

PRESS RELEASE OF CLASSIS PACIFIC WEST SMITHERS, March 3, 2020

At 9:00 AM, in the Cloverdale Canadian Reformed Church, Rev. James Slaa of the convening church of Smithers welcomed the delegates and guests who had gathered there and led the opening devotions. When it was determined that all the churches were lawfully represented by their delegates, Classis was constituted. Rev. Roelf C. (Karlo) Janssen was appointed chairman, Rev. James Slaa was appointed vice-chairman, and Rev. Ben Schoof was appointed clerk. In memorabilia the churches of Houston, Smithers, and Langley were remembered with the departure or impending departures of their ministers and vacancies resulting. A special welcome was given to Rev. Jeremy Segstro, who, since the last Classis, was ordained as minister of the Word in Cloverdale. At this classis he therefore signed the Form of Subscription for Classis Pacific West.

Classis received a request from the previous Classis Pacific East to help it out with pulpit supply, as it has been experiencing vacancies of some churches and ill health of some ministers. Since our Classis will be experiencing a similar situation with vacancies in three churches, this request was denied.

Langley church sought concurring advice of Classis to supervise the constitution of a consistory for the institution of a new Canadian Reformed Church in Langley, BC, as per Article 40 of the Church Order. After due discussion and consideration Classis gave concurring advice to proceed as requested.

Since it has been three years since Rev. Lodder has been dismissed from his service within the congregation of Cloverdale and since no call was forthcoming, Classis declared him released from his ministerial status as per Article 11 of the Church Order.

A report was received from the Treasurer. The assessment for 2020 was set at \$5.00 pcm. Cloverdale church also indicated that the books of the Treasurer have been reviewed and everything was deemed to be in good order. The treasurer Br. Jake Kuik was thanked for his work and discharged from his responsibility as treasurer for the year ending 2019. A report was received from Houston on the inspection of the archives, which are cared for by Smithers. Everything was in good order.

According to Article 44 CO, it was determined with thankfulness that in the churches of classis the ministry of the office-bearers is being continued, and that the decisions of the major assemblies are being honoured. Several churches sought the judgment and help of classis for the proper government of their church.

Under Fraternal Appraisal, among other matters, the Chinese Reformed Church was mentioned. The spread of coronavirus causes much anxiety and concern amongst the members. Cloverdale and Langley asked the churches to continue to remember the Chinese Reformed Church in prayer. Surrey reports that the work amongst the Korean community online and in the lower mainland by Rev. Jerome Lee continues.

Surrey Maranatha is the convening church for the next Classis, to be held on Tuesday, June 9. Alternate date is September 15. The necessary appointments were made. Personal Question Period was held. With thankfulness, the Chairman ruled that censure according to Article 34 CO was not necessary. The Acts of Classis were adopted and the Press Release was approved. The chairman Rev. Janssen led in devotions and closed classis.

For Classis, Rev. James Slaa, Vice-chairman at that time