

**Press Release of  
Classis Ontario West  
Ancaster, March 8 AD 2023**

**Opening of classis**

On behalf of the convening church at Ancaster, Rev. Peter Holtvlüwer opened the meeting in a Christian manner. In prayer he remembered a number of matters related to the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary (CRTS): the long-standing health concerns of Dr. Gootjes, the steadily improving health of Dr. VanRaalte, the ongoing health concerns of Dr. N.H. Gootjes, the needs of sr. Dinie Gootjes, and sr. Margaret DeJong, the students to be examined at this classis, and the *colloquium doctum* of Dr. Reuben Bredenhof. He also prayed for the needs of the church at Kerwood surrounding their continuing vacancy. Thanks was expressed for the removal of border restrictions and the ordination of Rev. Timothy van Beek in the Pilgrim church at London.

The credentials were found to be in good order and classis was declared constituted.

The following brothers formed the moderamen as per the suggestion of the previous classis: chairman – Rev. Darren Feenstra; vice-chairman – Rev. Peter Holtvlüwer; clerk – Rev. Kenneth Kok. Rev. Feenstra thanked the church at Ancaster for convening classis and completing all the preparatory work. After two additions, the agenda was adopted. The chairman read the classis Form of Subscription and the newly ordained Rev. Timothy van Beek signed it.

**Discussion & Examinations**

Classis engaged Dr. Reuben Bredenhof in a discussion on doctrine and church order. Following a closed session discussion, classis deemed the *colloquium doctum* sufficient and subsequently classis decided to approbate the call to Dr. Bredenhof from the Cornerstone church at Hamilton to be set aside as Professor of Ministry and Mission at CRTS.

Each of three CRTS students in turn presented a sermon and each was deemed sufficient to proceed with the examination of doctrine and creeds. After being further examined, the following brothers were granted permission to speak an edifying word: Damon Bosveld, Joshua Schouten, and Marc Vermeulen.

**Fraternal Greetings**

Rev. Steve Swets of the Rehoboth United Reformed Churches, present as a fraternal delegate, brought greetings from Classis South-Western Ontario of the URC. Rev. Tim Collins of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, present as a fraternal observer, gave greetings from the Canadian Presbytery. A member of classis offered prayer for both churches. A letter of regret for being unable to send a delegate was received from Covenant East Classis of the RCUS.

**Reports**

Church visitation reports were received for the churches at Grand Rapids, Glanbrook, Kerwood, London, Hamilton (Providence), and Ancaster. Gratitude was expressed that the reports indicate that each church continues to function as a faithful church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Question Period**

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.

**Appointments**

The church at Chatham was appointed to convene the next classis on May 24 & June 7 (anticipating the usual two-part classis to accommodate various student examinations). Suggested officers for the next classis are Rev. Peter Holtvlüwer (chair); Rev. Kenneth Kok (vice-chair); Rev. Jeff Temple (clerk).

**Closing of Classis**

Personal question period was 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 singing, the chairman led in thanksgiving prayer and classis was declared closed.

*For Classis Ontario West March 8, AD 2023 - Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer (vice-chairman at that time)*