

Press Release of Classis Pacific East of May 31st & June 14th 2012

On behalf of the convening church of Aldergrove Rev. R. Schouten welcomed the delegates and the deputies for regional synod and called the meeting to order. He requested the delegates to sing Hymn 41 and then read Eph 4:1-16. Prayer was offered to the Lord in which His blessing was sought over the work of Classis. The needs of the vacant church of Chilliwack were remembered, congratulations was expressed to the church of Yarrow with the anticipated arrival of Rev. R Eikelboom from Australia. The recent retirement of Rev. J. Visscher of Langley was mentioned and thankfulness to the Lord expressed for his many years of faithful service to the churches. The concern for the health of Prof. J. Geertsema who has been treated for colon cancer was remembered.

The credentials were checked by the delegates of the church of Abbotsford and found to be in good order. Rev. Swets from URC of Abbotsford was seated at the table of Classis, as fraternal observer and given opportunity to speak. Instructions were noted from the church of Abbotsford requesting the examination for Candidate J. Roukema, and from the church of Yarrow requesting a colloquium for Rev. R. Eikelboom. The officers suggested by the previous classis and the convening church were appointed with Rev. R. Schouten functioning as chairman, Rev. A. Witten as vice-chairman and Rev. R. C. Janssen as clerk. Classis was constituted and the agenda was adopted.

The documents for the peremptory examination of Candidate J. Roukema were examined and found to be in order so Classis proceeded with the examination. After examining in all the areas of the peremptory exam, Classis found that the examination was sufficient and the delegates from Regional Synod gave concurring advice. Candidate Roukema was warmly congratulated with sustaining the examination and wished many blessings as he will take up his task in Abbotsford.

At the request of Yarrow, Classis decided to reconvene in two weeks D.V. on 14th of June at 7:30 PM at the Yarrow CanRC, for the colloquium, of Rev. R. Eikelboom.

During question period (Article 44 of the Church Order) all churches could attest that the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued and the decisions of the major assemblies are being honored and there was no matter in which the consistories needed the judgment and help of classis for the proper government of the church.

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

A number of appointments were made.

1. Convening church for the next classis: Chilliwack.
2. Date for next classis: September 13, 2012; alternate date: December 6, 2012.
3. Suggested officers for the next classis: Chairman: Rev. A. Witten; Vice-chairman: Rev. R.C. Janssen; clerk: Rev. W. Wielenga.
4. Appointment of deputy for preaching arrangements in vacant churches: Rev. W. Wielenga.
5. Appointment of committee for examinations:
 - a. Committee: R.C. Janssen, R. Schouten, W. Wielenga and A. Witten.
 - b. Coordinator: W. Wielenga.
 - c. Sermon: R. C. Janssen and R. Schouten
 - d. OT Exegesis: W. Wielenga.

- e. NT Exegesis: R. C. Janssen.
 - f. Knowledge of Scripture: A. Witten.
 - g. Doctrine and Creeds: R. Schouten
 - h. Church History: A. Witten.
 - i. Ethics: W. Wielenga.
 - j. Church Polity: R.C. Janssen.
 - k. Diaconiology: R. Schouten
6. Church visitors: R.C. Janssen (coordinator); W. Wielenga; R. Schouten.
 7. Church for the archives: Abbotsford.
 8. Church for inspection of the archives: Yarrow.
 9. Committee for needy churches: K. Louwerse (convener), B. Vane, and R. Stikma.
 10. Counselors for vacant churches.
 - a. Yarrow: Rev. W. Wielenga
 - b. Chilliwack: Rev. B. Berends
 11. Deputies for contact with sister churches:
 - a. RCUS: W. Wielenga.
 - b. URC: R. Schouten

Rev. S. Swets was given an opportunity to give fraternal greetings on behalf of URC. He mentioned in particular the up and coming United Reformed Synod and expressed a desire to continue to grow in unity at this local level.

Personal Question period was held. The chairman determined that censure according to Article 34 of the Church Order was not required.

The meeting was adjourned until June 14th 2012 with the singing of Psalm 47 and Rev. Schouten closed with prayer.

The second session of classis, held in Yarrow, was opened by the chairman at 7:30PM with the singing of Psalm 96:1-4. He read 2 Timothy 4 and led in opening prayer. Roll-call indicated all were present except Rev. Witten, for whom there was no alternate delegate. Rev. Wielenga was appointed to serve this session of classis as vice-chairman. As between the two sessions of classis Chilliwack had extended a call to Candidate Abel Pol, the chairman congratulated both with this fact.

The documents required for the colloquium with Rev. Richard Eikelboom were examined and found to be in order so Classis proceeded with the discussion. After a discussion of 45 minutes Classis went into closed session. The colloquium was deemed sufficient. Rev. and Mrs. Eikelboom as well as Yarrow were warmly congratulated with this result.

Classis approved the acts of both sessions as well as the press release for the first session, and made arrangements for adoption of the press release for the second session.

The meeting sang Psalm 96:5-8. The chairman then led in prayer and closed the classis.