

## **Press Release of Classis of Northern Ontario convened in Grand Valley, by the church at Orangeville, October 4, 2019**

Classis Northern Ontario (CNO) was convened on October 4, 2019 in the Canadian Reformed Church of Grand Valley. On behalf of the convening church Rev. Eric Kampen opened the meeting in a Christian manner. All the churches were properly represented and classis was constituted. The deputies of Regional Synod East, Rev. Clarence Vandavelde and Rev. John Louwerse, were also welcomed. Rev. Jonathan Chase served as Chairman of classis, Rev. Theo Wierenga as Vice-chairman and Rev. Douwe Agema as Clerk.

At the request of the church at Brampton, and after finding that the necessary documents were in order, Classis proceeded with the Peremptory Examination of br. Eric Onderwater. He presented his sermon proposal on II Cor. 4:7-12. Classis determined that he had sustained his sermon proposal and that the examination could proceed. The deputies of Regional Synod concurred.

Br. Onderwater was then examined in the areas of Old and New Testament exegesis, Doctrine and Creeds, Church History, Knowledge of Scripture, Ethics, Diaconiology, and Church Polity. Classis judged that br. Onderwater had sustained the exam, and the Deputies of Regional Synod concurred. After br. Onderwater was informed of this happy result he signed the subscription form for Classis and the Chairman led in thanksgiving prayer. Opportunity was given for the delegates to congratulate br. Onderwater and his wife Lisa.

Classis then approbated the call to br. Onderwater by the church at Brampton. The church at Orangeville is appointed to represent Classis at his ordination.

Reports were given on church visits to the following churches: Brampton, Elora, Fergus Maranatha, Fergus North, Guelph Emmanuel, Guelph Living Word, Owen Sound. These reports were received with thankfulness.

A report was received from the church at Orangeville that that the archives of CNO kept by the Church at Owen Sound were found to be in good order. A report was received from the treasurer of CNO and an audit of the books of the treasurer of CNO indicated the financial books were in good order. No report from the Committee for Needy Churches was received. An audit of the books of this Committee was not received.

The chairman posed the questions of Article 44 of the Church Order to the delegates from each congregation. The churches answered in the affirmative that the ministry of the office bearers is being continued and the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured. Several churches requested and received the advice of Classis regarding matters of church discipline after which these matters were brought before the Lord in prayer.

The next Classis was scheduled for Dec. 13, 2019 to be convened by the Church at Owen Sound. Suggested officers are: Chairman – Rev. P. Feenstra; Clerk – Rev. J. Chase; Vice-chairman – Rev. D. Agema.

Various appointments were made, including examiners, treasurer of CNO, church visitors, and churches responsible for the archives and books of the treasurer.

Classis delegated to Regional Synod (to be convened November 9, 2019) as elder delegates the brothers John Jonker as primary delegate and alternate br. Menko Wieske, as well as br. Albert Van Raalte as primary delegate and br. Steve Brouwer as alternate. Appointed as minister delegates: Rev. J. Chase and Rev. M. Jagt, with Rev. E. Kampen and Rev. D. Pol as alternates

The chairman noted with thankfulness that the meeting could be conducted in brotherly harmony. After thanksgiving in prayer, the meeting was closed.

*Rev. Theo A. Wierenga (vice chair at that time)*