

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

# ACTS OF SYNOD



# 2000

Christian Reformed Church in North America

# ACTS OF SYNOD

June 10-16, 2000  
Fine Arts Center Auditorium  
Calvin College  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

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# FOREWORD

The *Acts of Synod 2000* 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 2000* or adopted on the floor of synod
- Financial reports
- The minutes of Synod 2000
- An index

It will be necessary for the user of the *Acts of Synod 2000* to keep the *Agenda for Synod 2000* 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 517, following preliminary unnumbered pages. Financial reports begin on page 579. Minutes of synod follow, beginning on page 607. The index references both volumes; the numbers in boldface type refer to pages in the minutes of Synod 2000.

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 2000 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	Columbia		Rev. K. Van Schelven	
	Grand Rapids East	Rev. J.A. Molenbeek	Rev. S. Venhuizen	2003
	Grandville		Rev. D.A. Kamstra	
	Greater Los Angeles		Rev. R.D. Goudzwaard	
	Holland		Rev. M. De Vries	
	Northern Illinois		Rev. T.D. Kauffman	
	Pacific Northwest		Rev. H.J. Weidenaar	
CRC Publications	Rocky Mountain		Rev. K.R. Rip	
	Atlantic Northeast		Ms. J. Spoelhof	
	Chicago South		Dr. D. Sinnema	
	Grand Rapids East	Ms. C. Blauwkamp	Ms. C. Van Dyke	2003
	Heartland		Mr. L. Bosma	
	Kalamazoo	Mrs. J. Wierenga		2002
Home Missions	Niagara	Mr. B. Witvoet	Mrs. T. Loerts	2003
	Rocky Mountain	Ms. C. Mulder		2003
	Eastern Canada		Mrs. M. Buteyn	
	Grand Rapids South		Dr. R.B. Swierenga	
	Greater Los Angeles	Rev. T.P. Doorn		2003
	Hackensack	Rev. S. Holmes		2003
	Heartland		Rev. J. Sajdak	
	Illiana		Mr. H. Ver Beek	
	Kalamazoo	Rev. M.A. Minegar	Rev. M.A. Scheffers	2003
	Niagara		Rev. P. Slofstra	
World Missions	Northern Illinois		Rev. D.R. Armstrong	
	Rocky Mountain		Rev. R.A. Lyzenga	
	Wisconsin	Rev. A. Veenstra		2001
	Columbia		Mrs. P. Van Antwerpen	
	Grand Rapids South		Rev. R.L. Fynewever	
World Missions	Greater Los Angeles		Rev. P.H. Kim	
	lakota	Rev. C. Hoekstra	Rev. R.W. Sparks	2003
	Illiana		Rev. I. Torres	
	Niagara		Rev. R.J. Loerts	
	Northern Illinois		Ms. C. Hoogheem	
	Pacific Northwest		Rev. H.C. Song	
	Pella		Dr. D. Daining	
	Rocky Mountain	Ms. J. Engelsman	Mr. W. Lemcke	2003

CRWRC	Arizona		Dr. M. Rand	
	Atlantic Northeast	Ms. G. Ranney		
	Columbia	Ms. L. Ackerman	Mr. N. Gillenwater	2003
	Greater Los Angeles	Mr. R. Boekstein	Mr. S. Slegers	2003
	Hamilton		Mr. P. Zwart	
	lakota		Mr. L. Netjes	
	Illiana		Mr. D. Bratt	
	Lake Erie		Mr. O. Turrentine	
	Northcentral Iowa	Mr. B. Goemaat		
	Northern Michigan	Mr. B. Dracht		
	Pella		Mr. R. Nugteren	
	Rocky Mountain	Mr. R. Pasterkamp	Ms. M. Jonker	2003
	At-large	Ms. P. DeWilde		2003

## II. Board of Trustees membership

### A. Trustees whose terms expire in 2000

District	Member	Alternate
Central U.S. I	Mr. W. Weidenaar	Mr. D. Hoebeke
Central U.S. II	Rev. A. Hoksbergen	Rev. S. Los
Central U.S. III	Mr. H. Johnson	Dr. J. Strikwerda
Western Canada	Rev. P. Brouwer	Rev. A. Beukema
	Dr. W. Vanden Born	Mr. J. Lok
At-large	Dr. C. Rottman	Mrs. M. Minnema

Words of thanks are in order for Rev. A. Hoksbergen and Dr. W. Vanden Born, who are completing their first terms of service on the Board, and to Mr. W. Weidenaar, Mr. H. Johnson, Rev. P. Brouwer, and Dr. C. Rottman, 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.

