

## **Press Release of Classis Manitoba held on March 27, 2015**

### **At the Canadian Reformed Church at Carman West**

#### **Opening**

On behalf of the Canadian Reformed Church at Carman West, Dr. A.J. Pol opened the meeting by reading Romans 10:1-13 and led in prayer. He requested the singing of Psalm 67. He welcomed all present, particularly the fraternal delegate, Rev. Todd De Rooy. As memorabilia it was noted that both the call extended to Rev. Schouten by the Winnipeg Grace congregation as well as the call extended to Rev. Swets by Winnipeg Redeemer to serve as missionary for Mission Manitoba were declined. It was also noted that Denver American Reformed Church is now vacant. Br. W. Gortemaker, who has served classis as a deputy for contact with neighbouring classes/presbyteries and is now seriously ill, was also remembered.

#### **Examination of Credentials and Constitution of Classis**

The credentials of the delegates were examined by the brothers from the Carman West Canadian Reformed Church and reported to be in order. All the churches were properly represented by the primary delegates. Classis was declared constituted.

#### **Appointment of Executive Officers**

The suggested officer from Classis Manitoba January, 2015, Rev. J. Poppe, was appointed as president. Nominated and appointed to serve as vice-president was br. Darren Kuik and as clerk br. Wayne Versteeg. The president thanked the convening church for the organization of Classis.

#### **Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was adopted with one additional item of correspondence.

#### **Seating of Fraternal Delegates**

Rev. Todd De Rooy from the Redeemer United Reformed Church in Orange City, Iowa was welcomed and seated as fraternal delegate. He was informed that he had all privileges of the floor except voting. Candidate David Winkel was present as an observer.

#### **Reports**

The treasurer for Classis Manitoba, br. Henry Veldman from the church at Carman East, submitted his report and since there is a healthy balance in the account, an assessment of \$5 per communicant member is recommended for 2015, down from the \$10 in the previous year. Travel reimbursement is set at 49 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 corrections were necessary on two documents. The report was received with gratitude.

The Deputy for Contact with the Manitoba Provincial Government reported that during this past year, there have been no requests to make arrangements for ministers from outside of the province of Manitoba to solemnize marriages and to the best of their knowledge, there are no other provincial matters of ecclesiastical importance to the churches to bring to our attention at this time. This report was received for information.

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. 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. The church visitation to Denver American Reformed Church has not yet taken place.

#### **Proposals and/or instructions from the churches (Art.33, C.O.)**

Overtures from Winnipeg Redeemer recommending increased involvement of the home church in the support of theological students, and recommending that they be examined in their home classis were tabled for discussion. The proposals originally presented at a previous Classis meeting held on September 19, 2014 were clarified and adjusted as per the feedback received at that time and Classis decided to approve the overtures to be sent on to Regional Synod West 2015.

#### **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. The church at Winnipeg Grace requested advice in a matter of discipline. Classis then entered closed session to deal with this request. Concurring advice was given to Winnipeg Grace. Rev. S. Vandavelde led in intercessory prayer.

#### **Letter of appeal from a brother**

The letter of appeal sent by the brother is deemed inadmissible by Classis.

## **Addresses by Fraternal Delegates**

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. A letter of greeting from the Providence URC delegate was read by the president expressing thankfulness for the unity between Providence URC and the Canadian/American Reformed Churches of Classis Manitoba. 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. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to be here. He gave an update on Divine Hope Reformed Seminary, a prison ministry taking place in several institutions in Illinois and Indiana. The Lord is blessing this work of spreading the gospel. Classis Central US is re-evaluating its process of church planting with a view to establishing more church plants. He also gave a brief update on the work of CERCU within the URC. He gave encouragement to the Canadian/American Reformed churches as fellow holders of the message of the saving work of Jesus Christ. The president responded with fitting words. Dr. A. J. Pol brought these churches as well as the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the OPC and Northern Plains Classis of the RCUS before the Lord in intercessory prayer.

## **Correspondence**

A letter was received from Rev. R. J. Kampen expressing his appreciation for the time and experience he had working in Classis Manitoba as well as encouragement in the continuing work and a desire for the continuing grace of God for the churches of Classis Manitoba.

Invitation to meeting of the Presbytery of the Dakotas April 7, 2015 is to be passed on to the newly appointed deputies noted in the next article. A letter of introduction and greeting will be sent on behalf of Classis Manitoba.

Invitation and agenda was received from Classis Central US of the URCNA to classis meeting scheduled for April 13, 2015 is to be passed on to the newly appointed deputies noted in the next article. A letter of introduction and greeting will be sent on behalf of Classis Manitoba.

## **Appointments**

Classis Manitoba appointed brs. Ron Vanderzwaag of Carman West and Jacob Kuik of Winnipeg Redeemer as Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries with br. Peter Veenendaal of Winnipeg Redeemer as alternate.

The church of Denver will serve as the convening church for the next Classis. Winnipeg Grace will serve as host church. It will be convened, D.V., on June 26, 2015 (or, if deemed not necessary then, September 25, 2015). The suggested president for next Classis is Rev. S. Vandevelde.

## **Personal Question Period**

This was not made use of.

**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, Darren Kuik, Vice-president at that time.