

Classis Pacific East held in Vernon, September 22, 2016

Press Release

On behalf of the convening church Rev. Witten welcomes the brothers; invites them to sing Psalm 119:13,15; reads with them 1 Corinthians 1:1-17; and leads in prayer.

Rev. Witten is appointed chairman, Rev. Eikelboom vice-chairman, and Rev. Janssen clerk.

After the agenda is adopted, the chairman welcomes the Rev. Witteveen (recently installed missionary of the church at Aldergrove), Rev. Roosma (fraternal delegate from the URCNA) and Rev. Baloy (fraternal delegate from the RCUS). The chairman reads the Form of Subscription adopted for use in classis meetings (see Page 661 of the *Book of Praise*) and Rev. Witteveen adds his name to the list of signatories. This is noted with gratitude. The chairman grants all three of these brothers the privilege of the floor.

A letter is received from Rev. Richard Stetler, permanent home missions committee of the Western Classis of the RCUS, explaining that their mission work is stretching their financial resources and requesting, therefore, that we consider supporting their work. Classis decides that the church at Chilliwack shall, as yet, present the churches with a report of their visit to the most recent Western Classis of the RCUS together with the *Report of the Western Classis Home Missions Committee – 2016*, thus enabling all the churches to consider the request.

The church at Vernon reports that they have audited the books of the treasurer and found them to be in good order.

In closed session reports are made on visits to all the churches. The reports indicate that the Church Order is being maintained and that office bearers are fulfilling their duties faithfully. All the delegates are given an opportunity to ask questions regarding every report. These reports are received with gratitude.

The treasurer's report notes a closing balance of \$6,814.48 and suggests an annual assessment for 2017 of \$0.50 per communicant member. Classis also receives this report with gratitude.

Rev. Janssen reports on his visit to Classis Canada-West of the URCNA held March 1, 2016. Subsequently Rev. Roosma, the URCNA delegate, conveys the greetings of his local church (in Kelowna) and classis, and outlines some of the challenges that the URCNA faces. He urges us to go forward in the unity of faith. Rev. Roosma also urges us to (a) patiently continue to express support for and appreciation of the URCNA; and (b) seriously consider the newest edition of the Psalter Hymnal which was developed by the URCNA in conjunction with the OPC. He expresses the prayer that God will indeed cause the unity between Reformed believers to grow. On behalf of classis Rev. Janssen responds.

Rev Baloy conveys the greetings of the Western Classis of the RCUS. He notes that there are two vacant congregations in his classis and outlines some of the challenges that the RCUS faces. He informs classis that the office bearers in the RCUS continue to watch and pray that the marks of the true church are alive and well. He also outlines some of the efforts that are being made by the RCUS to reach out to the lost, both across the United States and also in Kenya, Congo and the Philippines. Rev. Pol responds. Classis gives advice to the churches in response to two questions.

Classis makes the following appointments: responsibility for convening next classis: Abbotsford (on December 8, 2016, or, alternatively on February 23, 2017). Officers: Yarrow to provide chairman; Abbotsford vice-chairman; and Aldergrove clerk. All other appointments remain the same.

The Press Release is approved; the Acts are adopted; Psalm 119:40,42 is sung; and Rev. Witten leads in closing prayer.

Richard Eikelboom, vice-chairman