

## Press Release of Classis Pacific East (Chilliwack) (convened on December 18, 2025)

On behalf of the convening church, Pastor Ben Schoof of Chilliwack Canadian Reformed Church welcomed everyone. He opened the meeting by reading from Isaiah 42:1-13, the singing of Hymn 15, and offered prayer.

The credentials were examined by the convening church of the previous classis, namely the Aldergrove Canadian Reformed Church, and they were found to be in order. Classis was declared constituted. After discussion regarding officers, those appointed took their place. The officers were Rev Bill Wielenga, chairman; Rev Phil Grotenhuis, vice-chairman; and Rev Andrew Lootens, clerk.

The chairman thanked the church of Chilliwack Canadian Reformed Church for their work in convening classis, and welcomed brother Marc Vermeulen who appeared for his ordination exam as well as deputies from Regional Synod West.

The agenda was adopted.

Documentation was received concerning Candidate Marc Vermeulen and were found to be in order. Classis then proceeded to examine brother Marc Vermeulen who recently completed his studies at the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary and who seeks candidacy in the Canadian Reformed Churches. After judging his sermon was sufficient to proceed with the exam, he was examined as to his personal life and desire to enter the pastoral ministry, Old and New Testament exegesis, doctrine and creeds, knowledge of Scripture, church history, ethics, church polity, and pastoral ministry. After a time of deliberation, it was determined that brother Vermeulen sustained his exam. Classis thanked and praised the Lord with singing and prayer.

The classis approved the call of the Vernon Canadian Reformed Church to brother Vermeulen to serve as a missionary in Mexico.

There were no proposals, instructions, or reports from the churches.

The chairman asked questions from Article 44 of the Church Order. It was noted with thankfulness that the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued and the decisions of the major assemblies is being honoured. There were no church requests for advice from classis.

The convening church for the next classis will be the Lynden American Reformed Church, and the date is set for March 5, 2026 with an alternate date of June 4, 2026 both at 10 am. The suggested officers for the next classis are: chairman provided by the Pathway Christian Church, vice-chairman provided by the Sardis Canadian Reformed Church, and clerk provided by the Vernon Canadian Reformed Church.

Personal question period was made use of.

The chairman noted with thankfulness that nothing censurable was said or done during the meeting. The Acts of Classis were presented and adopted. The press release was presented and approved. After prayer and singing, the meeting was closed.

For classis,

Rev Phil Grotenhuis, Vice-chairman