

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

# ACTS OF SYNOD



# 1999

Christian Reformed Church in North America

# ACTS OF SYNOD

June 12-17, 1999  
Chapel/Auditorium  
Redeemer College  
Ancaster, Ontario

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# FOREWORD

The *Acts of Synod 1999* contains the following:

- Supplementary reports of the Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church in North America and those agencies authorized to file them
- Supplementary overtures and communications relevant to matters found in the printed *Agenda for Synod 1999* or adopted on the floor of synod
- Financial reports
- The minutes of Synod 1999
- An index

It will be necessary for the user of the *Acts of Synod 1999* to keep the *Agenda for Synod 1999* at hand for ready reference. The *Agenda* is not reprinted in the *Acts*. The pagination continues from the *Agenda* to the *Acts*. Supplementary materials begin on page 449, following preliminary unnumbered pages. Financial reports begin on page 507. Minutes of synod follow, beginning on page 535. The index references both volumes; the numbers in boldface type refer to pages in the minutes of Synod 1999.

The various sections of the *Acts of Synod*, including the minutes of synod, are identified with black bars on page edges, which help to locate and identify the sections.

May all who read the reports of the ministries and study committees and the minutes of Synod 1999 discover the ways in which the Lord is leading the Christian Reformed Church in North America and give him thanks for its many opportunities to minister in the areas of education, missions, mercy, publications, and pastoral care.

David H. Engelhard, general secretary

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# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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# BOARD OF TRUSTEES SUPPLEMENT

## Joint-Ministries Management Committee

Christian Reformed Church in North America—Michigan Corporation  
 Christian Reformed Church in North America—Ontario Corporation  
 Christian Reformed Church Synod Trustees

### I. Interim appointments

Board	Classis	Member	Alternate	Term
Synodical Deputies	Hackensack Pacific Northwest	Rev. K.D. Koeman	Rev. R.E. Orellana	2000
CRC Publications	Alberta North Heartland	Rev. M.D. Fopma	Rev. W.A. Ten Harmse	2002
Home Missions	Iakota Pacific Northwest		Rev. B.J. Haan, Jr. Rev. M.J. Kooy	
CRWRC	Alberta South/ Saskatchewan Pacific Northwest		Mr. G. Lubberts Ms. G. Visser	

### II. Board of Trustees membership

#### A. Trustees whose terms expire in 1999

District	Member	Alternate
Far West U.S. I	Rev. Raymond Slim	Rev. Dale W. Vanderveen
Far West U.S. II	Dr. Tom Van Groningen	Mrs. Priscilla Medema
Great Plains	Mr. Harold Van Maanen	Mrs. Brenda Ackerman
Central U.S. IV	Rev. Duane L. Kelderman	Rev. Henry Admiraal
Eastern U.S.	Rev. Stanley J. Workman	Dr. Brent A. Averill
Eastern Canada I	Rev. Jake Kuipers	Rev. Edward Den Haan
At-large	Mr. William Wildeboer	Mr. Durk De Jong

Words of thanks are in order for Rev. D.L. Kelderman, Rev. R. Slim, Dr. T. Van Groningen, Mr. H. Van Maanen, and Rev. S.J. Workman, who are completing their first terms of service on the Board, and to Rev. J. Kuipers and Mr. W. Wildeboer, who are completing their second terms. We recognize with gratitude the contributions these members have made and thank them for the many hours they have given to the service of Christ and his church as members of the Board.

#### B. Ratification of elected regional trustees

The list of elected regional trustees will be presented to synod for ratification (see Recommendation C).

### III. Revised schedule for Synod 2000 (June 10-17, 2000)

Synod 2000 is still one year away, but since it will be a busy synod, with a full agenda, the Board believes that some advance consideration should be given to the scheduling of Synod 2000.

Several major matters on the agenda of Synod 2000 are already known, namely, a review of the women-in-office decision, a review of the one-week synod, and synodical interaction with the Multiethnic Conference (MEC). The MEC Committee has been given permission to plan some activities that interact with synod and require the presence of synodical delegates. In 1998 the Saturday-evening session of synod was devoted to the interaction of synod and the MEC. The delegates were pleased with the program but displeased with losing three hours of advisory-committee time at the beginning of synod. Those who commented on this aspect of the schedule said that they had too little time to do committee business.

Since the MEC is scheduled to meet Saturday morning through Monday afternoon (June 10-12, 2000), it seems likely that Saturday afternoon or evening will be scheduled for joint activities for the two groups. If the loss of Saturday evening for advisory-committee work was troubling in 1998, the loss will be doubly troubling in 2000, especially for advisory committees dealing with complex issues.

The Board of Trustees therefore recommends to Synod 1999 that the convening time for the opening session of Synod 2000 be advanced from 4:00 p.m. on June 10 to 10:00 a.m. on June 10, 2000.

*Ground:* The combination of a heavy agenda and the loss of working hours that will result from joint participation with the Multiethnic Conference requires an earlier beginning for the opening of Synod 2000.

### IV. Program and finance

The Board of Trustees considered a number of matters related to program and finance at its meeting in May. These matters are not mere afterthoughts. Rather, they are items that for one reason or another could not be handled by the Board before the deadline for the printed *Agenda*. The established vehicle for reporting material generated after the *Agenda* deadline is the supplementary report.

#### A. Pastoral Ministries

The Pastoral Ministries Board has been undergoing a significant self-assessment, which has taken the better part of a year. At its meeting in late April, the Pastoral Ministries Board took a number of actions that came to the Board of Trustees as recommendations. The Pastoral Ministries Board report is attached as Appendix A, which should be read as background to the recommendations below. The Board of Trustees requests that synod approve Recommendation 1 (below), take note of statements 2 and 5, and ratify the actions of the Board of Trustees as recorded in 3 and 4.

1. The Board of Trustees recommends that the Pastoral Ministries Board and the agency it governs be dissolved as of July 1, 1999.

*Ground:* The present structure was created to form an accountability unit, but the structure impedes the accomplishment of the multiple and complex mandates of the various ministries.

2. The Board of Trustees assures synod and those who have been blessed by the ministries of the Pastoral Ministries agency that the Board understands and is dedicated to the fulfillment of the mandates of the various ministries. Accordingly, the ministries will be continued, but in different ways.
3. The Board has decided that Chaplaincy Ministries and Race Relations be placed within the denominational structure as follows:
  - a. That Chaplaincy Ministries be transferred to the organizational and administrative framework of Home Missions.
  - b. That Race Relations be placed under the Board of Trustees. The executive director of ministries will provide administrative oversight of Race Relations. Mechanisms for oversight of Race Relations' mandate and policy formation and further definition of its relationship to the broader denominational structures still need to be developed. The Race Relations staff will be formed into a team consisting of at least four regional staff persons (California, Illinois/Indiana, Michigan and/or Eastern U.S., and Canada). This staff team will function under the leadership of a director who will also serve one of the designated regions.
4. The Board has had insufficient time to prepare and consider recommendations regarding the future contours, organizational placements, and scope for the remaining ministries presently governed by the Pastoral Ministries Board. It is, however, considering the following:
  - a. That Disability Concerns become part of an office of advocacy. Detailed proposals fleshing out this concept will be considered by the Board in September.
  - b. That Pastor-Church Relations be transferred to the organizational framework of the Denominational Office. The Board of Trustees will provide governance for this ministry. Administrative oversight will be provided by staff.

*Note:* The placement of Abuse Prevention requires further study.

5. The Board will report to Synod 2000 regarding the implementation of these decisions.

#### ***B. Board of Trustees' response to the U.S. Structure Committee's report***

The Board of Trustees has carefully considered the report of the Committee to Study Structure for Ministry in the U.S. that is before Synod 1999. The following summary was approved as the Board's communication to synod.

#### **Board of Trustees' Communication to Synod**

*General Statement:* The Board of Trustees supports the general direction of the proposed reorganization. Specifically, the Board of Trustees strongly supports the principles and guidelines underlying the report, the proposal for classical ministry committees, the emphasis on regional delivery of ministry, and the consolidation of governance functions in a classically based Board of Trustees. The comments that follow are not intended as significant qualifiers of that support but as suggested refinements, as

cautions, or as issues that need further attention during the transitional year. These refinements, cautions, and issues to be addressed are grouped as follows.

1. Retention of agency and institutional identity

The Board of Trustees supports the streamlining of agency governance as well as the need for the educational institutions to retain a measure of corporate independence. The former is needed because the ministry of the denomination is essentially a ministry of biblical wholism, and agency decision making has tended too much in the direction of fragmented decision making. This is not the fault of the agency boards. Multiple governing entities with restricted mandates set the stage for this development. At the same time, the Board of Trustees fully supports the specialization of ministry focus that is represented by the various agencies at this time. Such ministry specialties will be maintained so that the membership of the CRC will be able to identify and specifically support the various parts of the one mission of the church.

Educational institutions, as decided by previous synods, need a great measure of freedom to be able to function in the realm of academia. The Board of Trustees observes that such freedom is appropriate to the extent that it is required for educational institutions to function within the guidelines of the accrediting agencies. To the degree that such independence is not required to maintain the integrity of an educational institution, the Board of Trustees considers the educational institutions to be like the other agencies of the church.

2. The formation of the Board of Trustees

An issue left unresolved in the U.S. Structure Report is the precise formation of the initial Board of Trustees. Will present Board of Trustees and Canadian Ministries Board members serve on the new board if their terms have not expired? Having considered various options and possibilities, the BOT recommends that all positions on the newly formed Board be filled by an election procedure. It is anticipated that some presently serving members will be elected to provide for a measure of continuity during the time of transition.

The Board of Trustees also expresses its concern about the proposed requirement that persons selected for Board of Trustees membership must have previous church-council experience. That requirement, while in some ways desirable, will significantly diminish the pool of women and minorities who are eligible to serve as trustees. It is appropriate to state such experience as being preferable, but the Board of Trustees recommends that synod permit significant latitude in the selection process so that synodically mandated diversity can be achieved.

3. The formation of ministry councils

An important part of the proposal is the appointment of ministry councils for The Back to God Hour, CRC Publications, Home Missions, World Missions, Pastoral Ministries, and CRWRC. (The breakup of Pastoral Ministries will negate the need for a PM ministry council.) The precise election procedure for these councils is not prescribed in the report.

It is desirable that synod approve a procedure to assure that these councils will be truly representative of the church's diversity and geographic dispersion. The size of such councils is recommended to be twelve to sixteen persons. The Board of Trustees recommends that the formation of these councils be by way of an election procedure that will result in one (1) person being elected from each of twelve (12) designated regions. The membership of any one of the ministry councils may be increased by up to four (4) members-at-large if needed. Such members-at-large shall be nominated by the agency involved and appointed by the Board of Trustees.

4. The authority of ministry councils and other agency concerns

Several of the present agency boards have requested that a substantial amount of their decision-making authority be retained in the ministry councils. The Board recognizes that some agencies have particular concerns and needs that have to be addressed. The concerns and needs expressed are quite agency specific and include some of the following: CRWRC needs a measure of authority to be able to contract with the federal government in both Canada and the U.S.; CRC Publications is concerned about its mission to customers outside the CRC and about the exercise of editorial freedom for *The Banner*; Home Missions is concerned about retaining a passion and a focus for ministry, which it considers important in the implementation of its mandate; World Missions wants to retain authority over who is sent to the harvest fields of the world and asks that ministry councils, like its agency board, be composed of a delegate from every classis; finally, The Back to God Hour is concerned about the loss of agency identity as it broadcasts globally. The difficulty is that one size does not fit all. The Board of Trustees recommends, therefore, that specific and detailed provisions for each of the ministry councils be developed by the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the agencies involved, during the transitional year and that these provisions be presented to Synod 2000 for approval. Furthermore, the Board of Trustees suggests that other concerns about ambiguities (e.g., the specific function of the Ministries Administrative Team) also be referred to the Board of Trustees for resolution during the transitional year. The specific communications from the various agencies will be made available to synod's advisory committee upon request.

The Board of Trustees expresses its appreciation to all the agency boards and denominational staff for their active participation in the discussions of this report. The Board is grateful for the consensus that the structure proposals are an improvement over our present governance configuration.

5. Concern about centralization of authority

Various agency boards and administrative staff members have expressed concern about the perceived centralization of authority inherent in the reorganization proposals. The Board of Trustees observes that there is also a way to see the proposed structure as a way to decentralize authority. The concept of centralization versus decentralization is closely related to the concept of accountability. Authority is centralized when a person, board, or assembly has final say on a matter. Authority is decentralized when a person, board, or assembly is accountable to

another for approval or concurrence. If the Board of Trustees is composed of classical representatives, as recommended, and if the Board of Trustees is accountable to synod, as it already is, authority is decentralized. So, too, the Ministries Administrative Team (MAT) and the executive director of ministries are accountable to the Board of Trustees for the authority granted them by the Board of Trustees and synod. The appropriate checks and balances are in place. The best way to avoid inappropriate centralization of authority is for accountability to function effectively. The Board of Trustees believes that if, out of fear of centralization, the authority to prioritize ministry and to carry out day-to-day operations is reduced, it will be very difficult for the Board of Trustees and its staff to give the needed leadership to the ministries of the church.

6. Concern about appeal procedures

Several have mentioned the need for an appeal procedure for conflict resolution. The Board of Trustees observes that appeal procedures have already been written into the present Constitution and Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA. During the transitional year these documents will need to be revised in line with Synod 1999 decisions. It is expected that these appeal procedures will be retained. The Board judges them to be adequate even for the new structure.

7. Response from the Canadian Ministries Board

The Board of Trustees is gratified that the Canadian Ministries Board strongly endorsed the recommendations of the structure report and is agreeable to making the needed adjustments to its own structure in order to accommodate the recommendations of the U.S. Structure Committee. The Canadian Ministries Board also identified matters that need attention during the transitional year. The Board of Trustees has noted these matters for further address if synod approves the essential contours of the recommendations.

8. The role of the Ministries Administrative Team

The Board of Trustees has taken note of the significant change that is proposed for the present Ministries Coordinating Council (MCC), which will become the Ministries Administrative Team (MAT) under the new structure. Initially that recommendation may appear to create a new level of authority in ministry administration. The Board of Trustees, however, sees this recommendation as shifting administrative authority from each agency's staff group, which presently exercises its own authority, to an interagency group which excises authority for the whole. The Board believes that this is a good shift, since administrative authority and decision making need to be clearly focused to be effective. The Board of Trustees is satisfied that the appropriate checks and balances are in place, as has been the case already with MCC, for this administrative team to function effectively.

*C. Budget review and ministry shares*

At its May 1999 meeting the Board of Trustees received a report of the Budget-Review Committee (BRC), which the Board had appointed to examine all budgets proposed by the agencies for the 1999-2000 fiscal year. The Budget-Review Committee paid particular attention to the ministry-share request in all

of the budgets presented (with the exception of CRWRC), the sum of which the Ministries Coordinating Council had previously recommended to the Board of Trustees. The Budget-Review Committee was composed of the director of finance and administration, a Board member, an external person knowledgeable in ministry program, and one agency director (a different director each time the BRC interviewed an agency). All of the agencies were required to submit detailed financial and program information to the committee in advance of their interview meetings. Each agency was scheduled for an interview lasting approximately two hours. The report of the Budget-Review Committee was then submitted to the Board of Trustees with recommendations.

On the basis of this review process, the Board sought to fulfill the mandate of Synod 1996 and Synod 1997 instructing the Board to review carefully agencies' effectiveness and efficiencies in the light of denominational priorities. The Board's response to that instruction is reflected in its approval of the agency and institutional budgets as found in the *Agenda for Synod 1999—Financial and Business Supplement* and in its recommendation that synod approve the ministry-share requests below. Before submission to the Board for approval, the individual budgets of the agencies and institutions were approved by their respective boards. The total ministry share, after it is approved by synod, will be allocated to the receiving ministries as outlined in the *Agenda for Synod 1999—Financial and Business Supplement*.

The 2000 ministry-share requests are expressed in terms of confessing members over 18 years of age, as a result of action taken by Synod 1993. The requests for 2000 are as follows:

The Back to God Hour	\$31.97
CRC-TV	11.47
Calvin College	25.80
Calvin Seminary	22.60
Canadian Ministries Board ministries	7.62
CRC Publications	2.35
Home Missions	50.16
World Missions	49.24
Pastoral Ministries	11.54
Denominational Services	19.80
Fund for Smaller Churches	4.91
	<u>\$237.46</u>

*D. Recommended salary ranges for 2000*

The Board recommends the following salary ranges for 2000, which represent a 3 percent adjustment for both the U.S. and Canadian ranges.

Level	Proposed U.S. 2000 Range			Proposed Canadian 2000 Range		
	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum
20	\$72,103	\$90,129	\$108,154	\$92,878	\$116,008	\$139,317
19	\$65,602	\$82,001	\$98,402	\$80,574	\$100,717	\$120,861
18	\$60,125	\$75,156	\$90,186	\$70,208	\$87,761	\$105,313
17	\$55,504	\$69,381	\$83,256	\$61,465	\$76,831	\$92,198
16	\$51,637	\$64,546	\$77,456	\$54,146	\$67,683	\$81,219
15	\$48,397	\$60,497	\$72,595	\$48,014	\$60,017	\$72,020
14	\$42,482	\$53,102	\$63,723	\$42,831	\$53,538	\$64,246
13	\$37,522	\$46,902	\$56,282	\$38,479	\$48,098	\$57,718

*Note:* The shaded areas are not currently in use.



*E. Denominational and denominationally related agencies recommended for one or more offerings*

In addition to the ministry-share recommendation, the Board of Trustees also presents to synod a list of accredited agencies which, if synod approves, will constitute the list of approved causes for 2000. There are several parts to this list. First, there is a section recommending above-ministry-share offerings, or specified offerings, for denominational agencies. Second, there are causes being recommended for one or more offerings. Finally, there is a list of accredited organizations which are recommended for support but not necessarily for one or more offerings. Synod is requested to approve the list as presented.

1. Denominational ministries

The Back to God Hour—above-ministry-share needs

Calvin College—above-ministry-share needs

Calvin Theological Seminary

a. Above-ministry-share needs

b. Revolving Student Loan Fund

Canadian Ministries Board ministries—above-ministry-share needs

CRC Publications

World Literature Ministries—above-ministry-share needs

CR Home Missions—above-ministry-share needs

CR World Missions—above-ministry-share needs

CR World Relief—one offering per quarter

Pastoral Ministries—above-ministry-share needs

a. Abuse Prevention

b. Chaplaincy Ministries

c. Disability Concerns

d. Pastor-Church Relations

e. Race Relations

—Multiracial Student Scholarship Fund

2. Denominationally related agencies recommended for one or more offerings

Dynamic Youth Ministries (formerly United Calvinist Youth)

a. GEMS (formerly Calvinettes)

b. Calvinist Cadet Corps

c. Youth Unlimited/Early Teens (Young Calvinist Federation)

*F. Nondenominational agencies recommended for financial support but not necessarily for one or more offerings*

Note should be made of the action of Synod 1992 regarding the financial support provided by Christian Reformed churches to these agencies:

... in light of the growing number of agencies seeking recommendation for financial support, [synod] remind[s] the congregations of the synodical decision of 1970 wherein "synod urge[d] all the classes to request their churches to pay denominational causes before making gifts to nondenominational organizations on the synod-approved accredited list.

*Ground:* Our denominational causes should have priority in our giving. . . ."

(*Acts of Synod 1992*, p. 667)

Thus, the list of accredited nondenominational agencies is meant to provide guidance to the churches in selecting organizations for support. However,

accreditation is not meant to obligate the churches to designate one or more offerings to a cause.

1. United States agencies

a. Benevolent agencies

Bethany Christian Services  
Calvary Rehabilitation Center  
Cary Christian Center  
Christian Health Care Center  
Elim Christian School  
International Aid, Inc.  
The Luke Society, Inc.  
Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services

b. Educational agencies

Center for Public Justice  
Christian Schools International  
Christian Schools International Foundation  
Dordt College  
Reformed Bible College  
Rehoboth Christian School  
Roseland Christian School  
The King's University College (through the U.S. Foundation)  
Trinity Christian College  
Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia  
Worldwide Christian Schools

c. Miscellaneous agencies

American Bible Society  
Audio Scripture Ministries  
Friendship Ministries  
Gideons International  
International Bible Society  
Lord's Day Alliance of the United States  
\*Metanoia Ministries  
Mission India  
\*Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE)  
The Bible League  
The Tract League  
Wycliffe Bible Translators

2. Canadian agencies

a. Benevolent agencies

\*Beginnings Counseling & Adoption Services of Ontario, Inc.

b. Educational agencies

Canadian Christian Education Foundation, Inc.  
Dordt College  
Institute for Christian Studies  
Redeemer Reformed Christian College  
Reformed Bible College  
The King's University College  
Trinity Christian College  
Worldwide Christian Schools—Canada

c. Miscellaneous agencies

Evangelical Fellowship of Canada  
\*Friendship Groups—Canada  
Gideons International—Canada  
International Bible Society—Canada  
The Bible League—Canada  
Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada, Inc.  
Work Research Foundation

*Note:* Those agencies preceded by an asterisk (\*) have not sent in all the required information for accreditation, such as audited financial reports and/or evidence of fidelity bond insurance. If the required information is not received before the meetings of synod, the recommendation for continued accreditation will be withdrawn.

*G. Pension-plan matters*

1. At its May meeting the BOT approved the following working policies regarding the pension plans:
  - a. That substantive matters, such as those involving the design of the plans and changes thereto, require synodical approval.
  - b. That other matters necessary to fund the plans and to carry out the administration of the plans, as set in motion by synodical approval of plan design, are the responsibility of the pension trustees. Decisions involving the allocation of funding, church assessments, and participant assessments are properly made jointly by the U.S. Board of Pensions and Insurance and the Canadian Pension Trustees and submitted to the BOT for concurrence. This distinction will guide the pension boards in seeking approval of the bodies having overarching denominational governance responsibilities.

In summary, matters involving the very existence of the plans, the design of the plans, and substantive revisions to plan design are viewed as matters in need of synodical approval. Matters which involve the denomination as a whole, such as the annual funding of the plans, need BOT concurrence.

2. In accordance with the established policies, the following matters are reported to synod:
  - a. The BOT received as information the decision of the pension trustees regarding final average salaries to be used in the year 2000 by the

pension plans in the application of the benefit formula. These amounts are \$35,099 (U.S.) and \$36,656 (Canada).

- b. The BOT concurs with the decision of the pension trustees that the participant assessments for 2000 be \$3,375 in the U.S. and \$4,160 in Canada. Confessing-member assessments (ministry share) have been set at \$14.40 (U.S.) and \$16.00 (Canada).
- c. The BOT concurs in the decision of the pension trustees to allocate to the Canadian plan in 2000 approximately \$480,000 from member assessments collected in the U.S. This action is taken to enable the Canadian plan to meet its need to fund a solvency deficiency and to balance the costs of the U.S. and Canadian plans.

#### *H. Summary of denominational investments and compliance with investment policy*

Synod 1998 approved a number of measures dealing with investment guidelines and disclosures. The BOT's response to two of these requests is found in Appendix B.

### **V. Recommendations**

A. That synod approve the interim appointments made by the Board to the agency and institutional boards (see Section I).

B. That synod express its appreciation to retiring members of the Board for their services to the church (see Section II, A).

C. That synod ratify the list of regionally elected trustees for membership on the Board (terms to begin on July 1, 1999), which will be presented at the time synod meets.

D. That synod adopt the BOT recommendation that the convening time for the opening session of Synod 2000 be advanced from 4:00 p.m. on June 10 to 10:00 a.m. on June 10, 2000 (see Section III).

*Ground:* The combination of a heavy agenda and the loss of working hours that will result from joint participation with the Multiethnic Conference requires an earlier beginning for the opening of Synod 2000.

E. That synod approve the BOT recommendation that the Pastoral Ministries Board and the agency it governs be dissolved as of July 1, 1999 (see Section IV, A, 1).

*Ground:* The present structure was created to form an accountability unit, but the structure impedes the accomplishment of the multiple and complex mandates of the various ministries.

F. That synod approve the actions of the Board of Trustees with regard to the placement of Chaplaincy Ministries, Race Relations, and Pastor-Church Relations and that the placement of the remaining ministries (Abuse Prevention and Disability Concerns) be determined by the Board of Trustees and reported to Synod 2000 (see Section IV, A, 3, 4, 5).

G. That synod approve a ministry share of \$237.46 per confessing member over 18 for calendar year 2000 (see Section IV, C).

H. That synod approve the proposed salary ranges for 2000 (see Section IV, D).

I. That synod approve the list of above-ministry-share and specially designated offerings for the agencies and institutions of the CRC and recommend these to the churches for consideration (see Section IV, E).

J. That synod approve the list of accredited nondenominational agencies according to the designations assigned to each as recommended by the Board of Trustees (see Section IV, F).

Board of Trustees of the  
Christian Reformed Church in North America  
David H. Engelhard, general secretary  
Peter Borgdorff, executive director of ministries

## APPENDIX A

### **Report to the Board of Trustees from the Pastoral Ministries Board April 23, 1999**

#### **I. Introduction**

It is now approximately five years since the formation of Pastoral Ministries. As is well known, the Pastoral Ministries Board and staff have struggled to form this ministry organization into an effective agency of the church. For reasons that are many and varied, it appears that the Pastoral Ministries agency as presently constituted will not be successful in achieving that goal.

The Pastoral Ministries Board has come to the conclusion that it would be better to change direction and therefore recommends that the agency as presently constituted be dissolved as of July 1, 1999. Such dissolution needs the approval of the Board of Trustees and, at least in part, the approval of synod.

The reception of a recommendation to dissolve the Pastoral Ministries agency will, no doubt, be dependent on what alternative administration it proposes for the ministries that make up the agency. It is recognized that any decision for ministry reassignment falls within the jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees. However, the discussion within the Pastoral Ministries Board reflected a growing sense that, due to circumstances affecting the organizational life of the agency, the time has come to propose the reassignment of the various ministries of the agency to other organizations within the denominational structure. The following circumstances led the Pastoral Ministries Board to its decision:

A. A vacancy in the Race Relations director position, an unfilled Pastoral Ministries executive-director position, and a vacancy in two support-staff positions.

B. The changing circumstances in the church that affect how denominational offices are perceived. The emphasis on local ministry is a growing reality. It includes the assumption that if anything can be done at the local level, it ought to be handled there.

C. A developing denominational reorganization which emphasizes the reduction of the number of separate entities and offices while encouraging the consolidation of similar ministries into more functional relationships.

## **II. Specific recommendations re the individual agencies**

The Pastoral Ministries Board has also given thought to the implications of this recommendation for the specific ministry programs that are part of the agency. In that discussion, which was in part evaluative in nature, the question surfaced whether the ministries of Abuse Prevention and Disability Concerns should continue as dedicated offices. ("Dedicated offices" in this context refers to offices that were created and staffed for issue-specific program purposes.) The question of continuation surfaced specifically with reference to these dedicated offices because the Pastoral Ministries Board judged that the changing circumstances within the CRC with reference to these two offices warrant such a change. More will be written about this question below.

### **A. Chaplaincy Ministries**

The CRC has been involved in chaplaincy ministry for over fifty years. For most of that time the ministry has functioned under the leadership of the Chaplain Committee. This ministry was included in Pastoral Ministries at the time of Pastoral Ministries' formation in 1994. A formal synodically approved mandate for Chaplaincy Ministries cannot be located. However, based on various historical documents and decisions of synod, the following has been culled from the record and might serve as an unofficial statement of what Chaplaincy Ministries was originally assigned to do:

1. To establish and maintain contact and relationship with boards and agencies related to chaplaincy, both civil and military, and, where possible, to participate in the work of those boards and agencies by membership.
2. To be the employing agency of all CRC chaplains in terms of pension arrangements (this is no longer the case, as of 1997).
3. To promote chaplaincy ministry among CRC seminarians, the congregations, and the ministers of the denomination.
4. To be the denomination's representative to deal with government bodies that are involved with chaplaincy.
5. To endorse personnel for ministry in chaplaincy according to standards established and defined by the committee and following an interview with the applicant.
6. To endorse chaplain positions as worthy of full-time employment by a CRC chaplain.
7. To keep appropriate files on all CRC personnel in chaplaincy and to perform all administrative functions that are necessary to that end.
8. To encourage CRC personnel in the ministry of chaplaincy by pastoral involvement.
9. To subsidize chaplains' salaries and fields wherever such subsidy is appropriate.

10. To negotiate where necessary with employing agencies and institutions about chaplains' salaries.
11. To acquaint itself as much as possible with the performance level of all CRC chaplains.
12. To be informed about professional developments in the field of chaplaincy by being part of the professional organizations.
13. To keep the denomination informed about all developments in the area of chaplaincy in general and CRC chaplaincy in particular.
14. To supervise progress of chaplains in training and to subsidize this training wherever necessary and possible.
15. To seek and promote opportunities for CRC chaplaincy and where possible to start CRC chaplaincy positions with financial subsidy.

Over the years informal discussions have taken place about the possibility that Chaplaincy Ministries become part of Home Missions. The assumption, at least in part, is that chaplaincy is not very different from campus ministries. Often the discussion revolved around and emphasized the differences between these two ministry programs; fundamentally both campus ministry and chaplaincy focus on ministry to people in "specialized settings." Both of these ministries fit well under one of Home Missions' *Gathering* goals – Other Disciple-Making Ministries. There are some differences of emphasis and purpose between these two ministries. Campus ministry is very specifically focused, whereas chaplaincy has many and diversified settings, particularly for institutional chaplains. Both chaplaincy and campus ministry have common concerns about credentials and certification for those called to these ministries in specialized settings.

Though these are issues to be addressed, it is the opinion of the Pastoral Ministries Board that the similarities are greater than the differences, and in a missiological sense, Chaplaincy Ministries can be administered by Home Missions within the parameters of Home Missions' present mandate. Therefore, it is suggested that Home Missions be asked to incorporate Chaplaincy Ministries within its organizational and administrative framework no later than December 31, 1999. Home Missions' administration will need to decide, in consultation with Chaplaincy Ministries directors and others, whether Chaplaincy Ministries is a department within Home Missions or whether Chaplaincy Ministries ought to be merged with the Campus Ministries Department.

#### *B. Pastor-Church Relations*

Pastor-Church Relations and Ministerial Information Service have been serving the churches for a number of years. They were incorporated into Pastoral Ministries in 1994. These ministries are served by one full-time director and one administrative assistant. The director is assisted by a number of regional pastors, who volunteer their services in the regions they serve. The specifics of the program, as well as the organization of the office, have undergone substantial changes since synod approved the initiation of this ministry in 1982. The original mandate of Pastor-Church Relations is

To serve pastors, consistories, classes, and synodical agencies as requested and needed for the prevention of problems arising from the relationships of ministers, congregations, consistories, and agencies, and

To provide such resources and assistance as may be appropriate to healing when such relationships are deteriorating or have reached crisis dimensions. This will ordinarily be done through the director. The committee and director are not expected to adjudicate such difficulties as may arise.

*Acts of Synod 1983, p. 205*

The mandate of Ministerial Information Service is expressed primarily in terms of being a resource for congregations seeking new pastoral leadership. A database is maintained where ministerial profiles are stored and from which congregations can draw suggestions and matches of interested pastors. MIS can recommend such matches but has no placement authority.

It is suggested that Pastor-Church Relations be transferred in its entirety to the organizational framework of the Denominational Office. Its functions will remain essentially the same, and its framework of consultations will be unchanged. The governance for this ministry will be provided by the Board of Trustees, and administrative oversight will be provided by the executive director of ministries.

The rationale for placing this ministry in the Denominational Office is related to the service it renders. It seems to the Pastoral Ministries Board that this office is really a support function for the whole church and closely related to other such services provided by the Denominational Office.

### **C. Race Relations**

The ministry of Race Relations was begun in 1968 under the auspices of Home Missions. It became the Synodical Committee on Race Relations (SCORR) in 1972. SCORR functioned as a committee of synod until it was incorporated into Pastoral Ministries in 1994, when its name was changed to Race Relations. The original mandate of Race Relations is as follows:

That synod instruct the Committee on Race Relations to carry out its mandate by such functions as the following:

- a. Education of the church in racial understanding through
  - 1) Producing and distributing materials;
  - 2) Planning and convening conferences, seminars and workshops;
  - 3) Alerting the church to existing racial problems;
  - 4) Engaging in research necessary for adequate programming.
- b. Ministry to the church in areas of racial understanding through
  - 1) Providing scholarships to minority groups;
  - 2) Providing counsel and advice;
  - 3) Service as agents of reconciliation, in consultation with ecclesiastical and related agencies involved.
  - 4) Assisting in obtaining legal and economic aid where specific racial problems require.
- c. Liaison in matters of racial relations with denominational agencies and related agencies that serve our Christian Reformed community by means of consultation and mutual advice.
- d. Encouragement of the establishment of a privately supported Christian agency for the improvement of race relations.

*(Acts of Synod 1971, p. 114)*

It is suggested that Race Relations' ministry be placed in the context of a ministry council (or a standing committee of the Board of Trustees if the U.S. Structure Committee report is not adopted by Synod 1999), with direct



accountability to the Board of Trustees in the same way that other ministry councils will relate to the Board of Trustees. The oversight of the mandate and policy formation will be assigned to the ministry council. Administrative oversight will be provided by the executive director of ministries.

It is further recommended that the Race Relations staff be formed into a team of at least four regional staff persons (California, Illinois/Indiana, Michigan and/or the Eastern U.S., and Canada). It is understood that this staff team will function under the leadership of a director who him/herself will also serve one of the designated regions. Other recommendations affecting Race Relations have been referred to the Board of Trustees in a separate report dealing with this ministry.

#### *D. Abuse Prevention*

Abuse Prevention was initiated as a ministry in the CRC as a result of a study committee and service committee in the early 1990s. In 1994 a director was appointed, and the office has provided a variety of services and resources since that time. The initiation of this ministry coincided with the growing realization that abusive behavior needed the attention of the church as well as that of other segments of society. The original mandate for Abuse Prevention was stated as follows:

- a. Supervising the editing, publication, and distribution to all the churches of the two reports on abuse in the CRC.
- b. Forming a team with the director of the Pastor-Church Relations Committee to deal with congregations where abuse is discovered in the leadership. This arrangement would lessen reliance on regional pastors, who, in general, have no training and are busy with their own ministries. It would also ensure consistency of procedures.
- c. Training response teams in classes both in the U.S. and Canada.
- d. Developing protocols and questionnaires for volunteers in church programs such as Sunday school, Cadets, Calvinettes [GEMS], and nursery attendants.
- e. Developing with CRC Publications material suitable for various age groups on what it means to be image-bearers of God in our human relationships.
- f. Developing materials for premarital counseling courses.
- g. Working with Calvin Theological Seminary faculty and acting as an educator there for future pastors on how to examine their own attitudes toward women, men, and children; how to relate pastorally with victims and perpetrators; and how to institute prevention in their congregations.
- h. Functioning as a consultant to denominationally related agencies that work with young people.
- i. Working with SCORR and the Committee on Disability Concerns, given the special needs of the populations they serve. The denominational survey revealed that abuse is more prevalent among physically disabled people than in the general population.
- j. Keeping abreast of legal procedures and theory relating to the issue of abuse.

*(Acts of Synod 1994, pp. 195-96)*

Significant parts of the mandate have been fulfilled under the leadership of Ms. Beth Swagman. Synod adopted abuse-prevention guidelines; classical abuse-response-team procedures have been developed; fifteen (15) classical abuse-response teams have been trained; congregational abuse-prevention policies have been written; awareness has been raised; numerous consultations have been offered. Other accomplishments could be cited.

The mandate of Abuse Prevention has not yet been fully accomplished. However, there is a growing consensus that what remains to be done can be done at the congregational and classical level. There is a change in the climate

of the church that places a greater emphasis on the use of local resources and a decreasing dependency on a denominational office. The Pastoral Ministries Board has come to the conclusion that maintaining a dedicated office for abuse prevention is not the best way to fulfill the remainder of the mandate.

It is suggested that the unfinished parts of the Abuse Prevention mandate be transferred not later than December 31, 1999, to the office of Pastor-Church Relations since the unfinished activity focuses on consultation and training, which are most compatible with what the office of Pastor-Church Relations already does. The remaining activity passed on from Abuse Prevention to Pastor-Church Relations can be done by trained people associated with that department or contracted for on an out-sourcing basis. Denominational personnel can provide the information about resources available without doing the work in person.

#### *E. Disability Concerns*

Much of what is written above about Abuse Prevention also applies to the ministry of Disability Concerns. The details are different. Disability Concerns was formed as a dedicated office about fifteen years ago at a time when disability concerns were hardly recognized in the church. Much of that has changed, in part because society generally is more aware about such issues, in part because legislation has been passed and implemented that makes facilities accessible, and in part because of the ministry of the Disability Concerns Committee and its later Pastoral Ministries reincarnation. Not only has awareness in the churches been raised, but synod adopted the Americans with Disabilities Act as the recommended standard for churches to achieve.

The original mandate of Disability Concerns contains the following:

- a. To gather and disseminate information on services available from and through the CRC and other denominations.
- b. To increase awareness among our constituency of the special needs of persons with disabilities by means of articles in our denominational publications.
- c. To assist the churches in identifying and eliminating those barriers which hinder the full participation of persons who have disabilities in the life of the church through such actions as:
  - 1) educating congregations through educational materials;
  - 2) encouraging in-service training of local office-bearers;
  - 3) participating in regional programs and activities in conjunction with other local Christian organizations and churches, e.g., diaconal conferences;
  - 4) ministering to persons with disabilities and their families by providing counsel where possible, and assisting in obtaining legal and financial aid;
  - 5) assisting the families of persons with disabilities to obtain Christian professional advice on matters such as guardianship, estate planning, marriage and family planning, and the development of living facilities.

*(Acts of Synod 1987, pp. 555-56)*

For all of its history, Disability Concerns has worked hard to address the mandate assigned to it. During the last few years the focus of Disability Concerns has been on the incorporation of the disabled into the life of the congregation, both in terms of having their special needs met and in terms of recognizing the gifts and abilities of disabled persons in the life and ministry of the congregation. One way to describe that change in focus is to say that the shift moved us from dealing with issues of institutional sensitivity and compliance to advocacy for persons living with disabilities and persons caring for the disabled.

The foregoing does not mean that everything in Disability Concerns' original mandate is finished. It is appropriate for the denomination to offer both awareness raising and consultative services to the churches. However, the Pastoral Ministries Board believes that a dedicated office is no longer needed for such services and that the level of service needed by the denomination no longer requires a full-time professional. If that premise is accepted, then it is possible to consider an alternative strategy, which is offered here for consideration.

It is suggested that the remaining ministry of Disability Concerns be transferred to an advocacy office, the precise location yet to be determined. The continuing concerns for the disabled can be included in the mandate of the receiving organization so that an appropriate level of resources and service is maintained. Specialized services that the churches might request can be provided on a contract basis if such services are not available to congregations in their own communities. If the concept of transferring the remaining ministry of Disability Concerns is accepted, it is suggested that the ministry of Disability Concerns be transferred no later than December 31, 1999.

### **III. Conclusion**

The previous paragraphs speak for themselves. Many of the administrative details dealing with implementation will still need to be addressed. Certainly the staffing requirements implicit in this reorganization proposal need further consideration. With reference to Chaplaincy Ministries, it is assumed that Home Missions will be in conversation with Jake Heerema and Siebert Van Houten. Any discussions affecting ministries in Canada will include conversations with the Canadian Ministries Board and appropriate administrative staff persons.

With reference to Pastor-Church Relations, it is possible that some additional staffing will be required to assimilate additional consultation services, and that will be especially true if Synod 1999 approves the interim-ministry-specialist proposal. For the present we may assume that this could involve up to one additional full-time person, probably a qualified ordained person because of the nature of that office's total ministry focus.

If the dedicated offices of Abuse Prevention and Disability Concerns are substantially altered, there will be inevitable implications for both Ms. Beth Swagman and Dr. James Vander Laan. These personnel issues will need to be addressed in due time and in an appropriate manner. The specifics of such personnel issues are left to the Board of Trustees.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastoral Ministries Board

Rev. Charles Terpstra, chairman

Rev. Edward J. Tamminga, secretary

## APPENDIX B

### Summary of Denominational Investments and Compliance with Investment Policy

Synod 1998 approved a number of measures dealing with investment guidelines and disclosures. Two of these appear on page 440 of the 1998 *Acts of Synod*, as follows:

That the BOT annually provide synod and classical treasurers with a summary of all investments owned by the agencies and institutions of the CRCNA. The summary is to include groupings of investments listed in the investment policy.

That the BOT annually provide synod with a statement that the agencies and institutions are in compliance with the investment policy; any exception to the policy will be reported.

The accompanying summary and related footnotes constitute the Board of Trustees' response to the first of these requests. In response to the second request, the Board of Trustees reports that on December 31, 1998, all of the agencies and institutions appear to be in compliance with the denomination's investment policy, including the guidance it provides for assets received as a result of gifts or gift-related transactions.

The Board of Trustees' discussions regarding these matters included the following:

1. As requested by synod, the investment summary contains information regarding assets held by the agencies and institutions of the denomination. In addition to these investments, the denomination is responsible for the administration of investments held by various benefit plans, including retirement plans. The BOT reports that assets held by the benefit plans also are in compliance with the denomination's investment guidelines.
2. As requested, the summary includes investments only. It tells nothing of the commitments, restrictions, and purposes attached to the investments. Persons interested in a full understanding of these aspects are encouraged to refer to the financial statements of the agencies and institutions on file with each classical treasurer or to direct their inquiries to the agencies and institutions themselves.

THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH  
IN NORTH AMERICA  
Agencies and Institutions  
Investment Summary in US\$  
As of December 31, 1996

Complete disclosure by investment policy

INCOME FUND

CASH AND CAS-1 EQUITY FUNDS

Cash

Investment Fund in US\$

US\$ 100,000, 100,000

Investment Fund in US\$

Investment Fund in US\$

Investment Fund in US\$

Investment Fund in US\$

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### **Footnotes to the December 31, 1998, Investment Summary**

1. Interest in a private equity fund received as a gift, including unrealized gain.
2. Estimated value of IRM partnership investments.
3. Charitable remainder unitrust asset.
4. Proceeds from sale of private company stock received as a gift. Secured by stock sold.
5. Investment in Creative Dining Services, owned jointly with Hope College.
6. Farmland received as a gift. To be sold on occurrence of specified future event.
7. Cash value of life-insurance contracts received as gifts.
8. Land contract received as a gift.
9. Residential land received as a gift. Currently listed with a real-estate broker.

# AGENCY AND COMMITTEE SUPPLEMENTS

## Calvin College

The Calvin College Board of Trustees, having met on May 20-21, 1999, presents this supplement to guide delegates in their decisions and to inform them of additional matters relating to Calvin College.

The board had a full agenda in its two days of meetings. The highlights, as always, were personnel matters. Interviewing faculty and bidding farewell to retiring faculty and trustees continue to be important aspects of the May meeting.

### I. Faculty matters

A. *Appointment* (see Recommendation IV, A)

B. *Retirees* (see Recommendation IV, B, 1-9)

### II. Election of college trustees

A. *Regional trustees* (see Recommendation III, C, 1)

B. *Alumni trustee* (see Recommendation III, C, 2)

The board appointed Ms. Connie Northouse Brummel to the one open alumni position. Ms. Brummel is the executive director of the Hope College Children's After School Achievement (CASA) Program, a position she has held since 1994. Since her 1960 graduation from Calvin College, she has taught in the Christian-school systems in Grand Rapids, Dearborn, and Holland, Michigan, and has received an M.A. from Western Michigan University. She has served five years on the Calvin Alumni Board and six years on the CRC Publications Board. She and her husband, Roger, are members of Fourteenth Street Christian Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan. Ms. Brummel will assume the position previously held by Dr. Tom DeMeester, who has been appointed as an at-large trustee.

C. *At-large trustees* (see Recommendation IV, C, 3)

The terms of Ms. Grace Achterhof, Ms. Sheri Haan, Mr. Milton Kuyers, and Mr. Thomas Page expire in 1999. Ms. Shirley Hoogstra has resigned to take a position on the administrative staff of the college.

Having established that concerns of ethnic diversity, gender balance, clergy/laity representation, geographical representation, and expertise and gifts be considered, the board proposes the following for at-large trustees, for three-year terms:



1. Mr. Stephen C.L. Chong is a graduate of Calvin College and Ohio State University College of Law. Mr. Chong is a partner in the Marks & Chong law firm in Orlando, Florida, specializing in real estate, probate and estates, and litigation in commercial cases. He has previously served on the Calvin Alumni Board from 1991 to 1994 and was the alumni representative on the Presidential Search Committee. He and his wife, Sheryl, have five children and are members of the Lake Sherwood Presbyterian Church (OPC), where he has served as an elder since 1986.
2. Dr. Tom DeMeester is a graduate of Calvin College and of the University of Michigan Medical School. He is professor of general and cardiovascular-thoracic surgery and chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Southern California School of Medicine. He is presently completing a three-year term as an alumni trustee. He and his wife, Carol, are members of Lake Avenue Congregational Church of Pasadena, California. In 1994 Dr. DeMeester was awarded the Calvin College Distinguished Alumni Award.
3. Mr. Milton Kuyers, a B.A. graduate of Calvin College and an M.B.A. graduate of the University of Michigan, is a partner in a variety of businesses in the Milwaukee area. He was a member of the steering committee for the recent fund drive and a member of the Presidential Search Committee. Mr. Kuyers has served one three-year term as an at-large trustee, and the board has now appointed him to a second three-year term. He and his wife, Carol, are members of Brookfield CRC in Brookfield, Wisconsin.
4. Mr. Kenneth Ozinga, a B.A. graduate of Calvin College, lives in Palos Park, Illinois, and recently retired as president and CEO of the First National Bank of Evergreen Park. He has served on the boards of the Association for Public Justice, Barnabas Foundation, Roseland Christian Ministries Center, and Calvin College (alumni trustee, 1992-1995). He also served on the Presidential Search Committee for Calvin. He and his wife, Judy, are members of Christ Church, Oak Brook, Illinois.
5. Ms. Cindi Veenstra, a B.A. graduate of Calvin College, is the director of The EXODUS Network, a nationwide realtor referral network which pre-screens, evaluates, and recommends realtors who are specialists in real estate and Christian community information. Trained as an elementary teacher, Ms. Veenstra taught preschool and first grade in the West Michigan area and was a CRWM volunteer in Bacolod City, the Philippines, for five years. She is involved in many volunteer organizations, including recent service as secretary of the Calvin College Alumni Board. She and her husband, David, are members of Immanuel Christian Reformed Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

**III. Request to the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA and synod regarding structure of the Ministries Coordinating Council meetings (see Recommendations IV, D and E)**

**IV. Recommendations**

A. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to the chair of the board, Ms. Sheri D. Haan; the vice chair of the board, Mr. Milton Kuylers; the secretary of the board, Rev. Edward Blankespoor; and the president of the college, Dr. Gaylen J. Byker, when matters pertaining to the college are presented.

