

Press Release of Classis Manitoba held on June 26, 2020

On behalf of the convening church, Dr. A.J. Pol welcomes all the delegates. He reads Psalm 122 and invites all present to sing Psalm 122:1-3 and leads in prayer. Dr. Pol notes the following memorabilia: Rev. S.C. Van Dam is welcomed to Classis as this is his first meeting. Rev. J. Slaa, the minister elect of Carman West is welcomed as he is present by video call. It is noted that Carman West has extended a call to Candidate Kelvin Dekker to serve as co-pastor. It is further noted that Rev. H.J. Vanderhorst has been granted temporary release. Dr. Pol wished him a good recovery and the Winnipeg Grace church the Lord's blessing during this time. Finally, it is noted that Rev. J. Poppe has received a call from the church of Chilliwack, BC.

The credentials are examined and found to be in order. All the churches were represented by two delegates; the delegates from Denver are present via video call. Rev. Vanderhorst from Winnipeg Grace and Rev. J. Zekveld from Winnipeg Redeemer are welcomed as advisors. Rev. D. Vandeburgt and Rev. J. Van Spronsen are welcomed as the deputies of Regional Synod West; they are present via video call. Rev. R. Anjema is welcomed as fraternal delegate from the Providence Reformed Church of Winnipeg. Rev. Van Dam signs the subscription form.

Classis is declared constituted and the following officers take their place. Dr. Pol is the president, br. Case Vanderpol clerk and Rev. Van Dam vice-president. The agenda was adopted.

After some deliberation, it was decided that the church at Carman West would come back to Classis in September with some further refinements in the retirement provisions for Dr. and Mrs. Pol.

The necessary documentation associated with the arrival of Rev. Slaa is found to be in good order.

The report of the classis treasurer is received with thankfulness.

The report of the church for the inspection of the treasurer books indicates that the books are in good order.

The report of the church for the inspection of the archives notes some items which need attention.

The report of the deputy for contact with the Manitoba provincial government is received with thankfulness.

In closed session, Rev. Vanderhorst presents the church visitation report brought to the church at Carman West on May 19, 2020. Dr. Pol presents the church visitation report brought to the church at Denver (via video call) on April 24, 2020 and to Winnipeg Grace on February 12, 2020. Rev. Vanderhorst presents the church visitation report brought to the church at Winnipeg Redeemer (including the work at Ambassador) on Feb 12, 2020. These reports are received with thankfulness. Elder Trevor Veenendaal leads in intercessory and thanksgiving prayer.

The church at Winnipeg Redeemer proposes to formally approve the updated version of the classical regulations to reflect the fact that the number of deputies for contact with neighbouring classes/presbyteries has been increased to four. Further this same church proposes to add to the mandate of these deputies that they bring an annual report of their activities to the churches via the Manitoba Church News. These proposals are adopted by Classis.

The church at Winnipeg Redeemer proposes to change Article 55 of the Church Order to add as a first sentence to this article: "The 150 Psalms shall have the principle place in the singing of the churches." After some discussion, it is decided that Winnipeg Redeemer would further finetune this proposal for a future Classis.

The president asks the questions re Article 44 of the Church Order. One church asks advice regarding matters of pastoral oversight. In closed session, advice is given.

On behalf of the URCNA Classis Western Canada, Rev. Anjema addresses Classis with words of Christian greetings and fellowship. Rev. Poppe responds with fitting words of appreciation for the bond which we may share with the URCNA and leads in thanksgiving prayer.

The convening church of the next Classis is the Emmanuel American Reformed Church at Denver, Colorado. The date is scheduled for September 25, 2020 with an alternate date of December 4, 2020. The suggested officers for the next Classis are: Rev. J. Poppe as president, Rev. S. Vandavelde as vice-president and as clerk a brother yet to be determined by the convening church.

Personal question period is made use of. The president notes with thankfulness that nothing censurable was said or done during the meeting. The Acts of Classis will be finalized by the moderamen. The press release is presented and approved. The president requests that the delegates sing Hymn 9. The vice-president closes the meeting with prayer.

For Classis,

Rev. S.C. Van Dam, vice-president at that time