

Press Release of Classis Alberta, September 19, 2017 Held in Calgary, Alberta

On behalf of the convening church, the Church at Calgary, brother Noot opened the meeting by reading Psalm 25; he asked that Psalm 25:1, 2 be sung and then we prayed for the Lord's blessing over the meeting and the examination, the people affected by the hurricanes, and the churches in the federation, remembering also the needs of the Vandenbos and Slomp families.

The following memorabilia were noted: candidate S. van Leeuwen's acceptance of the call from Calgary; the call from St. Albert declined by Rev. A. Witten and the calls from Neerlandia South declined by the Revs. S. Vandeveld and S. t'Hart; the ongoing vacancies of Neerlandia South, and St. Albert; the commencement of CRTS this past September; the health concerns of Dr. N.H. Gootjes, the passing away of Dr. Jack deJong and concerns for their wives as well.

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. J. Huijgen; vice-chairman: Rev. J. VanSpronsen; clerk: Rev. T. Vandergaag.

The deputies for Regional Synod, Rev. Andrew Pol and Rev. Bill Wielenga were welcomed to the meeting, along with Rev. W.B. Slomp who was present for his role in the peremptory examination of Steve van Leeuwen, and Rev. Keith Davis from the Bethel URC in Calgary. The agenda was adopted with some minor additions.

Calgary CanRC requested that brother Steve van Leeuwen be examined by this classis. The executive determined that the documents were in order. After students of the Tyndale Christian school and members of the Calgary congregation were comfortably seated, brother Steve van Leeuwen presented a sermon on Leviticus 1. After a discussion in closed session, it was decided to continue the examination. Brother van Leeuwen was then examined on the various subjects in a peremptory examination. Classis decided with thankfulness that brother Steve van Leeuwen sustained his examination; the deputies of Regional Synod gave concurring advice. The call extended to brother van Leeuwen by the Church at Calgary was approbated, and he signed the Subscription to the Confessions. The chairman led with the reading of God's Word, singing and prayer.

Rev. Keith Davis from the Bethel URC of Calgary, addressed Classis on behalf of the URCNA speaking encouragingly of the relationship we have as churches. Rev. Julius VanSpronsen responded.

Rev. Huijgen gave a report about a positive visit made to the Classis Western Canada - URCNA in Winnipeg, MB. 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.

In closed session, the church visitors gave reports on visits to the following churches: Barrhead (May 16, 2017), Neerlandia (March 27 & May 10, 2017), Neerlandia South (March 27 & May 10 2017), Taber (June 14, 2017), Coaldale (June 14, 2017) and Calgary (May 24, 2017). The reports were received with thanksgiving.

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. Three churches requested the judgment and help of Classis for the proper government of their church and advice was given.

Classis appointed the Church at Coaldale as the convening church for the next Classis to be convened on December 5, 2017 (alternate date March 6, 2018). Suggested officers: chairman: Rev. G. Veurink; vice-chairman: Rev. J. Huijgen; clerk: Rev. J. VanSpronsen. Church visitors remain: Revs. R. Aasman, J. Huijgen, T. Vandergaag (coordinator), C. Vanderlinde., and J. VanSpronsen. Rev. VanderGaag will organize another church visitation/pulpit supply schedule.

Classis appoints the following brothers as delegates to Regional Synod West, November 6, 2017: Brothers R. Noot & H. Voorhorst (alternates: brs. P. Schoen and A. van Leeuwen) and Revs. J. VanSpronsen & T. VanderGaag (alternates: Revs. R. Aasman, G. Veurink in that order).

During personal question period it was announced that the ordination of brother Steve van Leeuwen will take place on October 15, 2017. The CRTS provides the churches with information pamphlets and Rev. Aasman urges the churches to pray that God may provide men to serve in the ministry. The chairman deemed that brotherly censure (Article 34, CO) was not needed. The Acts were adopted and the Press Release approved. Rev.T. VanderGaag led in closing prayer.

Julius VanSpronsen

Vice chairman (at that time)