

Press Release of Classis North – 28 April 2023

On behalf of the convening church of Launceston, Rev. W. Bredenhof welcomed all of the delegates to classis. He extended a special word of welcome to br. Stuart Coles as elder from the Southern Presbyterian Church and expressed gratitude for his presence. He then led in opening devotions. The chairman remembered the vacancy of Mt. Nasura after Rev. R. Bredenhof accepted the call to serve as a professor at the seminary. He also rejoiced with the church of Legana that Rev. Anson Vandelden recently accepted the call from their church. After the credentials were examined and found to be in good order, classis was declared constituted.

As appointed by the previous classis, Rev A. Souman served as chairman, Rev D. Poppe as vice-chairman, and Rev W. Bredenhof as clerk. The brothers of the convening church were thanked for their work in preparing for the classis, and the agenda was adopted. All of the delegates stood to indicate their agreement with the Three Forms of Unity.

Classis gratefully received church visitation reports regarding visits made to the churches of Southern River, Melville and Legana. The deputies for needy churches note with gratitude that none of the churches require assistance. The church of Mt. Nasura notes that the archives are mostly in good order. The questions outlined in Article 41 of the Church Order were asked, and all of the churches answered that the ministry of the office bearers was being continued, and that the decisions of the major assemblies were being honoured. No church indicated the need for advice from classis.

Br. Stuart Coles is given the opportunity to address classis on behalf of the SPC. They have two congregations, one on Hobart and the other in Launceston. They are thankful for the contact with the FRC, especially the local congregation in Launceston. They appreciate the help at the school, the many contacts and friendships as well as working in Launceston on the common cause of the gospel of Jesus Christ. They are keen to develop fraternal relations even though they don't have a lot of experience in other church relationships. They have fraternal relations with the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia and the Heritage Reformed Churches. Their church of Launceston has been vacant for 3.5 years. They are very thankful to report that Rev. Tom Budgen from Free Church of Scotland (continuing) has accepted the call to serve the SPC in Launceston. If they Lord is willing, he will be inducted into office on 24 June 2023.

The note from the classical treasurer was received with thankfulness.

FRC Southern River was appointed as the convening church for the next classis, to be held on 28 July 2023 if necessary, or else 13 October 2023 DV. The suggested officers will be Rev S. 't Hart (chairman), Rev A. Souman (vice-chairman), and Rev D. Poppe (clerk).

Classis also made the following appointments:

- Church visitors: Rev R. Bredenhof, Rev D. Poppe (convenor), Rev A. Souman, Rev. S. 't Hart.
- Church for keeping the archives: FRC Kelmscott
- Church for auditing the archives: FRC Mount Nasura
- Treasurer: Louisa. Brand; alternate: Alastair Kleyn
- Church for auditing the books of the Treasurer: FRC Southern River
- Committee for Needy Churches: D.C. de Vos, G. VanBurgel, C. Huizinga
- Church for auditing fund for Needy Churches: FRC Southern River

- Committee of Examiners Co-ordinator: Rev W. Bredenhof
- Sermon proposal: & Rev A. Souman S. 't Hart
- Old Testament: Rev D. Poppe
- New Testament: Rev W. Bredenhof
- Doctrine and Creeds: Rev A. Souman
- Church History: Rev W. Bredenhof
- Knowledge of Scripture: Rev D. Poppe
- Ethics: Rev S. 't Hart
- Diaconiology: Rev W. Bredenhof
- Church Polity: Rev A. Souman

One brother made use of personal question period, and censure according to Article 47 of the Church Order was considered unnecessary. The Acts were adopted and the press release was approved. Rev. A. Souman closed the meeting in prayer.

For Classis North,
Rev. Dirk Poppe