

Press Release of Classis Manitoba held on June 17, 2022

On behalf of the Carman West Canadian Reformed Church, Rev. James Slaa opened the meeting by reading from Psalm 147 and requested the singing of Ps. 147:1,6. Mention was made of our retired ministers, which includes Rev. John VanRietschoten and his wife Agnus who are well overall but are struggling with their eyesight, Rev. Klaas Jonker, and Dr. Andrew Pol and his wife Inge. He also mentioned that the Redeemer Canadian Reformed Church of Winnipeg has an intern this summer, Zach Vanderploeg. Rev Slaa then led in opening prayer remembering also these items in prayer.

Credentials were received from all the churches, the credentials were examined, and the attendance list was signed by all the delegates. The churches were all properly represented. Classis was constituted. Executive officers were appointed: Rev. Joe Poppe as president, Rev. Rick Vanderhorst as vice-president, and Elder Dale Dewitt as clerk. The agenda was adopted.

Proposals and/or instructions from the churches (Art. 33, C.O.).

Report from Carman West re: seeking the approbation of Classis for the institution of a new congregation in Elm Creek, Manitoba.

There are 151 members currently committed to joining a newly instituted church in Elm Creek, which includes members currently from Carman West (the majority) and some from Carman East. Updates are given on the process of finding a building for worship. The proposal for electing new elders and deacons is reviewed, which includes five elders and three deacons. It appears that there will be men suitable to take up these offices both now and for the future. The financial viability of a newly instituted church in Elm Creek is reviewed and it appears viable.

With thankfulness to the Lord, the delegates are in favour of the proposal and give concurring advice for the institution of new Canadian Reformed Church in Elm Creek.

Question period

The president asked the questions found in Article 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. One church requested the judgment and help of classis for the proper government of its church. Advice was given in closed session.

Appointments

Convening church for next classis – The Emmanuel American Reformed church of Denver
Host church – Grace Canadian Reformed Church of Winnipeg
Date for next classis - Sept 23, 2022 at 9am

Suggested officers:

President – Rev Steve Vandervelde

Vice-president: to be appointed

Clerk: to be arranged by Denver

Personal Question period was held.

With thanks, the chairman deemed that Censure was not necessary.

The Acts were adopted, and the press release was approved.

Classis sang from Hy 52:1,2 and Rev Joe Poppe lead in prayer.

Vice-president (at that time), Rev. Rick Vanderhorst