

Press Release for Classis Pacific West held in Cloverdale, BC on October 6, 2009

On behalf of the convening church of Cloverdale, the Reverend Theo Lodder called the meeting to order, and led in opening devotions. In memorabilia Rev. Lodder mentioned that Surrey called Candidate Rodney Vermeulen, a call which he declined. Surrey has since extended a call to Rev. Ted VanRaalte. Rev. Julius VanSpronsen, missionary of the Surrey church is in Canada on tour to the supporting churches. The church of Langley called Candidate Ryan DeJonge, a call which he accepted. Rev. Lodder welcomed the guests and gave a special welcome to Candidate Ryan DeJonge, who was present for his peremptory examination. Also in attendance and welcomed were the Deputies of Regional Synod West, Rev. Bill Wielenga and Rev. John Louwerse, present for the examination of br. DeJonge. On this day Classis also welcomed some fraternal delegates. Rev. Benji Swinburnson and Rev. Peter Vosteen were representing the North-West Presbytery of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Rev. Dick Moes was present as a representative of Classis Western Canada of the United Reformed Churches. It was a joy to have them in our midst and further to give them an opportunity to speak and address the meeting and speak about their activities and experiences in Christ's church gathering work.

The church at Willoughby Heights, having examined the credentials, declared that all the churches were lawfully represented. Instructions were taken note of. The following officers were appointed: As chairman, Rev. Hendrik Alkema; as vice-chairman, Rev. James Slaa; as clerk, Rev. Anthon Souman.

When the executive took their places, Rev. Alkema thanked the convening church for their preparations and for hosting classis. The agenda was adopted.

Brother Ryan DeJonge then presented himself for his peremptory examination according to Art. 5 C.O. After it was determined that all the documents were in order, Classis proceeded to examine br. DeJonge. The first part of the examination was the presentation of a sermon proposal on Romans 13:11-14. In closed session, Classis judged the sermon sufficient, thereby deciding that the examination could proceed. The Deputies of Regional Synod West concurred.

At this time, the Grade 6 and 7 students of William of Orange School were welcomed. Also in attendance a little later was sr. Ruth DeJonge, the wife of br. DeJonge.

Classis next examined br. DeJonge in Old Testament Exegesis (Psalm 48 and Amos 9:11-15), New Testament Exegesis (Acts 17:16-34 and 1 Timothy 2), Knowledge of Scripture, Doctrine and Creeds, Church History, Ethics, Church Polity and Diaconiology. Once again, Classis deliberated in closed session and determined that the examination was sufficient, a judgment which received the concurring advice from the Deputies of Regional Synod West. In open session, the chairman, with appropriate remarks, informed br. DeJonge of the joyful news and declared that the way was open for him to be ordained to the ministry in the congregation of Langley. The chairman read the Classical Subscription Form, which br. DeJonge signed. After a song was sung, Rev. Hendrik Alkema led the assembly in thanksgiving prayer. Opportunity was given to congratulate br. and sr. DeJonge. Rev. Anthon Souman was appointed to speak on behalf of classis at the welcome evening on October 25, 2009 D.V.

Question Period ad Article 44 of the Church Order was held. The chairman asked whether the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued, whether the decisions of the

major assemblies are being honoured, and whether there is any matter in which the consistories need the judgment and help of classis for the proper government of their church. All the churches answered positively to the first two questions asked. One church asked for advice in a matter of discipline. In closed session advice was given.

Classis considered an appeal of a minister against a consistory decision to not grant permission to preach in a church with which we do not have ecclesiastical fellowship. Classis considered that as a rule pulpits are open to churches under the umbrella of ecclesiastical fellowship. Classis decided that the consistory did not wrong the minister, and denied the appeal.

The following reports were received, with thanksgiving:

Committee for Theological Students. The committee continues to provide support to prospective and enrolled students of theology from our classical region. Currently, there are two students from this region enrolled at our Theological College. Contact has been maintained with these brothers. There are also a number of prospective students, who have the care and attention of a mentor. Also, on the basis of the report, Classis assessed the churches an additional \$9.00 per communicant member for 2009, and made a one-time assessment of \$23.00 per communicant member for 2010.

Committee for Needy Churches. The committee reported that no requests for financial support were received from the churches.

Appointments for next Classis were made. The convening church will be the church of Houston. Date of Classis: Tuesday, December 8, 2009 in Langley, at 9:00 a.m. Alternate date: Tuesday, April 6, 2010. Classis suggested officers: Chairman: Rev. James Slaa; Vice-chairman: Rev. Anthon Souman; Clerk: Rev. Theo Lodder.

The following brothers were delegated to Regional Synod Abbotsford, November 3, 2009, D.V.: Elders Ron deHaan and Harry Stel (alternates: Aren VanDyke and Ron Dykstra – in that order) and Ministers Hendrik Alkema and James Visscher (alternates: Anthon Souman and Theo Lodder – in that order).

Personal Question Period was held. With thankfulness, censure according to Article 34, C.O. was deemed unnecessary by the chairman. The Acts of Classis were adopted and the Press Release was approved. The chairman led the closing devotions.

For Classis Pacific West, October 6, 2009

Rev. James Slaa

Vice-chairman at that time