

## Report from Synod, Tuesday June 12, 2012

On Monday evening, June 11, Synod began its work of 2012 by gathering for worship with the congregation of Crete PRC. Rev. Slopsema, the president of Synod 2011, led the service and preached a sermon on **1 Corinthians 15:58**, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." He reminded us that all the work of Synod is "the work of the Lord," especially as this relates to the work of the preaching of the gospel which gathers the kingdom of Christ. The congregation and delegates for synod were exhorted to "abound" in this work, that is to be busy beyond measure in this work. Finally, we were encouraged that our labor, though often it may be discouraging, is never in vain in the Lord.

Tuesday morning at 8:30 synod convened in the fellowship hall of Crete PRC. Rev. Slopsema began the proceedings of synod with prayer, after which the credentials from the classes were read and received, and the delegates seated. Synod then elected officers for this 2012 session, with these results: President – Rev. S. Key; Vice-president, Rev. K. Koole; 1<sup>st</sup> Clerk – Rev. Doug Kuiper and 2<sup>nd</sup> Clerk – Rev. R. Kleyn.

Rev. Key assumed the chair of Synod, welcomed the visitors, and extended a special welcome to Rev. Daniel Kleyn – our Foreign Missionary from the Philippines, to Philip Hall – representative from our sister church in Northern Ireland, and to Felix Chan – representative from Covenant ERC of Singapore.

One of the main items on the agenda of Synod this year is the examination of seminary graduate, Mr Vernon Ibe from the Philippines, who has studied for the last 5 years in our seminary. Synod granted the request of the Berean PRC of the Philippines to examine him in their behalf and adopted a schedule for this exam.

The first part of the exam involves the preaching of a specimen sermon to the Synod on an assigned text. Mr. Ibe preached on Matthew 7:13-14, "An Exhortation to Enter the Gate to Life." He preached Jesus the only Savior with a clear gospel call to believe on Him. After this sermon, Synod declared that Mr. Ibe possesses "the gifts of mind and spirit to preach in a way that is God-glorifying and edifying" and decided to proceed to his oral examination.

Immediately after lunch, Synod proceeded with the oral examination of Bro. Ibe. Prof. Dykstra examined Mr. Ibe for 40 minutes in church history, with an emphasis on Martin Luther and his response to Roman Catholicism, something that will be very important in the ministry of Mr. Ibe in the Philippines which is more than 90 % Roman Catholic. Professor Gritters then examined the brother for 30 minutes in Knowledge of Scripture.

Synod then recessed for the day so that the committees of pre-advice could begin their work. Earlier in the day the work of the agenda of Synod was divided five ways and assigned to five different committees made up of the delegates of synod. These committees will go through the material assigned to them and present advice to synod in the coming days.

Please remember in your prayers tonight and tomorrow, Mr. Ibe in his oral examination, the committees of pre-advice as they do their work, and the sessions of synod as they deliberate.