

Press Release of Classis Manitoba held on Mar.28, 2014 in the Grace Canadian Reformed Church at Winnipeg

Opening

On behalf of the convening church of Winnipeg Grace, Rev. R.J. den Hollander opened the meeting by requesting the singing of Psalm 66: 1, 7, reading from Eph.3 and leading in prayer. He welcomed all present, particularly the fraternal delegate, Rev. Todd De Rooy, and the Deputy for Contact with Neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries, Br. W. Gortemaker.

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 except for one due to illness. Upon the examination of the credentials, Classis was declared constituted.

Appointment of Executive Officers

The suggested officer from Classis Manitoba September, 2014, Rev. S. Vandavelde 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. J. Poppe.

The president thanked the convening church for the organization of Classis. As memorabilia it is mentioned that Rev. R.J. den Hollander received and accepted a call to the Covenant Canadian Reformed Church at Grassie. Encouragement was offered to the church at Winnipeg Grace in their search for a new pastor and teacher and to Rev. R.J. den Hollander as he prepares to take up the work in his new congregation in June. Since the last Classis the church at Winnipeg Redeemer had extended a call to Candidate Calvin Vanderlinde for Mission Manitoba which he declined. Encouragement was also offered them in their search for a missionary. Dr. A.J. Pol is currently enjoying a Sabbatical for the purpose of some further study. Encouragement was also offered Carman West as they fill the extra tasks.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as received at Classis.

Seating of Fraternal Delegates

Rev. Todd De Rooy from the Redeemer United Reformed Church in Orange City, Iowa was welcomed again and seated as fraternal delegate. He was informed that he had all privileges of the floor except voting. Br. W. Gortemaker was welcomed as Deputy for Contact with Neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries.

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 CRA standards which is 47 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. The report was 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 good order. It was noted that

there were a few missing documents. These have since been tracked down and inserted as necessary. The report was received with gratitude.

The Deputies for Contact with the Manitoba Provincial Government reported that over the past year authorization to solemnize a marriage in the province was requested and granted for Rev. J.G. Slaa of the Smithers Canadian Reformed Church and for Rev. J.D. Louwse of the Neerlandia Canadian Reformed Church to perform marriages in the Winnipeg Redeemer and Carman West churches respectively.

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 and the Emmanuel American Reformed Church at Denver. 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 by one of the delegates following the respective reports.

Question period (Art.44 CO)

The president 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. Both the church at Carman West and the church at Winnipeg Grace requested advice in a matter of discipline. Classis then entered closed session to deal with these requests. Advice was given to Carman West and concurring advice was given to Winnipeg Grace to proceed to further announcements. Winnipeg Grace also requested Classical pulpit supply one Sunday a month during their upcoming period of vacancy starting, D.V., June 1, and that Rev. J. Poppe be appointed as counsellor. Pulpit supply was granted and the appointment made.

Address by Fraternal Delegate

Notification was received from the Providence Reformed Church in Winnipeg of the URCNA expressing regret that they were unable to have any delegates in attendance.

Rev. Todd De Rooy of the Redeemer United Reformed Church in Orange City, Iowa was given the opportunity to address Classis on behalf of Classis Central US and CERCU (as an alternate on that committee). He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to be here. They always appreciate the invitations which unfortunately they have not been able to act on until now. He gave an update on the upcoming CERCU report to the General Synod of the URCNA to be held D.V. June 2, 2014. They will inform Synod that they propose a movement to Phase 3A of church union as of 2016. They also will be holding a colloquium between two professors of the URCNA and two from the CRTS. He noted with thankfulness that Rev. W. den Hollander visited their Classis (as well as all the other Classes) and that it was an opportunity to develop some greater understanding between the two federations. He also gave an update on some of the activities in their own Classis, noting with thankfulness the passing of a candidacy exam as well as some recent positive developments in the work at the Danville Correctional Facility. He requested prayers for one upcoming vacancy in Chicago Heights. Br. W. Gortemaker brought these churches before the Lord in intercessory prayer.

Correspondence

Rev. R.J. den Hollander requested a certificate of honourable release according to Art.5 of the Church Order. The following documents were provided:

- 1) Letter of call from Covenant Canadian Reformed Church at Grassie

- 2) Letter of acceptance of call from Rev. R.J. den Hollander
- 3) Letter from Covenant Canadian Reformed Church at Grassie affirming acceptance of responsibility
- 4) Certificate of honourable release and ecclesiastical attestation from the Grace Canadian Reformed Church at Winnipeg.

After the documents were examined and found to be in good order, Classis issued a Certificate of Honourable Release for Rev. R.J. den Hollander. The president thanked him for his work in Winnipeg Grace and Classis Manitoba and encouraged him in his future work in the Covenant Canadian Reformed Church at Grassie. Rev. R.J. den Hollander received and took the opportunity to say a few words in response, expressing his thankfulness for the good harmony and brotherly love experienced in the Classis and for the privilege of being of service to the churches here.

Appointments

The church of Winnipeg Redeemer will serve as the convening church for the next Classis. It will be convened, D.V., on June 27, 2014 (or, if deemed not necessary then, Sept.19, 2014). The suggested president for next Classis is Rev. R.J. Kampen.

Classis made various appointments as necessary for the standing committees and church visitors, particularly with a view to the pending departure of Rev. R.J. den Hollander.

Personal Question Period

The church at Winnipeg Grace requested a representative of Classis to be present at the farewell evening for Rev. R.J. den Hollander to be held, D.V. on May 18 at 7:00 p.m. Rev. J. Poppe was appointed.

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.