

Press Release of Classis Manitoba convened in the Canadian Reformed Church of Carman East on September 27, 2019

1. On behalf of the Canadian Reformed Church of Carman East, the chairman elder Talbot Begsma called the meeting to order. He read from Acts 15:1-12, requested that the brothers sing Ps.133, spoke some appropriate words, and led in prayer.
2. The credentials of the delegates were examined by the brothers from the convening church and reported to be in order.
3. Classis was declared constituted.
4. The following officers were appointed:
 - a. President: Rev. S. Vandavelde
 - b. Vice President: Rev. J. Poppe
 - c. Clerk: Elder G. van Dijk
5. For memorabilia it was mentioned that Carman East's call to Dr. J. Temple was declined, and that Carman East remains vacant, and that Carman West also has a vacancy for a second pastor.
6. The chairman welcomed all present, in particular Rev. J. Vermeer from Dune, Iowa who was present as fraternal delegate from Classis Central of the URCNA. Rev. J. Vermeer was seated, and given the privileges of the floor available to fraternal delegates. Rev. J. Zekveld was welcomed as advisor to Classis. Brothers J. Kuik and P. Veenendaal were also seated as Deputies of Classis for Neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries. Rev. J. VanRietschoten and Rev. J. de Gelder (emeritus ministers) were also welcomed. The chairman led in prayer thanking the Lord for allowing a fraternal delegate to be present and praying for a blessing over this meeting.
7. The agenda was adopted.
8. The Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries presented written reports on their work. They reported on visits to the OPC Presbytery of the Dakotas in Denver, Colorado (Sep.25-26, 2018); the Northern Plains Classis of the RCUS in Aberdeen, South Dakota (Mar.18-19, 2019); the OPC Presbytery of the Dakotas in Salt Lake City, Utah (Apr.2-3, 2019); and Classis Central of the URCNA in Rock Valley, Iowa (Apr.2-3, 2019). Classis expressed its thankfulness to these brothers for their diligence in maintaining contact with churches in ecclesiastical fellowship. Intercessory prayer was offered for the work of the deputies.
9. The Committee for Aid to Needy Churches presented a report. A question was asked if the Classical support for Denver meets the guidelines of the Canada Revenue Agency for money being sent out of Canada. The Committee will be asked to investigate. The suggested assessment for 2020 remains at \$50. Classis approves this level of support. The church of Denver expressed their sincere thanksgiving for the on-going support of the churches in Classis Manitoba. The Church for Auditing the books for Aid to Needy Churches (Winnipeg Redeemer) reported that the books were found to be in good order.
10. The Committee for Students of Theology presented its report. The churches continue to encourage our men to consider studying for the ministry. A former student from our Classis, Jeremy Segstro graduated from the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary (CRTS), and has received and accepted a call to Cloverdale, BC. We currently have three men from the Manitoba churches studying at CRTS, and two more young men have expressed interest and are being mentored. The ministers and elders are encouraged to

continue encouraging our young people to consider the work of ministry. These students and CRTS were remembered in prayer.

11. A church visitation report on a visit brought to the church of Denver was read. Intercessory prayer was offered for this church.
12. On behalf of Deputies for Contact with the Manitoba Provincial Government, brother W. van Beek proposed that their mandate be removed from the Classis regulations. One of the main tasks of these deputies has been to Contact Vital Statistics Manitoba in order to arrange for our ministers and others from out of province to be registered so that they could perform weddings. The deputy reports that there has been a change to the application process which no longer uses denominational governing authorities (deputies) to make an application for ministers to perform weddings, and that they are now expected to do that themselves directly. Classis was unsure about the developments at Vital Statistics, and will ask the deputies to investigate further.
13. The church of Denver proposed to add Classis South West of the United States (SWUS) of the URCNA to our Neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries, and to appoint Rev. S. Vandavelde as a Deputy for Contact with Neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries. On the basis of their research it appears that Classis SWUS does not have any contact with any of our Canadian Reformed Classes. Denver is within their Classical area, and from Denver it would not be expensive to attend their meetings. Classis decided to adopt this proposal.
14. Rev. J. Vermeer passed on greetings on behalf of Classis Central of the URCNA, and he gave an update on some matters in their churches. He expressed thanksgiving for being able to be present and witness the work of Classis and expressed much joy at being able to meet face to face. An email was received from the Providence Reformed Church of Winnipeg indicating they would not be sending a delegate and passing on greetings and the Lord's blessings on our meeting. An email was also received from clerk of the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church indicating they would not send a delegate and wishing the Lord's blessing on our meeting. A letter of greeting was received from the stated clerk of the Northern Plains Classis of the Reformed Church of the United States. Rev. H. Bowen passed on fraternal greetings and outlined some of the blessings their Classis has experienced in seeing a mission church being instituted at Dickenson, North Dakota, and in having all their churches have their own pastors.
15. Question Period according to Art. 44 C.O. was held. One church asked for and received advice in a matter of the government of their church.
16. Appointments.
 - a. The convening church for the next classis is the Canadian Reformed Church of Carman West. Classis is scheduled to be held, the Lord willing on December 13, 2019, at 3:00 pm. Alternate date: March 27, 2020 at 3:00 pm.
 - b. The suggested officer for the next classis is:
 - i. President: Dr. A.J. Pol.
 - c. Various standing committees, examiners for ecclesiastical exams, classical deputies, and church visitors are appointed.
 - d. The following delegates were appointed to Regional Synod West, November 4, 2019: As ministers, Dr. A.J. Pol and Rev. J. Poppe, with Rev. H.J. Vanderhorst and Rev. S. Vandavelde as first and second alternates; as elders Richard Buist and Martin Leyenhorst, with Mark den Hollander and Len Bergsma as first and second

alternates.

23. Personal question period was held.
24. No censure according to Art. 34 of the Church Order was necessary.
25. The Press Release was approved for publication, and the executive officers were asked to finalize the Acts of Classis.
26. The president requested that the brothers sing from Ps.134 and led in closing prayer.

For Classis Manitoba
September 27, 2019

J. Poppe
Vice-president at that time.