

Press release of Classis Pacific East (Nooksack Valley), September 17, 2020

Due to the present closure of the Canada-US border, the church at Aldergrove agreed to open Classis on behalf of the convening church of Nooksack Valley. On behalf of the convening church, Rev. Rob Schouten called the meeting to order and opened the meeting in a Christian manner.

The delegates from the church at Aldergrove examined the credentials and found them to be in good order; all the churches were properly represented. Classis was constituted. The following officers, as suggested by the last classis, were appointed to serve the meeting: I. Borst chairman; H. Faber vice-chairman; and C. Nienhuis clerk. The agenda was established.

The church of Vernon requested that Classis adopt an overture requesting Regional Synod West, November 2020, to overture General Synod Guelph 2022 to recommend that General Synod rescind the decision of General Synod Chatham 2004 that limits the hymns in the Book of Praise to 100. Classis decided to adopt this overture.

Various reports were received: 1) church for auditing the books of the treasurer - Vernon could report that the books were found in good order; 2) a report from the Committee for Needy Churches - no meetings were needed.

Pulpit supply arrangements for vacant churches was discussed. Under question period according to Article 44 of the Church Order, all the churches responded that the ministry of the office bearers is being continued and the decisions of the major assemblies are being honored. No church needed the help of classis for the proper government of their church.

The fraternal delegate from the RCUS, Rev. Jonathan Merica, sent a letter of greetings that was read. Rev. Merica shared some challenges that the RCUS experiences with church growth.

Various appointments were made, among which: next classis is scheduled to be convened by the church at Sardis; date: December 10 (alternate date: March 11). Classis appointed elders A. Vandergaag and D. Flokstra as delegates to Regional Synod West to be convened by Smithers in November 2020. As first alternate, Classis appointed C. Hoff and as second alternate, A. Meerstra. As minister delegates, Classis appointed Rev. D. Deboer and Rev. R. Schouten with Rev. I. Borst as alternate.

Opportunity was given for questions. The chairman determined that no censure (Article 34, CO) was needed. The Acts were read and adopted; the press release was read and approved. After the assembly sang, the chairman led in prayer and closed the meeting.

On behalf of classis, Carl Nienhuis (clerk at the time)