

Press Release of Classis Manitoba convened by the Emmanuel American Reformed Church of Denver on September 27, 2013 in the church building of the Grace Canadian Reformed Church of Winnipeg

Opening

On behalf of the Emmanuel American Reformed Church of Denver—convening church of Classis—Rev. R.J. Kampen called the meeting to order. He welcomed all present and requested the singing of Psalm 2, read Psalm 2, and spoke a few words of meditation on the passage. In prayer, he remembered the recent passing away of Rev. W.W.J. VanOene; the completion of General Synod Carman 2013, and related to that the appointment and subsequent installation of Dr. T.G. Van Raalte as professor of Ecclesiology at the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary; Rev. R.J. den Hollander received and declined calls from the Ebenezer Canadian Reformed Church at Burlington, the Free Reformed Churches of Bunbury and Southern River, Western Australia; Rev. J. Poppe received and declined a call from the Canadian Reformed Church at Fergus (North); the call extended to Candidate Calvin Vanderlinde by the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church at Winnipeg for missionary work in Manitoba.

Examination of Credentials and Constitution of Classis

The credentials of the delegates were examined and reported to be in good order. It is noted that all the *primi* delegates are present. Fraternal delegates from the Providence Reformed Church, Rev. R. Anjema and brother S. Siepman, were welcomed. Classis was declared constituted.

Appointment of Executive Officers

The suggestion for the office of president from Classis Manitoba March 2013 was received and duly appointed. Rev. J. Poppe served as president. After nominations from the floor, the following officers took their place:

Vice-president: Rev. R.J. Kampen

Clerk: Dr. A.J. Pol

The president thanked Winnipeg-Grace for the use of their building, and the convening church for the organization of Classis.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as received.

Seating of Fraternal Delegates

Rev. R. Anjema and brother S. Siepman from the Providence Reformed Church at Winnipeg were welcomed and seated as fraternal delegates. A letter of greetings from Rev. T. Wagenmaker, stated clerk of the Classis Central US of the URCNA, was read.

Reports

As Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries, brothers B. Gortemaker and A. Poppe had submitted a written report of their work of interacting with the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the OPC, Classis Central US of the URCNA, and the Northern Plains Classis of the RCUS. This report was received with gratitude.

The Committee for Aid to Needy Churches delivered its report in the form of a letter addressed to Classis. Its recommendation that the churches of Classis Manitoba be assessed at \$25.00 CDN per communicant member is adopted.

The church at Winnipeg-Redeemer reported that they have audited the books of the Committee for Aid to Needy Churches and have found them to be in good order. This report was received with thankfulness.

The report from the Committee for Students of Theology was received in letter form. This report was received with thankfulness.

In closed session the church visitors reported on a visit to the Emmanuel American Reformed Church of Denver. There was offered a prayer of intercession for this church after the report.

Proposals

None received.

Question period (Art.44 CO)

The president asked the questions according to Article 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 of Carman East and Winnipeg-Grace requested the judgment and help of classis for the proper government of their church. Advice was given to these churches.

Address by Fraternal Delegate

Rev. R. Anjema from the Providence Reformed Church at Winnipeg addressed the assembly. He expressed deep gratitude for the ongoing contact between the churches. He observed how relationships between the federations as a whole have progressed and matured. He spoke of the recent developments between the URCNA and other federations with which they have established ecclesiastical fellowship, in particular the L'Église Réformée du Québec (ERQ), and the Reformed Presbyterian Churches of North America (RPCNA), and they are developing contact with the Free Reformed Churches of North America (FRCNA). Prayer was offered for the URCNA.

Correspondence

None received.

Appointments

The church of Winnipeg-Grace will serve as the convening church for the next Classis. It will be convened, D.V., on December 6, 2013, at 9:00 a.m., or, if deemed not necessary, March 28, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. The suggested president for next Classis is Rev. S. Vandavelde.

Classis made various appointments for the standing committees, classical deputies and church visitors.

The following delegates were appointed to Regional Synod West, Nov. 4, 2013 (Art. 44, C.O.): As ministers, Dr. A.J. Pol and Rev. J. Poppe with Rev. R.J. den Hollander and Rev. R.J. Kampen as first and second alternates, respectively; as elders brothers W. Gortemaker and N. Gunnink with brothers L. Bergsma and C. Lodder as first and second alternates, respectively.

Personal Question Period

Was held.

Brotherly Censure (Art. 34 CO)

The president deemed that censure according to Art. 34 of the Church Order was 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 requesting the singing of Hymn 52:1,2 and leading in prayer.

For Classis Manitoba,

Rev. R.J. Kampen

vice-president at that time