

Press Release for Classis Northern Ontario – January 5, 2023

On behalf of the convening church, Rev. E. Kampen welcomed the delegates and opened the meeting in a Christian manner. Two deputies of Regional Synod East were also in attendance via video and were welcomed.

Rev. J. Poort and Rev. B. Vanderhorst signed the subscription form.

The Church at Orangeville requested the release of Rev. E. Kampen for retirement, effective April 1, 2023. After reviewing the relevant letters and material, Classis and the delegates of Regional Synod East gave concurring advice. The delegates of Regional Synod offered some words of appreciation for the service of Rev. Kampen to the churches over the almost 40 years of his ministry. Delegates of Classis also took the opportunity to offer warm words of appreciation to Rev. Kampen.

Church Visitation reports were read with thankfulness for all the churches. Two churches still need to be visited.

Question period as per Article 44 of the Church Order was held.

A fraternal delegate from the United Reformed Churches, Rev. Ancel Merwin attended classis. Opportunity was given for him to say a few words.

The next meeting of classis is set for March 24, 2023, with an alternative date of March 23, 2023, at 7:30 PM if there is a short agenda.

A question was asked in Question Period by the delegates from Owen Sound. The question concerned one of the foreign delegate speeches at General Synod, in which inaccurate details were referenced concerning Classis “Ontario North” (sic). The clerk was mandated to send a letter to the Committee for Ecumenical Relations.

The meeting was closed with singing of Ps 133, and the vice-chairman, Rev. Eric Onderwater, closed in prayer.

Rev. E. Onderwater, vice-chair.