

Press Release of Classis Pacific-East held in Vernon, September 19, 2013

At 10.00 am Rev. Witten calls the meeting to order and invites the brothers to sing Psalm 133; he then reads the same psalm. In his opening prayer Rev. Witten expresses gratitude to the Lord that General Synod could be held in Carman in May; that Rev. VanRaalte could be appointed as 5th professor at the Theological Seminary and could commence his work there; and that the church in Aldergrove can continue with the mission work in Brazil.

Rev. Wielenga is appointed to chair the meeting; Rev. Eikelboom vice; and Rev. Witten clerk. Rev. Reeves, minister of the Grace United Reformed Church in Kelowna, is welcomed and seated as a fraternal delegate.

From the church at Aldergrove classis receives documentation for the approbation of calls extended to the missionary Revs. VanSpronsen and Wieske. After classis decides – with gratitude – to approbate both calls, the chairman notes that this opens the way for the Revs. VanSpronsen and Wieske to be installed as ministers of the church at Aldergrove. Rev. Schouten, on behalf of the church at Aldergrove, comments that the situation is extra-ordinary because the Revs. VanSpronsen and Wieske will simply be continuing with the work that they have done in the past: it will not be the installed ministers who take on a new project, but the mission church instead. Rev. Schouten solicits the prayers of the churches for the missionwork. The chairman expresses the desire that God bless the missionaries and their families and also the sending church with wisdom and energy. It is noted that installation is planned for September 29 in the morning worship service. Classis appoints Rev. Janssen to speak on behalf of the churches of classis; he is also instructed to ensure that both missionaries sign the classis subscription form. Rev. Pol, contact person for the Reformed Church of the United States, reads a letter of greeting from Rev. Gil Baloy, sent on behalf of the Western Classis of the RCUS. The letter is received with gratitude and classis decides to publish the letter as an appendix to the Press Release.

The Committee for Needy Churches reports that it has not met in the last year because there have been no requests for support. This report is received with gratitude.

The church at Vernon reports that the books of the treasurer have been audited and found to be in good order.

With gratitude classis receives a report of a church visitation made to the church at Abbotsford.

Rev. Reeves is given the floor: he expresses encouragement to the churches at classis, noting that there are distinct similarities in the way that our federations operate. He also expresses appreciation for the fellowship experienced on a local level.

In closed session classis gives advice on two matters of church discipline.

Classis makes the following appointments:

Convening church for next classis: Yarrow

Date for next meeting: Dec 5, 2013; alternate date Feb 27, 2014

Suggested officers: chair: provided by Yarrow; vice-chair: provided by Vernon; clerk: provided by Abbotsford

It is noted that the delegation to Regional Synod made by this classis will be valid only if Regional Synod is held in 2013. If Regional Synod is postponed or cancelled new delegates will be appointed.

The following brothers are elected as elder-delegates: K. Huttema and C. VanVliet; and as alternates H. VanderLinde and A. VanderGaag in that order.

The following brothers are elected as minister-delegates: Janssen, Wielenga, and as alternates Witten and Pol in that order.

The chairman judges that the work was done in good harmony and censure is not required. The acts are adopted and the press release is approved. The chairman leads in closing prayer.

Appendix:

**LETTER of GREETING from the WESTERN CLASSIS of the RCUS to the
CLASSIS PACIFIC EAST, C&ARC**

ON BEHALF OF THE WESTERN CLASSIS RCUS INTERCHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Gil Baloy, Chairman

August 30, 2013

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren,

We bring you greetings from the Western Classis of the RCUS in the name of our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, as you convene your Classis Pacific East on September 19, 2013. We are looking forward to having our fraternal delegate at your Classis meeting in 2014, and we anticipate your Classis delegate at our meeting to convene at Sacramento Covenant Reformed Church on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

The RCUS and the C&ARC have enjoyed many decades of a close fraternal bond, and we will always be grateful for our being co-laborers in the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ. To God be the glory in that He has grown and is growing our churches from our small beginnings. We thank God for the encouragement you have been to us over the years in your firm stand for truth as revealed in the Word of God. By the grace and mercy of the Lord purity of life and doctrine continues to be the distinguishing goals of our

churches. We stand together as congregations who adhere to the Reformed faith as it is expressed in “The Three Forms of Unity.” We stand without apology for the **“Five Solas”** of the Protestant Reformation: **The Scriptures Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Christ Alone, and the Glory of God Alone.**