B. That synod ratify the following appointment:

Ronald J. Sjoerdsma, Ph.D., Professor of Education with tenure.

C. That synod give appropriate recognition to the following for their service to Calvin College and the Christian Reformed Church and confer on them the titles listed below:

- 1. Conrad J. Bult, M.A.L.S., Assistant Director of the Hekman Library, Emeritus
- 2. Harry Boonstra, Ph.D., Theological Librarian, Emeritus
- 3. Roger L. Griffioen, Ph.D., Professor of Physics, Emeritus
- 4. Philip C. Holtrop, Ph.D., Professor of Religion and Theology, Emeritus
- 5. Carl W. Kaiser, M.Mus., Associate Professor of Music, Emeritus
- 6. Carl T. Mulder, Ed.D., Professor of Education, Emeritus
- 7. Thomas J. Ozinga, Ph.D., Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences, Emeritus
- 8. Gordon L. Van Harn, Ph.D., Professor of Biology and Provost, Emeritus
- 9. John W. Worst, Ph.D., Professor of Music, Emeritus

D. That synod ratify the following appointments to the board (terms to begin on the convening date of the first full board meeting following the meeting of synod):

1. Regional trustees

Region	Delegate	Alternate	Term
Far West U.S. I	(to be determined)		2002
Central U.S. I	Dr. Jan De Roos	Mrs. Janice Van Dyke Zielstra	2002
Central U.S. IV	Mr. Rod Alderink	Mr. William Knoester	2002
Eastern U.S.	Dr. Edward Wierenga	Mr. Donald Sporn	2002
Western Canada	Mr. Robert Koole	Dr. Jack Hielema	2002

2. Alumni trustee

Ms. Connie Northouse Brummel 2002

3. At-large trustees

Mr. Stephen C.L. Chong 2002  
Dr. Tom DeMeester 2002  
Mr. Milton Kuylers 2002  
Mr. Kenneth Ozinga 2002  
Ms. Cindi Veenstra 2002

*E. Request to the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA and synod*

The Board of Trustees of Calvin College requests

1. That the Board of Trustees and synod structure the Ministries Coordinating Council and its meetings (and any successor body and its meetings) so that the representative of the college would participate only in meetings at which major denominational issues and policies are dealt with and so that such meetings are normally held no more than four times per year.
2. That the Board of Trustees and synod structure the annual budget and ministry-share approval process so that the college is dealt with separately from denominational agencies and is not included in the agency peer-review process. This would allow the process to focus on the special relationship between the college and the CRC.

Calvin College Board of Trustees  
Edward J. Blankespoor, secretary

## Calvin Theological Seminary

This report includes actions and recommendations of the seminary board of trustees resulting from its April executive committee and its plenary meeting of May 1999.

### I. Information

#### A. *Board of Trustees of Calvin Theological Seminary*

1. The board alters its request concerning representation at synod, replacing Mr. Mark Muller, secretary, with Rev. Norman Meyer, vice president (Recommendation II, A).
2. The general secretary's office receives and tabulates votes for regional seminary trustees. These elections, effective July 1, need synodical ratification (Recommendation II, B).

Region	Delegate	Alternate	Term
Central U.S. III	Mr. Will Byker	Dr. Glenn Niemeyer	2002
Eastern U.S.	Rev. Ricardo E. Orellana	Rev. Leslie Seaton	2002
Eastern Canada II	Mr. John De Waard	Mr. Willem Hultink	2002
Western Canada II	Rev. Cecil Van Niejenhuis	Rev. Herman Salomons	2002

#### B. *Graduates, licentiates, candidates*

1. Fifty-nine students graduated from six degree programs this spring.
2. Successful interviews were conducted with thirty-two new candidacy applicants recommend by the faculty. The board did not recommend the one applicant who was not recommended by the faculty. The delegates will be provided the profiles of prospective candidates, and the educational committee will receive additional information concerning applicants from the seminary administration and board representatives (Recommendation II, C).  
Six candidates from last year requested extension of their candidacy. The board so recommends to synod (Recommendation II, D).
3. Following board interviews, twenty-seven students were granted either regular or temporary licensure to exhort. Another fifteen students received extension of their licensure to exhort.

#### C. *Appointments*

1. The board appointed Rev. Lugene L. Schemper as theological librarian and assistant director of the library for two years, 1999-2001. Materials will be presented to the educational advisory committee. The appointment needs synod's ratification (Recommendation II, E).
2. The board authorized the seminary administration, with the approval of the board's officers, to make an interim appointment of up to one year for the director-of-field-education position.

#### *D. Finances*

1. The board approved the 1999-2000 operating budget, an increase in the base salary, and tuition rates for the next academic year. A slightly revised budget, without change in the ministry-share request, will be supplied to the financial advisory committee.
2. The board recommends to synod that Calvin Theological Seminary be included on the approved list for church offerings for above-ministry-share general operations and for the seminary Revolving Loan Fund (Recommendation II, F).

#### *E. Other matters*

1. The board approved six new awards and scholarships, revised rules for reappointment and tenure of faculty members, and discussed broad plans for celebrating the seminary's 125th anniversary and a possible building expansion.
2. Request to the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA and synod (Recommendation II, G)  
The Board of Trustees of Calvin Theological Seminary requests
  - a. That the Board of Trustees and synod structure the Ministries Coordinating Council and its meetings (and any successor body and its meetings) so that the representative of the seminary would participate only in meetings at which major denominational issues and policies are dealt with and so that such meetings are normally held no more than four times per year.
  - b. That the Board of Trustees and synod structure the annual budget and ministry-share approval process so that the seminary is dealt with separately from denominational agencies and not included in the agency peer-review process. This would allow the process to focus on the special relationship between the seminary and the CRC.
3. Synod 1998 referred Overture 19 to the seminary board and administration with a request that the seminary board report to synod its handling of the matter. Overture 19, from Classis Pacific Hanmi, requested appointment of experienced Korean pastors as adjuncts to instruct Korean M.Div. students at the seminary on approaches to preaching, pastoral care, and administration unique to the Korean churches. The seminary met with representatives of Classis Hanmi and of the theological commission of the Korean Council and worked out a satisfactory understanding by which the seminary will absorb expenses for Korean students to attend the annual meeting of the Korean Council, at which ten hours of instruction will be given by Korean pastors selected by the council on the three topics identified. The three topics will be covered one per year in successive years. The first such session is scheduled for late May of this year.
4. Synod 1996 approved the seminary's offering, on a three-year trial basis, an adjusted Special Program for Ministerial Candidacy (SPMC). This program is designed for students who have received the M.Div. degree from another seminary but aspire to candidacy in the CRC. The adjustments were

designed particularly for older students. This program's life span was designed to coincide with synod's study of alternative routes into ministry, which was scheduled to be completed for Synod 1999. Since that report has been postponed for one year, the seminary board recommends that the trial period for the adjusted SPMC program also be extended for one year (Recommendation II, H).

## II. Recommendations

A. That Rev. Norman Meyer represent the seminary board on seminary matters instead of Mr. Mark Muller, as proposed in the printed *Agenda*.

B. That synod approve the elected regional trustees and their alternates for the seminary board for terms beginning on July 1, 1999, and running for three years.

C. That synod declare the following as candidates for ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church, subject to completion of all requirements:

Blom, Jerry L.	Natte, Bonnie
Chung, Moses	Oh, Charles C.
Datema, Steven J.	Romeyn, Ruth J.
Gerdes, Glenn O.	Roorda, Darren C.
Hoekema, Jon E.	Rottman, Kent A.
Howerzyl, Timothy	Sturing, Stanley J.
Janssen, Jeffrey P.	Suh, Gil Sung
Kemper, John R.	Sung, David K.
Kett, Gregory J.	Tenyenhuis, Elzo
Kim, Ernest	Tuin, Simon A.
Kim, Gilbert	Van Dyken, Jr., Paul J.
Koeman, Tony W.	Weber, William D.
Lee, Ken H.	Wigboldus, Ralph S.
Meijer, Daryl J.	Wilton, William S.
Miedema, Derek E.	Wolters, Daniel R.
Mpindi, Mbunga (Paul)	Zuidema, Todd M.

D. That the following candidates be granted a one-year extension of candidacy:

De Vries, Daniel  
Holtrop, Cindy  
Ricardo, Eufemio  
Venhuizen, Steven  
Won, Timothy  
Yu, Paul

E. That the appointment of Rev. Lugene L. Schemper as theological librarian and assistant director of the library for two years, 1999-2001, be ratified.

F. That Calvin Theological Seminary be included on the approved list for church offerings, both for above-ministry-share general operations and for the seminary's Revolving Loan Fund.

G. That the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA and synod

1. Structure the Ministries Coordinating Council and its meetings (and any successor body and its meetings) so that the representative of the seminary would participate only in meetings at which major denominational issues and policies are dealt with and so that such meetings are normally held no more than four times per year.
2. Structure the annual budget and ministry-share approval process so that the seminary is dealt with separately from denominational agencies and not included in the agency peer-review process. This would allow the process to focus on the special relationship between the seminary and the CRC.

H. That the trial period for the adjusted SPMC program be extended until the year 2000.

Board of Trustees  
Calvin Theological Seminary  
Mark B. Muller, secretary

### I. Response to the report of the U.S. Structure Committee

The CRC Publications Board wishes to express its deep appreciation for the thoroughness and carefulness of the work done by the U.S. Structure Committee. The CRC Publications Board especially appreciates the fact that, at several points in the Structure Committee's process, Publications' board had opportunity to respond to the proposals. It also appreciates that, in the Board of Trustees' response to the Structure Committee proposals, several of the concerns expressed by the CRC Publications' Board to the final U.S. Structure Committee report were incorporated.

The CRC Publications Board finds much that is attractive about the Structure Committee's proposals. It is persuaded that increased coordination and collaboration of ministry will result from these proposals. However, there is one additional change that the CRC Publications Board believes should be made to the structure proposals. It has to do with the reporting structure for the agency executive directors. The CRC Publications Board proposes that, if the restructuring proposals are approved, synod include in the proposals a requirement that the agency executive directors report to their respective ministry councils as well as to the executive director of ministries.

#### *Grounds:*

- A. It will be difficult to empower the ministry councils to carry out any governance responsibilities if the executive directors of the agencies do not report to them.
- B. Although this proposed arrangement would result in some ambiguity within the structure, such ambiguity is not necessarily inappropriate in an ecclesiastical structure, especially one as diverse and complex as our denominational ministry structure. Also, any unresolved issue can be settled by the Board of Trustees or by synod.

### II. CRC Worship Committee

As mentioned in the CRC Publications' report in the *Agenda for Synod 1999*, a synodically appointed Liturgical Committee was assigned to CRC Publications in 1985, and its name was changed to the CRC Worship Committee. Its mandate was as follows:

To meet the contemporary needs of the Christian Reformed churches in the area of liturgical forms and resources.

To study liturgical uses and practices in our churches in the light of Reformed liturgical practices and past synodical decisions, and to advise synod (through the CRC Publications Board) as to the guidance and supervision it ought to provide local congregations in liturgical matters.

In recent years the first part of this mandate has been taken over by others (e.g., CRC Publications Worship Office, Calvin College Institute of Christian Worship). Also, synod has given few assignments to the Worship Committee. Accordingly, in 1998 the CRC Publications Board approved a recommendation to form a "committee to study and possibly redesign the mandate and structure of the current Worship Committee." At its 1999 meeting, the board reviewed the recommendations of this ad hoc committee and then decided to ask its executive committee to determine how to respond.



At its May 1999 meeting, the CRC Publications executive committee approved the recommendations of the ad hoc committee. In summary they are as follows:

A. That CRC Publications Board approve the following revised mandate for the Worship Committee:

1. To study worship in Christian Reformed churches in the light of biblical reflection and Reformed theology.
2. To provide vision and guidance to churches with respect to their worship practices.
3. To advise synod (through the CRC Publications Board) as to the guidance and supervision synod ought to provide local congregations in liturgical matters.
4. To recommend development of worship resources for congregational use.

*Ground:* The first part of the current two-part mandate is more appropriately assigned to staff and worship groups with particular publication and program goals.

B. That the name of the committee be changed to Commission on the Theology and Practice of Worship.

*Ground:* The current name is used at the congregational level; the new name would distinguish the denominational from the congregational level and highlight the new mandate.

The CRC Publications Board also approved a structure for the worship commission. Among the elements of the structure are the following:

- The commission will consist of six geographically diverse members.
- Members will do research on particular topics and write “white papers” with implications and recommendations for action, particularly in light of the denominational strategic plan.
- Members will be appointed by the CRC Publications Board.
- The music and liturgy editor and the director of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship will serve as continuing members of the committee.

### **III. RCA fraternal delegate**

For a number of years the Reformed Church in America has had representation on the CRC Publications Board by way of a fraternal-delegate position. The three-year term of the current person filling that position, Mr. Jeff Japinga, expires this year. Mr. Japinga is the director of congregational services and minister for education and faith development for the RCA.

CRC Publications requests that synod appoint Mr. Japinga to another three-year term as fraternal delegate to the CRC Publications Board representing the RCA.

CRC Publications  
Gary Mulder, executive director

## Christian Reformed Home Missions

Recommendation B from Home Missions on page 127 of the *Agenda for Synod 1999* is incomplete. For five years synod has approved Home Missions' recommendation that both Reformation Sunday and Easter Sunday be recognized as "significant opportunities to take an offering for Christian Reformed Home Missions." The corrected and complete recommendation as approved this year by the Board of Home Missions reads,

That synod encourage all Christian Reformed churches to recognize Easter Sunday and Reformation Sunday as significant opportunities to take offerings for Christian Reformed Home Missions.

Christian Reformed Home Missions  
John Rozeboom, executive director

“Moving Forward Together into the 21st Century” is a document prepared by Christian Reformed World Missions (CRWM). The International Joint Committee of CRWM reviewed this vision piece and referred it back to the administration for continued development. The committee requested at the annual meeting on May 3-5 that Synod 1999 be informed of this work by way of a supplemental report.

In May 1998 the committee set aside \$250,000 in resources for exploration toward opening “a new field or project and/or significantly increasing ministries on an existing field by the year 2001.” The CRWM administration sought input from the current fields and at the same time convened a working group of representatives from CRWRC, Home Missions, Calvin Theological Seminary, and The Back to God Hour. These efforts are focusing on the two high values of seeking input from the “frontlines” and of working together on the interagency level. Therein lies the meaning of the title.

Working on both fronts, the CRWM administration has identified four potential new mission endeavors from among fifteen “Macedonian calls.” These four projects carry significant potential for interagency collaboration and expansion, at least for ministries within the CRWM program. Two of these are possible joint efforts with CRWRC in Bangladesh and in Cambodia. The other two are possible joint efforts in Mexico with the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Mexico, the National Presbyterian Church in Mexico, The Back to God Hour, and Home Missions. Calvin Seminary and World Literature Ministries are also possible partners in the latter two. After the review of the committee, the administration began developing research-and-development teams for all four projects. It is also preparing the research proposals.

On another front, the joint discussions have resulted as well in a list of topics that need significant further work by the agencies. Among these are such things as criteria for determining sustainability of programs, common procedures for phase-over or phase-out of programs, and the role of the CRCNA Strategic Plan in all of this.

Specific recommendations for ministry start-up could come as early as the spring of 2000.

Christian Reformed World Missions  
Merle Den Bleyker, executive director

**I. Churches in ecclesiastical fellowship**

Below are the provisions of ecclesiastical fellowship and an updated list of churches with which the CRCNA has ecclesiastical fellowship.

**A. Provisions of ecclesiastical fellowship**

1. Exchange of fraternal delegates to major assemblies
2. Occasional pulpit fellowship
3. Fellowship at the table of the Lord
4. Joint action in areas of common responsibility
5. Communication on major issues of joint concern
6. Exercise of mutual concern and admonition with a view to promoting the fundamentals of Christian unity

Ecclesiastical fellowship may involve fewer than all six elements. At present the CRCNA is in full fellowship with the churches listed below unless otherwise indicated. Restrictions were placed on the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (RCN/GKN) in 1983 relating to provisions 1 and 2. Further restrictions were placed upon the RCN/GKN in 1996 relating to provisions 3 and 4. Synod 1996 of the CRCNA decided to lift the suspension of our relationship with the Reformed Churches in South Africa (RCSA) (Synod Potchefstroom) which was enacted by Synod 1989. At a meeting with representatives of the RCSA in South Africa in October 1998, IRC delegates learned that the RCSA now consider themselves to be in ecclesiastical fellowship with the CRCNA. The Reformed Churches of New Zealand now appear with the list of those who have terminated their relationship with the CRCNA.

**B. List of churches in ecclesiastical fellowship** (with the year in which such fellowship was established)**1. Africa**

- a. Christian Reformed Church of Nigeria (CRCN) (1974)
- b. Church of Christ in the Sudan Among the Tiv (NKST) (1974)  
(Nongo U Kristu U Ken Sudan Hen Tiv)
- c. Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA)  
(Verenigende Gereformeerde Kerk in Suider Afrika)
  - 1) Dutch Reformed Church in Africa (DRCA) (1983)
  - 2) Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa (DRMC) (1982)
- d. Midlands Reformed Churches in South Africa (MRCSA) (1991)  
(Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika—Sinode Middelande)
- e. Reformed Church in Africa (RCA) 1982
- f. Reformed Churches in South Africa (Synod Potchefstroom) (1974)  
(Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika)  
(suspension lifted by CRCNA—1996)
- g. Reformed Churches in South Africa (Synod Soutpansberg) (1989)

**2. Asia, Australia, and Indonesia**

- a. Christian Reformed Church in Sumba (Indonesia) (1974)  
(Gereja Kristen Sumba)

- b. Dutch Reformed Church in Sri Lanka (1974)
  - c. Reformed Church in Japan (RCJ) (1974)
  - d. Reformed Churches of Australia (RCA) (1974)
  - e. Christian Reformed Church in the Philippines (1997)
3. Europe
- a. Netherlands Reformed Churches (NRC) (1982)  
(Nederlands Gereformeerde Kerken—Buiten Verband)
  - b. Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (RCN) (1974)  
(Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland)  
(*ecclesiastical fellowship restricted by CRCNA—1983, 1996*)
4. North America
- a. Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC) (1977)
  - b. Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) (1986)
  - c. Reformed Church in America (RCA) (1976)
  - d. Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA) (1974)
5. South America
- a. Evangelical Reformed Church in Brazil (1974)  
(Ireja Evangelica Reformada no Brasil)
  - b. Reformed Church in Argentina (1974)  
(Iglesias Reformadas en le Argentina)
- C. *List of churches formerly in ecclesiastical fellowship*
- a. Christian Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (CRCN) (1980)  
(Christelijke Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland)  
(*ecclesiastical fellowship severed by CRCN—1995*)
  - b. Korean American Presbyterian Church (1979)  
(*ecclesiastical fellowship severed by KAPC—1996*)
  - c. Orthodox Presbyterian Church (1975)  
(*ecclesiastical fellowship severed by OPC—1997*)
  - d. Presbyterian Church in America (1975)  
(*ecclesiastical fellowship severed by PCA—1997*)
  - e. Reformed Churches in New Zealand (RCNZ) (1974)  
(*ecclesiastical fellowship suspended by RCNZ—1995; severed by RCNZ—1998*)

## II. Ecumenical organizations

### A. North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC)

As a suspended church the CRC may send delegates to the November 1999 meetings of NAPARC. The IRC will consider in the coming months whether or not to send delegates to NAPARC 1999. At its 1998 session in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, NAPARC adopted the following:

That member churches discuss and draw up concrete proposals regarding how NAPARC can fulfill its "Purpose and Function" (see NAPARC *Constitution III*) for discussion at the 1999 NAPARC meeting.

This question was referred to the IRC officers for reflection and recommendation at the fall meeting of the IRC.

## *B. Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC)*

### 1. Jubilee 2000 (see *Agenda for Synod 1999*, p. 190)

A subcommittee of the IRC reviewed the resolution of the Interim Committee of REC relative to Jubilee 2000. The committee considered seven questions relating to this matter:

- a. The question of complexity: Is this issue too complex for a committee of “non-economists” to judge?

There is no doubt that this issue is very complex and that even professional economists find it difficult or impossible to grasp the implications of any actions which might be undertaken. In many countries aid or loans failed to reach the intended beneficiaries and only served to enrich those who were already well off or/and ended up in the pockets and numbered bank accounts of corrupt officials. Everything possible ought to be done to ensure that the benefits of any debt forgiveness benefit those who need it most. It should be noted that the issues have been examined by those trained in economics. Although there are problematic issues, the concept of debt forgiveness is not inconceivable or unrealistic.

- b. The question of polity: Does the church have any business getting involved in issues of public policy and economics?

Our Dutch-Reformed hands-off stance does not fit the North American situation. Christians in the Netherlands can have an impact on economic and political decisions through all sorts of Christian organizations up to and including political parties. On our side of the ocean, if we are to bear witness in the different spheres of life, we will have to do so by means of whatever coalitions of Christians (and sometimes others) are available for any given purpose. Too often our calling to assist the poor is seen as an issue of personal preference or choice rather than as a matter of justice.

- c. The question of justice: What justice issues are present?

We in the Western world are both participants in and beneficiaries of an economic system that has caused and continues to cause an imbalance in our world. The economic gap between the rich nations and the poor ones has become a chasm almost as great as the one we read about in Luke 16:26. Can we, then, really wonder what justice issues are present here?

- d. The question of jubilee: How is the idea of jubilee relevant to the forgiveness of Third World debt?

The biblical idea of jubilee indicates that permanent and irrevocable poverty (for families and by extension for tribes and nations) is contrary to the will of God and that his people are challenged to work for an economic structure which prevents such lasting poverty.

In Canada the idea of Jubilee 2000 originated with Roman Catholic theologians and was later picked up by others. While the connection with the year 2000 is incidental, it is a good time to do something. Jubilee as a symbol of reconciliation in Christ would certainly include the notion of economic reconciliation if we are to be true to our Reformed world- and life view.

- e. The question of ecumenical action: Is joining Jubilee 2000 relevant to our ecumenical responsibility?

Very much so. The invitation from so many other faith communities to participate in a joint action is a rare opportunity to show Christian unity in spite of our great diversity.

- f. The question of propriety and protocol: Should this recommendation come from IRC?

Insofar as Jubilee 2000 represents the joining together of church and denominational groups in an effort to speak out against the continued economic enslavement of others, it is most relevant. In addition, many of the churches with whom we have ecumenical relations (e.g., African churches) suffer directly from this kind of perpetual indebtedness. It is our ecumenical duty to raise this issue before those in positions to act.

- g. Will Jubilee 2000 accomplish anything worthwhile?

If our participation in Jubilee 2000 is part of our wholehearted joy in God through Christ and the delight to do every good as God wants us to, if it arises out of true faith, conforms to God's law, is done for his glory, and is not based on what we think is right or on established human tradition, it will be worthwhile whether or not it accomplishes the goal set for it.

Having considered the above questions, the IRC adopted the recommendation of its subcommittee to endorse in principle the five recommendations of the REC re Jubilee 2000.

*Recommendation:*

In light of the above and acknowledging a lack of expertise to address all of the issues that surface in connection with the REC resolution, the IRC recommends that synod consult with recognized scholars in international finance with a view to supporting the resolution.

*Grounds:*

- a. The IRC subcommittee considered various issues relating to Jubilee 2000.
  - b. This represents the deep feelings and needs of churches with whom the CRCNA has a close ecclesial relationship.
2. Financial future of the Reformed Ecumenical Council (see *Agenda for Synod 1999*, p. 190)

The Reformed Ecumenical Council has been struggling financially. Dr. Richard van Houten, general secretary of the REC, conveyed this situation to the IRC in a letter dated October 7, 1998. A subcommittee of IRC met with Dr. van Houten to gain a clearer understanding of the REC's financial situation.

The REC's income has suffered greatly because of the international financial crisis, which has particularly affected Third World countries. Furthermore, the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, which has been a strong financial supporter of REC, has been forced to decrease its contribution this year from \$35,000 to \$28,000.

The REC is hopeful that it will be able to slightly increase its contribution to REC during the next fiscal year from its approved budget. If the financial

difficulties of REC continue, the IRC may need to request additional funds for fiscal year 2001-2002.

3. Delegates to the assembly of the REC in Jakarta, Indonesia, July 14-28, 2000

According to the constitution of REC, each member church may send official delegates to the assembly. There are two classes of delegates, voting and nonvoting. Although a total of eight delegates represented the CRCNA in previous years, according to the REC constitution, only six delegates may be sent in 2000. This reduction in the number of delegates is a result of the drop in CRCNA membership to below 300,000. A member church may also send persons with special qualifications to give advice to the assembly. Each member church may appoint up to two (2) advisers.

In selecting persons to serve as delegates to REC 2000, the IRC was guided by the following considerations: (a) to provide for some continuity with previous assemblies for more effective participation, (b) to reflect leadership diversity in the CRCNA, and (c) to provide persons who officially represent the Interchurch Relations Committee in the CRCNA.

*Recommendation:*

That synod approve the following six persons to serve as delegates to REC Jakarta 2000:

- a. Voting delegate: *Mrs. Claire Elgersma* is a member of the REC Interim Committee and serves as its first clerk. She is also a member of the Interchurch Relations Committee. She is a graduate of Calvin College, was the manager of the Kitchener Canadian Employment Center, and now is a self-employed financial consultant. She is a member of First Kitchener (Ontario) CRC.
- b. Nonvoting/alternate delegate: *Rev. Ruth M. Hofman*, a graduate of Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary, is currently serving as the pastor of First Toronto CRC. She is a member of the Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions.
- c. Voting delegate: *Dr. David H. Engelhard* is general secretary of the CRCNA. He is a member ex officio of the Interchurch Relations Committee. He is a member of Shawnee Park CRC in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- d. Nonvoting/alternate delegate: *Rev. Leonard J. Hofman* is general secretary emeritus of the CRCNA. He is a member of the Interchurch Relations Committee and serves as its administrative secretary. He is a member of Shawnee Park CRC in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- e. Voting delegate: *Rev. Jason Chen*, a graduate of Calvin Theological Seminary, is the director of campus ministry at the University of Iowa, Iowa City. He is a member of the Interchurch Relations Committee and served as a delegate to REC Athens 1992.
- f. Nonvoting/alternate delegate: *Rev. Richard E. Williams*, a graduate of Calvin Theological Seminary, is the pastor of Pullman CRC in Chicago and is a member of The Back to God Hour Board. Rev. Williams served the IRC as a delegate to the Reformed Churches in South Africa in October 1998.



#### 4. Advisers to the REC

##### *Recommendation:*

That synod approve *Dr. Peter Borgdorff*, executive director of ministries, and *Mr. Ray Elgersma*, Canadian ministries director, to serve as advisers to REC Jakarta 2000.

*Ground:* Their expertise in the area of denominational ministries will be a valuable resource to the discussions of REC.

##### *C. National Association of Evangelicals (NAE)*

At its March 1999 summit meeting in Orlando, Florida, the board of directors of the National Association of Evangelicals elected Dr. Kevin Mannoia, bishop of the Free Methodist Church of North America, to be the new president of NAE. He will replace Dr. Donald Argue, who accepted the position of president of Northwest College in Kirkland, Washington.

Dr. Mannoia is a Master of Divinity graduate of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois, and a Ph.D. graduate of the University of North Texas, Denton. His dissertation is *A Study of the Perception of Faculty Concerning Integration of Faith and Learning at Free Methodist Colleges*. He will begin to serve as NAE president in July 1999.

Four resolutions were adopted by the NAE at its fifty-seventh annual meeting in Orlando, Florida, in March, including the following: "Economic and Cultural Renewal," "Genocide in Sudan," "Trafficking in Women and Children," and "Y2K Computer Challenge." In order that synod and members of the CRCNA may be informed about this part of NAE's activity, the above-mentioned resolutions are appended to this supplementary report (see Appendix).

##### *D. World Council of Churches (WCC)*

Dr. George Vandervelde was appointed to attend the eighth assembly of the WCC, meeting in Harare, December 3-14, 1998, as an observer on behalf of the CRC and as a delegated representative for the World Evangelical Fellowship. Dr. Richard van Houten also attended, representing the REC.

Dr. Vandervelde reported that the WCC adopted *Forum of Christian Churches and Ecumenical Organizations*, a document which explains a new structure for the WCC as proposed by the committee mandated in 1989 to study "the common understanding and vision of the WCC" (CUV). According to Dr. Vandervelde, "... this new structure is intended to reach beyond WCC's present constituency to churches and organizations that for various reasons are not now members of the WCC. Chief among these is, of course, the Roman Catholic Church. But the CUV document mentions specifically Pentecostal and Evangelical churches, as well as world communions and regional ecumenical organizations." This provides an opportunity for the IRC to monitor carefully the present direction and future shape of the WCC. The IRC intends to study the requirements for and implications of participation in the WCC forum.

#### **III. Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (RCN/GKN)** (see *Agenda for Synod 1999*, pp. 191-92)

The IRC is moving forward with arrangements to host a delegation from the RCN for talks on matters of mutual interest and concern. In response to a

letter from the IRC administrative secretary, Dr. Leo Koffeman, executive secretary for ecumenical relations in the RCN, informed the IRC that as of January 1, 1999, most of the responsibilities for ecumenical relations of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands, the Netherlands Reformed Church, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church had been transferred to a new joint Board for Missionary and Diaconal Work and Ecumenical Relations. A proposal to send a delegation to the CRC was approved in principle. Dr. Koffeman will now convene the people involved to discuss and respond to the agenda items our IRC submitted. Arrangements are being made for a meeting in the fall of 1999.

#### **IV. Delegation to Japan and Korea** (see *Agenda for Synod 1999*, p. 193)

The delegation appointed by the IRC will visit the Reformed Church of Japan and also churches in Korea from September 24 to October 9, 1999, spending four days in Japan and ten days in Korea. Members of the IRC met with the Korean Relations Team of the Ministries Coordinating Council in preparation for sending a delegation to Korea. Rev. Edward Van Baak, IRC president, and Rev. Leonard Hofman met with the Korean Council of Christian Reformed Churches in May 1999 in preparation for the fall visit. These preparatory meetings are considered important and necessary by all parties involved.

#### **V. Ecumenical Charter** (see *Agenda for Synod 1999*, p. 194)

Synod 1998 requested the IRC to complete its review of the CRCNA Ecumenical Charter and report to Synod 1999.

Although the IRC had hoped to adopt the final revision of the Ecumenical Charter at its April 1999 meeting and to submit the document to synod for possible referral to the churches, it decided not to present the charter to Synod 1999 for review or consideration.

##### *Grounds:*

- A. This is in keeping with a request from the Interchurch Relations Committee of the Canadian Ministries Board that the IRC meet with it prior to presenting the charter to synod and that the meeting be held in September 1999.
- B. The provisions and implementation of an Ecumenical Charter may be affected by denominational structure discussions and decisions of Synod 1999.
- C. The restructuring process going on in other denominations with which the CRCNA has an ecclesial relationship may have an impact on relationships as articulated in our charter.
- D. The application of the charter to the ecumenical calling of local churches needs further development.

It is the intention of the IRC to include the revised Ecumenical Charter in the *Agenda for Synod 2000* for consideration.

**VI. Dialogue with leadership of the Roman Catholic Church** (see *Agenda for Synod 1999*, p. 194)

The delegation met on January 27 and 28, 1999, with representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, who received them cordially and hospitably. The group engaged in intense discussions. Since that time the committee has met twice and has consulted with Dr. Fred Klooster because of his expertise in the Heidelberg Catechism. The writing of a report is in process. The committee is scheduled to meet again on June 22, 1999.

**VII. Recommendations requiring synodical action**

A. That synod approve a delegation of the six named persons to REC Jakarta 2000 (see Section II, B, 3).

B. That synod approve the appointment of the two named advisers to REC Jakarta 2000 (see Section II, B, 4).

Interchurch Relations Committee  
Leonard J. Hofman, administrative secretary  
Edward A. Van Baak, president

**APPENDIX**

**NAE**

**Economic And Cultural Renewal**

*A Resolution Adopted by the 57th Annual Meeting of the  
National Association of Evangelicals*

It is a tragic reality of life in the United States that, despite unprecedented economic growth and low unemployment, there remains what appears to be a "permanent underclass." This reality persists despite billions of dollars and significant efforts spent on anti-poverty programs. Innovative measures and approaches are needed to address complex social problems that mire millions of our fellow Americans in poverty in a land of plenty.

The National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) supports in principle the vision of economic and cultural renewal through private organizations, and supports legislative initiatives targeted at community renewal, economic empowerment, and educational opportunities for low-income families. As a means of encouraging economic development and promoting effective private compassion, NAE urges careful consideration of the following three legislative initiatives.

**1. Educational Opportunities Act of 1999**

This proposal would empower low-income parents living in poverty-stricken areas to send their children to the school of their choice. The private and religious schools that accept scholarship students would be protected from interference by the federal government.

2. The Charity Empowerment Act of 1999

This proposal would provide a tax credit of up to \$250 (\$500 for married couples) for contributions to 501 (c) (3) charitable organizations whose primary purpose is the prevention or alleviation of poverty. It may also include an expansion of the Charitable Choice provision of the welfare reform law. Charitable Choice—Senator Ashcroft’s legislation which was endorsed by NAE—has enabled religious organizations, as well as secular organizations to help the poverty stricken leave welfare by providing needed services with federal dollars.

3. The American Community Renewal Act of 1999

This innovative proposal would provide tax, housing opportunities, and other benefits to “Renewal Communities” in order to spur economic development in poverty-stricken areas. It would also amend current federal law to permit faith-based substance abuse treatment centers (all centers, not just those in Renewal Communities) to serve the persons receiving federal assistance and to receive federal assistance.

Finally, the NAE urges its member congregations to evaluate continually the needs of the poor in their own communities and to establish appropriate faith-based, transformational ministries furthering education, welfare-to-work programs, refugee care, substance abuse treatment, childcare, and related issues.

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**NAE**

**Genocide In Sudan**

*A Resolution Adopted by the 57th Annual Meeting of the  
National Association of Evangelicals*

The human catastrophe that is occurring in southern Sudan cries out for the compassion, prayer and action of the evangelical churches of America. Over the past 15 years, a staggering 1.9 million people have died from starvation or been killed in the civil war that has torn apart this country since 1956. But something even more sinister is occurring that calls for our strongest protest - religious persecution that includes genocide against and enslavement of Christians.

In 1983, the Arab government of northern Sudan instituted strict Islamic law in the entire country and included black Christians and other non-Muslims of the south in its decree. Then in 1992 a religious decree (fatwa) was ordered that gave justification to the extermination of non-Muslims. Since that time the United Nations and human rights groups have documented slavery - people taken as war booty to perform unpaid household labor and other tasks and in some cases to be used for sexual gratification. Scholars also describe the attacks against Christians as genocide, which includes policies by Khartoum’s

National Islamic Front to deem those who reject its radical Islamic ideology as “infidels” to be taken into slavery or slaughtered.

In 1998 the Congress passed and President Clinton signed into law the International Religious Freedom Act. That Act requires the President to take action against countries that engage in a pattern of religious persecution. There are some sanctions that are already in place against Sudan which prohibit most companies from trading with Sudan. But there are exemptions which permit the Sudan to receive millions of dollars from trade with the United States, particularly from the sale of gum arabic which is used in soft drinks and other products. These exemptions render the sanctions in place relatively meaningless. Congress therefore should enact more effective legislation limiting commercial dealing with Sudan.

There is much more that could be done. For example, as pointed out by Senator Bill Frist and others, the United Nations now effectively cedes to the Sudanese government the right to decide when, if, and where food can be delivered to the South Sudan and the Nuba Mountains. Khartoum’s veto of relief deliveries in 1998 alone brought over 2.5 million people to the brink of starvation and took tens of thousands of lives. The U.S. could take steps modeled on the historic Berlin Airlift to override deliberate, famine-creating policies of the Sudan regime that have malnourished and killed millions.

In light of all these facts, the National Association of Evangelicals declares that for too long the world has been silent in the face of the starvation, enslavement, and genocide conducted by the Sudanese regime against its own people. Silence is unconscionable in the face of this continuing evil.

The National Association of Evangelicals also states its support in principle for the Student Campaign of Conscience for Sudan. This effort, which began last fall on American campuses, deserves support from our member universities, colleges, parachurch organizations, and denominational ministries active in student ministries. We further request the evangelical community to speak and act on behalf of the suffering Sudanese people. In addition to human rights concerns NAE acknowledges the efforts of World Relief, on its behalf, in supporting the Sudanese church (one of the fastest growing in the world today). Recognizing the daily threat of malnutrition, disease, and lack of development which confront the churches in Sudan, NAE pledges the support of its membership to work through its subsidiary in meeting the needs of our brothers and sisters and their communities in their darkest hour of need.

## **NAE**

### **Trafficking In Women And Children**

*A Resolution Adopted by the 57th Annual Meeting of the  
National Association of Evangelicals*

Each year force and fraud bring as many as a million innocent victims into the international sex industry. There is a growing movement to oppose this horrendous degradation of women and children. The National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) joins with others to condemn and organize to end this travesty.

The NAE Washington Office for Government Affairs reports the following: there may be as many as 800,000 Thai children trafficked into prostitution (the official Thai government figure is 60,000); a half-million women are trafficked each year from Russia and the Newly Independent States; traffickers reportedly sell Asian women to North American brothels for \$16,000 each; children from Mexico have been trafficked by several rings into brothels in our own country.

This illegal and immoral trafficking is a violation of the sanctity of life and of the God-given dignity and integrity of human persons. The National Association of Evangelicals therefore:

1. Urges the evangelical community to educate itself as it has done regarding international religious persecution and to get involved to stop this crime of human degradation.
2. Commends the Women's Commission of the World Evangelical Fellowship for its emphasis on halting the abuse of women and urges the Commission to support the campaign to stop sex trafficking.
3. Recognizes those origins of this problem that lie in poverty as well as vice, and applauds the excellent work of World Relief, in children's evangelism and micro-enterprise development among families at risk in Cambodia. NAE urges its subsidiary to expand immediately these initiatives to other countries where these problems are endemic.
4. Recommends that churches establish and support programs for victim assistance, both in the U.S. and abroad, which include creating shelters and rehabilitation programs that demonstrate God's compassion and love for all people.
5. Supports appropriate federal legislation that would seek to end sex trafficking by punishing those responsible. Penalties should be considered that punish violators in a just manner and to serve as a deterrent. Such legislation may also include incentives to countries to take appropriate actions (e.g. criminalizing and punishing offenders).

## NAE

### Y2K Computer Challenge

*A Resolution Adopted by the 57th Annual Meeting of the  
National Association of Evangelicals*

Both in the secular and spiritual dimensions of life, there is a growing awareness that in the year 2000 the potential failure of millions of computers and microprocessors may introduce our world into an unprecedented crisis. This crisis may not only affect the physical contingencies of everyday life but also the financial conditions of life for some time to come. In the interconnected world in which we live the crisis may not only be a local one affecting our individual lives, but may also have national and international ramifications.

It seems expedient therefore that members of the evangelical community seriously evaluate this potentially pervasive problem so as to prepare themselves for its possibilities and the opportunities for ministry that may be needed by their constituents and to their communities up to and beyond January 1, 2000, A.D.

The basic biblical principles that should undergird these processes should include (a) a secure confidence in the sovereignty and sufficiency of God to provide for His people, (b) a prayerful dependence upon Him for the wisdom and direction needed in decisions that must be made, (c) a directive to do good to all people, but especially those of the household of faith and (d) a commandment not only to declare the message of God's love to lost people but also to demonstrate that love to those who need to know Him.

Any response to this challenge that focuses only on personal survival falls short of a biblical model to serve others, whether they be those of the household of faith who may need spiritual and physical assistance, or those without faith who can experience the reality of our faith and love by the works we do before them.

The processes by which these objectives may be accomplished will vary but may be enhanced by the creation of organizational, denominational, and local church task forces who will seek both to inform and to enable their constituents to make wise and spiritually motivated plans for the possible crisis that the Y2K problem may pose, knowing full well that each church and person must decide for themselves how seriously they will consider the issue, and what plans they will make in preparation for the year 2000.

Recognizing the necessity for ministry that the Y2K challenge may create in the evangelical community as well as the opportunity for evangelism in the society in which we live, the National Association of Evangelicals calls upon its churches, denominations, mission agencies and other institutions to take a positive proactive response to the Y2K problem. We also call upon individual Christians in their response to this problem to consider not just how they might survive whatever crisis we are on a countdown to experience, but also how they might in the name of Christ seek to serve the needs of others.

Finally, we note with joy that the year 2000 carries significance far beyond technological concerns. We suggest at this time that evangelicals observe special occasions of celebration and commemoration marking this significantly Christian focal point of human history. In particular, we urge a renewed emphasis in teaching, preaching and worship focusing on Jesus Christ, the Redemptive Incarnation of God, acknowledging that there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12) and affirming that this Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

# OVERTURES AND COMMUNICATIONS



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# OVERTURES

## **Overture 29: Reject the Recommendations of the Committee to Study Structure for Ministry in the United States**

Classis Kalamazoo overtures synod to reject the recommendations of the Committee to Study Structure for Ministry in the United States.

*Grounds:*

- A. The recommendations of the report are complicated and far-reaching. Implementation requires the addition of another level of management and a new classical committee. Such a major restructuring would take extensive education and communication. In addition, it is not at all clear that the proposal would work or that it would accomplish any substantial improvement in the way ministry is accomplished.
- B. The recommendations, despite the committee's assurances to the contrary, remove congregations farther from the decision-making powers. Adding levels to the structure cannot be a positive step in streamlining ministry. Furthermore, it is unclear how the relationship between the new council for each agency and the ruling Board of Trustees will work.
- C. Though the committee makes assurances that there will be little additional cost, there is no possible way for this to be known about a theoretical program that has neither been tested nor tried.
- D. The recommendations made by the committee are theory. Valid organizational structure arises out of a clear sense of values, identity, and mission. The current state of the Christian Reformed Church in North America is that there is significant disagreement about these three things. Unity cannot be accomplished through reorganization. Reorganization must arise out of a sense of unified identity.
- E. The restructuring of any institution or organization assumes there is a problem with the current structure. It is not at all clear, nor is it universally agreed upon, that there is such a structural problem in the CRCNA and, if there is, what the nature of the problem is. Without such an analysis, making changes is irresponsible. The congregations of the denomination need to do more analysis before such recommendations should be undertaken.

Classis Kalamazoo

Neal R. Rylaarsdam, stated clerk

### **Overture 30: Reject Recommendations of the Committee to Study Ordination and “Official Acts of Ministry” and Return the Report to the Committee So That It Can Fulfill Its Mandate**

Classis Kalamazoo overtures synod to reject the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee to Study Ordination and “Official Acts of Ministry” and to return the report to the committee as incomplete and insufficient to fulfill the committee’s mandate.

#### *Grounds:*

- A. The report does not further the study of Synod 1973 (Report 44) but simply states where the committee agrees and disagrees with this work. The committee acknowledges the antiauthoritarian tone of Report 44 and at the same time agrees with Synod 1973, which rejected Report 44’s definition of “authority as a service” (p. 284). Neither the action taken by Synod 1973 nor the position of this committee is substantiated by biblical witness. Without the testimony of Scripture, it is not at all clear that Report 44 is wrong or that the present committee is correct.
- B. The report rejects the pejorative use of the word *status* in Report 44: “Report 44 (1973) uses ‘status’ pejoratively by associating it with dominance and privilege, but it need not have such associations, and in dictionary definitions it in fact does not” (p. 285). The last part of this statement (“and in dictionary definitions it in fact does not”) is false. The *American Heritage Concise Dictionary*, 3rd edition, 1994, defines *status* as “high standing; prestige.” *Webster’s 7th New Collegiate Dictionary*, 1969, defines *status* as “a position or rank in relation to others; relative rank in a hierarchy of prestige.” The *World Book Dictionary*, 1990, defines *status* as “social or professional standing, position, or rank.” Whereas each of these dictionaries also mentions the committee’s definition (a “legal term referring to condition”), it is clear that the committee’s claim—that dictionary definitions of the word do not include privilege—is false. Furthermore, in each of the dictionaries mentioned above, the first definition is the most commonly used, according to the editor(s), and, in each case, the definition re the concept of privilege is placed prior to the definition re legal standing. The committee cannot alter common understanding simply by emphasizing one part of a definition.
- C. The report works to defend tradition without critique and apart from Scripture. No attempt is made to define “official acts of ministry” from a biblical perspective. Likewise, the traditional distinction between preaching and exhorting and the assertion that the “liturgical” presence of Christ exists only in the ordained minister of the Word have been given no biblical support or analysis. The requirement that an ordained minister of the Word be a full-time employee of the church was accepted merely on the basis of the assumption that this practice is true and correct. The report in its failure to address Scripture is nontheological and based solely on the opinions of its authors. But the issues taken up by the committee are clearly theological issues that deserve better treatment.

D. The committee attempts to “prevent an unhelpful and unnecessary proliferation of offices” (p. 291), yet its recommendation is to add another office. Furthermore, the committee criticizes what it calls the reduction of authority to function, and yet the distinction it makes between the offices is one of function: “If one is to argue cogently for another office, it is necessary to demonstrate that this office is directly related to the one threefold office of Christ, while in its functioning . . . it is sufficiently distinct from the other offices” (p. 291). According to this way of thinking, every spiritual gift could result in another ordained office. We already ordain evangelists. The committee would have us ordain ministers of education. Why not ordain ministers of hospitality, ministers of music, ministers of administration, and so forth? The committee has failed to answer the very question it raises: On the basis of our Reformed understanding of calling/vocation and our understanding of the priesthood of all believers, shouldn’t every function of the church as institute and as organism be “ordainable” (p. 291)? The question could be extended: Why is any function ordainable? The committee has done nothing to move this discussion forward.

Classis Kalamazoo

Neal R. Rylaarsdam, stated clerk

### **Overture 31: Permit the Transfer of Hahn-In CRC to Classis Grandville**

Classis Grand Rapids North overtures synod to permit the transfer of Hahn-In Christian Reformed Church of Wyoming, Michigan, from Classis Grand Rapids North to Classis Grandville.

*Ground:* Hahn-In CRC is located in Wyoming, Michigan, within the general boundaries of Classis Grandville.

Classis Grand Rapids North

Jeffrey M. Meyer, stated clerk

### **Overture 32: Not to Approve the Recommendations of the Committee to Study Structure for Ministry in the U.S.**

#### **I. Introduction**

In 1998 Classis Greater Los Angeles believed that a formal overture regarding structure for ministry in the United States would be premature since the final report of the Committee to Study Structure for Ministry in the U.S. was not available. Therefore, we sent a communication to Synod 1998 to indicate the concern which we had regarding the proposed structure.

Now, having carefully reviewed the final report, Classis Greater Los Angeles notes the following:

A. Although the plan speaks of decentralization, the direction of the report regarding governance does not support this. Notice the responsibilities given to the Board of Trustees' North American-Ministries Committee: "diaconal and evangelistic mission within North America through the governance of strategy and policy decisions related to all ministry activities focused in North America which are beyond the scope of the local congregation" (*Agenda for Synod 1999*, p. 339).

