

Regional Synod West of the Canadian Reformed Churches
Held November 04, AD 2008 in Carman, MB
Press Release

1. Opening
 - a. On behalf of the convening church of Carman East, Rev. Holtvlüwer welcomed all delegates and guests. In the audience were the high school students and teachers of Dufferin Christian School as well as two local retired ministers. Rev. Holtvlüwer requested the assembly to sing Psalm 135:1,2,7,9, read Proverbs 11:1-14 and led in prayer.
2. Examination of the Credentials & Constitution of Synod
 - a. Representatives from the convening church inspected the credentials and reported that all *primi* delegates were present with proper credentials. Regional synod west was then declared constituted.
3. Election of Officers
 - a. After a number of rounds of voting by the delegates, the following moderamen were appointed:
 - i. Chairman - Rev. C. Bouwman
 - ii. Vice-chairman - Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer
 - iii. Clerk - Rev. R. Bredenhof

The chairman spoke words of appreciation for the trust placed in the moderamen by the assembly. He also thanked the convening church for all the work done to host the delegates and convene regional synod.
4. Adoption of the Agenda
 - a. The provisional agenda was adopted with the addition of one more piece of incoming mail.
5. Correspondence Received
 - a. A proposal was received from Classis Manitoba Sept 12, 2008 to amend the regulations of regional synod west. The proposal concerns who is to submit names to a regional synod to stand for nomination as elder delegates to a general synod and whether a regional synod is free to add to or subtract names from this pool when it does the selecting. Classis Manitoba proposed that the classes submit names and that delegates at regional synod not be free to add names to this pool. All churches were sent a copy of this proposal and two churches sent responses that were in basic agreement. Regional synod amended the proposal and formulated a new regulation stipulating that the churches (as opposed to the classes) are to be asked by the convening church to submit names of elders for nomination and that the regional synod is to, as a rule, draw names for delegates to general synod from only this pool.
 - b. An appeal was received from a person who had been excommunicated from one of the churches several years ago. In closed session, the appeal was declared inadmissible because it is not a specific appeal of this person's excommunication. Further the individual does not appeal a decision of a classis.
 - c. Three appeals against decisions of Classis Pacific East were received from a brother. As they deal with decisions of a classis and were received in time, they were declared admissible. In closed session, regional synod formulated replies to all three appeals in which each was denied.
 - d. A request was received from a brother asking for directives for the churches regarding how a consistory deals (in general) with a minister's health, person and/or work when there are health concerns. Regional Synod concluded that it did not have the jurisdiction to deal with this submission since the submission did not come on the agenda of Synod via one of the churches.
6. Overtures/Instructions
 - a. There were no overtures or instructions.
7. Reports:
 - a. Three written reports from the deputies of regional synod as per Art. 48 CO were received with thanksgiving.
 - b. A report from the treasurer for regional synod west br. J. Moedt was received with thanksgiving. A positive audit of that report was also received with thanks.

- c. A report from the Church for the inspection of the archives (Edmonton Immanuel) was received with thanksgiving. The archives were found to be in good order.
8. Appointments:
- a. Regional synod west made the following appointments:
 - i. Treasurer - Br. J. Moedt. At the same time the kilometre reimbursement rate for delegates to this regional synod west is set at 45 cents per kilometre up to a maximum of the cost of an airline ticket from the delegate's home city.
 - ii. Church for Auditing the books of the Treasurer - Taber
 - iii. Church for the Archives - Edmonton Providence
 - iv. Church for the Inspection of the Archives - Edmonton Immanuel
 - v. Deputies ad Article 48, CO:
 - 1. Classis Pacific West - J. Visscher; 1st Alternate - A. Souman; 2nd Alternate - J. Slaa
 - 2. Classis Pacific East - J. Moesker, 1st Alternate - W.M. Wielenga; 2nd Alternate - C. Bouwman
 - 3. Alberta - R. Aasman; 1st Alternate - J. Louwse; 2nd Alternate W. Slomp
 - 4. Manitoba - A.J. Pol; 1st Alternate - P.H. Holtvlüwer; 2nd Alternate J. Poppe
9. The church at Abbotsford was appointed to convene the next regional synod west on Tuesday, Nov 03, 2009 in Abbotsford, BC.
10. Closing
- a. Question Period was made use of. The chairman noted with gratitude that censure ad Art. 34 CO was not necessary and instead spoke words of commendation in relation to the good cooperation experienced among the delegates present at the meeting. Synod decided that both the Acts of Regional Synod and the press release shall be finalized by the moderamen. After a song of praise and final prayer, the chairman declared regional synod west to be closed. .

For Regional Synod West November 04, 2008,

Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer (vice-chairman at that time)