

Press Release of Classis Pacific West held on April 12, 2016

On behalf of the convening church at Surrey-Maranatha, Rev. Ben. Schoof welcomes all the delegates. He extends a special welcome to candidate Schouten, who will undergo his peremptory examination, to Rev. Andrew Pol and Bill Wielenga who are in attendance as deputies for Regional Synod West, the family, friends and other interested guests in attendance. He reads Matthew 9:35 - 10:20 and invites all present to sing Hy 76:2,4 and leads in prayer.

The credentials are examined by the convening church of the previous classis, the church of Smithers, and found to be in order. Classis is declared constituted and the officers suggested by the last classis take their place: Rev. Doug Vandeburgt, chairman; Rev. Ben Schoof, vice-chairman; Rev. Theo Lodder, clerk.

Rev. Vandeburgt notes various memorabilia including the following:

- Rev. Theo Lodder is present after a number of absences due to the health struggles of his wife Marina.
- Rev. Anthon Souman accepted a call to the Free Reformed Church (FRCA) of Kelmscott, Western Australia.
- Rev. Ryan deJonge declined a call to mission work in Southern Manitoba from the church of Winnipeg Redeemer, and is considering a call from FRCA Armadale for mission work in Papua New Guinea.
- Rev. James Visscher has returned from a successful trip to Asia.
- Rev. Julius VanSpronsen led his final service in Aldergrove church to bring conclusion his work in Brazil.
- Rev. Jim Witteveen is present, after accepting the call to Mission work in Brazil. He and his family is wished the Lord's blessing for their upcoming move.
- Smithers is approaching its 60th anniversary.

The agenda was adopted with some additions.

The first item was the peremptory examination of br. Tim Schouten, missionary-elect of the Prince George Mission project overseen by Smithers. Revs. Andrew Pol and Bill Wielenga were present as deputies from regional synod. Br. Schouten delivered a sermon on Psalm 96: 1-5. After discussion, Classis deemed the sermon sufficient to continue with the examination, and the deputies of Regional Synod concurred. Classis then proceeded to examine br. Schouten on the following topics: Exegesis Old Testament (1 Kings 3 and Psalm 102), Exegesis New Testament (John 1: 1-34 and 1 Peter 1), and Knowledge of Scripture.

Classis then adjourned for lunch.

The examination of br. Schouten resumed, at which time following topics were covered: Doctrine and Creeds, Church History, Ethics, Church Polity and Diaconiology. When the examination was completed Classis went into closed session to discuss it. With great

thankfulness, Classis decided that br. Schouten sustained the examination, and the deputies of Regional Synod concurred. Therefore the way was opened for br. Schouten to be ordained as Missionary of the Word for Smithers, BC. The necessary documents per Church Order and regulations of Classis were submitted by br. Schouten, so the call was approbated.

Classis sang a song of praise and thanked the Lord in prayer.

The Smithers church informed Classis that ordination is set for May 15 in the morning service in the Smithers church. Br. John Siebenga was appointed to represent Classis at his ordination.

The classis treasurer reports on the financial situation of the Classis Pacific West Fund. It is reported that the churches were assessed \$5 per communicant member for the year 2015 which proved more than sufficient to meet reimbursements. The assessment for 2016 will also be \$5.

The Church at Cloverdale, auditors for Classis Pacific West Fund report that the books are in good order. The treasurer is thanked for the work that was done.

The church responsible for the inspection of the archives, Houston, reports. Classis was alerted to a couple of lacunae which will shortly be rectified. The archivist, for Smithers was thanked for his work.

The following church visitation reports are read:

- June 12, 2015 to Maranatha Canadian Reformed Church
- February 22, 2016 to Willoughby Heights Canadian Reformed Church
- February 22, 2016 to Langley Canadian Reformed Church
- February 25, 2016 to Houston Canadian Reformed Church
- February 25, 2016 to Smithers Canadian Reformed Church
- March 2, 2016 to Cloverdale Canadian Reformed Church

With thankfulness classis can note that all things are regulated and done in full harmony with the Word of God, the office-bearers fulfil the duties of their office faithfully as they have promised, and the adopted order is being observed and maintained in every respect. Classis pauses to thank the Lord in prayer.

A letter is received from a brother re: committee for financial aid to needy churches.

The chairman asks the questions re Article 44 of the Church Order. It is noted with thankfulness that the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued and the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured.

Three churches request advice on matters of discipline.

Opportunity is given for the churches to share the status of any mission projects they are involved with:

- Missionary Rev. Witteveen reports on activities and situation in the congregation of Prince George.

- The church at Smithers requests advice about Prince George mission project.
- The church at Surrey-Maranatha reports that with the New Westminster United Reformed Church they will be D.V. hosting TASC, a short-term missions trip for North American teens in July.
- The church at Cloverdale reports on plans for their local outreach project.

The convening church for the next classis is Willoughby and the date is set for June 14, 2016 with an alternate date of September 13, 2016. The suggested officers for the next Classis are: Rev. Ben Schoof as chairman; Rev. Theo Lodder, vice-chairman; and Rev. James Slaa, clerk.

The following appointments are made with respect to examinations: Committee for examination: Revs. Slaa and Lodder; Exegesis OT: Rev. Van Dam; Exegesis NT: Rev. Schoof; Scripture Knowledge: Rev. deJonge; Doctrine and Creeds: Rev. Vandeburgt; Church History: Rev. Van Dam; Ethics: Rev. deJonge; Church Polity: Rev. Slaa; Diaconology: Rev. Vandeburgt.

The following ministers are appointed as church visitors: deJonge, Lodder, Slaa, Van Dam, Vandeburgt (convenor).

The church at Smithers is appointed to take care of the archives.

The church at Houston is appointed to inspect the archives.

Br. Jake Kuik is re-appointed as the treasurer of Classis.

The church at Cloverdale is appointed as the church to audit the books of the treasurer.

Br. Jerome Lengkeek is appointed to the committee for financial aid to needy churches.

Rev. Ryan deJonge is appointed as deputy for preaching arrangements in vacant churches.

Rev. Theo Lodder is appointed as deputy coordinating ecclesiastical contacts.

Personal question period is made use of.

The chairman notes with thankfulness that nothing censurable was said or done during the meeting. The Acts of Classis are presented and adopted. The press release is presented and approved. After inviting the delegates to sing a hymn, the chairman closes the meeting with prayer.

For Classis,



Rev. Ben Schoof, vice-chairman at that time.