod gave their concurring advice supporting classis' decision. Once again in open session the brother was informed of the decision. A prayer of thanksgiving was offered by Rev. John Louwerse. The executive of classis found the documents relating to br. Feenstra's call to Cornerstone to be in order and classis approbated the call as per Art. 5 CO.

Ancaster Canadian Reformed Church sought approbation from classis for the dismissal of Rev. John Ludwig as per art. 11 CO. After prayer and much deliberation classis approbated Ancaster's request. Deputies for regional synod gave their concurring advice.

The chairman ruled that censure as per article art. 34 was not necessary. Question period was not made use of. The chairman invited the meeting to sing Hymn 52:1,4 and 5 and lead in closing prayer.

For Classis Ontario-West
Rev. Rodney Vermeulen (vice-chair at that time)