

Press release of Classis Manitoba September 19, 2014

The chairman of the convening church, Rev. J. Poppe opened the meeting by inviting those present to sing Hy.46:1,4, and reading Colossians 1:1-14. As memorabilia he mentioned that the church of Winnipeg Grace extended a call to Candidate Gerrit Bruintjes, and that Winnipeg Redeemer extended a call to Candidate Tyler Vandergaag. These calls were declined. Dr. A.J. Pol was welcomed back after a sabbatical. Rev. Poppe led in prayer.

The credentials of the delegates were examined and found in good order. All churches were properly represented by their primary delegates. Classis appointed Rev. R.J. Kampen as president, Rev. J. Poppe as vice-president, and Dr. A.J. Pol as clerk. The agenda was adopted. Brother Andy Bakker was seated as fraternal delegate from the Providence Reformed Church of Winnipeg. The deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries were welcomed.

A report from the Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries was received for information. The Committee for Aid to Needy Churches presented a request from the Emmanuel American Reformed Church of Denver for support. In the past years they used up their reserve built up in a time of vacancy to support their budget. Since this is now gone, they request support of \$40,000 US. Thus the deputies propose an increase in support from \$25 to \$50 per communicant member. Classis approved this request. The Denver delegates expressed appreciation for this increased support. The Redeemer church has audited the books of the Committee for Aid to Needy Churches and found them in good order.

A report from the Committee for Students of Theology was read. They detailed contacts between various mentors and students in our churches that intend to pursue studies for the ministry. We are thankful that various students from our classis are pursuing studies with a goal of serving in the ministry. David Pol and Iwan Borst are currently studying at the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary, and other young men are preparing themselves to study there. These students and our seminary and its professors and students were remembered in prayer. A brief report from the church visitors was also received for information.

An overture was received from the Winnipeg Redeemer church. It proposed to replace the centralized needy student fund set up by Synod 2010 with local churches caring for their students and supporting them with the aid of the churches in their classis if necessary. It also proposed that the examination of students to speak an edifying word and the preparatory examination of students take place in their home classis. Classis recommended that Winnipeg Redeemer work with the comments made and come back to Classis if they so desire.

Another proposal was received from the Winnipeg Redeemer church to amend the Classis regulations to do away with a redundant article about auditing the books of the Committee for Students of Theology, since this committee no longer provides financial support. This was adopted.

The churches were asked whether the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued, whether the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured, and whether there is any matter in which the consistories need the judgment and help of classis for the proper government of their church. All churches responded positively to the first two questions and negatively to the last.

Our fraternal delegate, brother Andy Bakker from the Providence Reformed Church addressed classis, expressing thankfulness for our ecclesiastical relationship, and the way that this can be exercised in a very practical way among us. Intercessory prayer was offered for this church and for our ecclesiastical fellowship with the United Reformed Churches.

Brother Art Poppe asked to be relieved of his appointment as Deputy for Contact with Neighbouring Churches / Presbyteries. He was thanked for being a faithful ambassador of our churches for many years, and his request was granted.

The following appointments were made. Convening church for the next classis: Carman East; suggested date Nov.28/14 or Mar.27/15; suggested president Dr. A.J. Pol. All previous appointees, other than brother Art Poppe were reappointed for another year. Regional synod delegates were appointed.

Personal question period was held. The chairman judged that brotherly censure was not necessary. The Acts were adopted and the Press Release was approved. The chairman closed Classis by inviting the brothers to sing Hy.84:1,2 and closed in prayer.

Vice-chairman at that time,
Rev. Joe Poppe