## III. Ethnic advisers to synod

Synod 1995 adopted the following recommendation re ethnic advisers:

That synod accede to Overture 31 by including up to seven members from the various ethnic communities in the CRC to serve as advisers to synod and that the Board of Trustees be asked to implement this practice for a period of five years.

#### Grounds:

1. The CRC is a multiethnic church but has had minimal multiethnic representation among its synodical delegates.
2. Several of the ethnic communities of the CRC have expressly stated their desire to include persons of other ethnic communities.
3. Several of the boards of the CRC have expressly stated their desire to include persons of other ethnic communities.
4. The presence of ethnic advisers would be affirming for delegates to synod from the various ethnic communities.
5. Attendance and participation at synod and on synodical advisory committees will be an effective training ground for persons from various ethnic communities in our church.

6. This practice affirms a sense of CRC "ownership" by various ethnic communities.
7. Should the practice prove counterproductive to the intended aims, it can be discontinued.

*(Acts of Synod 1995, pp. 694-95)*

The practice will have been in place for five years at Synod 2000. No provision was made in 1995 to review this practice at the end of five years, nor does it seem that it was presupposed that the practice would automatically continue. Ground 7 suggests that under certain circumstances it can be discontinued but doesn't identify what criteria might be employed to determine whether to continue the practice. Ethnic advisers have been a positive force at synod and have helped to prepare ethnic-minority leaders for broader roles in the life of the CRC, including being chosen as delegates to synod in the years following their service as advisers. All of the positive hoped-for results identified in the original overture and in the grounds quoted above have been realized.

*Recommendation:* That synod continue the practice of appointing up to seven ethnic advisers to serve at synod for an additional five-year period with the expectation that Synod 2003 will appoint a committee to conduct a review of this practice and report back to Synod 2005.

*Ground:* The positive results of this practice warrant a five-year continuation, after which there will be more evidence and experience by which to judge the practice.

#### **IV. Composition of the Board of Trustees if synod adopts the governance proposal**

In fulfillment of a mandate from Synod 1999 (see *Acts of Synod 1999*, p. 617), the Board of Trustees is coming to Synod 2000 with recommendations "to achieve effective binational ministry and governance." If that proposal is adopted, it would be beneficial for the newly constituted Board to begin immediately. In order for that to happen, Synod 2000 would need to ratify the membership of that Board. The recommendation that follows contains the names of nineteen persons who have been elected previously to serve on the Board of Trustees as well as the names of nine persons who were elected to serve on the Canadian Ministries Board. The Board of Trustees recommends that synod ratify the following configuration of the Board and slate of names for membership on the Board and approve the term date for each member.

##### *A. Canadian members (representing classes)*

Alberta North	Dr. William H. Vanden Born	2003
Alberta South	Rev. Alvin Beukema	2001
B.C. North-West	Rev. William C. Veenstra/Rev. James R. Poelman	2003
B.C. South-East	Mr. Joe De Vries/Rev. Bert Slofstra	2003
Chatham	Rev. Peter Nicolai	2002
Huron	Rev. Edward Den Haan	2002
Niagara	Mr. Leo Van Tuyl	2003
Hamilton	Mr. J. Hans Vander Stoep	2001
Eastern Canada	Mr. Tom Luimes	2001
Quinte	Mr. Ralph Pypker	2002
Toronto	Rev. Gordon H. Pols	2001
Lake Superior	Mr. John Harris	2002

At-large members		
	Ms. Stephanie Baker-Collins	2001
	Mrs. Sarah Cook	2002
	Mr. Ed Vanderveer	2003

**B. U.S. members (representing regions)**

Far West U.S. I	Rev. Raymond Slim	2002
Far West U.S. II	Dr. Tom Van Groningen	2002
Great Plains	Rev. Aldon L. Kuiper	2001
	Mr. Harold Van Maanen	2002
Central U.S. I	Rev. Wayne W. Leys	2003
Central U.S. II	Rev. Alvin L. Hoksbergen	2003
Central U.S. III	Rev. John P. Gorter	2001
	Mr. Kenneth Kuipers/Mr. Del Huisingh	2003
Central U.S. IV	Mrs. Kathleen Smith	2001
	Rev. Duane K. Kelderman	2002
Eastern U.S.	Rev. Stanley J. Workman	2002

At-large members		
	Ms. Mamie Thomas	2001
	At-large member to be elected by Synod 2000	2003
	Mr. Howard Johnson (for one year)	2001
	Dr. Carol Rottman (for one year)	2001

**Grounds:**

1. This arrangement provides continuity with the present Board of Trustees and Canadian Ministries Board and allows for an orderly transition and rotation in succeeding years.
2. The immediate initiation of the new governance arrangements ensures that ministry decisions will be made by a unified board.

