

PRESS RELEASE OF CLASSIS PACIFIC WEST – APRIL 10, 2018

On behalf of the convening church, the Willoughby Heights CanRC, Rev. Janssen opened the meeting in a Christian manner, with the reading of 2Timothy 3:10-4:5, the singing of Psalm 40:3,4 and prayer. Surrey reported that all the churches were properly represented. As per the proposal of the last classis, Rev. Schoof was appointed president, Rev. Janssen was appointed vice, and Rev. Slaa clerk. Classis was declared constituted. Rev. Schoof expressed gratitude for the preparations made for convening and hosting the classis. He remembered Cloverdale as a vacant church as well as the Lodder family, the approaching end of the academic year at CRTS, and, given the presence of Rev. Tim Schouten, the work in Prince George. The agenda for classis was duly adopted.

Willoughby Heights proposed that classis adopt a proposal on the implementation of Church Order article 21b. The proposal, which has its origins with CRTS, seeks to create room for students to be licensed to speak an edifying word after two years of training at CRTS. The request to classis was to pass this proposal on to Regional Synod West for presentation to General Synod 2019. Following discussion, the proposal was adopted as presented for submission to Regional Synod West.

Reports were then presented to classis. The report of the treasurer and the review of the classis books were presented. The fiscal year 2017 was declared closed and the treasurer (present as a delegate) was discharged from his responsibilities for 2017 and thanked for his work. The assessment was increased by 50 cents per communicant member to \$10.50. The report for the inspection of the archives was then presented, and the archiving church (Smithers) and inspector church (Houston) were thanked. In closed session the church visitations made to Cloverdale and Surrey-Maranatha were reported on. These reports were received with gratitude.

The president asked the questions stipulated in the Church Order article 44. All churches responded positively to the first two questions; no church sought advice in any matter.

The churches apprised each other of their mission efforts. Langley and Cloverdale reported that they are restructuring the management of the Asia Mission project. Smithers in the person of Rev. Schouten, reported. There has been a decrease in membership since 5 years ago, as people move elsewhere (remaining in Reformed churches). Rev. Schouten currently receives assistance from CRTS graduate br. Iwan Borst. Recently a conference was held to reach out into the community. For worship there is a regular morning service, followed by a doctrinal class modelled as a service. Willoughby Heights reported that it is currently reflecting on the future of the Burnaby Church Plant Project as the current approach is not really leading to a church plant. A seminar is being organized to which local church leaders have been invited.

Classis made the following appointments.

Convening church: Cloverdale. Place: Cloverdale. Date: June 12 (alt. Sept 11).

Suggested officers: President: Rev. Janssen. Vice: Rev. Slaa. Clerk: Langley minister.

Committee for Examinations:

Deputies for examinations: Revs. Janssen, Schoof

Exegesis OT: Rev. Van Dam

Exegesis NT: Rev. Schoof

Scripture Knowledge: Rev. Den Hollander

Doctrine & Creeds: Rev. Vandeburgt

Church History: Rev. Van Dam

Ethics: Rev. Den Hollander

Church Polity: Rev. Slaa

Diaconology: Rev. Vandeburgt

Church visitors: Revs. Vandeburgt (convener); Janssen, Slaa, Van Dam

Church for taking care of the Archives: Smithers.

Church to inspect the Archives: Houston.

Treasurer: br. Jake Kuik (17167 83rd Ave, Surrey, BC V4N 0B2; 778-574-5083; jkuik@shaw.ca).

Church to audit the books of the treasurer: Cloverdale.

Committee for Financial Aid to Needy Church: Harold Leyenhorst (convener), Jerome Lengkeek, Rene Jacobi.

Deputy for preaching arrangements in vacant churches: Rev. B. Schoof.

Deputy for Coordinating Ecclesiastical Contacts: Rev. W. den Hollander.

Opportunity for personal questions were given. Censure according to Church Order article 34 was deemed not necessary. The Acts of classis were adopted and the Press Release was approved.

Rev. Ben Schoof led the Classis in closing, with the singing of Hymn 9 and prayer.