B. While the plan calls for regional offices, such regionalization does not necessarily result in decentralized ministry. The report assumes regional offices will enhance local congregational ministry. However, evangelism and mission must be integrated and located first of all in the local congregation. The report reads as if the focus of ministry is in the classis and not in the local church. Also, vision and mission should shape structure rather than structure shaping mission. A new structure alone will not inspire a renewed passion for mission and ministry.

C. It is quite possible that the proposed restructuring adds another layer of bureaucracy (regional offices) in our denomination at a time when we are actually shrinking in size.

D. The report's language regarding our current "multiple layers of governance" as being the culprit for lack of ministry effectiveness is exaggerated.

E. The plan is far too optimistic about the cost involved in the proposed structural changes.

F. The selection process for members of the ministry councils is left very vague.

G. Though a plan with some similar features is in place in Canada, not enough time has passed to evaluate effectively whether the new plan enhances ministry on the local, classical, and denominational levels.

## II. Overture

Classis Greater Los Angeles therefore overtures synod

A. Not to approve the recommendations of the report as presented on pages 352-53 of the *Agenda for Synod 1999*.

### *Grounds:*

1. Though we are in agreement with the principles and values governing our Reformed church polity, the proposal lacks other options and alternatives to study and review.
2. The report attempts to achieve two contradictory things—centralized governance and decentralized ministry. However, the weight of the report leans toward centralized governance.

B. Not to approve a test of two regional ministry teams in the United States.

*Grounds:*

1. To do so would mean to proceed too far with the recommendations proposed in the report.
2. It would be wiser to observe and evaluate the Canadian structure after three or even six years to determine ministry effectiveness and benefits.

Classis Greater Los Angeles

Max Slegers, stated clerk

**Overture 33: Not to Adopt the Recommendations of the Committee to Study Structure for Ministry in the United States**

**I. Observations**

A. Classis Holland appreciates the work done by the Committee to Study Structure for Ministry in the United States and particularly commends the report for several things:

1. The study is comprehensive, showing a great deal of understanding for present and possible denominational governance and ministry-delivery systems.
2. The study overtly emphasizes the need to include broad denominational involvement with the Board of Trustees.
3. The study overtly recognizes that ministry takes place primarily in the congregational and regional settings and expresses a desire to enhance ministry happening at that level.
4. The study builds upon previous work done to implement Canadian ministry needs and strategies.
5. The study desires a greater integration of the ministries offered by the denomination.

B. At the same time, we believe it would be unwise to adopt the recommendations of the report at this time for a number of reasons.

1. Classis Holland's past experience with a (now defunct) classical ministries committee proved to us that such a structural level of ministry governance is not helpful.
2. The proposals of the report seem to add layers of governance rather than remove them.
3. The structure proposed does not appear to lower the overall administrative costs for ministry development; instead, because of regional offices and additional staff, these costs would likely rise, without a corresponding increase in ministry expansion or effectiveness.

4. Expanding the number of people on the Board of Trustees as a governance body would reduce its organizational effectiveness. At the same time, removing authority for decision-making from present ministry-oversight bodies and reorganizing them as pulse groups for the Board of Trustees would diminish their capacity to give ministry leadership.
5. Regional ministry offices would not likely be more responsive to local ministry initiatives than present agency structures and staff, which are already easily accessible by communication and transportation available today.

## II. Overture

Classis Holland overtures synod

A. Not to adopt the recommendations of the Report of the Committee to Study Structure for Ministry in the United States.

*Grounds:*

1. The proposed ministry structures would add to and not reduce the levels of governance in the denomination. Classical ministry committees, regional ministry fields, and administrative staff supervising the implementation of Board of Trustees' decisions all work against local ministry deployment and seem to enhance institutionalization. Classis Holland's own experience with a classical ministries committee like those proposed by the report has been largely negative. When we operated with such a committee, it added an unnecessary, duplicating level of governance and distanced classis as a whole from the real ownership of our classical ministries.
2. A larger Board of Trustees, functioning primarily through ministry-area subcommittees, would not provide adequate input from or feedback to classes for participation in ministry development or resource allocation. Instead, it is more likely that such a structure would increasingly be used by denominational staff as a tool through which to assert policy and direction.
3. The report places a high degree of emphasis on the coordination and administration of ministries, seemingly at the expense of nurturing actual ministry development on the congregational level. Rather than enhancing ministry, this structure would likely diminish, undermine, and retard ministry development, since it conceives of denominational ministry as originating at the Board of Trustees level and being applied down a chain of structures to the local level rather than the other way around. Such a process would not empower congregations to do ministry; rather, it would empower employees of the denomination to regulate local ministries.
4. As the study committee implies in Additional Comment B (*Agenda for Synod 1999*, p. 309), the recommendations of the report are all of a piece, and it is not possible to pick and choose among them. Either the whole report, with its philosophic and organizational directions, has to be adopted, or something else has to be offered in its place. It is impossible for synod to function as a committee of the whole to edit, revise, or rework the study committee's report in any meaningful manner.

Because of the difficulties offered, it would be wise for synod not to adopt any of the recommendations pertaining to structure changes and either to wait to see how the present structures evolve naturally or to appoint a different committee to study structure at a later date.

*B.* To dismiss the study committee with thanks and to set a moratorium on further structural-change studies and actions until the year 2004.

*Grounds:*

1. In light of the denominational membership decline over the past seven years, it would be unwise to pursue structural changes at this time which might further erode the confidence of members.
2. It would be wise for the denomination to observe the newly established Canadian structures in operation for several years before making additional, broader denominational structure changes.

Classis Holland

Ronald D. De Young, stated clerk

**Overture 34: Allow Transfer of Hahn-In CRC to Classis Grandville**

Classis Grandville overtures synod to approve the transfer of Hahn-In Christian Reformed Church of Wyoming, Michigan, from Classis Grand Rapids North to Classis Grandville.

Classis Grandville

John P. Gorter, stated clerk



# COMMUNICATIONS

## **Communication 3: Classis B.C. North-West**

In consultation with CRC Publications, Classis B.C. North-West has reelected Mr. Fred Herfst to a third term as delegate to the CRC Publications Board. This somewhat unusual decision was taken to help maintain some continuity on the CRC Publications Board and its executive committee during this time of restructuring. Classis B.C. North-West asks synod to ratify this appointment.

*Note:* The executive committee of the CRC Publications Board endorses this request from Classis B.C. North-West.

Classis B.C. North-West  
Peter Brouwer, stated clerk

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

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# The Back to God Hour/CRC TV

## Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 1999-2000

	Fiscal 93-94 Actual	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Budget	Fiscal 99-00 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Ministry Share	\$ 4,384	\$ 4,420	\$ 4,439	\$ 4,414	\$ 4,449	\$ 4,555	\$ 4,690
% of Total Income	51.7%	55.4%	51.2%	49.6%	48.9%	51.4%	49.1%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Ministry Share	\$ 3,584	\$ 3,259	\$ 3,402	\$ 3,399	\$ 3,301	\$ 3,736	\$ 3,965
Estate Gifts	\$ 478	\$ 179	\$ 691	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,202	\$ 230	\$ 600
Total Gift Income	4,061	3,438	4,093	4,400	4,503	4,066	4,565
% of Total Income	47.9%	43.1%	47.2%	49.8%	49.9%	49.0%	49.2%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 37	\$ 127	\$ 141	\$ 58	\$ 141	\$ 250	\$ 250
Total Other Income	37	127	141	58	141	250	250
% of Total Income	0.4%	1.6%	1.6%	0.7%	1.6%	2.6%	2.6%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>8,482</b>	<b>7,985</b>	<b>8,673</b>	<b>8,862</b>	<b>9,093</b>	<b>8,871</b>	<b>9,485</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-time Employee):</b>							
Program Services:							
English	\$ 2,645	\$ 2,579	\$ 2,496	\$ 2,473	\$ 2,461	\$ 2,570	\$ 2,690
FTEs	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
International	\$ 2,602	\$ 2,847	\$ 2,962	\$ 2,460	\$ 2,992	\$ 2,607	\$ 3,121
FTEs	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
Television	\$ 2,344	\$ 2,131	\$ 2,049	\$ 2,003	\$ 649	\$ 2,097	\$ 3,091
FTEs	7	7	7	6	6	8	8
Television - Animation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program-service \$	7,590	7,557	7,507	6,936	6,122	7,612	9,322
Total Program-service FTEs	25	25	25	24	24	26	36
% of Total \$	87.9%	87.4%	88.9%	87.8%	82.9%	85.2%	87.2%
% of Total FTEs	78.1%	75.8%	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%	76.5%	76.9%
Support Services:							
Management & General	\$ 510	\$ 555	\$ 307	\$ 378	\$ 406	\$ 499	\$ 524
FTEs	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 533	\$ 538	\$ 557	\$ 680	\$ 777	\$ 810	\$ 890
FTEs	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
Total Support-service \$	1,043	1,093	864	1,058	1,183	1,309	1,374
Total Support-service FTEs	7	8	8	8	8	8	8
% of Total \$	12.1%	12.6%	11.9%	13.0%	13.1%	14.7%	12.8%
% of Total FTEs	21.9%	24.2%	24.2%	25.0%	25.0%	23.9%	23.9%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 8,633</b>	<b>\$ 8,650</b>	<b>\$ 8,601</b>	<b>\$ 7,994</b>	<b>\$ 8,965</b>	<b>\$ 8,871</b>	<b>\$ 10,696</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ (151)</b>	<b>\$ (665)</b>	<b>\$ 642</b>	<b>\$ 908</b>	<b>\$ 2,168</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (1,211)</b>

**Operating Budget (000s)  
Fiscal Year 1999-2000**

	Fiscal 93-94 Actual	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Budget	Fiscal 99-00 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Ministry Share	\$ 2,748	\$ 2,723	\$ 2,786	\$ 2,801	\$ 2,827	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,800
% of Total Income	5.5%	5.1%	4.8%	4.4%	4.3%	4.0%	3.8%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Ministry Share	\$ 2,095	\$ 1,782	\$ 2,255	\$ 2,873	\$ 2,785	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300
Estate Gifts	\$ 144	\$ 49	\$ 4	\$ 20	\$ 29	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	2,239	1,831	2,259	2,893	2,814	3,300	3,300
% of Total Income	4.5%	3.4%	3.8%	4.6%	4.1%	4.7%	4.5%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ 43,691	\$ 47,596	\$ 52,014	\$ 56,305	\$ 61,483	\$ 62,837	\$ 65,542
Grants	\$ 255	\$ 299	\$ 278	\$ 258	\$ 503	\$ 485	\$ 485
Miscellaneous	\$ 913	\$ 1,387	\$ 1,059	\$ 1,103	\$ 1,132	\$ 963	\$ 961
Total Other Income	44,819	49,282	53,351	57,666	63,119	64,285	66,968
% of Total Income	90.0%	91.5%	91.3%	91.0%	91.7%	91.3%	91.7%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>49,806</b>	<b>53,828</b>	<b>58,404</b>	<b>63,360</b>	<b>68,892</b>	<b>70,385</b>	<b>73,068</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-time Employees):</b>							
<b>Program Services:</b>							
Education	\$ 41,915	\$ 46,333	\$ 50,701	\$ 56,162	\$ 58,418	\$ 59,966	\$ 63,761
FTEs	393	407	432	456	488	486	486
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program service \$	41,915	46,333	50,701	56,162	58,418	59,966	63,761
Total Program service FTEs	393	407	432	456	488	486	486
% of Total \$	85.6%	86.8%	87.6%	87.9%	87.6%	86.7%	87.1%
% of Total FTEs	78.9%	78.6%	80.7%	80.4%	81.3%	81.4%	81.4%
<b>Support Services:</b>							
Management & General	\$ 4,271	\$ 3,628	\$ 3,749	\$ 4,397	\$ 3,898	\$ 4,166	\$ 4,278
FTEs	47	49	44	49	50	49	49
Plant Operations	\$ 2,019	\$ 2,980	\$ 2,463	\$ 2,183	\$ 3,363	\$ 4,019	\$ 4,119
FTEs	45	48	44	46	48	46	46
Fund-raising	\$ 740	\$ 887	\$ 952	\$ 1,120	\$ 1,194	\$ 1,009	\$ 1,855
FTEs	13	14	16	16	16	16	16
Total Support-service \$	7,030	7,095	7,164	7,700	8,273	9,194	9,429
Total Support-service FTEs	105	111	104	111	112	111	111
% of Total \$	14.4%	13.2%	12.4%	12.1%	12.4%	13.3%	12.9%
% of Total FTEs	21.1%	21.4%	19.3%	19.6%	18.7%	18.6%	18.6%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 48,945</b>	<b>\$ 53,388</b>	<b>\$ 57,865</b>	<b>\$ 63,862</b>	<b>\$ 66,691</b>	<b>\$ 69,156</b>	<b>\$ 73,190</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>597</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 861</b>	<b>\$ 440</b>	<b>\$ 539</b>	<b>\$ (302)</b>	<b>\$ 2,199</b>	<b>\$ 1,229</b>	<b>\$ (102)</b>

# Calvin Theological Seminary

## Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 1999-2000

	Fiscal 93-94 Actual	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Budget	Fiscal 99-00 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Ministry Share	\$ 1,764	\$ 1,702	\$ 1,823	\$ 1,900	\$ 1,995	\$ 2,140	\$ 2,170
% of Total Income	66.2%	57.4%	53.0%	52.3%	51.8%	52.9%	50.9%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Ministry Share	\$ 165	\$ 365	\$ 941	\$ 468	\$ 604	\$ 691	\$ 673
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71	\$ 145	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	\$ 165	\$ 365	\$ 1,012	\$ 613	\$ 604	\$ 691	\$ 673
% of Total Income	6.2%	11.8%	17.0%	16.9%	15.7%	16.2%	15.8%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ 735	\$ 691	\$ 761	\$ 878	\$ 966	\$ 1,012	\$ 1,122
Grants	\$ -	\$ 145	\$ 139	\$ 179	\$ 164	\$ 160	\$ 290
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 110	\$ 100	\$ 74	\$ 101	\$ 71	\$ 182
Total Other Income	\$ 735	\$ 946	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,132	\$ 1,231	\$ 1,243	\$ 1,614
% of Total Income	27.6%	30.8%	29.2%	30.8%	32.5%	30.9%	33.4%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,664</b>	<b>3,009</b>	<b>3,440</b>	<b>3,615</b>	<b>3,830</b>	<b>4,074</b>	<b>4,257</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-time Employee):</b>							
<b>Program Services:</b>							
Instructional	\$ 1,169	\$ 1,734	\$ 1,834	\$ 1,820	\$ 1,777	\$ 1,969	\$ 2,094
FTEs	24	24	24	24	24	23	22
Public Service	\$ 53	\$ 75	\$ 94	\$ 58	\$ 68	\$ 64	\$ 83
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Academic Support	\$ 299	\$ 375	\$ 303	\$ 379	\$ 474	\$ 437	\$ 529
FTEs	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
Student Services	\$ 165	\$ 235	\$ 221	\$ 230	\$ 260	\$ 391	\$ 397
FTEs	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Student Aid	\$ 67	\$ 111	\$ 148	\$ 168	\$ 268	\$ 276	\$ 284
FTEs	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program-service \$	\$ 1,753	\$ 2,550	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,605	\$ 2,837	\$ 3,115	\$ 3,287
Total Program-service FTEs	30	30	30	30	30	29	29
% of Total \$	65.8%	79.9%	77.9%	78.2%	76.6%	76.7%	77.9%
% of Total FTEs	85.7%	86.8%	85.6%	84.4%	84.2%	84.8%	82.9%
<b>Support Services:</b>							
Management & General	\$ 636	\$ 312	\$ 334	\$ 403	\$ 476	\$ 543	\$ 531
FTEs	3	3	3	4	4	3	4
Plant Operations	\$ 114	\$ 178	\$ 227	\$ 185	\$ 207	\$ 224	\$ 253
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising	\$ 160	\$ 145	\$ 201	\$ 154	\$ 182	\$ 178	\$ 196
FTEs	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Total Support-service \$	\$ 910	\$ 635	\$ 762	\$ 742	\$ 865	\$ 945	\$ 980
Total Support-service FTEs	5	5	5	6	6	5	6
% of Total \$	34.2%	20.1%	22.1%	21.8%	23.4%	23.3%	23.0%
% of Total FTEs	14.3%	13.2%	14.4%	15.6%	15.8%	15.2%	17.1%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 2,663</b>	<b>\$ 3,185</b>	<b>\$ 3,452</b>	<b>\$ 3,387</b>	<b>\$ 3,702</b>	<b>\$ 4,060</b>	<b>\$ 4,267</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 1</b>	<b>\$ (85)</b>	<b>\$ (12)</b>	<b>\$ 228</b>	<b>\$ 128</b>	<b>\$ 1</b>	<b>\$ (1)</b>

# Canadian Ministries Board

## Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 1999-2000

	Fiscal 93-94 Actual	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Budget	Fiscal 99-00 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Ministry Share	\$ 559	\$ 558	\$ 564	\$ 582	\$ 560	\$ 607	\$ 776
% of Total Income	85.2%	90.4%	90.4%	88.6%	88.7%	92.4%	85.8%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Ministry Share	\$ 7	\$ 4	\$ 8	\$ 16	\$ 17	\$ 7	-
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Total Gift Income	7	4	8	16	17	7	-
% of Total Income	1.2%	0.6%	1.2%	2.4%	2.7%	0.8%	0.0%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Grants	\$ 30	\$ 50	\$ 47	\$ 48	\$ 51	\$ 51	\$ 90
Miscellaneous	\$ 4	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ -
Total Other Income	34	55	52	53	56	56	90
% of Total Income	5.7%	8.9%	8.2%	8.8%	8.6%	8.8%	11.1%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>856</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-time Employee):</b>							
<b>Program Services:</b>							
Gov't Contract/Church in Soc.	\$ 37	\$ 35	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 37	\$ 49	\$ 96
FTEs	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Indian Ministries	\$ 330	\$ 336	\$ 321	\$ 369	\$ 328	\$ 366	\$ 379
FTEs	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Electronic Media	\$ 180	\$ 139	\$ 123	\$ 112	\$ 133	\$ 145	\$ 153
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	\$ 15	\$ 26	\$ 37	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 52	\$ 43
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program-service \$	\$ 562	\$ 536	\$ 521	\$ 569	\$ 546	\$ 602	\$ 671
Total Program-service FTEs	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
% of Total \$	78.4%	79.2%	79.3%	81.8%	81.6%	72.5%	81.3%
% of Total FTEs	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%	100.0%
<b>Support Services:</b>							
Management & General	\$ 146	\$ 141	\$ 136	\$ 117	\$ 77	\$ 240	\$ 145
FTEs	2	2	2	2	2	2	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Support-service \$	146	141	136	117	77	240	145
Total Support-service FTEs	2	2	2	2	2	2	-
% of Total \$	24.6%	22.8%	20.7%	18.4%	12.4%	37.5%	16.7%
% of Total FTEs	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	0.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 708</b>	<b>\$ 677</b>	<b>\$ 657</b>	<b>\$ 686</b>	<b>\$ 623</b>	<b>\$ 842</b>	<b>\$ 776</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ (108)</b>	<b>\$ (60)</b>	<b>\$ (33)</b>	<b>\$ 25</b>	<b>\$ 8</b>	<b>\$ 1</b>	<b>\$ 80</b>

# CRC Publications

## Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 1999-2000

	Fiscal 93-94 Actual	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Budget	Fiscal 99-00 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Ministry Share	\$ 227	\$ 204	\$ 219	\$ 249	\$ 243	\$ 244	\$ 248
% of Total Income	3.9%	3.6%	3.3%	4.0%	3.9%	3.0%	3.7%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Ministry Share	\$ 17	\$ 66	\$ 229	\$ 99	\$ 128	\$ 95	\$ 130
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	\$ 17	\$ 66	\$ 229	\$ 99	\$ 128	\$ 95	\$ 130
% of Total Income	0.3%	1.2%	3.9%	1.6%	2.0%	1.4%	2.0%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ 6,119	\$ 5,234	\$ 5,888	\$ 5,888	\$ 5,891	\$ 6,249	\$ 5,991
Grants	\$ 23	\$ 22	\$ 56	\$ 8	\$ 76	\$ 90	\$ 135
Miscellaneous	\$ 32	\$ 155	\$ 224	\$ 134	\$ 152	\$ 122	\$ 112
Total Other Income	\$ 6,177	\$ 5,411	\$ 6,178	\$ 5,942	\$ 5,919	\$ 6,461	\$ 6,238
% of Total Income	96.2%	95.2%	93.2%	94.5%	94.1%	95.6%	94.3%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>6,421</b>	<b>5,881</b>	<b>6,626</b>	<b>6,289</b>	<b>6,280</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>6,618</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-time Employee):</b>							
Program Services:							
Dinner	\$ 1,467	\$ 1,473	\$ 1,509	\$ 1,479	\$ 1,276	\$ 1,271	\$ 1,281
FTEs	8	8	8	8	7	7	7
Education	\$ 3,239	\$ 3,912	\$ 3,898	\$ 3,977	\$ 3,752	\$ 3,822	\$ 3,712
FTEs	21	21	22	22	22	22	23
World Literature	\$ 346	\$ 378	\$ 806	\$ 982	\$ 632	\$ 773	\$ 894
FTEs	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
Agency Printing (PQ)	\$ 1,289	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	22	-	-	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Program-service \$</b>	<b>\$ 6,391</b>	<b>\$ 5,763</b>	<b>\$ 6,003</b>	<b>\$ 5,968</b>	<b>\$ 5,660</b>	<b>\$ 5,966</b>	<b>\$ 5,827</b>
<b>Total Program-service FTEs</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>% of Total \$</b>	<b>94.3%</b>	<b>89.8%</b>	<b>89.7%</b>	<b>96.8%</b>	<b>91.0%</b>	<b>90.6%</b>	<b>88.3%</b>
<b>% of Total FTEs</b>	<b>87.3%</b>	<b>80.5%</b>	<b>81.0%</b>	<b>85.0%</b>	<b>94.3%</b>	<b>94.3%</b>	<b>94.6%</b>
Support Services:							
Management & General	\$ 380	\$ 609	\$ 600	\$ 566	\$ 561	\$ 616	\$ 624
FTEs	8	8	8	8	2	2	2
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Support-service \$</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>624</b>
<b>Total Support-service FTEs</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>% of Total \$</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>9.7%</b>
<b>% of Total FTEs</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>19.5%</b>	<b>19.0%</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 6,744</b>	<b>\$ 6,372</b>	<b>\$ 6,603</b>	<b>\$ 6,534</b>	<b>\$ 6,221</b>	<b>\$ 6,582</b>	<b>\$ 6,451</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ (323)</b>	<b>\$ (491)</b>	<b>\$ (977)</b>	<b>\$ 166</b>	<b>\$ 659</b>	<b>\$ 218</b>	<b>\$ 168</b>



# Christian Reformed Home Missions

## Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 1999-2000

	Fiscal 93-94 Actual	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Budget	Fiscal 99-00 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Ministry Share	\$ 5,488	\$ 4,481	\$ 5,310	\$ 5,292	\$ 5,307	\$ 5,039	\$ 5,198
% of Total Income	60.2%	60.5%	64.9%	51.8%	65.8%	66.8%	61.6%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Ministry Share	\$ 1,693	\$ 1,309	\$ 1,474	\$ 1,701	\$ 1,712	\$ 1,672	\$ 1,785
Estate Gifts	\$ 478	\$ 73	\$ 272	\$ 313	\$ 312	\$ 244	\$ 250
Total Gift Income	2,171	1,382	1,746	2,014	1,924	1,916	2,035
% of Total Income	24.2%	18.6%	21.2%	19.4%	23.9%	25.4%	24.4%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ 1,068	\$ 981	\$ 214	\$ 1,868	\$ 317	\$ 316	\$ 320
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 789	\$ 902	\$ 900	\$ 1,264	\$ 512	\$ 275	\$ 800
Total Other Income	1,857	1,883	1,114	3,032	829	591	1,120
% of Total Income	15.7%	21.2%	14.3%	29.6%	10.5%	7.8%	14.0%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>8,888</b>	<b>7,456</b>	<b>8,220</b>	<b>10,328</b>	<b>8,061</b>	<b>7,595</b>	<b>8,283</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-time Employee):</b>							
Program Services:							
New-Church Development	\$ 5,369	\$ 4,954	\$ 4,807	\$ 4,717	\$ 4,888	\$ 4,801	\$ 5,740
FTEs	10	10	11	11	11	11	12
Established Church Develop.	\$ 2,111	\$ 1,885	\$ 1,942	\$ 1,887	\$ 2,362	\$ 2,049	\$ 2,040
FTEs	17	16	19	19	19	18	17
Campus	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74	\$ 459	\$ 480
FTEs	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
							\$ -
							\$ -
							\$ -
							\$ -
<b>Total Program-service \$</b>	<b>7,480</b>	<b>6,839</b>	<b>6,809</b>	<b>6,604</b>	<b>7,324</b>	<b>7,301</b>	<b>8,260</b>
<b>Total Program-service FTEs</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>% of Total \$</b>	<b>84.1%</b>	<b>86.9%</b>	<b>86.4%</b>	<b>85.9%</b>	<b>86.6%</b>	<b>85.9%</b>	<b>87.1%</b>
<b>% of Total FTEs</b>	<b>71.2%</b>	<b>73.5%</b>	<b>78.9%</b>	<b>77.1%</b>	<b>82.9%</b>	<b>81.1%</b>	<b>82.2%</b>
Support Services:							
Management & General	\$ 717	\$ 570	\$ 578	\$ 610	\$ 679	\$ 720	\$ 729
FTEs	7	5	5	5	2	3	3
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising	\$ 494	\$ 457	\$ 493	\$ 478	\$ 457	\$ 494	\$ 500
FTEs	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
<b>Total Support-service \$</b>	<b>1,211</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>1,071</b>	<b>1,088</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>1,229</b>
<b>Total Support-service FTEs</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>% of Total \$</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	<b>13.1%</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>14.1%</b>	<b>13.4%</b>	<b>14.1%</b>	<b>12.9%</b>
<b>% of Total FTEs</b>	<b>28.8%</b>	<b>26.7%</b>	<b>21.9%</b>	<b>22.8%</b>	<b>17.1%</b>	<b>18.9%</b>	<b>17.8%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 8,691</b>	<b>\$ 7,866</b>	<b>\$ 7,880</b>	<b>\$ 7,692</b>	<b>\$ 8,460</b>	<b>\$ 8,595</b>	<b>\$ 9,489</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 197</b>	<b>\$ (410)</b>	<b>\$ 340</b>	<b>\$ 2,636</b>	<b>\$ (239)</b>	<b>\$ (1,099)</b>	<b>\$ (1,110)</b>

# Christian Reformed World Missions

## Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 1999-2000

	Fiscal 93-94 Actual	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Budget	Fiscal 99-00 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Ministry Share	\$ 4,345	\$ 4,916	\$ 5,086	\$ 5,592	\$ 5,070	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,135
% of Total Income	40.6%	39.4%	39.2%	38.1%	36.4%	38.2%	38.2%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Ministry Share	\$ 3,882	\$ 4,332	\$ 4,933	\$ 4,975	\$ 5,188	\$ 5,132	\$ 5,407
Estate Gifts	\$ 524	\$ 328	\$ 410	\$ 309	\$ 844	\$ 620	\$ 557
Total Gift Income	4,416	4,660	5,343	5,284	6,032	5,752	6,064
% of Total Income	41.3%	37.3%	41.2%	38.9%	45.3%	44.0%	46.3%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ 851	\$ 1,214	\$ 929	\$ 972	\$ 1,060	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,582	\$ 1,359	\$ 1,521	\$ 1,955	\$ 1,774	\$ 1,323	\$ 955
Total Other Income	1,833	2,573	2,450	2,927	2,834	2,323	1,955
% of Total Income	18.1%	23.3%	19.6%	22.0%	20.3%	17.8%	14.5%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>10,694</b>	<b>12,489</b>	<b>12,879</b>	<b>13,798</b>	<b>13,936</b>	<b>13,075</b>	<b>13,154</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-time Employee):</b>							
<b>Program Services:</b>							
Africa	\$ 2,186	\$ 3,125	\$ 2,681	\$ 2,919	\$ 2,962	\$ 3,007	\$ 3,203
FTEs	73	72	72	73	70	70	76
Asia	\$ 4,721	\$ 5,415	\$ 4,426	\$ 4,093	\$ 3,745	\$ 4,162	\$ 5,420
FTEs	66	66	67	63	64	63	80
Latin America	\$ 2,817	\$ 3,170	\$ 3,291	\$ 3,347	\$ 3,173	\$ 3,297	\$ 3,389
FTEs	71	75	70	72	70	69	70
Europe	\$ 232	\$ 416	\$ 479	\$ 466	\$ 466	\$ 564	\$ 609
FTEs	15	20	23	23	20	19	20
Education	\$ 300	\$ 336	\$ 400	\$ 389	\$ 407	\$ 414	\$ 374
FTEs	4	5	4	4	4	4	4
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program-service \$	9,651	12,464	11,286	11,184	10,813	11,434	13,001
Total Program-service FTEs	229	237	235	234	228	234	249
% of Total \$	89.3%	89.6%	88.4%	88.3%	87.3%	87.4%	88.0%
% of Total FTEs	91.7%	91.5%	91.9%	91.6%	91.9%	91.5%	93.1%
<b>Support Services:</b>							
Management & General	\$ 611	\$ 768	\$ 813	\$ 891	\$ 929	\$ 907	\$ 964
FTEs	13	13	12	13	12	12	11
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising	\$ 589	\$ 682	\$ 609	\$ 637	\$ 640	\$ 734	\$ 681
FTEs	8	9	8	9	8	9	7
Total Support-service \$	1,170	1,450	1,432	1,480	1,569	1,641	1,653
Total Support-service FTEs	21	22	21	21	20	20	18
% of Total \$	10.8%	10.4%	11.6%	11.7%	12.7%	12.6%	11.9%
% of Total FTEs	8.3%	8.5%	8.1%	8.4%	8.1%	8.2%	6.9%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 10,811</b>	<b>\$ 13,914</b>	<b>\$ 12,727</b>	<b>\$ 12,672</b>	<b>\$ 12,382</b>	<b>\$ 13,075</b>	<b>\$ 14,658</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>267</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ (117)</b>	<b>\$ (1,425)</b>	<b>\$ 252</b>	<b>\$ 986</b>	<b>\$ 1,554</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (1,504)</b>

# Christian Reformed World Relief Committee

## Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 1999-2000

	Fiscal 93-94 Actual	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Budget	Fiscal 99-00 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Ministry Share	\$ 6,915	\$ 7,364	\$ 7,022	\$ 8,581	\$ 8,185	\$ 7,940	\$ 9,279
Estate Gifts	\$ 307	\$ 273	\$ 992	\$ 178	\$ 895	\$ 200	\$ 350
Total Gift Income	7,422	7,637	7,714	8,759	9,080	8,200	9,629
% of Total Income	80.8%	80.2%	80.9%	78.2%	81.7%	89.2%	80.0%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ 649	\$ 1,791	\$ 1,454	\$ 2,160	\$ 1,926	\$ 1,390	\$ 1,000
Miscellaneous	\$ 90	\$ 97	\$ 409	\$ 138	\$ 107	\$ 40	\$ 70
Total Other Income	739	1,888	1,863	2,298	2,033	1,430	1,070
% of Total Income	8.1%	19.8%	19.9%	20.8%	18.3%	14.8%	10.0%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>8,161</b>	<b>9,525</b>	<b>9,577</b>	<b>11,058</b>	<b>11,113</b>	<b>9,630</b>	<b>10,699</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-time Employee):</b>							
Program Services:							
Overseas programs	\$ 4,312	\$ 5,906	\$ 5,450	\$ 5,548	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,610	\$ 6,420
FTEs	44	46	50	47	36	39	42
North America programs	\$ 917	\$ 1,246	\$ 918	\$ 815	\$ 778	\$ 810	\$ 876
FTEs	9	12	11	11	10	8	8
Disaster relief programs	\$ 1,288	\$ 1,984	\$ 808	\$ 1,874	\$ 1,822	\$ 893	\$ 869
FTEs	4	4	5	5	5	6	7
Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 243	\$ 190	\$ 94	\$ 219	\$ 301
FTEs	-	-	1	1	1	2	1
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program-service \$	6,517	9,136	7,987	8,327	7,694	7,902	8,432
Total Program-service FTEs	57	62	75	64	52	55	56
% of Total \$	81.4%	81.6%	80.5%	81.1%	73.5%	79.1%	80.0%
% of Total FTEs	74.0%	75.6%	78.9%	75.3%	72.2%	71.4%	73.5%
Support Services:							
Management & General	\$ 750	\$ 1,058	\$ 960	\$ 932	\$ 1,183	\$ 809	\$ 991
FTEs	10	11	11	11	10	11	8
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising	\$ 743	\$ 998	\$ 875	\$ 983	\$ 1,083	\$ 1,019	\$ 1,123
FTEs	10	9	9	10	10	11	12
Total Support-service \$	1,493	2,056	1,835	1,915	2,266	1,828	2,113
Total Support-service FTEs	20	20	20	21	20	22	20
% of Total \$	18.6%	18.4%	19.5%	18.9%	22.5%	20.9%	20.0%
% of Total FTEs	26.0%	24.4%	21.1%	24.7%	27.8%	28.6%	26.5%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 8,010</b>	<b>\$ 11,192</b>	<b>\$ 9,420</b>	<b>\$ 10,142</b>	<b>\$ 9,960</b>	<b>\$ 9,490</b>	<b>\$ 10,545</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 151</b>	<b>\$ (1,667)</b>	<b>\$ 147</b>	<b>\$ 914</b>	<b>\$ 1,153</b>	<b>\$ 140</b>	<b>\$ 154</b>

# Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S.

## Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 1999-2000

	Fiscal 93-94 Actual	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Budget	Fiscal 99-00 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Misc. Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 582	\$ 718	\$ 750	\$ 857	\$ 925	\$ 801	\$ 900
Total Other Income	582	718	750	857	925	801	900
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>900</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-time Employee):</b>							
Program Services:							
Loan Interest	\$ 370	\$ 426	\$ 437	\$ 541	\$ 567	\$ 627	\$ 690
FTEs	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Program-service \$	370	426	437	541	567	627	690
Total Program-service FTEs	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
% of Total \$	71.7%	72.6%	71.2%	70.4%	75.3%	75.7%	76.9%
% of Total FTEs	46.7%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%
Support Services:							
Management & General	\$ 146	\$ 161	\$ 177	\$ 227	\$ 196	\$ 201	\$ 290
FTEs	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Support-service \$	146	161	177	227	196	201	290
Total Support-service FTEs	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
% of Total \$	28.3%	27.4%	28.8%	28.6%	24.7%	24.3%	33.9%
% of Total FTEs	53.3%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 516</b>	<b>\$ 587</b>	<b>\$ 614</b>	<b>\$ 768</b>	<b>\$ 763</b>	<b>\$ 828</b>	<b>\$ 980</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 66</b>	<b>\$ 131</b>	<b>\$ 136</b>	<b>\$ 89</b>	<b>\$ 132</b>	<b>\$ 103</b>	<b>\$ 90</b>

## Denominational Services

### Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 1999-2000

	Fiscal 93-94 Actual	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Budget	Fiscal 99-00 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Mindry Share	\$ 1,295	\$ 1,539	\$ 1,564	\$ 1,523	\$ 1,520	\$ 1,771	\$ 2,040
% of Total Income	51.8%	19.6%	19.7%	15.4%	15.6%	19.7%	20.9%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Mindry Share	\$ 9	\$ 7	\$ 22	\$ 8	\$ 1	\$ 7	\$ 1
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	\$ 9	\$ 7	\$ 22	\$ 8	\$ 1	\$ 7	\$ 1
% of Total Income	0.4%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ 1,030	\$ 6,115	\$ 4,901	\$ 4,847	\$ 4,362	\$ 4,662	\$ 4,637
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 290	\$ 73	\$ 703	\$ 299	\$ 190
Miscellaneous	\$ 188	\$ 176	\$ 1,393	\$ 1,454	\$ 3,136	\$ 2,310	\$ 2,967
Total Other Income	\$ 1,218	\$ 6,291	\$ 6,584	\$ 6,374	\$ 8,201	\$ 7,271	\$ 7,784
% of Total Income	47.9%	80.3%	80.0%	80.5%	84.4%	80.2%	79.1%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,512</b>	<b>7,837</b>	<b>7,902</b>	<b>7,865</b>	<b>9,742</b>	<b>9,002.45</b>	<b>9,745.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-time Employee):</b>							
Program Services:							
Synodical Services & Grants	\$ 466	\$ 520	\$ 670	\$ 738	\$ 785	\$ 1,018	\$ 903
FTEs	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
Education/FreeToGives	\$ -	\$ 27	\$ 275	\$ 960	\$ 126	\$ 213	\$ 242
FTEs	-	1	1	4	1	2	1
CRCPlan	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 184
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
CCPD: Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 809	\$ 5,641	\$ 4,779	\$ 4,719	\$ 4,650	\$ 4,678	\$ 4,774
FTEs	7	41	40	39	39	32	34
Finance/Payroll Services *	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,169	\$ 1,387
FTEs	-	-	-	1	17	17	17
Computer Services	\$ 178	\$ 346	\$ 515	\$ 530	\$ 665	\$ 355	\$ 423
FTEs	3	4	4	5	5	6	6
Personnel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 99	\$ 96	\$ 107	\$ 125	\$ 130
FTEs	-	-	2	2	2	2	2
Total Program-service \$	\$ 1,382	\$ 6,504	\$ 6,330	\$ 7,068	\$ 7,363	\$ 7,894	\$ 8,073
Total Program-service FTEs	14	50	51	56	66	64	66
% of Total \$	55.0%	82.6%	80.3%	84.1%	86.0%	89.9%	86.2%
% of Total FTEs	63.6%	84.7%	83.6%	84.8%	90.6%	90.1%	88.0%
* Includes audit cost of \$142,000							
Support Services:							
Management & General	\$ 542	\$ 304	\$ 628	\$ 549	\$ 411	\$ 357	\$ 488
FTEs	5	5	6	6	3	3	4
Plant Operations/Debt Serv.	\$ 989	\$ 853	\$ 833	\$ 792	\$ 792	\$ 834	\$ 789
FTEs	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Fundraising	\$ -	\$ 23	\$ 72	\$ 38	\$ 36	\$ 60	\$ 149
FTEs	-	1	1	1	1	1	2
Total Support-service \$	\$ 1,541	\$ 1,180	\$ 1,533	\$ 1,339	\$ 1,199	\$ 1,341	\$ 1,460
Total Support-service FTEs	8	9	10	10	7	7	9
% of Total \$	45.0%	17.4%	19.5%	15.9%	14.0%	14.1%	14.8%
% of Total FTEs	36.4%	15.3%	16.4%	15.2%	9.2%	9.9%	12.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 2,923</b>	<b>\$ 7,684</b>	<b>\$ 7,871</b>	<b>\$ 8,407</b>	<b>\$ 8,562</b>	<b>\$ 9,235</b>	<b>\$ 9,473</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ (231)</b>	<b>\$ (77)</b>	<b>\$ 61</b>	<b>\$ (542)</b>	<b>\$ 1,180</b>	<b>\$ 214</b>	<b>\$ 270</b>

# Fund for Smaller Churches

## Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 1999-2000

	Fiscal 93-94 Actual	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Budget	Fiscal 99-00 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Ministry Share	\$ 653	\$ 675	\$ 916	\$ 913	\$ 904	\$ 720	\$ 590
% of Total Income	87.8%	99.3%	96.3%	98.8%	98.0%	99.3%	87.2%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Ministry Share	\$ 2	\$ 2	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 3	\$ 1	\$ 4
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	2	2	1	1	3	1	4
% of Total Income	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.7%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 12	\$ 3	\$ 34	\$ 9	\$ 15	\$ 4	\$ 12
Total Other Income	12	3	34	9	15	4	12
% of Total Income	1.6%	0.4%	3.6%	1.0%	1.6%	0.6%	2.1%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>596</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-time Employee):</b>							
Program Services:							
Subsidy Payments	\$ 883	\$ 877	\$ 790	\$ 718	\$ 984	\$ 620	\$ 980
FTE/directors	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Auto Reimbursements	\$ 58	\$ 50	\$ 54	\$ 58	\$ 47	\$ 60	\$ 50
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moving Expenses	\$ 5	\$ 7	\$ 8	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 15	\$ 15
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Education	\$ 5	\$ 4	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 4	\$ 8	\$ 5
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Conference	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program-service \$	\$ 951	\$ 936	\$ 817	\$ 795	\$ 1055	\$ 703	\$ 1050
Total Program-service FTEs	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	98.8%	99.2%	95.6%	98.9%	98.2%	97.8%	97.8%
% of Total FTEs	98.0%	99.0%	99.0%	98.0%	98.0%	99.0%	98.0%
Support Services:							
Management & General	\$ 18	\$ 6	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 16	\$ 16
FTE/directors	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Support-service \$	18	6	12	12	12	16	16
Total Support-service FTEs	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	5.1%	0.8%	1.4%	1.5%	1.8%	2.2%	2.4%
% of Total FTEs	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 969</b>	<b>\$ 942</b>	<b>\$ 829</b>	<b>\$ 807</b>	<b>\$ 1067</b>	<b>\$ 719</b>	<b>\$ 1066</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ (204)</b>	<b>\$ (64)</b>	<b>\$ (22)</b>	<b>\$ (116)</b>	<b>\$ (261)</b>	<b>\$ (6)</b>	<b>\$ (110)</b>

# Ministers' Pension and Special Assistance Funds - Canada

## Changes in Net Assets (000s) in Canadian \$

	Pension Fund		Special Assistance Fund	
	1997 Actual	1998 Actual	1997 Actual	1998 Actual
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 618	\$ 345	\$ -	\$ 37
% of Total Income	13.0%	12.3%	0.0%	88.1%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	-	-	-	-
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Income:				
Participant Assessments	\$ 180	\$ 911	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 3,798	\$ 1,826	\$ 4	\$ 5
Total Other Income	3,978	2,437	4	5
% of Total Income	86.4%	87.7%	100.0%	11.9%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>4,552</b>	<b>2,780</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Debitations	\$ 1,088	\$ 1,164	\$ 24	\$ 5
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program-service \$	\$ 1,088	\$ 1,164	\$ 24	\$ 5
Total Program-service FTEs	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	89.0%	83.4%	100.0%	100.0%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%	-	-
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 135	\$ 231	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	1	1	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support-service \$	\$ 135	\$ 231	\$ -	\$ -
Total Support-service FTEs	1	1	-	-
% of Total \$	11.0%	16.6%	0.0%	0.0%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%	-	-
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 1,223</b>	<b>\$ 1,395</b>	<b>\$ 24</b>	<b>\$ 5</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ 3,330</b>	<b>\$ 1,385</b>	<b>(20)</b>	<b>37</b>

# Ministers' Pension and Special Assistance Funds - U.S.

## Changes in Net Assets (000s)

	----- Pension Fund -----		----- Special Assistance Fund -----	
	1997 Actual	1998 Actual	1997 Actual	1998 Actual
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 1,498	\$ 451	\$ -	\$ 159
% of Total Income	8.5%	3.3%	0.0%	94.8%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	-	-	-	-
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Income:				
Participant Assessments	\$ 710	\$ 2,472	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 15,896	\$ 10,890	\$ 8	\$ 9
Total Other Income	16,160	13,322	8	9
% of Total Income	91.5%	96.7%	100.0%	5.4%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>17,664</b>	<b>13,773</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>168</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Distributions	\$ 4,168	\$ 4,183	\$ 16	\$ 90
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program-service \$	4,168	4,183	16	90
Total Program-service FTEs	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	91.0%	88.7%	100.0%	100.0%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%		
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 414	\$ 534	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	2	2	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support-service \$	414	534	-	-
Total Support-service FTEs	2	2	-	-
% of Total \$	9.0%	11.3%	0.0%	0.0%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%		
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 4,579</b>	<b>\$ 4,717</b>	<b>\$ 16</b>	<b>\$ 90</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ 13,085</b>	<b>\$ 9,056</b>	<b>\$ (8)</b>	<b>\$ 78</b>



## Employees' Retirement Plan - U.S.

### Changes in Net Assets (000s)

	1997 Actual	1998 Actual
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>		
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%
Other Gift Income:		
Above Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	\$ -	\$ -
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%
Other Income:		
Employer Contributions	\$ 777	\$ 749
Grants	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,752	\$ 1,342
Total Other Income	\$ 2,529	\$ 2,091
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>2,529</b>	<b>2,091</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-time Employee):</b>		
Program Services:		
Distributions	\$ 1,744	\$ 1,190
FTEs	-	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program-service \$	\$ 1,744	\$ 1,190
Total Program-service FTEs	-	-
% of Total \$	97.5%	94.4%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%
Support Services:		
Management & General	\$ 49	\$ 70
FTEs	1	1
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-
Total Support-service \$	\$ 49	\$ 70
Total Support-service FTEs	1	1
% of Total \$	2.5%	5.6%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 1,793</b>	<b>\$ 1,260</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ 736</b>	<b>\$ 831</b>

## Consolidated Group Insurance - U.S.

### Changes in Net Assets (000s)

	1997 Actual	1998 Actual
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>		
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%
Other Gift Income:		
Above Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	\$ -	\$ -
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%
Other Income:		
Participating Premiums	\$ 5,427	\$ 5,469
Grants	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 267	\$ 184
Total Other Income	\$ 5,704	\$ 5,653
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>\$ 5,704</b>	<b>\$ 5,653</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-time Employee):</b>		
Program Services:		
General Expense	\$ 5,131	\$ 5,193
FTEs	-	-
Insurance Premiums	\$ 300	\$ 363
FTEs	-	-
TPA & PPO Fees	\$ 274	\$ 314
FTEs	-	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program-service \$	\$ 5,905	\$ 5,870
Total Program-service FTEs	-	-
% of Total \$	97.5%	95.7%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%
Support Services:		
Management & General	\$ 154	\$ 269
FTEs	3	3
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-
Total Support-service \$	\$ 154	\$ 269
Total Support-service FTEs	3	3
% of Total \$	2.5%	4.3%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 6,059</b>	<b>\$ 6,135</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ (175)</b>	<b>\$ (482)</b>

## Pastoral Ministries

### Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 1999-2000

	Fiscal 93-94 Actual	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Budget	Fiscal 99-00 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Ministry Share	\$ 879	\$ 1,032	\$ 1,123	\$ 1,193	\$ 1,121	\$ 1,098	\$ 1,088
% of Total Income	85.3%	86.8%	85.2%	85.1%	85.8%	86.9%	86.3%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Ministry Share	\$ 125	\$ 136	\$ 165	\$ 187	\$ 176	\$ 199	\$ 163
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	125	136	165	187	176	199	163
% of Total Income	12.1%	11.4%	12.8%	13.8%	13.9%	13.1%	13.4%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30	\$ 3	\$ 2	\$ -	\$ 4
Miscellaneous	\$ 26	\$ 21	\$ -	\$ 10	\$ 7	\$ -	\$ -
Total Other Income	26	21	30	15	10	-	4
% of Total Income	2.5%	1.8%	2.3%	1.1%	0.8%	0.0%	0.3%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>1,189</b>	<b>1,318</b>	<b>1,385</b>	<b>1,307</b>	<b>1,217</b>	<b>1,255</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-time Employee):</b>							
Program Services:							
Chaplaincy Services	\$ 333	\$ 376	\$ 421	\$ 418	\$ 302	\$ 190	\$ 207
FTEs	3	3	3	2	2	2	2
Race Relations	\$ 225	\$ 219	\$ 241	\$ 219	\$ 262	\$ 268	\$ 283
FTEs	4	4	4	3	3	3	3
Pastor/Church Relations	\$ 82	\$ 78	\$ 124	\$ 89	\$ 101	\$ 193	\$ 299
FTEs	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Abuse Prevention	\$ -	\$ 44	\$ 53	\$ 53	\$ 92	\$ 93	\$ 114
FTEs	-	1	1	1	1	1	1
Disability Concerns	\$ 82	\$ 105	\$ 120	\$ 121	\$ 97	\$ 119	\$ 121
FTEs	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Program-service \$	782	822	961	944	844	825	905
Total Program-service FTEs	9	11	10	8	8	8	8
% of Total \$	75.1%	76.0%	79.3%	78.1%	70.3%	66.4%	71.9%
% of Total FTEs	81.8%	84.6%	76.9%	66.7%	61.5%	66.7%	66.7%
Support Services:							
Management & General	\$ 248	\$ 260	\$ 223	\$ 198	\$ 296	\$ 343	\$ 307
FTEs	2	2	3	3	4	4	4
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising	\$ 10	\$ -	\$ 30	\$ 67	\$ 65	\$ 74	\$ 48
FTEs	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Total Support-service \$	258	260	253	265	361	417	355
Total Support-service FTEs	2	2	3	4	5	4	4
% of Total \$	26.9%	24.0%	20.8%	21.8%	29.7%	33.6%	28.1%
% of Total FTEs	18.2%	15.4%	23.1%	33.3%	38.5%	33.3%	33.3%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 980</b>	<b>\$ 1,082</b>	<b>\$ 1,214</b>	<b>\$ 1,209</b>	<b>\$ 1,215</b>	<b>\$ 1,242</b>	<b>\$ 1,258</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 70</b>	<b>\$ 107</b>	<b>\$ 104</b>	<b>\$ 146</b>	<b>\$ 92</b>	<b>\$ 125</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

# REPORT OF SYNOD 1999

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# SYNODICAL SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

Sunday, June 13, 1999

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Immanuel Christian Reformed Church

Hamilton, Ontario

## A SERVICE OF DEDICATION

for the Lord's people in the Christian Reformed Church  
as they enter the third millennium

Zechariah 2:5: “‘And I myself will be a wall of fire around it,’ declares the Lord, ‘and I will be its glory within.’”

