

Press Release Classis Pacific West

Refuge CanRC (Langley) – April 7, 2022

On behalf of the convening church, Refuge, Rev. R. Visscher opened the meeting in a Christian manner, having the assembly read 1Thess 3:6-13 and pointing out how the passage assumes being connected to one another as churches. The assembly sang Psalm 95:1. In his opening prayer he remembered the installation of Rev. Alkema in the Smithers CanRC.

The delegates of the convening church of the previous classis, Langley, examined the credentials and reported that all churches were properly represented at classis. Classis was declared constituted. As per the suggestion of the previous classis, Rev. J. Segstro was appointed chairman, Rev. K. Janssen vice-chairman, and Rev. D. Vandeburgt clerk.

The agenda for the meeting was adopted. Classis reflected on the arrival of Rev. H. Alkema to the Smithers CanRC, the Houston CanRC in extending a call to Rev. Lee, the call extended by the Sardis CanRC to Rev. D. Vandeburgt and declined by him, and the call extended to and accepted by Rev. B Schoof by the Chilliwack CanRC. The list of incoming correspondence was reviewed. As this was his first time at a Classis Pacific West since his installation in Smithers, Rev. H. Alkema signed the form for subscription.

The Surrey-Maranatha CanRC requested honourable release for Rev. B. Schoof, as he had accepted a call to the Chilliwack CanRC. All the documents were found to be in order and honourable release was granted as per July 1, 2022.

Requests from Houston and Surrey-Maranatha for assistance from ministers in the classis with preaching arrangements were granted, each could count on a minister one Sunday per month.

The following reports were received:

- The Treasurer, br. J. Kuik. An assessment of \$4 was approved for 2022.
- Cloverdale as church appointed to review the books of the treasurer. Following this report br. Kuik was discharged with respect to his responsibilities for 2021.
- Houston as church appointed to inspect the archives: all was in order.
- Committee for Needy Churches: no requests had been submitted.
- Church visitation to the Surrey-Maranatha CanRC

The chairman asked whether the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued, whether the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured, and whether there was any matter in which the consistories need the judgment and help of classis for the proper government of their church. Four churches responded with “yes, yes, no” and three with “yes, yes, yes”. Cloverdale, Langley, and Surrey-Maranatha requested advice and received it. Surrey’s request for advice concerned its future. Classis struck a 3-member *ad hoc* committee to assist Surrey in its considerations. Appointed to this committee were members of the neighbouring congregations: Willoughby Heights, Refuge, and Cloverdale (including the counselor-delegate, who would be the convenor).

As per CPW regulations, the churches apprised each other of their mission activities.

Cloverdale: The work of Asia Mission continues. There is a lot of concern about developments abroad. Locally, the evangelism committee is starting things up (e.g. Cloverdale Market, VBS). A Hope Explored course will be offered.

Houston: activities locally are beginning again as health restrictions ease.

Langley: there are concerns with respect to Asia Mission. Travel abroad is not possible. The online work continues at full speed. Christianity Explored continues. We are also reviewing our local church structures and considering options where mission is concerned.

Refuge: A brother, fluent in various south Asian languages, has been elected as an elder set aside for outreach to the Indo-Pakistani community in the area. He has been leading a local Bible study. We are hoping for assistance from other churches in this effort. A program with a local outreach

focus is planned for Good Friday. Community dinners are being planned for Langley City.

Smithers: The work in Prince George is progressing very positively. In early January three elders and one deacon were ordained as a provisional council for Prince George. Local initiatives are beginning again, such as outreach among the indigenous population, a moms group, and Christianity Explored.

Surrey-Maranatha: Lack of involvement of members has meant our efforts have been minimal.

Willoughby Heights: Financial support continues to be given via assessments to the work in Prince George overseen by Smithers and the work in Brazil overseen by Aldergrove. Willoughby also financially supports the project of Pastor Elienai of the IRB in Sao Paulo, Brazil. This year Willoughby has decided to become a supporting church for the Mission in Mexico project overseen by Abbotsford and Vernon; Willoughby will be considering becoming a cooperating church in the near future. Locally Willoughby is continuing to explore the opportunity of creating a reading room in its building or close to it (e.g. in a shopping mall). There is also some communication with the local Free Reformed Church regarding cooperation in outreach.

The following appointments were made by classis:

Convening of next classis: by Smithers, at a place determined by Smithers, on Thursday June 23, 2022 (if cancelled: September 22, 2022), at 9:00am.

Suggested officers for the next classis: Chair: provided by Willoughby Heights, Vice-chair: provided by Langley, Clerk: provided by Refuge

Committee for Examinations: Deputies (Sermons): Rev. K. Janssen and Rev. H. Alkema; Exegesis OT: Rev. R. Visscher; Exegesis NT: Rev. H. Alkema; Scripture Knowledge: Rev. J. Segstro; Doctrine & Creeds: Rev. D. Vandeburgt; Church History: Rev. K. Janssen; Ethics: Rev. T. Schouten; Church Polity: rev. K. Janssen; Pastoral Theology: Rev. D. Vandeburgt.

Church Visitors: Rev. D. Vandeburgt (convenor), Rev. K. Janssen, Rev. R. Visscher, Rev. H. Alkema

Archiving Church: Smithers

Inspection of Archives: Houston

Treasurer: br. J. Kuik (17167 83rd Ave, Surrey, BC V4N 0B2; 778-574-5083)

Church to review CPW financial books: Cloverdale

Needy Churches Committee: br. H. Leyenhorst (convenor), br. J. Lengkeek, br. R. Van Oene

Preaching arrangements in vacant churches: Rev. R. Visscher

Coordination Ecclesiastical Contacts: Rev. J. Segstro

Counsellors for vacant churches: Houston – remains Rev. J. Visscher, Surrey-Maranatha: Rev. K. Janssen.

Opportunity was given for personal questions. Censure as per CO article 34 was not deemed necessary. The press release of classis was read and approved. The acts will be adopted by the executive. The chairman closed classis in a Christian manner, remembering the needs of the churches within classis, of the federation, and the needs of the world in his prayer. Following prayer, the assembly sang the doxology and was declared closed.

Rev. K. Janssen

Vice-chair of CPW April 2022.