

## **Press Release of Classis South-West, convened on 22 March 2024 in Busselton, W.A.**

Classis South West of 22 March 2024 was convened by the Free Reformed Church of Busselton, with a dozen delegates in attendance, lawfully representing the churches of Albany, Baldivis, Bunbury, Busselton, Comet Bay, and West Albany. Rev. Axel Hagg opened the meeting by reading Rev 1:9-20, inviting the delegates to sing Hy 42:1,2,3,6, after which he led in prayer.

Remembered in memorabilia and in prayer during the meeting were the ongoing vacancy of the church of Albany; Rev Cornelis Kleyn's installation as minister of the church of Comet Bay and his attendance at this classis for the first time as a delegate; and the upcoming commemoration of Christ's death and resurrection on Good Friday and Easter in a week's time.

After the delegates rose to indicate their agreement with the Three Forms of Unity, classis appointed Rev. Arend Witten as chairman, Rev. Richard Pot as vice-chairman, and Rev. Axel Hagg as clerk. Classis being constituted, the agenda was adopted.

Question period according to Article 41 of the church order was held, with all the churches of classis affirming that the ministry of the office-bearers was being continued, and the decisions of the major assemblies were being honoured. One church requested and received the advice of classis to proceed in a matter of church discipline.

One item of correspondence was received and tabled, namely a positive report on the archives of classis.

Various appointments were made, including the church of Comet Bay as convening church of the next classis, scheduled for 25 October 2024 DV, with the suggested officers being Rev. Kelvin Dekker as chairman, Rev. Arend Witten as vice-chairman, and the clerk from the church of Comet Bay.

Appointed as delegates to Synod Darling Downs 2024 were ministers Rev. Axel Hagg (Busselton), Rev. Richard Pot (Bunbury), Rev. Arend Witten (Baldivis); elders br. John Berkelaar (Baldivis), br. Henry Hamelink (Comet Bay), br. Peter Witten (Albany); and alternates, in order: br. Dirk Van Duyn (Bunbury), br. Gerrit van der Wal (Albany), br. Gerrit Ballast (West Albany).

After personal question period, the chairman judged that no censure was needed (Art. 47 C.O.). The Acts were adopted, and the press release approved. Following the singing of Ps 100:1,3 the chairman closed classis in prayer.

For classis, R.E. Pot (vice-chairman at that time)