**Minister:** Rev. John Zantingh

**Organist:** Hans Schouls

**Trumpeter:** George Crawley

## THE LORD'S PEOPLE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

**Prelude:** “Come Let Us Worship” ..... Handel/Smith/Heier  
Hans Schouls and George Crawley

**Choral Introit:** “Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You” ..... Jay Althouse  
Adoramus-Maranatha Choir

**\* Opening Sentences** ..... Agnes McKnight

**Leader:** Today the Lord God of the universe tells us that he is fiercely passionate about his love for the Christian Reformed Church.

**People:** We stand in his presence, knowing that we are grafted into the olive tree of God's chosen people.

**Leader:** In this last year of the old millennium, the Lord asks us to make a measurement of our faith in him.

**People:** Have mercy on us, Lord, and be our protection and shield.

**Leader:** The Lord God of hosts will rejoice after we have confessed our complete dependence on him.

**People:** It is so! Hear us when we call . . . for your Son's sake!

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\*All who are able, please stand.

## GREETING FROM GOD AND GOD'S PEOPLE

\* **God's Greeting** ..... Rev. John Zantingh

\* **Hymn of Praise 253:** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" ..... Congregation

Stanza 1 (all)      Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
                         O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
                         Come, all who hear; brothers and sisters, draw near, join me  
                         in glad adoration!

Stanza 2 (ladies) Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning,  
                         Sheltering you under his wings, oh, so gently sustaining.  
                         Have you not seen all that is needful has been sent by his  
                         gracious ordaining?

Stanza 3 (men)    Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and  
                         defend you;  
                         Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
                         Ponder anew what the Almighty can do as with his love  
                         he befriends you.

Stanza 4 (all)      Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
                         All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
                         Let the amen sound from his people again. Gladly  
                         forever adore him!

**Songs of Praise** ..... Praise Team and Congregation

### **Shout to the Lord** (Darlene Zschech)

My Jesus, my Savior,  
Lord, there is none like you.  
All of my days, I want to praise  
The wonders of your mighty love.  
My comfort, my shelter,  
Tower of refuge and strength;  
Let every breath, all that I am  
Never cease to worship you.

#### *Chorus:*

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing  
Power and majesty, praise to the King;  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
At the sound of your name.  
I sing for joy at the work of your hands.  
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand;  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

*(repeat song, singing chorus twice)*

**Let the Flame Burn Brighter** (Graham Kendrick)

We'll walk the land, with hearts on fire,  
And every step will be a prayer.  
Hope is rising, new day dawning,  
Sound of singing fills the air.

Two thousand years and still the flame  
Is burning bright across the land.  
Hearts are waiting, longing, aching,  
For awak'ning once again.

*Chorus:*

Let the flame burn brighter  
In the heart of the darkness  
Turning night to glorious day.  
Let the song grow louder  
As our love grows stronger,  
Let it shine, let it shine.

We'll walk for truth, speak out for love.  
In Jesus' name, we shall be strong;  
To lift the fallen, to save the children,  
To fill the nation with your song.

*(repeat the chorus twice)*

**Remarks Concerning Interchurch Relation** . . . . . Dr. David H. Engelhard

**Choral Anthem:** "Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled" . . . . . Henry A. Clark  
Adoramus-Maranatha Choir

**Prayers** . . . . . Dr. David H. Engelhard

**\* Hymn of Praise 138:** "With All My Heart I Thank You, Lord" . . Congregation

Stanza 1    With all my heart I thank you, Lord. I worship you with song and  
              praising.  
              Before the "gods" I bless your name and praise you for your love  
              unfailing.  
              Your steadfast love, your faithfulness, your name, your word are  
              high exalted.  
              The day I cried, you answered me. Your strength has made my  
              soul undaunted.

Stanza 2    The kings of earth shall praise you, Lord. They all have heard  
              your wondrous story.  
              Now they will sing what they have heard: "Great is the Lord and  
              great his glory."  
              The Lord is high in majesty, yet he respects the meek and lowly.  
              The Lord is high in majesty; he keeps his distance from the  
              haughty.



Stanza 3 When I must walk the troubled way, when I am weak, O Lord,  
revive me.  
Stretch out your hand against all hate. From sin and all things  
harmful save me.  
Your right hand gives me victory. Work in my life your full  
intention.  
Your steadfast love can never die. Bring what you started to  
perfection.

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

**Prayer of Illumination** ..... Seminarian Intern Bill Hoogland

**Scripture Reading: Zechariah 2** ..... Seminarian Intern Bill Hoogland

**Text:** Zechariah 2:5

**Message:** "Divine Protection for the Church" ..... Rev. John Zantingh

**Prayer of Application** ..... Rev. John Zantingh

\* **Hymn 506:** "Glorious Things of You Are Spoken" ..... Congregation

Stanza 1 Glorious things of you are spoken, Zion, city of our God.  
He whose word cannot be broken formed you for his own abode.  
On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake your sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded, you may smile at all your foes.

Stanza 3 Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear  
For a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near.  
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,  
Safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them on their way.

Stanza 4 Savior, since of Zion's city I through grace a member am,  
Let the world deride or pity, I will glory in your name.  
Fading are the world's best pleasures, all its boasted pomp and  
show;  
Solid joys and lasting treasures none but Zion's children know.

**Prayer for Synod** ..... President of Synod

### CELEBRATION OF THE MINISTRIES IN OUR CHURCH

**Remarks re Ministries** ..... Dr. Peter Borgdorff

\* **Hymn 502:** "The Church's One Foundation" ..... Congregation

Stanza 1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord:  
She is his new creation by water and the Word.  
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride:  
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Stanza 3    Though with a scornful wonder the world sees her oppressed.  
              By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
              Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How  
              long?"  
              And soon the night of weeping shall be morn of song.

Stanza 4    Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war.  
              She waits the consummation of peace forever more.  
              Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest.  
              And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

**Prayer for Ministries** ..... Dr. Peter Borgdorff

**\* The Apostles' Creed** ..... Rev. John Zantingh

### **RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE**

**Songs of Gratitude:** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" ..... Praise Team and  
                                  "Faithful One" ..... Congregation

**Great Is Thy Faithfulness** (T. Chisholm/W. Runyan)

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with thee;  
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above;  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

*Refrain:*

Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Refrain:*

**Faithful One** (Brian Doerksen)

Faithful one, so unchanging,  
Ageless one, you're my rock of peace.  
Lord of all, I depend on you.  
I call out to you, again and again;  
I call out to you, again and again.

You are my rock in times of trouble.  
You lift me up when I fall down.  
All through the storm,  
Your love is the anchor.  
My hope is in you alone.

**Offertory Prayer** ..... Arthur Joosse

**Offering** ..... CRWRC

**Offertory:** "The Lord Is My Light" ..... Frances Allitsen  
"Creation Will Be at Peace" ..... J. Paul Williams  
Adoramus-Maranatha Choir

**\* Hymn 408:** Rejoice, the Lord Is King ..... Choir and Congregation

Stanza 1 Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore.  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing and triumph evermore.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice.  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Stanza 2 His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
The keys of death and hell to Christ the Lord are given.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice.  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Stanza 3 He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit,  
Bow down at his command, and fall beneath his feet.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice.  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Stanza 4 Rejoice in glorious hope; for Christ, the Judge, shall come to  
Gather all his saints to their eternal home.  
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;  
The trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

## DEPARTING TO SERVE

### \* **Closing Sentences** ..... Agnes McKnight

**Leader:** The Lord has declared that he will be a wall of fire around his church.

**People:** **We believe that, Lord! Help us when we don't understand your mission for our lives!**

**Leader:** May all of us leave this sanctuary with his blessing.

**People:** **We pray that you will grant us your peace throughout this week.**

### \* **Doxology** ..... Praise Team and Congregation

**Shine, Jesus, Shine** (Graham Kendrick)

Lord, the light of your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Chorus:*

Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth your word,  
Lord, and let there be light!

As we gaze on your kingly brightness;  
So our faces display your likeness,  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here, may our lives tell your story;  
Shine on me; shine on me.

*Chorus:*

### \* **Parting Blessing** ..... Rev. Henry Katerberg

**Postlude: "Crown Him"** ..... George Elvey  
Hans Schouls and George Crawley

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# MINUTES OF SYNOD 1999

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON, June 12, 1999**

**First Session**

## ARTICLE 1

President pro tem Rev. John Zantingh, recently retired pastor of Immanuel Christian Reformed Church, Hamilton, Ontario, the convening church, announces *Psalter Hymnal* 446, "If You But Trust in God to Guide You."

It is announced that delegate Rev. Norman L. Meyer (Thornapple Valley), while en route to synod, received word that his brother-in-law had died in an accident this morning. Rev. Meyer returned to Grand Rapids.

Rev. Zantingh reads from Romans 15:1-13. He announces *Psalter Hymnal* 545, "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace." He welcomes the delegates to Synod 1999, and on behalf of Immanuel Christian Reformed Church he welcomes the delegates to Canada. He notes that this synod is a first for Canada and therefore a historic moment that is "good for the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The ties that bind us together will be made stronger." He then relates how the apostle Paul in Romans teaches his readers to have hope and reminds the delegates that God is not only the source of our hope; he *is* our hope. As the apostle pleads for a spirit of unity and expects his readers to have a spirit of acceptance, Rev. Zantingh urges the delegates to be a synod of hope, a church entering a new millennium with the message of true expectation for time and eternity. He concludes with these words of Paul: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 15:13). The president pro tem leads in prayer, especially remembering Rev. Norman Meyer and family in the sudden death of his brother-in-law. He announces *Psalter Hymnal* 558, "Lord of All Hopefulness," and recognizes Mr. Hans Schouls, organist for the opening session.

Rev. Zantingh introduces Dr. Justin Cooper, president of Redeemer College, who welcomes the delegates to the Redeemer College campus and briefly addresses synod.

## ARTICLE 2

The president pro tem requests the general secretary, Dr. David H. Engelhard, to call the roll of delegates listed on the credentials of the forty-seven classes:

## DELEGATES TO SYNOD 1999

Classis	Ministers	Elders
Alberta North	Martin T. Mobach	Dirk W. Simmelink
Alberta South/Saskatchewan	Cecil Van Niejenhuis	H. William Verveda
	Jake Corvers	Peter De Boer
Arizona	William D. Vis	Randall Huisman
	Stephen R. Steenstra	Harry A. Van Dam
Atlantic Northeast	John Rop, Jr.	Paul R. Bareman
	Karl H. Bratt	Edward H. De Vries
B.C. North-West	Stanley J. Vander Klay	Andrew Meinen
	Thomas W. Bomhof	Art Numan
B.C. South-East	Albert Helder	Robert Vander Veen
	Bert Slofstra	Harry deJong
California South	Gerrit Veeneman	Bill Aalders
	Il Yong Kang	John Voortman
Central California	John S. Oh	Eugene Smith
	Bruce A. Persenaire	David G. Verwer
Chatham	John J. Berends	Scott Kamper
	Dirk Miedema	Peter Kapteyn
Chicago South	Jake Kuipers	Richard Tjoelker
	Richard E. Williams	Richard A. Molenhouse
Columbia	Sam Hamstra, Jr.	Jack L. Mudde
	Perry J. Tinklenberg	David A. Koetje
Eastern Canada	Russell J. Van Antwerpen	Gerald L. Vrieling
	Henry P. Kranenburg	Ralph Norg
Georgetown	George J. Rowaan	Michael Luchies
	Joel R. Boot	Gordon J. De Kruyter
Grand Rapids East	Richard H. Verkaik	Raymond D. Dennis
	Roger A. Kok	David E. Holwerda
Grand Rapids North	Gerald L. Zandstra	Mel De Stigter
	Roger B. Groenboom	Jack M. De Korne
Grand Rapids South	Roger J. Visker	Harvey Kingma
	Stanley Mast	John Knight
Grandville	Thomas B. Swieringa	Nelson E. Haan
	Thomas K. Groelsema	James H. Boersma
Greater Los Angeles	Dale Slings	Michael J. Van Laan
	Elmer M. Tandayu	Kenneth P. Stoub
Hackensack	Andrew Vanden Akker	Peter C. Tong
	Kenneth J. Vander Wall	Edwin R. Arevalo
Hamilton	Thomas C. Klaasen	Kevin H. Miller
	Jacob (Jack) Kerkhof	Arthur Joosse
Heartland	Bernard H. De Jonge	Bruce Dykstra
	Richard R. De Vries	Marion D. Van Soelen
Holland	Jack M. Gray	Allan J. Kramer
	Douglas R. Fauble	David Altena
Hudson	Wayne A. Brouwer	Ronald G. Koetsier
	John G. Keizer	Henry Bakker
Huron	John J. Hoogland	Paul C. Szto
	Ralph Koops	John A. Mohle
Iakota	Kevin P. De Raaf	Ed Benjamins
	Jerry D. Buwalda	Martin Dekkenga
Illiana	Charles J. De Ridder	Lane Bonnema
	Gerald E. De Vries	John Faber
Kalamazoo	Ildefonso Torres	John A. De Kock
	Joseph A. Brinks	Nelson J. Gritter
Lake Erie	Stephan R. Van Eck	Leonard D. Klok
	Peter J. De Vries	Wesley D. Van Houten
	George F. Vander Weit	Joseph Post

Lake Superior	Alfred J. Van Dellen	Wesley D. Postma
Minnkota	James C. Dekker	David J. Swinney
	LeRoy G. Christoffels	Peter A. Walhof
Muskegon	Timothy J. Brown	Peter H. Vander Lugt
	Richard T. Vanderwal	Gerald L. Meyers
Niagara	Edward J. Tamminga	Peter Van Meurs
	Jack Van Marion	Harry Van Tuyl
	Peter Slofstra	John Koornneef
Northcentral Iowa	David A. Zylstra	Gary W. Nibbelink
	Jack Vanden Heuvel	Elmer J. Riebkjes
Northern Illinois	Timothy H. Douma	Arnie Stolte
	Lee A. Koning	Frank E. De Boer
Northern Michigan	James M. Evenhouse	Vernon Vande Pol
	David J. Weemhoff	Theodore A. Heuker
Pacific Hanmi	In Chul Kim	Hyung J. Park
	Seung J. Kang	David Yang
Pacific Northwest	Henry Numan	D. Lee Barclay
	Richard J. De Ruiter	Jay A. Anema
Pella	Ronald L. Bouwkamp	Henry J. Vande Voort
	William D. Zeilstra	David D. Postema
Quinte	Norman A. Sennema	John Schievink
	B. Bernard Bakker	Marten H. Van Harmelen
Red Mesa	Gerry G. Van Dam	Notah Benally
	Raymond Slim	Leonard Arviso
Rocky Mountain	Thomas D. Draayer	Richard M. Schemper
	Elias D. Burgos	Kyu S. Paek
Southeast U.S.	German Moreno	Roy C. Vander Kloek
	Mark A. Davies	Dan H. Vander Laan
Thornapple Valley	William J. Renkema	Uko Zylstra
	Timothy E. Van Zalen	Dale G. Wolters
Toronto	Howard McPhee	George Vandervelde
	Samuel Cooper	Louis Bierling
Wisconsin	Daniel J. Roeda	Peter Bosscher
	Larry E. Van Essen	Corwin Vander Ark
Yellowstone	Gary G. Hofland	Joel P. Kramer
	Jacob C. Weeda	Leon H. Smit
Zeeland	Gerrit P. Veenstra	Harry J. Mulder
	Steven R. Sytsma	Gerald Haveman

The roll call indicates that the following delegates are absent: Rev. William D. Vis (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), Rev. Stephen R. Steenstra, Rev. John Rop, Jr. (Arizona), Elder Bill Aalders (B.C. South-East), Rev. Il Young Kang, Rev. John S. Oh (California South), Elder Richard Tjoelker (Chatham), Elder Jack L. Mudde (Chicago South), Rev. Thomas B. Swieringa (Grand Rapids South), Elder Peter C. Tong (Greater Los Angeles), Elder Lane Bonnema (Iakota), Rev. Gerald E. De Vries (Illiana), Rev. Jack Van Marion, Rev. Peter Slofstra (Niagara), Rev. Timothy H. Douma, Rev. Lee A. Koning (Northern Illinois), Rev. In Chul Kim, Rev. Seung J. Kang, Elder Hyung J. Park, Elder David Yang (Pacific Hanmi), Elder David D. Postema (Pella), Elder Notah Benally, Elder Leonard Arviso (Red Mesa), Elder Kyu S. Paek (Rocky Mountain), Elder Dan H. Vander Laan (Southeast U.S.), Rev. Howard McPhee (Toronto), Rev. Gary G. Hofland, Rev. Jacob C. Weeda (Yellowstone).

Rev. Norman L. Meyer (Thornapple Valley) is absent for the duration of synod because of the sudden death of his brother-in-law this morning.



### ARTICLE 3

The assembly proceeds to elect officers.

The following are elected:

President: Rev. Wayne A. Brouwer

Vice President: Rev. Stanley Mast

First Clerk: Elder George Vandervelde

Second Clerk: Rev. Henry P. Kranenburg

### ARTICLE 4

The president pro tem welcomes the officers to the podium and congratulates them.

The president of synod, Rev. Wayne A. Brouwer, expresses the appreciation of synod to Rev. John Zantingh for his participation in the opening of synod.

On behalf of himself and the other officers he thanks synod for the confidence it has placed in them to lead synod during the coming week. He briefly addresses synod, stating that there are four hats the delegates could wear. They have to view the church from four perspectives: the church as community, the church as confession, the church as commission, and the church as corporation (i.e., body). The delegates are asked to remember these four areas of the church and to work together to complete the work of the church that is before them.

### ARTICLE 5

The president, having requested the delegates to rise, reads the Public Declaration of Agreement with the Forms of Unity, to which the delegates respond with their assent.

### ARTICLE 6

The president of synod welcomes the denominational officers (Dr. David H. Engelhard, general secretary, and Dr. Peter Borgdorff, executive director of ministries), the seminary faculty advisers, the ethnic advisers, and the representatives of denominational boards and agencies. The Calvin College president, Dr. Gaylen Byker, is welcomed. (The Calvin Theological Seminary president will be present beginning Monday morning). Rev. Merle Den Bleyker, executive director of World Missions, and Mr. Ray Elgersma, Canadian ministries director, are introduced and welcomed.

The executive director of ministries, Dr. Peter Borgdorff, introduces Mr. Kenneth Horjus, director of finance and administration.

The general secretary welcomes and introduces to synod the ethnic advisers who are present: Rev. George Boyd, Mr. Harold Roscher, and Rev. Kinfun Wong.

Dr. Engelhard welcomes Mrs. Eileen Christofferson, who has been commissioned by Classis Rocky Mountain to serve as a prayer intercessor at and for synod.

The general secretary introduces and expresses thanks to Mrs. Margaret Buma and Mrs. Leni Janssens from Redeemer College, who have planned and worked out the many details for synod at Redeemer College.

## ARTICLE 7

The following schedule is adopted: morning session, 8:00-11:45; afternoon, 1:15-5:15; evening, 7:00-10:00; coffee breaks at 9:45 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

## ARTICLE 8

The general secretary calls the attention of delegates and visitors to the following matters:

### I. Confidentiality of the executive sessions of synod

The Board of Trustees calls the matter of confidentiality to the attention of Synod 1999 and urges that all necessary precautions be taken to prevent violations of confidentiality.

Synod 1954 stated that “the very principle of executive sessions, or sessions that are not open to the public, involves the practical implication that reporters may not ‘report’” (*Acts of Synod 1954*, p. 15). If reporters are not permitted to report on executive sessions of synod, it is certainly a breach of confidentiality also for delegates to the synodical assembly to report—publicly, orally, or in print—on the discussions held in an executive session of synod (cf. *Acts of Synod 1982*, p. 16).

### II. Audio and video recordings of synod

Synod 1979 authorized the making of an official audio recording of the entire proceedings of the general sessions of synod as a way to verify the written record of the synodical proceedings. Although the general sessions of synod are recorded, executive sessions are not taped. Delegates to synod are informed at the opening session of synod that all the general sessions are being taped. Synod has designated that the office of the general secretary be responsible for the use and storage of these materials.

The following regulations were adopted by Synod 1989 concerning audio and video recordings of synodical sessions by media representatives and visitors:

- A. Representatives of the media are permitted to make video recordings of synodical proceedings provided they observe the restrictions placed upon them by the synodical news office under the direction of the general secretary of synod.
- B. *Visitor privileges*
  - 1. Visitors are at liberty to make audio recordings of the public proceedings of synod provided they do so unobtrusively (i.e., in no way inhibiting or disturbing either the proceedings of synod, the synodical delegates, or other persons).
  - 2. Video recordings are permitted provided the following restrictions are observed:
    - a. Video cameras are permitted only at the entrances, not backstage or in the wings.
    - b. Auxiliary lighting is not permitted.
    - c. Videotaping is to be done unobtrusively (i.e., in such a way that it in no way inhibits or disturbs either the proceedings of synod, the synodical delegates, or other persons).

(*Acts of Synod 1989*, p. 445)

## ARTICLE 9

The general secretary presents the report of the Program Committee, which recommends the following advisory committees for Synod 1999:

### *Committee 1—Synodical Services*

**Chairman:** John J. Hoogland; **reporter:** Jack M. Gray; **ministers:** Thomas W. Bomhof, Elias D. Burgos, Gerald E. De Vries, James M. Evenhouse, Roger B. Groenboom, Sam Hamstra, Jr., Stephen R. Steenstra, Elmer M. Tandayu; **elders:** Raymond D. Dennis, Mel De Stigter, Harvey Kingma, Michael M. Luchies, Dirk W. Simmelink, David J. Swinney, Michael J. Van Laan, Peter A. Walhof, David Yang.

### *Committee 2—Missions*

**Chairman:** Jacob (Jack) Kerkhof; **reporter:** Perry J. Tinklenberg; **ministers:** James C. Dekker, Richard J. De Ruiter, Thomas D. Draayer, In Chul Kim, Daniel J. Roeda, Richard H. Verkaik; William D. Vis; **elders:** Bill Aalders, Paul R. Bareman, Andrew Meinen, Gary W. Nibbelink, Hyung J. Park, Dan H. Vander Laan, Peter Van Meurs, H. William Verveda, Dale G. Wolters; **advisers:** Carl J. Bosma, Pedro Aviles.

### *Committee 3—Education*

**Chairman:** Edward J. Tamminga; **reporter:** George F. Vander Weit; **ministers:** Jerry D. Buwalda, Samuel Cooper, Seung J. Kang, Henry Numan, John Rop, Jr., Gerry G. Van Dam, Kenneth J. Vander Wall, Cecil Van Niejenhuis; **elders:** Notah Benally, Frank E. De Boer, Harry deJong, Gordon J. De Kruyter, Edward H. De Vries, Gerald Haveman, Leonard D. Klok, Peter C. Tong, Harry Van Tuyl; **advisers:** Gaylen J. Byker, James A. De Jong, James Mutoigo.

### *Committee 4—Publications*

**Chairman:** Roger A. Kok; **reporter:** Albert Helder; **ministers:** Kevin P. De Raaf, Il Yong Kang, Howard McPhee, Norman A. Sennema, Raymond Slim, Thomas B. Swieringa, Roger J. Visker; **elders:** Harry J. Mulder, David D. Postema, Wesley D. Postma, Elmer J. Riebkes, Richard M. Schemper, Leon H. Smit, Paul C. Szto, Roy C. Vander Klok, Marten H. Van Harmelen; **adviser:** Dean Deppe.

### *Committee 5—Pastoral Ministries*

**Chairman:** Thomas K. Groelsema; **reporter:** Peter Slofstra; **ministers:** Ronald L. Bouwkamp, Jake Corvers, Mark A. Davies, Timothy H. Douma, Ralph Koops, Larry E. Van Essen, Timothy E. Van Zalen; **elders:** Edwin R. Arevalo, Arthur Joosse, John Knight, Joel P. Kramer, Ralph Norg, Joseph Post, Harry A. Van Dam, Vernon Vande Pol, Wesley D. Van Houten; **advisers:** John W. Cooper, Harold Roscher.

### *Committee 6—Financial Matters*

**Chairman:** Dale L. Slings; **reporter:** Uko Zylstra; **ministers:** John J. Berends, Peter J. De Vries, Gary G. Hofland, John G. Keizer, Lee A. Koning, Steven R. Sytsma; **elders:** David Altena, Jay Anema, Leonard Arviso, Peter De Boer, Bruce Dykstra, Nelson J. Gritter, John Koornneef, Allan J. Kramer, Gerald L. Meyers, Richard A. Molenhouse, Kyu S. Paek, Richard Tjoelker.

#### *Committee 7—Interdenominational Matters*

**Chairman:** Richard E. Williams; **reporter:** Bert Slofstra; **ministers:** Timothy J. Brown, Bernard H. De Jonge, Dirk Miedema, William J. Renkema, Russell J. Van Antwerpen; Stephan R. Van Eck, David J. Weemhoff; **elders:** D. Lee Barclay, Ed Benjamins, Martin Dekkenga, John A. De Kock, Randall Huisman, John Schievink, Eugene Smith, Robert Vander Veen, David G. Verwer; **advisers:** Sidney Greidanus, Bobby Boyd.

#### *Committee 8—Church Order*

**Chairman:** Jake Kuipers; **reporter:** Douglas R. Fauble; **ministers:** Joseph A. Brinks, LeRoy G. Christoffels, George J. Rowaan, Alfred J. Van Dellen, Stanley J. Vander Klay, Gerrit P. Veenstra, David A. Zylstra; **elders:** Henry Bakker, Theodore A. Heuker, Kevin H. Miller, John A. Mohle, Jack L. Mudde, Kenneth P. Stoub, Corwin Vander Ark, Henry J. Vande Voort, Gerald L. Vrieling; **adviser:** Henry De Moor.

#### *Committee 9—U.S. Structure*

**Chairman:** Jack M. De Korne; **reporter:** Bruce A. Persenaire; **ministers:** B. Bernard Bakker, Charles J. De Ridder, Thomas G. Klaasen, Ildefonso Torres, Andrew Vanden Akker, Jack Vanden Heuvel, Gerrit Veeneman, Gerald L. Zandstra; **elders:** Peter Bosscher, Nelson E. Haan, David E. Holwerda, Ronald G. Koetsier, Art Numan, Peter H. Vander Lugt, Marion D. Van Soelen, John Voortman; **advisers:** John W. Cooper, Kinfun Wong.

#### *Committee 10—Ordination and “Official Acts of Ministry”*

**Chairman:** Joel R. Boot; **reporter:** Jacob C. Weeda; **ministers:** Karl H. Bratt, Richard R. De Vries, Martin T. Mobach, German Moreno, John S. Oh, Richard T. Vanderwal, Jack Van Marion, William D. Zeilstra; **elders:** Louis Bierling, James H. Boersma, Lane Bonnema, John Faber, Scott Kamper, Peter Kapteyn, David A. Koetje, Arnie Stolte; **advisers:** Henry De Moor, George Boyd.

#### *Recommendation:*

That synod adopt the report of the Program Committee, including membership on the advisory committees for Synod 1999 as amended. (Three delegates who were assigned to advisory committees to consider reports of study committees of which they are members—namely, Gerald Zandstra, Committee to Give Direction about and for Pastoral Care for Homosexual Members; David Holwerda, Committee to Study Ordination and “Official Acts of Ministry,” and Henry Numan, Committee to Study Structure for Ministry in the U.S.—were removed from the advisory committees to which they were assigned and will be reassigned to other advisory committees.)

#### ARTICLE 10

The general secretary presents the Agenda Directory for Synod 1999, which contains a complete listing of every matter on the agenda that requires synodical action. He indicates where the materials may be found and to which advisory committee each item has been assigned.

#### ARTICLE 11

The president of synod, Rev. Wayne Brouwer, leads the assembly in closing prayer, and synod adjourns at 6:07 p.m. Synod will reconvene on Monday at 8:00 a.m.

**MONDAY MORNING, June 14, 1999**  
**Second Session**

**ARTICLE 12**

Rev. Wayne A. Brouwer, president, welcomes and introduces Dr. James De Jong, president of Calvin Theological Seminary. Dr. De Jong introduces the following prospective candidates and their families:

Jerry L. (Verla) Blom  
Jeffrey P. Janssen  
Daryl J. (Michelle) Meijer  
Derek E. Miedema  
Stanley J. (Melody) Sturing and family  
Elzo (Marijke) Tenyenhuis and family  
Simon A. (Heather) Tuin  
Ralph S. (Alina) Wigboldus  
Todd M. (Leah) Zuidema

President Brouwer congratulates the candidates and their spouses and families. He addresses the candidates from Isaiah 42:1-7.

Delegate Rev. Jack Van Marion leads the assembly in the following liturgy:

**We Approach Our God**

Leader: Glory be to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end.

All: Amen and Amen!

Leader: Hear the Word of the Lord. (Rom. 10:11-15)

“As the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.’ For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

“Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak,” *Psalter Hymnal* 528

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

**God Speaks to Us**

Candidate Daryl Meijer:

Hear the Word of the Lord.

(The reading of Psalm 19:1-14)

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!  
"When We Walk with the Lord," *Psalter Hymnal* 548

Rev. John De Jong:

Hear the Word of the Lord.  
(The reading of Philippians 3:4b-16)  
This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!  
"God of the Prophets," *Psalter Hymnal* 521

### **We Give Thanks and Pray to God**

A Litany of Thanksgiving:

Candidate Simon Tuin:

Let us pray together:  
For bringing us together today as brothers and sisters in Christ,

All: We thank you, O Lord.

S. Tuin: For strength and health, for faith and vision, for work and leisure, for  
your universal kingdom,

All: We thank you, O Lord.

S. Tuin: For family and friends who have supported us in these years of studies  
and preparation,

All: We thank you, O Lord.

S. Tuin: For parents and grandparents, for spouses and children, and for all  
others who have sacrificed much so that we could study and prepare for  
the tasks ahead of us,

All: We thank you, Lord.

S. Tuin: For student-fund committees, for church members all throughout North  
America who have supported us with their gifts and prayers,

All: We thank you, O Lord.

S. Tuin: For professors, pastors, and peers who have taught us, encouraged us,  
and challenged us,

All: We thank you, Lord.

S. Tuin: All glory, all power, all honor, and all praise,

All: We bring to you, O Lord. Alleluia! Amen.

"We Come, O Christ, to You," *Psalter Hymnal*, 238

Prayer for all the candidates: Rev. John De Jong

Prayer refrain: "Alleluia," *Psalter Hymnal* 639

Prayer for the day: Rev. Jack Van Marion

### **God Blesses Us with His Peace**

All: "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace," *Psalter Hymnal* 545

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

## ARTICLE 13

The officers announce the following appointment:

Sergeant at Arms:

Rev. Martin T. Mobach

The general secretary reports that there are no new materials that are legally before synod. He announces the following advisory-committee reassignments: Rev. Henry Numan, Advisory Committee 3; Elder David Holwerda and Rev. Gerald Zandstra, Advisory Committee 9.

Dr. Engelhard introduces ethnic advisers Rev. Pedro Aviles and Evangelist Bobby Boyd, who have arrived at synod.

## ARTICLE 14

The roll call indicates that the following, who were absent on Saturday, are now present: Rev. William D. Vis (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), Rev. Stephen R. Steenstra, Rev. John Rop, Jr. (Arizona), Elder Bill Aalders (B.C.South-East), Rev. John S. Oh (California South), Elder Richard Tjoelker (Chatham), Elder Jack L. Mudde (Chicago South), Rev. Thomas B. Swieringa (Grand Rapids South), Elder Peter C. Tong (Greater Los Angeles), Elder Lane Bonnema (Iakota), Rev. Gerald E. De Vries (Illiana), Rev. Jack Van Marion, Rev. Peter Slofstra (Niagara), Rev. Timothy H. Douma, Rev. Lee A. Koning (Northern Illinois), Rev. In Chul Kim, Rev. Seung J. Kang, Elder Hyung J. Park, Elder David Yang (Pacific Hanmi), Elder David D. Postema (Pella), Elder Notah Benally, Elder Leonard Arviso (Red Mesa), Elder Kyu S. Paek (Rocky Mountain), Elder Dan H. Vander Laan (Southeast U.S.), Rev. Gary G. Hofland, Rev. Jacob C. Weeda (Yellowstone). They rise to express agreement with the forms of unity.

Rev. Howard McPhee (Toronto) is absent.

## ARTICLE 15

The morning session is adjourned at 9:05 a.m. so that delegates can work in advisory committees. Synod will reconvene on Tuesday at 8:00 a.m.

## TUESDAY MORNING, June 15, 1999

### Third Session

## ARTICLE 16

Rev. Stanley Mast, vice president, reads from Ephesians 2:8-10 and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 446, "If You But Trust in God to Guide You." He leads in opening prayer, especially for the Norman Meyer family in the sudden death of Mrs. Meyer's brother, Mr. Eugene Lanser; Mrs. Judy Sprik, who be undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; and the family grieving the loss of Mr. Bauke (Bob) Lodewyk, a retired missionary, who served in Nigeria until nine months ago and who has died of cancer.

The roll call indicates that all delegates are present.

Rev. Howard McPhee (Toronto) is now present, and Rev. Timothy E. Van Zalen (Thornapple Valley) has replaced Rev. Norman Meyer. They rise to express agreement with the forms of unity.

The general secretary announces the following appointments:

Devotions Committee: Rev. Stanley Vander Klay and Rev. Jack Van Marion

Minutes-Review Committee: Elder John Knight and Elder John A. Mohle

## ARTICLE 17

Advisory Committee 3, Rev. George F. Vander Weit reporting, presents the following:

### I. Calvin College

#### A. *Materials*

1. Calvin College Report, pp. 95-96
2. Calvin College Supplement

#### B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to the chair of the board, Ms. Sheri D. Haan; the vice chair of the board, Mr. Milton Kuyers; the secretary of the board, Rev. Edward Blankespoor; and the president of the college, Dr. Gaylen J. Byker, when matters pertaining to the college are presented.

—*Granted*

2. That synod ratify the following new administrative appointments:

- a. Robert A. Berkhof, B.A., Vice President for Development for two years
- b. Shirley Vogelzang Hoogstra, J.D., Vice President for Student Life for three years

—*Adopted*

3. That synod ratify the following reappointments with tenure:

- a. Randall J. Brouwer, Ph.D., Professor of Engineering
- b. Janel Curry-Roper, Ph.D., Professor of Geology, Geography, and Environmental Studies
- c. Susan Felch, Ph.D., Professor of English
- d. Debra Freeberg, Ph.D., Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences
- e. Arie Griffioen, Ph.D., Professor of Religion and Theology
- f. Frank Speyers, M.S., Professor of Art
- g. Ralph Stearley, Ph.D., Professor of Geology
- h. Ronald J. Sjoerdsma, Ph.D., Professor of Education

—*Adopted*

4. That synod give appropriate recognition to the following for their service to Calvin College and the Christian Reformed Church and confer on them the titles listed below:

- a. Conrad J. Bult, M.A.L.S., Assistant Director of the Hekman Library, Emeritus
- b. Harry Boonstra, Ph.D., Theological Librarian, Emeritus
- c. Roger L. Griffioen, Ph.D., Professor of Physics, Emeritus



- d. Philip C. Holtrop, Ph.D., Professor of Religion and Theology, Emeritus
- e. Carl W. Kaiser, M.Mus., Associate Professor of Music, Emeritus
- f. Carl T. Mulder, Ed.D., Professor of Education, Emeritus
- g. Thomas J. Ozinga, Ph.D., Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences, Emeritus
- h. Gordon L. Van Harn, Ph.D., Professor of Biology and Provost, Emeritus
- i. John W. Worst, Ph.D., Professor of Music, Emeritus

*—Adopted*

First clerk George Vandervelde expresses the gratitude of synod for the 247 years of dedicated service by the retiring professors. Synod responds with applause.

5. That synod ratify the following appointments to the board (terms to begin on July 1, 1999):

a. Regional trustees

Region	Delegate	Alternate	Term
Far West I	Ms. Carol Benet Bremer	Dr. John Van Schepen	2002
Central U.S. I	Dr. Jan De Roos	Ms. Janice Van Dyke Zeilstra	2002
Central U.S. IV	Mr. Rod Alderink	Mr. William Knoester	2002
Eastern U.S.	Dr. Edward Wierenga	Mr. Donald Sporn	2002
Western Canada	Mr. Robert Koole	Dr. Jack Hielema	2002

b. Alumni trustee

Ms. Connie Northouse Brummel      2002

c. At-large trustees

Mr. Stephen C.L. Chong      2002  
 Dr. Tom DeMeester      2002  
 Mr. Milton Kuyers      2002  
 Mr. Kenneth Ozinga      2002  
 Ms. Cindi Veenstra      2002

*—Adopted*

6. The Calvin College Board of Trustees requests the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA and synod to

- a. Structure the Ministries Coordinating Council and its meetings (and any successor body and its meetings) so that the representative of the college would participate only in meetings at which major denominational issues and policies are dealt with and so that such meetings are normally held no more than four times per year.
- b. Structure the annual budget and ministry-share approval process so that the college is dealt with separately from denominational agencies and is not included in the agency peer-review process. This would allow the process to focus on the special relationship between the college and the CRC.

Though the advisory committee is sympathetic to some of the concerns raised in this request, it observes that the request has not been formally presented to the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA and that the Board has not had opportunity to respond to it.

The advisory committee recommends that the Calvin College Board of Trustees present its request to the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA.

—*Referred back to committee*

## II. Calvin Theological Seminary

### A. *Materials*

1. Calvin Theological Seminary Report, pp. 97-102
2. Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement

### B. *Recommendations*

1. That Rev. Joel Boot, chair of the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees, be given the privilege of the floor when seminary matters are presented.

—*Granted*

2. That the following faculty and staff reappointments be approved (*italics* indicate an advance in rank):

Dr. Gary J. Bekker, as Academic Dean and Professor of Church Education and Missiology for four years, 1999-2003

Rev. Carl Bosma, as Associate Professor of Old Testament for two years, 1999-2001, with the stipulation that he be granted permanent tenure and be promoted to the rank of full professor upon receiving his doctor's degree

Dr. Jeffrey A.D. Weima, as *Professor* of New Testament with permanent tenure

Mr. Philip Vanden Berge, as Chief Financial Officer for four years, 1999-2003

Dr. Bastian Van Elderen, as Adjunct Professor of New Testament for three years, 1999-2002

—*Adopted*

3. That the appointment of Dr. Lyle D. Bierma as Professor of Systematic Theology for three years (1999-2002) be ratified, pending a successful synodical interview.

—*Adopted*

4. That the interview for Dr. Bierma proceed as follows:

- a. Rev. J. Boot, chair of the Seminary Board of Trustees, will introduce Dr. Bierma to synod.
- b. Rev. Cecil Van Niejenhuis will interview Dr. Bierma for a maximum of thirty minutes.
- c. Delegates will ask questions for a maximum of thirty minutes.

—*Adopted*

### III. Diversity of the staff of Calvin Seminary

#### A. *Observations*

While discussing the staffing of the seminary, the advisory committee expressed the desire that ethnic minorities and women be hired as professors. Though genuine efforts have been made to diversify the staff, synod has been informed repeatedly that the lack of qualified candidates makes the attainment of that goal very difficult.

Calvin College faces a similar challenge. Though a number of women serve on its faculty, the number of staff from ethnic minorities is small. The college has responded to that challenge by establishing a Graduate Study Fellowship program, through which fellowships are granted to ethnic-minority persons who are then expected to teach at the college. The college has also instituted a comprehensive hiring plan, which addresses the hiring of minorities. It is unknown whether these approaches would work for the seminary or whether other approaches would work better. Because in the next few years several staff positions need to be filled, the advisory committee is concerned that the denomination do everything possible to ensure that ethnic minorities and women are included in the seminary faculty. Our commitment to becoming an inclusive denomination must come to more visible expression in the seminary faculty.

#### B. *Recommendations*

1. That the seminary board present to Synod 2000 a plan designed to assist the seminary in recruiting qualified ethnic-minority and women faculty members.

*Ground:* The CRC must become more intentional in its efforts to include ethnic minorities and women on the seminary faculty.

—Adopted

2. That synod authorize the denominational Board of Trustees to allocate funds that may be necessary for the development and implementation of a plan for recruiting women and ethnic-minority faculty until a specific budget is known and can be incorporated into the seminary budget at the regular funding cycle.

*Grounds:*

- a. Funds will be necessary to formulate and implement a plan.
- b. The allocation of funds is another tangible demonstration that the denomination is committed to a seminary faculty that includes ethnic and gender diversity.

—Adopted

3. That synod encourage members of the CRC to continually work and pray so that God's diverse family becomes increasingly evident in our churches, schools, and other institutions.

—Adopted

#### IV. Calvin Seminary (continued from II above)

5. That synod ratify the following regional trustees and their alternates for the seminary board for terms beginning on July 1, 1999, and running for three years.

Region	Delegate	Alternate	Term
Central U.S. III	Mr. Will Byker	Dr. Glenn Niemeyer	2002
Eastern U.S.	Rev. Ricardo E. Orellana	Rev. Leslie Seaton	2002
Eastern Canada II	Mr. Willem Hultink	Mr. John De Waard	2002
Western Canada II	Rev. Cecil Van Niejenhuis	Rev. Herman Salomons	2002

—*Adopted*

6. That Dr. Harry Boonstra be granted the title of Theological Librarian, Emeritus.

—*Adopted*

#### V. Priority consideration to graduates of Calvin Seminary

##### A. *Observation by the advisory committee*

A number of churches are calling ministers from other denominations when there are capable graduates of Calvin Seminary available.

##### B. *Recommendation*

That synod encourage the churches to give priority consideration to the graduates of the denominational seminary.

—*Adopted*

#### VI. Calvin Seminary (continued from IV)

7. That the appointment of Rev. Lugene L. Schemper as Theological Librarian and Assistant Director of the Library for two years, 1999-2001, be ratified.

—*Adopted*

8. That the trial period for the adjusted SPMC program be extended until the year 2000.

*Ground:* This extension will allow this program to continue until the Committee to Examine Routes Being Used to Enter the Ordained Ministry in the CRC reports.

—*Adopted*

9. The Calvin Seminary Board requests the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA and synod to

- Structure the Ministries Coordinating Council and its meetings (and any successor body and its meetings) so that the representative of the seminary would participate only in meetings at which major denominational issues and policies are dealt with and so that such meetings are normally held no more than four times per year.
- Structure the annual budget and ministry-share approval process so that the seminary is dealt with separately from denominational agencies and is not included in the agency peer-review process. This would allow the

process to focus on the special relationship between the seminary and the CRC.

Though the advisory committee is sympathetic to some of the concerns raised in this request, it observes that the request has not been formally presented to the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA and that the Board has not had opportunity to respond to it.

The advisory committee recommends that the Calvin Seminary Board of Trustees present its request to the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA.

—*Referred back to committee*

## **VII. Youth-Ministry Committee**

A. *Material*: Youth-Ministry Committee Report, pp. 179-83

### **B. Recommendation**

That synod grant the privilege of the floor to the Youth-Ministry Committee chairperson, Dr. Robert Keeley, and the secretary, Ms. Glenda Tamming.

—*Granted*

## **VIII. Dordt College**

A. *Material*: Dordt College Report, pp. 225-26

### **B. Recommendation**

That synod give praise to God for the largest single-year increase in Dordt's forty-three-year history, an increase that set a new enrollment record of 1,420 students, and for a new degree program in youth ministries established in response to the need of Dordt's supporting churches for trained youth-ministry personnel.

—*Adopted*

## **IX. Institute for Christian Studies**

A. *Material*: Institute for Christian Studies Report, pp. 227-28

### **B. Recommendation**

That synod give thanks to God that the Institute for Christian Studies is developing a service that will help make Reformed Christian research material available to scholars around the world.

—*Adopted*

## **X. The King's University College**

A. *Material*: The King's University College Report, p. 229

### **B. Recommendation**

That synod ask God's blessing on the planning process that is designed to develop goals and strategies for The King's University College over the next five years.