**V. Report on ethnic and racial diversity**

Synod 1996 amended and adopted the principles and guidelines recommended by the Committee to Articulate Biblical and Theological Principles for the Development of a Racially and Ethnically Diverse Family of God. This report is now commonly referred to by the title of its reprinted form: *God's Diverse and Unified Family*.

The recommendations of this document called for a response from congregations, classes, agencies, boards, and synod itself. Appendix A of this supplement is the Board of Trustees' response, as requested by Synod 1996. The Board recommends that synod affirm the antiracism initiative as detailed in the report and urge all agencies and educational institutions to participate in institutional antiracism training.

**Grounds:**

- A. Synod 1968 and Synod 1996 strongly encouraged the churches "to evaluate their life and ministry with regard to racial and ethnic composition."
- B. The agencies and institutions that are actively participating speak positively of current efforts to address racism.

## **VI. Program and finance**

At its May meeting the Board of Trustees considered a number of matters related to program and finance. 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. Canadian ministries director**

Since the resignation of Mr. Ray Elgersma as the Canadian ministries director, the Canadian Ministries Board has initiated the process to identify potential candidates for appointment to this position. The decision to delay the selection until after Synod 2000 was made to allow for the clarifying of the governance structure within which Canadian staff will function. The Canadian Ministries Board and the Board of Trustees approved the revised position description as reflected in Appendix B of this supplement. This position description is provided for synod as information.

### **B. Canadian Ministries Board communication**

The Canadian Ministries Board decided to send a communication to synod in support of the proposed governance changes. The communication appears as Appendix C of this supplement.

### **C. Executive summary of administrative adjustments**

Concurrent with the discussion about a governance adjustment, attention was also directed to the need to make some administrative changes. The basic premise operative in deciding what administrative changes are appropriate is that an administrative structure should support the governance entities. As is summarized in the executive summary (Appendix D of this supplementary report), the various agency and institutional administrative groupings will be coordinated into a Ministries Administrative Council (MAC). The present Ministries Coordinating Council (MCC) will continue as the Ministries Policy Council (MPC). This change has resulted at least in part from a request by Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary that the mandate of MCC be revised so that their respective presidents will not need to be involved in agency ministry matters. The Board of Trustees has closely monitored this development and has expressed its support for the changes proposed. As indicated in the executive summary (Appendix D), a detailed description of the administrative changes is available to synodical delegates upon request from the Synodical Office or the executive director of ministries.

### **D. Abuse Prevention, Disability Concerns, Pastor-Church Relations, and Race Relations**

Subsequent to the release of the printed *Agenda for Synod 2000*, the Board of Trustees decided that the above-mentioned ministries would continue to function within the framework of the denominational offices under the general oversight of the Board of Trustees. The discussion concerning the placement of Chaplaincy Ministries within the framework of Home Missions is continuing.

*E. Christian Reformed World Missions and CRWRC*

Several years ago CRWRC initiated an exploratory ministry in Cambodia. This project has now grown to the point that the assistance of World Missions is desirable. The Board of World Missions has approved Cambodia as a new ministry, but since this work will be carried out in a country not previously approved by synod, such approval is now recommended (see Appendix E of this supplementary report).

*F. Financial matters*

1. Budget review and ministry shares

At its May 2000 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 2000-2001 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, the executive director of ministries, two Board members, 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 the 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 2000—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 2001 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 2001 are as follows:

The Back to God Hour	\$32.61
CRC TV	11.70
Calvin College	44.31
Calvin Theological Seminary	26.34
Canadian Ministries Board ministries	7.77
CRC Publications	3.16
Home Missions	51.16
World Missions	50.22
Denominational Services	
General Administration	19.18
Ministry Programs	12.79
Fund for Smaller Churches	4.00
	\$242.21

2. Recommended salary ranges for 2001

The Board recommends the following salary ranges for 2001, which represent a 3 percent adjustment for both the U.S. and Canadian ranges.

