

Report on meeting of Classis Central US of the URCNA

Convening at the United Reformed Church of Wellsburg, Iowa — January 21, 2019

Delegates from the churches of Classis Central US braved the frigid Iowa winter on January 21, 2019, in order to hold a special meeting at the United Reformed Church of Wellsburg. Drawing them was the need to examine two men who are being sought as ministers by churches of the classis. Encouraged by what they heard, the delegates approved the examinations of both men.

Rev. Roberto Rossi was the first to be examined. A 2013 graduate of Mid-America Reformed Seminary, Rev. Rossi served as Associate Pastor at Pompton Plains Reformed Bible Church (URCNA) in New Jersey from 2013 to 2015. In 2015 he was called to serve first as Assistant Pastor and then as Interim Pastor at Crete Church (PCA) in Illinois, after which he was left without a call.

An opportunity to provide pulpit supply at Immanuel URC of DeMotte, Indiana, led to conversations that prompted the congregation to desire to extend a call to him.

Rev. Rossi and his wife, Carrie, have two children: Matteo, 15, and Lydia, 13.

The delegates to Classis heard Rev. Rossi describe how the Lord led him, as a young man, out of the Roman Catholic Church and into an embrace of Protestantism, first as a Reformed Baptist and, ultimately, as a Reformed Christian. He is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute.

After hearing Rev. Rossi give account of his faith and belief in the areas required by our Church Order, the assembly declared him eligible for a call in the URCNA. Announcing this decision to him, the brothers joined in a prayer of thanksgiving for Rev. Rossi before congratulating him and his wife.

Mr. Paul Freswick was the second examinee for the day. A 2018 graduate of Mid-America Reformed Seminary who sustained his candidacy examination in Classis Michigan, Mr. Freswick has accepted a call to serve Grace URC of Waupun, Wisconsin.

Mr. Freswick and his wife, Victoria, have a nine-month-old daughter, Sophia, and another child on the way.

Classis heard Mr. Freswick describe how God led him to love the Reformed faith as one who was raised both as a member of a United Reformed Church and as a minister's son. Although church members throughout his life suggested the possibility that he might be heading for the ministry, Mr. Freswick said he truly recognized that calling during his undergraduate studies at Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids.

Having heard and discussed Mr. Freswick's responses during the ordination examination, the assembly declared him eligible for ordination in the URCNA. The brothers announced this decision with thanksgiving, praying for Mr. Freswick as he prepares to serve the church in Waupun, then congratulating him and his wife.

After the examinations were complete, the delegates wasted no time in heading for home, anticipating winter weather that was predicted to descend upon the region.

The next meeting of Classis Central US is scheduled to begin on the evening of Monday, April 8. It is slated to be held at the Rock Valley United Reformed Church.

Classis wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the United Reformed Church of Wellsburg for its gracious hospitality and hard work in preparing to host classis.

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