

Press Release of Classis Northern Ontario, held September 24, 2021.

Classis was convened by the Church at Fergus North. Rev. Jagt called the meeting to order. He read Psalm 46. For memorabilia, he expressed thankfulness that this classis could be held in person after several video classes. He noted that four out of the nine churches were vacant and that Rev. Wierenga was present as minister of Elora instead of Fergus-Maranatha. The Church at Grand Valley expects to receive an answer soon to the call extended to Rev. J. VanWoudenberg. He mentioned the retired ministers, noting that Rev. Feenstra has taken on some preaching again, and Rev. Moesker continues to be busy preaching in various churches. Finally, he mentioned the recent graduation of five students from the Seminary and the enrollment of twelve students in the Freshman year. It was also mentioned that Rev. D. Pol is in the final stages of moving to Papua New Guinea, but experiencing some last minute challenges obtaining the proper documents. He led in prayer, including the items mentioned in memorabilia. After the credentials were found to be in good order, Classis was constituted. Rev. T. Wierenga was appointed as chairman, Rev. E. Kampen as vice chairman, and Rev. E. Onderwater as clerk. The agenda was adopted.

Classis received reports on the inspection of the classical archives, the classical treasurer, the church to audit the books for the treasurer, and the committee for needy churches.

All the churches confirmed that the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued, the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured. No church sought the judgment and help of classis for the proper government of their church.

Rev. Doug Bylsma, from the OPC in Vineland, and Rev. Ancel Merwin from the URC at Listowel, were present as observers. They passed on greetings on behalf of their churches.

In closed session, Classis dealt with an appeal.

Of the various appointments made by classis the following are noted:

- Convening church for the next classis: the church at Grand Valley. Date: December 17, 2021.
- Coordinators for examinations: Rev. E. Kampen and Rev. T. Wierenga. The various subjects were divided among the ministers in the classis.
- Committee for Appeals: J.W. Jonker (2025); Jerry Hutten (2025); Marnix Sikkema (2025) (alt)
- Delegates to Regional Synod East, (Spring Creek, November 10, 2021): elders Henk Nobel, with John Penninga as alternate and Frank Selles. Ministers: Rev. E. Onderwater, with Rev. M.H. VanLuik as alternate, and Rev. T. Wierenga, with Rev. D. Agema as alternate.

Question Period was held. The brothers from Living Word shared the joyful news that the congregation has purchased a church building and will take possession at the beginning of October. The chairman noted with thankfulness that there was no need to exercise censure according to Article 34 of the Church Order. The Acts were read and adopted. The Press Release was read and approved. After all those present sang Hy. 53:1,4, the chairman led in thanksgiving prayer and then closed the meeting.

On behalf of Classis,

Rev. E. Kampen (vice chairman at that time)