

## **Press Release of Classis Manitoba held on September 28, 2018 at the Winnipeg Grace Canadian Reformed Church**

### **Opening**

On behalf of the Grace Canadian Reformed Church at Winnipeg, Rev. H.J. Vanderhorst opened the meeting by requesting the singing of Psalm 33:5,6 after which he read Ezekiel 34:1-16 and led in prayer. He welcomed a few visitors, in particular, Rev. Todd De Rooy, a fraternal delegate of Classis Central URCNA.

### **Examination of Credentials and Constitution of Classis**

The credentials of the delegates were examined by the brothers from the Winnipeg Grace Canadian Reformed Church and reported to be in order. All the churches were properly represented. Classis was declared constituted.

### **Appointment of Executive Officers**

The suggested officer from Classis Manitoba March 2018, Rev. J. Poppe, was appointed as president. Nominated and appointed to serve as vice-president was Rev. S. Vandavelde and as clerk Rev. H.J. Vanderhorst. The president thanked the convening church for the organization of Classis. As memorabilia we noted that since the July Contracted Classis, Rev. S. Vandavelde was installed as minister of Emmanuel American Reformed Church in Denver, and that the church of Carman East remains vacant.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

### **Seating of Fraternal Delegates**

Rev. T. De Rooy, a fraternal delegate from the Classis Central of the URCNA, was seated with observer privileges. Rev. James Zekveld was seated as an advisor of Classis according to Art. 44 CO.

### **Reports**

Classis received reports from the Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes/Presbyteries. These reports brought Classis up to date with regard to Classis Central URCNA, the Northern Plains Classis of the RCUS and the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the OPC. Dr. A.J. Pol led in intercessory prayer for the deputies of Classis and for these neighbouring churches.

The Committee for Aid to Needy Churches presented their report. The committee's recommended level of support from the churches of \$50 per communicant member was approved by classis. The Denver church spoke a word of appreciation for the support received.

Winnipeg Redeemer, the church for auditing the books of the Committee for Aid to Needy Churches, reported that they examined the books and found them to be in good order. The report was received with gratitude.

The Committee for Students of Theology also presented a report which Classis received with thankfulness. This report named several young men who are preparing themselves for the ministry.

### **Proposals and/or instructions from the churches (Art. 33 CO)**

Classis received a letter from the Church of Winnipeg Redeemer proposing that a church be suggested to propose a clerk, so that someone would be equipped for the task. Classis decided that the convening church be assigned an additional duty: to ensure that at least one of the delegates is prepared to serve as clerk of Classis.

Classis received a letter from the Emmanuel American Reformed Church of Denver requesting that Classis pass on a proposal to Regional Synod West to propose that Synod Edmonton 2019 approve the Psalms and Hymns of the Trinity Psalter Hymnal as adopted by the URCNA and the OPC for use in public worship as per Article 55 of the Church Order, in addition to the Book of Praise. Classis decided to forward the request to Regional Synod West 2018.

The Winnipeg Redeemer Church forwarded a letter from a group of members of the Carman and Winnipeg Canadian Reformed Churches and several other families living in Brandon, MB. This group requested Classis Manitoba to place them under the care of a neighbouring Canadian Reformed Church, according to Art. 41 CO. Classis assigned the Carman West Canadian Reformed Church to take care of the members living in the Brandon area. Classis also responded with a letter to the Brandon group to inform them of the decision of Classis and to encourage those who are not yet members of Carman West to place themselves under her supervision.

#### **Question period (Art. 44 CO)**

The president asked the questions according to Art. 44 CO. Each of the churches indicated that the ministry of the office bearers was being continued, and the decisions of the broader assemblies were being honoured. In closed session, several churches requested further help or judgment of Classis which was followed with intercessory prayer.

#### **Address by Fraternal Delegate**

Rev. T. De Rooy passed on greetings from the United Reformed Churches of Classis Central U.S., expressing appreciation for the brotherly deliberations. He gave some updates on activities in that Classical region including their church plants and mission work. Rev. S. Vandeveld led in prayer for the churches of this Classis.

#### **Appointments**

The Winnipeg Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church will serve as the convening church for the next Classis. It will be convened, D.V., Dec. 7, 2018 (if necessary), March 29, 2019 (Spring Classis). The suggested president for the next Classis is Rev. S. Vandeveld.

The following delegates were appointed to Regional Synod West, November 5, 2018: as ministers, Rev. J. Poppe and Dr. A.J. Pol, with Rev. S. Vandeveld and Rev. H.J. Vanderhorst as first and second alternates; as elders, Talbot Bergsma and Henk Moorlag, with Ron de Ruiter and Ko Doornbos as first and second alternates.

#### **Brotherly Censure (Art. 34 CO)**

With gratitude it was deemed not necessary.

#### **Personal Question Period**

Would Classis consider it acceptable for one of the Churches to invite a licentiate (someone authorized to speak an edifying word) from a church with whom we have ecclesiastical fellowship to lead the worship services? No objection to this was noted.

#### **Adoption of the Acts and approval of the Press Release**

The Acts were read and adopted and the Press Release approved for publication.

#### **Closing**

The president requested the singing of Hymn 52:1,2. The vice-president ended the meeting in prayer. For Classis Manitoba,  
Rev. S. Vandeveld