

Press Release Classis Central Ontario held on September 13, 2019 and October 10, 2019

On September 13, 2019, Classis Central Ontario was convened by Bethel Canadian Reformed Church at the Ebenezer Canadian Reformed Church. On behalf of the convening church, Rev. Gerrit Bruintjes welcomed the delegates and opened the meeting. He read James 3:13-18 and provided a meditation on this passage, then led in prayer. He invited the delegates to sing Hymn 47 stanzas 2, 4, and 5.

The credentials of all of the delegates were found to be in order, and Classis was constituted. The executive, consisting of Rev. Winston Bosch as Chairman, Br. Gerald Boot as Vice Chairman, and Rev. Hilmer Jagersma as Clerk took their respective seats.

The agenda for Classis was adopted, with minor changes. The chairman noted with thankfulness that the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary celebrated 50 years as the seminary of the Canadian Reformed Churches. The vacancy of Fellowship is remembered along with Sr. E. Mulder, the widow of Rev. J. Mulder, who had a fall and broke her pelvis.

All Churches made use of the opportunity to report on their missional activities, both locally and abroad. Thanksgiving and intercessory prayers was made after each church presented her report.

Classis reviewed the following annual reports; Report on Archives; Financial Report from the Treasurer for Classis Central Ontario; Report on the audit of the books of the treasurer; Report on Needy Churches; Report on the audit of the books of the Fund for Needy Churches. These reports were all received with thanksgiving. The classical assessment fee for each communicant member has been set at \$3.00 per communicant member. The Regional Synod assessment for 2020 is \$2.00.

According to the questions stated in the Church Order, Article 44, each church was able to answer that the ministry of the gospel is being maintained and that the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured. A Church sought and received advice in closed session on a matter of discipline, which was then brought to the Lord in prayer. Bethel Church sought and received advice from Classis on a matter regarding pulpit exchange with a local Heritage Reformed Church.

According to Classis Central Ontario Regulation Article 8, the following appointments were made; Rev. Clarence VanderVelde and Rev. Dr. Bill DeJong were appointed to the committee of Examiners; Rev. Dr. Bill DeJong, Rev. Anthony Roukema and Rev. Clarence VanderVelde (convener) were appointed as church visitors, with Rev. Gerrit Bruintjes as alternate; Ebenezer church was appointed to take care of the archives; Fellowship Church was appointed to inspect the archives; Rehoboth Church was appointed to audit the books of the treasurer and to audit the books of the Fund for the Needy Churches; br. Jack Spithoff was appointed as treasurer; br. Kent Baartman, br. Ed Jans and br. Fred Lodder were appointed to the Committee for the Needy Churches; br. Rick Ludwig, br. Andre Schutten and Rev. Jan deGelder (convener) were

appointed to the Committee of Appeals, with Rev. Gijsbert Nederveen, Rev. John VanPopta and br. Leo Kampen as alternates (in that order).

For the upcoming Regional Synod East to be held on November 13, 2019 at the Emmanuel Canadian Reformed Church of Guelph, the following were chosen as delegates: As primary minister delegates Rev. Dr. Bill deJong & Rev. Gerrit Bruintjes, with Rev. Tony Roukema as first alternate minister and Rev. Clarence VanderVelde as second alternate minister delegate; as primary elder delegates br. Barry Hordyk and br. Rick Ludwig, with br. Gerald Boot as first alternate elder and br. Brad Alkema as second alternate elder.

A proposal from Burlington-Rehoboth requesting Classis to make a judgement against a practice at Hamilton-Blessings and Ottawa-Jubilee to allow ministers from non-sister churches to preach on their pulpit is discussed. After a few rounds of discussion, a committee was appointed to report back to Classis when it reconvenes on October 10.

An appeal from a brother regarding Burlington-Ebenezer's decision to deny his request to have Burlington-Ebenezer overture Classis Central Ontario regarding the Lord's Supper practice of Burlington-Fellowship Canadian Reformed Church is discussed. After a few rounds of discussion, a committee was appointed to report back to Classis when it reconvenes on October 10.

A letter from the Canadian Reformed Church at Orangeville regarding certain practices at Blessings Christian Church and the position of Classis Central Ontario regarding these practices. A draft response was discussed and will be further discussed when Classis is reconvened on October 10.

Question period was held and made use of. The Acts were read and approved until this point. Classis was adjourned until October 10, 2019 after prayer of thanksgiving by the chairman, Rev Winston Bosch.

Classis was reconvened on October 10, 2019 with the reading of 1 Samuel 12:14-15 by Rev. Winston Bosch, a meditation on that passage, singing of Psalm 2:1 and 4, and prayer was offered by the chairman. The credentials were checked and it was noted that three churches sent alternate delegates.

The committee dealing with the Burlington-Rehoboth request presented its advisory report. After a number of rounds of discussion, the advisory committee met to revise its report and then presented its revised report which was adopted. Classis decided not to make a judgement against the practice of Hamilton-Blessings and Ottawa-Jubilee to allow ministers from non-sister churches to preach on their pulpit.

The committee report regarding the appeal from a brother regarding Burlington-Ebenezer's decision to deny his request to have Burlington-Ebenezer overture Classis Central Ontario

regarding the Lord's Supper practice of Fellowship Canadian Reformed Church was adopted. Classis decided that the matter was not finished at the minor assembly.

The draft reply to the church at Orangeville was discussed. The adopted letter will be sent.

Ebenezer Canadian Reformed Church will convene the December 13, 2019 Classis (alternate date is March 13, 2020).

The following officers are suggested: Rev. H. Jagersma as Chairman, the elder from Ebenezer as Vice-Chairman, and Rev. J. Torenvliet as Clerk.

Personal question period was held. Censure according to Art 34 (C.O.) was not deemed necessary. The Acts were adopted and the Press Release was approved. The Vice-chairman, Gerald Boot, closed Classis with thanksgiving prayer after the singing of Hymn 8.

Gerald Boot

Vice-chairman at that time