

Press release of Classis Ontario West, Hamilton Providence, September 11th and 25th 2019.

This Classis began with the greeting of brothers, familiar faces and new acquaintances. Classis met concurrently with the South Western Ontario Classis of the URCNA. Convened by Providence CanRC of Hamilton, the delegates met in the facilities of the Zion URCNA in Sheffield. Rev. Steven Swets chairman of URC Classis welcomed the delegates. Rev. Tony Zekveld lead in devotions meditating on 1 Thess 1:8, which impresses upon us the “outgoing” nature of the gospel.

The delegates from the CanRC and URCNA then began their work separately. The credentials being in order, the executive was appointed (Rev. J. Poort - chairman, Rev. A. Witten – Vice Chairman, Rev. K. Kok – Clerk). The chairman opened in prayer remembering the needs of our churches and the wonderful blessing of 50 years of faithful teaching at CRTS.

The questions according to Article 44 were asked. With thankfulness all churches affirmed that the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued, the decisions of the major assemblies are being honored, and at that time no consistory needed the judgment and help of classis for the proper government of their church.

A letter was received from the Church of Ancaster reminding the delegates of Classis of the importance that matters dealt with in closed session be kept in strictest confidence. This was noted. Providence CanRC of Hamilton wrote asking that Classis reconvene on Sept 25th for a Peremptory examination of Dr. J. Temple. Classis agreed. The Classis treasurer reported, suggesting that the assessment for Classis expenses remain at \$6 per communicant member, this was adopted.

Rev. J. Ludwig wrote to Classis requesting release from this Classis since he has accepted the call to the Church of Neerlandia South. Having viewed the relevant documents Classis decided to provide the certificate of release and expressed thankfulness for the long and faithful service of Rev. J. Ludwig among the churches of this Classis.

At the request of the Church of Chatham, Candidate Arjen Vreugdenhil presented himself for examination with a view to ordination. He presented a sermon proposal on 1 Samuel 25. After discussion, with sadness Classis decided that the sermon was not sufficient to continue with the exam. Candidate Vreugdenhil was informed of this decision.

After lunch, in combined session with the URCNA Classis, the delegates were addressed by Rev. D. Bylsma from the Presbytery of Michigan and Ontario of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Rev. Bylsma shared the recent sorrows and struggles the churches have endured. He gave the delegates heartfelt encouragement to care for one another. Rev. Harry Zekveld of the URCNA responded and lead the meeting in prayer for our churches.

Classis chose delegates for Regional Synod East in November. As Elder delegates: Brs. J. Lenting, and J. Ruggi and Brs. T. Medemblik, and D. Sieders as alternates. As minister delegates: Revs. J. Louwerse and A. Witten as primary, and Revs. K. Kok, J. Poort as alternates. The Church of Kerwood was appointed as convening church for next meeting of Classis, the Lord willing on December 18th. Personal question period was made use of. The Chairman could judge that no delegates needed to be censured for their conduct in the meeting. And the meeting was adjourned till Sept 25th with singing and prayer.

The delegates gathered at the Hamilton Providence CanRC On September 25th. Elder D. Aasman welcomed the delegates, the deputies from Regional Synod East, Dr. and Mrs. Temple and the many visitors. The meeting was opened with the reading of Psalm 119:1-8, singing of Psalm 119:1-2 and prayer. The credentials again being in order, the meeting of Classis was resumed. Dr. J. Temple presented his sermon proposal on Ruth 1:1-5 for the requirements of the peremptory exam. In closed session Classis judged the sermon to be sufficient. Dr. Temple was then examined in the areas of Old Testament Exegesis, New Testament Exegesis, Doctrines and Creeds, Church History, Knowledge of Scripture, Ethics, Diaconiology and Church Polity. In closed session Classis could conclude that the examination was sustained. The deputies for Regional Synod East, Revs. M. Jagt and R. Denhollander could concur with the decision of Classis. With thankfulness Classis could inform the brother and having seen the relevant documents approbated the call of the church of Providence to Dr. J. Temple. At the request of the Church of Ancaster, Classis appointed as counsellor during their period of vacancy Dr. A. deVisser. Rev. W. DenHollander will continue to serve as counsellor of Ancaster till Dec 2019. Personal question period was made use of. The Chairman judged that no delegates needed to be censured for their conduct in the meeting. The meeting was closed by the chairman with singing Hymn 84 and prayer.

Rev. A. Witten Vice- Chairman at that time.