

## **Press Release of Classis Pacific East of September 25, 2014**

1. The minister of the convening church of Aldergrove welcomed the delegates to Classis. He requested the signing of Psalm 46:1, 2, 5 after which he read Psalm 47 and led in prayer, asking God for his blessing upon Classis and giving thanks for the many evidences of grace in the midst of the churches of Classis Pacific East.
2. The credentials were checked by the delegates of the church at Abbotsford and found to be in good order. Rev. J. Roukema was seated as advisor to Classis. Rev. Janssen served as chairman, Rev. Schouten as vice-chairman and Rev. Pol as clerk. Classis was constituted and the agenda was adopted.
3. Reports:
  - a. Rev. R.C. Janssen and Rev. R. Schouten reported on a visit made to the Vernon Canadian Reformed Church. With thankfulness, they could conclude that the office-bearers are faithfully fulfilling the duties of their office and that the adopted church is being maintained in every respect.
  - b. The Committee for Needy Churches reported that it did not meet during the last year because there were no requests for help from the churches.
  - c. The deputy of Classis for contact with the URCNA in Classis Western Canada reported on a letter received from Classis Western Canada. Although it was addressed to the Abbotsford Canadian Reformed Church, Classis decided to receive it. The letter contained greetings for Classis Pacific East along with an invitation to the next Classis Western Canada to be held on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> at the Immanuel Covenant Church in Abbotsford. The deputy of Classis Pacific East will attend.
  - d. A letter of greeting was received from the Western Classis of the Reformed Churches in the United States. The main part of this letter is attached to this Press Release.
4. Question Period (Article 44 of the Church Order). A church requested and received advice in a matter of church discipline. This was done in closed session.
5. Appointments:
  - a. Chilliwack was appointed as the convening church for next Classis. The date for the next classis is December 11, 2014; the alternate date in case of cancellation is March 12, 2014.
  - b. Suggested officers for the next Classis: Chairman from Aldergrove, Vice-chairman from Chilliwack and the clerk from Lynden.
  - c. The following persons were delegated to Regional Synod West November 3, 2014 to be held in Abbotsford, beginning at 7:30 p.m: Elders: J. Pruim and C. VanVliet; alternates: B. Meerstra and K. Huttema, in that order; Ministers: R. Schouten, R.C. Janssen; alternates: W. Wielenga and R. Eikelboom, in that order.
6. Question Period is held.
7. The chairman judged that censure according to Article 34 of the Church Order was not necessary.
8. The Acts of Classis were read and adopted.
9. The Press Release was approved.

10. The chairman led in prayer and thanksgiving.

R. Schouten

Vice-chairman e.t.

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### **Letter from the RCUS**

Greetings in the Lord from the Western Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS)!

First of all, your brethren in California want to express our appreciation for your diligence in making the effort to represent your Classis and Federation at our classis sessions on a bi-annual basis ...

We are pleased that our previous Letter of Greeting was read by our brother and was received as well as it was. Do send our thanks to the brethren of Fraser Valley Church for taking a personal interest in the RCUS and attaching our greeting to the short report of your Classis meeting. Also, we were delighted to hear of your interest in the Study Paper entitled "Promoting a Biblical Sexual Morality." This is a vital statement that needs to be made and heard by all who would hear from the Church as the salt of the earth.

As you are probably aware, the RCUS today is 49 churches and mission works strong in four classes in Continental U.S.: Covenant East Classis, Northern Plains Classis, South Central Classis. We have eight home mission congregations and new churches that we support and pray for in our Annual Day of Prayer. Though we are small in number, we are mighty through God in desiring and striving for reformation and revival in our day. Our hands are further strengthened through brothers and friends like you of the Canadian and American Reformed Churches. We stand together as churches that zealously adhere to the Reformed Faith expressed in the "Three Forms of Unity," the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession of Faith and the Canons of Dort. We stand without apology for the "Five Solas" of the Protestant Reformation, ie. Sola Scriptura, Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Sola Christos, and last, but not least, Sola Deo Gloria ...

Equally important must be our commitment to the Lord's "Great Commission" in discipling the nations for Him. Our Synod President Rev. Jim Sawtelle noted in his Report of the state of the RCUS: "For a small denomination, the Lord has given us many opportunities to participate in the spread of the gospel both at home and abroad." Presently, we have an outreach to the Hispanic community in and around the Ebenezer Reformed Church in Shafter, CA. It was started this summer when Rev. Valenti Alpuche was commissioned to be an Associate Missionary Pastor of Ebenezer Church. Rev. Dennis Roe of Covenant Reformed Church in Grass Valley, CA, recently was commissioned by Synod to the task of "Missionary-at-Large" for foreign mission works particularly in Africa, the Middle East and Pakistan. Your servant accompanied a OPC Licentiate Mr. Yevgeni Kogay to labor in the United Covenant

Reformed Church in the Philippines (UCRCP). Mr. Kogay presently interns under Rev. Vic Bernales in San Carlos, Pangasinan, and is being supported by the San Diego Covenant Reformed Church (RCUS), New Covenant Community OPC, in Joliet, Illinois, and Covenant PCA in Hammond, Indiana. He desires to receive a call in the UCRCP and be ordained in the gospel ministry one day. In Africa, we continue to be involved in the care and upbuilding of the "United Reformed Churches of the Congo" (URCC) and the "Reformed Fellowship Church of Kenya" (RFCK).

For your information, we continue to experience the closing of some our churches with an aging congregation located in the more rural areas. The youth leave for the bigger cities to start their new lives and families. As a result, there has been a change of strategy to focus evangelism on larger populations of the cities, like Los Angeles and the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. It is not easy with the higher cost of living there. But, I should say for the record, that we don't give up on the precious souls in rural America. In addition, a good number of our longest serving pastors in the RCUS have retired, ie. the "pillars of the church." God be blessed for raising up a number of young men for the pastoral ministry that have been newly trained in approved seminaries. We do not want to lose the staunch commitment of the previous generation of ministers to Scripture, the Confessions and proper church order. We are greatly challenged to preach, teach and make disciples of men. "These that have turned the world upside down (for the gospel), have come here also...and say that there is another king, one Jesus." (Acts 17:6) God truly is a prayer-answering God!

That is all since the time is short. May God marvelously bless your meeting that it will redound to the thanksgiving of the members of your churches and to the glory of His sovereign and holy name.

Sincerely yours,

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