

**Press Release of Classis Manitoba convened in the Canadian Reformed Church of Carman West on September 22, 2017**

1. On behalf of the Canadian Reformed Church of Carman West, Dr. A.J. Pol called the meeting to order. He read from Psalm 87 and spoke some appropriate words, requested that the brothers sing Hymn 46:1,4, and led in prayer. He welcomed all present, in particular Candidate James V. Zekveld, and the deputies of Regional Synod, Rev. R. Aasman and Rev. J. Slaa, as well as Rev. B. Cochran who was present as fraternal delegate from the Providence Reformed Church in Winnipeg (URC).
2. The credentials of the delegates were examined by the brothers from the convening church and reported to be in order.
3. Classis was declared constituted.
4. The following officers were appointed:
  - a. President: Dr. A.J. Pol
  - b. Vice President: Rev. J. Poppe
  - c. Clerk: Elder L. Toet
5. For memorabilia it was mentioned that the Lord took home Dr. J. DeJong, former professor at the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary, on April 15. Rev. S. Vandavelde declined a call from the Pilgrim CanRC in London. The church at Winnipeg Redeemer extended a call to Candidate James Zekveld to serve as missionary, which has been accepted. The ongoing vacancy in Denver was remembered and this church was wished the Lord's blessing in pastoring the flock and in their search for their own pastor and teacher.
6. The deputies of Regional Synod, and Rev. B. Cochran were seated. Rev. J. VanRietschoten (an emeritus minister in our midst) was welcomed as an advisor to Classis. Brother J. Kuik, as Deputy of Classis for Neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries was also seated.
7. The agenda was adopted after a few adjustments.
8. At this Classis Candidate James Zekveld, who has accepted the call extended to him by the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church of Winnipeg, presented himself for a peremptory examination. Classis examined the documentation, and found all to be in order.
9. Candidate Zekveld proceeded to read Zephaniah 3:11-20, and to deliver his sermon proposal on this text. In closed session, Classis deemed this sermon proposal sufficient to continue with the rest of the examination, and the deputies of regional synod gave their concurring advice.
10. Candidate Zekveld was examined in exegesis Old Testament, exegesis New Testament, knowledge of contents of Holy Scripture, doctrine and creeds, church history, ethics, church polity and diaconiology. During this examination the chairman welcomed Rev. R. Anjema as a fraternal delegate from the Providence Reformed Church (URC) in Winnipeg, and Peter Veenendaal and Ron Vanderzwaag as Deputies of Classis for Neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries. They were seated. Classis went into closed session to evaluate the exam. It deemed the exam sufficient, and the deputies of regional synod concurred, opening the way for Candidate Zekveld to be ordained as Missionary. The president thanked the deputies of regional synod for their presence at classis and giving concurring advice in the examination of brother Zekveld. The support for the

- Zekveld family was examined, and deemed to be sufficient.
11. The president communicated the result of the examination to Candidate and sister Zekveld and the audience, and wished Candidate Zekveld the Lord's blessing as he is ordained and takes up his work. The president read from 1 Timothy 4:11-16, invited all present to sing from Hy.50:1,4, and led in a prayer of thanksgiving. He read the Form of Subscription, and Candidate Zekveld was asked to sign it, indicating his willingness to preach and teach the Word of God as summarised in the Three Forms of Unity. He did so. A certificate of admission to the ministry of the Canadian Reformed Churches was issued. Rev. J Van Rietschoten was thanked for his participation as advisor at Classis. Classis adjourned and an opportunity was given to congratulate Candidate Zekveld. Classis appointed Rev. H.J. Vanderhorst to be present at the ordination of Candidate Zekveld and pass on Classis' greetings.
  12. The Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries presented a written report with supporting documentation. Brother Jacob Kuik made some explanatory comments. A letters of greeting was received from the stated clerk of Classis Central US. Our deputies are active in maintaining contact with Central Classis of the URCNA, the Northern Plains Classis of the RCUS, and the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the OPC. The OPC has established a congregation in Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Classis requested the deputies to do a write-up about this in the Manitoba Church News. Classis expressed its thankfulness to these brothers for their diligence in maintaining contact with churches in ecclesiastical fellowship. Intercessory prayer was offered for each of these churches.
  13. The Committee for Aid to Needy Churches presented a report. The suggested assessment for the coming year is \$40 per communicant member, a decrease from \$60 in 2017. Classis approves this level of support. The church of Denver expressed their sincere thanksgiving for the on-going support of the churches in Classis Manitoba.
  14. The Church for Auditing the books for Aid to Needy Churches (Winnipeg Redeemer) reported that the books were found to be in good order.
  15. The Committee for Students of Theology presented its report. The churches continue to encourage our men to consider studying for the ministry. Various young men who have expressed interest in pursuing studies at our Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary are being mentored.
  16. Rev. B. Cochrane brought greetings from the Providence Reformed Church. He expressed thankfulness at the outcome of Candidate Zekveld's examination, and appreciation for the close bond between our churches. Our fraternal delegates were thanked for coming, and prayer was offered for our sister churches and our unity in the faith.
  17. Question Period according to Art. 44 C.O. was held. Two churches asked for advice in matters of disciple. Concurring advice was given to these churches.
  18. Correspondence. Our treasurer, brother Henry Veldman, asked to be relieved of his duties as treasurer after 17 years of service. His request was granted, and a letter of thanks will be sent. Classis appointed sister Wilma Bergsma as treasurer.
  19. Appointments.
    - a. The convening church for the next classis is the Emmanuel American Reformed Church of Denver, to be hosted in the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church. Classis is scheduled to be held, the Lord willing on December 15, 2017, at 3:00 pm. Alternate date: March 23, 2018 at 3:00 pm.

- b. The suggested officer for the next classis is:
    - i. President: Rev. H.J. Vanderhorst.
  - c. Various standing committees, examiners for ecclesiastical exams, classical deputies, and church visitors are appointed.
  - d. The following delegates were appointed to Regional Synod West, November 6, 2017: As ministers, Rev. J. Poppe and Rev. S. Vandavelde, with Dr. A.J. Pol and Rev. H.J. Vanderhorst as first and second alternates; as elders Gerry van Dijk and John Toet, with Henry Slaa and W (Bill) Raap as first and second alternates.
- 23. Personal question period was held.
  - 24. No censure according to Art. 34 of the Church Order was necessary.
  - 25. The Acts were adopted and the Press Release approved for publication.
  - 26. The vice-president requested that the brothers sing from Hy.45 and led in closing prayer.

For Classis Manitoba  
September 22, 2017

J. Poppe  
Vice-president at that time.