

## Press Release of Classis Niagara, December 15, 2021

On behalf of the convening church of Spring Creek, Rev. Daniel Shin opened the meeting of the delegates in a Christian manner. In prayer he remembered several items, including ongoing concerns over the developments of the COVID-19 pandemic, the instruction ongoing at CRTS, the call to Rev. John Louwse from the church of Smithville, the acceptance of the call that Grimsby extended to Rev. Rolf den Hollander, together with the imminent vacancy in Grassie, and the acceptance of the call that Niagara South has extended to Candidate Ruurd Offringa, together with the examination to take place.

Upon the constitution of Classis, the delegates appointed Rev. Rodney Vermeulen as chairman, Rev. Cody Swaving as vice-chairman, and Rev. John VanWoudenberg as clerk.

The chairman welcomed the deputies of Regional Synod East, Revs. DeJong and Louwse, present to assist in the examination of br Ruurd Offringa, who was also welcomed. Revs. Bouwman, den Hollander, and Kampen were also welcomed and seated.

Classis proceeded forward with the examination, beginning with the sermon proposal. Classis discussed the sermon and deemed it acceptable.

From there the candidate continued through the peremptory exam in open session. Thankfully, with the concurring advice of the Deputies of Regional Synod, classis could judge that Candidate Offringa sustained the examination. Br Feenstra lead in thanksgiving prayer.

Classis approbated the call of Candidate Offringa to Niagara South made provisions for a representative from classis to be at the ordination service.

The chairman then asked each of the churches the questions set out in Article 44 of the Church Order. One church asked for and received advice concerning circumstances around instituting a new congregation. The church at Grassie asked for pulpit supply, which was granted.

Classis received a proposal from the previous Classis regarding the regulations concerning the Committee for Appeals. Since all the consistories had opportunity to interact with it, it was adopted.

The deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries presented their correspondence with the neighbouring RCUS Classis. This was received with thankfulness.

The church of Grimsby requested that Classis approbate the call Rev. Rolf den Hollander accepted from the Covenant church in Grassie. With all the documents found in good order, this request was granted, and provisions were made for a representative from classis to be at the installation service.

Classis appointed the church of Attercliffe as the convening church for the next classis, to be held on March 9, 2022, with June 15, 2022 as alternate. Suggestions for officers for the next classis were also made.

Opportunity was given for personal question period. The chairman judged with thankfulness that censure ad Article 34 of the Church Order was unnecessary. The Acts were read and adopted. 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 for the churches, and then closed the meeting.

Rev. C Swaving, vice-chairman at that time