

Press Release of Classis Pacific West held on September 12, 2017

On behalf of the convening church at Smithers, Rev. James Slaa welcomes all the delegates. He reads Ephesians 1:1-14 after inviting all present to sing Hymn 64:1, and he leads in prayer.

As memorabilia he remembers:

- Rev. James Visscher as his heart operation took place yesterday and went well.
- Rev. Karlo Janssen who is present as delegate in this Classis for the first time.
- Rev. Theo Lodder, his family and the Cloverdale congregation.
- The Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary with the new academic year.
- Rev. Frank Dong and Rev. Tim Schouten in their work of mission.

The credentials are examined by the convening church of the previous classis, the church at Langley, and found to be in order. Classis is declared constituted and the officers suggested by the last classis take their place: Rev. Doug Vandeburgt, chairman; Rev. Ben Schoof, vice-chairman; Rev. Carl Van Dam, clerk.

The agenda was adopted with some additions.

The recently installed minister of Willoughby Heights, Rev. R. C. (Karlo) Janssen is asked if he assents to signing the Classical form for subscription. He assents and signs.

A letter is received from the Presbytery of the Northwest of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church asking a fraternal delegate to attend their next meeting at Faith OPC in Grants Pass, Oregon on September 22 & 23, 2017. The deputy for ecclesiastical contacts will respond appropriately.

A proposal is received from the church of Willoughby Heights to move the closing date for submissions to Regional Synod West closer to the date of Synod, in order to allow ecclesiastical assemblies to prepare matters more adequately for Regional Synod. It is approved and will be submitted to Regional Synod West.

The following is reported by the church visitors:

- That advice was given to a church.
- The report of the April 11, 2017 church visit to Maranatha Canadian Reformed Church is read. With thankfulness Classis can note that all things are regulated and done in full harmony with the Word of God, the office-bearers fulfil the duties of their office faithfully as they have promised, and the adopted order is being observed and maintained in every respect.

The chairman asks the questions in Article 44 of the Church Order. It is noted with thankfulness that the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued and the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured.

The judgement and help of Classis is requested for the proper government of a church.

Opportunity is given for the churches to share the status of any mission projects they are involved with:

- Cloverdale reports that good success is being seen from various community Bible studies, with some attendees also expressing interest in joining the church.
- Langley reports that the Asia Mission and Chinese Reformed church is going well. Rev. Dong is currently ill and prayer is requested.
- Smithers reports re: Prince George: visitors are requesting membership and show appreciation for the Reformed faith. Recent seminary graduate Iwan Borst has been approved for a year long internship. Most of his time will be spent in Prince George helping missionary Schouten, and some time in Smithers.
- Willoughby Heights reports on the Burnaby Church Plant operating the Reading Room. Volunteers have been dwindling, but visitors have been received during the times it is open, also for Bible studies. It is planned for Sunday afternoon services to be live-streamed there. The hope is for a permanent evangelist to work out of the room. Prayers are requested from the churches of Classis Pacific West.

The convening church for the next classis is Maranatha-Surrey and the date is set for December 12, 2017 with an alternate date of April 10, 2018. The suggested officers for the next Classis are: Rev. Ben Schoof, chairman; Rev. Carl Van Dam, vice-chairman; and Rev. Karlo Janssen, clerk.

Committee for appeals is as follows: Rev. Doug Vandeburgt (Convener), Elder Henry Hendriksen, Elder Siebe DeJong. Alternates: Rev. James Slaa, Elder Bryan Grim, Elder Paul Schouten.

Revs. James Slaa & Karlo Janssen and Elders Ron de Haan & Chester Baarda are appointed as delegates to Regional Synod West West at Aldergrove on November 6, 2017 at 7:30pm.

Revs. Doug Vandeburgt and William den Hollander and Elders Bryan Grim and Jack Aikema are appointed as alternates.

Personal 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. The chairman invites the delegates to sing the Doxology after closing the meeting with prayer.

For Classis,



Rev. Ben Schoof, vice-chairman at that time.