**Young Adult Retreat Gaining in Popularity**

The third annual young adult retreat in Woodstock, Ontario, drew about 40 young adults, more than triple the number who turned out the first year. Organized by a team of young adults, the retreat is both spiritual and social, with worship sessions and a speaker, small group discussions, games, volunteering, and shared meals.

The event started with Stephanie Linker. “We really just wanted a place for young adults who are invested in their churches to connect,” she said. “We realized we needed a place to find encouragement from people at a similar life stage [as] ourselves. It didn’t need to be lots of people, just people looking to get plugged in.”

Themes are carefully chosen to be relevant to young adults at any stage, covering topics like finding your place in the church, hearing God, and building community. Times of worship and discussion are balanced by volunteering at a local thrift store—cleaning, sorting, unpacking—and games. “We find it to be a fun time to bond as a group,” said Linker, “but also to do something very practically productive.”

Response to the event has been positive, shown not only by its growth each year but by the comments of participants. “It was a great event. I thoroughly enjoyed coming together with a group of people in this life stage and openly discussing a topic very relevant to us.” Another said it all: “Hope it keeps going and growing.”

—Anita Brinkman

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Rev. Theodore Minnema**

1925 - 2015

Theodore Minnema, 89, soft-spoken scholar, sympathetic listener, and thoughtful seminary professor passed away on January 18 following a season of declining health.

After four years of military service in the Pacific theater, Minnema attended Calvin College and Seminary and entered ministry in the Christian Reformed Church in 1953. He subsequently earned a doctorate degree from the Free University in Amsterdam.

Minnema served one congregation in Michigan, after which he was appointed to the Bible department at Calvin College. He was appointed professor of ethical theology at Calvin Theological Seminary in 1974 and retired in 1991.

Minnema was known for his hospitality. Though a man of few words, he was known for his ready responsiveness and his quick understanding. His pastoral heart and quiet sense of humor made his presence always welcome.

Minnema is survived by his wife, Tena, by four children and their spouses, and by 12 grandchildren.

—Louis M. Tamminga

Further information on recently deceased ministers is available each year in the front pages of the Christian Reformed Church’s annual Yearbook and on The Banner’s website.

**Vander Zee Appointed Interim Banner Editor**

On February 26, the Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church appointed Rev. Leonard Vander Zee as interim editor of *The Banner*. A permanent editor is expected to be appointed by Synod 2016, the annual leadership body of the CRC.

Vander Zee told trustees that he sees the interim position as one of stewardship. “It’s understanding *The Banner*’s identity, and through *The Banner* trying to help the Christian Reformed Church better understand its identity and its gifts, as well as its struggles.”

He knows the position of editor comes with conflict, and admitted he sometimes tends to shy away from that. But with 44 years in the ministry, he said, he has been through lots of situations of conflict.

That 44 years includes parish ministry in five congregations in Iowa, New York, Michigan, and Indiana. From 2006 until his retirement in 2013, he was editor in chief of Faith Alive Christian Resources, which was the CRC’s curriculum and publishing arm. He has also written multiple books and articles.

Vander Zee will assume his editorial duties in late summer. Rev. Bob De Moor, *The Banner*’s current editor, retires from the position on August 31.

—Gayla R. Postma