

Press Release of Classis Pacific West, held April 9, 2019, in Langley, BC

On behalf of the convening church at Houston, BC, Rev. Carl VanDam called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer and the reading of Luke 22:24–30, and then invited the delegates to sing Hymn 84. The credentials were examined by the delegates from the convening church of the previous classis, the church at Cloverdale, and were found to be in good order. Classis was declared constituted and the officers suggested by the last classis were appointed: Rev. James Slaa, chairman; Rev. William den Hollander, vice-chairman; Rev. Carl VanDam, clerk.

The chairman thanked the church at Houston for hosting and presented the agenda for adoption.

The agenda was adopted with minor additions.

A proposal was received from the Willoughby Heights Canadian Reformed Church regarding regulations for Preparatory Exams, as per the direction given by the last Classis Pacific West. After a brief discussion and some minor revisions, the proposal was adopted.

The treasurer report of 2018 regarding the financial situation of the Classis Pacific West Fund was received. The assessment for 2019 is \$6.50 per communicant member. The church at Cloverdale, appointed to audit the Classis Pacific West Fund, reported that the books are in good order. The treasurer, brother Jake Kuik, was thanked for his work (*in absentia*) and was honorably discharged from his services. The church at Cloverdale requested that an ad-hoc committee be appointed to review and revise the regulations concerning the mandate for the work of the treasurer. The church at Cloverdale was assigned the task of forming this ad-hoc committee and reporting back to a future Classis Pacific West.

A report was received from the church at Houston on the state of the archives. The report was received with thankfulness and the Church at Smithers, responsible for the archives, was thanked for their work.

The following church visitation reports were read:

- the Houston Canadian Reformed Church (January 9, 2019)
- the Smithers Canadian Reformed Church (January 9, 2019)

With thankfulness classis can note that all things are regulated and done in full harmony with the Word of God, the office-bearers fulfil the duties of their office faithfully as they have promised, and the adopted order is being observed and maintained in every respect.

A report from the Committee for Financial Aid to Needy Churches was received.

The Deputy for Coordinating Ecclesiastical Contacts, Rev. William den Hollander, reported on his attendance at the fall 2018 presbytery meeting of the OPC Pacific Northwest Presbytery. There was a discussion regarding the mandate for the deputy and regulations for receiving and accepting invitations to attend the assemblies of churches with whom we have ecclesiastical fellowship.

The chairman asked the delegates of the churches the questions according to Article 44 of the Church Order. It is noted with thankfulness that the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued and the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured.

A church sought and received advice regarding a matter of church discipline.

After a break for coffee and muffins, representatives of the Mission Board for Mission Brazil made a presentation of the ongoing work in Brazil. After this, opportunity was given for the churches to apprise each other of work being done in evangelism and mission. The church at Surrey (Maranatha) shared information on their work in the local Korean community, through Rev. Jerome Lee. The church at Smithers shared details regarding the work of outreach among young indigenous people, and the mission congregation in Prince George. The church at Willoughby Heights shared developments in their joint efforts with the Grace Canadian Reformed Church in Brampton, ON, with regard to the Word & Spirit Ministries.

The convening church for the next classis is the church at Langley and the date is set for June 11, 2019, with an alternate date of September 10, 2019. The suggested officers for the next Classis are: Langley minister as chairman; Rev. Carl VanDam, vice-chairman; and Rev. Karlo Janssen, clerk.

The following appointments were made:

- Committee for Examinations: Convenors: Rev. Karlo Janssen; Rev. Ben Schoof
 - Exegesis OT: Rev. Carl Van Dam
 - Exegesis NT: Rev. Ben Schoof
 - Scripture Knowledge: Rev. William den Hollander
 - Doctrine & Creeds: Rev. Doug Vandeburgt
 - Church History: Rev. Carl Van Dam
 - Ethics: Rev. William den Hollander
 - Church Polity: Rev. James Slaa
 - Diaconiology: Rev. Doug Vandeburgt
- Church Visitors: Rev. Karlo Janssen; Rev. James Slaa; Rev. Carl Van Dam; Rev. Doug Vandeburgt (convenor)
- Church for taking care of the Archives: Smithers
- Church to inspect the Archives: Houston
- Treasurer: br. Jake Kuik
- Church for Auditing the books of the Treasurer: Cloverdale
- Committee for Financial Aid to Needy Churches: br. Jerome Lengkeek (Cloverdale), br. Harold Leyenhorst (convenor; Langley), br. Rick VanOene (Cloverdale)
- Deputy for preaching arrangements in vacant churches: Rev. Ben Schoof
- Deputy for Coordinating Ecclesiastical Contacts: Rev. William den Hollander

Opportunity was given for Personal Question Period.

The chairman noted with thankfulness the proceedings and brotherly spirit and ruled that there was no need for censure. The Acts of Classis were presented and adopted. The press release was presented and approved. After inviting the delegates to sing Psalm 84:5,6, the chairman closed the meeting with prayer.

For classis,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. den Hollander', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Rev. William den Hollander (vice-chairman e.t.)