

Press Release - Classis North September 2024

On behalf of the convening church, the FRC Southern River, Elder J van Dongen invited those present to sing from Hymn 15:1,2. We read from Isaiah 40:1-11 and asked the Lord for His blessing on the meeting of Classis. In his opening words Br. Van Dongen reflected on the vacancies of Melville and Mt Nasura and the decline of the calls these churches extended to Candidate Jacob Baijal, the impending institution of Seville Grove, and that Rev. Souman was called upon to conduct a funeral for a senior sister in his congregation.

Delegates from the church of Mount Nasura examined the credentials after which Classis was constituted with Rev. W. Bredenhof being appointed chairman, Rev. S. 't Hart Vice-Chairman and clerk Rev. Anson van Delden.

The Classis treasurer's report as well as the auditor's report were received with thankfulness. The levy for this financial year has been increased to \$15 per confessing member. Appreciation was expressed for the Classis treasurer, Sr. L. Brand.

Classis received and discussed Church visitation reports from the FRC Kelmscott, Launceston, Melville, Legana, and Mount Nasura. A letter from the FRC Legana, advising Classis that they have changed their local rules for the voting of office bearers to include all communicant members, was also received.

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

A highlight on the Classis agenda was the proposal for the institution of a new Free Reformed Church in Seville Grove, consisting of about 150 founding members from Southern River and 85 from the church of Kelmscott. It is anticipated that this will result in both Southern River and Seville Grove having a church membership of about 240 members, and 275 for Kelmscott. The Seville Grove group have begun the process of purchasing an existing church building in the area, but until such time as they have possession of it and the necessary modifications are made, they will be using Kelmscott's building. After some discussion, Classis gave concurring advice for the proposal (as per Church Order art. 38). The institution of the Seville Grove church is planned for October 6, 2024. Rev. A. Souman was appointed to represent Classis North for the institution. Rev. 't Hart was appointed to be Seville Grove's counsellor.

Earlier this year, Rev. 't Hart of the FRC Melville accepted the call extended to him by the FRC Southern River. The Church of Southern River provided the necessary paperwork as per art. 6 of the Church Order, including a certificate of release and a testimonial concerning Rev. 't Hart's doctrine and conduct from the FRC Melville. After some discussion Classis give its approbation of the call.

The necessary appointments were made. The next classis was set for April 11, 2025, with Launceston being the convening Church. Suggested officers are: Rev. A. Souman (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. After singing from Hymn 52:1,2 the Chairman closed the meeting in prayer.

S. 't Hart (Vice-Chair)