

## **Press Release of Classis Pacific West held on September 24, 2020**

On behalf of the convening church, Rev. Ben Schoof welcomes all the delegates and Candidate Aidan Plug.

Rev. Schoof remembers the church of Langley with thankfulness that br. Plug accepted their call and, Lord-willing will be ordained as pastor. He also remembers the vacant churches in our classis: Houston, Refuge, and Smithers, as well as our seminary, which has its largest enrollment ever.

Rev. Schoof reads Ephesians 6, invites all present to sing Ps 145: 1, 2, and opens with prayer.

The credentials of the delegates are examined and found to be in order. Classis is declared constituted and the following officers take their place. Rev. Ben Schoof is the chairman, Rev. Jeremy Segstro vice-chairman, and Rev. Karlo Janssen clerk. After some modifications, the agenda was adopted. The credentials of Candidate Aidan Plug are examined and found to be in order.

Candidate Aidan Plug presented one of his sermon proposals. The sermon proposals he submitted were deemed sufficient to proceed with the examination.

Candidate Plug is examined in the topics of Old Testament exegesis, Knowledge of Scripture, New Testament exegesis, Doctrine and Creeds, Church History, Ethics, Church Polity, Pastoral Ministry. With much thankfulness, Classis decides to sustain the examination of Candidate Plug. The deputies from Regional Synod give their concurring advice in agreement with this. The way is open for Candidate Plug to be ordained as minister of the Word and sacraments at the church of Langley. Classis approves the call extended by Langley. Psalm 145: 5 was sung, and a prayer of thanksgiving was given. Candidate Plug was given a certificate of ordinability.

Smithers and Houston Canadian Reformed Churches ask for pulpit supply one Sunday a month. Classis grants this request.

Smithers Canadian Reformed Church asks Classis whether Regional Synod West could be postponed/cancelled. Classis advises that Regional Synod West can be cancelled.

In closed session, Rev. Janssen presents the reports of the church visitations to the church at Langley on March 2, 2020, Cloverdale on May 20, 2020, Prince George on June 9, 2020, and Smithers on June 10, 2020. Rev. Vandeburgt presents the reports of the church visitations to the church at Willoughby Heights on March 2, 2020, Surrey on May 20, 2020, and Houston on June 10, 2020. These reports are received with thankfulness.

Rev. Segstro reports on a communication with the Northwest Presbytery. Due to the border being closed, there will be no visitation to the Northwest Presbytery of the OPC on September 25, 2020.

Opportunity is given for the churches to share the status of any mission projects they are involved in. The work of the Asia Mission Board was reported on, including some regular online teaching and interaction with a student at our seminary who could replace the current missionary in due time. The Book of Praise has been almost completely translated. There is always a deficit of money, but there is always enough to continue the work. A request for increased donations has gone out to the churches. The delegates from Refuge report that, already in their first service, there was interest from members of the community. Smithers and Prince George report that the pamphlet distribution in the churches is bearing fruit. They report thanksgiving over new couples moving into the area, and a few regular guests that are looking at membership. Surrey reports with sadness that Rev. Jerome Lee had to return to Korea. Willoughby Heights reports a continued support of Brazil, Smithers, Prince George, Surrey Maranatha, and a minister in Sao Paulo. In the last year, there were 2 new members received in, with a third taking new member classes.

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.

The convening church of the next Classis is Willoughby Heights; the place of meeting is Willoughby Heights. The date is scheduled for December 10, 2020 with an alternate date for April 15, 2021. The suggested officers for the next Classis are: Langley, chairman; Rev. Karlo Janssen, vice-chairman; and Rev. Ben Schoof, clerk.

Four new members for the committee for appeals are needed. Br. Stan VanGrootheest, Rev. Karlo Janssen, Br. Rene Jacobi, and Br. Jerome Lengkeek are appointed as new members. Rev. Doug Vandeburgt is appointed counsellor for Refuge Canadian Reformed Church. Classis appoints Rev. Jeremy Segstro to represent Classis at the ordination of Candidate Plug on October 18.

Question period is made use of. The chairman notes with thankfulness that nothing censurable was said or done during the meeting, and that a brotherly spirit prevailed. The Acts of Classis are presented and adopted. The press release is presented and approved. After singing Hymn 83:1-2, Rev. Vandeburgt closes the meeting with prayer.

For Classis,  
Rev. Jeremy Segstro, vice-chairman at that time