Level	Proposed U.S. 2001 Range			Proposed Canadian 2001 Range		
	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum
20	\$74,266	\$92,833	\$111,399	\$95,665	\$119,581	\$143,497
19	\$67,570	\$84,461	\$101,354	\$82,991	\$103,739	\$124,487
18	\$61,928	\$77,411	\$92,892	\$72,315	\$90,394	\$108,473
17	\$57,169	\$71,462	\$85,754	\$63,309	\$79,136	\$94,963
16	\$53,186	\$66,483	\$79,780	\$55,771	\$69,713	\$83,656
15	\$49,849	\$62,311	\$74,773	\$49,454	\$61,817	\$74,181
14	\$43,757	\$54,695	\$65,635	\$44,116	\$55,144	\$66,173
13	\$38,647	\$48,309	\$57,970	\$39,633	\$49,541	\$59,450

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

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

a. Denominational agencies

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

CRC Publications

World Literature Ministries – above-ministry-share needs

Home Missions – above-ministry-share needs

World Relief Committee – one offering per quarter because

CRWRC receives no ministry-share support

Denominational Services

1) Above-ministry-share needs

2) Ministry programs

Abuse Prevention

Chaplaincy Ministries

Disability Concerns

Pastor-Church Relations

Race Relations

a) Above-ministry-share needs

b) Multiracial Student Scholarship Fund

Social Justice and Hunger Action

b. Denominationally related youth agencies

Dynamic Youth Ministries (formerly United Calvinist Youth)

GEMS

Calvinist Cadet Corps

Youth Unlimited/Early Teens (Young Calvinist Federation)

4. 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.

a. United States agencies

1) Benevolent agencies

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

2) 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  
Trinity Christian College  
Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia  
Worldwide Christian Schools

3) Miscellaneous agencies

American Bible Society  
Audio Scripture Ministries  
Crossroads Bible Institute  
Friendship Ministries  
Gideons International – U.S.  
International Bible Society  
Lord's Day Alliance  
Metanoia Ministries

Mission India  
Mississippi Christian Family Services, Inc.  
Reformed Ecumenical Council  
The Bible League  
The Tract League  
Wycliffe Bible Translators

*Note:* The Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education has been removed from the list until Synod 2000 deals with the overture re SCUPE. The Board suspends judgment on SCUPE's application and defers to the judgment of Synod 2000.

b. Canadian agencies

1) Benevolent agencies

Beginnings Counseling & Adoption Services of Ontario

2) Educational agencies

Canadian Christian Education Foundation  
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

3) Miscellaneous agencies

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

5. Pension matters

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 the final average salaries to be used in the year 2001 by the pension plans in the application of the benefit formulas. These amounts are \$36,246 in the U.S. and \$37,441 in Canada.
- b. The BOT concurs with the decision of the pension trustees that the participant assessments for 2001 be \$3,800 in the U.S. and \$4,600 in Canada. Confessing-member assessments (ministry shares) have been set at \$16.00 (U.S.) and \$18.00 (Canada).

6. Overture 4 (Synod 1999)

Synod 1999 “instruct[ed] the Board of Trustees in consultation with the

pension trustees to examine the requests of this overture and to report back to Synod 2000.” This overture requested that synod mandate a study of the protocols to be followed when church councils and classes deal with short-term and long-term disability issues for pastors of the CRC. Because of the press of other duties this study has not yet been initiated. Every effort will be made to respond to synod’s instruction in the near future.

7. 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 F.

## **VII. Performance review of the general secretary**

The Board of Trustees is charged with periodic performance evaluations of both the executive director of ministries and the general secretary. This year’s evaluation is the second triennial evaluation of the general secretary, which in distinction from annual evaluations is more comprehensive and extensive. The process involved polling a substantial number of people with whom Dr. Engelhard works and relates in his official duties both within and outside the CRCNA.

The overwhelming response to the review was a positive approval of Dr. Engelhard in the performance of his work as general secretary of the Christian Reformed Church. Dr. Engelhard is a person of integrity and competence, reliability and grace. He loves the CRC and its Reformed heritage and is devoted to his calling. His work is meticulous, timely, and excellent. Dr. Engelhard is very approachable and freely shares his gifts with the church. We believe he is the right person for this task.

