

Press Release of Classis Pacific East of September 15, 2011

On behalf of the convening church of Yarrow, br. H. Schouten welcomed the delegates and called the meeting to order. He requested the delegates to sing Psalm 48:1, 4 and then read this Psalm. Prayer was offered to the Lord in which His blessing was sought over the work of Classis. The needs of the vacant churches of Chilliwack and Yarrow were remembered before the Lord as was the church of Abbotsford which continues to seek a second minister of the Word. Thanksgiving was expressed for the current well-being of Rev. R. Schouten and prayer was offered for Prof. J. Geertsema in the recent loss of his wife.

After the credentials were checked by the delegates of the church of Vernon and found to be in good order, the officers suggested by the previous classis and the convening church were appointed with Rev. R.C. Janssen functioning as chairman, Rev. R. Schouten as vice-chairman and Rev. A. Witten as clerk. Classis was constituted and the agenda was adopted.

In closed session, Classis dealt with an appeal of a member of one of the churches. This appeal was not sustained.

Classis approved a change in the Regulations for Classis Pacific East proposed by the Church at Aldergrove. The change stipulates that correspondence to and from the convening church of a classis should be sent as PDF files attached to an email. Appeals, however, are to be sent in hard copy by surface mail.

A report was read concerning a church visit brought by Rev. C. Bouwman and Rev. R.C. Janssen to the American Reformed Church of Lynden on May 31, 2011. Their report indicates that the officebearers are fulfilling the duties of their office and that the church order is being observed and maintained in every respect.

A letter of greeting was received from the inter-church relations Committee of the Western Classis of the Reformed Churches of the United States. Classis decided to send a representative of the churches of Classis Pacific East to the next Western Classis of the RCUS in March of 2012.

A report was received from the Committee of Classis for Needy Churches indicating that it had received no requests for aid. A report was also received from the Council of the Canadian Reformed Church of Vernon indicating that it had inspected the books of the Treasurer of Classis Pacific East and found them to be in good order.

During question period (Article 44 of the Church Order) and in closed session, advice was given to a church in a matter of Christian discipline. Advice was also given to a church in regard to some procedural matters involving members joining Reformed churches such as the Free Reformed churches with which there are no sister church relationships. The same church also sought direction in regard to Bible translations since the 1984 NIV is no longer readily available.

Classis decided to grant the request of the churches of Chilliwack and Yarrow for pulpit supply once per month.

The church at Abbotsford was appointed to convene the next Classis on Dec. 1, 2011 (alternate date is February 23, 2011). Suggested officers for the next Classis are as follows: Chairman: R. Schouten; Vice-chairman: A. Witten; Clerk: W. Wielenga.

Because of the departure of two ministers from the classical area, new appointments were made for classical examinations of students and candidates for the ministry. Additionally, Classis made the following appointments:

- Church visitors: R.C. Janssen (coordinator), R. Schouten and W. Wielenga.
- Church for the Archives: Abbotsford.
- Church for the inspection of the Archives: Yarrow.
- Treasurer of Classis: br. R. Leyenhorst of the Vernon church.
- Church for auditing the books of the treasurer: Vernon.
- Committee for Aid to Needy Churches: brs. G. Boeve, K. Louwse and B. Vane.
- Deputy for preaching arrangements: Rev. W. Wielenga.
- Counselor for the vacant church of Chilliwack (B.J. Berends, with R.C. Janssen as backup).
- Contact person for the Western Classis of the RCUS: Rev. W. Wielenga.
- Contact person for the Western Canada Classis of the URCNA: Rev. R. Schouten.

Classis appointed the following elders as delegates to Regional Synod West October 1, 2011: as primary delegates, brs. Henk Berends and Jake VanLaar and, as alternates, brs. Richard Aikema and John Roukema (in that order). Classis appointed Revs. Schouten and Wielenga as primary ministerial delegates and Revs. Janssen and Witten as alternates (in that order).

Personal Question period was held. The chairman determined that Censure according to Article 34 of the Church Order was not required. The Acts were read and approved. The Press Release was approved. The chairman requested the singing of Hymn 50 after which he led in prayer and thanksgiving. Classis was closed.