This year 2013 marks a milestone of the **450th Anniversary** of the first publication of the Heidelberg Catechism. The RCUS Synod gave thanksgiving for the **450th Anniversary** of the first publication of the Heidelberg Catechism in the 2013 Abstract of the RCUS with the following statement: **“This Abstract of the 267th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States is dedicated in thanksgiving to God for His providence in providing the excellent Heidelberg Catechism as a confession of faith for biblical Reformed Churches on this the 450th anniversary of its first publication. We testify to the whole world that this Catechism has been a peculiar treasure to our Church ever since the founding of its (the RCUS’s) first congregations in 1725.”**

To this day, it is the practice of RCUS churches to catechize our covenant children so that our catechumens are able to memorize all 129 questions and answers of the Heidelberg Catechism before they are confirmed or make their profession of faith.

In recent years, the RCUS has seen the need for more men to prepare for the gospel ministry in the RCUS as our older ministers retire. A special day for prayer and fasting was set aside to bring this need before God’s throne of grace. In looking at the 2011 Abstract, we had two men preparing for the ministry. This year at our Synod of 2013, we have eight men preparing for the ministry. God is blessing our labors in mission work by His grace through prayer. The RCUS congregations have set aside an annual day of prayer on the second Lord’s Day of September for our mission works. We are finding our home and foreign mission fields are expanding by the grace of God. The RCUS remains committed to the work of growing Christ’s Kingdom by the grace of God as the Lord grants open doors of opportunity. Let us pray for one another that the Lord may prosper our labors in growing the Kingdom of God.

Certainly, it is alarming to see our nation’s moral and spiritual decline in the United States. Our culture is more and more resistant to a biblical morality. Faithful Bible believing churches will no doubt be under attack in the years to come in taking a strong stand against the moral debauchery that’s being foisted upon our culture. Thus the **264th RCUS Synod** adopted the following recommendation:

“That Synod accede to the overture for a specific study paper of homosexuality by Synod, that will be entitled, ‘Promoting a Biblical Sexual Morality.’ The contents of this paper are to include a didactic section that will:

- 1) Teach the biblical support and blessings of the teaching of godly sexual morality.**
- 2) Set biblical morality over against the abominations of homosexuality, adultery and man-centered views of sexuality, so that it can be used to teach biblical morality to our own people and to our culture.**
- 3) Provide biblical requirements for the use of human sexuality in the midst of and to the improvement of culture” (2010:94).”**

The Special Committee’s work of this nearly sixty-five page position paper is now complete. This paper on “Promoting a Biblical Sexual Morality” was largely the work of Rev. Samuel Powell, and it is hoped that it will be available soon for those who desire a copy.

Be assured the Western Classis of the Reformed Church in the U.S. is standing with you in promoting the authority of Holy Scripture and the Reformed faith as declared in Holy Scripture and our secondary standards. We need to pray that God will send many faithful young men into the gospel ministry of our churches for the harvest is great! Our day is a day of great opportunity, and the needs are so very great. Let us pray that the Lord will bless our labors in the Gospel by bearing much spiritual fruit for the glory of God. Brothers in Christ, be assured it is the desire of the RCUS to labor in the Gospel with you, and to continue in the things we have learned and believed from the Word of God to the glory of God and to advance His Kingdom. May God give us grace to stand together with a strong commitment to persevere in the truth of Scripture and our Confessional standards. The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ **“is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the Just shall live by faith.”** (*Rom. 1:16-17*)

Be assured, Brothers, the Western Classis cherishes the fraternal bond we have together in Christ. Therefore, let us be **“looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith,”** as *Hebrews 12:2* says, and . . . **“be**

ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord.” (I Corinthians 15:58)

In Christ's Love for God's Glory,

Rev. Gil Baloy, Chairman
Interchurch Relations Committee of the Western Classis, RCUS