

Press Release Classis Manitoba held on March 26, 2021

On behalf of the Grace Canadian Reformed Church at Winnipeg, Rev. Rick Vanderhorst opened the meeting by reading from Romans 15:20-32, requested that we sing from Ps.147:1,4, and led in prayer.

As memorabilia the following were mentioned: thankfulness for Rev. Vanderhorst's improvement in health; sister Helene Jonker (wife of Grace's emeritus minister Rev. Klaas Jonker) has cancer and her health is declining; Dr. Ted Van Raalte from our seminary had an accident, and is recovering in hospital; Rev. & sr. James and Hannah Zekveld were blessed with a daughter, Arley; the ongoing situation of COVID-19 and public health orders and their continuing effects on public worship; the ongoing second vacancy in Carman West.

Credentials were received from all the churches and examined. The churches were all properly represented. Rev. James Zekveld was seated as an advisor. Classis was constituted. Executive officers were appointed: Rev. James Slaa as president, Rev. Joe Poppe as vice-president and elder Clarence Jonker as clerk. The president, Rev. Slaa, thanked the convening church for organizing and hosting Classis. The agenda was slightly amended and adopted. Rev. Rich Anjema was welcomed and seated as fraternal delegate from the Providence Reformed Church (URCNA).

The treasurer for Classis Manitoba, sister Wilma Bergsma, submitted a financial statement for 2020, and it was received with thankfulness. A report was received from Carman West regarding the inspection of the books of the treasurer and they were found to be in good order. A report was received from Redeemer regarding the inspection of the classis archives. They were found to be in good order. It included a few minor matters that needed attention. This report was also received with thanksgiving.

The Redeemer church submitted a proposal to change Art.55 of the Church Order to read, "The 150 Psalms shall have the principal place in the singing of the churches. The metrical psalms adopted by general synod as well as hymns approved by general synod shall be sung in the worship services." This proposal was adopted by Classis and will be passed on to Regional Synod for consideration.

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. None of the churches requested the judgment and help of classis for the proper government of their church.

Rev. Rich Anjema spoke encouraging words as fraternal delegate. Rev. Joe Poppe responded in kind.

Winnipeg Redeemer is appointed the convening church for the next classis. It will be convened, the Lord willing, on June 25, 2021 (if necessary), or else on September 24, 2021. The suggested president for the next Classis is Rev. Carl Van Dam.

Personal question period was held. Brotherly censure was not necessary, the acts of classis were adopted, and the press release was approved. Classis sang from Hy.45, and Rev. Slaa closed in prayer.

Clerk at the time, Rev. Joe Poppe