

Press Release of Classis Alberta – St. Albert, March 8, 2016

On behalf of the convening church of St. Albert, Rev. A.B. Roukema welcomed the brothers and opened the meeting in a Christian manner. The delegates from the church of St. Albert reported that upon the examination of the credentials all of the churches were duly represented. Classis was declared constituted, and officers were appointed: Rev. R. Aasman chairman, Rev. C. Vanderlinde vice-chairman, Rev. A.B. Roukema clerk. Rev. W. Slomp was welcomed by Classis in an advisory capacity. Rev. R. Pontier was welcomed as a fraternal delegate of the URCNA. The agenda was adopted.

A report was received with thankfulness from Rev. E.J. Tiggelaar, the Classis appointment for contact with the Provincial Government.

Classis entered into closed session for church visitation reports regarding the churches of Taber and Edmonton-Immanuel. These reports were received with thankfulness for the Lord's blessing.

The church of Neerlandia requested concurring advice for their proposal to institute a new church in the Neerlandia area. Upon reviewing the relevant information provided, and seeing that everything was in good order, Classis gave concurring advice, judging that the proposal had adequate support of the overseeing consistory, that the new congregation will be financially viable, and that there will be sufficient men to serve as office bearers. Upon the request of the church of Neerlandia, Classis appointed Rev. E.J. Tiggelaar as counsellor for the prospective Neerlandia-South congregation. Rev. C. Vanderlinde will continue as counsellor for the Neerlandia-North congregation.

Requests for pulpit supply by the vacant churches at Calgary, Coaldale, St. Albert, and the two Neerlandia congregations is granted.

A request was received from the church of Edmonton-Immanuel to approbate the call extended to Rev. J. VanSpronsen. Upon review of the required documents, the call of Rev. VanSpronsen to the Edmonton-Immanuel church was approved by Classis with joy and gratitude. The church of Edmonton-Immanuel informed Classis that the installation of Rev. VanSpronsen will take place, the Lord willing, on April 10th. Rev. A.B. Roukema was appointed to represent Classis at the installation.

The chairman asked the questions required by Article 44 of the Church Order. All the churches responded affirmatively that the ministry of the office bearers is being continued and that the decisions of the major assemblies are being honored. The church of Barrhead requested and received, in closed session, the advice of Classis for the proper government of the church.

Various appointments were made, among which: Taber is the convening church for the next Classis; the date is set for June 7th, 2016; with the alternate date set for October 4th, 2016.

Rev. R. Pontier addressed Classis on behalf of the URCNA, and he informed the delegates of the upcoming Summit Youth Conference being hosted in the summer of 2016 under the supervision of the Calgary URC church, and encouraged CanRC participation. He spoke about the process and remaining obstacles in the unity-relations between the URCNA and CanRC churches. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to support and encourage one another in the work of the gospel, and expressed the hope that each federation may strive to put the interests of each other before our own.

One brother made use of the personal question period. The Acts were adopted, and press release approved. After prayer, the chairman declared Classis closed.

For Classis,

C. Vanderlinde

Vice-Chairman, at that time.