With respect to areas for growth, Dr. Engelhard would benefit by becoming more familiar with local churches by “getting out into the field” and by meeting with pastors and local leaders. Such listening sessions could create wonderful opportunities to consider other viewpoints and to hear about the needs of the churches. Dr. Engelhard’s leadership is needed to assist local congregations and the denomination meet the challenges of rapid change in society and the world.

The Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church in North America expresses appreciation for the excellent work of our general secretary and covets the church’s prayers for God’s blessing on him in the performance of this demanding task.

## **VIII. Recommendations**

A. That synod ratify the names of those who have been elected by their regions to serve on the Board of Trustees.

B. That for an additional five-year period synod continue the practice of appointing up to seven ethnic advisers to serve at synod, with the expectation that Synod 2003 will appoint a committee to conduct a review of this practice and report back to Synod 2005.

- C. That synod ratify the reconfiguration of the Board and the slate of names for membership on the Board and approve the term date for each member.
- D. That synod affirm the antiracism initiative as detailed in the Report on Ethnic and Racial Diversity and urge all agencies and educational institutions to participate in institutional antiracism training (see Appendix A).
- E. That synod approve a ministry share of \$242.21 per confessing member over 18 for calendar year 2001.
- F. That synod approve the proposed salary ranges for 2001.
- G. 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.
- H. That synod approve the list of accredited nondenominational agencies according to the designations assigned to each as recommended by the Board of Trustees.
- I. That synod approve Cambodia as a new field of ministry.

## APPENDIX A

### Report on Ethnic and Racial Diversity

#### I. Introduction

##### A. *Mandate given to the Board of Trustees*

Synod 1996 mandated

the Board of Trustees, under the leadership of its CRCNA staff and with the assistance of the Race Relations division of Pastoral Ministries and other CRCNA agencies,

- a. To coordinate and monitor the role and response of the agencies in providing guidance and assistance to the churches and classes in support of ethnic diversity and racial reconciliation as outlined above.
- b. To serve Synod 1998 with advice and recommendations for ensuring the equitable representation and meaningful participation of ethnic-minority persons in leadership and other roles of influence with the classes and synod, the Board of Trustees, denominational agencies, and other ministries of the CRCNA. The recommendations should include transitional and long-term strategies, training and support needs, financial implications, and periodic reporting to synod on efforts and progress.

*(Acts of Synod 1996, p. 514)*

Synod 1998, having received the report from the Board of Trustees (*Acts of Synod 1998*, pp. 264-70), decided to further enhance the discussion by appointing a committee

to study the issues and solutions identified by the 1998 Multiethnic Conference . . . in order to develop specific strategies which will continue to move us toward becoming a diverse family of God. This committee will report its recommendations to the Board of Trustees to enable the Board to fulfill the mandate given to it by Synod 1996 regarding multiethnic matters.

*(Acts of Synod 1998, p. 408)*

*B. Brief overview of synodical declarations on race*

To place the Board's report to Synod 2000 in a historical context, parts of the 1998 report to synod are repeated, with some minor editing.

1. Synod 1959 adopted the Testimony of the Christian Reformed Church on Race Relations (see *Acts of Synod 1959*, pp. 82-84). The CRC took as its own the twelve points of the declaration on race which were formulated by the Reformed Ecumenical Synod (RES) in 1958 at its meeting in Potchefstroom, South Africa.
2. Synod 1968 reaffirmed, in the context of unprecedented racial strife in America's cities, the Testimony of the Christian Reformed Church on Race Relations (the 1959 document) and made the following recommendations:
  4. That synod declare that members of the Christian Reformed Church, through persevering prayer and the diligent use of their Spirit-given talents, ought to labor unceasingly to cause the light of the gospel of reconciliation to shine upon all men so that the hate engendered in the present racial crisis by the prince of darkness may speedily be dissipated.
  5. That synod declare that members of the Christian Reformed Church ought freely to receive as brethren, regardless of race or color, all who repent of their sins and who profess their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; that exclusion from full Christian fellowship on account of race or color is sinful; and that if members are judged responsible for such exclusion they must be dealt with according to the provisions of the Church Order regarding Admonition and Discipline.
  6. That synod declare that fear of persecution or of disadvantage to self or our institutions arising out of obedience to Christ does not warrant denial to anyone, for reasons of race or color, of full Christian fellowship and privilege in the church or in related organizations, such as Christian colleges and schools, institutions of mercy and recreational associations; and that if members of the Christian Reformed Church advocate such denial, by whatever means, they must be reckoned as disobedient to Christ and be dealt with according to the provisions of the Church Order regarding Admonition and Discipline.

