

## **Press Release of Classis Manitoba held on Mar.22, 2013 in the Carman West Canadian Reformed Church**

### **Opening**

On behalf of the convening church of Carman West, Dr. A.J. Pol opened the meeting by welcoming all present, particularly the fraternal delegates. He read from Psalm 34, lead in prayer, offered a few words of meditation on the Bible passage, and requested the singing of Psalm 34: 3, 4.

As memorabilia it is mentioned that Rev. K. Jonker and his wife have departed to serve the Free Reformed Church at Bunbury Western Australia.. Since the last Classis, Rev. R.J. den Hollander received and declined a call to the Canadian Reformed Church at Barrhead in October 2012. In February 2013 Rev. R.J. den Hollander and his wife were blessed with the birth of a second son, Micah Brant. On Oct.6, 2012, Rev. R.J. Kampen and sister Esther Weidenhammer were united in marriage.

### **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 suggested officer from Classis Manitoba September, 2012, Dr. A.J. Pol as president, was received and he was duly appointed. Nominated and appointed to serve as vice-president was Rev. R.J. den Hollander and as clerk Rev. R.J. Kampen.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was adopted as received at Classis.

### **Seating of Fraternal Delegates**

Brs. Bernie Bakker and Peter Wassenaar from the Providence Reformed Church at Winnipeg were welcomed again and seated as fraternal delegates. The president also welcomed as Deputy for Contact with Neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries br. Art Poppe and br. Nick Gunnink as observer delegate.

### **Reports**

The treasurer for Classis Manitoba, br. Henry Veldman from the church at Carman East, submitted his report. The recommendation to keep the assessment at \$10 per communicant member was approved. Travel reimbursement is set at 75% of CAA standards which is 50 cents/km. Gratitude was expressed for the report received.

The church appointed for inspecting the books of the treasurer, Carman West, reported that two brothers examined the books and found them to be in good order. Report received with gratitude.

The church appointed for inspecting the Classis archives, Winnipeg Redeemer, reported that two brothers examined the archives and found them to be in excellent order. Report received with gratitude.

The Deputies for Contact with the Manitoba Provincial Government reported that over the past year, Dr. J. Visscher, emeritus pastor of the Langley Canadian Reformed Church, received authorization to solemnize a marriage in the province.

In closed session, church visitation reports were given of visits held at the Canadian Reformed Churches at Carman East, Carman West, Winnipeg Grace and Winnipeg Redeemer. It was noted with gratitude that all reports could conclude with thankfulness that things are being done according to the Word of God, that the office-bearers are fulfilling the duties of their office and calling faithfully and that the Church Order is being observed. Each church was brought before the Lord in prayer following their report.

### **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. The churches at Carman West, Denver and Winnipeg Redeemer requested advice in matters of discipline. The church at Carman West also requested advice regarding an initiative by a group in the St. Claude area to investigate the possibility of establishing a preaching point. Since there was an observer delegate to listen in to the discussion regarding the St. Claude initiative, this matter was dealt with first in open session. After some discussion to gain clarification on this matter, Classis offered advice for further consideration. This matter was brought before the Lord in prayer.

Classis then entered closed session to deal with the requests for advice on matters of discipline. Concurring advice was given to each to proceed to further announcements.

The remaining two churches did not request the judgement and help of classis for the proper government of their church.

### **Address by Fraternal Delegate**

A letter of greeting from Classis Central U.S. of the United Reformed Churches was received. As stated clerk, on behalf of that Classis, Rev. Talman Wagenmaker expressed their regret that they could not be in attendance. Nevertheless, they sent their assurance that they are encouraged by our stand for the truth and the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and expressed the desire to encourage us in that stand. This letter was received with thankfulness.

Br. Bernie Bakker, elder in the Providence Reformed Church of the URCNA, addressed the delegates. He brought greetings from their home congregation. He offered words of encouragement for the labours of the office-bearers, thinking in particular of the challenge of discipline. He also brought the brothers up to date on the situation in Regina URC. The very life of the congregation is in question as all that remains in the consistory are the minister and one elder, who recently accepted a new work position in Georgia. The future remains uncertain. Prayers are requested for this congregation.

Rev. R.J. den Hollander brought these churches before the Lord in intercessory prayer.

### **Correspondence**

A letter of greetings was received from Rev. Archibald Allison, stated clerk for the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the Orthodox Presbyterian Churches. They included an invitation to send a delegate to their upcoming meetings to be convened, D.V. on April 2-3, 2013 and on Sept.24-25, 2013. The invitation will be passed on to the Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries. Rev. R.J. Kampen brought this before the Lord in prayer.

**Appointments**

The church of Denver will serve as the convening church for the next Classis, to be hosted by Winnipeg Grace. It will be convened, D.V., on June 28, 2013 (or if deemed not necessary then, Sept.27, 2013). The suggested president for next Classis is Rev. J. Poppe.

**Personal Question Period**

Rev. R.J. den Hollander, as coordinator of the Classical exchange roster, requested an expression of interest in a proposal to extend invitations to the United Reformed Churches at Regina and Thunder Bay to participate twice annually in the month-end exchanges. A formal proposal will be sent to the local consistories.

**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 president closed the meeting by leading in prayer.

For Classis Manitoba,  
R.J. den Hollander  
Vice-president at that time.