

Press Release of Classis Central Ontario September 18, 2020

Rev. Clarence VanderVelde, on behalf of the convening church, welcomed all the delegates and opened the meeting with the communal singing of Hymn 52:1 and 2, Scripture reading from Ephesians 4:1-16 and prayer.

Flamborough-Redemption reported that the primi delegates are in attendance with the exception of three alternates. Additional instructions were read into the meeting.

Classis was constituted. Rev. Clarence VanderVelde was appointed as Chair, Mr. Rick Ludwig as Vice Chair and Rev. Bill deJong as Clerk.

The agenda is adopted with the addition of two items.

Memorabilia: Rev. Bill Boekestein recently declined the call from Burlington-Fellowship. The churches shared in this disappointment and encouraged them in their continuing search for a pastor and for the ministry of the church during the ongoing vacancy. It was also noted that Rev. John van Popta recently delivered his final sermon at Burlington-Fellowship due to ongoing health concerns.

Reports: The churches in turn reported on their foreign and local mission activities and following each report their efforts were prayed over by a delegate from a neighbouring church.

Burlington-Fellowship church reported that the classis archives have been inspected and were found to be in good order with the exception of a short list of items. The missing document list was reviewed in respect to the classis guidelines. A request was made for the clerks of the respective classes where documents were missing to forward them to the archivist.

The Treasurer's report was received and reviewed. The assessment proposal of \$3 per communicant member was approved. Rehoboth church reports that the records have been reviewed and are in good order. Mr. Jack Spithoff was thanked for his work.

The Committee for Needy Churches reported on its activities for the past year. There has been no activity for the fund in the past year. Mr. Kent Baartman is due for retirement from the committee.

Burlington-Rehoboth reported that the financial records were reviewed and found in good order. Mr. Kent Baartman was thanked for his work.

Question period according to Article 44 C.O. was held. All the churches gave their responses in turn.

Hamilton-Blessings requested advice on the requirements of classis for the institution of Mercy Church and the installation of Rev. Ian Wildeboer as minister of the word. This is a unique situation in the federation as this is a church plant that is becoming an instituted church. Discussion was held and advice was given.

Proposals or Instructions of the churches: Flamborough-Redemption submitted a proposal that classis strike a committee to study guidelines and propose changes for classical examinations. Classis supported the proposal. A committee was appointed as follows: Rev. Jake Torenvliet (Convenor), Rev. Bill deJong, Rev. Winston Bosch. The committee is instructed to report on their progress to the next classis.

Toronto-Bethel requested moving up the church visitation schedule due to the missed visits in 2020 because of the pandemic restrictions with the goal of reporting at the classis of March, 2021. Classis supported this request, keeping in mind the ongoing fluctuation of pandemic restrictions and how they may affect the scheduling of visits.

Correspondence received:

A letter was received from Orangeville in essence appealing a decision of CCO, March 2020. The matter of admissibility was discussed. A committee was formed to draft a proposal. A proposal was discussed and a decision was made that the appeal was inadmissible based on the stipulation in Article 31 C.O. that an appeal of a decision of a minor assembly should be brought to the broader assembly (i.e. Regional Synod East).

Appointments were made for the following:

Committee of Examiners: Rev. Clarence VanderVelde, Rev. Bill deJong

Church Visitors: Rev. Clarence VanderVelde (Convenor), Rev. Bill deJong, Rev. Tony Roukema, Rev. Gerrit Bruintjes (alternate)

Church to inspect Archives: Burlington-Fellowship

Treasurer: Mr. Jack Spithoff

Church for inspecting Treasurer's books: Burlington-Rehoboth

Committee for Needy Churches: Mr. Ed Jans (Chair), Mr. Fred Lodder, Mrs. Aafke Spithoff to replace Mr. Kent Baartman

Church for inspecting books of Fund for Needy churches: Burlington-Rehoboth

Committee for Appeals: Rev. J. deGelder (Convenor), Mr. Rick Ludwig, Mr. Andre Schutten, Alternates - Rev. Dr. Gijsbert Nederveen, Rev. John vanPopta, Mr. Leo Kampen (in that order)

Delegates for Regional Synod East: (Ministers) Rev. Winston Bosch, Rev. Clarence VanderVelde, (Alternates) Rev. Bill deJong, Rev. Tony Roukema (in that order)

(Elders) Mr. Ed Jager, Mr. Rick Ludwig, (Alternates) Mr. Jamie Harsevoort, Mr. Marcel Kampen (in that order).

Convening church for next Classis: Flamborough-Redemption

Suggested Officers for next Classis: Rev. Bill deJong (Chair), Flamborough-Redemption Elder (Vice Chair), Rev. Winston Bosch-Clerk

Date of next classis is set D.V. for Friday, December 11, 2020 at 9 a.m. at Ebenezer Canadian Reformed Church (alternate date March 26, 2021).

Question period was held. Censure according to Article 34 C.O. was reviewed by the Chair with thankfulness. The Acts will be finalized by the classis officers. The Press Release was read and approved. Mr. Rick Ludwig led in closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned.

Reporter: Rick Ludwig