

Press Release of Classis Manitoba held on March 11, 2016

At the Canadian Reformed Church of Winnipeg Grace

Opening

On behalf of the Grace Canadian Reformed Church at Winnipeg, Rev. Rick VanderHorst opened the meeting by reading Psalm 48 and requesting we sing Psalm 48: 1, 4 after which he then led in prayer. He welcomed all present, particularly the fraternal delegates, Rev. Greg. Hoadley and elder Andy Bakker as well as the Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries, brothers Jacob Kuik and Peter Veenendaal.

Examination of Credentials and Constitution of Classis

The credentials of the delegates were examined by the brothers from the Winnipeg Grace 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 October, 2015, Dr. Andrew Pol, was appointed as president. Nominated and appointed to serve as vice-president was elder Wayne Versteeg and as clerk elder Dale DeWit. The president thanked the convening church for the organization of Classis. As memorabilia it was noted that The Emmanuel American Reformed Church at Denver is still vacant and encouragement is given. Since the last Classis held in October of 2015, Rev. Rick VanderHorst was ordained as minister of the Word in the Winnipeg Grace Church. Winnipeg Redeemer called Rev. Ryan deJonge for Mission Manitoba and that call was declined. Rev. Todd De Rooy of the Redeemer United Reformed Church in Orange City, Iowa who had planned to join us today was unable to attend due to a sudden death of one of the members of his congregation.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Seating of Fraternal Delegates

Elder Andy Bakker from the Providence Reformed Church (URC) at Winnipeg and Rev. Greg Hoadley from the OPC Presbytery of the Dakotas were welcomed and seated as fraternal delegates. They were informed that they had all privileges of the floor except voting. Likewise the Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries, brothers Jacob Kuik and Peter Veenendaal were also seated with the same privileges.

Reports

The treasurer for Classis Manitoba, br. Henry Veldman, submitted his report and suggested an assessment of \$10 per communicant member for 2016. Travel reimbursement is set at 45 cents/km. Classis agrees to the suggested assessment. 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. The report was received with gratitude.

The Deputy for Contact with the Manitoba Provincial Government reported that during the past year, arrangements were made for Rev. Rolf den Hollander, now living outside of the province of Manitoba, to solemnize a marriage on May 15th, 2015. Application was made for Rev. Rick VanderHorst on September 22d, 2015 to The Vital Statistics Agency to perform marriages. The process was expedited since Rev. Rick VanderHorst would be officiating a marriage shortly after his ordination. To the best of their knowledge, there were no other provincial matters of ecclesiastical importance to the churches to bring to our attention at this time. This report was received for information. The work of the deputies is noted with thanksgiving.

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. Elder Ron Raap led in prayer for Carman East, elder Wayne Versteeg for Carman West, elder Chris Huffer for Winnipeg Grace and deacon Johan Sterk for Winnipeg Redeemer. The church visitation to Denver American Reformed Church has not yet taken place.

Br. Jake Kuik deputy for Contact with Neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries gives a verbal report of intentions to attend Classis at URC Classis Central in Iowa along with br. Ron Vanderzwaag. They also intend to attend the Presbytery of the Dakotas being held in Denver. The work is remembered in prayer by elder Jon DeWit.

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

None

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. Further help or judgement of Classis is not needed.

Addresses by Fraternal Delegates

An emailed letter from Rev. Todd De Rooy of the Redeemer United Reformed Church in Orange City, Iowa was read expressing his inability to attend after all due to a sudden death of one of the members of his congregation. He passed on greetings from Classis Central US of the URCNA. He also passes on that Classis Central US will be convening, Lord willing, on Monday, March 14, and adjourning, Lord willing, on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 and requested we pray for their Classis. He also pointed out that their Spring Classis generally consists of hearing various reports from Synodical committee representatives, and Classical committees. A few overtures they will consider are, one seeking changes in our Proposed Liturgical Forms for this upcoming Synod in June, 2016, another proposing the formation of a committee to consider a revised Church Order for the URCNA and a third overture seeking the organization of one of the church plants in their Classis, Sioux Falls URC, for which they give thanks and praise to God! He ends off with words of encouragement from 1 Peter 1: 3-7. Rev. Joe Poppe led in intercessory prayer. Elder Andy Bakker from the Providence Reformed Church in Winnipeg of the URCNA was given the opportunity to address Classis and expressed thankfulness for the unity between Providence URC and the Canadian/American Reformed Churches of Classis Manitoba. He noted some the opportunities that have been used for interaction over the past year and encourages that it continues in order to strengthen and build on our relationship. Rev. Rick VanderHorst led in intercessory prayer. Rev. Greg Hoadley was given the opportunity to address Classis on behalf of the OPC Presbytery of the Dakotas. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to represent the OPC in person rather the letters that we have typically received. He also noted with appreciation the relationship with our churches and encouraged us in our work. Rev. Steve Vandavelde led in intercessory prayer.

Appointments

The Redeemer Canadian Reformed church at Winnipeg will serve as the convening church for the next Classis. It will be convened, D.V., on June 24, 2016 (or, if deemed not necessary then, September 23, 2016). The suggested president for next Classis is Rev. Poppe

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,

Wayne Versteeg

Vice-president at that time.