

Press Release Classis Manitoba held on April 12, 2019

On behalf of the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church at Winnipeg, Rev. Joe Poppe opened the meeting by requesting we sing from Ps.19:1,3, and read Psalm 19. As memorabilia the following were mentioned: Sunday worship services were established at the Westman church plant at Rivers, near Brandon; the ongoing vacancy in Carman East, and the fact that Carman West has established a calling committee to call a second minister; God has blessed Rev. & sr. James and Hannah Zekveld with a son, Victor, and Rev.& sr. Steve and Cecilia Vandavelde with a daughter, Abigail. Rev. Poppe led in opening prayer, asking for God's blessing over the meeting.

Credentials were received from all the churches, and examined. The churches were all properly represented. Classis was constituted. Executive officers were appointed: Rev. Rick Vanderhorst as president, Rev. Joe Poppe as vice-president and Elder Larry Hillmer as clerk. The president, Rev. Vanderhorst, thanked the convening church for organizing and hosting Classis. He welcomed brothers Jacob Kuik and Peter Veenendaal as Deputies for Neighbouring Classis and Presbyteries. He also welcomed brothers Bert Vane and Kevin van Delden as representatives from the Aldergrove Mission Board. The agenda was adopted. The brothers from the Mission Board gave an update on the ongoing mission work in Brazil, and the delegates at Classis asked various questions. Dr. Andrew Pol led in intercessory prayer for the work in Brazil.

The treasurer for Classis Manitoba, sister Wilma Bergsma, submitted her report and suggested an assessment of \$10 per communicant member for 2019. Classis adopted her recommendation. Reports are also received from Carman West regarding the inspection of the books of the treasurer; from Redeemer regarding the inspection of the classis archives; and the deputy for contact with the provincial government. These are received with thanksgiving.

A church visitation reports to the church of Denver for 2018, and to the churches of Carman East, Carman West, Winnipeg Grace, and Winnipeg Redeemer for 2019 were read. These were received with thanksgiving. After each report, one of the delegates gave thanks and laid the needs of each church before the throne of God.

A letter was received from Rev. Ralph Pontier on behalf of Classis Central of the URCNA passing on fraternal greetings.

The chairman asked the questions according to Art.44 of the Church Order. Each of the churches indicated that the ministry of the office-bearers was being continued, and the decisions of the major assemblies were being honoured. The church at Carman East requested advice in a matter of discipline, and concurring advice was given.

There was one instruction from the church at Denver. Colorado is home to three United Reformed Churches. These churches are within a one to two-hour drive of the Denver church. Denver has commenced with pulpit exchanges with one of these churches and reached out to another. Thus, the church of Denver requests that for future meetings Classis

Manitoba extends an invitation to Classis South West URCNA to send a fraternal delegate to attend Classis Manitoba. This would allow Classis Manitoba to also interact with these neighbouring URC churches as we do with URC churches near Manitoba. Since the majority of the churches in Classis South West URCNA are from California, the church of Denver is encouraged to further the contact with their neighbouring churches, but Classis decides not to accede to their request to invite their fraternal delegates to our Classis meetings.

An appeal from a member of Carman West against the consistory of Carman West was dealt with in closed session with the delegates from Carman West absenting themselves from the meeting. This matter was remembered in intercessory prayer. A letter or response will be sent.

Carman East is appointed the convening church for the next classis. It will be convened, the Lord willing, on June 21, 2019 (if necessary), or else on September 27, 2019. The suggested president for the next Classis is Rev. Steve Vandavelde.

During personal question period a question was asked whether the churches would be willing to support an occasional pulpit exchange with churches in neighbouring Classes and Presbyteries. Approval was given. Brotherly censure was not necessary, the press release was approved, and the acts adopted. Rev. Vanderhorst closed in prayer.

Clerk at the time, Rev. Joe Poppe