

Highlights

Of the May 10, 2005 meeting of Classis Chatham

Classis Chatham meeting was held at the beautiful facilities of Forest City Community Church, London.

- Opening devotions were led by Rev. Rob Hogendoorn, Pastor of the host church.
- All of the 26 organized churches in Classis Chatham and Forest City Church were present. 9 First-time delegates signed the Form of Subscription.
- Chairman for the day was Rev. Paul Stadt with Rev. Frederick Heslinga as Vice-Chair.
- The following nominations by the Nominating Comm. were approved by the delegates:

<i>Rev. Vic Vander Molen</i>	<i>Pastor at Large - CMC</i>
<i>Rev. David Weemhoff</i>	<i>Home Mission Committee (second term)</i>
<i>Mrs. Ellen Van Til</i>	<i>Home Mission Committee (second term)</i>
<i>Ms. Diana Schenk</i>	<i>Youth Ministry Team (second term)</i>
<i>Rev. Jim Poelman</i>	<i>Church Visitor West-Team I</i>
<i>Rev. Frederick Heslinga</i>	<i>Church Visitor West-Team II (second term)</i>
<i>Elder Arnold Deelstra</i>	<i>Church Visitor West-Team III (second term)</i>
<i>Rev. Eric Groot-Nibbelink</i>	<i>Church Visitor East-Team II</i>
<i>Rev. Wieger DeJong</i>	<i>Church Visitor East-Team III (second term)</i>
<i>Mr. Jack Geschiere</i>	<i>Board of Trustees CRCNA (second term regular)</i>
<i>Mr. Patrick McNamara</i>	<i>Board of Trustees CRCNA (second term alternate)</i>
<i>Ms. Willemina Zwart</i>	<i>Redeemer B.O.T. (one remaining year + 3 year term)</i>
<i>Mr. Richard Veldstra</i>	<i>Finance Committee</i>

- Jack Geschiere reported on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA. Prayers were requested for Dr. David Engelhard, General Secretary of the CRCNA, whose health is precarious following brain tumour surgery. The lack of Ministry Shares received is noted and how it might affect the support for smaller churches and Minister's Pension Fund. Bridge funding will be sought at Synod 2005. The position of Canadian Ministry Director was briefly discussed.
- Classical Ministry Shares 2004 were received at 93% and Denominational Shares at 68%.
- Prof. Lyle Bierma introduced a discussion on Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 80 as it refers to the Roman Catholic Mass as *accursed idolatry* and its place in today's society.
- Revs. John Kerssies and John Koole presented their observations on this issue and the delegates raised several questions during a discussion period following.
- Votes were cast for Revs. Jim Poelman and Shawn Brix for the position of trustee on the Calvin Theological Seminary board. Election is based on total votes received in region #4 consisting of neighbouring classes.

- John VanderSteen (Sea to Sea), MaryAnn Kingma (Day of Encouragement), Carol Stillman (Westmount CRC) shared with the delegates reasons for joy and thanksgiving in their individual ministries.
- The true highlight of the meeting was the examination of Candidate Frank deBoer, pastor elect of the Blenheim CRC, and his admission into the ministry of the CRCNA.
- Approved as counsellors Rev. F. Heslinga (Grace CRC), Rev. P. Stadt (First CRC, Chat.)
- Six students in Classis Chatham have decided to enter the Seminary this fall.
- Rev. Dirk Miedema spoke words of appreciation to Rev. Paul Stadt for his contributions during his many years as pastor in the CRCNA. Rev. Stadt's farewell sermon will be preached during the 10:00 a.m. worship service at First CRC, Chatham on May 29th.
- Classis Chatham's next meeting will be on June 20th at Bethel CRC, London. This is a special evening meeting dealing with the appointment of a new Campus minister.