

PRESS RELEASE of Classis Pacific West Contracta, held December 6, 2019, in Smithers, BC

Classis Pacific West Contracta was convened on December 6, 2019, in Smithers, BC, in order to deal with the request of Houston Canadian Reformed Church to approve Rev. Carl VanDam's release in view of his accepting a call to the Carman East Canadian Reformed Church (see Article 9 of the Church Order). In addition to the two churches properly represented in person (the convening church of Smithers and the neighbouring church of Houston), at least one delegate from all the other churches of Classis was present via Zoom. All the credentials from the delegates were sent to the convening church in advance of the meeting and were examined by the delegates from Smithers.

Classis Contracta was declared constituted. Rev. James Slaa (Smithers) was appointed chairman and elder Richard Plug (Smithers) was appointed clerk.

Since all the supporting documents were in order, Classis approved the request of the church of Houston and prepared a classical certificate of release for Rev. VanDam. As further requested by Houston, Rev. James Visscher was appointed as counselor for Houston CanRC. Classis further granted Houston's request for pulpit supply one Sunday per month starting in January 2020.

In personal question period, Rev. VanDam thanked the brothers for the great working atmosphere in Classis Pacific West. Rev. Slaa in turn thanked Rev. VanDam for the work he did in Classis Pacific West for the past seven and a half years. Rev. Slaa also wished Houston CanRC the Lord's blessing in their upcoming vacancy.

The chairman ruled that censure Art. 34 of the C.O. was not necessary. The Acts were adopted. It was decided that the press release will be prepared by the officers of Classis.

Rev. Karlo Janssen (on Zoom) gave thanks in prayer and the chairman closed the meeting.