

Press Release of Classis Pacific West held on October 1, 2019

On behalf of the convening church, Rev. Doug Vandeburgt welcomes all the delegates. He reads 1 Thessalonians 2, leads in prayer and invites all present to sing Ps 16:1, 4.

The credentials are examined and found to be in order. Classis is declared constituted and the following officers take their place. Rev. Doug Vandeburgt is the chairman, Rev. Karlo Janssen clerk and Rev. Carl Van Dam vice-chairman. Rev. William DenHollander is present as advisor. After some modifications, the agenda was adopted.

Candidate Jeremy Segstro presented one of his sermon proposals. The sermon proposals he submitted were deemed sufficient to proceed with the examination. Candidate Segstro is examined in the topics of Old Testament exegesis, New Testament exegesis, knowledge of Scripture, doctrine and creeds, church history, ethics, church polity and pastoral ministry. With much thankfulness, Classis decides to sustain the examination of Candidate Segstro. The deputies from Regional Synod give their concurring advice in agreement with this. The way is open for Candidate Segstro to be ordained as minister of the Word and sacraments at the church of Cloverdale. It was confirmed that all the documents were in good order. Classis appoints Rev. Vandeburgt to represent Classis at the ordination of Candidate Segstro on October 20.

The chairman asks the questions re Article 44 of the Church Order. Two churches ask advice regarding matters of the governing of their church and pastoral oversight. In closed session, advice is given.

In closed session, Rev. Van Dam presents the church visitation report brought to the church at Langley on April 8, 2019 and to the churches at Surrey and Willoughby Heights on April 9, 2019. Rev. Janssen presents the church visitation report brought to the church at Cloverdale on April 10, 2019. These reports are received with thankfulness.

Rev. Janssen reports on a visit made to the Northwest Presbytery of the OPC held on September 27 and 28, 2019. It was a good visit.

Opportunity is given for the churches to share the status of any mission projects they are involved with. Pastor Tim Schouten reports on the mission work in Prince George. God is blessing the work in many ways but a plea is expressed for some members to move to Prince George to further strengthen the work. Rev. Jerome Lee reports on the work of the Korean outreach committee, whose intention is to integrate Korean Christians with the Reformed faith. Rev. Jerome Lee has been hired as a part-time mission worker and financial assistance will be requested from Classis Pacific West churches and possibly beyond.

The convening church of the next Classis is Smithers; place of meeting to be determined. The date is scheduled for December 10, 2019 with an alternate date for April 14, 2020. The suggested officers for the next Classis are: Rev. Carl Van Dam, chairman; Rev. Karlo Janssen, vice-chairman; and Rev. Ben Schoof, clerk.

Two new members for the committee for appeals are needed. Br. Kent Dykstra and Rick Vandergriendt are appointed as new members. Question period is made use of.

The chairman notes with thankfulness that nothing censurable was said or done during the meeting. The Acts of Classis are presented and adopted. The press release is presented and approved. After closing the meeting with prayer, the chairman invites the delegates to sing Hymn 52:1, 2.

For Classis,

Rev. Carl Van Dam, vice-chairman at that time