—*Adopted*

## **XI. Redeemer College**

A. *Material:* Redeemer College Report, p. 230

### **B. Recommendations**

1. That synod thank God that Redeemer College has been given full recognition as an independent Christian undergraduate university with authority to grant Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. This action by the Ontario government will enhance the college's ability to attract more students.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod note that this year marks the tenth anniversary of the internationally recognized Pascal Centre for Advanced Studies in Faith and Science.

—*Adopted*

## **XII. Reformed Bible College**

A. *Material:* Reformed Bible College Report, p. 231

### **B. Recommendation**

That synod give praise to God for the 43 percent growth in Reformed Bible College's student body over the past two years, for the growth in its ministry programs, and for an increasing enthusiasm for the mission of Reformed Bible College.

—*Adopted*

## **XIII. Trinity Christian College**

A. *Material:* Trinity Christian College Report, pp. 232-33

### **B. Recommendation**

That synod note with joy the fortieth anniversary of Trinity Christian College and give thanks to God for generous gifts that covered the cost of a new chapel/performing-arts center.

—*Adopted*

Rev. Kenneth Vander Wall leads in a prayer of thanksgiving for the Christian educational institutions.

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 26.)

## **ARTICLE 18**

Advisory Committee 2, Missions, Rev. Perry J. Tinklenberg reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Introduction**

A. The advisory committee notes the tremendous blessing of God upon the mission efforts of the Christian Reformed Church as demonstrated in the four agencies represented in this report.

B. We are grateful to God for the testimony of Merle Den Bleyker, international director of CRWM, praising God for the presence of his Spirit and the encouragement of the people of God during his recent struggle with cancer and stem-cell therapy.

C. The committee also recognizes the call to mission represented by the vacant positions in our agency ministries and encourages our churches to preach and teach in such a way that people may be stimulated to greater personal activity in these ministries.

## **II. The Back to God Hour**

A. *Material:* The Back-to-God-Hour Report, pp. 89-94

B. *Observation*

The advisory committee on missions received a report concerning exciting developments in Back to God Hour ministries which occurred subsequent to the printed agenda:

1. "Primary Focus," the Back to God Hour television ministry to North America, is now shown on a weekly basis. This program, which is carried on VISION network throughout Canada, on CTS network in Ontario, and on the PAX network in the United States, has a potential audience of approximately 60 million households. The program utilizes a news/magazine format to address current issues from a biblical perspective. The target audience is unchurched people between the ages of 25 and 45. Follow-up is designed to link those who respond to the telecast with local churches.
2. After thirty years of prayer and closed doors, The Back to God Hour began broadcasting in Mexico City and the surrounding area in May 1999. Follow-up and ministry placement are conducted in close relationship with CRWM. The committee members invite the Christian Reformed churches to praise God with them in this breakthrough in gospel proclamation!

C. *Recommendations*

1. That Rev. Henry Kranenburg, president; Mr. John Kuyers, executive director; and Dr. Calvin L. Bremer, director of ministries, be given the privilege of the floor when Back to God Hour matters are discussed.

—*Granted*

2. That synod elect board members from the nominations presented and ratify second-term appointments for two incumbents.

—*Adopted*

## **III. Home Missions**

A. *Materials*

1. Home Missions Report, pp. 116-27
2. Home Missions Supplement

## **B. Recommendations**

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Rev. Shawn Sikkema, board president, and Rev. John Rozeboom, executive director, when matters pertaining to Home Missions are discussed.  
—*Granted*
2. That synod encourage all Christian Reformed churches to recognize Easter Sunday and Reformation Sunday as significant opportunities to take offerings for Christian Reformed Home Missions. Home Missions is blessed, privileged, and profoundly challenged in serving the Lord and the church through *Gathering*.  
—*Adopted*

## **IV. World Missions**

### **A. Materials**

1. World Missions Report, pp. 128-35
2. World Missions Supplement

### **B. Recommendations**

1. That the president of World Missions-Canada, Rev. Carel Geleynse; the president of World Missions-U.S.A., Rev. William Renkema; and the World Missions-International executive director, Rev. Merle Den Bleyker, be given the privilege of meeting with appropriate advisory committees of synod and represent World Missions to synod when synod deals with matters related to this agency.  
—*Granted*
2. That the Board of Trustees and synod continue World Missions on the list of denominational agencies recommended to the churches for one or more offerings.  
—*Adopted*
3. That the Board of Trustees and synod encourage all Christian Reformed churches to recognize Pentecost Sunday as a significant opportunity to take an offering for Christian Reformed World Missions.  
—*Adopted*
4. That synod take note of the publication “Moving Forward Together into the 21st Century,” a vision piece being prepared by CR World Missions to explore cooperative ministries for the purpose of opening new fields and enhancing existing work.  
—*Adopted*

## **V. Christian Reformed World Relief Committee**

### **A. Material:** CR World Relief Committee Report, pp. 136-47

### **B. Observations**

The advisory committee on missions notes the following changes in CRWRC’s vision and mission statements:



CRWRC Vision: CRWRC envisions a world where people experience and extend Christ's compassion and live together in hope as God's community.

CRWRC Mission: CRWRC's mission is to engage God's people in redeeming resources and developing gifts in collaborative activities of love, mercy, justice, and compassion.

Codirector Mr. Wayne deJong expresses gratitude to the people of the CRC for contributions of \$2.5 million for Hurricane Mitch relief and nearly \$1 million for Balkan relief and resettlement.

### *C. Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Mr. Calvin Hulst, president of CRWRC-U.S.A.; Mr. Peter Bulthuis, president of CRWRC-Canada; Mr. Andy Ryskamp, director of CRWRC-U.S.A.; and Mr. Wayne deJong, director of CRWRC-Canada, when CRWRC matters are discussed.  
—*Granted*
2. That synod commend the work of mercy carried on by CRWRC and urge the churches to take at least four offerings per year for CRWRC in lieu of ministry-share support.  
—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 40.)

## ARTICLE 19

Advisory Committee 4, Publications, Rev. Albert Helder reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Board of Trustees Supplement**

#### *A. Material:* Board of Trustees Supplement (Section IV, A)

#### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod approve the BOT recommendation that the Pastoral Ministries Board and the Pastoral Ministries agency it governs be dissolved as of July 1, 1999.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. The present structure was created to form an accountability unit, but the structure impedes the accomplishment of the multiple and complex mandates of the various ministries.
- b. The need to dissolve this board is immediate because of the unworkable situation that presently exists among the agency personnel.
- c. The Pastoral Ministries Board and the Board of Trustees were unanimous in the recommendation that the Pastoral Ministries Board be dissolved.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to report to Synod 2000 in order to assure that the integrity of the ministry mandates of the five Pastoral Ministries entities be maintained and their ministries secured.

The following matters are to be included in the report:

- a. The working arrangements of Pastor-Church Relations with the denominational offices.
- b. The progress of Chaplaincy Ministries' union with Home Missions, especially in areas of mission, vision, and core values.
- c. The health and continuance of Race Relations working under the Board of Trustees.
- d. The clear direction, mandate, and staffing of Abuse Prevention.
- e. The advocacy direction of Disability Concerns.
- f. The continuance of the dialogue with the Canadian Ministries Board concerning the above-mentioned ministries.

—Adopted

*Note:* The Board of Trustees will provide governance for these ministries in the interim.

## II. CRC Publications

### A. *Materials*

1. CRC Publications Report, pp. 103-15
2. CRC Publications Supplement (Sections II and III)

### B. *Recommendations*

1. The CRC Publications Board requests synod to grant the privilege of the floor to the following people when matters of CRC Publications are discussed.

For the board

Rev. Stanley Mast, president

Mr. Fred Herfst, vice president

Mr. Gary Mulder, executive director

For *The Banner*

Rev. John Suk, editor in chief

—Granted

2. That synod receive as information the decisions of the CRC Publications executive committee regarding the Worship Committee.

—Received as information

3. That synod appoint Mr. Japinga to another three-year term as fraternal delegate to the CRC Publications Board representing the Reformed Church in America.

—Adopted

4. That synod by way of exception endorse the appointment of Mr. Fred Herfst to a third term on the CRC Publications Board.

*Ground:* His expertise is needed on the CRC Publications Board during the time of restructuring.

—Adopted

### III. Historical Committee

A. *Material*: Historical Committee Report, pp. 184-86

B. *Recommendation*

That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Dr. Richard Harms when matters pertaining to its mandate come before synod.

—*Granted*

### IV. Sermons for Reading Services

A. *Material*: Sermons for Reading Services Report, p. 222

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod approve the publication of *The Living Word* for 2000 to provide sermons for reading services.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod encourage churches and ministers to subscribe to this service for the benefit of churches and individuals.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod reappoint Rev. Paul Stadt (Chatham, Ontario), who is eligible for another three-year term.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod by way of exception reappoint Mr. Ray Vander Ploeg as secretary-treasurer for a period of one year.

*Ground*: Mr. Vander Ploeg, a retired Christian-school principal from Woodstock, Ontario, has already served the committee for two full terms (a total of six years) and is not eligible for another term. The addition of another year to Mr. Vander Ploeg's term would eliminate the problem that presently exists of three members out of five leaving the committee in the same year.

—*Adopted*

### V. Response to Overture 25: Evaluate the New Living Translation for Use in Worship

A. *Material*: Overture 25, pp. 437-38

B. *Recommendation*

That synod accede to Overture 25 from Classis British Columbia North-West and request the denominational Worship Committee to study the New Living Translation of the Bible for possible use in the churches.

*Grounds*:

1. The translators of the Old Testament of the NLT depended upon the Masoretic Text of the Hebrew Bible as their standard text as found in the *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* edition, 1977. They also used the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Septuagint, other Greek manuscripts, the Samaritan Pentateuch, the Syriac Peshitta, the Latin Vulgate, and many other ancient versions and manuscripts to shed light on the textual problems.

The translators of the New Testament of the NLT worked from the *Greek New Testament* published by the United Bible Societies (1993) and from the *Novum Testamentum Graece*, edited by Nestle and Aland (twenty-seventh edition, 1993). The vast majority of scholars consider the sources used to be the best basic texts.

2. The NLT is a gender-inclusive, up-to-date, fresh, highly readable translation. Its translators put a high value on its use in public reading.
3. The NLT is rapidly gaining in popularity among Christians of many traditions to such an extent that it appears to be well on its way to becoming an ecumenical translation.
4. A number of scholars in the Christian Reformed Church have lent their expertise to this translation, including Dr. David H. Engelhard (general secretary of the Christian Reformed Church in North America), Dr. Raymond Van Leeuwen (Eastern College), and Dr. Al Wolters (Redeemer College).

—*Defeated*

#### ARTICLE 20

Rev. James Dekker, delegate, welcomes and introduces Rev. and Mrs. David Lee and Rev. and Mrs. Obed Martinez, members of the executive committee of the Christian Reformed Church in Cuba.

#### ARTICLE 21

Advisory Committee 8, Church Order, Rev. Douglas R. Fauble reporting, presents the following:

##### **I. Board of Trustees**

A. *Material:* Board of Trustees Report (Section II, A, 1 and 2), p. 22

##### **B. Recommendations**

1. That synod adopt the proposed change to Church Order Article 38, namely, the addition of 38-f, to read as follows (II, A, 1):
  - f. Particular churches of the Christian Reformed Church in North America may unite to form union congregations with one or more particular congregations of churches in ecclesiastical fellowship, with the approval of classis.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod adopt the recommended deletion of Church Order Supplement, Article 44-b.

*Ground:* The establishing and convening of the Canadian Ministries Board has led to the disbanding of the Council of the Christian Reformed Churches in Canada, and therefore the supplement is no longer needed as the mandate and regulative document for the CCRCC.

—*Adopted*

## **II. Response to Overtures 19 and 20: Permit Transfer of South Bend CRC to Classis Holland**

A. *Material:* Overtures 19 and 20, p. 432

### **B. Observations**

The advisory committee reflected at length and with depth regarding South Bend CRC's request for transfer. The polity issue of not permitting women elders to attend meetings of classis apparently plays a major role in South Bend's request. In this case South Bend's request goes beyond the sole matter of geographic proximity.

### **C. Recommendations**

1. That synod permit the transfer of South Bend Christian Reformed Church from Classis Kalamazoo to Classis Holland.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. Both the receiving and sending classes have agreed to this transfer.
- b. Proper classical procedures have been followed per Church Order Supplement, Article 39: "Any request for transfer to another classis may include grounds that go beyond the sole matter of geographic proximity; synod is at liberty to consider such ground in its disposition of the request" (Church Order 1998, p. 68).

—Adopted

2. That this be synod's response to Overtures 19 and 20.

—Adopted

## **III. Response to Overtures 31 and 34: Permit the Transfer of Hahn-In CRC to Classis Grandville**

A. *Material:* Overtures 31 and 34

### **B. Recommendations**

1. That synod permit the transfer of Hahn-In CRC from Classis Grand Rapids North to Classis Grandville.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. Both the receiving and sending classes have agreed to this transfer.
- b. Proper classical procedures have been followed per Church Order Supplement, Article 39: "Any request for transfer to another classis may include grounds that go beyond the sole matter of geographic proximity; synod is at liberty to consider such ground in its disposition of the request" (Church Order 1998, p. 68).

—Adopted

2. That this be synod's response to Overtures 31 and 34.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued in Article 27.)

## ARTICLE 22

Members of the Committee to Study Structure for Ministry in the U.S.—Rev. Henry Numan, chairman, and Dr. Shirley Roels—make a presentation to synod regarding the study committee’s report to synod.

## ARTICLE 23

The morning session is adjourned; Elder George Vandervelde, first clerk, leads in closing prayer.

## TUESDAY AFTERNOON, June 15, 1999

### Fourth Session

## ARTICLE 24

The president introduces the Canadian director of ministries, Mr. Ray Elgersma, who announces *Psalter Hymnal* 433, “Earth and All Stars,” and he reads from I Corinthians 12:14-31a. He briefly addresses synod, informing the delegates of the activities and plans of the Canadian Ministries Board and its ministries. He leads the assembly in opening prayer and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 610, “God Is My Rock.”

The president of synod responds and expresses gratitude for the work Mr. Elgersma has done toward implementation of the new Canadian-ministries structure.

## ARTICLE 25

The general secretary presents the ballot for appointments, and delegates vote. Voting for agency and committee members is done electronically. The ballot results will later be ratified by synod.

## ARTICLE 26

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 17.)

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. George F. Vander Weit reporting, presents the following:

### I. Calvin College (recommitted)

#### A. *Material*: Calvin College Supplement

The Calvin College Board requests the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA and synod to

1. Structure the Ministries Coordinating Council and its meetings (and any successor body and its meetings) so that the representative of the college would participate only in meetings at which major denominational issues and policies are dealt with and so that such meetings are normally held no more than four times per year.

2. Structure the annual budget and ministry-share approval process so that the college is dealt with separately from denominational agencies and is not included in the agency peer-review process. This would allow the process to focus on the special relationship between the college and the CRC.

*B. Observation*

Though the advisory committee is sympathetic to some of the concerns raised in this request, it observes that the request has not been formally presented to the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA and that the Board has not had opportunity to respond to it.

*C. Recommendation*

That synod advise the Calvin College Board to present its request to the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA.

—*Adopted*

## **II. Calvin Seminary (recommitted)**

*A. Material: Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement*

The Calvin Seminary Board requests the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA and synod to

1. Structure the Ministries Coordinating Council and its meetings (and any successor body and its meetings) so that the representative of the seminary would participate only in meetings at which major denominational issues and policies are dealt with and so that such meetings are normally held no more than four times per year.
2. Structure the annual budget and ministry-share approval process so that the seminary is dealt with separately from denominational agencies and is not included in the agency peer-review process. This would allow the process to focus on the special relationship between the seminary and the CRC.

*B. Observation*

Though the advisory committee is sympathetic to some of the concerns raised in this request, it observes that the request has not been formally presented to the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA and that the Board has not had opportunity to respond to it.

*C. Recommendation*

That synod advise the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees to present its request to the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 30.)

## **ARTICLE 27**

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 21.)

Advisory Committee 8, Church Order, Rev. Douglas R. Fauble reporting, presents the following:

## **I. Response to Overture 3: Take Several Actions Regarding the Role of Women in the Churches**

A. *Material*: Overture 3, pp. 390-92

### **B. Observations**

1. The use of the gifts of women has been underscored by past synodical statements.
2. An instance of not using women's gifts gives rise to this overture.
3. The advisory committee deems it regrettable that synod finds it necessary to remind itself to use the gifts of all the church's members, including women.

### **C. Recommendations**

1. That synod accede to Overture 3, B.

To "reaffirm the 1975, 1995, and 1996 synodical decisions regarding the use of women's gifts. (1975: the churches are encouraged 'to make all possible use, within biblical guidelines and the restrictions of the Church Order, of the talents and abilities of women in the work of the church.' 1995: 'boards, agencies, and . . . synods [are] to include in their committees persons that reflect the ethnic, gender, and racial diversity of our denomination and, where applicable, the range of opinion that exists in our denomination on a particular matter to be studied.' 1996: 'committees appointed to do the work of the denomination [are to] reflect its rich diversity.')"

*Ground*: An instance of the failure to use women's gifts is cited in the overture.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod accede to Overture 3, C.

To "instruct the denominational general secretary to distribute the 1975, 1995, and 1996 synodical decisions regarding the use of women's gifts to all synodical advisory committees and to orally remind any advisory committee of these decisions before it recommends a committee to the entire synod."

*Ground*: The denominational general secretary is in an important position to see to the implementation of the use of women's gifts in appropriate areas.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod not accede to Overture 3, A.

*Ground*: The Committee to Review the Decision re Women in Office for Synod 2000 at this point should have completed a substantial amount of its work. To add new members at this time would not be in the best interest of the committee's work.

—*Adopted*

## **II. Response to Overture 27: Suspend the Use of the Inactive-Member Category**

A. *Material*: Overture 27, pp. 438-39



## B. Observations

1. The advisory committee wishes to honor both the decision of Synod 1998 and the intent of Overture 27.
2. The advisory committee feels that Overture 27 arose out of a misinterpretation of the decision of Synod 1998.
3. Synod 1998 did not intend to create a new membership category.

## C. Recommendations

1. That synod not accede to Overture 27.

### *Grounds:*

- a. The definition of the term “inactive member” is sufficiently clear as stated in the *Agenda for Synod 1998* and is included on the *Yearbook* reporting form. Synod 1998’s action focused on counting for ministry-share purposes.

*Inactive* members are those baptized or confessing members who are declared by the consistory to have a relationship to the congregation which has ceased for one year or who for one year have not made faithful use of the means of grace, especially the hearing of the Word and the Lord’s Supper, unless there are extenuating circumstances (e.g., military service, residence in a nursing home) that makes such faithful use impossible.

*Note:* Continued encouragement of inactive members and, if necessary, their final removal from membership should follow Church Order procedures. The reporting should note whether these members are inactive baptized members or inactive confessing members.

(*Agenda for Synod 1998*, p. 215;  
*Acts of Synod 1998*, p. 410)

- b. Our church polity recognizes only two types of members: baptized members and confessing members. “Inactive” does not define a new membership category but is an adjective modifying the two existing categories.
- c. “Inactive” highlights the reality that, although there are only two types of members in the CRC, there are those members who need special pastoral care other than lapsing or official discipline. These members are not counted for ministry-share purposes. Further, these members are a subset of and not in a parallel category to baptized and confessing members.

—Adopted

2. That synod instruct the general secretary to utilize the terms “baptized member,” “baptized member (inactive),” “confessing member,” and “confessing member (inactive)” for purposes of reporting.

—Adopted

### III. Response to Overture 28: Permit a Variant Procedure for Admitting Children to the Lord's Supper

A. *Material*: Overture 28, pp. 439-43

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod not accede to Overture 28.

*Grounds:*

- a. Uniformity in practice is essential in matters of membership standards and of supervision of the Lord's Supper, especially in our mobile society. Church Order Article 59-a and 59-b provide sufficient flexibility for admitting children to the Lord's Supper.
- b. The alternative procedure proposed by the Ancaster CRC lessens the consistory's authority and responsibility to supervise the administration of the sacrament and places undue emphasis on parental responsibility in these matters.
- c. The suggested variant is at odds with Step 4 (*Acts of Synod 1995*, Art. 69, p. 720) of our current procedure, which requires a public profession of faith during a regular worship service before admission to the Lord's Supper.

—Adopted

2. That synod propose the following change to Church Order Article 59-b (underlined words added) :

Confessing members who have reached the age of 18 and who have made a commitment to the creeds of the Christian Reformed Church and the responsibilities of adult membership in the church shall be accorded the full rights and privileges of such membership upon a public reaffirmation of faith.

*Grounds:*

- a. The decision of Synod 1995 to have "each congregation devise an appropriate means for securing a commitment to the creeds . . . and to the responsibilities of adult membership" (*Acts of Synod 1995*, p. 720) does not guarantee that the commitment is made before the Lord and his people by way of a significant rite of passage liturgically celebrated.
- b. A reaffirmation of faith can take the place of the traditional profession of faith in the case of those who have become confessing members at an early age.

—Defeated

#### ARTICLE 28

Advisory Committee 6, Financial Matters, Elder Uko Zylstra reporting, presents the following:

##### I. Board of Trustees

A. *Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Supplement (Section IV, C-H)
2. *Agenda for Synod 1998—Financial and Business Supplement*

*B. Recommendations*

1. That synod approve a ministry share of \$237.46 per confessing member over 18 for calendar year 2000 (see Section IV, C).

The Back to God Hour	31.97
CRC-TV	11.47
Calvin College	25.80
Calvin Seminary	22.60
Canadian Ministries Board ministries	7.62
CRC Publications	2.35
Home Missions	50.16
World Missions	49.24
Denominational Services	
Synodical assembly, Board of Trustees, and general administration	18.80
Ministry programs	12.54
Abuse Prevention	
Chaplaincy Ministries	
Disability Concerns	
Pastor-Church Relations	
Race Relations	
Social Justice and Hunger Awareness	
Fund for Smaller Churches	<u>4.91</u>
	\$237.46

—Adopted

2. That synod approve the proposed salary ranges for 2000 (see Section IV, D).

Level	Proposed U.S. 2000 Range			Proposed Canadian 2000 Range		
	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum
20	\$72,103	\$90,129	\$108,154	\$92,878	\$116,008	\$139,317
19	\$65,602	\$82,001	\$98,402	\$80,574	\$100,717	\$120,861
18	\$60,125	\$75,156	\$90,186	\$70,208	\$87,761	\$105,313
17	\$55,504	\$69,381	\$83,256	\$61,465	\$76,831	\$92,198
16	\$51,637	\$64,546	\$77,456	\$54,146	\$67,683	\$81,219
15	\$48,397	\$60,497	\$72,595	\$48,014	\$60,017	\$72,020
14	\$42,482	\$53,102	\$63,723	\$42,831	\$53,538	\$64,246
13	\$37,522	\$46,902	\$56,282	\$38,479	\$48,098	\$57,718

*Note:* The shaded areas are not currently in use.

—Adopted

3. That synod approve the list of above-ministry-share and specially designated offerings for the agencies and institutions of the CRC and recommend these to the churches for consideration (see Section IV, E).

a. Denominational ministries

Abuse Prevention—above-ministry-share needs  
The Back to God Hour—above-ministry-share needs  
Calvin College—above-ministry-share needs

Calvin Theological Seminary

- 1) Above-ministry-share needs
- 2) Revolving Student Loan Fund

Canadian Ministries Board ministries—above-ministry-share needs

Chaplaincy Ministries—above-ministry-share needs

CRC Publications

—World Literature Ministries—above-ministry-share needs

CR Home Missions—above-ministry-share needs

CR World Missions—above-ministry-share needs

CR World Relief—one offering per quarter

Disability Concerns—above-ministry-share needs

Pastor-Church Relations—above-ministry-share needs

Race Relations—above-ministry-share needs

—Multiracial Student Scholarship Fund

- b. Denominationally related agencies recommended for one or more offerings

Dynamic Youth Ministries (formerly United Calvinist Youth)

- 1) GEMS (formerly Calvinettes)
- 2) Calvinist Cadet Corps
- 3) Youth Unlimited/Early Teens (Young Calvinist Federation)

—*Adopted*

4. That synod approve the list of accredited nondenominational agencies according to the designations assigned to each as recommended by the Board of Trustees (see Section IV, F).

United States agencies

- a. Benevolent agencies

Bethany Christian Services

Calvary Rehabilitation Center

Cary Christian Center

Christian Health Care Center

Elim Christian School

International Aid, Inc.

The Luke Society, Inc.

Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services

- b. Educational agencies

Center for Public Justice

Christian Schools International

Christian Schools International Foundation

Dordt College

Reformed Bible College

Rehoboth Christian School

Roseland Christian School

The King's University College (through the U.S. Foundation)

Trinity Christian College

Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia

Worldwide Christian Schools

c. Miscellaneous agencies

American Bible Society  
Audio Scripture Ministries  
Friendship Ministries  
Gideons International  
International Bible Society  
Lord's Day Alliance of the United States  
Metanoia Ministries  
Mission India  
Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE)  
The Bible League  
The Tract League  
Wycliffe Bible Translators

Canadian agencies

a. Benevolent agencies

Beginnings Counseling & Adoption Services of Ontario, Inc.

b. Educational agencies

Canadian Christian Education Foundation, Inc.  
Dordt College  
Institute for Christian Studies  
Redeemer Reformed Christian College  
Reformed Bible College  
The King's University College  
Trinity Christian College  
Worldwide Christian Schools—Canada

c. Miscellaneous agencies

Evangelical Fellowship of Canada  
Friendship Groups—Canada  
Gideons International—Canada  
International Bible Society—Canada  
The Bible League—Canada  
Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada, Inc.  
Work Research Foundation

—*Adopted*

## II. CRC Loan Fund

A. *Material:* CRC Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. Report, pp. 148-50

B. *Recommendation*

That the Loan Fund's executive director or any members of the board of directors of the Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. be given the privilege of the floor when matters pertaining to the Loan Fund are discussed.

—*Granted*

### III. Fund for Smaller Churches

A. *Material:* Fund for Smaller Churches Report, pp. 151-54

#### B. *Recommendations*

1. That the FSC secretary and treasurer be consulted on matters pertaining to FSC when considered either by synod or its advisory committee and that they be given the privilege of the floor. In the absence of either, we request the same privilege for other members of the committee.

—*Granted*

2. That the minimum salary for ministers serving churches receiving assistance from FSC be set at \$31,500 (\$30,000 in 1999) and that Canadian minimum salary be set at  $\$31,500 \times 120\% = \$37,800$  (see 10 below).

—*Adopted*

3. That a service increment be paid according to the following scale:

\$100 per year of service for years 1-10

\$150 per year of service for years 11-20

\$200 per year of service for years 21 and up

—*Adopted*

4. That a child allowance of \$600 continue to be granted for every unmarried child up to age 19 (age 23 if enrolled full-time at an educational institution in an undergraduate program).

—*Adopted*

5. That automobile expenses be reimbursed at the rate of .31 per mile (.31 per kilometer in Canada) times the percentage of ministry-share reduction granted ( $80 \text{ minus number of families} = \% \text{ reimbursement rate}$ ).

—*Adopted*

6. That an allowance of \$4,259 be granted each congregation which provides its minister with health/dental/life insurance. Insurance coverage of the pastor and family is mandatory for congregations receiving FSC assistance.

—*Adopted*

7. That salary allowance for stated supply be set at \$400 per week in the U.S. and \$480 per week in Canada (see 10 below).

—*Adopted*

8. That the contribution toward the minister's salary in congregations receiving assistance from FSC be not less than \$400 per communicant member for 2000 and, if possible, more.

—*Adopted*

9. That congregations in the U.S. receiving assistance from FSC pay a Social Security/Medicare offset to their pastor in the amount of at least \$3,150. Canadian congregations are encouraged to contribute similar amounts toward the pastor's medical expenses by means of a medical allowance for out-of-pocket medical expenses.

—*Adopted*

10. That FSC churches in the U.S. be assisted in the Social Security/Medicare offset in the amount of \$2,250 in 2000. This shall also be granted to Canadian churches provided the amount is designated for similar expenses.

—Adopted

11. That a cost-of-living differential of 20 percent be added to the minimum salary and allowances paid to pastors serving Canadian congregations assisted by FSC. The Canadian churches shall also contribute at a rate of 120 percent of the per communicant member contribution rate established for the U.S. churches for 2000 (\$480).

*Grounds:*

- a. The disparity in the cost of living between the U.S. and Canada makes such an adjustment necessary.
- b. Other denominational agencies give a differential to those employed in Canada.
- c. The precipitous drop in the value of the Canadian dollar warrants this adjustment.

—Adopted

12. That synod declare the continuing-education allowance for pastors in smaller churches to remain at \$400 for 2000. All pastors of churches with fewer than fifty families are eligible to apply for these funds. This educational allowance is not limited to those pastors serving churches receiving FSC grants.

—Adopted

13. That synod approve a Christian-education allowance for pastors in smaller churches of \$800 per child for each child attending a Christian school, grades K-12, for 2000.

—Adopted

#### **IV. Pensions and Insurance**

A. *Material:* Pensions and Insurance Report, pp. 170-78

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to members of the Canadian Pension Trustees and of the United States Board of Pensions and Insurance and to Mr. Kenneth J. Horjus when insurance matters and matters pertaining to pension plans for ministers and employees are discussed.

—Adopted

2. That synod designate up to 100 percent of a minister's early or normal retirement pension or disability pension for 1999 and 2000 as housing allowance for United States income-tax purposes (IRS Ruling 1.107-1) but only to the extent that the pension is used to rent or provide a home.

—Adopted

3. That synod receive as information items a and b (with their grounds) of the Pensions and Insurance report (*Agenda for Synod 1999*, pp. 172-73):

- a. That synod receive as information the action of the pension trustees which established the target for a combination of governmental benefits and the amount provided by the plans as “full benefit” for a “normal career” to be approximately 70 percent of the sum of the final average salary and the average housing allowance applicable in the year of retirement.

*Grounds:*

- 1) This level of income replacement is judged by the actuaries and others knowledgeable in the field as the level needed to sustain a reasonable level of postretirement needs.
- 2) The recommended percentage is consistent with the norms generally accepted by professional advisers practicing in the area of retirement planning.

—Adopted

- b. That synod receive as information the action of the pension trustees which defined a “normal career” (the period of service needed to earn the right to a “full benefit”) as approximately thirty-seven years of service in the ministry.

*Grounds:*

- 1) The plans are, first and foremost, devices to provide an adequate level of postretirement income to those having served a full career in service to the church.
- 2) Qualified persons frequently are attracted to the ministry after having some experience in other careers and, as such, enter the ministry later in life than generally has been the case in the past.
- 3) Those entering the ministry after service in other careers may not have had an opportunity to build any significant retirement assets and must look to their years in the ministry for this purpose.

—Adopted

4. That synod instruct the pension trustees to review and seriously consider the following two general concerns:
  - a. The level of postretirement income is inadequate and must be raised.
  - b. The level of survivors’ benefits paid to the spouses of participants should be raised.

These two general concerns lead to the following considerations:

- a. That the length of a “normal career” be adjusted downward from thirty-seven years.
- b. That the increase in benefits may require an increase in assessment for the pension funds.

*Grounds:*

- 1) Pension plans were intended to provide adequate provisions for retired ministers and their spouses.
- 2) Scripture calls us to be just and generous with regard to these specific issues (James 1:27; I Cor. 9:7-11).

—Adopted



5. That synod approve the recommendations concerning changes in the design of the pension plans and concerning a general rewriting of plan documents as set forth in items c through j of Section III, A, 4:

- a. That synod approve the recommendation of the pension boards to change the multiple used in the formula to determine pension benefits to 1.46 percent from 1.1 percent; that this change be given effect for service after December 31, 1999; and that pension benefits for ministers whose careers include the date January 1, 2000, be determined by applying 1.1 percent for all pensionable service through December 31, 1999, and 1.46 percent for all pensionable service after that date.

*Grounds:*

- 1) This change in the multiple used to calculate pension benefits is needed to achieve the 70 percent income-replacement target.
- 2) The phasing in of this change, achieved by adopting a January 1, 2000, date of conversion, will allow its effect to be spread over a period of years and will remove any incentive to artificially manage retirement dates.

—Adopted

Items b through h are considered in one motion:

- b. That synod approve the recommendation of the pension boards to change the amount of the survivors' benefit paid to the spouses of participants, whether these participants die before or after the date of retirement, to 66% percent from 80 percent.

Further, that synod approve the recommendation of the pension boards that this change be made effective January 1, 2000, with proration in the case of deceased participants whose careers span this date, and that such proration be determined on the basis of the period of active participation in the plan before and after January 1, 2000.

*Grounds:*

- 1) Canadian regulations presently require survivor benefits paid by the Canadian plan to conform to this recommendation. Administration of provisions of the Canadian plan which are at variance with this requirement present ongoing challenges.
  - 2) Survivor-benefit amounts equal to 66% percent of the deceased participant's benefits appear to be in line with what is commonly found in similar retirement plans.
- c. That synod approve the recommendation of the pension boards to discontinue the allowance currently provided by the plan for dependent children of persons experiencing total and permanent disability while in active service, effective for disabilities after December 31, 1999, and applicable to the participants' entire benefit for all years of service before and after that date.

*Grounds:*

- 1) The current dependent-allowance provision exceeds the amount allowed in Canada by pension regulators and presents an ongoing problem in the administration of that plan.

- 2) The Special Assistance Fund is available to provide assistance in cases of special need.
- d. That synod approve the recommendation of the pension boards that the U.S. plan pay to the estate of an unmarried participant who dies while in the active ministry an amount representing the computed value of the deceased minister's interest in the plan.

Further, that synod approve the recommendation of the pension boards that this change become effective January 1, 2000, and be applicable to the participant's entire benefit for all service before and after that date.

*Grounds:*

- 1) This provision has been included in the Canadian plan as required by regulation.
  - 2) While married persons benefit from the survivor-benefit provisions of the plan, unmarried participants do not. This provision will more closely align the survivor benefits of married and unmarried participants.
- e. That synod approve the recommendation of the pension boards to change the reduction in benefits associated with early retirement (beginning at age 55 and continuing through age 64) to .3 percent from .6 percent for each month by which the date of early retirement precedes age 65 and that this change be effective for all retirements on or after January 1, 2000, for all years of plan participation.

*Grounds:*

- 1) The current deep discount associated with early retirement is viewed by many plan participants as excessive and is out of step with practices generally followed by similar plans.
  - 2) This easing of the penalty associated with early retirement should not change the behaviors of those who continue to feel a call to serve the church. Those who, for whatever reason, do not feel so called are well served by provisions making early retirement possible.
- f. That synod approve the recommendation of the pension boards to increase benefits paid to retired participants by a factor of 2 percent of retirement benefits for each year of retirement (pro rata for a portion of a year) since the date of the most recent such adjustment (July 1, 1992) and through December 31, 1998.

Further, that synod approve the recommendation of the pension boards that such adjustment be made effective January 1, 1999, with appropriate lump-sum payment made for any period between January 1, 1999, and the date this recommendation is implemented.

*Grounds:*

- 1) While the plan does not contain any provision for indexing of benefits, retired participants do experience increases in the cost of essential living expenses and are in need of some adjustment to retirement income to offset these increased expenses.

- 2) We have been advised by the plans' actuaries that 2 percent is approximately equal to the increase in cost of living in the U.S. and Canada during this period.
  - 3) Calculating the adjustment based on the number of years of retirement since the date of the most recent such adjustment will provide the greatest increase to those who have gone the longest without any adjustment and very little, if any, increase to those whose retirement is very recent.
- g. That synod approve the recommendation of the pension boards that the provisions of the plans require the trustees, at least every three years, to consider whether any adjustment should be made to the benefits paid to retired participants for the effects of changes in living costs or in consideration of such other factors as the trustees may believe appropriate in the circumstances.

*Ground:* The plan should contain some provision to regularize consideration of the effects of changes in the living costs of retired participants and the financial ability of the plan to provide some relief.

- h. That synod authorize the trustees to undertake a general rewriting of the plans to incorporate all substantive changes and all housekeeping and compliance changes previously made and not yet incorporated in the language of the plan documents, to clarify ambiguities, and to make the language of the two plans conform to each other as much as possible.

*Grounds:*

- 1) Certain changes to the plans approved by prior synods, although properly considered in the day-to-day administration of the plans, are not adequately reflected in the language of the plan documents.
- 2) In the view of the professionals serving the plans, the language and construction of the plans should be improved in the interest of greater clarity and administrative efficiency.
- 3) Seemingly unintended differences between the U.S. and Canadian plans complicate the administration of the plans and frustrate the desire to have these plans, to the extent possible, mirror each other.

—*Adopted*

## **V. Response to Overture 4: Develop a Policy re Short- and Long-Term Disability for Ministers of the Word**

A. *Material:* Overture 4, pp. 392-94

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod instruct the BOT in consultation with the pension funds trustees to examine the requests of this overture and to report back to Synod 2000.

—*Adopted*

2. That this constitute synod's response to Overture 4.

—*Adopted*

## **VI. Response to Overture 17: Urge Involvement in the Jubilee 2000 Campaign; Response to Overture 18: Adopt Statement re Jubilee 2000**

### **A. Materials**

1. Overture 17, pp. 425-28
2. Overture 18, pp. 428-32
3. Interchurch Relations Committee Supplement, II, B, 1, pp. 487-88

### **B. Recommendations**

1. That synod affirm the Resolution on International Debt made by the Ministries Coordinating Council (MCC) on December 7, 1998. This resolution is provided here for information:

In the context of increasing public discussion of debt cancellation for the poorest Third World countries and in the light of recommendations made by the Coordinating Council for Church in Society, it is the sense of MCC that:

While the causes of poverty are many and complex, the crushing international debt carried by many Third World countries very much affects the poor and, for Christians, is a serious matter.

Therefore,

- We encourage the coordinator for social justice and hunger action, in collaboration with CRC agencies and institutions, to engage in a program of awareness raising and education within our denomination.
- We encourage staff to implement educational and discussion activities around the denomination, paying particular attention to including a wide variety of Christian scholars, activists, and other interested Christians, as well as those institutions particularly focused on issues of justice. Further, we suggest that representatives of the Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC) churches and development partners in the Third World be purposefully included in these discussions.
- We encourage staff to develop educational materials specific to our denomination while at the same time disseminating appropriate materials from other organizations such as Bread for the World, Citizens for Public Justice (Canada) and Center for Public Justice (U.S.), Jubilee 2000 (Canada, U.S., and International), and others that may come to our attention.
- We encourage staff to present to individuals and groups within the CRC appropriate opportunities for involvement in efforts such as the Jubilee 2000 petition drive, the Bread for the World offering of letters, and other efforts consistent with our commitments.

#### **Grounds:**

- a. The CRCNA has been studying the issues of poverty and hunger for decades. It is well equipped to develop a program of education and to encourage its members concerning the issues of hunger and poverty.
- b. The church is called to speak and act in behalf of the poor.

—*Adopted*

2. That this constitutes synod's response to Overtures 17 and 18 and to IRC Recommendation II, B, 1.

—*Adopted*

### **ARTICLE 29**

The afternoon session is adjourned; Rev. Stephen R. Steenstra leads in closing prayer.

## **TUESDAY EVENING, June 15, 1999**

### **Fifth Session**

#### **ARTICLE 30**

Rev. John J. Hoogland reads from Micah 7:18-19 and leads in opening prayer.

#### **ARTICLE 31**

#### **Seminary faculty appointment: Dr. Lyle D. Bierma**

A. *Material:* Calvin Theological Seminary Report, p. 100

Dr. Lyle D. Bierma, nominee for the position of Professor of Systematic Theology, is introduced to synod by Rev. Joel R. Boot. Rev. Cecil Van Niejenhuis interviews Dr. Bierma for approximately thirty minutes. After the interview Dr. Bierma responds to questions from the floor.

#### *B. Recommendation*

That synod approve the appointment of Dr. Lyle D. Bierma as Professor of Systematic Theology for three years, 1999-2002.

Synod enters into executive session.

The recommendation is

—*Adopted*

Synod returns to open session.

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 53.)

#### **ARTICLE 32**

The evening session is adjourned; Elder Kenneth Stoub reads from the Belgic Confession, Articles 29-32, and leads in closing prayer.

## **WEDNESDAY MORNING, June 16, 1999**

### **Sixth Session**

#### **ARTICLE 33**

Rev. John D. Suk, editor in chief of *The Banner*, reads from John 1:1-14 and leads in opening prayer, especially remembering Ms. Irene Tigchelaar (sister-in-law of Rev. Bert Slofstra), who will undergo surgery today for cancer, and Mr. Jim Keegstra (brother-in-law of Mr. Gary Mulder), who has been diagnosed with cancer. He announces *Psalter Hymnal* 279, "O Word of God Incarnate."

Mr. Gary Mulder, executive director of CRC Publications, briefly addresses synod. He informs the delegates of the activities and long-range plans of CRC Publications. He reports that it is the largest publisher in the world of Reformed written materials in Spanish. He presents some of the challenges of the agency and also notes some accomplishments, including the translation of Calvin's *Institutes* into the Russian language and a new design for *The Banner*.

The president responds, expressing gratitude to Mr. Mulder, Rev. Suk, and their coworkers for their efforts.

The roll call indicates that Elder Paul C. Szto is absent. Rev. Shawn Brix (Huron) replaces Rev. Kevin De Raaf. He rises to express agreement with the forms of unity.

## ARTICLE 34

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Bert Slofstra reporting, presents the following:

### I. Interchurch Relations Committee (IRC)

#### A. *Materials*

1. Interchurch Relations Committee Report, pp. 187-221
2. Interchurch Relations Committee Supplement

#### B. *Observations*

The contemporary testimony *Our World Belongs to God* confesses our grief over the brokenness of the church which Christ called to be one as well as our joy over surprising evidences of our unity. Both such grief and such joy were expressed as the advisory committee on interdenominational matters met for several hours with the president of the IRC, Rev. Edward Van Baak, and its administrative secretary, Rev. Leonard J. Hofman.

The IRC report mentions as two freshly experienced examples of brokenness the suspension of CRC membership in NAPARC at its meeting in November 1998 and the decision by the Reformed Churches of New Zealand in October 1998 to terminate its relationship with us—both over their disagreement with CRC decisions relating to women in office.

At the same time, the report tells of other evidences of greater unity. For example, communication via dialogue and visits has been reopened after many years with the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (GKN) and the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa (DRCSA). Dialogue has been welcomed and begun with representatives of the Roman Catholic Church regarding its official doctrine of the mass.

The IRC report gives clear evidence of how diligently this committee works on behalf of the CRC in developing ecumenical communication and thereby seeks to fulfill Christ's prayer in John 17 that God's church might be one. The advisory committee notes in addition that, though the IRC was not able to present synod with a completed Ecumenical Charter, as it had been mandated to do by Synod 1998 (see Supplement, V), it was able to provide the committee with a draft copy.

#### C. *Recommendations*

1. That Rev. Edward A. Van Baak (president), Dr. Henry Zwaanstra (vice president), Rev. Leonard J. Hofman (administrative secretary), and Dr. Lyle Bierma (IRC member), along with other IRC members as necessary, be given the privilege of the floor when matters pertaining to the IRC are discussed.

—*Granted*

2. That synod approve the following six persons to serve as delegates to the meeting of the Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC) to be held in Jakarta on July 14-28, 2000:

Mrs. Claire Elgersma, voting delegate  
Rev. Ruth M. Hofman, nonvoting/alternate delegate  
Dr. David H. Engelhard, voting delegate  
Rev. Leonard J. Hofman, nonvoting/alternate delegate  
Rev. Jason Chen, voting delegate  
Rev. Richard E. Williams, nonvoting/alternate delegate

—*Adopted*

3. That synod withhold action on the IRC recommendation to approve Dr. Peter Borgdorff, executive director of ministries, and Mr. Ray Elgersma, Canadian ministries director, to serve as advisers to REC Jakarta 2000.

*Ground:* Their appointment and its required funding are not the responsibility of the IRC.

—*Adopted*

4. That the IRC include for information in its annual report to synod its budget and its annual goals for the use of that budget.

*Ground:* This will enable synod to better evaluate the feasibility of IRC recommendations.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod thank Rev. Edward A. Van Baak, who has been a member of the IRC for six years and has served as its president for four of those six years, for his diligent work on behalf of the denomination in the ministry of encouraging and developing interchurch relations.

—*Adopted*

The general secretary responds, expressing gratitude to Rev. Van Baak for his years of dedicated service.

6. That synod vote by ballot on the following nominations for reelection to the IRC: Dr. Lyle Bierma and Rev. Jason Chen, both of whom have served one term and are eligible for reelection.

—*Adopted*

## **II. Reformed Churches of Australia (RCA)**

### **A. Materials**

1. IRC Report, p. 193
2. Appendix C, pp. 205-18

### **B. Observations**

In April 1998 the IRC received a letter from the Reformed Churches of Australia asking that our church study a gravamen received by the RCA re the statement in the Apostles' Creed "he descended into hell." Along with the original text of the gravamen, the IRC received a copy of the report and the decisions the RCA made in 1997 in response to the gravamen. In keeping with the fifth provision of ecclesiastical fellowship, namely, "communication on

major issues of joint concern,” the IRC appointed a subcommittee to study the RCA materials and present a report to the IRC. The IRC now forwards this report to synod, asking that synod review the report, adopt its six recommendations, and respond to the RCA.

### C. *Recommendation*

That synod refer the report of the IRC on the gravamen from the Reformed Churches of Australia back to the IRC for revision and for submission to Synod 2000. In the meantime, IRC may relate its study progress to the RCA.

*Ground:* The report requires correction, refinement, and clarification. For example, the advisory committee finds that

1. In Section III (pp. 210-13) on the historical, theological, and exegetical considerations, it would be more helpful to deal with the meaning of the clause “he descended into hell” prior to discussing scriptural support for this creedal affirmation. It is not entirely clear from Parts A and B of Section III that the creedal clause is never to be understood in the sense of Christ descending to hell as the place of eternal punishment.
2. The scriptural support adduced in Section III, A (p. 210) seems inadequate. More careful exegesis of the relevant passages is needed to support the claims made.
3. Section III, D (p. 213) incorrectly states that confusion over the creedal clause can arise because the English word *hell* can have at least two distinct referents. It seems to us that confusion arises because the English word *hell* has only one distinct contemporary referent, namely, “the place of eternal punishment.”
4. The response to Objection 2 (p. 214), suggesting that we should read and understand Scripture in light of the churchly context, is either contrary to Reformed hermeneutics or unclear.
5. The response to Objection 3 (p. 214), that the creedal reference to *hell* indicates the place of final punishment, fails to consider that a better English translation of the word *hell* would be a solution to the problem.
6. The response to Objection 5 (p. 214) does not meet the objection head on but refers more to what tradition has said rather than to what Scripture says.
7. Recommendation B, 2 (p. 216), along with Ground a, seems to us to be demeaning and patronizing as well as unnecessary to the intent of the RCA request. There is in fact a legitimate ground for the original gravamen, namely, the understanding of the word *hell* in contemporary culture. In addition, Ground c of this recommendation states that “this article [is] rooted in Scripture”—a claim which has not been substantiated in the report (see 2 above).
8. Contrary to Recommendation B, 5 (p. 217), we see good reason to ask the REC for advice, and we view a better English translation of the relevant creedal clause as a possible solution to the problem of the original gravamen. We also note that Ground b of this same recommendation again suggests that there are several biblical passages that lend “significant” support to the teaching embodied in the creedal clause, whereas, as we have already stated, we find that at best there may be only limited biblical support for it.

