

Press Release of Classis Manitoba convened in the Grace Canadian Reformed Church in Winnipeg on October 9, 2015

1. On behalf of the Emmanuel Reformed Church of Denver, Elder G. Hagg called the meeting to order. He requested that the brothers sing Hymn 3:1,5, read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16, and led in prayer. He welcomed all present, in particular Candidate H.J. Vanderhorst, and the deputies of Regional Synod, Rev. R. Aasman and Rev. A. Souman, as well as Rev. W. Slomp who was willing to be present to help with the examination of Candidate Vanderhorst, and Elder H. Nagtegaal who was present as fraternal delegate from the Providence Reformed Church.
2. The credentials of the delegates were examined by the brothers from the convening church and reported to be in order.
3. Classis was declared constituted.
4. The following officers were appointed:
 - a. President: Rev. S. Vandavelde
 - b. Vice President: Rev. J. Poppe
 - c. Clerk: Dr. A.J. Pol.
5. For memorabilia it was mentioned that the Lord took home Rev. van Beveren, emeritus minister of the Providence CanRC in Edmonton, on October 8 at age 94. The church at Denver remains vacant, and Winnipeg Grace has extended a call to Candidate Rick Vanderhorst, which has been accepted.
6. The agenda was adopted after a few adjustments.
7. The deputies of Regional Synod, Rev. W. Slomp and a fraternal delegate, br. Henry Nagtegaal from the Providence Reformed Church (URCNA) in Winnipeg were seated.
8. At this Classis Candidate H.J. Vanderhorst, who has accepted the call extended to him by the Grace Canadian Reformed Church of Winnipeg, presented himself for a peremptory examination. Classis examined the documentation, and found all to be in order. Since Dr. A.J. Pol is Candidate Rick Vanderhorst's father-in-law, he with the advice of others recused himself from participating in the examination. This left only two ministers in Classis to conduct the examination. The examiners, in consultation with the deputies of regional synod, decided to ask Rev. W. Slomp to help with part of the examination, and Rev. R. Aasman volunteered to administer one exam.
9. Candidate Vanderhorst proceeded to read Luke 7:36-50, and to deliver his sermon proposal on this text. Classis deemed this sermon proposal sufficient to continue with the rest of the examination, and the deputies of regional synod gave their concurring advice.
10. Candidate Vanderhorst was examined in exegesis Old Testament, exegesis New Testament, knowledge of contents of Holy Scripture, doctrine and creeds, church history, church polity, ethics, church polity and diaconiology. Classis went into closed session to evaluate the exam. It deemed the exam sufficient, and the deputies of regional synod concurred, opening the way for Candidate Vanderhorst to be ordained as Minister of the Word. The support for the Vanderhorst family was examined, and deemed to be sufficient.
11. The president read the Form of Subscription, and Candidate Vanderhorst was asked to sign it, indicating his willingness to preach and teach the Word of God as summarised in the Three Forms of Unity. The president read from 1 Peter 5:6-11, led in a prayer of thanksgiving, and invited all present to sing from Psalm 147:1,4. He thanked the deputies

of regional synod for their presence at classis and giving concurring advice in the examination of brother Vanderhorst, and Rev. Slomp for participating in the examination. Classis adjourned and an opportunity was given to congratulate Candidate Vanderhorst. A certificate of admission to the ministry of the Canadian Reformed Churches was issued. Classis appointed Dr. A.J. Pol to be present at the ordination of Candidate Vanderhorst and pass on its greetings.

12. In closed session, the church visitors reported on a visit to the Emmanuel American Reformed Church of Denver. The visitors' report was received with thankfulness, and prayer was offered for this church.
13. Brother J. Kuik gave a verbal report from Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes / Presbyteries. The deputies have met with a previous deputy to be informed of recent developments in this work. The deputies recognize a need to be active in visiting the neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries, and are planning to do so this coming spring.
14. Letters of greeting were received from the stated clerks of Classis Central US (of the URCNA) and of the Presbytery of the Dakotas (of the OPC).
15. A proposal was received from Winnipeg Redeemer that a letter be drafted by Classis to introduce our new Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classis and Presbyteries to the RCUS. This was done with the OPC and the URCNA by the last Classis. Classis approved this proposal and the clerk will draft a letter.
16. Brother H. Nagtegaal brought greetings from the Providence Reformed Church. He spoke of God's mighty deeds, of the waywardness of our society, and the need for the light of the gospel to continue to be proclaimed. He expressed thankfulness at the outcome of Candidate Vanderhorst's examination, and expressed appreciation for the preaching of our ministers and the close bond between our churches. Brother Nagtegaal was thanked for coming, and prayer was offered for our sister churches.
17. The Committee for Aid to Needy Churches presented a report. Due to an unexpected decrease in the exchange value of the Canadian dollar the committee does not have sufficient funds to meet Denver's needs this year. The committee requests an additional assessment of \$6 per communicant member for this year, and Classis approves of this request. The Committee also outlines Denver's needs in the coming years, especially if they call a minister. In connection with this the committee raised part of their mandate, which is that from time to time Classis needs to review the financial viability of the church of Denver. It noted that although there has not been as much growth as hoped for, the congregation has shown resilience in the face of difficulties. In order to facilitate the calling of a minister in 2016, Classis approves an assessment increase from \$50 per communicant member in 2015 to \$60 per communicant member in 2016. The delegates from the church of Denver expressed their sincere thanksgiving for the on-going support of the churches in Classis Manitoba. The president led in prayer, remembering the church of Denver and praying that in due time the Lord bless this congregation with their own pastor and teacher again.
18. The Church for Auditing the books for Aid to Needy Churches (Winnipeg Redeemer) reported that the books were found to be in good order.
19. The Committee for Students of Theology presented its report. The churches continue to encourage our men to consider studying for the ministry. Various young men who have expressed interest in pursuing studies at our Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary are being mentored.

20. A proposal was received from Carman West to change the rules of Classis, requiring candidates presenting themselves to Classis for either a preparatory or peremptory examination to present three sermons instead of the current one. Then if the sermon presented at Classis is deemed insufficient, Classis can still make a decision to proceed with the examination if the other sermons are deemed sufficient. Classis decided not to adopt this proposal.
21. Question Period according to Art. 44 C.O. was held.
22. Appointments.
 - a. The convening church for the next classis is the Grace Canadian Reformed Church. The classis is scheduled to be held, the Lord willing on December 11, 2015, at 3:00 pm. Alternate date: March 11, 2016 at 3:00 pm.
 - b. The suggested officers for the next classis are:
 - i. President: Dr. A.J. Pol.
 - c. Various standing committees, examiners for ecclesiastical exams, classical deputies, and church visitors are appointed.
 - d. The following delegates were appointed to Regional Synod West, November 2, 2015: As ministers, Dr. A.J. Pol and Rev. J. Poppe, with Rev. S. Vandeveld and Rev. H.J. Vanderhorst as first and second alternates; as elders Les Vanderveen and Wayne Versteeg, with John Toet and W (Bill) van Beek as first and second alternates.
23. Personal question period was held.
24. No censure according to Art. 34 of the Church Order was necessary.
25. The Acts were adopted and the Press Release approved for publication.
26. The president requested that the brothers sing from Ps.147:6 and led in closing prayer.

For Classis Manitoba
October 9, 2015

J. Poppe
Vice-president at that time.