

Press Release of Classis Central Ontario held on June 5, 2020

The convening church was Fellowship and as of the regular practice classis was meeting at the Ebenezer Church building, however, because of current Covid restrictions all but 5 of us joined by Zoom. Thank you to Ebenezer for providing the technology to make all this possible.

As is the normal custom we opened with scripture, meditation and prayer. Rev. Jake Torenvliet on behalf of Fellowship church, opened with the reading of Ps 84.

We acknowledged the following matters for prayer among the churches in this Classis; the passing away of Prof. Geertsma, Mrs. Mulder finds herself in isolation because of Covid restrictions, Prof. Jerry Visscher's imminent retirement from our college after many years of faithful service, Fellowship's call to Rev. Boekestein which is now on hold while pandemic restrictions are in place, and student Timothy Veenstra as he appears before classis seeking consent to speak an edifying word.

All the people who were expected to attend Classis were accounted for and had their duly signed credentials available.

Appointed as Chairman: Rev. Jake Torenvliet , Vice-chairman: Elder Rick Smeding and Clerk: Rev. Clarence Vandervelde.

With the regular protocol completed Classis was declared to be constituted and the agenda was adopted.

Timothy Veenstra, a member of Blessings Christian Church, presented his credentials and his sermon proposal as he came to be examined to speak an edifying word. He is a 3rd year student at our seminary. This was done as per Article 21 of our church order.

Tim's sermon proposal was on Matthew 11:28-30 which was accepted, and his presentation of the gospel met the approval of this Classis. Tim was then able to move on to the next step in the process which examined him on doctrine and creeds. Once again Tim's responses were deemed to be solid and he was unanimously endorsed to speak an edifying word in our churches. Tim's pastor, Bill Dejong, offered a pray of thanks and asked for a blessing for Tim as he begins a year of work among us.

All the churches in our classis were asked, as is expected according to Article 44 of the Church Order, "whether the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued, whether the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured, and whether there is any matter in which the consistories need the judgment and help of classis for the proper government of their church." All the churches, answered in the affirmative to the first two questions and no to the third.

We then moved on to discuss two proposals. The first was from Rehoboth church who presented an overture to remove the bracketed qualifier "For the Second Service" from the abbreviated form for the

Celebration of the Lord's Supper. The overture was adopted after discussion. Next Blessings submitted an overture to amend the questions in the liturgical forms for Baptism and Profession of Faith to restore the language to reference the Apostles' Creed. The overture was unanimously adopted after discussion.

The next Classis meeting will be convened by Rehoboth church on Sept 18 with the following officers:

Chairman: Rev. Clarence Vandervelde

Vice-Chairman: Elder delegate from the convening church

Clerk: Rev. Ian Wildeboer

There were no questions during question period, as it was late in the day, and thankfully Christian Censure was not required.

Rev. Jake Torenvliet thanked us for the collegially manner todays meetings was conducted, and then closed the meeting with the reading of PS 133 and prayer.

On behalf of Classis, Vice-chairman

Elder Rick Smeding