

## **Press Release of Classis Manitoba convened in the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church in Winnipeg on March 14, 2008**

1. On behalf of Grace Canadian Reformed Church, the convening church of the March 14, 2006 classis, br. V. Schriemer called the meeting to order. He requested that the brothers sing Psalm 133:1,2, read 1 John 3:11-24. He welcomed all present, in particular Rev. D. Barnes from Classis Central US (URCNA) and br. A. Bakker from the Providence Reformed Church (URCNA) in Winnipeg.
2. The credentials of the delegates were examined by the brothers from the Grace Canadian Reformed Church and reported to be in order. Only one of the delegates from Denver was able to attend. There were two instructions from the church at Denver.
3. Classis was declared constituted.
4. The following officers were appointed:
  1. Chairman: Rev. J. Poppe
  2. Vice Chairman: Rev. A.J. Pol
  3. Clerk: Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer.
5. Rev. Poppe thanked the Grace Canadian Reformed Church for the preparations involved in convening the classis. He mentioned that since the last classis the Grace congregation extended a call to Rev. C. Vandervelde, but that the call was declined. He also wished the church at Denver the Lord's guidance and blessings in view of the impending departure of Rev. D.M. Boersma. He reflected with thankfulness to the Lord on the good news from the Theological College concerning Dr. Gootjes. The agenda was adopted after a few adjustments.
6. The fraternal delegates were seated.
7. The documentation pertaining to the departure of Rev. Boersma, who has accepted a call to work as missionary of the Pretoria-Maranata Vrye Gereformeerde Kerk in South Africa was examined and found to be in order. A Certificate of Release pertaining to Rev. Boersma was provided by classis for the classis FRCSA (CO 5B1).
8. A financial report was received from br. H. Veldman, the treasurer of classis. The recommendation that the classical assessment of \$5.00 per communicant member be maintained was accepted. The church of Carman West reported that the books of the treasurer of classis, br. H. Veldman, were audited and found to be in order. The Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church reported that the archives of classis have been inspected and found to be in order, with the exception of part of the archives of the September 2007 classis, which were handed over at the current classis. A report was received from br. W. van Beek in regard to the activities of the Deputies for Contact with the Provincial Government. The Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church also reported that the financial records of the Committee for Aid to Needy Churches have been inspected and found to be in good order.

In closed session the church visitors reported on visits to the Canadian Reformed Churches of Carman East and West and the Grace and Redeemer Canadian Reformed Churches in Winnipeg. Prayers were offered for these churches after each report.

In open session again, the delegates to ecclesiastical assemblies of sister churches reported on their activities, which consisted of correspondence in response to invitations extended to attend classes of the RCUS and URCNA.

9. A. A proposal from the Carman East Canadian Reformed Church regarding the appointment of Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes was discussed. Given the various responsibilities that the ministers have locally and because of tasks already entrusted to them by classis, Regional Synod and General Synod, it is recommended that men other than ministers be appointed as Deputies to respond to invitations to attend ecclesiastical assemblies of churches with which we have ecclesiastical fellowship (currently the URCNA, OPC and RCUS). The proposal was adopted with an amendment stipulating that the Deputies will attempt to organize annual visits in person or at least once every two years to the Presbytery of the Dakotas (OPC), the Northern Plains Classis (RCUS) and Classis Central US (URCNA); also, that the Deputies will occasionally make use of retired or active ministers as feasible in visiting these assemblies.  
B. The church at Denver requested advice in regard to the position of Rev. Horner, a minister of the RCUS who has become a member of the church at Denver with his family. He was sent from California to start a mission work in Denver, but this was discontinued. He is approaching retirement age. Since he still has ministerial standing in the RCUS, classis encourages the church at Denver to continue to make use of his services. The church at Denver also requested pulpit supply from classis in view of the departure of Rev. Boersma. Arrangements will be made for pulpit supply once every three months. Br. Werkman led in prayer for the church at Denver.
10. Question Period according to Art. 44 C.O. was held. The church of Carman East requested advice that was given in closed session.
11. A letter of greetings from the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the OPC was read. Rev. Pol offered a prayer for the Presbytery of the Dakotas and for the RCUS. Rev. Barnes was given the floor to address classis. He expressed appreciation for the fellowship experienced with the Canadian Reformed Churches. He noted the like-mindedness in many matters and highlighted the importance of continuing to work on resolving differences. We need to have patience with each other in these matters. Interaction with each other also does much to remove caricatures that have arisen regarding each other. Br. Bakker brought greetings from the Providence Reformed Church and expressed thankfulness for the pulpit exchanges and various contacts between the Providence Reformed Church and the Canadian Reformed Churches. They are encouraged by the growing relationship. Rev. Holtvlüwer thanked Rev. Barnes and br. Bakker for coming, expressing appreciation in turn for the developing contacts, and led in prayer for the URCNA.
12. Correspondence: A letter was received from the Committee for Financial Aid to Students for the Ministry requesting the appointment of a replacement member. Classis decided to appoint br. R. Werkman to this committee.  
A letter was received from Rev. R. Grossman extending an invitation to the South Central Classis of the RCUS, to be convened on March 25-26, 2008. Although the gesture is appreciated, it is felt that it would not be feasible to send a delegate since there is already contact with the Northern Plains Classis of the RCUS.
13. Appointments.

1. The convening church for the next classis is the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church in Winnipeg. The classis is scheduled to be held on June 27, 2008.  
Alternate date: September 26, 2008.
2. The suggested officers for the next classis are:
  - i. Chairman: Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer
  - ii. Vice-chairman: Rev. J. Poppe
  - iii. Clerk: Rev. A.J. Pol
3. Appointment of Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes: Brs. A. Poppe and W. Gortemaker.
14. Personal question period was held.
15. No censure according to Art. 34 of the Church Order was necessary.
16. The Acts were adopted and the Press Release approved for publication.
17. The chairman requested that the brothers sing Hymn 46:2 and led in closing prayer.

For Classis Manitoba  
March 14, 2008

A.J. Pol  
Vice-chairman at that time.