

Press release, Classis Pacific East, Lynden, September 24, 2015

On behalf of the convening church of Lynden, B. Wielenga opened the meeting in a Christian manner. The delegates were welcomed; special welcome was also extended to S. Swets from the Immanuel Covenant United Reformed Church in Abbotsford. The delegates of the church at Chilliwack examined the credentials and reported a result that was satisfactory to the meeting, the churches were duly represented. The officers were appointed as suggested by the previous classis: A. Pol chair; B. Wielenga vice-chair; A. Witten clerk. S. Swets was seated as fraternal delegate.

Brother Swets was given the opportunity to address classis. He spoke encouraging words and exhorted the churches to remain steadfast in the confession of the Word of God in the face of threats to pure doctrine. The chairman thanked brother Swets for his address.

The church at Abbotsford submitted a proposal to change the classis regulations in a number of Articles to better regulate the timing of various appointments and committee/deputy reporting. The proposal was adopted.

The church at Lynden submitted a proposal to make changes to the Belgic Confession. It requested classis to overture next regional synod to overture next general synod to make changes to Articles 12 and 14 of the Belgic Confession in order to explicitly safeguard the churches against evolutionary theories. The proposal was not adopted: classis concluded that Lynden had not sufficiently proven that the present form of the confession was inadequate to address the concerns that Lynden raised.

Classis received a report from the Committee for Needy Churches: no requests from the churches, no activity for the committee; the report was received with thanks. Visits to all six of the classis churches were reported by church visitors; the visitation reports were received with thanks.

Under question period ad Article 44 of the Church Order, all the churches affirmed that the ministry of the office-bearers was being continued and that the decisions of major assemblies were being honored. Two churches requested and received classis' advice in matters of church government and pastoral supervision.

Classis made various appointments, among which: Yarrow will be the convening church for the next classis; date: December 10, 2015; alternate date: February 25, 2016; church visitors were appointed; delegates for Regional Synod West (November 2, 2015) will be: ministers R.A. Schouten and B. Wielenga (alternates in order: R.C. Janssen and A. Witten); elders: B. Meerstra and J. Bareman (alternates in order: J.A. Roukema and C. DeHaas).

Opportunity was given for personal questions. The chairman noted thankfully that censure according to Article 34 of the Church Order was not needed.

The Acts were read and adopted; the Press Release was read and approved for publication in the *Church News* and on the website of the churches.

The chairman led the meeting in prayer after which he closed the meeting.

For Classis Pacific East, September 24, 2015
B. Wielenga