

Press Release of Classis Niagara, September 16, 2020

On behalf of the convening church of Grassie, br. Ken Stel opened the meeting of the delegates in a Christian manner. In prayer he remembered a number of items, including the vacancy of Spring Creek CanRC, the recent decline of Rev. Rolf den Hollander's visa application for taking up ministry in Legana, Australia, and the institution of Niagara South CanRC.

Upon the constitution of Classis, the delegates appointed Rev. Dick Wynia as chairman, Rev. Ryan Kampen as vice-chairman, and Rev. Clarence Bouwman as clerk.

After the agenda was adopted, Classis received a report from br. Frank Ludwig, deputy for contact with neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries, on the work of the deputies over the last year. With regard to contact with Armor PCA, this has been ongoing but significantly limited on account of the closure of the border.

The chairman asked each of the churches the questions set out in Article 44 of the Church Order. In closed session, a couple of churches asked for and received the judgment and help of Classis for the proper government of their churches. Monthly pulpit supply was requested by and granted to the church of Niagara South.

Classis received the report of the classical treasurer, br. Dave Van Amerongen, sr. The treasurer was thanked for his work, and he was discharged from his responsibility for the period September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020. The church of Grassie reported on the audit of the treasurer's books; all was found to be in good order. The church of Dunnville reported on its inspection of the classical archives, which are maintained by the church of Attercliffe, and found them to be mostly complete. The remaining items will be tracked down.

Classis appointed the church of Lincoln–Vineyard as the convening church for the next classis, to be held on December 16, 2020, with March 10, 2021 as alternate. Suggestions for officers for the next classis were also made.

Reappointed were the classical treasurer, the church of Grassie to audit the classical treasurer's books, the church of Attercliffe to maintain the classical archives, and the church of Dunnville to inspect the archives.

All of the experienced ministers serving in the classis were authorized to serve as church visitors, with Rev. Swaving as alternate, and Rev. Bouwman appointed as convenor. Rev. Vermeulen and Rev. Wynia were appointed to serve on the committee for arranging examinations; Rev. VanWoudenberg was appointed to serve as alternate.

Brs. Frank Ludwig and John Witten were appointed to serve as deputies for contact with neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries. Brs. Cornell Feenstra (convener), Frank Ludwig, and Gerard Nordeman, with three alternates (Rev. Kampen, Harold Olij, and Henk VanderVelde) were reappointed to the Appeals Committee.

Classis delegated to Regional Synod East, November 11, 2020 the following ministers and elders:
ministers: Rev. Vermeulen; Rev. Wynia; alternates (in this order): Rev. VanWoudenberg; Rev. Bouwman

elders: Cornell Feenstra; Nick Vandenoever; alternates (in this order): Al Schutten; Roy Hummel

Personal question period was made use of. The chairman judged with thankfulness that censure ad Article 34 of the Church Order was unnecessary. The Acts were read and adopted. It was decided that the Acts could be sent in their entirety to the neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries. The press release was read and approved, after which the chairman asked the delegates to sing in closing, led in a prayer of thanksgiving and intercession, and closed the meeting.

Rev. R.J. Kampen
vice-chairman e.t.