

Press Release – Classis Central Ontario
Friday, March 3, 2023, 8:00 am
at Ebenezer Canadian Reformed Church

Rev. Winston Bosch, on behalf of the Convening Church Jubilee Canadian Reformed Church in Ottawa, welcomed the classis delegates and called the meeting to order. Pastor Winston read Proverbs 18:13 and offered a brief reflection on the importance – the discipline - of listening before answering and of the perfect example of Christ in this. He then called on God in prayer to guide the deliberations of the day and the brothers sang from Hymn 46.

After examination of the credentials, Pastor Winston reported that all delegates are properly sent and seated. All primary delegates were present, except for Bethel – Toronto, where an alternate is present. Pastor Winston declared Classis Central Ontario constituted. Rev. Jan DeGelder and Rev. Paul Aasman are seated as advisors.

The appointed officers take their place: Rev. Ian Wildeboer (Mercy Church) as chairman, Br. André Schutten, (Elder delegate, Jubilee Church) as vice-chair, and Rev. Paul Aasman, (Blessings Christian Church) as clerk.

The agenda was adopted with a minor adjustment.

Classis noted the following matters of memorabilia: the ongoing health concerns of Rev. Chris Bosch, Rev. John VanPopta, and Rev. George VanPopta and thanksgiving for the successful CRTS prospective students' event. Rev. Vandervelde led Classis in prayer over these matters.

Fred Stuik presented himself for his licensure examination. Classis found all documents to be in good order. Rev. Jake Torenvliet prayed for Fred before he delivered his sermon on Matthew 22:1-14. In closed session, classis deemed the sermon proposal sufficient to proceed with the remainder of the examination. In open session, Fred was informed of this decision. He was then examined in Doctrine and Creeds. In closed session, classis deemed the examination sufficient. In open session Fred was informed of the decision that he sustained the exam and Classis grants him license to speak an edifying word upon completion of his second year at the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary, until June 30, 2025. (Rev. Clarence Vandervelde and Rev. Tony Roukema led the evaluation of the sermon and Rev. Jake Torenvliet led the examination in doctrine.) Rev. Hilmer Jagersma led in a prayer of thanksgiving and an opportunity was given to congratulate Fred.

Upon finding the necessary documents complete and in good order, Classis then conducted a colloquium with Pastor Mark Stewart (Fellowship – Burlington). Rev. Tony Roukema prayed for pastor Mark and for a blessing over the colloquium. Rev. Winston Bosch led a conversation on doctrine and Rev. Ian Wildeboer led a conversation on church polity. In closed session, the colloquium was deemed sufficient. In open session, the chairman informed pastor Mark of the decision. Classis approbated the call of Fellowship – Burlington to Pastor Mark Stewart. Rev. Winston Bosch led in a prayer of thanksgiving. The Chairman read the Subscription Form for ministers of Classis Central Ontario. Pastor Mark willingly signed the form of subscription. Classis appoints Jubilee Church to represent Classis at the installation service, Deo volente March 19, 2023.

The delegates from the churches were asked, according to Article 44, C.O., whether the ministry of the office bearers is being continued, whether the decisions of the major assemblies were being honored, and whether there is any matter in which the consistories need the help of classis. All churches answered yes, yes, and no, respectively, with the exception that two churches (Bethel – Toronto and Mercy – Hamilton) sought advice from classis. Classis entered closed session to discuss and pray over these pastoral concerns.

Classis returned to open session. Rehoboth – Burlington asked a question of Classis regarding Bill C-4 (2021), the criminalization of conversion therapy, and whether churches have adopted a standard statement on this issue. Classis gave feedback on this issue.

Rev. Vandervelde read a letter from the CRTS into the meeting regarding dates for graduation and subsequent classes where the timelines for examinations might be affected.

Classis then considered an appeal against a decision of the Consistory with Deacons of Ebenezer – Burlington. After careful deliberation, the appeal was denied.

Classis made the following appointments for the next Classis:

- A. The convening church for the next Classis will be Toronto – Bethel, and hosted at Burlington – Ebenezer.
- B. The suggested officers for the next Classis:
 - a. Chairman: Rev. Paul Aasman
 - b. Vice-chairman: Elder delegate from Toronto – Bethel
 - c. Clerk: Rev. Gerrit Bruintjes

Next Classis Central Ontario is scheduled for June 9, 2023. Alternate date is September 15, 2023.

Question period was utilized. Christian censure according to Art. 34 C.O. was not necessary.

The Acts of Classis will be finalized by the executive team, and a draft of the Press Release was read and adopted.

Rev. Winston Bosch led in prayer. Rev. Ian Wildeboer declared Classis Central Ontario closed.

For Classis Central Ontario,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Schutten', written over a horizontal line.

André Schutten (Vice-Chair at the time)