

Press Release of Regional Synod West - October 31, 2011

1. The chairman of the convening church (the Immanuel Canadian Reformed Church of Edmonton), called the meeting to order. He led in opening devotions with the reading of Romans 3:21-31 after which he asked the delegates to sing Hymn 53:1, 2. He then led the delegates in prayer in which he thanked the Lord for blessings poured out upon the churches of Western Canada and asked for the Lord's guidance in the work of Regional Synod. In his opening remarks, he noted a number of changes which have taken place in regard to ministerial status among the churches.
2. The credentials from Classis Pacific West, Classis Pacific East, Classis Alberta and Classis Manitoba were examined and found to be in good order. Rev. W. Slomp was chosen as chairman, Rev. R. Schouten as vice-chairman and Rev. D. Poppe as clerk. Classis was constituted. With a few minor additions, the provisional agenda previously submitted to the delegates was adopted.
3. A letter was received from the second clerk of General Synod 2010 informing Regional Synod of a decision of General Synod (Article 35) that "any overture adopted by a Regional Synod for submission to a General Synod should be distributed to all the churches no later than five months prior to the General Synod." The updated Guidelines for General Synod can be found in Appendix 11 of the Acts of General Synod.
4. A letter was received from the clerk of Classis Pacific East of March 2011 addressed to the convening church (the Immanuel Canadian Reformed Church of Edmonton). This letter informed the convening church that Classis Pacific East determined that the delegation to Regional Synod West 2010 (as appointed by a previous Classis Pacific East) does not stand for Regional Synod West 2011 since Article 44 of the Church Order specifies that "the last classis before Regional Synod shall choose the delegates to that Synod."
5. A letter was received from the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church of Winnipeg expressing concern about the carry over of delegate to Regional Synod from the various classes in the case that Regional Synod is postponed. The letter points out that in many cases this carry-over procedure would result in delegates no longer being in office at the time they function as part of Regional Synod. The Redeemer church advises that a request be sent by the convening church to each Classis to confirm or replace where necessary the delegates from their Classis at the last classical meeting before Regional Synod.
6. A letter was received from Classis Manitoba of March 25, 2011 in which it reacts to the decision of the convening church to postpone rather than cancel Regional Synod 2010 and to carry over the delegations for Regional Synod 2010 to 2011. As in the letter from the Redeemer Church, concern is expressed that many of the delegates chosen for Regional Synod 2010 would not longer be in office by the time of Synod 2011. In response, Regional Synod judged that the convening church erred in postponing rather than cancelling Regional Synod 2010 and that it was correct for a subsequent Classis Manitoba to choose new delegates for Regional Synod.

7. An appeal was received from the consistory of the church at Cloverdale against a decision of Classis Pacific West of April 5, 2011. This appeal was not sustained.
8. A letter was received from the consistory of Cloverdale noting that an appeal to Regional Synod containing confidential material was distributed electronically rather than in multiple paper copies as required by the Regulations of Regional Synod. Regional Synod took note of this concern and recognized that the Regulations of Regional Synod likely need to be updated in light of electronic methods of communication.
9. Reports:
 - a. A Report was received from the Treasurer of Regional Synod indicating a bank balance of 13, 437.05. In regard to assessments, one church is in arrears in the amount of \$384.00.
 - b. A Report was received from the auditor of Regional Synod indicating that the Report of the Treasurer is considered accurate.
 - c. Reports were received from the deputies of Regional Synod regarding the peremptory examinations of Candidates Ryan Kampen, Arend Witten and Anthony Roukema. In each case, the deputies report with gratitude that they gave concurring advice to the decisions of the respective classes meet to sustain the examinations.
 - d. A Report was received from the deputies of Regional Synod regarding the retirement of Rev. Tiggelaar indicating that they could concur with the decision of Classis Alberta to concur with the decision of the church at Barrhead to grant retirement to Rev. Tiggelaar due to age. The deputies also suggest that in the future Regional Synod should instruct its deputies to be present at meetings of classis dealing with retirement only where difficulties might realistically be expected. They further suggest that where the retirement does not require the presence of deputies, pertinent documents can be sent to them for scrutiny and approval. Regional Synod decided that the deputies should have the discretion to determine whether or not their physical presence is required.
10. Appointments:
 - a. Br. J. Moedt was reappointed as Treasurer of Regional Synod West.
 - b. Kilometer reimbursement rate for delegates to this assembly was set at .45 per km. up to a maximum of the cost of an airline ticket from the delegate's home city.
 - c. The church at Taber was reappointed to audit the books of the Treasurer of Regional Synod West.
 - d. Deputies as per Article 48 of the Church Order:
 - i. For Classis Alberta: Aasman, Louwse (1st alternate); W. Slomp (2nd alternates).
 - ii. For Classis Manitoba: Dr. A.J. Pol; Rev. J. Poppe (1st alternate); Rev. R. J. den Hollander (2nd alternate).

- iii. For Classis Pacific East: Rev. W. Wielenga; Rev. R. Schouten (1st alternate); Rev. Karlo Janssen (2nd alternate).
 - iv. For Classis Pacific West: Dr. J. Visscher; Rev. A. Souman (1st alternate); Rev. J.G. Slaa (2nd alternate).
 - e. Church for the Archives of Regional Synod West: Edmonton Providence.
 - f. Church for inspecting the Archives of Regional Synod West: Edmonton Immanuel.
11. Arrangements for the Next Synod: Convening Church: Langley; Date: November 5th, 2012 beginning at 7:30 p.m.
 12. Question Period was held.
 13. Censure ad Art. 34 C.O. was deemed unnecessary by the chairman.
 14. The *Acts* were adopted and the *Press Release* was approved.
 15. The chairman expressed gratitude to the convening church of Edmonton Immanuel for its work in preparing for Regional Synod and also to the church of Aldergrove for providing facilities and refreshments.
 16. The vice-chairman led in closing prayer and Regional Synod was closed.