

**Press Release of Classis Manitoba convened in the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church in Winnipeg on September 12, 2008**

1. On behalf of the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church, Rev. J. Poppe called the meeting to order. He requested that the brothers sing Psalm 136:1,2, read 1 Timothy 1:12-2:7. He welcomed all present, in particular Candidate Rolf den Hollander, and the deputies of Regional Synod, Rev. C. Bouwman and Rev. E.J. Tiggelaar.
2. The credentials of the delegates were examined by the brothers from the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church and reported to be in order. There was an instruction from Carman East, and three of the churches have nominated delegates for Regional Synod.
3. Classis was declared constituted.
4. The following officers were appointed:
  - a. Chairman: Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer
  - b. Vice Chairman: Rev. J. Poppe
  - c. Clerk: Rev. A.J. Pol.
5. Rev. Holtvlüwer thanked the convening church for the preparations involved in convening the classis. He welcomed the grade 11 and 12 students from the Immanuel Christian School. The agenda was adopted after a few adjustments.
6. Candidate den Hollander was welcomed to come to the front. The deputies of Regional Synod and a fraternal delegate, br. Sandy Siepman from the Providence Reformed Church (URCNA) in Winnipeg were seated. Classis approved the proposal that Rev. George Horner, interim pastor of the Emmanuel American Reformed Church of Denver, be seated as an observer at Classis.
7. At this Classis Candidate R. den Hollander, who has accepted the call extended to him by the Grace Canadian Reformed Church of Winnipeg, presented himself for a peremptory examination. Classis examined the documentation, and found all to be in order.
8. Candidate den Hollander proceeded to read Matthew 28:1-7, and to deliver his sermon proposal on this text. Classis deemed this sermon proposal sufficient to continue with the rest of the examination, and the deputies of regional synod gave their concurring advice. Candidate den Hollander was informed, and classis adjourned for coffee.
9. Candidate R. den Hollander was examined in exegesis Old Testament, exegesis New Testament, and ethics. The senior students from Immanuel Christian School were thanked for their attendance. Classis adjourned for lunch.
10. The chairman welcomed the grade 4 class from Immanuel Christian School. Candidate den Hollander was examined on Knowledge of the contents of Holy Scripture, and doctrine and creeds. Classis adjourned, and the students from Immanuel Christian School departed.
11. Candidate den Hollander was examined on church history, church polity, and homiletics. Classis went into closed session to evaluate the exam. It deemed the exam sufficient, and the deputies of regional synod concurred, opening the way for Candidate den Hollander to be ordained as Minister of the Word. The chairman read the Form of Subscription, and Candidate den Hollander was asked to sign it, indicating his willingness to preach and teach the Word of God as summarised in the Three Forms of Unity. The chairman read from 2 Timothy 3:10-4:8, invited us to sing from Ps.147:1,4, and led in a prayer of thanksgiving. The chairman thanked the deputies of regional synod for their presence at classis and giving concurring advice in the examination of brother den Hollander.

- Classis adjourned and an opportunity was given to congratulate Candidate den Hollander.
12. Brother S. Siepman brought greetings from the Providence Reformed Church and expressed thankfulness for the pulpit exchanges and growing contacts and involvement between the Providence Reformed Church and the Canadian Reformed Churches. Brother M. Leyenhorst thanked brother Siepman for coming, expressing appreciation in turn for the developing contacts, and led in prayer for the United Reformed Churches of North America.
  13. In closed session, the church visitors reported on a visit to the Emmanuel American Reformed Church of Denver. The visitors' report was received with thankfulness.
  14. The Committee for Aid to Needy Churches presented a report. It details support given to the Emmanuel American Reformed Church of Denver. Support of \$66.00 per communicant member was given in 2007, and \$48.00 per communicant member in 2008. Aid is requested for \$28,350 CDN for 2009, which works out to a commitment of \$31.00 per communicant member for 2009. It is noted with thankfulness that the church of Denver is becoming more self sufficient. Classis agrees to provide the requested support. The Church for Auditing the books for Aid to Needy Churches (Winnipeg Redeemer) reported that the books were found to be in good order. Prayer was offered for this church.
  15. The Committee for Financial Aid to Students for the Ministry (Art. 20 CO) presented a report. The committee requested advice from classis about how to deal with a potential need for substantial support beginning in September 2009. Classis decided to instruct the committee to assess the churches for approximately \$20 per communicant member. Brothers from the Church for Auditing the books of the Committee for Financial Aid to Students for the Ministry (Winnipeg Grace) reported that the books were found to be in good order.
  16. An extensive report from the Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries. This was received with gratitude.
  17. A proposal was received from Carman-West to appoint a committee for students of theology in place of the current committee for financial aid to students for the ministry (see Article 20 of the Church Order). This committee would have a mandate that actively promotes theological study for the ministry. It is charged to mentor students, and support them financially if necessary. After some modifications, this proposal was adopted.
  18. A proposal from Redeemer-Winnipeg for an amendment to the standing regulations of Classis Manitoba regarding delegates by the classis to a regional synod. When classis votes for elders to attend regional synod, it shall do so only from names recommended to classis by the churches. Classis decided to also send a similar proposal to Regional Synod West.
  19. Question Period according to Art. 44 C.O. was held. The church of Carman East requested advice that was given in closed session.
  20. Correspondence was received from Grace Canadian Reformed Church requesting Classis be moved forward to September 12 and also requesting that Classis appoint a representative to be present at the ordination and inauguration of Candidate den Hollander. The church of Winnipeg Redeemer was appointed to send a representative to the ordination and inauguration of Candidate den Hollander.
  21. A letter of greeting was received from Rev. Doug Barnes, Stated Clerk, Classis Central U.S. of the United Reformed Churches in North America. This was received with

- thankfulness.
22. Appointments.
    - a. The convening church for the next classis is the Canadian Reformed Church of Carman East. The classis is scheduled to be held, the Lord willing on December 12, 2008. Alternate date: March 27, 2009.
    - b. The suggested officers for the next classis are:
      - i. Chairman: Rev. A.J. Pol
      - ii. Vice-chairman: Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer
      - iii. Clerk: Rev. J. Poppe
    - c. Various standing committees, classical deputies and church visitors are appointed.
    - d. The following delegates were appointed to Regional Synod West, November 4, 2008: As ministers, Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer and Rev. J. Poppe with Rev. A.J. Pol as alternate; as elders brothers Len Lodder and W (Bill) Nobel with brothers Martin Leyenhorst and W (Bill) Raap as first and second alternates.
  23. Personal question period was held. The church of Denver expressed thankfulness for the financial support given, and encouraged the churches to remember them in their prayers.
  24. No censure according to Art. 34 of the Church Order was necessary.
  25. The Acts were adopted and the Press Release approved for publication.
  26. The chairman requested that the brothers sing from Psalm 100:3,4 and led in closing prayer.

For Classis Manitoba  
September 12, 2008

J. Poppe  
Vice-chairman at that time.