

Press Release for Classis Northern Ontario – March 23, 2023.

On behalf of the convening church at Owen Sound, Henry Boscher welcomed the delegates and opened the meeting in a Christian Manner. Two deputies of Regional Synod East were also present at the meeting via video and welcomed.

In his memorabilia, he remembers the retirement of Rev. Kampen and the vacancy in the church of Orangeville and the upcoming retirement of Rev. VanLuik. He also remembers with thankfulness that the vacancies in Guelph Emmanuel, Fergus Maranatha and Owen Sound are being filled and that the Church at Arthur continues to seek a minister to fill its vacancy.

The Church at Brampton requested the release of Rev. M.H. VanLuik for retirement, effective June 1, 2023. After reviewing the relevant letters and material, Classis and the delegates of Regional Synod gave concurring advice. The chairman and the delegates of Regional Synod offered words of appreciate for the service of Rev. VanLuik to the churches over almost 39 years of ministry.

The delegates from the church at Brampton gave an update on the Mission Work in the congregation. With the retirement of Rev. VanLuik, the church has hired a Mission Worker who will be ordained as elder in the church and Rev. Onderwater will now serve as minister of the congregation. They also reported on the Lord blessing the congregation with new members from the community and that there is growing interest by many others to join the church. Appreciation was also expressed for the support given for this work by the churches of Classis.

Question Period as per Article 44 of the Church Order was held. No churches requested the assistance of Classis in any matters.

The church at Arthur reported that they are no longer are in need of pulpit supply and withdraw their request.

The church of Orangeville requested Classis to appoint Rev. E. Kampen as their counselor during their time of vacancy. Classis appoints him as counselor for Orangeville.

The church at Fergus Maranatha requested that Classis approbate their call to Rev. Ludwig. After reviewing the relevant documents, Classis approbates the call. Rev. T. Wierenga will represent the churches of Classis at his installation.

A report was received from the appeals committee outlining the work they have been doing and informing Classis that an appeal has been withdrawn. The report is received with thankfulness.

The next Classis will be convened by the church at Arthur on June 16, 2023, with an alternate date for June 15, at 7:30 if there is a short agenda. The suggested officers for next Classis are: Chairman – Rev. Vanderhorst, Vice-chairman – Rev. Wierenga and Clerk – Rev. Poort.

The meeting was closed with singing and the chairman, Rev. Jeff Poort closed in prayer.

On behalf of Classis Northern Ontario,  
Rev. M.H. VanLuik, vice-chair.