

Press Release - Classis North October 2023

On behalf of the convening church, the FRC Kelmscott, Rev. Souman invited those present to sing from Psalm 33:1,4. We read from Ephesians 3 and Rev. Souman led us in prayer.

Delegates from the church of Southern River examined the credentials after which Classis was constituted with Rev. W. Bredenhof being appointed chairman, Rev. S. 't Hart Vice-Chairman and clerk Rev. A. Souman. Reflecting on the churches in Classis North, Rev. Bredenhof reflected on the vacancy of Mt Nasura and the upcoming vacancy of Southern River. We were also advised that progress is being made in plans for the institution of a new church in Seville Grove, Western Australia.

The highlight of the Classis meeting was the examination of Candidate Timothy Slaa, who has recently graduated from the CRTS and has accepted a call to serve as missionary in PNG. Two Synod deputies were also in attendance for the exam. After the appropriate paperwork was examined, Br. Slaa presented his sermon proposal on Luke 3:7-14 and in closed session the sermon was determined to be adequate for the examination to continue. Oral exams were given in OT exegesis (Micah 6 & Psalm 15), NT exegesis (Colossians 2,3), Knowledge of Scripture, doctrine and creeds (The Church & Means of Grace), Church History (Reformation & post-Reformation), Ethics (Image of God), Church Polity (Principles of the Church Order), and Diaconology (pastoral theology) with a focus on missiology. After the examination was completed, Classis met in closed session after which it could be joyfully announced that br. Slaa had sustained his examination. He signed the subscription form and was then presented with a Certificate of Admission to the Office of Minister of the Word. Thanks was given to the Lord through song and prayer, and Candidate Slaa and his wife Alana were congratulated.

Classis then went into closed session to receive Church visitation reports from the FRC Launceston, Melville, Southern River, Mount Nasura and Kelmscott.

The Classis treasurer's report as well as the auditor's report were received with thankfulness. The auditor's suggestion to centralise flight books was considered impractical in our circumstances. The levy for this financial year has been reduced to \$7 per confessing member.

Question period according to Article 41.C.O. was held, with no church requesting the help of Classis.

The FRC Launceston submitted a proposal for article 65 of the FRCA church order (Ecclesiastical Feast Days), to be changed so that it is in line with the wording of CanRC Church Order art. 53. After making a few changes, Classis adopted the proposal and decided to forward it on to Synod Darling Downs, 2024.

The FRC Southern River requested the honourable release of Rev. Poppe on account of his impending move to Cardup Brook. Rev. Poppe was thanked for his work in Southern River and Classis North. Rev. Poppe also expressed his thankfulness for his time among the churches of Classis North. The FRC Southern River also asked for the appointment of a counsellor for the time of their vacancy; Classis appointed Rev. Souman.

An appeal was received from a brother and sister against a decision of their church's consistory. The appeal was dealt with in closed session.

The necessary appointments were made. Rev. 't Hart was appointed coordinator for Church Visitations in place of Rev. Poppe. The next classis was set for February 2, 2024, with Melville being the convening Church. Suggested officers are: Rev. A. [Anson] van Delden (chair), Rev. W. Bredenhof (vice) and Rev. S. 't Hart (clerk).

Question Period was held. The Chairman concluded with thankfulness that censure (art. 47 CO) was not called for. Due to the late hour it was agreed that the Acts and Press Release would be approved by the moderamen outside of the meeting. After singing from Psalm 116 the Chairman closed the meeting in prayer.

S. 't Hart (Vice-Chair)