

Press release of Classis Pacific East, Vernon, September 23, 2010

The meeting was called to order by B. Wielenga of the convening church of Lynden. Those gathered sang from Psalm 84, after which Psalm 84 was read from Scripture. Prayer was offered up.

The church at Vernon was thanked for hosting classis. Delegates and various guests were welcomed, including candidate Arend Witten and his wife; brother Witten was present for a peremptory examination in connection with the call extended to him by the church at Vernon. The two deputies of Regional Synod West, brothers P.H. Holtvluwer and A. Souman, who were present for the exam, were also welcomed.

Among the matters to be remembered among the churches of classis were the congregations of Aldergrove and Chilliwack who are presently without the service of their respective ministers, brothers R. Schouten and R. IJbema. The needs of these brothers, their families, and the congregations had also been mentioned in prayer.

The church at Chilliwack examined the credentials and reported that all the churches were duly represented; classis was declared constituted. Classis appointed C. Bouwman to serve as chairman; B. Wielenga to serve as vice-chairman; and R.C. Janssen to serve as clerk.

Classis received, and was satisfied with, the documentation required and submitted for brother Witten's examination. Brother C. VanSpronsen was seated as advisor to classis for the course of the examination, having been found willing to take part in the examination upon request made by the examiners prior to classis. Brother Witten delivered the sermon proposal on Luke 7.36-50, which classis determined to be edifying and sufficient for the examination to proceed.

The examination proceeded with the following topics: Church history, church polity, Old Testament exegesis, New Testament exegesis, knowledge of Scripture, doctrine and creeds, ethics, and diaconiology. In closed session, classis determined that brother Witten had successfully sustained his examination. The deputies of Regional Synod concurred with the decision of classis. This decision was conveyed to the brother in open session. The classis subscription form was read and signed by brother Witten. The assembly offered up praise to God by singing Psalm 135.1,9, after which the chairman led in prayer and thanksgiving. The brothers Holtvluwer, Souman, and VanSpronsen were thanked for their service to classis during the course of the examination. Opportunity was given to congratulate brother and sister Witten. The clerk was instructed to prepare a written declaration of classis to the effect that brother Witten had successfully sustained his examination and was eligible for ordination to the ministry in the Canadian Reformed Churches.

Some items of correspondence were received and dealt with, one regarding a late treasurer's report and two regarding matters of classis appointments. A proposal was received from the church at Abbotsford regarding a matter of the classis regulations. Among reports received, the following church visitation

reports were heard: Abbotsford, Aldergrove, Chilliwack, Lynden, and Vernon. The brothers from the church at Chilliwack updated classis re the status of their minister.

Under question period Article 44 of the Church Order, the churches responded positively to the first question, namely, whether the ministry of the office bearers is being continued. The churches all responded positively to the second question, namely, whether the decisions of major assemblies are being honored. In respect to the third question, namely, whether the consistories needed the judgment and help of classis for the proper government of their church, the church at Abbotsford requested the advice of the assembly in three matters—advice was given.

Various appointments were made, among which: the convening church for next classis is the church at Vernon; place: Aldergrove; time: Thursday, December 9, 2010; with alternate date: Thursday, March 3, 2011. The church at Chilliwack requested a counselor to be appointed; at Chilliwack's request, brother C. Bouwman was appointed. Chilliwack also requested and received pulpit supply for one Sunday per month. The following elders were delegated to Regional Synod, scheduled for November 2, 2010: H. Berends and C. DeHaas, with J. VanLaar and H. Schouten as alternates, in that order. The following ministers were appointed as delegates: C. Bouwman and B. Wielenga, with R.C. Janssen as alternate.

Under question period, the church at Vernon expressed thanks to classis for support during the time of its vacancy. Rev Bouwman was appointed by classis to represent classis at the ordination of candidate Witten. Under Article 34 of the Church Order, the chairman determined that no censure was needed. The Acts of Classis were read and adopted. The press release was read and approved for publication.

After the assembly sang Psalm 147.1,6, the chairman led in prayer and then declared the meeting closed.

For classis on September 23, 2010

B. Wielenga