—Adopted



### **III. Response to Overtures 1 and 2: Appoint a Study Committee to Examine Abortion- and Pregnancy-Related Issues and Appoint a Commission to Consider Ethical and Theological Issues**

#### **A. Materials**

1. Overture 1, p. 389
2. Overture 2, p. 390

#### **B. Observations**

While Overtures 1 and 2 differ in language, the advisory committee judged that the intent of both was the same, and a meeting with representatives of the two classes bringing the overtures confirmed our judgment. Overture 1 asks synod to appoint a study committee to examine abortion- and pregnancy-related issues and offer pastoral advice to the church. Overture 2 requests synod to appoint and fund a commission to consider the theological and ethical issues raised by the increasing capabilities and recent discoveries in bioscience and genetic engineering. Overture 1 is more focused on specific issues; Overture 2 is broader in scope. Both, however, ask that the church become more thoroughly acquainted with and respond biblically and pastorally to the rapidly developing field of biomedical research and its direct implications for church members.

#### **C. Recommendations**

1. That synod appoint a study committee consisting of pastors, theologians, scientists, and others to examine the biblical/theological/ethical issues raised by the increasing capabilities and recent discoveries in bioscience and genetic engineering; specifically to provide pastoral advice to the churches on issues such as in vitro fertilization, surrogate pregnancy, artificial insemination by donor, birth-control methods (RU486, IUD), abortion in cases of rape and fetal deformity, harvesting of fetal tissue, and cloning and to report to Synod 2002.

##### *Grounds:*

- a. Since the 1972 report on abortion, which has served the church well, many new issues related to abortion and pregnancy have arisen.
- b. The church is in need of pastoral advice in these areas because many of our members wrestle with these issues.
- c. These issues are too big for any one church or classis to deal with by itself.
- d. There is precedent for the church being served with synodical advice on social-ethical issues such as gambling (cf. *Acts of Synod 1990*, pp. 609-13, 629; *Acts of Synod 1992*, pp. 639-40, 655-57), abortion (cf. *Acts of Synod 1972*, pp. 63-64, 479-84), and pornography (cf. *Acts of Synod 1988*, pp. 605-07).

—*Adopted*

2. That this be synod's response to Overtures 1 and 2.

—*Adopted*

#### **ARTICLE 35**

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services, Rev. Jack M. Gray reporting, presents the following:

## I. Board of Trustees

### A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report, pp. 19-86 (except Sections II, A, 1 and 2 and II, C, 2)
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (except Section IV)
3. Synodical deputies' reports
4. Notification of retirements

### B. Recommendations

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Mr. William Weidenaar, chairman of the board; Dr. David Engelhard, general secretary; Dr. Peter Borgdorff, executive director of ministries; and Mr. Kenneth Horjus, director of finance and administration, when matters pertaining to the Board of Trustees are discussed.

—*Granted*

2. That synod approve the interim appointments made by the Board to the agency and institutional boards.

#### a. Board appointments

Board	Classis	Member	Alternate	Term
Synodical Deputies	Grandville		Rev. A.J. Schoonveld	
	Hackensack		Rev. R.E. Orellana	
	Minnkota		Rev. L.J. Christoffels	
	Muskegon	Rev. A.L. Hoksbergen	Rev. R.L. Bierenga	2001
	Pacific Hanmi	Rev. S.J. Kang	Rev. S.W. Yoon	2001
CRC Publications	Pacific Northwest	Rev. K.D. Koeman		2000
	Alberta North		Rev. W.A. Ten Harmsel	
	Arizona		Mr. P Kuczynski	
	Greater L.A.		Ms. J. Beezhold	
	Heartland	Rev. M.D. Fopma		2002
	Illiana	Mr. R. Wunderink	Rev. M.J. Jonkman	2001
	Pella	Mrs. G. Nieuwsma	Mr. E. Vande Pol	2001
	Toronto	Mrs. H. Roukema	Mrs. I. Simpson	2001
	Yellowstone		Mr. T. Horner	
	Arizona		Rev. J.A. Dykema	
Home Missions	Greater L.A.		Ms. R. Van Dyk	
	Iakota		Rev. B.J. Haan, Jr.	
	Northern Michigan		Rev. P.R. Byma	
	Pacific Northwest		Rev. M.J. Kooy	
	Hackensack	Rev. T.G. Klassen		2001
World Missions	Hudson		Rev. J.C. Fisher	
	Iakota		Rev. S. Scripps	
	Wisconsin		Mr. R. Kok	
	Zeeland		Rev. R.J. Meyer	
	Alberta South/			
CRWRC	Saskatchewan		Mr. G. Lubberts	
	Arizona		Mr. W. Rosema	
	Hackensack		Mr. C. Mast	
	Illiana		Mr. D. Lyzenga	
	Pacific Northwest		Ms. G. Visser	

b. Calvin Theological Seminary

1) Far West U.S. I

Appointment of Rev. Daniel Brink as alternate to Rev. Alfred Lindemulder. Rev. Donald Klompeen resigned as board member, and Rev. A. Lindemulder replaced him as member.

2) Great Plains

Appointment of Rev. William Zeilstra as alternate to Rev. Roger Kramer. Dr. Dean Deppe (appointment to Calvin Theological Seminary faculty) resigned, and Rev. R. Kramer replaced him as member.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod express its appreciation to the retiring members of the Board—Rev. Jake Kuipers and Mr. William Wildeboer—for their service to the church.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod ratify the following regular members and alternate members elected to become members of the Board for three-year terms beginning July 1, 1999:

Far West U.S. I

Rev. R. Slim

Rev. D.W. Vander Veen, alternate

Far West U.S. II

Dr. T. Van Groningen

Mrs. P. Medema

Great Plains

Mr. H. Van Maanen

Mrs. B. Ackerman

Central U.S.

Rev. D.L. Kelderman

Rev. H. Admiraal

Eastern U.S.

Rev. S.J. Workman

Dr. B.A. Averill

Eastern Canada I (clergy)

Rev. Edward Den Haan

Rev. Jerry J. Hoytema, alternate

—*Adopted*

5. That synod adopt the Denominational-Membership Mailing List Policy presented in Appendix B (*Agenda for Synod 1999*, pp. 41-43).

—*Adopted*

6. That synod receive the Report of the Board of Trustees' Evaluation Committee (Appendix C, *Agenda for Synod 1999*, pp. 43-51) and the Report of the Board of Trustees' Subcommittee on Evaluation (Appendix D, *Agenda for Synod 1999*, pp. 52-53) as information. The advisory committee takes special note of the independent character of the evaluation and due diligence given to the concerns raised by Synod 1998.

—*Received as information*

7. That synod receive the Conflict-of-Interest and Disclosure Policy (Appendix E, *Agenda for Synod 1999*, pp. 53-56) as information.  
—*Received as information*
8. That synod receive the condensed financial statements (Appendix F, *Agenda for Synod 1999*, pp. 57-86) of the agencies and institutions as information.  
—*Received as information*
9. That synod adopt the BOT recommendation that the convening time for the opening session of Synod 2000 be advanced from 4:00 p.m. on June 10 to 10:00 a.m. on June 10, 2000.  
  
*Ground:* The combination of a heavy agenda and the loss of working hours that will result from joint participation with the Multiethnic Conference requires an earlier opening for Synod 2000.  
—*Adopted*

## II. Ministerial retirements

### A. Information

Synod has received notice of the following ministerial retirements:

Minister	Classis	Effective Date
Dirksen, Willem D.	Huron	July 1, 1999
Draayer, Sidney	Grand Rapids East	June 1, 1999
Entingh, Henry G.	Grand Rapids North	September 1, 1998
Evenhouse, James M.	Northern Michigan	September 1, 1999
Hielema, Jack S.	B.C. North-West	May 1, 1999
Holtrop, Philip C.	Grand Rapids East	August 1, 1999
Jongsma, Allan H.	Georgetown	May 1, 1999
Kwantes, Harry J.	Grand Rapids South	January 1, 1999
Mantel, James S.	Alberta North	January 1, 2000
Park, James Jungkyu	California South	August 1, 1999
Tanis, Leverne K.	Central California	January 1, 1999
*Van Beek, Donald J.	Grand Rapids North	July 1, 1998
Vander Windt, Harry A.	Niagara	April 30, 1999
Van Dyk, Frederick J.	Grand Rapids North	June 30, 1998
Vos, Jack B.	Toronto	September 30, 1999
Vugteveen, Jochem	Hackensack	September 30, 1998
*Zimmerman, Douglas R.	Grandville	November 15, 1998
*Medical disability		

### B. Recommendations

1. That synod acknowledge with profound gratitude the faithful labors of these ministers. Their combined years of service total 562.  
—*Adopted*
2. That the vice president of synod offer a prayer of thanksgiving for their many years of faithful, dedicated service.  
—*Adopted*

Vice president Rev. Stanley Mast leads the assembly in prayer, thanking God for the dedication, the gifts given them, and the many years of service of these ministers of the Word.

### III. Work of synodical deputies

#### A. Classical examination of candidates

Synodical deputies report their concurrence with the decisions of classes to admit the following to the office of minister of the Word:

Candidate	Classis	Synodical Deputies and Classes
John T. Aasman	Grand Rapids South (10-15-98)	S.E. Hoezee, Grand Rapids East G.W. Sheeres, Thornapple Valley D.A. Warners, Grand Rapids North
Philip A. Apoll	Toronto (9-24-98)	H.R. De Bolster, Hamilton H. Vander Plaats, Niagara H.J. Bierman, Huron
Steven G. Baarda	Chatham (9-15-98)	H.R. De Bolster, Hamilton R. Kooops, Huron H.D. Praamsma, Toronto
Amanda J. Benckhuysen	Lake Erie (10-3-98)	S.E. Hoezee, Grand Rapids East G.W. Sheeres, Thornapple Valley J.J. Steigenga, Grand Rapids South
Raymond A. Blacketer	Grand Rapids South (8-27-98)	S.E. Hoezee, Grand Rapids East G.W. Sheeres, Thornapple Valley F.J. Van Dyk, Grand Rapids North
Rozanne Meyer Bruins	Grand Rapids East (1-21-99)	J.R. Boot, Georgetown J.H. Looman, Kalamazoo G. Bouma, Thornapple Valley
Robert J. Byker	Muskegon (9-24-98)	J.J. Steigenga, Grand Rapids South G. Bouma, Thornapple Valley T.J. Lapinsky, Georgetown
Peter R. Byma	Northern Michigan (8-26-98)	J.L. Alferink, Zeeland G.W. Sheeres, Thornapple Valley F.J. Van Dyk, Grand Rapids North
Gerard D. de Vuyst	Grand Rapids East (7-9-98)	J.H. Looman, Kalamazoo J.P. Gorter, Grandville J. Vander Plate, Muskegon
I.S. Gho	Grand Rapids East (6-25-98)	G.W. Sheeres, Thornapple Valley J.H. Looman, Kalamazoo A.L. Hoksbergen, Muskegon
David J. Jeltema	Greater Los Angeles (9-15-98)	G.P. Hutt, Columbia F.E. Pott, Arizona G.G. Vink, Central California
Kevin L. Jordan	Northcentral Iowa (9-8-98)	J.G. Busscher, Lake Superior L.J. Howerzyl, Pella D.W. De Groot, Iakota
William J. Kempkes	B.C. South-East (9-18-98)	H.G. Samplonius, Alberta North J. Corvers, Alberta South/Sask. H. Jonker, B.C. North-West
Victor Y. Ko	Kalamazoo (5-11-99)	H.J. Schutt, Illiana R. Opperwall, Grand Rapids East W.J. Dykstra, Lake Erie
Timothy A. Kuperus	Grandville (9-17-98)	S.E. Hoezee, Grand Rapids East J.J. Steigenga, Grand Rapids South T.J. Lapinsky, Georgetown

Leonard A. Kuyvenhoven	Hudson (9-23-98)	S.J. Vander Klay, Atlantic Northeast B. van Eyk, Hackensack W.J. Dykstra, Lake Erie
Henry E. Persenaire- Hogeterp	Grand Rapids South (8-6-98)	G.W. Sheeres, Thornapple Valley S.E. Hoezee, Grand Rapids East F.J. Van Dyk, Grand Rapids North
Alejandro Pimentel	Grand Rapids North (5-18-99)	G. Bouma, Thornapple Valley S.E. Hoezee, Grand Rapids East J.J. Steigenga, Grand Rapids South
William R. Sytsma	Grand Rapids South (8-27-98)	S.E. Hoezee, Grand Rapids East G.W. Sheeres, Thornapple Valley F.J. Van Dyk, Grand Rapids North
Arthur J. Van Wolde	Lake Superior (9-29-98)	T.J. Brown, Minnesota South D.A. Zylstra, Northcentral Iowa D.W. De Groot, Iakota
David K. Watson	Hackensack (10-20-98)	W.J. Dykstra, Lake Erie R.E. Van Hofwegen, Southeast U.S. J.G. Keizer, Hudson
Erick D. Westra	Greater Los Angeles (2-16-99)	S.J. Kang, Pacific Hanmi F.E. Pott, Arizona G.G. Vink, Central California

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—*Adopted*

#### *B. Classical Examinations under Article 7*

1. Synodical deputies M.A. Davies (Southeast U.S.), J.L. Vande Lune (Atlantic Northeast), and J.J. Hoogland (Hudson), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of Jersey City Mission (Iglesia Cristiana Reformada), having considered the need, and having understood that as an evangelist Mr. Edwin R. Arevalo has already been given licensure to exhort in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7 and its supplement, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on March 2, 1999, to grant **Mr. Edwin R. Arevalo** until September 1999 to enter a probationary period during which he displays his gifts for ministry throughout the churches of the classis.
2. Synodical deputies T.J. Brown (Minnkota), J.M. Gray (Heartland), and L.J. Howerzyl (Pella), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of Corsica, South Dakota, Christian Reformed Church, having considered the need, and having heard the examination to ascertain the presence of the required qualifications as stated in Church Order Article 7 and its supplement, concur in the decision of Classis Iakota, in session on March 2, 1999, to grant **Mr. Willie Gesch** permission to continue exhorting in Christian Reformed churches until September 1999.

#### *Statement of need:*

- a. The large number of vacancies in the Christian Reformed Church at the present time.
- b. The difficulty of rural churches especially in finding pastors willing to serve them.

*Deputies' comments:* Some evidence of Mr. Gesch's special giftedness has been presented. We encourage a careful examination of his gifts in a variety of settings.

3. Synodical deputies W.J. Dykstra (Lake Erie), J.J. Hoogland (Hudson), and J. Vande Lune (Atlantic Northeast), having considered the gifts of the applicant and having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 22, 1998, to admit **Ms. Sheila Holmes** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies J.R. Boot (Georgetown), J.P. Gorter (Grandville), and J.W. Uitvlugt (Zeeland) concur in the decision of Classis Holland, in session on October 1, 1998, to proceed toward the ordination of **Mr. Robert Pohler** as minister of the Word under the provision of Church Order Article 7.
5. Synodical deputies J.R. Boot (Georgetown), A.L. Hoksbergen (Muskegon), and J.H. Looman (Kalamazoo), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Holland, in session on March 25, 1999, to admit **Mr. Robert Pohler** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* The deputies named above concur in this decision provided that prior to the examination for ordination the classical interim committee of Classis Holland, the council of Faith CRC, Holland, and the academic office of Calvin Theological Seminary meet with Mr. Pohler and devise a mutually agreeable program equivalent to a year's worth of training at Calvin Theological Seminary to supplement Mr. Pohler's currently held M.A. degree.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—*Adopted*

6. Synodical deputies H.J. Bierman (Huron), W.T. Koopmans (Quinte), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having considered the gifts of the applicant and having heard the examination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on October 23, 1998, to declare **Mr. Hilbrent Vander Heide** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
7. Synodical deputies D.R. Tigchelaar (Chatham), J. De Jong (Niagara), and J. Zantingh (Hamilton), having heard the discussion at Classis Huron and having been assured that the applicant (**Mr. Vic Vandermolen**) possesses gifts for ministry, concur in the decision of Classis Huron, in session on September 9, 1998, that there is a **need** for this applicant to enter the ministry of the Word under Church Order Article 7.

*Deputies' comment:* Classis may proceed with the preparatory examination of Mr. Vic Vandermolen on the condition that the medical and psychological reports are favorable.

8. Synodical deputies J. Zantingh (Hamilton) and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having considered the gifts of the applicant and having heard the examination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Huron, in session on January 13, 1999, to declare **Mr. Vic Vandermolen** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:*

- a. The synodical deputy for Classis Niagara, Rev. J. De Jong, and his alternate were prevented by a snowstorm from attending classis. However, a conference call was arranged, and J. De Jong concurred in the decision.
- b. The synodical deputies encouraged Mr. Vandermolen to continue to take courses and guided readings, especially in the areas of preaching and dogmatics.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 39.)

#### ARTICLE 36

Rev. James Dekker introduces Rev. David Lee, fraternal observer from the Christian Reformed Church in Cuba, who addresses synod. Rev. Dekker serves as translator. The president of synod responds.

The general secretary welcomes and introduces Dr. Henry Wildeboer, president of the Canadian Interchurch Relations Committee. Dr. Wildeboer introduces the following:

Rev. James Moerman of Cambridge, Ontario, fraternal delegate from the Reformed Church in America, who addresses synod.

Mr. Gary R. Walsh, observer and president of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, who addresses synod.

Ms. Janet Somerville, observer and general secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches, who addresses synod.

The president of synod responds.

Rev. Edward Van Baak, president of the Interchurch Relations Committee, welcomes and introduces Dr. Richard L. van Houten, general secretary of the Reformed Ecumenical Council, who addresses synod. The president of synod responds.

#### ARTICLE 37

The morning session is adjourned; Elder Jack L. Mudde leads in closing prayer.

### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, June 16, 1999

#### Seventh Session

#### ARTICLE 38

Rev. Shawn Sikkema, president of the Board of Home Missions, announces *Psalter Hymnal* 510, "I Love Your Church, O Lord," and reads from John 15:1-7.



He leads in opening prayer and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 530, “I Love to Tell the Story.

Rev. John Rozeboom, executive director of Home Missions, briefly addresses synod, informing the delegates of activities and plans of Home Missions. He states that in new-church development, 205 churches remain out of the 240 churches that were started. Since 1988, 31,015 persons have been brought into the Christian Reformed Church through evangelism in the United States and Canada.

The president of synod responds.

The vice president assumes the chair.

## ARTICLE 39

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 35.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services, Rev. Jack M. Gray reporting, presents the following:

### Work of synodical deputies

#### A. *Material*: Synodical deputies' reports

#### *Classical examinations via Church Order Article 7 (continued)*

9. Synodical deputies J.P. Gorter (Grandville), J.R. Boot (Georgetown), and J.W. Uitvlugt (Zeeland) read the materials submitted by the council of Harderwyk CRC, considered the need, heard the discussion on the floor of Classis Holland, and met with representatives of the interim committee of classis and with delegates from Harderwyk CRC. The deputies concur in the decision of Classis Holland, in session on October 1, 1998, to proceed with the examination of **Mr. Trent Walker** for ordination as a minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church by way of Article 7 of the Church Order. The deputies believe that the need has been established and that the exceptional gifts of Mr. Walker have been demonstrated.

#### *Grounds:*

1. Mr. Walker has an M.Div. degree from a Reformed seminary and has ten years of experience in full-time ministry, seven of which have been in a CRC.
2. Broader ministry in the CRCNA has already been taking place, such as speaking at functions hosted by CRCs and CRC-affiliated agencies.
3. Extraordinary gifts of ministry have been confirmed, especially for a unique church-planting ministry, for which there is a need in the CRCNA.

*Note:* Because of uniqueness of this situation, it should not set a precedent concerning the one-year Special Program for Ministerial Candidacy at Calvin Theological Seminary.

10. Synodical deputies J.P. Gorter (Grandville), J.R. Boot (Georgetown), and J.W. Uitvlugt (Zeeland), having heard the examination for the call and ordination of Mr. Trent Walker, according to Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Holland, in session on October 1, 1998,

to admit **Mr. Trent Walker** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

**B. Recommendations**

1. That synod not approve the work of the synodical deputies.

*Grounds:*

- a. This candidate should have sought ordination under Article 6.
- b. There was a breakdown in the proper application of the Church Order at every level.

2. That synod continue to recognize his ordination.

*Ground:* For pastoral and practical reasons his ordination ought not be undone.

*Note:* Synod cannot approve synodical-deputy concurrence when an action is in clear conflict with the covenant of the Church Order.

3. That synod direct the Classical Interim Committee of Classis Holland, the council of Harderwyk Christian Reformed Church, and the academic office of Calvin Theological Seminary to meet with Rev. Trent Walker to devise a mutually agreed upon program equivalent to the Special Program for Ministerial Candidacy (SPMC) in keeping with Church Order Supplement, Article 6. It is expected that this program will be completed in three years.

*Grounds:*

- a. This assures compliance with synod's regulations regarding graduates of other seminaries.
- b. This assures equitable treatment for all graduates of other seminaries.
- c. This is consistent with the action of Classis Holland and the synodical deputies in the case of Robert Pohler (see 5 above)

According to the Rules for Synodical Procedure, the minority report is read as information by Elder Michael J. Van Laan:

**Synodical deputies' reports**

- A. Material:** Synodical deputies' report regarding Mr. Trent Walker

**B. Recommendation**

While the procedure followed for the candidacy of Trent Walker presents synod with a questionable application of Church Order 7, we advise synod to approve the work of the synodical deputies to admit Trent Walker to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Grounds:*

1. The church and the gospel message are best served by a positive affirmation of Trent Walker's ordination to the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. The action taken is within the parameters set forth by Synod 1998 to Classis Holland concerning the eligibility for ordination to the ministry of Trent Walker.

3. While it concerns us that this candidate chose not to attend the one-year Special Program for Ministerial Candidacy at Calvin Theological Seminary, we acknowledge that the argument has been made that Article 7 may apply in this case.

Synod considers the recommendation of the minority report.  
The recommendation of the minority report is

—*Adopted*

*Note:* This action should not set a precedent concerning the one-year Special Program for Ministerial Candidacy at Calvin Theological Seminary because of the uniqueness of this situation.

President Wayne A. Brouwer reassumes the chair.

*C. Ministers from other denominations, Article 8-b*

1. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), F.J. Van Dyk (Grand Rapids North), and J.H. Looman (Kalamazoo), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on May 21, 1998, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Reformed Church in America) to serve as pastor of the Centrepointe/Madison Square CRC.

*Deputies' comments:*

The Minutes of Classis Grand Rapids East of May 21, 1998, in Art. 12.2 state that "the synodical deputies do not concur. They cite Article 8.7.c., page 88, of De Ridder and Hofman. The synodical deputies state they will review their decision when they have received the materials called for in Art. 8.7.c."

Having received and viewed the documents that were lacking at the time of the classis meeting and having found them to be in good order, we now concur that a need has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination to serve as pastor of the Centrepointe/Madison Square CRC.

2. Synodical deputies T.J. Lapinsky (Georgetown), F.J. Van Dyk (Grand Rapids North), and J.W. Uitvlugt (Zeeland), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Holland, in session on June 25, 1998, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Harvestime International Ministries) to serve as copastor of Maple Avenue Ministries (CRC) of Holland, Michigan.

*Statement of need:* See Synod 1985 regulation with regard to the examination and reception of pastors from ethnic minorities.

3. Synodical deputies J. Bylsma (Wisconsin) and D.J. Van Loo (Chicago South), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Illiana, in session on September 22, 1998, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Reformed Church in America) to serve as director of congregational life at Peace CRC, South Holland, Illinois.

*Statement of need:* The person to be called has extraordinary qualifications to serve at Peace Church in the areas of discipling and educational ministry and is an excellent fit for the church.

*Note:* Rev. Timothy Douma, the third synodical deputy, was unable to be present because of sudden illness.

4. Synodical deputies H.A. Brink (Pacific Northwest), G.G. Vink (Central California), and J. Weeda (Yellowstone), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Columbia, in session on February 24, 1999, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Presbyterian Church U.S.A.) to serve as pastor of Quincy CRC, Quincy, Washington.
5. Synodical deputies W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), A.L. Kuiper (Heartland), and J. Weeda (Yellowstone), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 2, 1999, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Presbyterian Church in America) to serve as pastor.

*Statement of need:* A Korean pastor for a congregation coming into the CRC (*Acts of Synod 1985*, p. 449).

6. Synodical deputies J. Van Schepen (Greater Los Angeles), F.E. Pott (Arizona), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on February 15, 1999, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Korean Presbyterian) to serve as pastor of The Lord's Church, which is in Stage I of entering the Christian Reformed Church.

*Statement of need:* He is pastoring The Lord's Church, which is Korean (ethnic need).

*Deputies' comments:* Classis Pacific Hanmi will need to educate/train both pastor and congregation re CRC polity.

7. Synodical deputies H.G. Samplonius (Alberta North), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and W.L. Vander Beek (B.C. South-East), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session on October 19, 1998, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Orthodox Presbyterian Church) to serve as minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Statment of need:*

- a. Nobleford CRC has contacted eighty to ninety CRC pastors and candidates.
- b. Nobleford has been vacant for 1½ years and feels the need for a pastor.

8. Synodical deputies S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi) and G.G. Vink (Central California), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on May 11, 1999, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Independent, but previously serving a Southern Baptist mission) to serve as pastor of an emerging CRC, Bethany Korean.

*Note:* The third deputy, F.E. Pott (Arizona), was unable to be present because his flight was canceled.

9. Synodical deputies W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), A.L. Kuiper (Heartland), and J. Weeda (Yellowstone), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 2, 1999, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Presbyterian Church in America) to serve as pastor.

*Statement of need:* Korean pastor for a congregation coming into the CRC (*Acts of Synod 1985*, p. 449).

10. Synodical deputies H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), H.G. Samplonius (Alberta North), and W.L. Vander Beek (B.C. South-East), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Thomas G. Albaugh**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session on December 7, 1998, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—*Adopted*

11. Synodical deputies J. Kuipers (Chatham), J. Zantingh (Hamilton), and R. Koops (Huron), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Niagara, in session on November 17, 1998, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Dutch Reformed Church/South Africa) to serve as minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Statement of need:* Three-year vacancy; several ministers called; several ministers consulted but wanted no call.

*Deputies' comments:* We met with the classical interim committee, which was authorized to act on behalf of Classis Niagara. Recognizing that Dr. Andre Basson is not an ordained pastor, we concur with Niagara CIC to proceed via Article 8 for the following reasons:

- a. Dr. Basson was declared a candidate (proponent) by the Dutch Reformed Church/South Africa some years ago.
- b. He served as assistant pastor for two years in a congregation and as a chaplain in the S.A. Navy and continues to preach regularly.

12. Synodical deputies Rev. J. Zantingh (Hamilton), Rev. J. Kuntz (Toronto), and Rev. J. Kuipers (Chatham), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Dr. Andre Basson**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Niagara, in session on April 7, 1999, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* The synodical deputies note the irregularity that Dr. A. Basson was called before the colloquium doctum took place.

*Recommendation:* That synod not approve the work of the synodical deputies.

*Grounds:*

- a. Admission to ministry through Article 8-b was not appropriate in that the candidate was not an ordained minister of the Word.
- b. The grounds given for using Article 8 were inadequate.

—*Recommitted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 48.)

## ARTICLE 40

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 18.)

Advisory Committee 2, Missions, Rev. Perry J. Tinklenberg reporting, presents the following:

### I. Board of Trustees

#### A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report (Section II, C, 2; Appendix A), pp. 30-31 and 35-41
2. Overtures 21-24, pp. 433-37

#### B. Background

In January 1998, the Fund for Smaller Churches (FSC) Committee requested that its responsibilities be transferred to Christian Reformed Home Missions (CRHM). In response, a task force of Rev. Lambert Sikkema (chair), Rev. Lester Van Essen, Rev. Dirk Hart (secretary), and Rev. Jerry Holleman was appointed. The task force mandate included (1) a detailed proposal for realignment, (2) a schedule for transfer of responsibility, and (3) communication with FSC-supported churches.

#### C. Recommendations

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Rev. Dirk Hart as a representative of the Task Force on the Support of Smaller Churches in the CRC when this report is discussed.

—*Granted*

2. While recognizing the concerns raised in Overture 22 about the timing of the report of the Task Force on the Support of Smaller Churches, this committee judges that the material cited above is legitimately before synod because of the length of time that this issue has been before the churches, and we adduce the following supporting actions:

- a. The FSC Committee requested that its responsibilities be transferred to CRHM prior to Synod 1998.
- b. The task force's action is a continuation of the ongoing process established by Synod 1998 when synod extended the term of Lambert Sikkema, FSC secretary, "for one year while the FSC proposal to transfer its operations to another agency runs its course" (cf. *Acts of Synod 1998*, p. 438).
- c. Correspondence was sent to all FSC-supported churches with a request for responses to a draft report prior to the October 1998 task-force meeting.
- d. Four classes prepared overtures related to the task-force recommendation, indicating that there was sufficient time for reflection.

In view of the above, the committee recommends that synod proceed to deliberate the recommendations that follow.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod adopt the recommendations of the report of the task force on small-church support as endorsed by the Board of Trustees and transfer the support of small churches to Christian Reformed Home Missions according to the proposed timetable (*Agenda for Synod 1999*, pp. 40-41) and the following principles:

- a. The implied commitments of Synod 1995 to current FSC recipients shall be honored so that they will not receive less than the amount they would have received under the 1995 formula.
- b. Small churches classified as "heritage churches" (*Agenda for Synod 1999*, p. 31) may continue to receive salary support when both of the following conditions are met:

- 1) The classis in which the congregation is located judges the ministry to be of such a crucial nature or of such historical significance that classis normally contributes at a rate of one dollar for every two dollars contributed by CRHM.

*Ground:* Financial involvement at the regional level ensures the significance of a ministry to the people of the classis. In the absence of this provision it becomes easy for an individual classis to endorse a ministry for denominational support.

- 2) The ministry is recommended by the classical home-missions committee and is approved by Christian Reformed Home Missions.

*Note:* Criteria for judging the nature of the ministry may include such things as distance from other Reformed churches, character and need of the community, extent of the congregation's ministry and witness within the community, level of congregational leadership.

—*Tabled*

A motion is made to send the Report of the Task Force on the Support of Smaller Churches in the CRC back to the Board of Trustees so that a comprehensive plan for denominational ministry to small churches can be developed.

—*Defeated*

Recommendation 3 is taken from the table:

3. That synod adopt the recommendations of the report of the task force on small-church support as endorsed by the Board of Trustees and transfer the support of small churches to Christian Reformed Home Missions according to the proposed timetable (*Agenda for Synod 1999*, pp. 40-41) and the following principles:
  - a. The implied commitments of Synod 1995 to current FSC recipients shall be honored so that they will not receive less than the amount they would have received under the 1995 formula.
  - b. Small churches classified as “heritage churches” (*Agenda for Synod 1999*, p. 31) may continue to receive salary support when both of the following conditions are met:
    - 1) The classis in which the congregation is located judges the ministry to be of such a crucial nature or of such historical significance that classis normally contributes at a rate of one dollar for every two dollars contributed by CRHM.

*Ground:* Financial involvement at the regional level ensures the significance of a ministry to the people of the classis. In the absence of this provision it becomes easy for an individual classis to endorse a ministry for denominational support.
    - 2) The ministry is recommended by the classical home-missions committee and is approved by Christian Reformed Home Missions.

*Note:* Criteria for judging the nature of the ministry may include such things as distance from other Reformed churches, character and need of the community, extent of the congregation’s ministry and witness within the community, level of congregational leadership.
4. That synod dissolve FSC as of August 31, 2000, with thanks for its ministry and request the present FSC secretary to advise Home Missions through December 31, 2001.

—Adopted
5. That synod retain the FSC/small-church-support ministry share through calendar year 2002 and request the Board of Trustees to evaluate the need for a continued separate ministry share beyond 2002.

—Adopted
6. That this be synod’s answer to Overtures 21-24.

—Adopted



## ARTICLE 41

Advisory Committee 5, Pastoral Ministries, Rev. Peter Slofstra reporting, presents the following:

### I. Pastoral Ministries

A. *Material*: Pastoral Ministries Report, pp. 155-69

#### B. *Observations*

Advisory Committee 5 spent time identifying the need for interim pastors and learned that although “stated supply” and retired ministers can work in many situations for a short term, some congregations may require a person specially trained in dealing with difficult times of transition.

The committee has also read the report of the Pastoral Ministries Board with great appreciation for the ministries it is overseeing. We express concern that the integrity of the ministries under the Pastoral Ministries Board not be compromised but enhanced and promoted. We urge the Board of Trustees to take the time necessary to receive input from the personnel of the various ministries and develop a reconfiguration plan to be presented to Synod 2000.

#### C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod give the privilege of the floor to Rev. Charles Terpstra, chairman; Dr. Peter Borgdorff, interim executive director; and the other Pastoral Ministries directors when Pastoral Ministries matters are discussed.

—*Granted*

2. That synod encourage churches to celebrate All Nations Heritage Week from September 27 to October 3, 1999, and September 25 to October 1, 2000.

#### *Grounds*

- a. The task of eliminating racism is formidable; it is a matter that needs to be put boldly before the congregations at all times but especially as they celebrate Worldwide Communion in October.
- b. The financial support that is received when congregations celebrate All Nations Heritage Week dramatically increases Race Relations’ ability to award grants and scholarships for ethnic-minority leadership and ministry.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod replace the term “interim-ministry specialist” with the term “trained interim pastor.”

*Ground*: We are all specialists in our various fields, and so this can be assumed.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod approve the recommended proposal concerning the development and deployment of trained interim pastors (see *Agenda for Synod 1999*, pp. 167-69).

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued in Article 47.)

## ARTICLE 42

The afternoon session is adjourned; Elder Allan J. Kramer leads in closing prayer.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING, June 16, 1999

### Eighth Session

## ARTICLE 43

Rev. Ralph Koops reads from Psalm 25:1-10 and leads in prayer, especially remembering Rev. James Van Tholen, who is struggling with cancer; Rev. Kevin De Raaf, who has returned home to conduct a funeral; and Rev. Daniel Roeda, who will be returning home early for the same reason. He announces *Psalter Hymnal* 89, "Forever I Will Sing of Your Great Love, O Lord."

Rev. Geoffrey A. Vandermolen (Chatham) replaces Rev. Jake Kuipers. He rises to express agreement with the forms of unity.

## ARTICLE 44

Advisory Committee 9, U.S. Structure, Rev. Bruce A. Persenaire reporting, presents the following:

### I. Structure for Ministry in the U.S.

#### A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Supplement (Section IV, B)
2. CRC Publications Supplement (Section I)
3. Committee to Study Structure for Ministry in the U.S. Report, pp. 305-85
4. Overture 12, pp. 409-15
5. Overture 13, pp. 416-18
6. Overture 14, pp. 418-24
7. Overture 15, pp. 424-25
8. Overture 16, p. 425
9. Overture 29, p. 499
10. Overture 32, p. 501-03
11. Overture 33, p. 503-05

#### B. Observations

The advisory committee on structure for ministry in the U.S., in arriving at its conclusions and recommendations, labored for many hours with those who have a vital interest in the U.S. Structure Committee's report. We initially met with the study committee to gain an understanding of its perspective and why it came to its conclusions. For the same reason we recommended that the officers of synod grant the privilege of the floor to Rev. Henry Numan and Dr. Shirley Roels for a half-hour for the purpose of giving an overview of the report. We were impressed with the study committee's desire to enhance the local congregation's awareness and use of denominational ministry resources. In fact, in our own report we have adopted some of the study committee's recommendations concerning this important matter. We also believe that the

study committee sought to enhance the ministry of the church by the changes that it recommended in governance, even though our committee differed with the study committee on its conclusions.

We spoke with representatives from the Canadian Ministries Board—Mr. Ray Elgersma, Mr. Ben Vande Zande, and Rev. Peter Nicolai. We met with and heard from the executive director of ministries, Dr. Peter Borgdorff, along with various heads of agencies: Rev. Merle Den Bleyker of World Missions, Mr. John Kuyers of The Back to God Hour, Rev. John Rozeboom of Home Missions, and Dr. James De Jong of Calvin Seminary. To deal with the implications that this might have on current Church Order, we spoke with Dr. Henry De Moor of Calvin Seminary.

We acknowledge that there continue to be some problems in coordination, cooperation, and communication among the agencies. We also recognize that the present structure of governance, which is distributed between the Board of Trustees and the agency boards, can sometimes be cumbersome. Nevertheless, we believe that these problems can largely be solved without the extensive changes proposed by the study committee. Therefore, we come with the following recommendations.

### C. Recommendations

1. That synod give the privilege of the floor to Rev. Henry Numan, Dr. Shirley Roels, and any other committee members present at synod when matters concerning the U.S. Structure Report are discussed.

—*Granted*

2. That synod take note of the mandate regarding governance given to the Board of Trustees and adopted by Synod 1996 (see Art. 60, *Acts of Synod 1996*, p. 536) and acknowledge that structures are already in place that can be utilized to achieve the goals of the study committee—to bring about compliance, coordination, communication, and joint efforts among the agencies—without having to change the current governance structure:

The purposes of the Board are to transact all matters assigned to it by synod; to supervise the management of the agencies and committees established by synod and designated in the bylaws of the Board, *including the planning, coordinating, and integrating of their work*; and to cooperate with the educational institutions affiliated with the denomination toward integrating the respective missions of those institutions into the denominational ministry program. To fulfill its purposes, the Board will

- A. Lead in developing and implementing the denominational ministries plan for the agencies, committees, and educational institutions established by synod.
- B. Assure collaborations among agencies, committees, and educational institutions established by synod.
- C. Exercise general oversight and authority when necessary in the manner stated in the bylaws of the Board.

(Article II of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, italics added)

3. That synod recommend that each classis establish a classical ministries committee.

*Ground:* There are good purposes for these committees, such as

- a. To serve as an active partner in the ministry development of the churches. The committee would assess and guide the planning, organization, implementation, and evaluation of ministries within the classis in order to develop them

in a vital way and ensure integrated, wholistic ministry efforts which utilize the resources of the churches effectively.

- b. To capture and channel local talent and energy into the work of the classis.
- c. To channel denominational ministry assistance into the classis.
- d. To supervise joint classical ministries when such are appropriate.
- e. To provide supporting information, education, resources, and Christian encouragement to emerging and established CRC churches within the classis.
- f. To communicate the needs and aspirations of congregations in the classis to agencies within the denomination so these agencies can respond with appropriate programming and resource assistance.

(*Agenda for Synod 1999*, pp. 329-30)

4. That synod require the Board of Trustees to develop common North American geographic regions within which all CRC agencies will conduct their work.

*Ground:* This will permit an integrated ministry among the domestic agencies and enhance ministry effectiveness of all the agencies having the same boundaries.

5. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees in consultation with agency heads to explore the feasibility of regional ministry teams (see *Agenda for Synod 1999*, pp. 349-50) and report to Synod 2001.

*Ground:* The church needs to see effective models of regional interagency cooperation and ministry.

6. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to make recommendation(s) to Synod 2000 regarding adjustment to the Canadian governance structure required for effective binational ministry.

*Ground:* There are potential governance issues between the present Canadian Ministries Board and the Board of Trustees that need to be identified and resolved. It is beyond the scope of the advisory committee to provide a recommendation for the relationship of the Canadian Ministries Board and the Board of Trustees.

7. That this be synod's response to Overtures 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 29, 32, and 33.
8. That synod receive the report of the Committee to Study Structure for Ministry in the United States for information and dismiss the committee with thanks.

The report of the study committee takes precedence and synod considers the recommendations of the study committee:

A. *Material:* Report of the Committee to Study Structure for Ministry in the United States, pp. 305-85

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod give the privilege of the floor to Rev. Henry Numan, Dr. Shirley Roels, and any other committee members present at synod.

—*Granted*

2. That synod adopt the principles and guidelines for organizational structure in Section II of this report, a follow-up to related principles and guidelines adopted by Synod 1987.
3. That synod require each CRC classis to organize a classical ministries committee.
4. That synod require the Board of Trustees to develop common North American geographic regions within which all CRC agencies will conduct their work.
5. That synod approve a test of two regional ministry teams in the United States and a review of their effectiveness in the third year of operation.
6. That synod approve the change of name from Ministries Coordinating Council to Ministries Administrative Team and the expected change in function.
7. That synod approve the needed restructuring of the legal incorporation of the CRCNA with subsidiary and affiliated corporations to accomplish the goals described above in this report.
8. That synod approve the development of a classically based Board of Trustees with a related committee structure.
9. That synod approve the development of ministry councils to support The Back to God Hour, CRC Publications, Christian Reformed Home Missions, Christian Reformed World Missions, Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, and Pastoral Ministries to replace current governance structures.
10. That synod approve the suggested adjustments in the Canadian governance structure required for effective binational ministry as detailed in Appendix B.
11. That synod direct the Board of Trustees to prepare proposals for the amendment of its constitution and bylaws and the bylaws of the various corporate entities in order to bring them into conformity with this report and to present such changes for approval to Synod 2000.
12. That synod assign responsibility for implementation of the approved changes to the current CRCNA Board of Trustees with advice from a transition task force composed of selected members of both the Canadian and U.S. structure committees.
13. That synod require the Board of Trustees to convene an advisory group to review denominational structure annually, beginning in 2001.
14. That synod discharge the committee.

Synod returns to its consideration of the advisory committee's recommendations:

2. That synod take note of the mandate regarding governance given to the Board of Trustees and adopted by Synod 1996 (see Art. 60, *Acts of Synod 1996*, p. 536) and acknowledge that structures are already in place that can be utilized to achieve the goals of the study committee—to bring about compliance, coordination, communication, and joint efforts among the agencies—without having to change the current governance structure:

The purposes of the Board are to transact all matters assigned to it by synod; to supervise the management of the agencies and committees established by synod and designated in the bylaws of the Board, *including the planning, coordinating, and integrating of their work*; and to cooperate with the educational institutions affiliated with the denomination toward integrating the respective missions of those institutions into the denominational ministry program. To fulfill its purposes, the Board will

- A. Lead in developing and implementing the denominational ministries plan for the agencies, committees, and educational institutions established by synod.
- B. Assure collaborations among agencies, committees, and educational institutions established by synod.
- C. Exercise general oversight and authority when necessary in the manner stated in the bylaws of the Board.

(Article II of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, italics added)

—Adopted

3. That synod recommend that each classis establish a classical ministries committee.

*Ground:* There are good purposes for these committees, such as

- a. To serve as an active partner in the ministry development of the churches. The committee would assess and guide the planning, organization, implementation, and evaluation of ministries within the classis in order to develop them in a vital way and ensure integrated, wholistic ministry efforts which utilize the resources of the churches effectively.
- b. To capture and channel local talent and energy into the work of the classis.
- c. To channel denominational ministry assistance into the classis.
- d. To supervise joint classical ministries when such are appropriate.
- e. To provide supporting information, education, resources, and Christian encouragement to emerging and established CRC churches within the classis.
- f. To communicate the needs and aspirations of congregations in the classis to agencies within the denomination so these agencies can respond with appropriate programming and resource assistance.

(*Agenda for Synod 1999*, pp 329-30)

—Adopted

4. That synod require the Board of Trustees to develop common North American geographic regions within which all CRC agencies will conduct their work.

*Ground:* This will permit an integrated ministry among the domestic agencies and enhance ministry effectiveness of all the agencies having the same boundaries.

—Adopted

5. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees in consultation with agency heads to explore the feasibility of regional ministry teams (see *Agenda for Synod 1999*, pp. 349-50) and report to Synod 2001.

*Ground:* The church needs to see effective models of regional interagency cooperation and ministry.

—*Adopted*

6. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to make recommendation(s) to Synod 2000 regarding adjustment to the Canadian governance structure required for effective binational ministry.

*Ground:* There are potential governance issues between the present Canadian Ministries Board and the Board of Trustees that need to be identified and resolved. It is beyond the scope of the advisory committee to provide a recommendation for the relationship of the Canadian Ministries Board and the Board of Trustees.

—*Recommitted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 9 is continued in Article 49.)

#### ARTICLE 45

The evening session is adjourned; Elder Kevin H. Miller reads from James 1:2-6 and 12 and leads in closing prayer.

### **THURSDAY MORNING, June 17, 1999**

#### **Ninth Session**

#### ARTICLE 46

Elder Gary W. Nibbelink reads from Ephesians 6:10-13 and leads in opening prayer, especially remembering Mr. Henry Janssens, who suffers from cancer; Mrs. Ada Tigchelaar, who underwent successful cancer surgery on Wednesday; his daughter, who will undergo medical testing; and the grieving family of Mrs. Betty Kapteyn, who died in an automobile accident Wednesday night. He announces *Psalter Hymnal* 453, "Let All Things Now Living."

The roll call indicates that Elder Paul C. Szto (Hudson), Elder Henry Bakker (Hudson), and Rev. Daniel J. Roeda (Wisconsin) are absent for the remainder of synod.

## ARTICLE 47

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued from Article 40.)

Advisory Committee 5, Pastoral Ministries, Rev. Peter Slofstra reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Committee to Give Direction about and for Pastoral Care for Homosexual Members**

A. *Material*: Report of the Committee to Give Direction about and for Pastoral Care for Homosexual Members, pp. 237-79

#### **B. Observations**

Advisory Committee 5 is convinced that this report is clearly based on and affirms the 1973 report. Twenty-five years later we still see the pastoral value of asking hard questions, promoting discussion, and listening to one another. We believe that the new report helps us to do that.

We agree with the committee that the survey it sent to the churches was not “highly scientific” (p. 239). Nevertheless, it yielded the kind of information that Ground 3 of the committee’s mandate sought about the intervening twenty-five years. We are thankful for all those who responded to the survey and those who met with the committee. They helped “us understand to what degree the pastoral recommendations of Report 42 of Synod 1973 have been effectively carried out and to uncover reasons why this may or not be so” (Ground 3 of the mandate).

We came to understand that the prayer composed by the committee and presented at the conclusion of Part 1 represents a corporate confession which we make to God on behalf of those persons and those situations in our midst to which the prayer applies. It is a sample prayer that our congregations are invited to use.

We want to observe that the title of the report and the sample prayer engage in labeling people. We encourage Christians who struggle with same-sex attraction not to consider themselves “homosexuals” or to be labeled as such. According to I Corinthians 6:11, they are our brothers and sisters in Christ. Throughout the report, phrases like “homosexual members” and “gay and lesbian sisters and brothers” should be replaced with a phrase like “those who experience same-sex attractions.” This change would be in harmony with the report’s own intent in its section on identity (p. 250).

