

Press Release of Classis Manitoba held on Sept.23, 2011 in the Grace Canadian Reformed Church at Winnipeg

Opening

On behalf of the convening church of Denver, br. Paki Temu opened the meeting by welcoming all present, requesting the singing of Psalm 133: 1, 2, reading 1 Thessalonians 5: 12 - 28 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, 2011 were received and were duly appointed. Dr. A.J. Pol served as president. Nominations were received from the floor for vice-president, br. Wayne Versteeg was appointed. Nominations were received from the floor for clerk and Rev. R.J. den Hollander was appointed. The chairman thanked the convening church for the organization of Classis and Winnipeg Grace for the use of their building. As memorabilia it is mentioned that candidate Kampen is still awaiting his Visa. Encouragement was offered to the delegates from the church at Denver.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as received at Classis.

Seating of Fraternal Delegates

There were no fraternal delegates present to be seated, however an email sent by Rev. Doug Barnes minister of Classis Central US of the URCNA was read by the clerk.

Reports

The Committee for Aid to Needy Churches delivered their report in the form of a letter addressed to the brothers at Classis. Their recommendation that the churches of Classis Manitoba be assessed at \$CDN 20.00 per communicant member is adopted. Br. Gerhard Hagg, delegate from Denver spoke words of appreciation for the support they receive.

Classis Central U.S. sent in minutes of their Classis as well as a report. Deputies for contact with neighbouring Classis / Presbyteries, br. Bill Gortemaker and Art Poppe were given opportunity to speak. A written report was submitted outlining their activities and meetings they have attended. Suggestions are made to the deputies on ways they can encourage these Churches. The chairman thanks them for their work and their work is remembered in prayer.

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.

The report from the Committee for Students of Theology was received in letter form. The committee requests advice regarding just how involved they should be in regards to encouraging possible candidates to become students for the ministry. It's decided to leave that encouraging work to the consistories. Some comments were made with regards to the centralization of the support fund. Letters of thanks were received from students Theo Wierenga and Abel Pol for the support they receive.

Church visitors report is made by Rev. den Hollander on a visit made by himself and Rev. Poppe to the church at Denver.

A proposal was received from the Carman West consistory with regards to making a change to the first sentence in article 4. – B. – 4. , making it: “ To email a copy of any appeal received for the delegates, four weeks prior to the date of Classis and request for acknowledgment of receipt.” This proposal is adopted.

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. None of the churches requested the judgement and help of classis for the proper government of their church.

Correspondence

A letter was written to the U.S. immigration authorities stating that br. Kampen had sustained his examination and the way was open to his ordination.

Appointments

The church of Winnipeg Grace will serve as the convening church for the next Classis. It will be convened, D.V., on Dec.2, 2011 (or if deemed not necessary then, Mar.23, 2012). The suggested officers for next classis are President : Rev. Poppe

Classis made the necessary appointments to the standing committees, classical deputies and church visitors.

The following delegates were appointed to Regional Synod West, October 31,2011: As ministers, Dr. A.J. Pol and Rev. J. Poppe with Rev. R.J. den Hollander as alternate; as elders brothers John Toet and Les Vanderveen with brothers Gerry Van Dijk and Wayne Versteeg as first and second alternates respectively.

Personal Question Period

The church at Denver wonders about the possibilities of having candidate Kampen ordained as minister in Canada since the immigration process seems to be slowed down by the fact that he is not an ordained minister. Advice is given to respond to immigration with a letter making clear how our system of ordaining ministers works. This letter should come from Classis, which hopefully will also carry more weight with them.

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 Hymn 85:1 and leading in prayer.

For Classis Manitoba,
Wayne Versteeg
Vice-president at that time.