

Press Release of Classis Alberta, October 19, 2016 Held in Calgary, Alberta

On behalf of the convening church, the Church at Taber, Rev. T. Vandergaag opened the meeting by reading Isaiah 43:1-13; he asked that Psalm 111:1 and 5 be sung. In prayer the following matters were mentioned: the institution of Neerlandia South; candidate G. Veurink's acceptance of the call from Neerlandia North; the declines by candidate W. DenHollander to the calls from Calgary and Neerlandia South, candidate D. Pol to Calgary, and candidate J. Torenvliet to St. Albert; the call extended to Rev. R. Vermeulen to Neerlandia South; the ongoing vacancies of Calgary, Neerlandia South, and St. Albert; the installations of Rev. J. Van Spronsen to Edmonton Immanuel, and Rev. J. Huijgen to Coaldale; the commencement of CRTS this past September; the health concerns of Dr. J. DeJong and Dr. N.H. Gootjes, and concerns for their wives as well; finally the recent passing on of Wilma DeJong, the wife of Rev. D. DeJong who served as minister in Edmonton Providence and Calgary.

The credentials were found to be in good order and all delegates were present. Classis was constituted and the following took their respective positions in the executive: chairman: Rev. T. Vandergaag; vice-chairman: Rev. R. Aasman; clerk: Rev. C. Vanderlinde. The deputies for Regional Synod, Rev. J. Poppe and Rev. R. Schouten were welcomed to the meeting, along with Rev. W.B. Slomp who was present for the peremptory examination of Gerard Veurink, and brother Lloyd Van Eeden Petersman from the Lethbridge Trinity URC. The agenda was adopted with one minor modification.

A special welcome was extended to Gerard Veurink who has come to Classis for his peremptory examination. Gerard Veurink presented a sermon on Joshua 10:1-14. After a discussion, it was decided to continue the examination. Brother Veurink was then examined on the various subjects in a peremptory examination. Classis decided with thankfulness that brother Gerard Veurink sustained his examination; the deputies of Regional Synod gave concurring advice. The call extended to brother Veurink by the Church at Neerlandia North was approbated, and he signed the Subscription to the Confession. At this time Rev. J. Van Spronsen and Rev. J. Huijgen, who recently came to this Classis, also signed the Subscription Form.

The report from the Classis Treasurer was received with thankfulness. The church for the inspection of the books of the Treasurer (St. Albert) reported that the books were in good order. This report was received with appreciation.

It was decided to grant the churches at Calgary, Neerlandia South, and St. Albert pulpit supply. Rev. T. Vandergaag will arrange a schedule.

A proposal from the Church of Taber to make a change to Classis regulations was adopted. The change corrects an error in the regulations concerning the documents required for a minister's certificate of release. The change reads, "Letter of release from the minister's current congregation (date and time)."

Question period according to Article 44 of CO was held. All the churches answered that the ministry of the office bearers was being continued, and that the decisions of the assemblies were being honoured. None of the churches requested the judgement and help of Classis for the proper government of their church.

Classis appointed the Church at Barrhead as the convening church for the next Classis to be convened on December 6, 2016 (alternate date March 7, 2017). The suggested officers: chairman: Rev J. Van Spronsen; vice-chairman: Rev. T. Vandergaag; clerk: Rev R. Aasman.

Rev. J. Huijgen was appointed as examiner for Knowledge of Scripture. Appointed as church visitors are Revs. R. Aasman, J. Huijgen, T. Vandergaag (coordinator), C. Vanderlinde., and J. Van Spronsen.

Brother Lloyd Van Eeden Petersman from the Lethbridge Trinity URC addressed Classis on behalf of the URCNA speaking encouragingly of the relationship we have as churches. Rev. R. Aasman responded. Some points were raised during personal question period. The chairman deemed that brotherly censure (Article 34, CO) was not needed. The Acts were adopted and the Press Release approved.

Rev. R. Aasman led in closing prayer.

Richard Aasman
Vice chairman (at that time)