

**Press Release of Classis Manitoba of the Canadian Reformed Churches held on
March 20, AD 2009 in Winnipeg, MB**

1. Opening on behalf of the convening Church at Carman West

On behalf of the convening church at Carman West, br. Ron Vandenbos opened the meeting by reading Psalm 133 and requesting the delegates to sing Hy 40:1,2. He then led in prayer.

2. Report on the examination of the credentials by the delegates of Denver.

Br. Vandenbos offered words of welcome to all, especially the guests. He mentioned the following *memorabilia*: Rev. Dan Donovan of the Providence URC in Winnipeg has accepted a call to the URC in Sanborn, Iowa. He and his wife also recently received a baby girl from the Lord. Rev. Pol has received his Doctor of Ministry from Providence College. Rev. VanRaalte was recently announced by Redeemer church to be available for call now that his study leave is nearing its completion. He is making good progress in his studies.

The credentials were examined and all *primi* delegates were present with proper credentials. Classis was then declared constituted.

3. Appointment of officers:

The following brothers assumed their positions as agreed to by the body:

Chairman:	Rev. A.J. Pol
Vice-chairman:	Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer
Clerk:	Rev. R.J. den Hollander

Rev. Pol thanks the convening church for all their preparations.

4. Adoption of the agenda.

The agenda was adopted as received.

5. Seating of Fraternal Delegates

Br. Arlin Hoogendoorn, br. Henry Nagtegaal and Rev. James Grossman were seated as fraternal delegates from the URC churches in Classis Central US, Iowa and Providence URC in Winnipeg, and the Northern Plains Classis of the RCUS, respectively. Rev. George Horner of the RCUS, presently serving as interim pastor of Emmanuel American Reformed Church of Denver, was seated as an observer delegate. Br. Bill Gortemaker was seated as the deputy for Classis Manitoba to the Classis Central US of the URC, Presbytery of the Dakotas of the OPC and Northern Plains Classis RCUS. Letters of greeting were received from the Thunderbay URC and from the Presbytery of the Dakotas.

6. Reports

6.1 The report of the classis treasurer was received and accepted with gratitude. His recommendation to assess the churches \$5 per communicant member for 2009 (same as last year) was also accepted.

6.2 The church at Carman West reported that the books of the treasurer had been found in good order. The church was thanked for her work.

6.3 The church at Winnipeg Redeemer reported on the inspection of the classis archives. They were found to be in good order. The church was thanked for her work.

6.4 A report from Br. van Beek was received on contact with the provincial government. This was received with gratitude.

6.5 In closed session, church visitation reports for the churches of Winnipeg Grace, Winnipeg Redeemer, Carman East and Carman West were read and received with thankfulness. After the reports were read, an elder offered a prayer of thanksgiving and intercession for all the churches.

7. Proposals and Instructions from the Churches

No proposals or instructions were received.

8. Question Period according to Article 44, C.O.

All churches answer yes, yes, and no to the questions of Article 44 posed by the chairman with the exception of the churches at Redeemer and Grace. Concurring advice was given in three out of four discipline cases.

9. Address by Fraternal Delegate

Br. Arlin Hoogendoorn of Rock Valley URC of Iowa (Classis Central US), br. Henry Nagtegaal of Providence Reformed Church of Winnipeg (URC) and Rev. James Grossman of the Northern Plains Classis of the RCUS each extended Christian greetings to classis. Each shared some encouraging thoughts about our fraternal relationship and their local situations. Three elders responded in kind and led in prayer for them and the churches they represent.

10. Correspondence

A letter is received from a brother but declared inadmissible.

11. Appointments

a) Convening church for the next Classis, place and date.

The next Classis is scheduled for June 26, 2009 at 3:00 PM to be convened by the church at Denver in the building of the church at Winnipeg Redeemer. The alternate date for Classis is September 25, 3:00 PM.

b) Suggested officers for the next Classis.

Chairman:	Rev. J. Poppe
Vice-chairman:	Rev. A.J. Pol
Clerk:	Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer

12. Personal Question Period.

Personal question period was made use of. Elder Paki Temu expressed on behalf of Denver church much thanks for the continued financial support of the churches in

Classis Manitoba. He also expressed words of thanks to Rev. George Horner of the RCUS for his continued help in Denver. Rev. Poppe was asked to represent Classis at the farewell service of Rev. Donovan on April 26.

13. Censure according to Article 34, C.O.

It was noted with thankfulness that censure was not needed.

14. Adoption of the Acts of Classis.

The Acts were read and adopted.

15. Approval of the Press Release.

The press release was read and approved.

16. Closing.

The chairman, Rev. A.J. Pol, asks Classis to sing Hy 40:3,4, led the meeting in prayer and closed the assembly.

For Classis Manitoba March 20, 2009

P.H. Holtvliwer (vice-chair at that time)