

Press Release of Classis Ontario West (Ancaster), September 16, 2020

On behalf of the convening church, Pastor Peter Holtvluwer welcomed the delegates and guests attending. He opened with the reading of Psalm 33 and asked classis to sing the same song. In prayer, he remembered the needs within the classical region and the federation.

The credentials were examined and found to be in good order, and classis was declared constituted. The suggested officers from the last classis took their place: Dr. Jeff Temple as chairman, Pastor Darren Feenstra as vice-chairman, and Pastor Arjen Vreugdenhil as clerk.

Pastor Holtvluwer, having taken up his ministerial duties in Ancaster CanRC, signed the Classis Ontario West subscription form.

After presenting the proper documents, brother Daniel Shin came forward for his exam to be declared eligible for call. He presented his sermon proposal on Mark 5:1-20 and was examined in Old and New Testament exegesis, as well as Doctrine and Creeds. After going into closed session to discuss the examination, classis deemed the brother to have sustained the exam. Classis gave thanks to our Saviour for sustaining Daniel.

The chairman asked the questions in article 44 of the church order. With thankfulness all churches affirmed that the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued and the decisions of the major assemblies are being honored. Two churches made use of the opportunity to ask classis for advice regarding the proper government of the church.

The church of London reported on the feasibility of digital storage of the archives of classis Ontario West. The recommendation is to continue storing documents in physical format, and also, from this point forward, to store digital copies for convenience in searching. Classis adopted the recommendation.

The report of the Classis treasurer was received with thankfulness. Ancaster reported on the Fund for Needy Churches and Classis adopted their recommendations, including the recommendation to emend the classical guidelines.

Classis appointed the following brothers to Regional Synod: pastors Peter Holtvluwer and Jeff Temple with Jeff Poort and Arend Witten as alternates in that order, and elders Frank Oostdyk and Ronn VanAndel with Ted Schouten and Adrian Bartels as alternates in that order. Chatham is appointed as the convening church of the next classis, to take place on Dec 9, 2020 (with March 10, 2020 as alternate date if there is no December classis). The suggested officers are: ministerial representative from Cornerstone as chairman, Arjen Vreugdenhil as vice-chairman, and Peter Holtvluwer as clerk.

Question period was made use of and brotherly censure was judged to be unnecessary. The acts were read and adopted, and the press release was read and approved.

After singing from Hymn 81, the chairman Jeff Temple gave thanks in closing prayer.

On behalf of classis, Pastor Darren Feenstra (vice-chairman at the time)