

Press Release of Classis Ontario West, May 15, June 5, 2019 at Cornerstone Canadian Reformed Church of Hamilton

On May 15th, 2019, on behalf of the hosting church of Cornerstone (Hamilton), Rev. Darren Feenstra welcomed the delegates. He opened with the reading of 1 Corinthians 1:18-30 and the singing of Hy 52: 1, 2, 5 and then asked for God's blessing in prayer. He remembered Rev. Vermeulen and his upcoming move and taking up of his call in Attercliffe, as well as Rev. Bram de Graaf who is in Hamilton on furlough.

The consistory of Cornerstone (Hamilton) determined that all the delegates' credentials were in order and declared classis constituted, after which the suggested officers from the previous classis took their place: Rev. Darren Feenstra as chairman, Rev. Jeff Poort as vice-chairman, and Rev. Rodney Vermeulen as clerk. He welcomed the students who were here for the examinations as well as Rev. Paul Aasman from Streetlight Ministries and Rev. Bram deGraaf who were seated at classis in an advisory capacity. The agenda was then adopted with some minor adjustments.

After presenting proper documentation, br. Arjen Vreugdenhil presented his sermon proposal. Classis went into closed session and determined that the proposal was not sufficient to continue with the examination. Classis brought this to God in a time of prayer.

After presenting proper documentation, brs. Kelvin Dekker and Aidan Plug presented sermon proposals and were examined in Doctrines and Creeds. Classis went into closed session to discuss the examinations and with thankfulness Classis deemed both brothers to have sufficiently sustained the examinations and granted them license to speak an edifying Word in the churches after their promising not to say or teach anything against the Scriptures and the Reformed Confessions. Thanks was offered to God in prayer.

A report was received from the Committee for Examinations compiling the correspondence received from the churches within the Classis. The churches reported on the preaching and pastoral work of br. Jeff Temple according to Article 8 of the Church Order. Classis determined that br. Temple has fulfilled all the requirements set out at Classis OW of September/October 2018, and declared him eligible for call. Thanks was offered to God in prayer.

The chairman asked a delegate from each of the churches the questions of Article 44 of the Church Order. There were no requests for advice.

Trinity (Glanbrook) requested honourable release of Rev. Rodney Vermeulen and brought the proper documentation for this. They also requested to have Dr. Jason Van Vliet appointed as counsellor as per Article 45 of the Church Order. These requests were granted. Rev. Vermeulen was thanked for his faithful work within the classis over the past 10 years in a variety of capacities.

Trinity (Glanbrook) presented the appropriate documents for Rev. Vermeulen's release. This release was granted. The chairman gave thanks in prayer for the work Rev. Vermeulen has done in this classis over the last ten years.

Classis received a letter from Rehoboth URCNA in Hamilton requesting a fresh attempt at a joint (concurring) classis with Classis Southwestern Ontario of the URCNA. This was agreed upon and the next convening church will attempt to organize this.

Church visit reports were received for Ancaster, Cornerstone (Hamilton), EbenEzer (Chatham) Grace (Kerwood), Grand Rapids, Providence (Hamilton), and Trinity (Glanbrook). These were received with thankfulness to God for his faithfulness in preserving and his churches. Reports were received from Grace (Kerwood) concerning the inspection of the archives, from Cornerstone (Hamilton) concerning the inspection of the financial books, and from the treasurer of Classis regarding the finances of the past year. Those involved were thanked for their work.

Classis appointed Providence as the next convening church with the date set for September 11, 2019, at Sheffield URC if possible, otherwise Providence. Regular appointments were made.

Personal question period was made use of.

Classis adjourned after the singing of Hy 85:1 and closing prayer.

Classis reconvened on June 5, 2019. The chairman from Cornerstone, on this date, Rev. John Louwse, opened the meeting with the singing of Psalm 93:1, 2 and the reading of Rev 1:4-20. He then asked for God's blessing in prayer.

The chairman welcomed the delegates, several of whom were newly delegated for this reconvened portion of classis, and whose credentials were in good order.

After presenting the proper documents, brs. Chauncey Knecht, Eric Onderwater, Jeremy Segstro, and Mark ten Haaf presented sermon proposals and were examined in Doctrines and Creeds and Old and New Testament Exegesis with a view to becoming eligible for call in the churches. Classis went into closed session to discuss the examinations and with thankfulness Classis deemed all four brothers to have sufficiently sustained the examinations and declared them eligible for call in the churches after their promising not to say or teach anything against the Scriptures and the Reformed Confessions. Thanks was offered to God in prayer.

A church visitation report was received for Pilgrim (London) with thankfulness to God for his gracious preserving work there.

A letter from CRTS was received to confirm that br. Daniel Shin has successfully completed his 3rd year, fulfilling the academic requirements needed for the licensure examination he sustained at the classis of March 20, 2019.

Question period was made use of.

The chairman asked the body to sing and prayed after which he closed the meeting.

On behalf of Classis,
Rev. Jeff Poort,
Vice-chairman at the time