*(Acts of Synod 1968, pp. 18-19)*
3. Synod 1969 ratified a fifteen-point declaration on race which had been adopted by RES 1968 (*Acts of Synod 1969*, pp. 50-52). The document was later revised and reratified by Synod 1977 (*Acts of Synod 1977*, p. 34).
4. Synod 1978 received reports from both the Synodical Committee on Race Relations (SCORR) and the Interchurch Relations Committee regarding the Koinonia Declaration and the issue of race relations in South Africa (see *Acts of Synod 1978*, pp. 24-25, 318, 401-08). Synod 1978 declared that it "considers the Koinonia Declaration to be an excellent enunciation of biblical principles and a significant reformational statement on South African race relations by Reformed Christians in South Africa."
5. Synod 1996 received and adopted a set of recommendations regarding the development of a racially and ethnically diverse and unified family of God (*Acts of Synod 1996*, pp. 510-15, 595-619). The CRC articulated in these recommendations a skeletal strategy for building a church which is racially and ethnically inclusive from the membership to the leadership.

### *C. Process from Synod 1996 through 1998*

Following Synod 1996, there were two processes in place that contributed to the report made to Synod 1998 about the progress made to date. The Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) and the Ministries Coordinating Council (MCC) each appointed a committee to help the various agencies and the Board process the report and prepare recommendations for action.

The Board's committee assisted the Board in its oversight capacity with respect to the agencies' responses to the diversity report. Furthermore, this committee reviewed the recommendations proposed by the MCC and in some cases amended them before recommending them to the Board. The report presented to Synod 1998 contained some of those recommendations for action. Synod, in response to the Board's proposals, adopted the following:

1. That classes be encouraged to sponsor workshops or retreats on racial inclusiveness and justice for classical leaders and delegates.
2. That classes be encouraged to sponsor sensitivity-training/diversity workshops for congregational leaders and congregations.
3. That classes be encouraged to recruit and delegate ethnic-minority persons to synod, to agency boards, and to classical standing committees.
4. That synod appoint at least one ethnic-minority person (either delegate or ethnic adviser) to serve on each advisory committee of synod and that ethnic advisers be given orientation and training for their task.
5. That the general secretary, with the Multiethnic Conference Planning Committee, plan for the continuing interaction of the Multiethnic Conference with synod with the goal of increasing cultural sensitivity, racial justice, and racial reconciliation.

*(Acts of Synod 1998, p. 353)*

## **II. Congregational and classical responses to the 1996 diversity report and the 1998 synodical decisions**

### *A. Congregational overview*

There is very little to add to the overview provided to Synod 1998 (see *Acts of Synod 1998*, pp. 266-67) regarding the responses of congregations to the recommendations of the diversity report. It is difficult to get up-to-date and reliable information about congregational initiatives in racial-justice matters. There is no reporting mechanism in place to communicate this information. Now that the Race Relations office has been reconstituted, it is likely that new data will be gathered in ensuing years.

### *B. Classical overview*

Many classical initiatives re racial inclusiveness were reported in 1998 (see *Acts of Synod 1998*, pp. 267-68). Since that time two classes (Central California and Toronto) have appointed race-relations committees, which are assisting these classes in facing the issues of racial justice and antiracism.

Several classes have devoted educational time to antiracism training. It is reported that Classes California South, Greater Los Angeles, Kalamazoo, Southeast U.S., and Pacific Hanmi have all participated in a ninety-minute antiracism training introduction.

Since the early 1970s it has been the mandate of Race Relations to dismantle racism in the CRC. In spite of its best efforts, this goal has not yet been accomplished. Nevertheless, the Race Relations team (Rev. Norberto Wolf, Mrs.

Yvonne Rayburn-Beckley, and Mr. Peter Szto) has committed itself to continue to pursue that goal. It plans to work with classes to establish race-relations committees and to offer training to root out racism.

### **III. Board, agency, and institutional responses to the 1996 diversity report and the 1998 synodical decisions**

The agencies and institutions, under the leadership of the Ministries Coordinating Council, are involved in antiracism training. This long-term involvement deals both with personal prejudices and with institutional racism. All denominational personnel employed in Burlington, Chicago, and Grand Rapids will be participants in this training. Because this is a long-term strategy and because this effort will, over time, demand considerable commitment from future leadership personnel as well as agency resources, the Board is recommending that synod affirm the process and mandate all agencies and educational institutions to participate (see V below).

