

Short Report of Classis Niagara May 12, 2021, held via Zoom

Elder Jan VanZanten, a delegate from the convening church of Niagara South, opened the meeting of the delegates in a Christian manner. In prayer he specifically remembered Rev. Rolf DenHollander from Grassie who had to step back from his ministerial duties for some time, Dr. Ted VanRaalte at the seminary who is recovering from an accident, as well as Candidate Shin who was about to be examined by classis. After the credentials were found to be in good order, classis was constituted. Rev. Cody Swaving served as chairman, Rev. Ryan Kampen as clerk, and Rev. John VanWoudenberg as vice-chairman.

The Church of Spring Creek requested a peremptory examination for Candidate Daniel Shin who accepted the call to serve as minister in Spring Creek. Classis deemed his sermon proposal on Romans 12:1-2 sufficient and thus proceeded with the examination of Old Testament exegesis, New Testament exegesis, Doctrine and Creeds, Church history, Scripture Knowledge, Ethics, Diaconiology, and Church Polity. Thankfully classis, with the concurring advice of the Deputies of Regional Synod, could judge that Candidate Shin sustained the examination, opening the way for him to be ordained as Minister of the Word in Spring Creek Canadian Reformed Church on June 6, 2021. Candidate Shin expressed that he will sign the form of subscription of classis at the next in-person classis. Classis therefore approbated the call of Candidate Shin to Spring Creek, and upon request from Spring Creek, made provisions for a representative from classis to be at the ordination service, conditions permitting.

The chairman 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. In closed session advice was asked for and received in one case of discipline.

The church of Dunnville submitted an overture to classis to overture Regional Synod East Nov 2021 to overture General Synod Guelph 2022 to amend Article 55 of the Church Order by having as its first line, "The 150 Psalms shall have the principal place in the singing of the churches." Classis adopted this overture.

Church visitation reports regarding visits to Dunnville and Niagara South were received with thanksgiving.

The next classis was schedule for Sept 15, 2021 beginning at 9:00 AM, with the convening church being Smithville Canadian Reformed Church.

Given that Rev. Clarence Bouwman is about to become emeritus this month, words of appreciation for all his service were expressed to him.

After personal question period classis was closed.

John VanWoudenberg, vice-chairman e.t.