

Press Release of Classis Pacific West, March 3, 2009 in Willoughby Heights, B.C.

1. Opening

On behalf of the convening church at Willoughby Heights, Rev.A.Souman opened the meeting with the reading of 1 Peter 4:1-19, requested the singing of Psalm 144:1,4, and led in prayer.

2. Constitution of Classis

The delegates from the church at Surrey-Maranatha examined the credentials and found them to be in good order. All the primary delegates were present, with the exception of the church at Willoughby Heights, with Br.C.Flokstra seated as an alternate. It was noted that instructions from two churches were received, and Classis was then declared constituted. Following the rotation, Rev.W.Bredenhof was appointed as chairman, Rev.H.Alkema as vice-chairman, and Rev.J.Slaa as clerk.

3. Memorabilia

The chairman takes note of the temporary appointment of Rev.J.VanVliet to serve as instructor of Dogmatics at the Theological College, resulting in the potential upcoming vacancy of the church at Surrey-Maranatha. The chairman also makes mention of the continuing furlough of Rev.K.Wieske. In connection with Article 44 of the Church Order, Rev.F.Dong was seated as an advisor. After a minor addition, the agenda was adopted.

4. Correspondence Received

Letter from Surrey-Maranatha: Classis passed a motion to adjust the mandate of the Committee for Theological Students, allowing the churches to prepare their annual budgets with increased accuracy.

Letter from the Committee for Theological Students: Advice was given by Classis to the Committee to meet the budgetary needs for 2009.

5. Reports

a. *Classical Treasurer* – The treasurer, Br.K.Bulthuis, reports that sufficient funds were received for all the necessary expenses. The treasurer is discharged from his responsibilities for the year ending December 31, 2008.

b. *Church for auditing the books of the Treasurer* – An audit of the books is received from the church at Cloverdale. The books were in good order.

c. *Church for inspection of the archives* – The church at Houston reports that the classical archives, as kept by the church at Smithers, are in order.

d. *Church visitation reports* – Visits to the church at Houston and the church at Smithers are reported on by Rev.A.Souman. These reports are received with gratitude for the Lord's continuing care over his congregations in those places.

6. Question Period (Article 44)

The chairman asks the delegates the questions from Article 44 (CO) and the delegates answered in turn. Under the provisions of this article, advice was requested by one church and granted by Classis concerning a situation of discipline. In connection with their anticipated upcoming vacancy, the church at Surrey-Maranatha asked and received advice in regards to pulpit supply and the appointment of a church counselor.

7. Appointments

a. *Next Classis* – Convening church: Cloverdale; place: Cloverdale; date: June 9/09 (alternate October 6/09). Suggested officers: Rev.H.Alkema (chairman), Rev.J.Slaa (vice-chairman), Rev.Souman (clerk).

b. *Examinations* – Coordinating deputies: Revs. Souman and Visscher; OT – Rev.H.Alkema; NT – Rev.A.Souman; Doctrine and Creeds – Rev.J.Slaa; Knowledge of Scripture – Rev.H.Alkema; Church History – Rev.J.Visscher; Church Polity – Rev.W.Bredenhof; Ethics – Rev.W.Bredenhof; Diaconology – Rev.T.Lodder.

c. *Church Visitors* – Revs.J.Visscher (convener), Lodder, Slaa, Souman.

- d. *Church for taking care of the archives* – Smithers.
- e. *Church to inspect the archives* – Houston.
- f. *Treasurer* – Br.K.Bulthuis, 17383 60A Ave, Surrey, BC V3S 6X9.
- g. *Church to audit the books of the treasurer* – Cloverdale.
- h. *Committee for Theological Students* – Rev.W.Bredenhof (2011), Br.G.Gunnink (2011), Rev.A.Souman (2013), Br.A.Vanderheide (2013).
- i. *Committee for Financial Aid to the Needy Churches* – Brs.H.Leyenhorst, P.Vandergugten (convener), R.Van Oene.
- j. *Deputy for preaching arrangements in vacant Churches* – To be appointed at the next Classis.
- k. *Deputy for coordinating ecclesiastical contacts* – Rev.J.Visscher.

8. Adjournment

Personal question period was made use of. Censure according to Article 34 of the Church Order was not deemed necessary. The Acts were read and adopted, and the Press Release was read and approved. The chairman requested the singing of Hymn 65:1,2,3, and closed Classis with prayer.

For Classis Pacific West,

H. Alkema (vice-chairman at that time)