

Press Release of Classis Ontario West, convened on September 12, 2007 in Kerwood, ON.

OPENING

On behalf of the convening church of Kerwood, Rev. J.G. Slaa opened the meeting by inviting all present to sing Ps 103:6,8. After some reflections about Christ's care for His church, he read Phil 1:12-2:11, and led in prayer. All the delegates and guests were welcomed, and a special welcome was given to Rev. A. Korvemaker, minister of Bethel URC of Aylmer, representing Classis Southern Ontario of the URCNA.

As memorabilia, mention was made of the fact that Rev. D. Vandeburgt recently declined a call from the church of Elora, and is presently considering a call from Grace Canadian Reformed Church of Winnipeg. It was also noted that the Providence Canadian Reformed church of Hamilton was recently instituted, and is presently vacant, as is the Cornerstone Canadian Reformed church of Hamilton. The commencement of studies at the Theological College was also remembered, and gratitude was expressed for the progress evident in the mission church that Ancaster is busy with in connection with Streetlight Ministries.

CONSTITUTION OF CLASSIS

After the delegates from the church of Kerwood examined the credentials, it was reported that all the churches were lawfully represented, and classis was declared constituted. Classis appointed the following officers: Chairman: Rev. D. Vandeburgt; Vice-chairman: Rev. R.E. Pot; Clerk: Rev. J.G. Slaa. These brothers then commenced their respective duties. The chairman expressed thanks to the convening church for preparing for and hosting classis.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

After some minor revisions, the provisional agenda was adopted.

EXAMINATION OF BR. RICHARD HORLINGS

Br. Richard Horlings presented the necessary documents for his preparatory examination in order to be declared eligible for call. After these were found to be in good order, br. Horlings was examined on his aptitude for preaching and presented his sermon proposal on Phil. 3:10-11. Classis judged that the sermon was insufficient for the examination to proceed. He was informed of this decision in a pastoral manner and commended to the Lord in prayer.

ADDRESS BY FRATERNAL OBSERVER

Rev. A. Korvemaker was given opportunity to speak, and brought greetings on behalf of Classis Southern Ontario of the United Reformed Churches, reflecting on the relationship between our respective church federations and the decisions of our recent General Synods. The chairman responded with appropriate words, and also extended a welcome to Rev. H. Zekveld, minister of Strathroy URC, who arrived at this time.

QUESTION PERIOD (Art. 44 C.O.)

Question period according to Article 44 of the Church Order was held. The churches declared that the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued, and the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured. A request from Providence Canadian Reformed Church of Hamilton for the appointment of Dr. N.H. Gootjes as their counsellor (Art. 45 C.O.) was granted.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from the Theological College, informing classis that student C. Kleyn has completed the requirements of his third year of academic study.

REPORTS

a. Classical Treasurer (Art. 8.1, Classical Regulations)

A report was received from the treasurer of Classis, Brian Vanderhout, recommending an assessment of \$4 per communicant member for 2008. This was approved.

b. Church to Administer the Fund for Needy Churches (Art. 8.8, Classical Regulations)

A report was received from the church of Ancaster, recommending an assessment of \$20 per communicant member for 2008. This was approved.

c. Church for the Fund for Needy Students (Art 8.7).

A report was received from the church of Chatham, recommending an assessment of \$10 per communicant member for 2008. This was approved. The report included an auditor's report of the books of the treasurer, and noted that the new treasurer is br. Rick DeBoer.

APPOINTMENTS

Classis made the following appointments:

1. Convening church for next Classis: London, December 12, 2007 (alternate date: March 26, 2008)
2. Suggested officers for next Classis: Chairman: Rev. G. VanPopta, Vice-chairman: Rev. J.G. Slaa, Clerk: Rev. D. Vandeburgt.
3. Delegates to Regional Synod East to be held November 14, 2007 at Fergus:
Ministers: Rev. John Ludwig; Rev. James Slaa (alternates, in order: Rev. Henry Versteeg; Rev. Doug Vandeburgt)
Elders: John Heyink; Art Witten (alternates, in order: Ben Harsevoort; Terry Medemblik)

PERSONAL QUESTION PERIOD

Personal Question Period was held.

BROTHERLY CENSURE (Art. 34 C.O.)

The chairman judged that censure according to Art. 34 C.O. was not necessary.

ADOPTION OF ACTS AND PRESS RELEASE

The Acts were read and adopted. The Press Release was read and approved for publication.

CLOSING

After the singing of Hy 40:1,5, the chairman led in prayer, and declared the meeting closed.

For classis, R.E. Pot

vice-chairman at that time