

Press Release of Classis Central Ontario (Burlington Fellowship), December 10, 2021, held at Ebenezer Canadian Reformed Church in Burlington, Ontario.

On behalf of the convening church, Rev. Hilmer Jagersma welcomed the delegates, called the meeting to order, and led opening devotions.

The report on the examination of credentials was received from Ebenezer. The credentials were examined and found to be in good order. All primary delegates were noted to be present. Dr. G. H. Visscher was present as examiner in New Testament exegesis for the anticipated candidate examinations. The chairman declared classis constituted and the officers suggested by the previous classis came forward to take their respective places: Rev. Jagersma as chair, Rev. Tony Roukema as clerk, and elder Jason Datema as vice-chair. The agenda was adopted with minor revisions.

The following matters of memorabilia were noted and included in opening prayer: the health concerns of Elizabeth Mulder, widow of Rev. Johannes Mulder; and the needs of all the emeritus pastors of Classis Central Ontario.

Brother Timothy Veenstra presented the required documents to undergo a candidacy examination. He delivered his sermon proposal on Luke 1:39-45. In closed session, the sermon proposal was discussed and deemed insufficient to proceed with the remainder of the examination. Rev. Ian Wildeboer and Rev. Jagersma met with br. Veenstra to inform him of this decision and to commit this matter to prayer.

Rev. Martin Overgaauw was given the floor to address Classis as a fraternal observer from the United Reformed Church. He brought greetings from that federation and encouraged the delegates in their tasks. Rev. Gerrit Brintjes responded on behalf of Classis Central Ontario.

Classis then proceeded to the examination of Rev. Dr. Greg Davidson. It was affirmed that, in accordance with the advice given to Blessings by the previous classis, Rev. Davidson will be examined with a view to being declared eligible for call within the Canadian Reformed Churches. The documents required for the examination were reviewed, declared to be in good order, and the examination began. Rev. Davidson delivered his sermon proposal on 1 Thessalonians 5:18. In closed session, the sermon proposal was discussed and deemed sufficient to continue with the remainder of the examination, and the deputies of Regional Synod East gave their concurring advice. In open session, Rev. Davidson was informed of this decision, and the rest of the examination proceeded, with Rev. Brintjes examining in Old Testament exegesis, Dr. Visscher examining in New Testament exegesis, Dr. Bill DeJong in Bible knowledge, Rev. Roukema in doctrine and creeds, Rev. Wildeboer in ecclesiology (including both church history and polity), Rev. Jagersma in ethics, Rev. Jake Torenvliet in personal life (in closed session), and Rev. Winston Bosch in public/pastoral ministry. In closed session, classis discussed the examination and, with the concurring advice of the deputies of Regional Synod, declared that Rev. Davidson was eligible to be called as a minister of the Word in the Canadian Reformed Churches. In open session, Rev. Davidson was informed of the decision. Rev. Jagersma led in a prayer of thanksgiving, and opportunity was given to congratulate Rev. Davidson.

The ad hoc committee appointed by Classis Central Ontario, September 17, 2021 to draft a proposed response to a letter from the Canadian Reformed Church of Orangeville presented their proposed letter. The proposed letter was adopted with minor revisions and will be sent to Orangeville.

Rev. John van Popta, appointed by Classis Central Ontario, September 21, 2021 to locate documents missing from the archives and provide a guide for clerks to assist them in their task of collecting and filing the proper documents for classis, submitted his report. All the missing items were located and submitted to the archivist for addition to the archives. Rev. van Popta also presented a guide for clerks and Classes. A motion was made that the guide be adopted and appended to the regulations. Rev. van Popta was thanked for his work.


Question Period according to Article 44 C.O. was held. All the churches answered that the ministry of the office bearers was being continued, that the decisions of the assemblies were being honored, and no advice of Classis was requested.

The following appointments were made:

- 1) The convening church for the next Classis is Burlington Rehoboth, scheduled for March 11, 2022 at Burlington-Redemption Church. Alternate date Jun 10, 2022.
- 2) Suggested officers for next Classis are:
 - a) Chairman: Rev. Tony Roukema
 - b) Vice-chair: elder delegate from Rehoboth
 - c) Clerk: Rev. Jake Torenvliet

Question period was exercised. Christian censure according to Art. 34 C. O. was not deemed necessary. The Acts were adopted, and the press release approved by the moderamen via email. Rev. Jagersma led in prayer and declared classis closed.

For Classis Central Ontario,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Datema', with a large, stylized flourish on the left side.

Jason Datema (Vice-chair at the time)