

**Press Release of  
Classis Ontario West  
Held 25 May & 1 June 2022**

**Opening of Classis**

On behalf of the church of Hamilton-Providence, Rev. J. Temple opened the meeting in a Christian manner at 9:00 AM on 25 May. In prayer he gave thanks that: GS 2022 could complete its work in peace and harmony; he also remembered the long-standing health concerns of Dr. N. Gootjes, the ongoing work of CRTS, the vacancy of the church at London, as well as the continued vacancy for the work of Lighthouse Ministry and the students presenting themselves for examination. The credentials were found to be in good order. Classis was declared constituted.

The following brothers formed the moderamen as per the suggestion of the previous classis: chairman – Rev. J. Poort; vice-chairman – Rev. J. Temple; clerk – Rev. A. Vreugdenhil. Rev. Poort thanked the church of Hamilton-Providence for convening classis and completing all the preparatory work. After deciding which agenda items would be dealt with on 25 May, and those that would be dealt with 1 June (DV), the agenda was adopted with minor emendations.

**Proposals:**

A proposal was received from Ancaster Canadian Reformed Church regarding the length of time for which certificates of licensure and candidacy ought to be issued. This proposal was adopted. As per the proposal: second year students of theology sustaining a licensure examination will be granted a certificate to speak an edifying word (per CO Art. 21) for a three year (thirty-six month) period; third year students of theology sustaining a licensure examination will be granted a certificate to speak an edifying word (per CO Art. 21) for a two-year (twenty-four month) period; and students of theology sustaining a preparatory examination will be granted a certificate of candidacy for the ministry (per CO Art. 4) for a three year (thirty-six month) period. Students and candidates desiring to extend their certificate of either licensure or candidacy beyond the termination date must, with supporting rationale, request such of classis. In response to such requests, Classis may decide to extend the period of licensure, or candidacy, for an additional one year (twelve-month) period, non-renewable.

**Licensure Examinations:**

Six CRTS students presented sermon proposals and each proposal was deemed sufficient to proceed with the examination of doctrine and creeds. After being examined the following brothers were granted permission to speak an edifying word in the churches: Jacob Baijel, Faustin Emadjeu, Josh Peters, Mark Vanderlinde, and Zachary Vanderploeg. Br. Tony Zheng did not sustain his examination.

**Correspondence Received:**

A request to extend the permission to speak an edifying word was made by the following brothers: Caleb Kos, Matthias Schat, Timothy Slaa, and Adam Werkman. These requests were granted and each of the brothers was given permission to speak an edifying word, for a two-year (24 month) period.

A request was made by Br. Chauncey Knegt to extend the term of his candidacy for the ministry by one year. Classis granted Br. Knegt an extension of one year, non-renewable.

**Personal Question Period (for May 19):**

This opportunity was made use of.

*Classis adjourned until 9:00 AM 1 June 2022.*

### **Re-Opening of Classis**

The chairman called the meeting to order. All the properly credentialed delegates were found to be present and the chairman led in opening devotions.

### **Candidacy Examinations**

Brs. Rodney den Boer, Timothy Van Beek and Bryan Vanderhorst presented their sermon proposals in turn. In closed session classis deemed the proposals to be sufficient to continue their examinations. Brs. Den Boer, Van Beek and Vanderhorst were each examined in open session in the areas of OT exegesis, NT exegesis, and Doctrine & Creeds. In closed session Classis determined that each of these brothers had sustained their examinations. After each of these brothers gave their promise not to teach, or preach, anything contrary to Scripture or the confessions, Classis granted each of them a certificate of candidacy for the ministry, lasting for a three year period..

### **Reports:**

The treasurer's year-end report was gratefully received along with a review of the books of the treasurer. Since all was in order, classis discharged the treasurer for the period covered by the report.

A report was received from Grace-Kerwood regarding the inspection of the classical archives. The report indicated that a number of documents were missing from the files, however steps have been taken to remedy this situation.

### **Question Period ad Art. 44 CO**

All the churches indicated that they are continuing the ministry of the office-bearers as well as honouring the decisions of the broader assemblies. Trinity-Glanbrook asked for and received advice regarding establishing a new congregation in the Caledonia area. Classis approved the request of Pilgrim-London to appoint Dr. G. Visscher as their counsellor during their time of vacancy.

### **Appointments**

The church at Grace-Kerwood was appointed to convene the next classis on 14 Sept 2022, with 14 December 2022 as an alternate date. Suggested officers for the next classis are Rev. J. Temple (chair); Rev. A. Vreugdenhil (vice-chair); a ministerial delegate from Hamilton-Cornerstone (clerk).

### **Closing of Classis**

Personal question was made use of. With thankfulness, the chairman could conclude that there was no need for Christian censure (cf. Article 34 CO). The Acts and the Press Release were each read and approved by the assembly. The chairman then led in thanksgiving prayer and classis was declared closed.

*For Classis Ontario West 25 May & 1 June 2022 - Rev. J. Temple (vice-chairman at that time)*