

Press Release of the Classis Contracta of the Canadian Reformed Churches of Classis Pacific West, September 10, 2013 at Surrey (Maranatha), BC at 8:00 p.m.

Elder Will Faber opens the meeting on behalf of the convening church at Maranatha Surrey. He reads 2 Thessalonians 3, and after the singing of Psalm 67, he leads in prayer, and speaks some words of welcome, including a brief history of the mission work over the past 43 years until the present day.

The credentials confirm that those present have been duly appointed. The church at Cloverdale is represented by Elder Pete Schouten and Pastor Theo Lodder; the Maranatha Church at Surrey is represented by Elder Will Faber and Elder Albert van der Heide; and the church at Willoughby Heights is represented by Elder Jack Aikema and Pastor Anthon Souman. This being so, brother Faber declares the meeting of this classis contracta constituted.

Since Rev. Lodder was chairman of the last classis, the meeting appoints Rev. Souman as chairman. Rev. Lodder is appointed as clerk, since someone notices his computer. The proposed agenda is adopted.

A letter is received from the Maranatha Church, requesting the approval of the release of Rev. Julius VanSpronsen and Rev. Kenneth Wieske from the church at Maranatha-Surrey. The Maranatha Church confirms that all the following documents are in order: the letters of call to the respective missionaries from the Aldergrove Canadian Reformed Church back in April; the letters of acceptance from both missionaries; a letter from Aldergrove Canadian Reformed Church, agreeing to the date and time of assumption of responsibility for both missionaries and their families at 0001 hrs PST, September 1, 2013, and indicating that their installation will take place on September 29, 2013 at 2:30 p.m. at Aldergrove Canadian Reformed Church; certificates of release and ecclesiastical attestations of doctrine and conduct from Maranatha with the declaration that the Rev. Julius M. VanSpronsen and the Rev. Kenneth E. Wieske will be (in retrospect, have been) honourably released as of September 1, 2013. Classis Pacific West therewith approves the release of these brothers from their call to the Maranatha Church, grants them honourable release from their duties in Classis Pacific West as of that date, and provides them each with a classical certificate of release.

The chairman speaks words of gratitude for the work that the Lord has allowed the Maranatha Church to do over the years in the work of mission. Although there is some sadness about the devolvement of the Maranatha Church from this work, there is also thanksgiving that the work in Brazil may continue under the auspices of the Aldergrove Church. There is also a recognition that there are numerous opportunities for the Maranatha Church to continue to bear witness to God's name, especially here in the city of Surrey and in Greater Vancouver.

Elder Albert van der Heide of the Maranatha Church takes the opportunity to reminisce about the early history of the mission work, when it was taken up by the churches at New Westminster and Aldergrove (which later became Cloverdale). He also shares some interesting facts about the early history of Mission Aid, citing a fascinating document entitled "Cows for Korea," which outlines the early beginnings of what later became Mission Aid Brazil, undertaken by the church at Cloverdale. Elder Pete Schouten of Cloverdale also mentions that the Church at New Westminster (as Maranatha was called, and where it was located, at the time) supported the work of the Dutch churches for mission work in China prior to supporting the mission work in Papua New Guinea (via Toronto), and later Brazil.

It is noted that the installation and welcome evening for the missionaries will take place at Aldergrove Canadian Reformed Church on the Lord's Day of September 29, 2013, Lord willing.

The chairman concludes with appreciation that censure according to Art. 34 of the Church Order is not necessary. The Acts are adopted and a press release is approved. Rev. Souman leads in prayer and declares the meeting closed.

For classis contracta,

Theo Lodder

Clerk, this lovely summer evening