

classis

# Short Report of Classis Niagara March 11, 2020

Rev. John VanWoudenberg, minister of the convening church of Dunnville, opened the meeting of the delegates in a Christian manner. He welcomed all the delegates as well as observers.

As items of memorabilia since the previous classis in Sept 2019 he noted that Rev. Cody Swaving was ordained as minister of the Word in Smithville after sustaining his peremptory examination at the previous classis, that Rev. Peter Holtvlüwer had accepted a call to the Canadian Reformed Church at Ancaster, and that Rev. Rolf DenHollander had accepted a call to the Free Reformed Church of Legana, Tasmania. He also noted that this classis has on its agenda the joyful matter of an institution of another Canadian Reformed Church in this area. He finally mentioned that Rev. Rodney Vermeulen could not be at this classis since his father-in-law in Australia was called home to the Lord.

Noting the suggestion of the previous classis as well as noting how Rev. Dick Wynia was away on an Edu Deo Mission trip, the meeting of the delegates chose Rev. Clarence Bouwman as chairman, Rev. Rolf DenHollander as clerk, and Rev. John VanWoudenberg as vice-chairman.

When the chairman took his position he first mentioned that Professor Jakob Geertsema, who recently resided in our area, has moved to Toronto and continues to struggle with his health. He also specially welcomed Rev. Jonathan Hunt and Elder Jonathan Bergmann from the PCA in Armor, New York, which has contact with the Spring Creek Canadian Reformed Church.

After the agenda was adopted, the classis subscription form was read by the chairman and signed by Rev. Cody Swaving.

The chairman then asked each of the churches if the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued, and if the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured. Each church answered in the affirmative. No church needed the advice of classis for proceeding with discipline.

Classis adopted a proposal to amend the regulations with respect to some matters of examination of students and some other housekeeping matters.

With gratitude classis also gave concurring advice (C.O. 40) to a proposal to establish a new church in South Niagara. The Lord willing this institution will take place in May 2020.

Given the call from the Canadian Reformed Church of Ancaster, and given that the documentation was all in order, Classis honourably released Rev. Peter Holtvlüwebwer from his duties in Classis Niagara as of Aug 16, 2020. The chairman spoke appropriate words of appreciation for all the work he did in this area. Upon the request of Spring Creek, Rev. Dick Wynia was appointed as its counsellor effective Aug 16, 2020.

Church visitation reports were received regarding the churches of Attercliffe, Dunnville, Grassie, Lincoln, Smithville, and Tintern.

Classis appointed the church of Grassie as the convening church for the next classis to be held on June 17, 2020 @ 9:00 AM (alternate Sept 16, 2020 @ 9:00 AM).

After personal question period, classis gave the observers from the Armor PCA an opportunity to speak. They expressed appreciation for the contact that it has with Spring Creek Canadian Reformed Church and thereby also with Classis Niagara. They requested further prayer for their church and federation.

After the Acts were adopted and the short report was approved, and after closing devotions, classis was closed.

John VanWoudenberg, clerk e.t.