

Press Release of Classis Niagara

February 17, 2021

Convened by Lincoln; held via Zoom

At the appointed time the chairman of the consistory of the convening church (Lincoln) opened the meeting in a fitting Christian manner. The credentials, previously sent electronically to the convening church, were now examined and found to be in good order. Classis was constituted, the executive appointed, and the agenda as presented was adopted with slight modification. Deputies from Regional Synod, present for the peremptory examination of Cand. Daniel Shin according to Art 5 CO and the retirement of Rev Bouwman according to Art 13 CO, were welcomed.

In preparation for the examination, br Shin and the consistory of Spring Creek Canadian Reformed Church presented the documents required for such an examination according to the Church Order. These documents were found to be in good order.

Br Shin had delivered a sermon on Luke 2:12 and made it available for the delegates on YouTube. This sermon was discussed and found to be insufficient. With heavy hearts Classis instructed five brothers to share this conclusion with br Shin and pray with him. As a body the meeting also laid the matter before the Lord in prayer.

In step with Art 13 CO, the church of Smithville had requested Classis to approve the retirement of Rev Clarence Bouwman in light of his having reached retirement age. The necessary documents were tabled and found to be in good order. With the approval of Deputies from Regional Synod, Classis concurred in Smithville's request and granted Rev Bouwman honorable release from his work in Classis.

The church of Grassie tabled documentation supporting their request per Art 40 CO that a new church be instituted in Grimsby. Classis supported the request.

In agreement with the Church Order, the churches were asked whether the ministry of the office bearers was being continued, whether the decisions of the major assemblies were being honored, and whether assistance was required in any matter of church government. All churches answered satisfactorily. Concurring advice in matters of discipline were given. Appointed as convening church for next classis is Niagara South, on May 12, 2021 (with September 15 as alternative date). Suggested officers for next classis were also appointed. The chairman expressed that in his opinion the delegates had behaved in such a way that no censure was required. This was noted with gratitude.

The Acts of classis were read and adopted, as was the Press Release.

Rev Kampen led the assembly in concluding devotions and prayer and closed the meeting.

For classis,
C Bouwman, vice chairman