

Press release, Classis Pacific East, Aldergrove  
September 8, 2022

R.A. Schouten of the convening church, Aldergrove, called the meeting to order. Those present sang Hymn 52 and listened to the reading of Revelation 1. Brother Schouten led in prayer; he then remembered various matters among the churches. A special welcome was extended to candidate T. Veenstra who was present for his peremptory exam; deputies of Regional Synod West were also welcomed to assist classis in the exam. J. Witteveen was welcomed to join classis, present especially to help classis as examiner.

The credentials were examined and it was reported that the churches were duly represented in their delegates. One delegate joined classis via electronic/remote connection. Classis was constituted; the officers to serve classis were appointed: R.A. Schouten as chairman; B. Wielenga as vice-chairman; and C. Vanderlinde as clerk. Classis adopted its agenda.

The form of subscription was not present for the meeting; ministers serving three churches of classis, who have not yet signed the form, affirmed their agreement verbally and will sign at a future date.

The church at Sardis requested a peremptory examination for candidate T. Veenstra who has been called by the church to become their minister. The necessary documents were found to be in order and classis proceeded to the examination. Brother Veenstra delivered a sermon proposal with Mark 1.40-45 as text; classis decided the sermon was sufficient to proceed with the next part of the examination; the deputies agreed.

Classis proceeded to examine brother Veenstra in Old Testament exegesis, New Testament exegesis, knowledge of Scripture, as well as doctrine and creeds before classis broke for lunch.

The examination continued after lunch break with topics of church history, ethics, church polity, and diaconiology. Classis decided that brother Veenstra had sustained his examination; the deputies of Regional Synod concurred. The brother was informed, congratulated, remembered in prayer, and given a 'certificate of ordainability'; he gave verbal agreement to the form of subscription as it was read. The deputies were thanked for their assistance to classis, as was brother Witteveen, after which these brothers departed. Classis appointed R.A. Schouten (alternate B. Schoof) to represent classis at the ordination of T. Veenstra in Sardis.

Reports were received a) from the treasurer of classis, b) from the church at Vernon which reviewed the books of the treasurer, c) from the church of Yarrow which inspected the archives of classis, d) from the church visitors for visitations made to the following churches: Chilliwack, Sardis, Abbotsford, Lynden, Nooksack Valley, Pathway, Aldergrove.

The chairman asked all the churches whether the ministry of the office bearers is being continued, whether the decisions of the major assemblies are being honored, and whether

there is any matter in which the consistories need the judgment and help of classis for the proper government of their church. All the churches replied 'yes' to the first two questions. One church requested and received advice in a matter of church discipline.

Various appointments were made, among which: the convening church for the next classis is the church at Chilliwack on December 8, 2022 (with March 9, 2023 as the alternate date). The following brothers were delegated to Regional Synod West to be convened on November 7, 2022: ministers B. Schoof and B. Wielenga, with R.A. Schouten and I. Borst as alternates in that order; and elders C. Dehaas and R. Vane, with K. Huttema and A. Louwerse as alternates in that order.

After personal question period, and after the chairman thankfully noted that no censure was needed, the Acts of classis were read and adopted; the press release was read and approved for publication.

In closing remarks, the chairman included some fitting words to acknowledge the end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II who died on this day. The chairman led in prayer, after which the assembled sang Psalm 121. The chairman declared the meeting closed.

For classis on September 8, 2022  
Bill Wielenga