

Press Release of Classis Manitoba convened in the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church in Winnipeg on March 23, 2018

1. On behalf of Denver American Reformed Church, the convening church of the March 23, 2018 classis, br. G. Hagg called the meeting to order. He read Ephesians 4:1-16 and requested that the brothers sing Hymn 29:1,3, after which he led in prayer. He welcomed all present.
2. The credentials of the delegates were examined by the brothers from the Emmanuel American Reformed Church in Denver and reported to be in order. All the churches were represented by their primary delegates.
3. Classis was declared constituted.
4. The following officers were appointed:
 - a. President: Rev. R. Vanderhorst
 - b. Vice-President: Dr. A.J. Pol
 - c. Clerk: D. Gortemaker
5. Rev. Vanderhorst thanked the Denver American Reformed Church for the preparations involved in convening the classis. He welcomed as guest, Rev. J. Zekveld, of the Redeemer Manitoba Mission project, Rev. K. Jonker, minister emeritus of the Grace Canadian Reformed Church, br. L. Toet of Winnipeg-Redeemer, as well as brs. J. Kuik, and P. Veenendaal, Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries. He noted that Rev. S. Vandeveld has two calls, one to the Eben-Ezer Canadian Reformed Church in Chatham and the other to the Emmanuel American Reformed Church in Denver. He wished the church at Denver the Lord's guidance and blessings in regard to the ongoing efforts to get a minister. Rev. R.J. Kampen has received and accepted a call to serve the Canadian Reformed Church in Dunnville for work with the Reformational Study Centre based in South Africa. The agenda was adopted after a few adjustments.
6. The following reports were accepted with gratitude by classis:
 - a. A financial report from br. H. Veldman, the former treasurer of classis. Travel expenses were approved at \$0.49 per km., which Revenue Canada approves as a "reasonable allowance rate" beyond the first 5,000 kms. driven. It was decided that the classical assessment for 2018 will be \$10.00 per communicant member.
 - b. Letter from the Carman West Canadian Reformed Church, indicating that the books of the former treasurer of classis, br. H. Veldman, were audited and found to be in order.
 - c. Letter from the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church that the archives of classis have been inspected and found to be in order.
 - d. Letter from br. W. van Beek on behalf of the Deputies for Contact with the Provincial Government.
 - e. An oral report given by br. J. Kuik, deputy of Deputy for Contact with Neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries. Further details will be presented in a written report for the Fall Classis.
 - f. In closed session the church visitors reported on visits to the Canadian Reformed Churches of Carman East and West, and the Grace and Redeemer Canadian Reformed Churches in Winnipeg. Prayers were offered for each of these churches successively.
7. A letter from the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church was received, asking for advice

regarding selected hymns outside the Book of Praise to be used besides or during worship services in the Manitoba Mission Project. Classis has no objections to using the supplemental hymns listed either before or after the worship services. However, using such hymns within a worship service would introduce tension that would be challenging to resolve if the church would be formally instituted later, since the use of such hymns would conflict with the current Church Order. Classis recommends that the Redeemer church reflect on this advice and consider the possibility of offering a proposal to a subsequent classis that could be forwarded to Regional Synod and from there to General Synod.

8. Question Period according to Art. 44 C.O. was held. The Winnipeg Grace church requested advice that was given in closed session.
9. Correspondence
 - a. From the Dunnville Canadian Reformed Church concerning a call extended to Rev. R.J. Kampen.
 - b. From the Covenant Canadian Reformed Church at Grassie, received for information.
 - c. Correspondence from Rev. R.J. Kampen.Classis decided to provide Rev. R.J. Kampen with a Certificate of Release according to Articles 5 and 9 of the Church Order.
10. Appointments.
 - a. The convening church for the next classis is the Grace Canadian Reformed Church in Winnipeg.
 - b. The next classis is scheduled to be held on June 22, 2018. Alternate date: September 28, 2018.
 - c. The suggested president for the next classis is Rev. J. Poppe.
11. Personal question period was held.
12. No censure according to Art. 34 of the Church Order was necessary.
13. The Acts were adopted and the Press Release was approved for publication.
14. The president requested that the brothers sing Psalm 133:1 and 2, and led in closing prayer.

For Classis Manitoba

March 23, 2018

Dr. A.J. Pol, vice-president at that time.