We also have some problems with other language used in the report. For example, the phrase “Scripture seems to forbid” on page 252 is ambiguous, and Scenario A, which deals with same-sex partners who wish to participate in the Lord’s Supper, ends with a question which is too open-ended (“How should we respond?” p. 269). Therefore, we would like to recommend altering various phrases in the report which have the potential to take this discussion beyond the position presently adopted by our denomination and affirmed by the committee.

Finally, we want to express our appreciation for the committee’s intent to raise awareness and create compassion in our denomination. It is well on its way to fulfilling its mandate to “give direction about and for pastoral care of homosexual members in a manner consistent with the decisions of Synod 1973.”



### C. Recommendations

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Dr. Melvin Hugen (chairman), Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma, and Rev. Gerald Zandstra as representatives of the study committee.

—*Granted*

2. That synod declare that the intent of this report is to affirm Synod 1973's understanding of the teachings of Scripture about homosexuality and to help the churches pastorally apply its recommendations.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod replace the phrases "who love you and are homosexual" and "gay and lesbian sisters and brothers" with the phrases "who love you and experience same-sex attractions" and "sisters and brothers who experience same-sex attractions" in the sample prayer (*Agenda for Synod 1999*, p. 245).

#### *Grounds:*

- a. This revision avoids labeling.
- b. The report itself says, "This tendency to reduce a person to some aspect of her/his person is dehumanizing and unchristian" (*Agenda for Synod 1999*, p. 250).

—*Defeated*

4. That synod receive the committee's report (Part 1) and send it to the churches for their responses as the churches judge appropriate.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod revise Part 2 of the committee's report by

- a. Replacing the phrase "Scripture seems to forbid such sexual intimacy with persons of the same sex" (*Agenda for Synod 1999*, p. 252) with the phrase "Scripture forbids such sexual intimacy with persons of the same sex."

#### *Grounds:*

- 1) The phrase "seems to forbid" is not consistent with the position taken in the 1973 report.
- 2) This phrase is also internally in conflict with the rest of the committee's report and therefore would send a mixed message to the church.
- 3) In our conversations committee members affirmed that Scripture forbids sexual intimacy with persons of the same sex.

—*Adopted*

- b. Changing Question A on page 269 (*Agenda for Synod 1999*) to read, "How should we pastorally apply the recommendations of the 1973 report?"

*Ground:* Phrasing the question in this way keeps the discussion in our churches within the guidelines adopted by Synod 1973.

—*Adopted*

6. That synod receive the committee's report (Part 2) with these revisions and send it to the churches for their responses as the churches judge appropriate.

—Adopted

7. That synod call the churches to repentance for their failures to minister to those who experience same-sex attractions. The prayer printed in the *Agenda for Synod 1999*, page 245, can serve as an expression of such repentance.

—Adopted

8. That when the report is mailed to the churches, synod send an accompanying letter inviting churches to hold adult-education classes to discuss the reports of 1973 and 1999 and church councils to review and discuss the reports, and that churches taking such action submit their responses by April 1, 2000, summarizing their discussions and reactions. The general secretary's office will be responsible for the mailings and for a follow-up note in April 2000.

—Adopted

9. That *The Banner* be asked to include a series of articles regarding the 1973 and 1999 reports and their ministry suggestions.

—Adopted

10. That CRC Publications be asked to publish a brief booklet summarizing the 1973 and 1999 reports.

*Note:* This may need a \$2,000 (U.S.) subsidy from the Board of Trustees.

—Adopted

11. That the presently constituted synodical study committee reconvene after the responses have been received to consider the responses and modify accordingly its 1999 report about pastoral care to those who experience same-sex attractions.

—Adopted

12. That the committee submit its final report to Synod 2002 after distributing it to the churches in the fall of 2001, according to synodical regulations.

*Grounds:*

- a. This process will allow churches to participate in the process rather than being passive recipients of a synodical decision.
- b. The churches will take more ownership of that to which they have contributed.
- c. One of the failures of the 1973 report was that it remained only a report in the *Acts of Synod 1973* without being widely known by the members of the Christian Reformed Church. The report of the committee of 1973 remained primarily the report of the committee. Synod served as the approving body, and the churches generally made use of the report only when a situation arose which required reference to it.

—Adopted

The chairman of the committee, Dr. Melvin D. Hugen, pays tribute to the late Dr. John Kreeft, who was an original member of the study committee.

The chairman of the advisory committee, Rev. Peter Slofstra, leads synod in the prayer of repentance.

## ARTICLE 48

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 39.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services, Rev. Jack M. Gray reporting, presents the following:

### I. Synodical deputies' reports

#### A. *Material*: Synodical deputies' reports

##### *Ministers from other denominations, Article 8-b (continued)*

11. Synodical deputies J. Kuipers (Chatham), J. Zantingh (Hamilton), and R. Koops (Huron), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Niagara, in session on November 17, 1998, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Dutch Reformed Church/South Africa) to serve as minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Statement of need*: Three-year vacancy; several ministers called; several ministers consulted wanted no call.

*Deputies' comments*: We met with the classical interim committee, which was authorized to act on behalf of Classis Niagara. Recognizing that Dr. Andre Basson is not an ordained pastor, we concur with Niagara CIC to proceed via Article 8 for the following reasons:

- a. Dr. Basson was declared a candidate (proponent) by the DRC/South Africa some years ago.
  - b. He served as assistant pastor for two years in a congregation and as a chaplain in the S.A. Navy and continues to preach regularly.
12. Synodical deputies Rev. J. Zantingh (Hamilton), Rev. J. Kuntz (Toronto), and Rev. J. Kuipers (Chatham), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Dr. Andre Basson**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Niagara, in session on April 7, 1999, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments*: The synodical deputies note the irregularity that Dr. A. Basson was called before the colloquium doctum took place.

#### *Recommendations*:

1. That synod not approve the work of the synodical deputies.

#### *Grounds*:

- a. Admission to ministry through Article 8-b was not appropriate in that the candidate was not an ordained minister of the Word.
- b. The grounds given for using Article 8 were inadequate.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod by way of exception declare the already conducted doctrinal conversation to be Dr. Basson's classical examination so Classis Niagara can proceed with his ordination.

*Grounds:*

- a. Niagara Falls CRC has been vacant five years.
- b. For pastoral and practical reasons this is the best course of action.

—Adopted

13. Synodical deputies P. De Jong (Northern Illinois), H.J. Schutt (Illiana), and D.J. Van Loo (Chicago South), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Wisconsin, in session on November 12, 1998, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Bobbyjon Baumann**) from another denomination (Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church) to serve as director of Christian education and youth ministries.

*Statement of need:*

- a. Although we concentrated on receiving applicants with a Master of Arts degree, the same information that Rev. Bobbyjon Baumann responded to did go out to our CRCNA agencies such as Calvin Theological Seminary and *The Banner*.
  - b. We are convinced that Rev. Baumann is the best-qualified applicant we received for this position and would serve well at Crossroads Church and in the CRCNA. We believe that God in his providence has led us to him.
  - c. We believe that calling a person from outside the CRCNA for this position does not do an injustice to either the CRCNA or to CRCNA pastors at this time since in Classis Wisconsin two of our most recent pastors were called from outside the CRCNA and we continue to have six or seven vacancies. Furthermore, according to Dr. David H. Engelhard, general secretary of the CRCNA, we continue to have a 10 percent vacancy rate or approximately one hundred vacancies in our churches. By calling outside the CRCNA for this position, we are not making the shortage of CRCNA pastors greater.
  - d. We believe Rev. Baumann to be uniquely qualified to serve the Lord both at Crossroads and in the CRCNA.
    - 1) He has taught in two inner-city elementary schools in Houston, Texas, working with minority children.
    - 2) He has served for three years with youth at his present church, working with both Caucasian and minority children. We believe cross-cultural skills to be valuable for both the CRCNA and Crossroads.
    - 3) He was founder, drummer, and preacher for the contemporary music group Appian Way, which traveled around the Midwest with the purpose of preaching the gospel from 1986-1991. These gifts will serve him well in youth ministry at Crossroads and in the CRCNA.
    - 4) His desire to focus his gifts on church education and youth at Crossroads will make him one of a few ordained CRCNA pastors that see youth and education as their calling. His presence in the denomination would also help the CRCNA in education and youth ministries.
14. Synodical deputies P. De Jong (Northern Illinois), D.J. Van Loo (Chicago South), and H.J. Schutt (Illiana), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Bobbyjon Baumann**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Wisconsin, in session on March 2, 1999, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

15. Synodical deputies J. Weeda (Yellowstone), F.E. Pott (Arizona), and A.L. Kuiper (Heartland), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Elias Burgos**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on September 22, 1998, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
16. Synodical deputies S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), F.E. Pott (Arizona), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on February 16, 1999, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Presbyterian General Assembly) to serve as pastor for Calvin Korean American Christian Reformed Church.

*Statement of need:* They need to call Rev. Sung Chang Choi.

17. Synodical deputies S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi) and G.G. Vink (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Sung Chang Choi**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on May 11, 1999, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Note:* The third deputy, F.E. Pott (Arizona), was unable to be present because his flight was canceled.

18. Synodical deputies J.H. Looman (Kalamazoo), J.P. Gorter (Grandville), and J. Vander Plate (Muskegon), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Andre Daley**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on July 9, 1998, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church.
19. Synodical deputies J. Zantigh (Hamilton), J. Kuntz (Toronto), and R. Koops (Huron), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Chatham, in session on January 26, 1999, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Church of the Nazarene) to serve as minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Statement of need:*

- a. High vacancy in the CRC.
- b. Uniqueness of the ministry in Ambassador Community CRC, Windsor, calls for a short period of vacancy.
- c. Rev. Darrell Edgar has proven to have the qualifications and ability to fill Windsor CRC's needs.

*Note:* Pastor Edgar has already assisted for some time with pastoral care and preaching in the Windsor church.

20. Synodical deputies H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), H.R. De Bolster (Hamilton), and R. Kooops (Huron), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Darrell Edgar**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Chatham, in session on May 11, 1999, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
21. Synodical deputies H.J. Bierman (Huron), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and J. Kuipers (Chatham), having reviewed the documents\* specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Hamilton, in session on May 18, 1999, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (Rev. Mike Goheen) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church in America) to serve as minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church by way of Church Order Article 8, Supplement D, 2, 3, and 5-a.  
*Statement of need:* For preaching and teaching.  
*Deputies' response:* \*Not all the documents were present at this classis meeting, but the deputies were assured they would be present at the September classis meeting, when the colloquium doctum will take place.
22. Synodical deputies J.P. Gorter (Grandville), J.R. Boot (Georgetown), and J.W. Uitylugt (Zeeland), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Eric Gray**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Holland, in session on October 1, 1998, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
23. Synodical deputies J. Van Schepen (Greater Los Angeles), G.G. Vink (Central California), and F.E. Pott (Arizona), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Il Yang Kang**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on February 4, 1999, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
24. Synodical deputies T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), J. Bylsma (Wisconsin), and J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. James Lester**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Illiana, in session on December 10, 1998, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
25. Synodical deputies T.J. Brown (Minnkota), D.A. Zylstra (Northcentral Iowa), and D.W. De Groot (Iakota), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Charles Louvau**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Superior, in session on September 28, 1998, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* Rev. Charles Louvau is the ordained pastor of Balsam Chapel, a ministry in full association with the National Association of Evangelicals.

26. Synodical deputies D.L. Recker (Columbia), G.J. Kamps (Arizona), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on March 4, 1998, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (Rev. Pieter Manuhutu) from another denomination (Free Evangelical Church of Jakarta) to serve as pastor of Indonesian CRC, Artesia, California.

*Statement of need:* There is need for an Indonesian ethnic person who speaks and understands the language.

27. Synodical deputies S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), F.E. Pott (Arizona), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Pieter Manuhutu**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on February 16, 1999, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* We recommend that Rev. Manuhutu continue to have a mentor for the purpose of learning more about the life and practice of the Christian Reformed Church.

28. Synodical deputies H.A. Brink (Pacific Northwest), W.L. Vander Beek (B.C. South-East), and H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Jin Namkoong**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Columbia, in session on September 23, 1998, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

29. Synodical deputies S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), F.E. Pott (Arizona), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on February 16, 1999, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Presbyterian General Assembly) to serve as pastor for The Spirit Filled Christian Reformed Church of Artesia.

*Statement of need:* The Spirit Filled CRC needs to call Rev. Jong Ho Park.

30. Synodical deputies F.E. Pott (Arizona), J. Van Schepen (Greater Los Angeles), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. John S. Oh**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on October 22, 1998, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* We expressed some grave reservations regarding Classis California South's "streamlining" by eliminating the "conversational" aspect of the process.

31. Synodical deputies S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi) and G.G. Vink (Columbia), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Jang Ho Park**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on May 11, 1999, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Note:* The third deputy, F.E. Pott (Arizona), was unable to be present because his flight was canceled.

32. Synodical deputies J.P. Gorter (Grandville), J.R. Boot (Georgetown), and J.W. Uitvlugt (Zeeland), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Steve Pearson**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Holland, in session on October 1, 1998, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
33. Synodical deputies H.J. Schutt (Illiana), J. Bylsma (Wisconsin), and D.J. Van Loo (Chicago South), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on September 16, 1998, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Missionary Baptist) to serve as minister of the Word at Lawndale CRC.
- Statement of need:*
- a. Rev. Marc Robinson has demonstrated the gifts of leadership and ministry for this position.
  - b. Lawndale CRC is seeking biracial leadership.
34. Synodical deputies J. Van Schepen (Greater Los Angeles), G.G. Vink (Central California), and F.E. Pott (Arizona), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Byoung Il Song**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on February 4, 1999, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
35. Synodical deputies J. Van Schepen (Greater Los Angeles), G.G. Vink (Central California), and F.E. Pott (Arizona), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis California South, in session on February 4, 1999, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Well Spring Independent) to serve as minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Statement of need:* The Redlands CRC has unique needs which they believe will be filled especially well by Rev. Timothy Spykstra.

*Deputies' comments:* Although we concurred with the recommendation of classis, your deputies are aware that the proper procedures were not completely followed by the Redlands church in the process of bringing this recommendation to classis. Synod 1969 stated that "when such rules are violated, explicit reasons for the allowance of such deviation be given to synod" (*Acts of Synod 1969*, p. 30).

Our reasons are as follows: First, although the Redlands church has not followed the Church Order specifically, it did give evidence of having contacted almost fifty CRC pastors whom it judged qualified to serve its congregation. It further gave evidence of having prayerfully and carefully decided to pursue Rev. Tim Spykstra. The result of this was a great deal of unanimity in the decision by the search committee, the council, and the Redlands CRC itself in spite of the fact that the Redlands CRC is a very diverse group. Furthermore, since Rev. Spykstra has already been invited to begin working in the Redlands church, it was our judgment that outright rejection of the request at this point would cause spiritual harm to both the congregation and Rev. Spykstra.



Second, the apparent haste of the Redlands church in this process and compliance by the Leadership Team of Classis California South occasioned the need for your deputies to initiate a process that would benefit both the potential nominee as well as the church. Therefore, we proposed to the classis that the following process be adopted:

- a. That Rev. Spykstra be allowed to serve as an interim pastor in the Redlands church.
- b. That all appropriate diplomas and documents be brought to the May meeting of classis and he be examined for license to exhort at that meeting.
- c. That he preach in a number of the churches of classis so that classis can become more familiar with Rev. Spykstra and vice versa.
- d. That a colloquium doctum be scheduled for the September meeting of classis.

Given that both the classis and the Redlands CRC agreed that this would be a helpful process, your deputies concurred with the establishing of need as indicated above. By following this procedure, we believe that we have served the church according to the spirit of the Church Order without allowing the flawed process of the Redlands CRC and the Leadership Team of Classis California South to become precedent setting.

36. Synodical deputies S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), J.J. Hoogland (Hudson), and B. van Eyk (Hackensack), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Xavier Suarez**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on March 6, 1999, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
37. Synodical deputies L.J. Vander Zee (Kalamazoo), J.W. Uitvlugt (Zeeland), and A.J. Schoonveld (Grandville), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Holland, in session on January 21, 1999, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Bethel Temple Community Bible Church) to serve as minister on loan to Bethel Temple Community Bible Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

*Statement of need:* Extraordinary qualifications which are important for the denomination to acquire.

38. Synodical deputies T.J. Lapinsky (Georgetown), J.W. Uitvlugt (Zeeland), and L.J. Vander Zee (Kalamazoo), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Joel Van Dyke**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Holland, in session on May 20, 1999, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church.
39. Synodical deputies G.P. Hutt (Columbia), F.E. Pott (Arizona), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Hugo Venegas**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on September 15, 1998, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

**Note: The following actions of synodical deputies (pp. 611-16) were inadvertently omitted from the advisory committee's report to synod and were not acted upon by Synod 1999. They are recorded here for information and will be submitted to Synod 2000 for action.**

*D. Shared ministry, Church Order Article 8-f*

Synodical deputies J. Weeda (Yellowstone), F.E. Pott (Arizona), and A.L. Kuiper (Heartland), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8-f, and having heard the discussion of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on September 22, 1998, concur with the decision of classis to grant its request for shared ministry in Luctor CRC and Prairie View RCA.

*E. Ministers in specialized services, Church Order Article 12-c*

Minister	Work	Classis and Date	Synodical Deputies
	Chaplain for Aurora Christian Health Services	Northern Illinois (9-16-98)	H.J. Schutt, Illiana J. Bylsma, Wisconsin D.J. Van Loo, Chicago South
	Codirector of North American Ministries of The Bible League	Chicago South (9-17-98)	J. Bylsma, Wisconsin T.H. Douma, Northern Illinois H.J. Schutt, Illiana
	Hospital chaplain at Hamilton Health/ Science Corporation	Hamilton (1-19-99)	R. Koops, Huron H. Vander Plaats, Niagara H.D. Praamsma, Toronto
	Chaplain at Bethany Christian Services	Georgetown (2-18-99)	F.J. Van Dyk, G.R. North J.P. Gorter, Grandville J.W. Uitvlugt, Zeeland
	Industrial chaplain	Northern Michigan (3-2-99)	J.P. Gorter, Grandville G. Bouma, Thornapple Valley F.J. Van Dyk, G.R. North
	Chaplain at Rosecrance Health Network	Chicago South (3-4-99)	J. Bylsma, Wisconsin T.H. Douma, Northern Illinois H.J. Schutt, Illiana
D.R. Ackerman	Church-leadership specialist for Home Missions	Holland (1-21-99)	J.W. Uitvlugt, Zeeland A.J. Schoonveld, Grandville L.J. Vander Zee, Kalamazoo
G.A. De Vries	Chaplain, Sparrow Hospital, Lansing	Lake Erie (3-6-99)	G.W. Sheeres, Thornapple Valley S.E. Hoezee, Grand Rapids East J.J. Steigenga, G.R. South
W. Dykstra	Chaplain, Beaver Creek Federal Prison	Toronto (9-24-98)	H.R. De Bolster, Hamilton H. Vander Plaats, Niagara H.J. Bierman, Huron
A. Pimentel	Spanish editor with World Literature Ministries, CRC Publications	Grand Rapids North (5-18-99)	G. Bouma, Thornapple Valley S.E. Hoezee, G.R. East J.J. Steigenga, G.R. South
H.D. Schuringa	President of Crossroads Institute	Holland (5-20-99)	L.J. Vander Zee, Kalamazoo J.W. Uitvlugt, Zeeland T.J. Lapinsky, Georgetown
D. Slager	Bible translator with the United Bible Society	Wisconsin (3-2-99)	P. De Jong, Northern Illinois H.J. Schutt, Illiana D.J. Van Loo, Chicago South
<i>Deputies' comments:</i> Rev. Slager has previously served Christian Reformed World Missions in Africa as a Bible translator.			
W.A. Stroo	Tolentine Personnel Resource Center, Olympia, IL; Pastoral Ministries, South Bend, IN	Grand Rapids South (8-27-98)	S.E. Hoezee, G.R. East G.W. Sheeres, Thornapple Valley F.J. Van Dyk, G.R. North
E. Vander Berg	Director of India Ministries, Mission India	Grand Rapids East (1-21-99)	J.R. Boot, Georgetown J.H. Looman, Kalamazoo

H. Wildeboer  
Dir. of D.Min. program at  
Tyndale Seminary,  
Toronto, and regional  
director of Established -  
Church Development,  
Home Missions

Quinte  
(9-22-98)

G. Bouma, Thornapple Valley  
H.R. De Bolster, Hamilton  
H.G. Gunnink, Eastern Canada  
R. Koops, Huron

*Deputies' comments:* As an "irregularity" (see *Acts of Synod 1986*, p. 691, and *Manual of Church Government*, 1994 edition, De Ridder and Hofman, p. 263) only H. Gunnink was present at the classis meeting. De Bolster and Koops conferred by telephone. We did this because of the great distance and because we felt that the matter at hand warranted this. We do not consider the 1986 decision as a precedent.

#### *F. Loaning a minister to another denomination under Article 13-b*

Synodical deputies T.J. Lapinsky (Georgetown), J.W. Uitvlugt (Zeeland), and L.J. Vander Zee (Kalamazoo), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-b, concur in the decision of Classis Holland, in session on January 21, 1999, to approve loaning **Rev. Joel Van Dyke** to serve Bethel Temple Community Bible Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

#### *G. Release from the ministry under Article 14-b*

1. Synodical deputies D.L. Recker (Columbia), G.J. Kamps (Arizona), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having been informed regarding the discussions relating to the resignation of **Do Ryang Chung**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on March 4, 1998, to declare that Do Ryang Chung is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* The wording above was chosen to reflect the minutes of Classis Greater Los Angeles as well as the manner of leaving.

2. Synodical deputies A.L. Kuiper (Heartland), T.J. Brown (Minnkota), and D.A. Zylstra (Northcentral Iowa), having heard the discussions (via telephone conferencing) relating to the resignation of **Frederick A. Harms**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur with the decision of Classis Lakota, in session on September 15, 1998, to declare that Frederick A. Harms is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church.

*Deputies' comments:* The synodical deputies do believe that the most appropriate designation in this matter should be that of a regular release. Nevertheless, in the absence of definitive guidelines to follow in this process, the synodical deputies do concur with Classis Lakota in their declaration of honorable release.

3. Synodical deputies A.L. Kuiper (Heartland), D.W. De Groot (Iakota), and D.A. Zylstra (Northcentral Iowa), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Carl A. Heuss**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur with the decision of Classis Pella, in session on September 18, 1998, to declare that Carl A. Heuss is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church.
4. Synodical deputies F.E. Pott (Arizona), G.P. Hutt (Columbia), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Hyun Sook Hong**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 15, 1998, to declare that Hyun Sook Hong is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
5. Synodical deputies J. Bylsma (Wisconsin), T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), and H.J. Schutt (Illiana), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Aaron Kayayan**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Chicago South, in session on September 17, 1998, to declare that Aaron Kayayan is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* A. Kayayan is already retired under Article 18 of the Church Order. He has written to request a release from the ministry of the CRC. Classis Chicago South has made the motion to grant his request for release and to grant him the status of one released.

6. Synodical deputies J.P. Gorter (Grandville), G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), and F.J. Van Dyk (Grand Rapids North), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Gordon S. Miller**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Northern Michigan, in session on March 2, 1999, to declare that Gordon S. Miller is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church.
7. Synodical deputies P. De Jong (Northern Illinois), D.J. Van Loo (Chicago South), and H.J. Schutt (Illiana), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Houa Yang**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Wisconsin, in session on March 2, 1999, to declare that Houa Yang is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

#### *H. Release from Office to Enter a Nonministerial Vocation, Article 14-c*

1. Synodical deputies J.J. Steigenga (Grand Rapids South), S.E. Hoezee (Grand Rapids East), and G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session on May 18, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Thomas E. Mayo, Jr.**, is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation.

*Deputies' comments:* The classis, with our concurrence, declared Mr. Mayo as one who has been *dismissed* from the ministry of the CRCNA.

2. Synodical deputies J.H. Looman (Kalamazoo), G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), and F.J. Van Dyk (Grand Rapids North), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 17, 1998, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Robert A. Meyering** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation.
3. Synodical deputies J. Bylsma (Wisconsin) and D.J. Van Loo (Chicago South), having heard the discussion of Classis Illiana, in session on September 22, 1998, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Timothy C. Turngren** has resigned from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation and is hereby declared to be in the status of one deposed.

*Deputies' comments:* T.H. Douma, the third synodical deputy, was unable to be present because of sudden illness.

4. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (Rocky Mountain), G.G. Vink (Central California), and J. Van Schepen (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the discussion of Classis Arizona, in session on September 26, 1998, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Keith Voss** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation.

*Deputies' comments:* The concurrence was given via a conference telephone call after Classis Arizona made its decision and representatives of the classis reported the discussion and vote.

#### *I. Release from Office of One Whose Vocation Is Judged to Be Nonministerial, Article 14-d*

1. Synodical deputies J. Corvers (Alberta South), W.L. Vander Beek (B.C. South-East), and H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), having heard the discussion of Classis Alberta North, in session on October 27, 1998, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-d, that **Dick J. Heinen**, having entered a vocation that is judged nonministerial, is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America, effective October 26, 1999.

2. Synodical deputies J. Weeda (Yellowstone), F.E. Pott (Arizona), and A.L. Kuiper (Heartland), having heard the discussion of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on September 22, 1998, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-d, that **Peter W. Deckinga**, having entered a vocation that is judged to be nonministerial, is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America, effective September 22, 1998.

*J. Return to Office of a Person Who Was Honorably Released to Enter a Nonministerial Vocation, Article 14-e*

1. Synodical deputies W.J. Dykstra (Lake Erie), J.J. Hoogland (Hudson), and J.L. Vande Lune (Atlantic Northeast), having heard the interview of the applicant and the discussion of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 22, 1998, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-e, that **Donald C. Sherow** is eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies H.J. Schutt (Illiana), J. Bylsma (Wisconsin), and D.J. Van Loo (Chicago South), having heard the interview of the applicant and the discussion of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on September 16, 1998, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-e, that **Epke Vander Berg** is eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church.
3. Synodical deputies H.R. De Bolster (Hamilton), H.J. Bierman (Huron), and H. Vander Plaat (Niagara), having heard the interview of the applicant and the discussion of Classis Toronto, in session on September 24, 1998, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-e, that **John Veenstra** is eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*K. Release from Ministry in a Congregation under Article 17-a*

1. Synodical deputies S.E. Hoezee (Grand Rapids East), G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), and J.J. Steigenga (Grand Rapids South), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Lake Erie, in session on October 3, 1998, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Andrew K. Chun** is released from ministerial service in Hahn-Bit Christian Reformed Church of Rochester Hills, Michigan.
2. Synodical deputies H.J. Bierman (Huron), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and J. Kuipers (Chatham), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Hamilton, in session on May 18, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Bernard H. De Jonge** is released from ministerial service in Ancaster Christian Reformed Church, Ancaster, Ontario.
3. Synodical deputies J.J. Steigenga (Grand Rapids South), S.E. Hoezee (Grand Rapids East), and G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session on May 18, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. John Hoekwater** is released from ministerial service in West Leonard Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

*Deputies' comments:* Following a year's leave of absence, the council of West Leonard CRC will advise classis of Rev. Hoekwater's status at the September 2000 meeting of classis.

4. Synodical deputies J.J. Hoogland (Hudson), J.L. Vande Lune (Atlantic Northeast), and M.A. Davies (Southeast U.S.), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Hackensack, in session on March 2, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Thomas H. Huizenga** is released from ministerial service in Richfield Christian Reformed Church of Clifton, New Jersey.

*Deputies' comments:* In keeping with provisions of Church Order Supplement, Article 17, no stipulations must be met before Rev. Huizenga may accept a call or have his credentials transferred to another church.

5. Synodical deputies S.E. Hoezee (Grand Rapids East), G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), and J.J. Steigenga (Grand Rapids South), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session on November 5, 1998, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Moon Bae Kim** is released from ministerial service in Hahn-In Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

*Deputies' comments:* Given the circumstances surrounding Rev. Kim's departure, we urge classis to continue to mentor, evaluate, and work with Rev. Kim to determine fitness to receive calls in the future.

6. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (Rocky Mountain), G.G. Vink (Central California), and J. Van Schepen (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the grounds submitted by the pastor and council of Christ's Community Christian Reformed Church of Chandler, Arizona, and the discussion of Classis Arizona, in session on September 26, 1998, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Alfred Lindemulder** is released from ministerial service in Christ's Community Christian Reformed Church of Chandler, Arizona.

*Deputies' comments:* The concurrence was given via a conference telephone call after Classis Arizona made its decision. Representatives of the classis reported the discussion and the vote. Deputies also concurred in the decision of classis that Rev. Lindemulder not be declared eligible for a call for a period of one year for the reasons given.

7. Synodical deputies G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), S.E. Hoezee (Grand Rapids East), and J.J. Steigenga (Grand Rapids South), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session on May 18, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Robert L. Offringa** is released from ministerial service in Gold Avenue Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

*Deputies' comments:* In keeping with the provision of Church Order Supplement, Article 17, the following stipulations must be met before Rev. Offringa may accept a call or have his credentials transferred to another church: Rev. Offringa must receive evaluation and assistance (under the auspices of the denomination's Pastor-Church Relations director).

8. Synodical deputies B. van Eyk (Hackensack), S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), and J.J. Hoogland (Hudson), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on March 6, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Guillermo Ortiz** is released from ministerial service in Orlando Oasis Hispanic Christian Reformed Church of Orlando, Florida.

*L. Extension of Eligibility for Call (and Releases) under Article 17-c*

1. Synodical deputies H.A. Brink (Classis Pacific Northwest), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and W.L. Vander Beek (B.C. North-West), having heard the discussion of Classis Columbia, in session on September 23, 1998, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. A. Douglas Bosscher**'s eligibility for call is extended for one year.
2. Synodical deputies T.J. Brown (Minnkota), D.A. Zylstra (Northcentral Iowa), and D.W. De Groot (Iakota), having heard the discussion of Classis Lake Superior, in session on September 29, 1998, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. John Joldersma**'s eligibility for call is extended for one year.
3. Synodical deputies F.J. Van Dyk (Grand Rapids North), J.P. Gorter (Grandville), and J.W. Uitvlugt (Zeeland), having heard the discussion of Classis Georgetown, in session on February 18, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Clarence A. Reyneveld**'s eligibility for call is extended for one year.

4. Synodical deputies T.J. Brown (Minnkota), D.A. Zylstra (Northcentral Iowa), and D.W. De Groot (Iakota), having heard the discussion of Classis Lake Superior, in session on September 29, 1998, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Randy J. Rozema**'s eligibility for call is extended for one year.

*Deputies' comment:* Should Randy Rozema not accept a call during this one-year period of time, it will be expected that he appear in person to make a further request for extension.

**M. Release from the Office of Minister of the Word under Article 17-c**

Synodical deputies S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), F.E. Pott (Arizona), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having heard the discussion of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on February 6, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Noah Paek** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Note:* The above actions of synodical deputies (pp. 611-16) were not acted upon by Synod 1999. They will be submitted to Synod 2000 for proper processing.

## **II. Response to Overture 5: Mandate the Forum on Cross-Cultural Ministries to Evaluate Syncretistic Practices Employed by Native Ministries**

**A. Material:** Overture 5, p. 394

**B. Recommendations**

1. That synod not accede to the overture.

*Ground:* The Forum on Cross-Cultural Ministries no longer exists. It was a one-time ad hoc committee.

—Adopted

2. That the BOT be instructed to assist in funding a forum initiated by the Canadian Ministries Board to address this issue in the amount of approximately \$25,000 (Can.).

*Ground:* The most constructive solution to the issues raised by this overture is to support the convening of the study already initiated by the Canadian Ministries Board.

—Recommitted

## **III. Response to Overture 26: Include Diaconate Information in Yearbook**

**A. Material:** Overture 26, p. 438

**B. Recommendation**

1. That synod not accede to the overture.

*Grounds:*

- a. The *Yearbook* currently lists the clerk and the treasurer, giving equal recognition and access to elders and deacons.
- b. The names are already of limited value because of the various times during the year when terms expire. The benefits of keying in another 1000 entries are limited and not worth the expense.
- c. Alberta North's concerns are best addressed by diaconal conferences.
- d. Currently, often correspondence directed to the diaconate is sent to the church "Attention of deacons."

—Adopted

2. That this be synod's response to Overture 26.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 52.)

#### ARTICLE 49

(The report of Advisory Committee 9 is continued from Article 44.)

#### U.S. Structure (recommitted)

A. *Material:* Structure for Ministry in the United States Report, pp. 305-85

#### B. *Recommendations*

6. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Canadian Ministries Board to make recommendation(s) to Synod 2000 to achieve effective binational ministry and governance.

*Ground:* There are potential governance issues between the present Canadian Ministries Board and the Board of Trustees that need to be identified and resolved. It is beyond the scope of the advisory committee to provide a recommendation for the relationship of the Canadian Ministries Board and the Board of Trustees.

—Adopted

7. That the above be synod's response to Overtures 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 29, 32, and 33.
8. That synod receive the report of the Committee to Study Structure for Ministry in the United States as information and dismiss the committee with thanks.

—Adopted

The president of synod expresses gratitude to the members of the study committee for all the work they have done.

#### ARTICLE 50

The morning session is adjourned; Rev. Russell J. Van Antwerpen leads in closing prayer.

### THURSDAY AFTERNOON, June 17, 1999

#### Tenth Session

#### ARTICLE 51

The Korean delegates sing "When Peace Like a River" in the Korean language. The delegates then join them, singing first in Korean and then in English. Rev. Peter Slofstra leads in the memorization and recitation of Psalm 56:3 and in opening prayer, remembering Elder Paul Szto, who has returned home because of illness. He announces *Psalter Hymnal* 446, "If You But Trust in God to Guide You."



## ARTICLE 52

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 48.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services, Rev. Jack M. Gray reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Response to Overture 5: Mandate the Forum on Cross-Cultural Ministries to Evaluate Syncretistic Practices Employed by Native Ministries (recommitted)**

A. *Material*: Overture 5, p. 394

#### **B. Recommendation**

1. That synod take note that the Board of Trustees (BOT) already has made budgetary and staff provisions to address the missiological issue of syncretistic practices. The BOT will report to Synod 2001 when the assignment is complete.

—*Adopted*

*Note*: Synod is reminded that the Canadian Ministries Board began fresh supervision of the Aboriginal ministries on July 1, 1998.

2. That this be synod's response to Overture 5.

—*Adopted*

### **II. Committee to Review the One-Week-Synod Experience**

#### *Recommendation*:

That synod appoint a six-person committee to review the guidelines of the one-week synod and recommend its findings to Synod 2000. The committee will be selected by the BOT from among the officers of the three one-week synods.

*Ground*: This fulfills the mandate of Synod 1996 (*Acts of Synod 1996*, p. 534).

—*Adopted*

## ARTICLE 53

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 31.)

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. Cecil Van Niejenhuis reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Calvin Theological Seminary (Majority Report)**

A. *Material*: Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement

#### **B. Recommendation**

1. That synod vote on candidacy applicants individually.

#### *Grounds*:

- a. This allows synod the opportunity to decide on each candidate individually as to qualifications for ministry in the CRC.

- b. This allows those who are conscientiously opposed to having women serve in ecclesiastical office to abstain from voting on female candidates and at the same time allows them the opportunity to vote on male candidates.
- c. We believe this to be in the spirit of the decision of Synod 1995, which sought to “ensure that trustees and delegates may not be forced to participate against the dictates of their consciences” (*Acts of Synod 1995*, p. 735).
- d. As stated in the observations of the advisory committee re Overture 12 to Synod 1998, “. . . by proposing to vote on the candidates as a block, synod, in effect, ‘forces’ those unpersuaded of women’s ordination either to abstain from voting on all candidates or to violate their consciences by voting one way or the other” (*Acts of Synod 1998*, p. 362).

*Note:* This is a vote with respect to qualifications for office and is not to be construed as a vote with respect to ordination.

- 2. That synod declare the following as candidates for ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church, subject to completion of all requirements:

Blom, Jerry L.  
 Chung, Moses  
 Datema, Steven J.  
 Gerdes, Glenn O.  
 Hoekema, Jon E.  
 Howerzyl, Timothy  
 Janssen, Jeffrey P.  
 Kemper, John R.  
 Kett, Gregory J.  
 Kim, Ernest  
 Kim, Gilbert  
 Koeman, Tony W.  
 Lee, Ken H.  
 Meijer, Daryl J.  
 Miedema, Derek E.  
 Mpindi, Mbunga (Paul)  
 Natte, Bonnie  
 Oh, Charles C.  
 Romeyn, Ruth J.  
 Roorda, Darren C.  
 Rottman, Kent A.  
 Sturing, Stanley J.  
 Suh, Gil Sung  
 Sung, David K.  
 Tenyenhuis, Elzo  
 Tuin, Simon A.  
 Van Dyken, Jr., Paul J.  
 Weber, William D.  
 Wigboldus, Ralph S.  
 Wilton, William S.  
 Wolters, Daniel R.  
 Zuidema, Todd M.

*Note:* Candidates are eligible to receive calls two weeks after they have been declared eligible by synod or after announcement by the general secretary (*Acts of Synod 1970*, p. 11; *Acts of Synod 1975*, p. 111).

3. That the following candidates be granted a one-year extension of candidacy:

De Vries, Daniel  
Holtrop, Cindy  
Ricardo, Eufemio  
Venhuizen, Steven  
Won, Timothy  
Yu, Paul

According to the Rules for Synodical Procedure, the Minority Report re voting on candidates is presented as information by Rev. George F. Vander Weit:

## **I. Calvin Seminary**

### **A. *Materials:* Calvin Seminary Supplement**

#### **B. *Observations***

After a long and often divisive debate on the subject of women in ecclesiastical office, Synod 1995 recognized “that there are two different perspectives and convictions, both of which honor the Scriptures as the infallible Word of God, on the issue of whether women are allowed to serve in the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist” (*Acts of Synod 1995*, p. 731). This decision had a number of implications for our life together. One of them is that being male is no longer a requirement for ministry in the Christian Reformed Church. Women seminarians who meet the qualifications specified by our denomination may now be declared eligible for call by synod.

As the second page in the booklet which introduces the prospective candidates to Synod 1999 indicates, all students recommended for candidacy undergo a rigorous process of evaluation so that the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees can assure the denomination that they have met the specified qualifications.

In the recent past, synod has voted on the candidates as a group. Individuals were singled out for separate discussion and vote only if the board, synod’s advisory committee, or synod itself had reservations about a person’s qualifications for ministry.

Beginning in 1996, that voting procedure changed. In 1996 and 1997 candidacy applicants were separated into two groups, a group of males and a group of females. Even though Synod 1995 had decided that a specific gender was no longer a requirement for candidacy, gender was reintroduced as a criterion for candidacy by this backdoor method. In response to an overture objecting to such separation, Synod 1998 decided to vote on each candidate separately. Technically, no one could assert that synod was separating applicants by gender since now every applicant was separated from all others, but there was no doubt about why this new method was adopted. Sadly, synod’s action was a commentary on and visual illustration of what this issue has done to our denomination. Students who had worked together, studied God’s Word

together, and dreamed together of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ were separated from each other. In one of the high points of its life together as a class, community was broken.

Some have asserted that candidacy applicants must be separated by gender to protect the consciences of those who are opposed to the ordination of women. Synod 1995 was well aware of that assertion and attempted to be sensitive to it by adopting the following regulation:

In the consideration of applications for the office of minister of the Word submitted by qualified women, both the Board of Trustees of Calvin Theological Seminary and synod shall ensure that trustees and delegates may not be forced to participate against the dictates of their consciences. In the declaration of candidates, delegates will exercise their right to abstain from voting without pressure or reprisal. (*Acts of Synod 1995*, p. 735; 1998 Church Order, B, 4, p. 23)

Only one delegate raised a question about this regulation, saying,

If I read this right, this allows synodical delegates to abstain from voting, but it does not allow them to vote against women candidates because they are women, on the basis of their conviction that the Bible does not allow women to serve in the offices. It seems to me that if I am right on that, that is binding the consciences of synodical delegates in the future . . . .

(Tape of Synod 1995)

In defense of the regulation recommended by synod's advisory committee, its reporter responded,

Specifically, the words say "submitted by qualified women," and we believe that what the trustees and delegates are to be judging is whether or not they are qualified. We believe the fact that whether they are male or female is not an issue at that point. The question is whether they have met the proper qualifications . . . . (Tape of Synod 1995)

Even though Synod 1995 indicated that the vote on candidacy is a vote on qualifications, not on gender, it also indicated that a delegate who was unable to say that a woman was qualified to enter the ministry could abstain from voting. Some delegates have asserted that this arrangement prohibits them from voting on the male applicants. Again, this is only true if a delegate votes on something other than the requirements for ministry specified by the CRC. A delegate loses his voice only if he votes on whether women ought to be candidates instead of voting on the motion before synod, namely, whether the applicants presented have fulfilled the denominational requirements specified for candidacy.

This year the faculty of Calvin Theological Seminary recommended thirty-two candidacy applicants to its board of trustees because those students had met all the requirements specified for entrance into the gospel ministry. The board of trustees is recommending those thirty-two students to synod for the same reason. The recommendation on which Synod 1999 is voting is "that synod declare the following as candidates for ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church, subject to all requirements."

Though some wish that being male were still a requirement for ministry in the CRC, Synod 1995 indicated that it is not. The same synod adopted a number of regulations that are to be followed until they are reviewed by Synod 2000. Since 1996, in violation of its own 1995 regulation, synod has separated candidates so that the focus of the vote becomes the gender, not the qualifications, of the students. This violation of synod's own rule is especially

dishonoring to women applicants and is poor modeling for a denomination which is struggling to find ways to stay together instead of splitting apart. This practice of separation must cease. Synod 1999 must follow the rule on candidacy applications adopted by Synod 1995.

### *C. Recommendations*

1. That synod vote on candidacy applicants as a group, separating applicants for a separate vote only when the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees or synod itself has reservations about an applicant's qualifications for ministry.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. The separation of students, begun only after women were allowed to enter the ministry of the CRC, focuses the vote on the gender, not on the qualifications, of the student.
  - b. Synod 1995 provided a way to deal with this matter when it declared that delegates who cannot vote on the candidacy applicants because some of them are women are able to "exercise their right to abstain from voting without pressure or reprisal" (*Acts of Synod 1995*, p. 735; 1998 Church Order, B, 4, p. 23).
2. That synod declare the following as candidates for ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church, subject to completion of all requirements:

Blom, Jerry L.  
Chung, Moses  
Datema, Steven J.  
Gerdes, Glenn O.  
Hoekema, Jon E.  
Howerzyl, Timothy  
Janssen, Jeffrey P.  
Kemper, John R.  
Kett, Gregory J.  
Kim, Ernest  
Kim, Gilbert  
Koeman, Tony W.  
Lee, Ken H.  
Meijer, Daryl J.  
Miedema, Derek E.  
Mpindi, Mbunga (Paul)  
Natte, Bonnie  
Oh, Charles C.  
Romeyn, Ruth J.  
Roorda, Darren C.  
Rottman, Kent A.  
Sturing, Stanley J.  
Suh, Gil Sung  
Sung, David K.  
Tenyenhuis, Elzo  
Tuin, Simon A.  
Van Dyken, Jr., Paul J.

Weber, William D.  
Wigboldus, Ralph S.  
Wilton, William S.  
Wolters, Daniel R.  
Zuidema, Todd M.

*Note:* Candidates are eligible to receive calls two weeks after they have been declared eligible by synod or after announcement by the general secretary (*Acts of Synod 1970*, p. 11; *Acts of Synod 1975*, p. 111).

3. That the following candidates be granted a one-year extension of candidacy:

De Vries, Daniel  
Holtrop, Cindy  
Ricardo, Eufemio  
Venhuizen, Steven  
Won, Timothy  
Yu, Paul

Synod returns to its consideration of the recommendations of the advisory-committee Majority Report.

1. That synod vote on candidacy applicants individually.

*Grounds:*

- a. This allows synod the opportunity to decide on each candidate as to qualifications for ministry in the CRC.
- b. This allows those who are conscientiously opposed to having women serve in ecclesiastical office to abstain from voting on female candidates and the opportunity to vote on male candidates.
- c. We believe this to be in the spirit of the decision of Synod 1995, which sought to “ensure that trustees and delegates may not be forced to participate against the dictates of their consciences” (*Acts of Synod 1995*, p. 735).
- d. As stated in the observations of the advisory committee re Overture 12 to Synod 1998, “. . . by proposing to vote on the candidates as a block, synod, in effect, ‘forces’ those unpersuaded of women’s ordination either to abstain from voting on all candidates or to violate their consciences by voting one way or the other” (*Acts of Synod 1998*, p. 362).

—Adopted

*Note:* This is a vote with respect to qualifications for office and is not to be construed as a vote with respect to ordination.

The following negative vote with statement is registered:

At Synods 1996 and 1997 candidacy applicants were separated by gender. At Synod 1998 and now at Synod 1999 candidacy applicants were voted on individually to make it appear that gender isn’t the reason for the separation. Separation of candidacy applicants violates the covenant that Synod 1995 established with the churches. Synod 1995 did not mandate any separation but expected that synod would continue its practice of voting on the candidates as a group. It clearly said that this vote was on qualifications, not on gender, and also made provision for delegates who did not wish to vote on the applicants by

saying that they could “exercise their right to abstain from voting without pressure or reprisal” (Church Order Supplement, Art. 3-a, B, 4).

The Majority Report assures synod this is indeed a vote on qualifications and not on gender. Yet three of the four grounds for its motion are about gender. This voting procedure lacks integrity, is unworthy of the church of Jesus Christ, and is poor modeling for the denomination.

George W. Vander Weit (Lake Erie)

2. That synod declare the following as candidates for ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church, subject to completion of all requirements (each candidate to be voted upon individually):

Blom, Jerry L.  
Chung, Moses  
Datema, Steven J.  
Gerdes, Glenn O.  
Hoekema, Jon E.  
Howerzyl, Timothy  
Janssen, Jeffrey P.  
Kemper, John R.  
Kett, Gregory J.  
Kim, Ernest  
Kim, Gilbert  
Koeman, Tony W.  
Lee, Ken H.  
Meijer, Daryl J.  
Miedema, Derek E.  
Mpindi, Mbunga (Paul)  
Natte, Bonnie  
Oh, Charles C.  
Romeyn, Ruth J.  
Roorda, Darren C.  
Rottman, Kent A.  
Sturing, Stanley J.  
Suh, Gil Sung  
Sung, David K.  
Tenyenhuis, Elzo  
Tuin, Simon A.  
Van Dyken, Jr., Paul J.  
Weber, William D.  
Wigboldus, Ralph S.  
Wilton, William S.  
Wolters, Daniel R.  
Zuidema, Todd M.

—Adopted

*Note:* Candidates are eligible to receive calls two weeks after they have been declared eligible by synod or after announcement by the general secretary (see *Acts of Synod 1970*, p. 11; *Acts of Synod 1975*, p. 111).

