

Press Release of Classis OW Grace (Kerwood), November 20, 2019

On behalf of the convening church, Rev. Jeff Poort welcomed the delegates, deputies of Regional Synod, and guests attending, including br. Arjen Vreugdenhil who was taking his peremptory examination. Rev. Poort opened with the reading of Psalm 48 and prayer, remembering the ordination of Dr. Jeff Temple in Providence (Hamilton), the vacancies in the churches of the classis, as well as the health of Prof. Geertsema.

The credentials were in order and the classis was convened with two of the suggested officers from the last classis taking their place: Rev. Ken Kok as chairman and Rev. Arend Witten as clerk. Since no minister from Cornerstone (Hamilton) was delegated, classis agreed to have Rev. Jeff Poort take the position of vice-chairman. Newly ordained Dr. Jeff Temple signed the Classis Ontario West subscription form.

Classis invited Br. Vreugdenhil to come forward for his peremptory examination. He presented his sermon proposal on Luke 2:25-35. Classis deemed the proposal sufficient to continue the examination and the Deputies of Regional Synod, Rev. Dick Wynia and Rev. Eric Kampen, were able to give concurring advice. Br. Vreugdenhil was examined in Old Testament Exegesis (Psalm 127 & Genesis 12, Rev. Witten), New Testament Exegesis (Romans 1-2, Rev. Poort), Doctrines and Creeds (Doctrine of the Covenant, Rev. Kok), Church History (Reformation, Dr. Temple), Scripture Knowledge (Rev. Poort), Ethics (Gospel of Matthew, Rev. Aasman), Diaconiology (Rev. Witten), and Church Polity (Rev. Kok). In closed session, Classis declared the examination sustained with the concurring advice of the Deputies of Regional Synod. Classis gave thanks to the LORD for his provision for this brother and the congregation in Chatham. Classis then approbated the call.

The Fund for Needy Churches gave a recommendation proposing continued support for a needy church. This recommendation was adopted.

Pilgrim (London) is scheduled to convene the next Classis meeting on March 4, 2020. The next officers suggested are: Rev. Witten as chairman, Dr. Temple as vice-chairman, and a ministerial representative from Cornerstone as clerk.

Question period was made use of and brotherly censure was judged to be unnecessary.

After singing from Hy 22, the chairman gave thanks in closing prayer.

On behalf of classis,
Rev. Jeff Poort (vice-chairman at the time)