New Approaches in New Curricula for Reformed Churches

Faith Alive Christian Resources, the publishing arm of the Christian Reformed Church and publishing partner of the Reformed Church in America, has developed two new curricula: *Dwell* is for students from kindergarten through eighth grade, while *WE* is an intergenerational curriculum for entire congregations.

*Dwell* is designed to create a break from the fast-paced culture in which we live.

"It is more quiet and reflective," said Rev. Leonard Vander Zee, editor in chief for Faith Alive. "It focuses on the biblical story and how the children can really interact with the story and make it theirs."

And, like all curricula produced by Faith Alive, it is distinctly Reformed. "It's very much centered on the Bible and upon God as the main actor in the Bible, said Vander Zee, rather than on the Bible stories as simply lessons about how human beings should act.

With growing interest from churches in programs that involve whole congregations, Faith Alive has also created *WE*.

*WE* is an event-based program meant to be used with intergenerational groups. Each monthly event begins with a meal, with people of different generations sitting together. After a shared story, people at the table talk and do activities or crafts with one another, then rejoin the larger group.

"Young people need to hear faith stories, to hear older people talk about what faith means to them," said Vander Zee.

—Melissa Holtrop

Highlights from Spring Classis Meetings

Two or three times each year, Christian Reformed churches send representatives to meetings of classis, a regional grouping of churches, to review and make decisions about their shared ministries and practice mutual accountability for their congregations’ individual ministries. Here are highlights from the most recent classis meetings:

Those welcomed into ministry in the Christian Reformed Church included Candidate Elizabeth Guillaume-Koene, Rev. Doug Vande Kamp, and Rev. Charles Geschiere.

Rev. John Kuperus, Blyth CRC, Ontario, was released from his congregation. Coleman Moore was released from CRC ministry.

Classis Toronto approved support for ministry with the Somali community, and Classis Chatham approved a campus ministry on the Woodstock, Ontario, campus of Fanshawe College.


Classis California South discussed church discipline in the current culture.

Classis Quinte held a training session on healthy leadership styles.

In Classis Kalamazoo two churches continue to protest the presence of women delegates.

—Banner news correspondents