3. That the following candidates be granted a one-year extension of candidacy (each candidate to be voted upon individually):

De Vries, Daniel  
Holtrop, Cindy  
Ricardo, Eufemio  
Venhuizen, Steven  
Won, Timothy  
Yu, Paul

—Adopted

## ARTICLE 54

### *Recommendation:*

That synod request the Board of Trustees to appoint the members of the Committee to Examine Life Issues Raised by Bioscience and Genetic Engineering. The names gathered at synod will be given to the Board of Trustees.

—Adopted

## ARTICLE 55

Advisory Committee 10, Ordination and “Official Acts of Ministry,” Rev. Jacob C. Weeda reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Ordination and “Official Acts of Ministry”**

#### **A. Materials**

1. Committee to Study Ordination and “Official Acts of Ministry” Report, pp. 281-303
2. Overture 6, pp. 395-96
3. Overture 7, pp. 396-97
4. Overture 8, pp. 398-403
5. Overture 9, pp. 403-04
6. Overture 10, p. 404
7. Overture 11, pp. 405-08
8. Overture 30, pp. 500-01
9. Communication 1, p. 445

#### **B. Background**

The study report entitled “Ordination and ‘Official Acts of Ministry’” was generated in response to the overtures of two classes and one request arising from the denominational standing committee for youth ministry. The study committee worked under this mandate:

to consider the matters of ordination and “official acts of ministry” (Church Order Art. 53-b) as these apply to youth pastors and persons in other specialized ministries who attain their positions by pathways other than the M.Div. degree.  
(*Agenda for Synod 1999*, p. 281)

The open-ended character of the mandate offered the study committee some difficulties (p. 283) and led it to wonder if its recommendations addressed the mandate completely (p. 297).

The intention of the study committee was to build upon the foundation first laid in 1973 by action of synod regarding Report 44: “Ecclesiastical Office and



Ordination" (*Acts of Synod 1973*, Art. 64, pp. 60-64; 635-716). The present study committee, building on materials long ago accepted by synod, did not believe it was required to repeat the work of the 1973 report or to present again all of its biblical, theological, and historical materials.

The advisory committee finds this study report helpful in advancing the discussion of congregational ministries and of ordination, office, and "official acts of ministry." However, the relationship between office and ordination and "official acts of ministry" calls for much more study. The study committee recommends establishing for the whole denomination a new unordained position and a new ordained office. The advisory committee has reservations about moving in this direction without a more fully developed framework for relating ordination to staff ministries and "official acts of ministry." Therefore, it will propose that the matter be recommitted to an expanded committee with a revised mandate.

The following pertinent questions arise in response to this report:

- What acts of worship and ministry call for ordination and why?
- Who should be ordained and why?
- What is the relationship between ordination and a person's spiritual gifts, God's call, and the church's need?
- What is the basis for the academic standards maintained for some but not other offices?
- How can we define and specify the "official acts of ministry"?
- May the church create and terminate offices at will? Why? How?
- Ought elders in churches without pastors to preach and administer sacraments?
- What is the ecclesiastical status of nonordained persons who in various ways serve in congregational ministries, such as worship and music leadership, youth work, evangelism, church administration, congregational life, counseling, pastoral care, and chaplaincies?
- What is the difference between ordination, commissioning, and appointment of staff?
- How can the needs of the organized and unorganized churches of Classis Red Mesa be met by bivocational pastors?
- How can the recommendation that licensed exhorters in Classis Red Mesa be ordained as elders apply in an unorganized church setting and within the context of limited tenure provisions in our current church polity?

With these and similar questions in mind, the advisory committee makes the following recommendations to Synod 1999:

### *C. Recommendations*

1. That members of the study committee be given the privilege of the floor when this report is being discussed.
2. That synod recommit the study report with its recommendations to the study committee.

—*Granted*

*Grounds:*

- a. The original mandate requires greater precision than synod can now provide.
- b. There is a lack of clarity on some of the issues and recommendations in the report currently before synod.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod mandate the study committee to continue its work and, in addition to the matters considered and reported on thus far, to define the essence and nature of “official acts of ministry,” exploring the relationship between “official acts of ministry” and the nature and function of office and ordination, identifying practical implications for church ministry today, providing guidelines to help the church deal with matters of ordination and office, and being sensitive to the various cultural and ethnic communities in which our churches minister.

*Grounds:*

- a. The current study committee, while listing a number of them, itself states that the phrase “official acts of ministry” “has never been defined either by the Church Order or synodical action” (*Agenda 1999*, p. 287).
- b. Churches require clear guidelines as they develop specialized ministries.
- c. A related study committee (Alternate Routes to Ministry) is expected to report to Synod 2000.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod expand the membership of the study committee by adding three members (to be appointed by the BOT).

*Grounds:*

- a. The study committee has asked for more members to facilitate its work.
- b. The committee originally had eight members.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod extend the exception to Church Order Article 55 given to Classis Red Mesa, allowing those who have been authorized to preach also to administer the sacraments, at least until such time as this study committee completes its work.

*Grounds:*

- a. Synod has granted exception in 1995, with extension of same in 1998.
- b. This meets the immediate need in Classis Red Mesa.

—*Adopted*

6. That synod declare this to be its response to Overtures 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 30 and Communication 1.

—*Adopted*

ARTICLE 56

A motion is made that synod instruct The Back to God Hour Board to use the nominating and election procedure used by the other three regionally constituted boards.

—*Adopted*

## ARTICLE 57

Appointments, officers, and functionaries are presented for review. This listing reflects the results of the synodical elections and appointments and includes study committees that are synodically approved.

### I. Officers and functionaries

#### A. Officers

1. General secretary: Dr. David H. Engelhard
2. Executive director of ministries: Dr. Peter Borgdorff
3. Director of finance and administration: Mr. Kenneth J. Horjus

#### B. Functionaries

Arrangements for synod: Mr. Jeff Stob, Calvin College  
Mrs. Margaret Buma and Mrs. Leni Janssens,  
Redeemer College

Convening church for Synod 2000: First Christian Reformed Church, Jenison, MI

### II. Synodical deputies

Classis	Deputy	Alternate	Term Expires
Alberta North	Rev. H.G. Samplonius	Rev. H. Vriend	2000
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Rev. J. Corvers	Rev. A. Beukema	2002
Arizona	Rev. F.E. Pott	Rev. F.J. Walhof	1998
Atlantic Northeast	Rev. S.J. Vander Klay	Rev. J.L. Vande Lune	2000
B.C. North-West	Rev. J.S. Hielema	Rev. L.H. Batterink	2002
B.C. South-East	Rev. J. Boonstra		2001
California South		Rev. D.W. Lagerwey	1998
Central California	Rev. G.G. Vink	Rev. G.L. Dykstra	2001
Chatham	Rev. D.R. Tigchelaar	Rev. P. Nicolai	2002
Chicago South	Rev. D.J. Van Loo	Rev. J.T. Medenblik	2002
Columbia	Rev. D.L. Recker	Rev. G.P. Hutt	1999
Eastern Canada	Rev. H.G. Gunnink	Rev. H.P. Kranenburg	2001
Georgetown	Rev. J.R. Boot	Rev. T.J. Lapinsky	2000
Grand Rapids East	Rev. S.E. Hoezee	Rev. R. Opperwall	2000
Grand Rapids North	Rev. G.A. Koning	Rev. D.A. Warners	2002
Grand Rapids South	Rev. J.J. Steigenga	Rev. D.A. Struyk	2001
Grandville	Rev. J.P. Gorter	Dr. A.J. Schoonveld	2001
Greater Los Angeles	Dr. J. Van Schepen	Rev. D.R. Koll	2000
Hackensack		Rev. R.E. Orellana	2002
Hamilton	Rev. J. Zantingh	Rev. H.R. De Bolster	2001
Heartland	Rev. A.L. Kuiper	Rev. J.M. Gray	2002
Holland	Rev. J.S. Meyer	Rev. J. Hasper	2001
Hudson	Rev. J.J. Hoogland	Rev. J.G. Keizer	1998
Huron	Rev. R. Kooops	Rev. H.J. Bierman	2002
Iakota	Rev. D.W. De Groot	Rev. C.E. Fennema	2002
Illiana	Rev. H.J. Schutt	Rev. R.J. Blauw	2002
Kalamazoo	Rev. J.H. Looman	Rev. S.R. Van Eck	2002
Lake Erie	Rev. W.J. Dykstra	Rev. C. Libolt	1999
Lake Superior	Rev. J.G. Busscher	Rev. W.H. Kooienga	2002
Minnkota	Rev. T.J. Brown	Rev. L.G. Christoffels	2000

Classis	Deputy	Alternate	Term Expires
Muskegon	Rev. A.L. Hoksbergen	Rev. R.L. Bierenga	2001
Niagara	Rev. J. De Jong	Rev. H.A. Vander Windt	2002
Northcentral Iowa	Rev. D.A. Zylstra	Rev. T.J. Niehof	2001
Northern Illinois	Rev. P. De Jong	Rev. T.H. Douma	2000
Northern Michigan	Rev. R. Klimp	Rev. R. Brinks	2000
Pacific Hanmi	Rev. S.J. Kang	Rev. S.W. Yoon	2001
Pacific Northwest	Rev. K.D. Koeman	Rev. R. Vander Ley	2000
Pella	Rev. L.J. Howerzyl	Rev. R.L. Bouwkamp	1999
Quinte	Rev. W.T. Koopmans	Dr. W. Van Groningen	2000
Red Mesa	Rev. W.K. Bulthuis	Rev. S.A. Jim	2000
Rocky Mountain	Rev. W. Verhoef	Rev. J.P. Boonstra	2000
Southeast U.S.	Rev. M.A. Davies	Rev. R.E. Van Hofwegen	2000
Thornapple Valley	Rev. G. Bouma	Rev. G.W. Sheeres	2001
Toronto	Rev. H.D. Praamsma	Rev. J. Kuntz	2000
Wisconsin	Rev. L.J. Kuiper	Rev. J. Admiraal	2002
Yellowstone	Rev. J. Weeda	Rev. G.G. Hofland	2002
Zeeland	Rev. J.W. Uitvlugt	Rev. J.L. Alferink	2000

### III. Boards and committees

#### A. Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

District	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
Far West U.S. I	Rev. R. Slim	Rev. D.W. Vander Veen	2002
Far West U.S. II	Dr. T. Van Groningen	Mrs. P. Medema	2002
Great Plains	Rev. A.L. Kuiper	Rev. D.A. Kamper	2001
	Mr. H. Van Maanen	Mrs. B. Ackerman	2002
Central U.S. I	Mr. W. Weidenaar	Mr. D. Hoebeke	2000
Central U.S. II	Rev. A.L. Hoksbergen	Rev. S.D. Los	2000
Central U.S. III	Rev. J.P. Gorter	Rev. C.D. Compagner	2001
	Mr. H. Johnson	Dr. J. Strikwerda	2000
Central U.S. IV	Mrs. K. Smith	Mrs. M.J. De Jong	2001
	Rev. D.L. Kelderman	Rev. H. Admiraal	2002
Eastern U.S.	Rev. S.J. Workman	Dr. B.A. Averill	2002
Eastern Canada I	Rev. E. Den Haan	Rev. J.J. Hoytema	2002
Eastern Canada II	Rev. G.H. Pols	Rev. B.P. Velthuisen	2001
	Mr. J.H. Vander Stoep		2001
Western Canada	Rev. P. Brouwer	Rev. A. Beukema	2000
	Dr. W. Vanden Born	Mr. J. Lok	2000
At-large	Mrs. S. Cook	Mrs. M. Kouwenhoven	2002
	Dr. C.J. Rottman	Mrs. M. Minnema	2000
	Mrs. M. Thomas	Mrs. C. Vander Kodde	2001
Ex officio	Dr. David H. Engelhard, general secretary Dr. Peter Borgdorff, executive director of ministries		

## *B. The Back to God Hour*

Region	Member	Term Expires
Far West U.S. I	Rev. A. Begay	2002
Far West U.S. II	Rev. D.V. Hays	2000
Great Plains	Mr. J. Slegers	2002
	Rev. T.J. Brown	2001
Central U.S. I	Rev. R.E. Williams	2001
	Mrs. J. Bilthouse	2000
Central U.S. II	Rev. A. Petroelje	2002
Central U.S. III	Mrs. W. Beckman	2002
	Dr. R. Huizenga	2000
Central U.S. IV	Rev. R.S. Greenway	2002
Eastern U.S.	Mr. C. Bushoven	2000
Eastern Canada I	Mr. C.K. Oosthoek	2001
Eastern Canada II	Mrs. M. Meyer	2002
	Rev. A. Van Giessen	2000
Western Canada	Mr. M. VanHuizen	2001

## *C. Calvin College Board of Trustees*

Region	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
Far West U.S. I	Rev. J.W. De Vries	Rev. J.A. Dykema	2001
	Mrs. C. Bremer-Bennett	Dr. J. Van Schepen	2002
Far West U.S. II	Mr. C.A. Pasma	Dr. J. Velkamp	2000
Great Plains U.S.	Rev. C.J. De Ridder	Rev. R.D. Engle	2001
Central U.S. I	Dr. J. De Roos	Mrs. J. Van Dyke Zeilstra	2002
	Mr. V. Boerman	Mr. G. Baas	2000
Central U.S. II	Mrs. M. Schaafsma	Rev. K.A. Baker	2000
Central U.S. III	Mr. J. Postma	Dr. R. Brummel	2000
	Mr. A. Morren	Dr. P. De Young	2001
Central U.S. IV	Rev. E.J. Blankespoor	Mr. M. De Boer	2000
	Mr. R. Alderink	Mr. W. Knoester	2002
Eastern U.S.	Dr. E. Wierenga	Mr. D. Sporn	2002
	Dr. G. Gabrielse	Ms. D. Kuiper	2001
Eastern Canada I	Dr. H.J. Stronks	Mr. C.P. Davies	2001
Eastern Canada II	Mr. W. Neutel	Mrs. S. Koppendrayner	2000
Western Canada	Mr. R. Koole	Dr. J.S. Hielema	2002
Alumni	Ms. Janice Veenstra		2000
	Dr. Marvin Kusters		2001
	Ms. Connie Northouse Brummel		2002
At-large	Rev. Jason Chen		2000
	Mr. S.C.L. Chong		2002
	Dr. T. DeMeester		2002
	Dr. Jack Harkema		2001
	Mr. Milton Kuyers		2002
	Mrs. Cecilia Mereness		2000
	Mr. K. Olthoff		2000
	Mr. K. Ozinga		2002
	Ms. Jacquelyn S. Vander Brug		2001
	Ms. Cindi Veenstra		2002
	Mr. Michael A. Volkema		2001
	Mr. M. Williams		2000

### *D. Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees*

Region	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
Far West U.S. I	Rev. A. Lindemulder	Rev. D. Brink	2000
Far West U.S. II	Rev. K.D. Koeman	Rev. J.R. Kok	2000
Great Plains U.S.	Dr. C.E. Zylstra	Dr. E. Rubingh	2000
	Rev. R.D. Kramer	Rev. W. Zeilstra	2000
Central U.S. I	Mr. G. Baas	Dr. L. Reedyk	2001
Central U.S. II	Rev. Y.J. Oh	Dr. M.S. Khil	2002
Central U.S. III	Mr. W. Byker	Dr. G. Niemeyer	2002
	Mr. J. Roskam	Mr. W.F. Stoub	2001
Central U.S. IV	Rev. N.L. Meyer	Rev. J.J. Steigenga	2001
	Ms. N. Vander Ark	Mrs. M. Brasser	2000
Eastern U.S.	Rev. R.E. Orellana	Rev. L. Seaton	2002
Eastern Canada I	Mr. M. Bosveld	Mr. J. Geschiere	2000
Eastern Canada II	Mr. J.A. Barnstead	Mr. W. Kort	2001
	Mr. W. Hultink	Mr. J. De Waard	2002
Western Canada	Rev. H.G. de Ruyter	Dr. J.S. Hielema	2001
	Rev. C. Van Niejenhuis	Rev. H. Salomons	2002
At-large	Mr. M. Muller	Mr. D. Nydam	2000
	Mr. S.J. Jansma, Jr.	Mr. B. te Velde, Sr.	2001
	Dr. M.E. Toxopeus	Rev. M.S. Antonides	2001

### *E. CRC Publications*

Classis	Delegate	Alternate	Term Expires
Alberta North	Ms. Jessie Schut	Rev. W.A. Ten Harmsel	1999
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Ms. J. Weening	Ms. G. Heinen	2002
Arizona	Ms. L. Vanooostveen	Mr. P. Kuczynski	2001
Atlantic Northeast	Dr. T. Dykstra	Ms. L. Bieze	2000
B.C. North-West	Mr. F. Herfst	Mr. A. Harskamp	2002
B.C. South-East	Rev. A. Westerhuis	Mr. N. Ringma	2001
California South	Mrs. W. Klop	Mrs. B. Breems	2000
Central California	Mrs. A. Meester	Mrs. L. Dykstra	2001
Chatham	Mrs. G. Miedema		2000
Chicago South	Rev. W.R. Lenters	Mr. D. Larson	2002
Columbia	Mrs. C. Bosch	Mrs. B. Vander Beek	2000
Eastern Canada	Dr. I. Neutel	Mrs. N. Pye	2001
Georgetown	Ms. P. Dornbush	Mr. C. Koning	2001
Grand Rapids East	Dr. G. Goris-Stronks	Ms. J. Timmer	2000
Grand Rapids North	Mr. A. Stremmer	Rev. M.J. Flikkema	2000
Grand Rapids South	Rev. E. De Vries	Rev. J.J. Steigenga	2002
Grandville	Ms. Barbara Sanders	Ms. A. Collins	2002
Greater Los Angeles	Mrs. W. Van Schepen	Ms. J. Beezhoud	2000
Hackensack	Rev. E.N. Romero		2000
Hamilton	Mrs. A. Van der Woerd	Mr. F. Vandervelde	2001
Heartland	Rev. M.D. Fopma	Mr. C. De Boer	2002
Holland	Rev. M. De Vries	Mr. B. Den Boer	2002
Hudson	Mr. D. Holwerda		2000
Huron		Mrs. J. Van Der Velden	1999
Iakota	Mrs. S. Matheis	Dr. M. Vanden Bosch	2001
Illiana	Mr. R. Wunderink	Rev. M.J. Jonkman	2001
Kalamazoo	Rev. S.R. Van Eck		2002
Lake Erie	Dr. C. Libolt	Mrs. L. Miller	2001
Lake Superior	Mrs. C. Rudie	Mrs. L. Kroese	2000

Classis	Delegate	Alternate	Term Expires
Minnesota South	Ms. L. Van Beek	Mr. J. Van Nieuwenhuizen	2001
Muskegon	Ms. J. Meyers	Rev. L.D. Baar	2000
Niagara	Mr. C. Van Soelen	Rev. E. Groot-Nibbelink	2000
Northcentral Iowa	Ms. R. Verbrugge	Rev. S.J. Mulder	2001
Northern Illinois	Rev. J.F. Schuurman		2002
Northern Michigan	Mrs. B. Verbrugge	Mr. S. Loomis	2000
Pacific Hanmi	Rev. C.C. Cho		2001
Pacific Northwest	Mrs. C. Terpstra	Mr. B. de Regt	2002
Pella	Mrs. G. Nieuwsma	Mr. E. Vande Pol	2001
Quinte	Mrs. J. Wildeboer	Mr. H. Nieuwstraten	2000
Red Mesa	Mrs. T. Rottschaffer	Mr. R. Slim	2000
Rocky Mountain	Mr. M. Newton	Rev. R. De Young	2000
Southeast U.S.	Miss D. De Boer		2000
Thornapple Valley	Mrs. D. Bloem	Mrs. S. Phillips	2002
Toronto	Ms. H. Roukema	Ms. I. Simpson	2001
Wisconsin	Mrs. M. Kuiper	Rev. E.J. Laarman	2002
Yellowstone	Mrs. K. Eekhoff	Mrs. S. Kamp	2001
Zeeland	Rev. H. Lengkeek	Rev. R.A. Terpstra	2001
At-large (with expertise in finance and law)	Mr. Dennis Bergsma		2000
	Mr. S. Lee		2001
	Mr. R. Bandstra		2002
Fraternal delegate	Mr. Jeff Japinga (RCA)		2002

#### *F. Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions*

Classis	Delegate	Alternate	Term Expires
Alberta North	Rev. P. Stel	Rev. R.J. Graff	1999
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Rev. M. Reitsma		2000
Arizona	Mr. H. Jansen	Rev. J.A. Dykema	2000
Atlantic Northeast	Rev. A. Gelder	Rev. V.G. Van Ee	1999
B.C. North-West	Rev. T.W. Bomhof	Mr. M. Jurrius	2002
B.C. South-East	Rev. B.E. Gritter	Rev. J.R. Berry	2000
California South	Rev. R.K. Young	Mr. J. De Young	1999
Central California	Mr. M. Lanting	Rev. C.J. Friend	2002
Chatham	Rev. D.R. Tigchelaar	Rev. G.K. Haagsma	2000
Chicago South	Rev. D.A. Crushshon, Sr.	Rev. C.J. Aardsma	2002
Columbia	Rev. V.L. Michael	Mr. G. Vrieling	2001
Eastern Canada	Rev. J.A. Broekema	Mr. P. Runia	2001
Georgetown	Ms. J. Sikkema	Rev. L.J. Doornbos	2000
Grand Rapids East	Rev. W. Vanden Bosch	Mr. J. Witte	2002
Grand Rapids North	Mr. T. de Vries	Ms. C. Vogel	2001
Grand Rapids South	Rev. M.L. De Young	Rev. R. Smith	2000
Grandville	Rev. A.L. Van Wyhe	Rev. T.R. Wolthuis	2000
Greater Los Angeles	Rev. A. Vanden Akker	Ms. R. Van Dyk	2000
Hackensack	Rev. R.E. Orellana	Rev. P.R. De Vries	2000
Hamilton	Mrs. D. Proper	Rev. R. Vander Kooij	2000
Heartland	Rev. R.R. De Vries	Mr. A. Kramer	2000
Holland	Rev. A.L. Louwerse	Rev. F.T. Wevers	2000
Hudson	Rev. K.J. Verhulst	Mr. D. Holwerda	2000
Huron			2002
lakota	Rev. B.J. Haan, Jr.	Rev. C.J. De Ridder	2002
Illiana	Mr. A. Vanden Bosch		2002

Classis	Delegate	Alternate	Term Expires
Kalamazoo	Rev. R.D. Vanderwell	Ms. K. Apotheker	2000
Lake Erie	Rev. E.A. Harrison	Rev. W.C. De Vries	2001
Lake Superior	Rev. E.S.H. Busink	Rev. A.J. Van Dellen	2002
Minnkota	Mr. R. Schaap	Mr. W. Sankey	2000
Muskegon	Rev. E.C. Visser	Rev. C. Uken	2001
Niagara	Rev. J.J. Hoytema	Rev. W.H. Vander Werf	2000
Northcentral Iowa	Rev. D.J. Dykstra	Rev. G.D. Daley	2000
Northern Illinois	Rev. T.H. Douma	Rev. L.L. Schemper	2001
Northern Michigan	Rev. D.J. Weemhoff	Rev. P.R. Byma	2000
Pacific Hanmi	Rev. H.J. Park		1999
Pacific Northwest	Rev. I.S. Kim	Rev. M.J. Kooy	2001
Pella	Mr. N. Nikkel	Mr. I. Mulder	1999
Quinte	Rev. K.J. House	Mr. C. Reitsma	2001
Red Mesa	Mr. T. Charles	Mr. V. Pablo	2000
Rocky Mountain	Rev. S. Sikkema	Rev. C. Vander Neut	2000
Southeast U.S.	Rev. J.A. Vander Slik		2001
Thornapple Valley	Rev. R. Bultman	Rev. R.S. Greenway	2001
Toronto	Rev. S. Cooper		2001
Wisconsin	Rev. L.L. Meyer	Mr. D. Ritzema	2001
Yellowstone	Mr. J. Westra	Mr. C. Abee	1999
Zeeland	Dr. J.E. De Vries	Rev. D.A. Gritter	1999
At-large			
Finance	Mr. L. De Lange	Mr. E. Berends, Jr.	2000
Advancement	Mr. H. Rozema	Mr. M. Feldkamp	2000

### *G. Christian Reformed World Missions Committee*

Classis	Delegate	Alternate	Term Expires
Alberta North	Mrs. S. Mobach	Rev. J.A. Ooms	1999
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Rev. J.R. Huizinga	Rev. A.G. Vander Leek	2001
Arizona	Rev. F.E. Pott	Rev. S.R. Steenstra	2001
Atlantic Northeast	Rev. W.G. Vis	Rev. V.G. Van Ee	1999
B.C. North-West	Rev. P.L. Hendriks	Rev. J. Koster	2001
B.C. South-East	Mr. N. Brouwer	Rev. E. Jager	2002
California South	Mr. E. Smith		2001
Central California	Mrs. E. Huttinga	Rev. P.V. De Jonge	2001
Chatham	Rev. H. Mennega	Rev. E. Pennings	2001
Chicago South	Rev. A. Van Zanten	Mr. M. Ozinga, Jr.	2002
Columbia	Rev. P.J. Tinklenberg		2001
Eastern Canada	Mrs. W. Runia	Mr. M. Van Wyk	2001
Georgetown	Mr. H. De Witt	Dr. M.W. Heyboer	2000
Grand Rapids East	Rev. H.W. Lew	Rev. H. Kiekover	2001
Grand Rapids North	Mr. D. Zylstra	Mr. J. Vander Henst	2000
Grand Rapids South	Rev. R.L. Fynewever	Rev. R.D. Bolt	2000
Grandville	Rev. C.G. Tapanes	Rev. A.L. Vander Hart	2001
Greater Los Angeles	Dr. J. Van Schepen		2001
Hackensack	Rev. T.G. Klaasen		2001
Hamilton	Rev. A.C. Geleynse	Mr. T. Vande Putte	2001
Heartland	Mr. J. Kooiker	Rev. B.B. Blankers	2000
Holland	Rev. J.C. Hutt	Dr. J.M. Zinkand	2001
Hudson	Rev. J.G. Keizer	Rev. J.C. Fisher	1999
Huron	Rev. A.A. Van Geest	Rev. W.D. Dirksen	2001
lakota	Rev. L.A. Lobdell	Rev. S. Scripps	2000



Classis	Delegate	Alternate	Term Expires
Illiana	Rev. B.M. Madany	Rev. L.W. Van Essen	2000
Kalamazoo	Mr. D. Selles	Rev. K.I. Dwyer	2002
Lake Erie	Rev. H.A. Stob	Rev. R. De Vries	2001
Lake Superior	Rev. W.H. Kooienga	Rev. J.G. Busscher	2001
Minnkota	Rev. D.A. Bosch	Rev. T.J. Brown	2000
Muskegon	Rev. R.J. Hamstra	Rev. S.J. Nauta	2002
Niagara	Rev. P.A. Heerema	Rev. D.W. Cowart	2000
Northcentral Iowa	Mr. P. Eekhoff	Rev. H. Dykema	2000
Northern Illinois	Dr. W. Venema	Mr. J. Bosma	2000
Northern Michigan	Rev. W.R. De Young	Rev. J.D. Fox	2000
Pacific Hanmi	Rev. D.W. Yang	Rev. C.C. Cho	2000
Pacific Northwest	Rev. R.J. De Ruiter	Mr. W. Eskes	2000
Pella	Rev. T.R. Dykstra	Rev. R.L. Bouwkamp	1999
Quinte	Rev. E.W. Visser	Rev. R.G. Fisher	2000
Red Mesa	Rev. R.L. Jipping	Rev. J.J. Greydanus	2000
Rocky Mountain	Mr. W. Lemke	Rev. H. de Jong	1999
Southeast U.S.	Rev. D.L. Aldrink	Rev. G. Moreno	2001
Thornapple Valley	Rev. W.J. Renkema	Mr. T. Van't Land	2001
Toronto	Mr. S. Kabetu	Mr. P. Masengi	2002
Wisconsin	Rev. L.J. Kuiper	Mr. R. Kok	2001
Yellowstone	Mrs. J. Gebben	Mr. H. Faber	2001
Zeeland	Rev. R. Walter, Jr.	Rev. R.J. Meyer	2001
<i>H. Christian Reformed World Relief Committee</i>			
Classis	Delegate	Alternate	Term Expires
Alberta North	Ms. A. Feddes	Mr. H. Visser	2002
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Mr. J. Feenstra	Mr. G. Lubberts	2000
Arizona	Mr. J. Ten Elshof	Mr. W. Rozema	2000
Atlantic Northeast	Mr. T. Woodnorth	Ms. R. Ruiter	2001
B.C. North-West	Mr. W. Potma	Mr. J. Van Es	2000
B.C. South-East	Mr. C. Tuin	Mr. J. Richey	2001
California South		Ms. C. Hooyer	1999
Central California	Mr. J. Schoolland	Mr. L. De Ruiter	2002
Chatham	Mr. M. De Vries		2000
Chicago South	Mr. P. Kamp	Mr. R. Van Dellen	2002
Columbia	Ms. K. Haley	Ms. A. Lammers	2000
Eastern Canada	Mr. T. Hogeterp	Ms. S. Cook	2002
Georgetown	Mr. G. Hartger	Mr. P. DeLange	2001
Grand Rapids East	Ms. K. Yoder	Ms. M. Dengerink	2001
Grand Rapids North	Mr. R. Zuidema	Ms. C. Liza	2002
Grand Rapids South	Mr. A. Steensma	Mr. T. Buit	2002
Grandville	Mr. P. Wassink	Mr. N. De Young	2001
Greater Los Angeles	Mr. F. Golon		2000
	Mr. S. Cole		2000
Hackensack	Ms. C. Van Ess-Dykema	Mr. C. Mast	1999
Hamilton	Mr. J. De Groot		2000
Heartland	Mr. G. Geels	Mr. T. Noteboom II	2002
Holland	Mr. C. Hulst	Mr. C. Prins	2000
Hudson	Mr. R. Wynjia	Ms. D. Dykstra	2001
Huron	Mr. C. Zondag	Mr. J. Schreuders	2002
lakota	Mr. D. Postma	Mr. L. Nyhof	2002
Illiana	Mr. H. Bykerk	Mr. D. Lyzenga	1999
Kalamazoo	Ms. S. De Boer	Mr. W. Haak	2001

Classis	Delegate	Alternate	Term Expires
Lake Erie	Mr. E. Mosher	Mr. J. Van Wyk	2000
Lake Superior, Canada	Mr. L. Slikker	Mr. H. Boven	2001
Lake Superior, U.S.	Ms. M. Buss		2001
Minnkota	Mr. R. Huiskens	Mr. H. Van Dyke	2000
Muskegon	Mr. D. Drew	Ms. C. Witteveen	2001
Niagara	Mr. L. De Graaf	Ms. S. Vandenberg	2001
Northern Iowa	Mr. E. Olthof	Mr. D. Mathison	2000
Northern Illinois	Ms. R. Strodman	Mr. A. Heerema	2002
Northern Michigan	Mr. L. Stahl		2002
Pacific Hanmi	Rev. J. Hyun		2000
Pacific Northwest	Mr. J. De Boer	Ms. G. Visser	2000
Pella	Mr. M. Blom	Mr. G. Van Engelenhoven	2000
Quinte	Mr. P. Feddema		2000
Red Mesa	Mr. B. Boyd	Mr. J. Smart	2001
Rocky Mountain	Ms. S. Velzen	Ms. M. Anema	2000
Southeast U.S.	Mr. J. Boldenow		2001
Thornapple Valley	Mr. K. Buys	Mr. J. Zomerlei	2001
Toronto	Mr. H. Wieringa	Ms. M. Spoelstra	1999
Wisconsin	Mr. C. Adams	Mr. D. Vree	2001
Yellowstone	Mr. K. Van Dyken	Mr. B. Gagestein	2001
Zeeland	Mr. S. Dykstra		2000
At-large (U.S.)			
Pastoral adviser	Rev. G. Varela	Rev. S. Reeves	2001
Financial adviser	Mr. R.J. Kroll	Mr. S. Penning	2002
Attorney	Mr. T. Geelhoed	Mr. P. Kladder III	2002
At-large (Canada)	Mr. P. Bulthuis		2000
Pastoral adviser	Ms. B. Hoekstra	Mr. J. Mutoigo	2002
	Rev. J. Koster	Rev. R. Berkenbosch	2002

#### IV. Service committees

##### A. *Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. Committee*

Mr. J. Feikens (2000), Mr. C.R. Witte (2000), Rev. G.L. Dykstra (2001), Ms. J. Admiraal (2001), Mr. J. Fredricks (2002), Ms. A. Joseph (2002); ex officio member: Mr. C.A. Gronsman.

##### B. *Fund for Smaller Churches Committee*

Rev. L. Sikkema (2001), Mr. A. Ruiter (2000), Rev. L.W. Van Essen (2000), Mr. J. Folkerts (2000), Mr. H.F. Eizenga (2001).

##### C. *Historical Committee*

Rev. W.D. Buursma (2000), Dr. H. Zwaanstra (2000), Ms. S. Harger (2001), Dr. H. Boonstra (2002).

##### D. *Interchurch Relations Committee*

Rev. P.W. Brouwer (2000), Rev. L.J. Hofman (2000), Ms. C. Roelofs (2000), Ms. C. Elgersma (2001), Rev. R.J. Haven (2001), Dr. H. Zwaanstra (2001), Dr. L. Bierma (2002), Rev. J. Chen (2002), Rev. M.M. De Berdt (2002); ex officio member: Dr. D.H. Engelhard; administrative secretary: Rev. L.J. Hofman.

##### E. *Judicial Code Committee*

Mrs. J. Engelhard (2000), Mr. C. Oosterhouse (2000), Mr. L. Veldhuizen (2000), Rev. C. Admiraal (2001), Mr. R.J. Smeda (2001), Mrs. K. Vandergrift (2001), Mr. R. Bouma (2002), Mr. E.J. Vander Kloet (2002), Rev. D.A. Venegas (2002).

## *F. Ministers' Pension Funds committees*

### *Canadian Pension Trustees*

Rev. J. Kuntz (2000), Mr. J. Knibbe (2001), Mr. J. Woudstra (2001), Mr. B. Dykstra (2002), Mr. J. Luimes (2002).

### *U.S. Board of Pensions and Insurance*

Mr. L. Bierma (2000), Mr. W. Venema (2000), Mr. T. Waalkes (2001), Rev. E.J. Tamminga (2002), Mr. G. Vande Werken (2002).

### *G. Sermons for Reading Services Committee*

Rev. H.A. Vander Windt (2000); Mr. R. Vander Ploeg (2000), secretary/treasurer; Rev. P.D. Stadt (2002); Rev. G.J. Bomhof (2002); Rev. H. Bruinsma (2001), alternate.

### *H. Youth-Ministry Committee*

Rev. D.D. Poolman (2000), Mr. P. Pereboom (2000), Mrs. J. Koops (2001), Mr. A. Azwan (2001), Mr. S. Elgersma (2001), Mr. R. Abma (2002), Mr. G. Bysma (Cadets) (2002), Ms. M. De Groot (2002), Ms. D. Ryswyk (2002), Ms. G. Tamming (2002), Ms. N. Knol (2002); members-at-large: Mr. S. Hielema (2000), Mr. J. Vanden Heuvel (2000); advisers: Dr. R.C. De Vries (Calvin Theological Seminary), Mr. R. Grussing (CRASM), Rev. A.E. Mulder (director of New-Church Development, Home Missions), Mr. R. Rozema (CRC Publications).

## **V. Study committees**

### *A. Committee to Study Ordination and "Official Acts of Ministry"*

*(Church Order Art. 53-b)*

Dr. R.C. De Vries (chair), Rev. H. De Ruyter, Rev. R. Hofman, Dr. D.E. Holwerda, Rev. S.A. Jim, Rev. J.B. Vos; Dr. D.H. Engelhard, adviser.

### *B. Committee to Examine Routes Being Used to Enter the Ordained Ministry in the CRC*

Rev. B.T. Ballast, Mr. E. Benally, Dr. J. Bolt, Mr. R. den Dulk (chair), Dr. E. Greenway, Rev. E.A. Harrison, Rev. R.E. Orellana, Mrs. E.J. Suh, Dr. W. Van Groningen; ex officio members: Dr. J.A. De Jong, Dr. D.H. Engelhard.

### *C. Committee to Give Direction about and for Pastoral Care for Homosexual Members*

Mrs. R. Alons, Ms. M.L. Bouma, Rev. C.J. De Boer, Dr. M.D. Hugen, Rev. Y.J. Oh, Rev. H. Van Niejenhuis, Dr. R. Van Noord, Rev. G.L. Zandstra, Dr. D.H. Engelhard (ex officio).

### *D. Multiethnic-Strategies Committee*

Rev. P. Aviles, Mr. D. Chimoni, Mr. B. Goei (chair), Rev. D.K. Kelderman, Mr. H.O.J. Kim, Mr. H. Roscher, Mrs. K. Smith, Rev. R. Smith, Rev. D.A. Venegas, Rev. F.J. Witteveen, and ex officio members Dr. D.H. Engelhard, Dr. P. Borgdorff.

### *E. Committee to Review the Decision re Women in Office for Synod 2000*

Dr. A.J. Bandstra, Dr. S. de Haan, Dr. R.S. Greenway, Rev. W.T. Koopmans, Mrs. G. Postma, Rev. J.S. Shim, Rev. J.G. Van Ryn (chair), Rev. J.B. Vos, Dr. D.H. Engelhard (ex officio).

*F. Committee on Continuing Professional Development*

Dr. G.J. Bekker, Rev. M.B. Kim, Mr. S.J. Koster, Rev. P. Nicolai, Dr. R. Palsrok, Rev. C.G. Tapanes, Ms. M. Vander Vennen, Rev. D.A. Visser (chair), Dr. D.H. Engelhard (ex officio).

*G. Committee to Examine Life Issues Raised by Bioscience and Genetic Engineering*

The Board of Trustees will appoint the members of this committee from names suggested by the advisory committee and other delegates to Synod 1999 (see *Agenda for Synod 1999*, pp. 389-90; *Acts of Synod 1999*, pp. 578, 625).

*Recommendation:*

That synod approve the membership list of the boards and committees.

—Adopted

ARTICLE 58

President of synod Rev. Wayne A. Brouwer expresses thanks to his fellow officers—Rev. Stanley Mast, vice president; Elder George Vandervelde, first clerk; Rev. Henry P. Kranenburg, second clerk—for the fine cooperation and support they have given.

The vice president, Rev. Stanley Mast, expresses thanks on behalf of synod to the president for his leadership during Synod 1999.

Rev. Brouwer expresses appreciation to Mrs. Margaret Buma, Ancillary Services director, and Mrs. Leni Janssens, facility coordinator, for the excellent arrangements for synod at Redeemer College. He also thanks the staff of Redeemer College, including Mr. Bill Van Staaldin, vice president of Development; Mr. Mark Van Beveren, Development; Ms. Jane Haanstra, Food Services supervisor; Ms. Fran Elzinga, Housekeeping supervisor; Mr. Al De Roo, Maintenance supervisor; and Mr. Chris Knowles, director of Computer Services. And he thanks the synod office staff—including Mrs. Ina De Moor, Mrs. Nelvina Ilbrink, Mr. Marvin Ilbrink, and Mrs. Marlene Oosterhouse—and those who served as prayer intercessors.

The general secretary expresses the gratitude of synod to the four officers and presents them with gifts.

ARTICLE 59

The president addresses the assembly. He refers to two stories about the Israelites in the desert. He reads from II Kings 18:1-4 and Numbers 21:4-9 and makes appropriate application.

He leads the assembly in closing prayer, and he announces *Psalter Hymnal* 568, “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.”

Synod adjourns at 3:30 p.m.

Wayne A. Brouwer, president  
Stanley Mast, vice president  
George Vandervelde, first clerk  
Henry P. Kranenburg, second clerk

Attested a true copy

David H. Engelhard, general secretary

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# **DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES AND RECOMMENDED AGENCIES FOR 2000**

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# DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES AND RECOMMENDED AGENCIES FOR 2000

## I. Denominational ministry shares

	Per professing member
Back to God Hour .....	\$31.97
CRC TV .....	11.47
Calvin College*	
	Per professing member
Area 1—Grand Rapids East, Grand Rapids North, Grand Rapids South, Grandville, Thornapple Valley .....	\$52.20
Area 2—Georgetown, Holland, Kalamazoo, Lake Erie, Muskegon, Northern Michigan, Zeeland .....	39.00
Area 3—Chicago South, Illiana, Northern Illinois, Southeast U.S., Wisconsin .....	34.50
Area 4—Heartland, Iakota, Lake Superior, Minnkota, Northcentral Iowa, Pella .....	5.80
Area 5—Atlantic Northeast, Hackensack, Hudson .....	34.40
Area 6—Arizona, Columbia, California South, Central California, Greater Los Angeles, Pacific Hanmi, Pacific Northwest, Red Mesa, Rocky Mountain, Yellowstone .....	20.20
Area 7—Chatham, Eastern Canada, Hamilton, Huron, Niagara, Quinte, Toronto .....	12.10
Area 8—Alberta North, Alberta South, B.C. North-West, B.C. South-East .....	4.70
Calvin Theological Seminary .....	22.60
Canadian Ministries Board ministries .....	7.62
CRC Publications .....	2.35
CR Home Missions .....	50.16
CR World Missions .....	49.24

\*Areas which benefit from a ministry-share reduction should employ the following monies to finance their area colleges (*Acts of Synod 1962, 1984, 1993*):

Per professing member

Area 1, -0-; Area 2, \$4.90; Area 3, \$9.40; Area 4, \$38.10; Area 5, \$9.50; Area 6, \$23.70;  
Area 7, \$31.80; Area 8, \$39.20.



Denominational Services	
Synodical assembly, Board of Trustees, and general administration . . . . .	18.80
Ministry programs . . . . .	12.54
Abuse Prevention	
Chaplaincy Ministries	
Disability Concerns	
Pastor-Church Relations	
Race Relations	
Social Justice and Hunger Awareness	
Fund for Smaller Churches . . . . .	4.91

## II. Agencies recommended for financial support in 1999

### A. Denominational agencies recommended for one or more offerings

	Canadian Business Number
1. Abuse Prevention—above-ministry-share needs . . . . .	12981 5882 RR0001
2. The Back to God Hour—above-ministry-share needs . . . . .	13240 2090 RR0001
3. Calvin College—above-ministry-share needs . . . . .	(per Schedule VIII)
4. Calvin Theological Seminary . . . . .	(per Schedule VIII)
1) Above-ministry-share needs	
2) Revolving Student Loan Fund	
5. Canadian Ministries Board ministries—above-ministry-share needs	
6. Chaplaincy Ministries—above-ministry-share needs . . . . .	12981 5882 RR0001
7. CRC Publications	
World Literature Ministries—above-ministry-share needs . . . . .	12981 5882 RR0001
8. CR Home Missions—above-ministry-share needs . . . . .	10691 9640 RR0001
9. CR World Missions—above-ministry-share needs . . . . .	11881 2643 RR0001
10. CR World Relief—one offering per quarter because CRWRC . . . . .	11885 7388 RR0001
receives no ministry-share support	
11. Disability Concerns—above-ministry-share needs . . . . .	12981 5882 RR0001
12. Pastor-Church Relations—above-ministry-share needs . . . . .	12981 5882 RR0001
13. Race Relations—above-ministry-share needs . . . . .	12981 5882 RR0001
—Multiracial Student Scholarship Fund	

### B. Denominationally related youth agencies recommended for one or more offerings

#### United Calvinist Youth

1. GEMS (Calvinettes) . . . . .	88992 0799 RR0001
2. Calvinist Cadet Corps . . . . .	88992 0799 RR0001
3. Dynamic Youth Ministries/Youth Unlimited . . . . .	88992 0799 RR0001

### C. Nondenominational agencies recommended for financial support but not necessarily for one or more offerings

Note should be made of the action of Synod 1992 related to the financial support provided to these agencies by Christian Reformed churches:

... in light of the growing number of agencies seeking recommendation for financial support, [synod] remind[s] the congregations of the synodical decision of 1970 wherein "synod urge[d] all the classes to request their churches to pay denominational causes before making gifts to nondenominational causes on the synod-approved accredited list.

*Grounds:* Our denominational causes should have priority in our giving. . . .  
(*Acts of Synod 1970*, p. 81)

## **United States agencies**

### **A. Benevolent agencies**

1. Bethany Christian Services
2. Calvary Rehabilitation Center
3. Cary Christian Center
4. Christian Health Care Center
5. Elim Christian School
6. International Aid Inc.
7. The Luke Society, Inc.
8. Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services

### **B. Educational agencies**

1. Center for Public Justice
2. Christian Schools International
3. Christian Schools International Foundation
4. Dordt College
5. Reformed Bible College
6. Rehoboth Christian School
7. Roseland Christian School
8. The King's University College (through the U.S. Foundation)
9. Trinity Christian College
10. Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia
11. Worldwide Christian Schools

### **C. Miscellaneous agencies**

1. American Bible Society
2. Audio Scripture Ministries
3. Friendship Ministries
4. Gideons International
5. International Bible Society
6. Lord's Day Alliance of the United States
7. Metanoia Ministries
8. Mission India
9. Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE)
10. The Bible League
11. The Tract League
12. Wycliffe Bible Translators

## **Canadian agencies**

### **A. Benevolent agencies**

1. Beginnings Counseling & Adoption Services of Ontario, Inc. ....11880 2388 RR0001

### **B. Educational agencies**

1. Canadian Christian Education Foundation, Inc.....11883 0207 RR0001
2. Dordt College .....(per Schedule VIII)
3. Institute for Christian Studies .....10750 8434 RR0001
4. Redeemer Reformed Christian College.....12331 3660 RR0001
5. Reformed Bible College .....(per Schedule VIII)
6. The King's University College .....10808 5911 RR0001
7. Trinity Christian College.....(per Schedule VIII)
8. Worldwide Christian Schools—Canada.....88945 9970 RR0001

C. *Miscellaneous agencies*

1. Evangelical Fellowship of Canada .....	10735 3922 RR0001
2. Friendship Groups—Canada .....	11893 2375 RR0001
3. Gideons International—Canada.....	10808 2991 RR0001
4. International Bible Society—Canada .....	13915 1518 RR0001
5. The Bible League—Canada .....	10822 2084 RR0001
6. Work Research Foundation .....	11892 9207 RR0001
7. Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada, Inc. ....	10822 3371 RR0001

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# INDEX

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*Initialisms and abbreviations in the index refer to the following:*

Art.	Article
BOT	Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church in North America
CANAAC	Caribbean and North American Area Council
CCRCC	Council of the Christian Reformed Churches in Canada
CO	Church Order
CRC	Christian Reformed Church
CRCNA	Christian Reformed Church in North America
CRWRC	Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
FSC	Fund for Smaller Churches
HM	Christian Reformed Home Missions
NCD	New-church development
REC	Reformed Ecumenical Council
WARC	World Alliance of Reformed Churches
WCC	World Council of Churches

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