Thursday, June 13, 2019

Synod concluded the oral examination of Mr. Matt Kortus and Mr. Jacob Maatman. Prof. Dykstra examined these men in Church History for 50 minutes, Prof. Gritters examined them in Church Polity for 50 minutes and O.T. History for 45 minutes, Prof. Cammenga examined them in N.T. History for 45 minutes, and Rev. Van Overloop examined them in Practica for 30 minutes. Opportunity was given to the delegates to ask questions after each section of the examination.

Synod unanimously approved the synodical examinations of Mr. Matt Kortus and Mr. Jacob Maatman and declared them to be candidates for the ministry of the Word and Sacraments in the PRCA, eligible for a call on or after July 13, 2019. We rejoice that our Lord has provided us with these capable men and pray that the Lord may provide them a place of labor in our churches according to His will. The seminary graduation was held this evening.

Regarding the work of our seminary, synod expressed appreciation to Professors Cammenga, Dykstra, Gritters, and Kuiper and to Mr. Charles Terpstra, Mrs. Judi Doezema, and Miss Sharon Kleyn for their work. Synod instructed the stated clerk in his letter to the churches to include a notice of the future, urgent need for seminary students.

Synod did not sustain the protest of Mr. Henry Kamps requesting that synod rescind the decision of Synod 2018, Article 74, B, 2. Four grounds were given for this decision.

a. While Mr. Kamps is correct in pointing out that Mr Meyer's protest had a history and context which compelled him to interact with the arguments made by Prof. Cammenga, synod judged the charges of false doctrine against Prof. Cammenga "in appropriate and uncharitable." Although it is true that Mr. Meyer did not make the charge of "heresy" explicitly, it was inappropriate for him to charge Prof. Cammenga with false doctrine, and that of a doctrine so well developed in our churches that departure from it would be regarded as heresy.

b. Synod did not prevent Mr. Meyer from interacting with the doctrinal arguments, but took the position that Mr. Meyer crossed the line in making said charges against the professor.

c. Synod did not rebuke Mr. Meyer "for defending and confessing the doctrinal positions that synod itself upheld," but for the way in which he attempted to defend himself.

d. This rebuke was simply an application of Article 35 of the Church Order, which demonstrates the right of an assembly to rebuke for inappropriate conduct. Synod left the rebuke to the conscience of Mr. Meyer.

Synod declared the protests of Miss Sara Doezema and Mr. Wes Koops to be legally before synod. More advice concerning these protests will follow.