

Press Release of Classis Pacific East, Lynden, Feb 22, 2018

On behalf of the convening church of Lynden, Rev. W. Wielenga welcomed the brothers and opened the meeting in a Christian manner. The delegates from the church of Chilliwack reported that upon the examination of the credentials all of the churches were duly represented. Classis was declared constituted, and officers were appointed: Rev. W. Wielenga chairman, Rev. A. Witten vice-chairman, Rev. R. Schouten clerk. The agenda was adopted.

The church of Abbotsford requested that Classis adopt an overture requesting Regional Synod West to overture Synod Edmonton 2019 to amend the form for the baptism of infants to include a charge to the congregation reading, *"Beloved brothers and sisters, as congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ, receive this child as a beloved member of this church. Support these parents with your prayers and example. If necessary and whenever possible, be prepared in word and deed to help this child grow in faith, in love, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. "For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body" (1 Cor. 12:13). May the Spirit of our gracious God help us fulfill this calling."* Classis decided not to adopt this overture.

The church of Aldergrove requested that Classis adopt an overture requesting Regional Synod West to overture Synod Edmonton 2019 to approve the Psalms and Hymns of the Trinity Psalter Hymnal as adopted by the United Reformed Churches in North American and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church for use in public worship as per Article 55 of the Church Order. Classis decided to adopt this overture.

The church of Abbotsford requested that Classis adopt an overture to Regional Synod West to appoint deputies to develop policies for situations of conflict between a minister and the congregation and council. After several rounds of discussion the matter was withdrawn by the delegates from the Church of Abbotsford, to give the council of Abbotsford opportunity to discuss this matter again with consideration of the points raised at Classis.

The Church of Yarrow requested Classis to hold a colloquium doctum for Rev. T. VanSpronsen from the Free Reformed Church of Busselton in late April this year. This was granted.

A church visit report to the church of Chilliwack was received. The Church of Yarrow inspected the achieves of Classis Pacific East maintained by the church of Abbotsford and found them to be in good order.

The chairman asked the questions required by Article 44 of the Church Order. All the churches responded affirmatively that the ministry of the office bearers is being continued and that the decisions of the major assemblies are being honored. The church of Lynden sought the advice of Classis for the institution of a new church in the Everson, Nooksak, Sumas area. Having heard the reasoning and process taken Classis could rejoice in this development and give positive advice.

Various appointments were made, among which: Vernon is the convening church for the next Classis; the date is set for April 26th; The Acts were adopted, and press release approved. After prayer, the chairman closed the meeting.

For Classis A. Witten, Vice-Chairman, at that time.