

Press Release of Classis Manitoba held on September 23, 2016 At the Canadian Reformed Church of Winnipeg Redeemer

Opening

On behalf of the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church at Winnipeg, Rev. Joe Poppe opened the meeting by reading Colossians 1:1-14 and requesting the singing of Psalm 92:1,2 after which he led in prayer. He welcomed a few visitors, in particular, two of the Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries, brs. R. Vanderzwaag and P. Veenendaal.

Examination of Credentials and Constitution of Classis

The credentials of the delegates were examined by the brothers from the Winnipeg Redeemer 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 March 2016, Rev. Joe Poppe, was appointed as president. Nominated and appointed to serve as vice-president was Rev. Steve Vandavelde and as clerk elder Bill van Beek. The president thanked the convening church for the organization of Classis. As memorabilia we noted that since the March Classis, Candidate Hilmer Jagersma declined the call extended to him by the American Reformed Church at Denver. Rev. Joe Poppe declined the call extended to him by the Canadian Reformed Church at Elora. With thanksgiving we noted that Rev. C. Vanspronsen, who was ordained in Carman, MB, has faithfully served the churches as Minister of the Word for 50 years. These matters were brought to the Lord in opening prayer.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Seating of Fraternal Delegates

No fraternal delegates were present.

Reports

Classis received reports from the Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries. These reports brought Classis up to date with regard to Classis Central URCNA, and the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the OPC. A suggestion was made in the report regarding the possibility of retired ministers from our churches assisting the OPC in the Grand Forks area. The deputies could approach retired ministers in our federation about this.

The Committee for Students of Theology also presented a report which Classis received with thankfulness. Brothers Iwan Borst and David Pol have graduated from the Seminary. This report also named several young men who are preparing themselves for the ministry.

The Committee for Aid to Needy Churches presented their report. The committee's recommended level of support from the churches of \$60 per communicant member was approved by classis. The Denver church spoke a word of appreciation for the support received.

Winnipeg Redeemer, the church for auditing the books of the Committee for Aid to Needy Churches, reported that they found the books to be in good order.

In closed session, the Church Visitors reported on a visit to the American Reformed Church at Denver in March 2016. It was noted with gratitude 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. Elder Len Lodder led in prayer for the Denver American Reformed Church.

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

Classis received a letter from the Church of Winnipeg Redeemer, presenting a letter from Rev. Todd De Rooy of Orange City, Iowa who requested Classis MB to convene in Sioux Falls, SD in April 2017, in conjunction with Classis Central of the URCNA. Classis MB encouraged the convening church (Carman East) to respond favourably were Classis to receive a formal request.

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 broader assemblies were being honoured. Several churches requested further help or judgment of Classis. This was dealt with in closed session.

Addresses by Fraternal Delegates

Rev. Anjema passed on greetings on behalf of the Providence URC in Winnipeg along with regrets about his inability to attend. Rev. Talman Wagenmaker, as stated Clerk of Classis Central U.S. (URCNA), passed on encouragement to Classis MB by way of a letter. Dr. Pol led in intercessory prayer for the deputies of Classis and for the churches with which we have contact.

Appointments

The Committee for Aid to Needy Churches requested an appointment to replace br. Alan Dewitt. Classis appointed Tyson Kamminga to this position. Classis especially expressed appreciation for br. Alan Dewitt's long-standing, faithful work on the committee.

The Carman East Canadian Reformed Church will serve as the convening church for the next Classis. It will be convened, D.V., on Dec 9, 2016 (or, if deemed not necessary, March 24, 2017). The suggested president for the next Classis is Rev. Vanderhorst.

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 meeting was closed with the singing of Psalm 92:6,7. The vice-president ended the meeting in prayer.

For Classis Manitoba,



Rev. Steve Vandevelde
Vice-president at that time.