

Press Release of Classis Manitoba (Denver) September 25, 2020

Emmanuel American Reformed Church in Denver, the convening church, arranged for the September 25th, 2020 Classis to be hosted in the Winnipeg Redeemer Church. Rev. Joe Poppe call the meeting to order and lead the opening devotions. He asked the brothers to sing Ps 111:1,2, he read from the same Psalm and led in prayer. He then welcomed all present.

The convening church had the credentials of the delegates examined. They were reported to be in order. Classis was declared constituted. The following officers were appointed: Rev. Joe Poppe president; Rev. Steve Vandeveld vice-president; Rev. James Slaa clerk. The agenda was adopted.

Rev. Joe Poppe thanked the Emmanuel American Reformed Church in Denver for the preparations involved in convening Classis. For memorabilia since the last Classis, these were remembered in prayer: Rev. James Slaa was installed as pastor of the Carman West Church. Dr. Andrew Pol's retirement, which begins October 1, 2020. Rev. Rick and Hannah Vanderhorst received a baby boy from the Lord. Rev. Joe Poppe received and declined a call to Chilliwack, BC. Student Daniel Shin was declared eligible for call and has received a call from Houston, BC. Student Aidan Plug sustained his peremptory exam at Classis Pacific West, so that the way to being ordained in Langley, BC is now open. At the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary, Dr. Gerhard Visscher retired as Professor of New Testament and Dr. William den Hollander was installed as Professor of New Testament. Instruction has resumed, including a number of students in different countries and different time zones via video conference.

Br. Andy Bakker was welcomed as a fraternal delegate from the Providence Reformed Church in Winnipeg (URCNA). Classis seated Dr. Andrew Pol, Rev. Rick Vanderhorst and Rev. James Zekveld as advisors. In addition, the deputies for Regional Synod West, Rev. Doug Vandeburgt and Rev. Julius Vanspronsen, joined Classis via technology.

Rev. James Slaa signed the Subscription Form for Classis Manitoba.

The Carman West Church has granted Dr. Andrew Pol retirement of active ministry, according to Art. 13 C.O., effective October 1, 2020. Classis concurs with this retirement, as do the deputies for Regional Synod West.

The Deputies for Contact with Neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries gave their report in writing and supplemented it with a verbal report. Two deputies had visited the Annual Classis of the RCUS on March 9-10 in Ashley, North Dakota. One deputy visited the Classis SWUS (URCNA) on March 10-11 in Ontario, California, and he also visited the most recent Classis Central US (URCNA) on Sept 14-15 in Doon, Iowa. Rev. Steve Vandeveld led in intercessory prayer for the churches with which we have fraternal relations.

The report from the Committee for Aid to Needy Churches was received. The suggested amount for supporting the church of Denver (\$50 per communicant member) was approved. Classis appoints the Winnipeg Redeemer Church to determine if the Classical support for Denver meets the guidelines of the Canada Revenue Agency for money being sent out of Canada. The Church

for Auditing the books for Aid to Needy Churches (Carman East) reported that the books were found to be in good order. The church of Denver expressed their sincere thanksgiving for the ongoing support of the churches in Classis Manitoba.

A report from the Committee for Students of Theology was received with thankfulness. The President of Classis spoke about the need for ministers of the Word, and how we might encourage young men to pursue the ministry in connection with Art. 20 C.O.

The Winnipeg Grace Church submitted a proposal that Classis task the Deputies for Contact with the Manitoba Provincial Government to communicate the Churches' concerns with the Covid19 protocols. The proposal did not find sufficient support from Classis; however, the individual churches were encouraged to take up contact with the government.

Question Period according to Art. 44 C.O. was held.

Br. Andy Bakker passed on fraternal greetings from the Providence Reformed Church of Winnipeg (URCNA). Rev. James Zekveld led in intercessory prayer.

A letter was received from the Deputy for Contact with the Manitoba Provincial Government, asking not to be reappointed. Classis thanks our Br. Bill VanBeek for years of faithful service.

Winnipeg Grace Church is appointed to convene the next Classis. The next dates for Classis are December 11, 2020 and March 26, 2021. The suggested officers for the next classis are: Rev. James Slaa president; Winnipeg Grace Church to assign a clerk. Classis made various appointments and reappointments. The following brothers were chosen as delegates to the upcoming Regional Synod, November 2, 2020: Rev. Joe Poppe and Rev. Carl Van Dam as primary delegates, and Rev. James Slaa as 1st alternate and Rev. James Zekveld as 2nd alternate. The elders Mark den Hollander and John Toet were chosen as primary delegates and Ralph Borst as 1st alternate and Earl VanAssen as 2nd alternate.

Personal question period was held. The president took an opportunity to respond in gratitude to Dr. Andrew Pol's farewell words for classis. No censure according to Art. 34 of the Church Order was necessary. The Acts were adopted and the Press Release approved for publication. Rev. Carl Van Dam requested that the brothers sing Hymn 84 and he led in closing prayer.

For Classis Manitoba
September 25, 2020

Steve Vandavelde,
Vice-president at that time.