

**Press Release – Classis Ontario West, Grand Rapids convened at Kerwood Canadian Reformed Church
– 20th March 2019**

On behalf of the convening church, Rev. Ken Kok welcomed delegates and other visitors including a number of CRTS students. He read Psalm 46 and invited all present to sing Psalm 46:1. He led in prayer specifically remembering the work of the CRTS; the health struggles of the retired professors; the vacant churches of the classis and the call extended to Rev. Rodney Vermeulen. The chairman thanked the hosting church for their hospitality.

The convening church examined the credentials and found them to be in good order. Classis was constituted. The officers suggested by the previous classis took their place. Rev. Ken Kok as chairman; Rev. Rodney Vermeulen as vice-chair in place of Rev. Darren Feenstra; Rev. Jeff Poort as clerk. The agenda was adopted.

Student Danial Shin requested to be examined (C.O. Art. 21) with a view to being given permission to speak an edifying word in the churches. The necessary paper work was in order. He presented his sermon proposal on Jeremiah 1:4-10. Having deliberated in closed session classis deemed the sermon proposal sufficient to continue with the examination. Br. Shin was then examined on the Doctrine of Church. After deliberation in closed session classis deemed the examination sufficient to grant Br. Shin permission to speak an edifying word in the churches upon the successful completion of his third year of study. This permission was granted once classis had heard br. Shin's verbal promise not to preach or teach anything contrary to God's Word as summarized in the Three Forms of Unity. A prayer of thanksgiving was offered and opportunity was given to congratulate the brother and wish him God's blessing.

Question period according to Article 44 of the CO was held. All the churches answered that the offices are being maintained, and that the decisions of the assemblies are being honored. In closed session classis gave advice to three churches at their request.

Date for next classis was decided – May 15 to be continued June 5, with the main agenda item being the examinations of the third and fourth year students of the CRTS.

Personal question period was made use of. With thankfulness censure as per art. 34 was deemed unnecessary. Those assembled sang Psalm 46:5 and the Rev. Jeff Poort closed the meeting in prayer.

For Classis Ontario-West
Rev. Rodney Vermeulen (vice-chair at that time)