

Press Release Classis Manitoba held on September 24, 2021

On behalf of the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church at Winnipeg, Rev. Joe Poppe opened the meeting by reading from Psalm 131, requested that we sing from Ps131, led in prayer, and welcomed all present.

As memorabilia the following were mentioned: Since the last Classis, Mrs. Helene Jonker, the wife of emeritus minister, Klass Jonker, was taken home to the Lord. We continue to remember Carman West's vacancy for a co-pastor.

Credentials were received from all the churches and examined. The churches were all properly represented. Rev. James Zekveld was seated as an advisor. Classis was constituted. Executive officers were appointed: Rev. Carl Van Dam as president, Rev. Steve Vandavelde as vice-president and elder Rod DeWit as clerk. The president, Rev. Carl Van Dam, thanked the convening church for organizing and hosting Classis. The agenda was adopted.

Classis received a verbal report from the Committee on Neighboring Classes and Presbyteries, from both Jacob Kuik and Rev. Vandavelde. The Committee's work was limited due to the Covid pandemic. Since the previous report, the committee had a delegate at the SWUS Classis of the URCNA in California in September 2021. The Presbytery of the Dakotas of the OPC has exchanged greetings with Classis Manitoba. One of the Committee members, Peter Veenendaal has requested release. Thankfulness for his years of service would be expressed by letter. We brought our interchurch relations before the Lord in intercessory prayer.

The report from the Committee for Aid to Needy Churches was received. Because of the amounts in reserve, the Committee suggests that Classis decrease the assessment of the churches to \$40 per communicant member and this was approved. 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 from the churches in Classis Manitoba.

Classis also received a report on the Committee for Students of Theology. With thankfulness, we not only received the written report, but rejoiced in how the Lord blesses the preparation of students of theology.

Regarding Art 44, of the Church Order one of the churches sought advice in a matter of church discipline. In closed session Classis offered its judgment and we brought this to the Lord in prayer. Also, a church requested the input of Classis with respect to moving toward a proactive and united approach to the government's Covid response, possibly anticipating vaccine passports required for church attendance. Encouragements and cautions were provided.

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The Church of Carman East is appointed the convening church for the next Classis. It will be convened, the Lord willing, on December 3, 2021 (if necessary), or else on March 25, 2022. The suggested president for the next Classis is Rev. Rick Vanderhorst.

Appointments were made:

Regional Synod Delegates: Rev. Joe Poppe, Rev. James Slaa, primary alternate Rev. Carl Van Dam, secondary alternate Rev. Steve Vandavelde. Elders Chris deBoer and Henry Slaa, primary alternate Lawrence Toet, secondary alternate Wayne Versteeg.

Personal question period was held. Brotherly censure was not necessary, the acts of Classis were adopted, and the press release was approved. Classis sang Hymn 41 , and Rev. Van Dam closed in prayer.

Vice-President at the time, Rev. Steve Vandavelde