

Report on the meeting of Classis Central US of the URCNA

Convening at the Redeemer United Reformed Church in Orange City, Iowa
September 15-16, 2014

Delegates to the 37th meeting of Classis Central U.S. arrived at the building of the Redeemer United Reformed Church in Orange City, Iowa and were greeted with Christian fellowship and a hot meal provided by the saints of Redeemer URC. Classis Central U.S. convened at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 15, concluding in the afternoon of the following day.

The Monday evening session began with welcoming visitors and guests. The delegates then approved the work of the convening Consistory, the Stated Clerk and the Treasurer. After this, a colloquium doctum for Rev. Ken Anema began, being performed at the request of the Immanuel United Reformed Church in DeMotte, Indiana. A colloquium doctum is a "doctrinal conversation" that occurs when an ordained man outside the federation seeks to receive a call within the United Reformed Churches in North America. Rev. Anema had been serving as pastor of the Messiah's Independent Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan and has now taken up labor with the Divine Hope Reformed Bible Seminary as a theological professor to inmates in correctional institutions. The colloquium doctum took up the remainder of the session Monday evening, with four of the five areas of examination being completed before recessing. Rev. Todd De Rooy examined in the area of Practica, Rev. Ted Gray in the area of Church Polity, Rev. Simon Lievaart in Confessional Knowledge, and Rev. Matthew Nuiver in the area of Ethics.

Delegates began the morning session by hearing a fraternal address from the Rev. G. I. Williamson who represented the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the OPC. Rev. Williamson highlighted our fellowship in the faith and our Christian love for each other from early days. He exhorted the office-bearers to remain faithful to their subscription vow, and he expressed his desire for ecclesiastical bodies to subscribe to both the Three Forms of Unity and the Westminster Standards.

The final area of the colloquium doctum was then taken up and completed; Rev. Joel Vander Kooi examined in the area of Reformed Doctrine. Delegates discussed the exam and concluded unanimously that Rev. Anema sustained the exam. The classis declared him eligible to be called by the Immanuel URC as a minister of the Word and sacraments in the URCNA. Thanks to God were given, and Rev. Anema along with his wife, Renee, were congratulated.

Delegates then enjoyed a brief time of fellowship before returning to the work before them. Rev. Maynard Koerner and Rev. Jonathan Haney brought fraternal greetings. Both men brought out and rejoiced in our shared history and unity in the faith. Rev. Koerner represented the South Central Classis of the RCUS. He shared recent developments in the RCUS as well as exhorted the delegates to continue to sound forth faithfully God's truth. Rev. Haney represented the Midwest Presbytery of the RPCNA sharing recent developments within the RPCNA.

The delegates then turned their attention to the report from the Church Planting Advisory Committee (CPAC). The bulk of this report consisted of proposed "Classis Guidelines for Church Planting." After extensive discussion, the guidelines were recommitted to the CPAC, and the chairman encouraged the churches to communicate their suggestions to the CPAC via letter or email. After this the classis recessed for lunch.

After enjoying a delicious meal served by the saints at Redeemer URC, the delegates took up the remaining recommendations from the CPAC. Along with these, a budget was considered for CPAC activities in 2015. Although the budget was not submitted by the deadline for submission of classical materials, the decision of classis to recommit the guidelines to the CPAC necessitated funding. The overseeing Consistory for the CPAC proposed the budget of \$3,900, which was approved.

Classis then turned its attention to receive a fraternal address from Mr. Keith LeMahieu, who represented the Presbytery of the Midwest of the OPC. Mr. LeMahieu noted the Lord's work in our shared history and informed the delegates of recent developments in the presbytery and denomination. While not able to be present for the classis, the deputies of Classis Manitoba of

the Canadian Reformed Churches sent a letter of fraternal greeting, which was read to the classis.

Some elections and appointments needed to be made at this classis. Rev. Talman Wagenmaker was elected as the Stated Clerk of classis for a second term (having a two-term limit). Rev. Dan Donovan was elected as the alternate Stated Clerk of classis for a second term (having a two-term limit). Rev. Bradd Nymeyer and Rev. Doug Barnes were re-appointed as Classis Church Visitor and alternate Classis Church Visitor, respectively, for the West side of the classis. All terms are for three years.

The delegates then turned their attention to the exercise of the keys of the kingdom by considering requests from two Consistories to proceed with discipline. Advice was given to the Oak Glen URC (Lansing, Illinois) as well as the Cornerstone URC (Sanborn, Iowa).

The next meeting of Classis Central US is scheduled to convene April 13, 2015, the Lord willing. The Consistory of the Rock Valley United Reformed Church in Rock Valley, Iowa is the convening consistory.

Classis wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the members of the Redeemer United Reformed Church in Orange City for their gracious hospitality, to the Consistory of Covenant Reformed Church (Pella, Iowa) for its work in convening this meeting, to the examiners, to Rev. Doug Barnes for his excellent service as chairman, and to Rev. Joel Vander Kooi for serving as vice-chairman.

For further information, contact Rev. Talman Wagenmaker, pastor of the Grace URC and Stated Clerk of Classis, by telephone at 920-324-2924 or via e-mail at ClassisCentralUS@gmail.com