

Press Release Regional Synod West

*Convened in the Canadian Reformed Church at Abbotsford, BC
November 2, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.*

1. On behalf of the Grace Canadian Reformed Church in Winnipeg, br. Wayne Versteeg opened Regional Synod, requesting that the delegates sing Psalm 146:1 and 3. He then read Psalm 146 and led in prayer.
2. Br. Versteeg reported that the credentials were found to be in order. All the primary delegates were present.
3. Regional Synod West was declared constituted.
4. The following executive officers were appointed: Rev. R.A. Schouten as Chairman, Dr. A.J. Pol as Vice-Chairman, and Rev. W. Wielenga as clerk. Rev. Schouten thanked the convening church for their preparations and the church of Abbotsford for hosting the meeting.
5. Adoption of the Agenda. The agenda was adopted and it was noted that some letters were received with names of nominees for delegation to General Synod.
6. Correspondence was received from the churches at Abbotsford and Surrey in regard to an overture from Classis Manitoba regarding theological students. These were brought into the discussion of the proposal itself.
7. The proposal from Classis Manitoba, which consisted of two parts, was deemed admissible. The first part of the proposal argued that a student of theology should remain under the financial care of his home church. An amendment was adopted to clarify that the student's home church is the church that submitted a special attestation to the Theological Seminary, recommending the person for study at the Theological Seminary. The financial care envisioned would involve consultation between the home church and the existing Committee for Needy Students of Theology. The home church would be responsible for submitting the student's budget to the Committee for Needy Students of Theology, providing explanations for any exceptional circumstances that require support different from a typical budget. The Committee for Needy Students of Theology will retain responsibility for assessing the churches and collecting funds from them, and for forwarding the actual support to needy theological students. This was adopted. The second part of the proposal from Classis Manitoba was that a student should be examined by his home Classis to be given consent to speak an edifying word, or to be declared eligible for call. The main reason for this was to spread the responsibility of examining students more evenly upon different Classes. This second part of the proposal was also adopted after a few amendments.
8. The following reports were received with gratitude:
 - a) Report from Regional Synod Treasurer, (J. Moedt).
 - b) Report from Church for Auditing the books of the Treasurer (Taber)
 - c) Report from the church for inspecting the archives (Edmonton-Immanuel)
 - d) Deputies Reports:
 - i. 2013 Oct 2 - re: retirement of Rev. W. B. Slomp
 - ii. 2013 Oct 16 - re: peremptory examination of Candidate B. Schoof
 - iii. 2013 Dec 12 - re: peremptory examination of Candidate C. Vanderlinde
 - iv. 2015 Feb 23 - re: peremptory examination of Candidate T. Vandergaag
 - v. 2015 Mar 11 - re: retirement of Rev. J. P. Kalkman (Calgary)
 - vi. 2015 Oct 5 - re: dismissal ad Church Order Article 11 of Rev R.J. Kampen

- vii. 2015 Oct 10 - re: peremptory examination of Candidate H.J. Vanderhorst
9. The following appointments / reappointments were made:
- a. Br. J. Moedt was reappointed as Regional Synod Treasurer
 - b. Church for Auditing the books of the Treasurer: Taber
 - c. Deputies ad Art. 48 C.O.
 Classis Manitoba: Dr. A.J. Pol; alternates: Revs. J. Poppe and Rev. S. Vandavelde (in that order).
 Classis Alberta: Rev. R. Aasman; alternates: Rev. T. Roukema, C. Vanderlinde (in that order)
 Classis Pacific East: Rev. W.M. Wielenga; alternates: Revs. R. Schouten and K. Janssen (in that order)
 Classis Pacific West: Rev. A. Souman; alternates: Revs. J.G. Slaa and T. Lodder (in that order)
 When concurring advice is needed, the Classes will ask for Deputies as follows:
 Manitoba – Alberta and Pacific West
 Alberta– Manitoba and Pacific East
 Pacific East– Pacific West and Alberta
 Pacific West – Pacific East and Manitoba
 - d. Church for taking care of the archives: Edmonton Providence.
 - e. Church for inspecting the archives: Edmonton Immanuel.
 - f. General Synod 2016
 - i. The following brothers were chosen as delegates to General Synod.
Elders: K. Dykstra, H. Leyenhorst, B. Meerstra, J. Roukema, W. van Beek, J. van Spronsen. Alternates: A. VanLeeuwen, H. Ludwig, L. Wierenga (in that order).
Ministers: R. Aasman, K. Janssen, R. de Jonge, J. Poppe, R.A. Schouten, W.M. Wielenga. Alternates: C. van Dam, A. Souman, J.G. Slaa (in that order).
 - ii. The remuneration for loss of wages for delegates to General Synod was set at a maximum of \$200 per day. The travel rate was set at 48 cents per kilometer.
 - iii. Rev. J.G. Slaa was nominated for a position on the Board of Governors of the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary.
10. The Next Regional Synod is scheduled to be convened by the Aldergrove Canadian Reformed Church on November 7, 2016, at 7:30 p.m.
11. Question Period was held.
12. Opportunity for censure ad Art. 34 C.O. was not made use of.
13. The executive officers were entrusted with finalizing the adoption of the Acts and the Press Release.
14. Rev. Schouten closed the meeting with prayer.

Dr. A.J. Pol, Vice-Chairman at that time