

Press Release of Classis Central Ontario

held on Mar 13, 2020

Location: at the convening church of Burlington Ebenezer.

1. **Opening:** After the singing of Ps 84:1,2, Rev. Roukema opened with the reading of Ps 84, a brief meditation on it, and with prayer.
2. **Memorabilia:**
 - 2.1. Rev. J. van Popta – final sermon to be preached Apr 19, 2020.
 - 2.2. Rev. Geertsema – in palliative care
 - 2.3. Fellowship CanRC – called Rev. Bill Boekestein of the Immanuel Fellowship Reformed Church at Kalamazoo, Mich.
3. The **credentials** were examined and found to be in order.
4. **Appointments:** The following officers were appointed for classis:
 - 4.1. Chairman: Rev. Hilmer Jagersma
 - 4.2. Vice-chairman: Elder Dave Dykstra
 - 4.3. Clerk: Rev. Jake Torenvliet
5. Classis was declared to be constituted
6. The **Agenda** was approved and adopted.
7. **Licensure examinations** (Article 21 C.O.): Anson Van Delden
 - 7.1. Credentials were examined and in order
 - 7.2. Sermon Proposal was on Psalm 121
 - 7.2.1. Proposal was deemed to be adequate to continue the examination.
 - 7.3. Examination of Doctrine and Creeds
 - 7.3.1. Following the examination, classis determined that br. VanDelden had sustained the examination, and he was given consent to preach an edifying word in the churches conditional on the completion of his 2nd year, for the period of 1 year from May 2020 to May 2021, after which he can request an extension for another year. He also promised not to preach or teach anything contrary to the Word of God and the Three Forms of Unity.
8. **Question period** according to Article 44 C.O.
 - 8.1. All churches were asked “whether the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued, whether the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured, and whether there is any matter in which the consistories need the judgment and help of classis for the proper government of their church.” All churches, except two, answered in the affirmative to the first two questions, and one church asked for advice.
 - 8.1.1. Jubilee Canadian Reformed Church is appealing to General Synod 2022 the decision of Regional Synod East 2019 regarding guest ministers from non-sister churches (RSE 2019 Acts, Article 11).
 - 8.1.2. Redemption Canadian Reformed Church is appealing to General Synod 2022 the decision of Regional Synod East 2019 regarding commemorative services (RSE 2019 Acts, Article 10).
 - 8.1.3. Blessings Christian Church is overturing Synod 2022, given the response of Synod 2019 (see General Synod Acts, Article 64) to its request for revision, to return to the original

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formulation in the questions for baptism and profession of faith services, re: 'articles of the Christian faith' and is appealing the decisions of Regional Synod East 2019 regarding guest ministers from non-sister churches (Acts, Article 11) and commemorative services (Acts, Article 10).

8.2. Blessings Christian Church requests advice on accepting the former members of the Stanley Avenue Baptist church into membership in Blessings Christian Church. The advice given was favourable for this.

9. **Proposals** or instructions of the churches

9.1. Rehoboth Overture to GS2022 to remove cap of 100 Hymns

9.1.1. The overture was unanimously adopted.

10. **Correspondence received**

10.1. An appeal from the Orangeville Canadian Reformed Church was received.

10.1.1. The appeal is declared inadmissible.

11. **Appointments:**

11.1. Suggested officers for the next classis:

Chairman: Rev. Jake Torenvliet

Vice-Chairman: Elder delegate from the convening church

Clerk: Rev. Clarence VanderVelde

12. **Convening church for the next classis: Fellowship**

12.1. Suggested date for next classis: June 5, 2020

13. **Question Period** was utilized.

14. Censure according to Art. 34 C.O was not needed.

15. The Acts and Press Release were read and approved.

16. **Closing:** After the reading of Phil 2:1-4, and the singing of Hymn 71:1,2, the chairman closed in prayer.

On behalf of Classis, Vice-chairman

Dave Dykstra

