

Press Release of Classis Pacific East, September 1st, 2009

1. **Opening.** At 3:00 p.m., on behalf of the convening church of Aldergrove, Rev. R. Schouten calls the meeting to order. He requests the delegates to sing Psalm 47 and then leads in reading from Mark 4. He welcomes the delegates as well as Rev. Steve Swets, minister of the Immanuel Covenant Reformed Church of Abbotsford. In his opening remarks, Rev. Schouten expresses gratitude that the minister-elect of Abbotsford, Rev. R.C. Janssen, will be present at this Classis for a colloquium. He also notes that the church of Vernon is now vacant following the departure of Rev. J. Moesker to Owen Sound, Ontario. He expresses the hope that the church at Vernon would soon receive a new pastor and teacher to help lead the flock.
2. **Constitution of Classis.** The delegates of Abbotsford report that the credentials are in order, and that all the primi delegates are present. The executive proposed by the previous classis is appointed. The chairman is Rev. W. Wielenga, the vice-chairman is Rev. R. Schouten and the clerk is Rev. C. Bouwman. Classis is constituted. It is decided to seat Rev. Swets as an observer and to give privileges of the floor.
3. The **agenda** is adopted.
4. **Correspondence:** a) A letter is received from a former member of the church at Lynden. As this letter was received past the deadline for matters for Classis, it was declared inadmissible.
5. **Proposals or instructions** from the churches. None are received.
6. **Reports:**
 - a. Report from the Committee for Financial Aid to Students for the ministry. An oral report is received stating that no requests for aid have been received.
 - b. Report from the Committee for Needy Churches. No report is received by Classis. The Committee will be asked to supply a report for the next Classis.
 - c. Church Visit Reports. A report is read concerning a visit made to the church at Abbotsford on March 9th, 2009 by Rev. R. Ijbema and J. Moesker.
7. **Question period** according to Article 44 of the Church Order. In closed session, one of the churches asks for and receives advice in a matter of Christian discipline.
8. **Appointments:**
 - a. Convening Church for the next Classis: Chilliwack.
 - b. Date for the next Classis: December 10th 2009; alternate date: March 11th, 2010.
 - c. Time for the next Classis: to be determined by the convening church in consultation with the most distant church (Vernon)
 - d. Due to the departure of Rev. J. Moesker and the arrival of Rev. R.C. Janssen, a number of changes are made in relation to **classical examinations**. The following appointments are made:
 - i. Committee for Examinations: W. Wielenga, R. Schouten
 - ii. Committee for sermons: C. Bouwman, R. Schouten
 - iii. Old Testament exegesis: W. Wielenga
 - iv. New Testament exegesis: R. Ijbema
 - v. Knowledge of Scripture: R. Ijbema
 - vi. Doctrine and Creeds: R. Schouten

- vii. Church History: R. C. Janssen.
 - viii. Ethics: W. Wielenga
 - ix. Church Polity: R.C. Janssen
 - x. Diaconiology: C. Bouwman.
- e. **Church visitors:** C. Bouwman (coordinator), R. C. Janssen, R. Schouten, W. Wielenga and R. Ijbema.
 - f. **Delegates to Regional Synod West** Nov. 3, 2009. As elder delegates are chosen the following: B. Meerstra and J. VanLaar. As alternate elder delegates the following are chosen: C. Dehaas and H. Ludwig in that order. As minister delegates are chosen the following: R. Schouten and W. Wielenga; as alternate ministerial delegates are chosen: Rev. C. Bouwman and Rev. R. Ijbema in that order.
 - g. **Welcome evening** for Rev. R.C. Janssen. The church at Abbotsford plans this event for September 18th. Rev. Schouten is delegated to represent Classis.
9. **Observer from the Immanuel Covenant United Reformed Church of Abbotsford.** Rev. Swetsbrings words of greeting and encouragement to the churches of Classis Pacific East, expressing thankfulness for the bond between his congregation and the churches of Classis.
10. **Approbation of the call** of Abbotsford extended to Rev. R. C. Janssen.
- a. The following documents are submitted: Letter of call from the church at Abbotsford; letter of acceptance of Rev. R.C. Janssen; a statement of attestation and honourable discharge from Rev. Janssen's previous Consistory of the Gereformeerde Kerk (Vrij) of Hoek, the Netherlands; a statement of honourable discharge from Classis Axel of the Gerformeerde Kerken. The delegates of Abbotsford give an oral report that that the proper announcements have been made and that the congregation of Abbotsford has given its approval to the call to Rev. Janssen. Abbotsford also submits documentation that it assumed official responsibility for Rev. Janssen and his family on July 1st, 2009.
 - b. After a colloquium lasting from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Classis decides, in closed session, that the colloquium was satisfactory. In open session, this conclusion was made known to Rev. Janssen
 - c. The chairman reads the Subscription Form for ministers of Classis Pacific East and asks Rev. Janssen to sign it which he does.
11. **Question period** is held.
12. **Censure** according to Article 34, Church Order. The chairman determines that such censure is not necessary.
13. The **Acts of Classis** are read and adopted
14. The **Press Release** is read and approvedClosing. The chairman requests the singing of Psalm 87 and then leads in prayer and thanksgiving. The meeting is closed.

R.Schouten, clerk at the time.