

Press Release of Classis of Northern Ontario convened in Brampton, September 25, 2020

Classis Northern Ontario (CNO) was convened on September 25, 2020 in the Canadian Reformed Church of Brampton. On behalf of the convening church Rev. Matthew VanLuik opened the meeting in a Christian manner. All the churches were properly represented and classis was constituted. Rev. David Pol served as Chairman of classis, Rev. Jonathan Chase as Vice-chairman and Rev. Marc Jagt as Clerk.

A report from the Appeals Committee was received.

Due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, no church visits were reported.

A report was received from the church at Orangeville that the archives of CNO kept by the Church at Owen Sound were found to be in good order. A report was received from the treasurer of CNO and an audit of the books of the treasurer of CNO indicated the financial books were in good order. A report from the Committee for Needy Churches was received, indicating that no churches in Classis asked for support.

The Grace Canadian Reformed Church of Brampton presented an update on the mission work being done in Brampton under the leadership of Rev. Eric Onderwater. With gratitude towards the Lord, Rev. Onderwater described how 7 new members from the community, previously unchurched, have come to the Reformed faith. Many plans are on hold, due to COVID, but ESL and Life Renewal are going forward. There clearly is such need and opportunity for the gospel of Jesus Christ to be proclaimed throughout this area. Classis received this report with thankfulness.

The chairman posed the questions of Article 44 of the Church Order to the delegates from each congregation. The churches answered in the affirmative that the ministry of the office bearers is being continued and the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured. Two churches requested and received the advice of Classis regarding matters of church discipline after which these matters were brought before the Lord in prayer.

A proposal for modifying the rules for the examination of candidates was reviewed, amended, and adopted. It was noted that consistency across the federation in examinations would be beneficial.

Classis dealt with the call to Rev. Chase from the church of Aldergrove to serve as a missionary in Brazil. The appropriate documents were found to be in good order. The release of Rev. Chase was given classical approbation.

The church in Guelph (Emmanuel) and the church in Elora requested Rev. D. Agema to serve as church counsellor according to article 45 of the Church Order. Classis gave its approbation to these requests.

The next Classis was scheduled for Friday, December 11, 2020, to be convened by the Church at Elora. Suggested officers are: Chairman – Rev. E. Kampen; Clerk – Rev. D. Pol; Vice-chairman – Rev. M. Jagt.

Various appointments were made, including examiners, treasurer of CNO, church visitors, and churches responsible for the archives and books of the treasurer.

Classis delegated to Regional Synod (to be convened November 11, 2020) as elder delegates the brothers T. Medemblik as primary delegate and alternate br. H. Bosscher, as well as br. P. Widmer as primary delegate and br. P. Olij as alternate. Appointed as minister delegates: Rev. E. Kampen and Rev. D. Pol, with Rev. VanLuik and Rev. R. Visscher as alternates.

The chairman noted with thankfulness that the meeting could be conducted in brotherly harmony. After thanksgiving in song and prayer, the meeting was closed.

Rev. J. Chase (vice chair at that time)