

Press Release for Classis Pacific West held in Willoughby Heights, BC on September 9, 2014

On behalf of the convening church of Houston Elder John Fennema called the meeting to order and led in opening devotions. In memorabilia he mentioned the absence of Rev. Carl VanDam, who remained at home to be near his wife Lisa who was due to give birth to a child. Elder Fennema also welcomed Rev. Doug Vandeburgt, present to witness the approbation of the call he received from the Langley church, which he accepted.

The delegates of the church of Cloverdale examined the credentials and declared that all the churches were lawfully represented. There were no instructions. The following officers were appointed: As chairman, Rev. Theo Lodder; as vice-chairman, Rev. James Slaa; as clerk, Rev. Anthon Souman.

When the executive took their places, Rev. Lodder thanked the convening church for their preparations and for hosting classis. The agenda was adopted.

The church of Langley requested Classis to approbate the call extended to and accepted by Rev. Doug Vandeburgt, formerly of Burlington Rehoboth CanRC. When it was determined that all the documents were in order and all arrangements were in place, Classis approbated the call. Rev. Vandeburgt will be installed the Lord willing this Sunday, September 14, in the morning worship service. Rev. Ben Schoof was appointed to represent Classis and give greetings at this joyous event.

There were no proposals from the churches.

The *Committee for Needy Churches* reported that no requests for financial support were received from the churches.

Question Period ad Article 44 of the Church Order was held. The chairman asked whether the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued, whether the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured, and whether there was any matter in which the consistories needed the judgment and help of classis for the proper government of their church. All the churches answered positively to the first two questions asked. None of the churches asked for advice in matters of discipline.

The churches were given an opportunity to apprise the members of Classis of the work of evangelism and mission. Rev. Ryan DeJonge, on behalf of the Asian Mission Board and the churches of Cloverdale and Langley, gave an update on the situation of mission work in China as well as the Chinese Reformed Church in the Greater Vancouver Area.

Appointments for next Classis were made. The convening church will be the church of Langley. Date of Classis: Tuesday, December 9, 2014 in Langley at 9:00 a.m., D.V. Alternate date: Tuesday, April 14, 2015. Classis suggested officers: Chairman: Rev. Anthon Souman; Vice-chairman: Rev. Carl VanDam; Clerk: the delegated minister of Langley.

For the Committee of Appeals, Classis appointed Elder John Byl to replace Elder Len Stam, whose term as elder had completed. The Committee now consists of Rev. Anthon Souman (convenor), Elder John Byl and Elder Albert Vanderheide. Alternates are Rev. Ryan DeJonge, Elder Pete Schouten, and Rev. James Slaa, in that order.

The following brothers were delegated to Regional Synod Winnipeg Grace, November 3, 2014, D.V., to be held in Abbotsford, BC: Elders Ken Bulhuis and Kent Dykstra (alternates: Elders John Vanderstoep and John Byl – in that order) and Ministers Rev. Ryan DeJonge and Rev. James Slaa (alternates: Rev. Anthon Souman and Rev. Carl VanDam – in that order).

Personal Question Period was held. With thankfulness, censure according to Article 34, C.O. was deemed unnecessary by the chairman. The Acts of Classis were adopted and the Press Release was approved. The chairman led the closing devotions.

For Classis Pacific West, September 9, 2014

Rev. James Slaa

Vice-chairman at that time