

Press Release of Classis Central Ontario

held on March 26, 2021

The convening church was Redemption Canadian Reformed Church and as of the regular practice, classes met at the Ebenezer Church building. Because of the COVID restrictions 3 groups were connected by Zoom. Thank you to Ebenezer for providing the technology to make all this possible.

1. **Opening:** Rev. Jake Torenvliet, on behalf of the convening church, welcomed all the delegates and opened the meeting with Scripture reading from Philippians 2:1-18 and prayer.
2. **Credentials:** Rehoboth Church reported that the primi delegates are in attendance. The credentials were examined and found to be in order.
3. **Classis was constituted**
4. **Appointments:** Rev. Ian Wildeboer was appointed as Chair, Mr. Nathan Helder as Vice Chair and Rev. Winston Bosch as Clerk.
5. The agenda is adopted with one change.
6. **Memorabilia:**

The chair notes the recent accident and hospitalization of Dr. T. Vanraalte and the health concerns of Dr. A. Devisser and retired pastors Rev. John Vanpopta and Rev. Chris Bosch. Also noted is Rev. Hilmer Jagersma's acceptance of a call from Fellowship, and the publication of Rev. DeGelder's book on Revelation.
7. **Reports:**
 - a. **Church visitation** reports were received for: Bethel, Blessings (Mercy), Ebenezer, Fellowship, Jubilee, Redemption and Rehoboth Church. With gratitude to God, it could be reported that the work of proclaiming the Word, administering the sacraments and shepherding God's people continues to occur faithfully in these congregations and in accordance with the Church Order.
 - b. **Special report Update re: Proposed Changes to Classical exam Guidelines:** After a discussion it is decided to have the Ad Hoc Committee work with the suggestions given and bring back a new report at the next classis.
8. **Question Period** according to Article 44 C.O.
 - a. Rehoboth Church – seeking advice for the call to Rev Victor. Atallah, to continue his work with MERF. After discussion and committee work, support was given with recommendations.

- b. Advice is given to Ebenezer regarding how to respond to Fergus Maranatha Canadian Reformed Church's request to the churches to form a committee to interact with the government.

9. Proposals or Instructions of the Churches:

- a. **Burlington Fellowship** – Approbation of Call was completed according to classis regulations. The installation date is April 9th 2021. Ebenezer church was appointed to represent classis.
- b. **Burlington Ebenezer** – an overture for a change to Church Order Article 44 regarding Advisory Members was discussed. After committee work the overture was not adopted.

10. Correspondence Received:

- a. An appeal from Ebenezer was received regarding Lord's Supper admission at Fellowship. After committee work the appeal is declared inadmissible according to classis regulations for appeals.
- b. An appeal from the Orangeville Canadian Reformed Church was received regarding practices at Blessings. After committee work the appeal is declared inadmissible according to classis regulations.
- c. Licensure Extension for Anson Vandelden - After discussion classis unanimously decides to approve the Licensure Extension for 17 months (until classis of June 2022).

11. Appointments:

- a. Convening church for the next Classis will be Blessings (Mercy)
- b. Suggested officers for the next Classis:
 - i. Chairman: Rev. Winston Bosch
 - ii. Vice-Chairman: Elder delegate from the convening church
 - iii. Clerk: Rev. Gerrit Brintjes

12. **Date of Next Classis:** June 11, 2021

13. **Question Period** was made use of.

14. **Censure according to Art. 34 C.O.**

- a. The Chair noted with much thankfulness that censure was not needed.

15. It was decided that the Acts and Press Release would be approved by the Classis Officers post meeting.

16. Closing: Rev. Ian Wildeboer led in closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned.