

Day 3 Report of Synod 2014

This morning Synod witnessed the completion of the examination of Joshua Engelsma. Prof. Dykstra questioned Mr. Engelsma on the subject of Church History; Prof. Cammenga on the subject of O.T. History; Prof. Gritters on the subjects of Church Polity and N.T. History; and Rev. Haak in the area of Practica. Synod unanimously voted to approve the examination and to declare Joshua a candidate for the ministry of the word and sacraments in the PRCA and that he is eligible for a call on July 12, 2014. Having completed the synodical exam Candidate Engelsma has finished his seminary work, and will be given his diploma at the graduation ceremony that will be held tonight at 7:30 at Hope PRC in Walker, MI. We thank God for giving our churches another man to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ!

The other highlights are:

- Synod thanked the missionaries, Rev. Kleyn and Rev. Smit, the Council of Doon PRC, and the Foreign Mission Committee for their faithful labors in carrying out and overseeing the mission work done in the Philippines.
- Synod enjoyed the presence of Rev. Kleyn at its deliberations today and appreciated his verbal report of the work taking place in the Philippines.
- Synod noted with great joy the formation of a new federation of churches, the Protestant Reformed Churches in the Philippines consisting of the Berean Protestant Reformed Church in Manila and the First Reformed Church of Bulacan.
- Synod approved the honorable release of Rev. Smit from his labors as a missionary to the Philippines to take place on or about July 1, 2015 and the plan of the Doon PRC Council and the FMC to begin calling a missionary to replace Rev. Smit.
- Synod heard reports on the FMC's work in Myanmar over the last year and approved plans to send two delegations in the next year to continue to seek more contacts in Myanmar and to continue to give instruction to current contacts.
- Synod approved a change to the FMC's constitution that will add a man to the committee and create a balance between ministers and elders on the committee. The change means that if it is possible the membership of the FMC will include 5 ministers and 5 elders from our congregations in Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota.
- Synod adopted a budget of \$401,375 for foreign missions in the year 2015.
- Synod approved Rev. Slopsema's emeritation request and made a decision to express great appreciation to Rev. Slopsema for almost 40 years of service as a minister.
- Synod also adopted a budget for the Theological School of \$441,571 for 2015.

Synod has more work to do but should be able to complete its labors tomorrow.

Rev. Spronk

2nd Clerk of Synod 2014