

Press Release of Classis Manitoba

Convened on Friday, December 2, 2011 at 9:00 AM
Canadian Reformed Church at Carman East

1. Rev. den Hollander opened the meeting on behalf of the convening church (Winnipeg Grace), welcoming all present, especially Rev. R.J. Kampen of Denver, the Deputies of Regional Synod, and the fraternal delegates from the URCNA. He invited all present to sing Hymn 76:2,4, read from Matthew 9:35-10:7 and led in prayer.
2. Report on the examination of the credentials (Art. 32, C.O.) by the delegates of the convening church. The credentials were declared to be in order and all the primary delegates were present.
3. Rev. den Hollander declared classis constituted. President was Rev. J. Poppe; vice-President: Dr. A.J. Pol; clerk: Rev. R.J. Kampen.
4. The agenda was adopted.
5. The fraternal delegates were invited to come forward, together with the deputies of Regional Synod and br. W. Gortemaker as the deputy for contact with neighbouring classes and presbyteries.
6. Examination of the documentation pertaining to candidate Steve Vandeveld. The following documents were received: Letter of call; letter of acceptance; letter from Classis declaring cand. Vandeveld eligible for call; an attestation from the consistory of Glanbrook; a signed copy of the minutes of the meeting of the council of the Carman East church indicating that the call was approved by the congregation. A letter from council indicating that the necessary announcements were made and concerning the approbation of the call will still be submitted by council for the archives.
7. Peremptory Examination of candidate Steve Vandeveld. Candidate Vandeveld received the opportunity to present his sermon proposal on Luke 17:1-10. The meeting was then continued in closed session. Classis decided to proceed with the examination in open session. After the candidate was examined in various subjects for the peremptory examination, classis went into closed session for evaluation. The president announced in open session that candidate Vandeveld sustained his exam and then read 2 Tim 3:10-4:8. After all present sang Psalm 111:1 and 5, the president led in a prayer of thanks. Candidate Vandeveld then signed the Form of Subscription after it was read.
9. Rev. R. Anjema spoke on behalf of the Providence Reformed Church (URC) as well as on behalf of Classis Western Canada of the URCNA. He highlighted the blessings of fellowship experienced at the recent Western Ministerial, at classis, and locally. He mentioned that the URCNA is gradually developing. This includes developments in regard to the URC songbook. Other areas of growing pains include learning how to deal with matters at their ecclesiastical assemblies, mission work, and interaction with other church federations. He expressed thankfulness for the closeness of fraternal relations with the Canadian Reformed Churches and encouraged all that although there is not full unity now, to enjoy what we have. A letter from Classis Central U.S. of the URCNA by the Rev. Talman Wagenmaker was also read. Rev. R.J. Kampen responded with appropriate words and led classis in prayer for the URCNA.
The president then thanked the Deputies of Regional Synod for coming and participating in the classis and also thanked the delegates from the Providence URC for attending.
The president gave the opportunity for all present to congratulate cand. Vandeveld with the positive outcome of the examination.
10. Question Period as per Art. 44, C.O. took place.
11. There was no correspondence to deal with.

12. Appointments. a) Convening Church for the next Classis: Winnipeg-Redeemer.
b) Dates for the next two Classes: March 23, 2012, 3 p.m.; June 22, 2012, 3 p.m.
c) Suggested executive officer for next Classis. President: Rev. R. den Hollander.
d) Appointments in regard to examiners were revised to reflect the fact that Rev. Kampen has been ordained to the ministry.
Rev. Kampen was appointed to represent classis at the ordination of candidate Vandavelde.
13. Personal Question Period. This was not made use of.
14. Brotherly Censure (Art. 34, C.O.). The president deemed that no censure was needed.
15. The Acts were adopted and the Press Release was approved.
16. Closing. The president thanked the convening church for its work and also the Carman East church for hosting classis. Dr. A.J. Pol then led in a prayer of thanksgiving.