

Press Release of Classis Pacific East convened in the Abbotsford Canadian Reformed Church on February 23, 2017.

Rev. Roukema of the convening church welcomed the delegates, including Rev. Lou Slagter from Abbotsford URC. He Read Acts 11:19 - 30, led in prayer and classis sang Hymn 47:3, 4

Rev. Witten, from Vernon, examined the credentials and finds them to be in order, noting that there is a request from Abbotsford for the release of Rev. Janssen who accepted a call to Willoughby Heights Canadian Reformed Church.

Rev. Eikelboom was appointed chairman, Rev. Roukema as vice chair, and Rev. Schouten as clerk.

Classis was constituted, with Rev. Lou Slagter is seated as fraternal delegate from the URC of Abbotsford, and the agenda was adopted. Correspondence was received from the committee of needy churches; from Yarrow, regarding the inspection of archives; and from Abbotsford with respect to the release of Rev. Janssen, upon accepting a call to Willoughby Canadian Reformed Church.

There was a discussion about whether email correspondence should be signed. It is agreed that all documents from the churches should be signed. The church at Aldergrove will investigate whether the regulations cover electronic signature.

Abbotsford submits request for release of their minister Rev. Janssen. Classis accepts the documents submitted and grants Rev. Janssen honourable release to serve as Minister for Willoughby Canadian Reformed Church.

Rev. Lou Slagter addressed classis on behalf of the URC. He expresses gratitude for our ecclesiastical fellowship and expresses his hope and prayer that the unity would grow more and more over time. Rev. Roukema, classis contact with URC, responded with some appropriate words.

Rev. Pol reported on his contact with RCUS. Chilliwack submits a proposal to financially support RCUS mission work. The report is received with gratitude. Classis decides that the support for RCUS is not a classis matter and encourages Chilliwack to facilitate a collection among the churches in Classis Pacific East. Chilliwack graciously agrees to do so.

The chairman asks the three questions with respect article 44 of the church order. Everyone answers yes to the first two questions. Some of the churches request advice for various matters.

The next classis is planned for June 1 and the convening church will be Aldergrove. September 21 is suggested as the alternate date.

Classis suggests that for next classis Abbotsford provide chair, Aldergrove provide vice chair and Chilliwack provide the clerk.

Classis appointed the committee for examinations. Revs. Wielenga and Schouten are appointed as exam coordinators and sermon evaluators. Rev. Wielenga is appointed to examine Old Testament exegesis and church polity; Rev. Witten for New Testament exegesis and diaconiology; Rev. Pol for knowledge of Scripture; Rev. Schouten for doctrine and creeds; Rev. B.J. Berends for Church history; Rev. Roukema for Ethics.

In view of the upcoming departures of Rev. Eikelboom and Rev. Janssen, classis appointed Rev. Witten as a church visitor, effective June 1, 2017. Classis also reappointed as church visitors, Rev. Schouten and Rev. Wielenga.

Aldergrove is appointed to speak on behalf of classis at the farewell of Rev. Janssen. Chilliwack is appointed to speak on behalf of classis at the farewell of Rev. Eikelboom.

The Chairman closes the meeting and leads classis in prayer.

For Classis Pacific East, February 23, 2017-03-02

Rev. Justin Roukema, Vice chairman at that time.