

Press Release of Classis Manitoba held on Sept.17, 2010 in the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church at Winnipeg

Opening

On behalf of the convening church of Winnipeg Redeemer, Rev. J. Poppe opened the meeting by welcoming all present, requesting the singing of Psalm 66: 1, 2, reading Eph.1:1-14 and leading in prayer.

Examination of Credentials and Constitution of Classis

The credentials were examined by the convening church and found to be in good order. It is noted that all the *primi* delegates are present. Upon the examination of the credentials, Classis was declared constituted.

Appointment of Executive Officers

The suggestions for officers from Classis Manitoba March, 2010 were received and were duly appointed. Dr. A.J. Pol served as chairman, Rev. R.J. den Hollander as Vice-chairman, and Rev. J. Poppe as clerk. The chairman thanked the convening church for the organization of Classis. As memorabilia it is mentioned that Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer received and accepted a call to the Spring Creek Canadian Reformed Church at Tintern. Encouragement was offered to the church at Carman East in their search for a new pastor and teacher. Denver extended a call to candidate Ryan Kampen. The church at Denver was offered words of support during this time of the candidate's deliberations.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as received at Classis.

Seating of Fraternal Delegates

Br. Henry Nagtegaal from the Providence Reformed Church at Winnipeg was welcomed and seated as fraternal delegate. The Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries were also welcomed and seated at the table.

Reports

Br. Art Poppe had submitted written reports on behalf of the Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries. He noted with thankfulness that Rev. Phil Poe, formerly of the PCA, sustained his examination in connection with his call to Minot, North Dakota of the RCUS. It was also noted that Rev. Ted Gray, together with his congregation, was filled with gratitude for joining the URC from the CRC. Br. Art Poppe also gave an oral report on his visit to a classis meeting of the URC Classis Central USA in Iowa. Br. David Gortemaker led in intercessory prayer for these neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries. Words of thanks were also expressed to the Deputies for their hard work.

The Committee for Aid to Needy Churches delivered their report in the form of a letter addressed to the brothers at Classis. Clarification was requested and received regarding some concern expressed in the Committee report. Their recommendation that the churches of Classis Manitoba be assessed at \$CDN 28.00 per communicant member is adopted.

The church at Winnipeg (Redeemer) reported that they have audited the books of the Committee for Aid to Needy Churches and have found them to be well kept, up to date, and all

accounting in good order. They further suggested that Classis also request the needy church to provide a report of funds received to ensure that funds sent also correspond to funds received. This suggestion was duly noted.

The report from the Committee for Students of Theology was received in letter form. During the academic year 2009/10 they financially supported two students. For the year 2010/11 there are three in need of financial assistance. With the recent appointment by General Synod Burlington 2010 of the church at Grassie as the church to manage the Needy Students Fund, the current committee sought some direction. After some discussion, in connection with the letter received from the Covenant Canadian Reformed Church at Grassie, a proposal was made regarding a suitable transition process between the two Committees. The proposal was seconded and adopted. The Committee, on behalf of Classis Manitoba, will also further communicate with the new Committee at Grassie to assist in establishing guidelines for the support of theological students in need. The Committee for Students of Theology in Manitoba will share their current mandate as example of fitting guidelines, emphasizing the concern that the centralization of support not lessen the responsibility of the students providing for themselves. Lastly, the Committee for Students of Theology is instructed to bring proposals to the next Classis regarding its future existence, structure and mandate.

The church at Winnipeg (Grace) reported that they have audited the books of the Committee for Students of Theology and have found them to be in good order.

Question period (Art.44 CO)

The chairman asked the questions according to Art.44 of the Church Order. Each of the churches indicated that the ministry of the office-bearers was being continued, and the decisions of the major assemblies were being honoured. The church at Denver requested the appointment of a counsellor. Rev. J. Poppe was appointed. None of the other churches requested the judgement and help of classis for the proper government of their church.

Address by Fraternal Delegate

Br. Henry Nagtegaal from the Providence Reformed Church at Winnipeg addressed the meeting. He expressed deep gratitude for the support received during their period of vacancy and for the increasingly close relationship. He asked for patience during the process of unity between the two federations and gave suggestions for how we may pursue that further on a local or classical level. Br. Les Vanderveen responded with fitting words, grown out of the words of Psalm 133, giving thanks for the unity we enjoy and praying that it could continue.

Correspondence

Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer requested a certificate of honourable release according to Art.5 of the Church Order. The following documents were provided:

- 1) Letter of call from Spring Creek Canadian Reformed Church at Tintern
- 2) Letter of acceptance of call from Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer
- 3) Letter from Spring Creek Canadian Reformed Church at Tintern affirming acceptance of responsibility
- 4) Certificate of honourable release and ecclesiastical attestation from the Canadian Reformed Church at Carman East.

After the documents were examined and found to be in good order, Classis issued a Certificate of Honourable Release for Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer. The chairman thanked him for his work in Carman

East and Classis Manitoba and encouraged him in his future work in the Spring Creek Canadian Reformed Church at Tintern. Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer received and took the opportunity to say a few words in response.

A letter of greeting from Classis Central U.S. of the United Reformed Churches was received. As stated clerk, on behalf of that Classis, Rev. Doug Barnes expressed their regret that they could not be in attendance due to their own meeting of classis. Nevertheless, they sent their assurance of brotherly love and an expression of their desire for a deepening relationship between the respective Classes. This letter was received with thankfulness.

The Maranatha Mission Board requested to hold a delegates meeting in conjunction with the next meeting of the churches in Classis Manitoba. The convening church of the next Classis will communicate with the Mission Board the final date for that meeting.

The church at Carman East requested the appointment of a counsellor and pulpit supply. Dr. Pol was appointed and pulpit supply was granted for the last Sunday of the month. Arrangements for Lord's Supper should be coordinated via the local consistories.

Appointments

The church of Carman East will serve as the convening church for the next Classis. It will be convened, D.V., on Dec.10, 2010 (or if deemed not necessary then, Mar.25, 2011). The suggested officers for next classis are chairman Rev. R.J. den Hollander, vice-chairman Rev. J. Poppe, and clerk Dr. A.J. Pol.

Classis made various appointments as necessary for the standing committees, classical deputies and church visitors.

The following delegates were appointed to Regional Synod West, Nov.2, 2010: As ministers, Rev. R.J. den Hollander and Rev. J. Poppe with Dr. A.J. Pol as alternate; as elders brothers Talbot Bergsma and Jakob Kuik with brothers Lawrence Toet and Gerry Van Dijk as first and second alternates respectively.

Personal Question Period

The church at Carman East requested a representative of Classis to be present at the farewell evening. Rev. R.J. den Hollander was appointed. Denver took the opportunity to express their appreciation to Classis for the support received financially and spiritually and to Rev. P.H. Holtvlüwer for his work as counsellor.

Brotherly Censure (Art.34 CO)

With gratitude it was deemed not necessary.

Adoption of the Acts and approval of the Press Release

The Acts were read and adopted and the Press Release approved for publication.

Closing

The chairman closed the meeting by requesting the singing of Psalm 89:1 and leading in prayer.

For Classis Manitoba,
R.J. den Hollander
Vice-chairman at that time.