

Press Release, Classis Pacific West, held on September 18, 2018 in Cloverdale, BC

On behalf of the convening church of Cloverdale, brother Henry Voorhorst called those gathered to order and led opening devotions. When it was determined that all the churches were properly represented, classis was declared constituted. The following officers were appointed: as chair, Rev. Karlo Janssen; as vice-chair, Rev. James Slaa; and as clerk, Rev. William denHollander. The agenda was adopted.

The following matters were specifically remembered: The Cloverdale church, which has called Rev. Rolf denHollander of CanRC of Grassie, ON; Rev. Theo and Marina Lodder and his family; and Rev. James Visscher (a retired minister of Classis) and his wife Willy. Rev. Ben Schoof has considered and declined a call to the CanRC of Chatham, ON. A special welcome was offered to Br. Iwan Borst, his wife Debbi, and his parents, who were present for br. Borst's preparatory exam, as he sought to become a candidate for the ministry of the gospel. For a portion of the morning session of classis, the students of grade 11+12 of the Credo Christian High School and the grades 6+7 of the William of Orange Christian School sat in attendance to observe how such an examination is carried out. Classis welcomed Rev. Greg Hoadley of the Redeemer Orthodox Presbyterian Church of Airdrie, AB, and was seated as a fraternal delegate. Finally, Classis also welcomed Rev. Doug Vandeburgt of Langley, who was seated as an adviser, and who also participated as an examiner.

Brother Iwan Borst, member of Smithers Canadian Reformed Church, and graduate of the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary, requested to be examined in order to be declared eligible for call. When it was determined that the documentation was in order, Classis proceeded to examine him. In the first part of the examination, br. Borst presented a sermon based on Micah 6:3-8, which was the text assigned to him three weeks prior. With thankfulness, Classis judged that the sermon was sufficient, and therefore proceeded to the second part of the examination. He was examined in Old Testament exegesis, in particular Hosea 2, and New Testament exegesis, focusing on Romans 1. Finally, there was an examination in Doctrine and Creeds. The main topics covered in this portion of the exam were the doctrine of sin, the doctrine of election, and the doctrine of the church. When the examination was over, Classis met in closed session and judged that this part was also sufficient, and therefore, in open session, publicly declared br. Borst eligible for call in the churches. Classis rejoiced in this moment in the life of br. Borst and his wife, Debbi. Thankfulness to the Lord was expressed in prayer led by Rev. James Slaa.

Several other important items were dealt with after lunch. Church visitation reports were given to visits to Houston, Langley, Smithers, Willoughby Heights. Classis was blessed to receive greetings from Rev. Hoadley of Redeemer OPC of Airdrie, AB (Presbytery of the Northwest). Question Period according to Article 44 C.O. was held, in which one of the churches requested advice on a matter of discipline. Finally, some churches used the opportunity to apprise the other churches on the work of mission at home and abroad.

The Houston church was appointed as the convening church for the next classis to be held, Lord willing, on Tuesday, December 11, place to be determined. An alternate date was also set for April 9, 2019, in the event the December classis will be cancelled. The following officers were suggested: Chair, Rev. James Slaa; Vice-chair, Langley delegate; Clerk, Rev. C. VanDam.

At the September classis every year, it is the task of classis to appoint the Committee of Appeals: Rev. Doug Vandeburgt (Convener), Elder Siebe DeJong , Elder Henry Hendriksen. Alternates: Rev. James Slaa, Elder Ron DeHaan, Elder Paul Schouten.

c. The following brothers were delegated to Regional Synod Coaldale (to be held in Abbotsford) on November 5, 2018. Ministers, primary delegates: Rev. Karlo Janssen and Rev. James Slaa, Alternates, in order: Rev. Carl VanDam and Rev. William DenHollander; Elders, primary delegates: Siebe Dejong and Harry Moes. Alternates, in order: Ron DeHaan and Paul Schouten.

Personal Question Period held. Censure according to Art. 34 CO was deemed not necessary. The Acts were adopted and the Press Release was approved. After a song was sung, Rev. Karlo Janssen led in closing prayer.

Rev. James Slaa, Vice-chairman at that time.