

Short report of the meeting classis Pacific West September 18, 2012.

1. Rev. VanDam opened the meeting on behalf of the convening church, Houston.
2. The credentials were examined and found to be in good order
3. Classis was constituted. Rev. J. Slaa was appointed as chairman, Rev. A. Souman as vice-chairman and Rev. T. Lodder as clerk.
4. The chairman thanked the church of Houston for the preparation of this classis.
5. The agenda was adopted.
The chairman welcomed Rev. VanDam, who was recently installed as minister of the church in Houston. Rev. J. Visscher's retirement was noted.
The professors Gootjes, DeJong and Geertsema were remembered because of their health situation.
The chairman read the form of subscription, which was then signed by Rev. S.C. VanDam.
6. Correspondence received: the church of Langley, at the request of the previous classis, had updated the regulations of classis to include the decision made regarding the appeals committee. The church presented these regulations to this classis for distribution to the churches.
7. Reports:
 - i) The Committee for Financial Aid to Needy Churches reported that it had not received any request from churches for financial aid. This was received with thanksgiving.
 - ii) The deputy for ecclesiastical contacts reported on a visit made to a meeting of the presbytery of the North West of the OPC, which was received with thankfulness.
8. Question Period Article 44: the delegates indicated that the ministry of office bearers did continue in the churches, that the churches honoured the decisions of major assemblies and that there was nothing in which the consistories needed the judgment and help of classis.
9. Three churches reported on evangelism and mission.
 - i.) The church in Langley reported on the work being done among the Chinese people both in Vancouver area as well as in China. The Bible College is up and running, the material is well received and the work is going well. There are sixteen students and through them about 3,000 people in China are being reached. Rev. Dong is very busy with this work and the board is looking for possibilities to have someone assist Rev. Dong in his work.
Two elders and one deacon were ordained in the Chinese Reformed church.

In prayer classis thanked the LORD for this report and asked for God's continued blessing over this work.

ii.) The Maranatha Church in Surrey reported on the work being done in Brazil, especially the work of the John Calvin Institute in the Aldeia Training Centre. The work is going well, the missionaries are very busy. The Wieske family is on furlough now. Rev. Wieske has received strength again to continue his task.

The process of handing over the mission work to another church is continuing. A transition committee is in contact with churches which are interested in taking over the work. This committee came with a report and a recommendation which will be discussed by the Surrey council this week. This process is going smoothly and Surrey is thankful for that.

In prayer classis thanked the Lord also for this report and asked for God's blessings.

iii.) The church in Willoughby Heights reported that based on the result of the questionnaires, the churches in Aldergrove and Willoughby Heights decided to start Bible Studies in the Burnaby area, this fall, and depending on the response to that initiative, in the future worship services may be started in that area. At this moment there are no plans to call a minister for this project.

Information about this project will be shared with other churches and members studying or working in the Burnaby area will be encouraged to join this Bible Study and invite friends, colleagues, fellow students, neighbours to come with them.

In prayer classis thanked the Lord that He made this possible and asked if He will work so that this work may grow and in the future worship services may be held and a church may be planted.

10. Appointments:

i) The convening church for the next classis is the church of Langley. Date: December 11, 2012. The alternate date is March 12, 2013.

ii) Suggested officers: chairman: Rev. A. Souman, vice-chairman: Rev. T. Lodder, clerk: Rev. S.C. VanDam.

iii) The members of the committee for appeals were appointed at the previous classis. They were appointed for up to four years. Classis requests the committee to alert the churches if appointments have to be made, for instance in case of retirement of elders or departure of ministers.

iv) delegates to Regional Synod Langley, November 5, were appointed: as primi delegates: the elders R. DeHaan and H. Leyenhorst, the ministers: Rev. R. DeJonge and Rev. A. Souman; as alternates: the elders W. Faber and S. DeJong, the ministers: Rev. J. Slaa and Rev. S.C. VanDam (in this order).

11. Personal Question Period was made use of.

12. The chairman ruled that there was no need for censure according to art. 34 of the CO and he thanked the brothers for the harmonious way things were done at this meeting.

13. The Acts were adopted and the press release approved for publication.

14. The chairman led in prayer and closed the meeting.