

## **Press Release Regional Synod East November 14, 2018 held in Burlington, Ontario**

On behalf of the convening church of Burlington-Ebenezer, Rev. Anthony Roukema opened the meeting of the delegates by having them sing. He then led in Scripture reading and prayer. The meeting elected Rev. Clarence VanderVelde as chairman, Rev. Peter Holtvlüwer as vice-chairman, and Rev. Clarence Bouwman as clerk.

Rev. VanderVelde as chairman thanked the meeting for the confidence placed in the moderamen. He then expressed appreciation to the church of Burlington-Ebenezer for convening and hosting this regional synod.

### **Overtures**

Synod dealt with an overture from Classis Ontario West May 23, 2018 regarding changing the timing of when a student of theology could be permitted to speak an edifying word in the churches (as per Art. 21 CO). Currently, a student of theology in our seminary may seek such permission in our churches only after the third year of studies. The overture seeks to have the next general synod change this to following the second year of studies. Regional synod agreed with this overture and, with only very minor grammatical/editorial changes, decided to forward it to general synod.

Synod next dealt with an overture from Classis Central Ontario Sept 6–7, 2018 regarding changing Article 55 of the Church Order. The change would allow local consistories to independently decide what songs to sing in the worship services. The overture was not adopted.

Synod then dealt with an overture from Classis Central Ontario Sept 6–7, 2018 regarding changing those masculine pronouns in the Forms for Lord's Supper which are intended to refer to both males and females. With some modifications and commentary, this overture was forwarded to general synod.

### **Reports**

Synod received reports from deputies who attended peremptory examinations and other matters pertaining to their mandate. Reports were also received regarding the work of the treasurer and the archives of regional synod east. Synod adopted the treasurer's proposal to assess the churches \$1 per communicant member (to be paid to the local classis treasurer who then is to forward it to the treasurer of regional synod east, br. Dave VanAmerongen). Synod appointed Deputies as specified in Article 48 of the Church Order. Appointments were also made pertaining to the finances and the keeping of the archives of regional synod.

### **Appointments**

Appointments to the upcoming General Synod Edmonton 2019 were made as follows:

**Elders:** John Jager, Bernie Kottelenberg, André Schutten, Fred Stoffels, Nick VandenOever, Art Witten;

- Alternates in order: Allard Gunnink, Ron Bremer, Jeff Jans, Jonathan Reinink, John Witten, and Harold Jonker.

**Ministers:** Revs. Douwe G.J. Agema, Clarence Bouwman, Peter G. Feenstra, Peter H. Holtvlüwer, John Louwerse, Clarence VanderVelde;

- Alternates in order: Revs. Matthew VanLuik, Bill DeJong, Rodney Vermeulen, John Vanwoudenberg, Theo Wierenga, and Arend Witten

The remuneration for loss of wages for delegates to general synod was set at a maximum of \$215 per day, with a maximum of \$1075 per week. The travel reimbursement rate was set at \$0.49/km (not to exceed the cost of air travel).

A nominee for the Board of Governors was selected along with one alternate. These names will be forwarded to General Synod Edmonton 2019.

The Church at Guelph-Emmanuel was appointed to convene the next regional synod, scheduled for November 13, 2019.

After adoption of the Acts, approval of the press release, and closing devotions, regional synod was closed.

Rev. Peter Holtvlüwer, vice-chairman at that time.