

Press Release of Classis Alberta convened by Devon Can. Ref. Church on Mar. 14, 2023

On behalf of the convening church at Devon, Gus Rus, welcomed the delegates, and observer Rev. Tad Groenendyk, from the United Reformed Church of Leduc. He called the meeting to order and led the opening devotions. Several matters regarding vacancies, calls, and retired ministers were brought before the Lord in prayer.

The credentials were examined and found to be in good order. Classis was constituted. The officers suggested by the previous classis took their place: Rev. G. Veurink as chairman, Rev. M. TenHaaf as clerk, and Rev. J. Ludwig as vice-chairman.

After the agenda was adopted, the church at Immanuel reported that the Classis Archives had been inspected, and found to be in good order. A report from the classical treasurer for the year 2021 was received with thankfulness.

Church Visitation reports to Calgary, Edmonton-Providence, St. Albert, Edmonton-Immanuel, Devon, and Barrhead were received with thankfulness to the Lord that all things are being done in full harmony with the Word of God.

Two churches requested honourable release: Hope Neerlandia for Rev. J. Ludwig who accepted the call to Fergus-Maranatha and Taber for Rev. T. Vandergaag who accepted the call to Guelph-Immanuel. After the necessary documents were reviewed by the chairman and clerk, classis granted both requests. The chairman expressed gratitude to them for their faithful work, and wished them the Lord's blessing in their new congregations. Rev. J. Ludwig and Rev. T. Vandergaag expressed their appreciation for the positive experiences they had during their time in Classis AB, and wished the brothers the Lord's blessing upon their work. The church at Neerlandia was appointed to speak on behalf of Classis at the farewell service of Rev. J. Ludwig. The church at Coaldale was appointed to speak on behalf of Classis at the farewell service of Rev. T. Vandergaag. Classis appointed Rev. G. Veurink to serve as provisional counsellor for Hope until the next Classis AB. Taber requested Rev. C. VanSpronsen as their counselor. This request was granted.

Barrhead, Devon, Hope, and Taber requested pulpit supply. Taber was granted supply once per month; the other churches once every six weeks.

The chairman asked all the churches the three questions set out in Article 44 and the churches responded appropriately. Edmonton-Immanuel requested concurring advice in a case of church discipline. Advice was given and the matter brought before the Lord in prayer.

Classis dealt with a letter from Devon, on behalf of Rev. G. Girard, a military chaplain ordained in the Reformed Church of America, and a member of the Devon Can Ref. Church, requesting "a transfer of ordination" to a church in the Canadian Reformed federation. Classis appointed an ad hoc committee with a mandate to investigate this further and report to the next classis.

A letter was received from Dr. W. Den Hollander, requesting that CRTS receive a copy of the Guidelines of Classis AB for the classical examination of students. This request was granted.

The church of Neerlandia proposed a change to Regulation 7A of Classis AB so that all material be submitted to the convening church 5 weeks before the date of classis. The proposal was adopted.

The observer from the URCNA, Rev. Tad Groenendyk, was given the opportunity to address Classis and pass on greetings. The chairman responded with some appropriate words.

A letter from the church at St. Albert was received regarding the treasurer's mandate. The letter contained four recommendations. After some changes, Classis adopted those recommendations.

The Convening Church for the next Classis is Edmonton-Immanuel with the following dates: June 13, 2023, (alternate date, Sept. 12, 2023). Suggested officers for next Classis are chairman: Rev. S. VanLeeuwen, vice-chairman: Rev. K. Wieske, clerk: Rev. G. Veurink.

Personal Question Period was made use of. Brotherly Censure, per Article 34 of the Church Order was deemed, with thankfulness, not to be needed. The acts were adopted. The press release was approved. The chairman closed Classis by leading in prayer and requesting the singing of Psalm 99: 1-3.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Ludwig', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rev. J. Ludwig (Vice-chairman at the time)