

Press Release of Classis Alberta of March 10, 2015.
Convened via videoconferencing by the Providence Church at Edmonton.

On behalf of the convening church, Rev. R. Aasman opened the meeting by reading Ephesians 4:1-16 and then led in prayer. The brothers then sang from Psalm 105:1,2. Some matters of memorabilia were noted. The credentials were found to be in good order and all delegates were present. The classis was constituted and the following took their respective positions in the executive: chairman: Rev. J.P. Kalkman, vice-chairman: Rev. J.D. Louwerse, clerk: Rev. R. Aasman. The deputies for Regional Synod, Dr. A.J. Pol and Rev. W.M. Wielenga were not present, and instead submitted a letter. The provisional agenda was adopted after a few additions were made.

The reports from the Church for the inspection of the classis archives and from Rev.E.J. Tiggelaar, the deputy for contact with the provincial government, are read and received with thankfulness. The church visitation reports for Barrhead, Calgary, and Neerlandia, were read and received with thankfulness.

The following proposals from the Church of St. Albert with respect to changing Classis regulations were discussed and amended and adopted. The first proposal was that for both the preparatory examination of a student and peremptory examination of a candidate, the one being examined will present one sermon based on a text of his choice, and supply two additional sermons of his choice, which may have been supervised, one of which must be a Lord's Day sermon.

The grounds for this proposal are as follows: the two additional sermons will allow the delegates of classis to become more familiar with the candidate and his style and consistency, and would allow the delegates to understand perceived problems in the presented sermon, adding proper balance to the sermon examination section of each examination. This practice is consistent with the examination processes of Classis Pacific West, as well as other churches with which we have ecclesiastical fellowship, and the Proposed Joint Church Order, which was presented to Synod Carman 2014.

The second proposal is an amendment to the duties of the convening church. This proposal is as follows: 4.B.1. To draw up a provisional

agenda, including all reports, proposals, appeals, and the text for the sermon and the Scripture passages for the exegesis examination as required. 2. To send the agenda and all the accompanying materials identified above to all the churches in the classical resort via email four weeks prior to the date of classis.

The grounds for this proposal are as follows: although the regulations state that materials must be sent to the churches, it has become the practice of the churches in Classis AB to distribute materials via email. We believe the regulations of Classis AB should be updated to reflect what has become the practice, rather than require churches to obtain consent each time when sending digital copies of materials.

The Church of Calgary requested that Rev. Tyler Vandergaag be appointed as their counsellor. Calgary also requested pulpit supply during her vacancy. It was decided that pulpit supply will be given to Calgary, Coaldale and Edmonton Immanuel once per month.

Question period according to article 44 of CO was held. The chairman asked whether the ministry of the office bearers is being continued, whether the decisions of the major assemblies were being honoured and whether there is any matter in which the consistories need the judgement and help of classis for the proper government of the church. All the churches responded affirmatively to the first two questions and negatively to the last question except the Churches of Calgary and Edmonton Immanuel. Advice on matters of discipline were given to these churches.

The Church of Calgary requested concurring advice from classis and the deputies of Regional Synod,(as per article 13 of CO) with respect to the retirement of their minister Rev. J.P. Kalkman. After reviewing the relevant documents, classis gave concurring advice. A letter is received from the deputies of Regional Synod, Rev A.J. Pol and Rev. W.M. Wielenga in which they also provide concurring advice.

Classis thanked Rev. Kalkman for the work he has done in the Classis and his congregation. The sentiment was expressed that Rev. Hans Kalkman and his wife Gerda may enjoy their years of retirement. The vice-chairman then read Psalm 92:12-15. Rev. Kalkman responded with some appropriate words.

Classis appointed the Church at Neerlandia as the convening church for the next classis to be convened on June 9, 2015 (alternate date October 6, 2015). The suggested officers: chairman: Rev A.B. Roukema, vice-chairman: Rev R. Aasman, clerk: Rev. J.Louwerse.

As per classis regulations, the following appointments were made:

- a. Treasurer: John Buitenbos.
- b. Church to audit the books of the treasurer: St.Albert.
- c. Church for care of the archives: Edmonton Providence.
- d. Church to inspect the archives: Edmonton Immanuel.
- e. Church visitors: Rev. R. Aasman, J.Louwerse, (convenor) A.B. Roukema.
- f. Committee for examiners: Rev. R. Aasman, W.B. Slomp.
- g. Examiners:
 - 1) Exegesis OT: Rev. R. Aasman.
 - 2) Exegesis NT: Rev. J.Louwerse.
 - 3) Knowledge of Scripture: Rev. A.B. Roukema.
 - 4) Doctrine and Creeds: Rev. W.B. Slomp.
 - 5) Church History: Rev. T. Vandergaag.
 - 6) Ethics: Rev. C. VanderLinde.
 - 7) Church Polity: J.Louwerse.
 - 8) Diaconiology: Rev. A.B. Roukema.
- h. Committee for Financial Aid to Needy Churches: Brs. C. DeBoer (Immanuel), W. Noot (St.Albert), and J. Vanderdeen (Barrhead).
- i. Deputy for Contact with the Provincial Government: Rev. E.J. Tiggelaar.
- j. Observer to the RCUS: Rev. A.B. Roukema.
- k. Observer to the URCNA: Rev C.Vanderlinde (North), alternate Rev. T. Vandergaag (South).
- l. Pulpit Supply coordinator: Rev. J.Louwerse.

Opportunity was given for questions. The chairman judged that censure according to Article 34 CO was not necessary. He thanked the brothers for their good cooperation. The Acts were adopted and the press release was approved for publication. Rev. J. Louwerse led in prayer and Classis was closed.

Rev. John Louwerse
Vice-chairman at the time.