

Press release of Classis-Contracta Manitoba, July 5, 2018

Classis was opened by Rev. H.J. Vanderhorst, the chairman of the convening church Winnipeg Grace. He read from Psalm 46, invited us to sing from Psalm 46:1,2, and led in prayer. The credentials of the churches were examined, and the churches of Carman East, Carman West, and Winnipeg Redeemer were represented by two delegates each, while Winnipeg Grace was represented by one delegate as was the Emmanuel Denver church, who was present by Skype. Classis was constituted. Rev. H.J. Vanderhorst was appointed President, Rev. J. Poppe as Vice-president, and Dr. A.J. Pol as clerk.

As memorabilia it was noted that Rev. S. Vandeveldel has received and accepted a call to the Emmanuel American Reformed Church at Denver. The result is that Carman East will become a vacant church. It is noted that church services have begun at the Ambassador church plant in Niverville in early May. The wife of our late professor Dr. J. Faber passed away during this past week.

Classis received incoming correspondence in connection with the release of Rev. S. Vandeveldel from the church of Carman East and the approbation of his call to the American Reformed Church at Denver. Received were a letter of call from the church of Denver, and a letter of acceptance of call from Rev. S. Vandeveldel. In correspondence between Carman East and Denver, Carman East has suggested that Denver take responsibility for Rev. S. Vandeveldel as of July 23, 12:01 am Central Standard time. The church of Denver's delegate at Classis, elder Chris Huffer affirmed verbally that Denver will take responsibility as of this time and date. Denver will need to submit to the Classis clerk a letter formally accepting responsibility for Rev. S. Vandeveldel and his family at this time and date.

The church of Carman East sent letter indicating that it had decided to honourably release Rev. S. Vandeveldel from his ministerial duties in Carman East, it declared that he was faithful and diligent in his ministry, and Christian and God-fearing in his confession and conduct, to grant him sufficient copies of a certificate of release, and to commend him with sincere gratitude to the Lord for the work he has faithfully carried out in the past six and a half years in Carman East. With that Classis approbated the call of Rev. S. Vandeveldel to the church of Denver.

The president congratulated the church of Denver with the acceptance of call from Rev. S. Vandeveldel. He expressed thankfulness for the work of Rev. Vandeveldel in our midst, and that he was remaining in our Classis. Some of the delegates spoke words of thanks and appreciation to Rev. Vandeveldel, and he responded with expressing thankfulness to the church of Carman East for the consistory and congregation's love and support. The chairman also spoke encouraging words to the church of Carman East regarding their upcoming vacancy, hoping that they will soon again receive their own pastor and teacher, and wishing the office-bearers the Lord's blessing in pastoring the flock during this time.

Under question period the church of Carman East requested pulpit supply, and this was granted one Sunday per month during the time of vacancy. Carman East also requested that a counsellor be appointed. Classis appointed Dr. A.J. Pol as counsellor.

The chairman ruled that censure according to Art.34 of the CO was not necessary. The Acts were adopted and the Press Release was approved. We sang from Ps.46:5, and the vice-president closed the meeting in prayer.

On behalf of Classis Manitoba,
Rev. Joe Poppe