

**Press Release of
Classis Ontario West
May 19 & June 02, AD 2021**

Opening of classis

On behalf of the church at Glanbrook, br. James Koning opened the meeting in a Christian manner at 8:30 AM May 19. In prayer he remembered the long-standing health concerns of Dr. Gootjes, the gradually improving health of Dr. VanRaalte, the ongoing work of CRTS, the needs of missionary Rev. DeGraaf and his family, the vacant church at Glanbrook, the challenge of dealing with restrictions surrounding Covid-19, and the students being examined. The credentials were found to be in good order. Classis was declared constituted.

The following brothers formed the moderamen as per the suggestion of the previous classis: chairman – Rev. A. Vreugdenhil; vice-chairman – Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer; clerk – Rev. K. Kok. Rev. Vreugdenhil thanked the church at Glanbrook for convening classis and completing all the preparatory work. After arranging which agenda items would be dealt with on May 19 and which on June 2 (DV), the agenda was adopted as proposed.

Licensure Examinations

Five CRTS students each presented a sermon and each was deemed sufficient to proceed with the examination of doctrine and creeds. After being examined, the following brothers were granted permission to speak an edifying word: Caleb Kos, Dathan Pleiter, Timothy Slaa, Matthias Schat, and Adam Werkman.

Correspondence Received

A request to extend the permission to speak an edifying word was requested by the following brothers: Bryan Vanderhorst, Kevin Starr, Rodney den Boer, Timothy van Beek. Each in turn was granted. This permission is given for a one-year (12 month) period.

Reports

The treasurer's year-end report was gratefully received along with a review of the books of the treasurer. Since all was in order, classis discharged the treasurer for the period covered by the report.

Personal Question Period (for May 19)

This opportunity was made use of.

Classis adjourned until 8:30 AM June 2, 2021

Re-Opening of Classis

The chairman called the meeting to order. After the roll was called, all properly credentialed delegates were found to be present. The chairman led in opening devotions.

Candidacy Examination

Br. Ruurd Offringa presented a sermon and in closed session classis deemed it sufficient to continue the examination. Br. Offringa was then examined in open session in the areas of OT exegesis, NT exegesis, and doctrine and creeds. In closed session classis determined that Br. Offringa did not sustain the examination. Classis decided to extend br. Offringa's license to speak an edifying word for a one-year (12 month) period.

Question Period ad Art. 44 CO

All the churches indicated that they are continuing the ministry of the office-bearers as well as honouring the decisions of the broader assemblies. No church sought the advice of classis.

Proposals

The church at Ancaster presented an overture to articulate the priority of psalm singing in Articles 55 CO. The overture proposes to add the following line to open Art. 55: "The 150 Psalms shall have the principal place in the singing of the churches." After a round of discussion, the overture was adopted and will be forwarded to the convening church for Regional Synod East to ask for its support and to forward it to General Synod 2022.

Appointments

The church at Grand Rapids was appointed to convene the next classis on Sept 8, 2021, or, if cancelled, then Dec 8, 2021. Suggested officers for the next classis are Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer (chair); Rev. K. Kok (vice-chair); Rev. J. Poort (clerk). The following appointments were made:

- Treasurer – Br. Brian Vanderhout
- Church for Auditing the Books of the Treasurer – Hamilton (Cornerstone)
- Church for the Archives - London
- Church for Inspecting the Archives – Kerwood
- Church Visitors – Revs. K. Kok (convenor), J. Louwerse, P.H. Holtvlüwer
- Committee of Examiners – Revs. K. Kok (convenor), J. Louwerse, A. Witten
- Church to Administer the Fund for Needy Churches – Ancaster
- Church as Contact for Ecumenical Relations – Kerwood

Closing of Classis

Personal question was not made use of. The chairman declared that censure according to Article 34 CO was, thankfully, not necessary. The Acts and the Press Release were each read and approved by the assembly. After the chairman led in thanksgiving prayer, classis was declared closed.

For Classis Ontario West May 19 & June 2, 2021 - Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer (clerk at that time)