

Press Release of Classis Manitoba convened in the Carman West Canadian Reformed Church on March 25, 2011

Opening

On behalf of Carman West Canadian Reformed Church, the convening church of the March 25, 2011 classis, Br. L. Vanderveen called the meeting to order. He requested that the brothers sing Psalm 33:6, read Psalm 133 and led in prayer. He welcomed all present, especially fraternal delegate Rev. J. Grossman from the RCUS Classis North Dakota, and observer Br. Ryan Kampen, future pastor of the Church at Denver, CO. Also welcomed as observers were the two deputies of the Committee for Contact with Neighbouring Classis/Presbyteries.

Examination of Credentials

The credentials of the delegates were examined by the brothers from the Carman West Canadian Reformed Church and reported to be in order. All delegates in attendance were primary delegates. Only one of the delegates from Denver was able to attend. Classis was declared constituted.

Appointment of Executive Officers

The following officers were appointed:

Chairman:	Rev. J. Poppe
Vice Chairman:	Br. W. van Beek
Clerk:	Rev. R.J. den Hollander

Adoption of the Agenda

Rev. Poppe thanked the Carman West Canadian Reformed Church for the preparations involved in convening the classis. The agenda was adopted. The fraternal delegate and observers were seated.

Reports

A financial report was received from Br. H. Veldman, the treasurer of classis. It was decided that the classical assessment for 2011 will be \$10.00 per communicant member. The church of Carman West reported that the books of the treasurer of classis, Br. H. Veldman, were audited and found to be in order. The Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church reported that the archives of classis have been inspected and found to be in order, with the exception of a copy of a letter of appointment, which was missing. A recommendation was made that all email correspondence be signed and dated when submitted. A report was received from Br. W. van Beek in regard to the activities of the

Deputies for Contact with the Provincial Government.

In closed session the church visitors reported on visits to the Canadian Reformed Churches of Carman East and West and the Grace and Redeemer Canadian Reformed Churches in Winnipeg. Prayers were offered for these churches after each report.

Proposals

A letter from the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church proposing three amendments to the regulations of classis was discussed. One amendment was defeated and two were carried.

A letter from Carman West proposed to use of the term “cancellation” instead of “postponement” if a Regional Synod is not held in a given year. In this connection Carman West also noted that elders delegated to a Regional Synod that does not take place may no longer be elders anymore a year later. Classis decided that new delegates will be appointed to regional synod at the Fall Classis. A letter will be sent to the convening church of Regional Synod West to inform them of this decision.

Appeals

An appeal was submitted by the Redeemer Consistory with the Deacons concerning a decision regarding pulpit exchanges from the Acts of Classis, December 10, 2010. Classis concluded that Classis December 2010 erred in this matter. Further discussion was held on a related matter to this appeal.

Question Period

Question Period according to Art. 44 C.O. was held. All churches answered in the affirmative that the ministry of the office-bearers is being maintained and that the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured. The Winnipeg Grace church requested advice which was given in closed session.

Fraternal Delegates

A letter was received with thankfulness from Rev. Doug Barnes of the Classis Central URCNA. Br. W. van Beek led in intercessory prayer for the URCNA.

Rev. J. Grossman representing the RCUS Northern Plains Classis was given the floor to address classis. He expressed appreciation for the fellowship experienced with the Canadian Reformed Churches and brought greetings from the RCUS churches. They are presently working at a setting up a mission in Dickinson, ND, and request our prayers for that mission work and for the search for a man to call for this work. He gave us an update on some of their activities and their search to fill a vacancy in their churches. Rev. R.

DenHollander read a portion of Scripture from Philippians 1 and led in intercessory prayer for the both the RCUS and the OPC churches.

Correspondence

A letter was received from Rev. K. Jonker. Classis decided that it was admissible. The letter was brought into discussion in closed session and a response will be sent.

Appointments

The convening church for the next classis is the Emmanuel American Reformed Church in Denver and will be hosted in the Winnipeg Grace church building.

The classis is scheduled to be held on June 24, 2011. Alternate date: September 23, 2011.

The suggested president for the next classis is Dr. A. Pol

Personal Question Period and Adoption of the Acts and Press Release

Personal question period was held.

No censure according to Art. 34 of the Church Order was necessary.

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

Closing

The chairman requested that the brothers sing Psalm 107:1 and led in closing prayer.

For Classis Manitoba, March 25, 2011

W. van Beek

Vice-chairman at that time.