

## **Press Release of Classis Pacific West held on October 13, 2016**

On behalf of the convening church, Rev. Anthon Souman welcomes all the delegates. He reads Matthew 19:16-30 and invites all present to sing Ps 98:1, 3 and leads in prayer.

The credentials are examined and found to be in order. Classis is declared constituted and the following officers take their place. Rev. Ben Schoof is the chairman, Rev. James Slaa clerk and Rev. Carl Van Dam vice-chairman. The agenda was adopted.

Candidate William den Hollander presented his sermon proposal. This proposal was discussed in closed session as a result of which the proposal is deemed sufficient to proceed with the examination after a short break. Candidate Den Hollander is examined in the topics of Old Testament exegesis, New Testament exegesis, knowledge of Scripture, church history, doctrine and creeds, ethics, church polity and diaconiology. With much thankfulness, Classis decides to sustain the examination of Candidate Den Hollander. The deputies from Regional Synod give their concurring advice in agreement with this. The way is open for Candidate Den Hollander to be ordained as minister of the Word and sacraments at the church of Langley. It was confirmed that all the documents were in good order. Classis appoints Rev. Lodder to represent Classis at the farewell evening for Rev. De Jonge and Rev. Souman to represent Classis at the welcome evening of Candidate Den Hollander on October 30.

The chairman asks the questions re Article 44 of the Church Order. Three churches ask advice regarding matters of the governing of their church and pastoral oversight. In closed session, advice is given. The impact of the updating of the BC Societies Act for churches is briefly discussed.

In closed session, Rev. Lodder presents the church visitation report brought to the church at Surrey on April 28, 2016. This report is received with thankfulness.

Opportunity is given for the churches to share the status of any mission projects they are involved with. Things are going well in the Chinese Reformed church. The work in China and the online Bible college is growing well. Prayer is requested for the Christians in China as their situation grows more difficult.

The convening church of the next Classis is Houston. The date is scheduled for Dec 13, 2016 with an alternate date for April 11, 2017. The suggested officers for the next Classis are: Rev. Carl Van Dam, chairman, Rev. James Slaa, vice-chairman, and Rev. Doug Vandeburgt, clerk.

Two new members for the committee for appeals are needed. Rev. Doug Vandeburgt (convenor) and br. S. De Jong (alternate) are appointed as new members. Rev. Ben Schoof is appointed as the deputy for preaching arrangements in vacant churches. Question period is not 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 Hymn 9, the chairman closes the meeting with prayer.

For Classis,

Rev. Carl Van Dam, vice-chairman at that time