

Press Release of Classis Northern Ontario (Grand Valley) December 17, 2021.

Classis Northern Ontario was held on December 17, 2021, in the Canadian Reformed Church in Grand Valley, ON. All the churches were properly represented. Rev. D. Agema served as chairman for Classis. Rev. Ancel Merwin was present to represent the United Reformed Churches of Classis Southwestern Ontario.

The chairman remembers that Rev. Louwse has declined the call to the church at Grand Valley. He also remembers that the churches at Grand Valley, Emmanuel church at Guelph, Maranatha church at Fergus and the church at Owen Sound are vacant and that the Lord may fill these vacancies with capable ministers of the Word.

Classis discussed a proposal for the institution of a new church in Arthur. After some discussion, Classis joyfully gave concurring advice for the institution of a new church in Arthur. Classis also grants the request to provide pulpit supply for one Sunday each month. The chairman asked to sing Hy. 61 and led in thanksgiving prayer.

Classis heard church visitation reports to the following churches: Brampton, Elora, Fergus Maranatha, Fergus North, Grand Valley, Emmanuel Guelph, Guelph Living Word, Orangeville, and Owen Sound. Classis received these reports with thankfulness noting that the churches continue to be faithful in their work in challenging times and that the Lord continues to be faithful to his church.

The chairman asks the delegates of the churches whether the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued, and whether the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured. All the churches answered in the affirmative. No churches needed the judgement and help of classis for the proper government of their church. The Maranatha Church at Fergus asked for a counselor to be appointed during the sabbatical of Rev. Jagt. Rev. Agema was appointed as counselor for this period of time.

Rev. Ancel Merwin spoke to Classis, bringing greetings from the churches in Classis Southwestern Ontario of the United Reformed Churches. Rev. Agema responded with words of encouragement, expressing thankfulness for the contact with the URC.

The churches did not supply names of brothers to serve on the appeals committee. The clerk will send a letter to the churches urging them to nominate brothers so that the committee can function. The next classis was scheduled for March 25, 2022, to be convened by the Church at Guelph Emmanuel.

Rev. Wierenga is appointed to represent Classis at the institution of the church at Arthur. Rev. Onderwater speaks to Classis about his desire to meet with all the churches in Classis, to update the churches on the mission work in Brampton.

The chairman noted with thankfulness that the meeting could be conducted in brotherly harmony. After thanksgiving prayer, the meeting was closed.

Rev. M.H. VanLuik (Vice-chair at the time)