

Press Release of Classis Pacific West, September 13th, 2011 in Willoughby Heights, B.C.

1. Opening

On behalf of the convening church at Willoughby Heights, Rev.A.Souman opened the meeting with the reading of 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, requested the singing of Psalm 111:1,5 and led in prayer.

2. Constitution of Classis

The delegates from the church at Surrey-Maranatha examined the credentials and found them to be in good order. All the primary delegates were present, with the exception of the church at Cloverdale, having Br.K.Dykstra seated as an alternate. Classis was then declared constituted. Following the rotation, Rev.T.VanRaalte was appointed as chairman, Rev.H.Alkema as vice-chairman, and Rev.J.Slaa as clerk.

3. Memorabilia

The chairman noted that in our neighbouring Classis, Rev.R.Ijbema and Rev.C.Bouwman have recently departed to serve the Lord in congregations in the Netherlands and Ontario. He congratulated Rev.T.Lodder on the recent completion of his Doctorate of Ministry. Finally, the chairman also noted the retirement of Dr.C.VanDam with an appreciation for his service to the churches over many years, as well as the passing away of Sr.A.Geertsema, the wife of Prof.J.Geertsema.

The agenda was adopted.

4. Correspondence Received

Proposal from the church of Langley and Proposal from the church of Willoughby Heights: Since both proposals dealt with the issue of appeals to Classis, they were discussed simultaneously. After a number of amendments were adopted, Classis passed a motion to adopt the amended proposal of the church of Langley to establish a standing committee called 'The Committee for Appeals'.

Proposal from the church of Surrey-Maranatha: After an amendment, the proposal of Surrey-Maranatha was adopted to add to the Classis Regulations a standing item to Appendix A: 'Mission: Fraternal Appraisal', giving the churches an opportunity at each Classis meeting to update each other on their various outreach and mission activities.

5. Reports

- a. *Committee for Needy Churches* – The committee reports that no requests or other correspondence have been received from any of the churches in the Classis.
- b. *Church Visitation Reports* – The committee reports on its schedule for a new round of visits to commence this fall.

6. Question Period (Article 44)

The chairman asked the delegates the questions from Article 44 (CO) and the delegates answered in turn.

7. Appointments

- a. *Next Classis* – Convening church: Cloverdale; place: Cloverdale; date: December 6, 2011 at 9:00AM (alternate date of March 27, 2012).
- b. *Suggested Officers:* Rev.H.Alkema (chairman), Rev.J.Slaa (vice-chairman), Rev.A.Souman (clerk).
- c. *Delegates to Regional Synod October 31st, 2011 in Abbotsford* – The following ministers were appointed: Rev.J.Slaa and Rev.T.VanRaalte (first alternate Rev.T.Lodder, second alternate Rev.A.Souman). The following elders were appointed: Br.J.Byl and Br.K.Dykstra (first alternate Br.A.Luiten, second alternate Br.S.DeJong)

8. Adjournment

Personal question period was not made use of. Censure according to Article 34 of the Church Order was not deemed necessary. The Acts were read and adopted, and the Press Release was read and approved. The chairman requested the singing of Psalm 125:1,2,3,4, and closed Classis with prayer.

For Classis Pacific West,

H. Alkema (vice-chairman at that time)