

Press Release of Classis Pacific West convened in the Langley Canadian Reformed Church on January 31, 2017.

This classis was held primarily in response to a request by the Cloverdale Canadian Reformed Church to hold a classis to approbate a decision to dismiss their minister, Rev. Theo Lodder, according to Article 11 of the Church Order (CO).

On behalf of Houston Canadian Reformed Church, the convening church of classis, Rev. Carl VanDam led in opening devotions.

The credentials of the delegates were examined by the brothers from the Willoughby Heights Canadian Reformed Church and reported to be in order. All delegates in attendance were primary delegates.

The following officers were appointed: Chairman: Rev. Carl VanDam; Vice-chairman: Rev. James Slaa; Clerk: Rev. Doug Vandeburgt. In memorabilia, the Chairman noted that the Willoughby-Heights church experienced the departure of their minister, Rev. Anthon Souman. In the meantime, they could joyfully receive news that Rev. Karlo Janssen has accepted the call extended to him.

The agenda was adopted. The Synodical Deputies Rev. Andrew Pol and Rev. Bill Wielenga were seated.

Classis proceeded in closed session.

Classis first dealt with an appeal. Classis then proceeded to the request of Cloverdale that *“Classis approbate our decision to dismiss Rev. Lodder according to Article 11 CO on the grounds that the current situation is no longer functional and workable, and that he be granted honourable release from his calling as a minister of the Cloverdale Canadian Reformed Church.”* Rev. Theo Lodder has acquiesced to the decision of the consistory with the deacons with the understanding that it is in the best interests of the congregation, of himself, and of his family that he would be granted an honourable release from active service as a minister of the Word in Cloverdale. Classis approbated the decision of Cloverdale to dismiss Rev. T. Lodder from his service within the congregation. Classis sought the concurring advice of the deputies of Regional Synod West. The deputies provided concurring advice.

Question Period according to Article 44 CO was held. All churches answered in the affirmative that the ministry of the office-bearers is being maintained and that the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured. Cloverdale requested the appointment of a counsellor. Rev. Doug Vandeburgt was appointed.

The convening church for the next classis is the Langley Canadian Reformed Church. The classis is scheduled to be held on April 11, 2017. The suggested officers for the next classis are Chairman: Rev. James Slaa, Vice-Chairman: Rev. William denHollander, Clerk: Rev. Ben Schoof.

Opportunity was given for personal question period. Censure according to Article 34 CO was deemed unnecessary. The Acts were adopted and the Press Release approved for publication.

Rev. Doug Vandeburgt led in closing devotions.

For Classis Pacific West, January 31, 2017

Pastor James Slaa, Vice-chairman at that time.