The following strategies regarding agencies, boards, and the Board of Trustees were adopted by the Ministries Coordinating Council and the Board of Trustees:

#### *A. The Board, agencies, and institutions shall*

1. Provide sensitivity training for all CRCNA agency staff at every level.
2. Collaborate on interagency models and plans for developing and retaining ethnic-minority leadership, including (a) recruitment and orientation and (b) support processes and professional-skill development.

*Note:* Orientation is to include a fresh historical perspective on the CRC as well as an introduction to the culture, structure, and vision of the CRC.

With reference to this strategy we have had considerable difficulty. The retention of ethnic-minority personnel has been difficult because the leadership of our offices and ministries is predominantly white, as is our workforce. We have been repeatedly advised that we must develop better support systems for ethnic-minority personnel as well as for those involved in formal leadership-development programs if our success rate is to see any significant improvement.

3. Appoint a cross-agency team knowledgeable about ethnic-minority networks to (a) establish and maintain a robust minority network; (b) develop a comprehensive plan for recruiting, hiring, and retaining ethnic-minority employees; and (c) serve in an advisory capacity to agency executives and the MCC.

A formal cross-agency team has not yet been appointed, but that failure should not be understood as inactivity. Numerous consultations and discussions have taken place. The low unemployment rate, the heavily weighted majority-culture workplace, and the preference (for some positions) and requirement (for other positions) of CRC church membership frequently limit the pool of candidates from which we can draw employees.

4. Subsequently, establish (a) goals and procedures, approved by MCC, for ethnic-minority employment and (b) a means of mutual accountability within MCC before persons are hired.

This has not happened, mainly because employment decisions continue to be made at the agency level rather than at the Ministries Coordinating Council or Denominational Office level. Discussions are currently under-way to initiate a review panel for all employment decisions so that greater effectiveness can be achieved.

5. Enhance ethnic-minority representation on every committee within each agency/institution at all levels.

With a limited pool of people to draw from, it has been difficult to meet this objective. Denominational agencies and institutions have become much more sensitive to the need for both gender and racial inclusiveness. Achieving a greater measure of success at the board-member level is addressed in the report that deals with the reconstitution of the Board of Trustees.

6. Provide the Prayer Line with one item per week regarding racial inclusiveness and justice.

This is being done on a regular basis.

*B. The general secretary and executive director of ministries shall*

1. Annually collect data and create a database of ethnic individuals willing to serve on boards and synodical committees.

Creating a database is the easy part of this assignment. Having adequate data to make the database helpful is a much more difficult assignment. We have not found an effective mechanism by which to collect this information. We have requested the names of persons from the churches, but the response was disappointing.

2. Encourage cultural-sensitivity training of agency boards.

It is the plan to engage all boards in antiracism training during 2000.

3. Provide orientation and ongoing support for ethnic individuals willing to serve on boards and synodical committees.

This is being done and will continue to be done as appropriate.

#### **IV. Synod's response to the 1996 diversity report and the 1998 synodical decisions**

*A. Background for synod's involvement in antiracism programs*

Synod 1996 urged future synods

- a. To include in their worship times the articulation and celebration of the biblical vision for a racially and ethnically diverse and unified family of God.
- b. To encourage the development of specific recommendations and specific practical guidelines for supporting ethnic diversity in all aspects of denominational life, including interchurch relations in general and ministries of the Reformed Ecumenical Council in particular.
- c. That denominational response to the above decisions be reviewed by Synod 1998 on the basis of an interim progress report by the Board of Trustees.

(Acts of Synod 1996, p. 515)



In addition to these recommendations, Synod 1998 spoke to future synods in the recommendations adopted, as reported above in Section I, C, 4 and 5.

#### *B. Provision for the biennial Multiethnic Conference*

Synod 1986 adopted a recommendation that gave birth to the biennial Multiethnic Conference, which held its first meeting in 1988. Its original purposes continue until today, namely, to provide orientation for ethnic minorities to denominational assemblies, agencies, and personnel; to foster mutual interaction and fellowship with synod and synodical delegates; and to engage in cross-cultural communication, learning, and worship. During the last decade the conference has provided the training ground for and the occasion for assisting many present leaders in the CRC. Several delegates to synod have benefited greatly from the Multiethnic Conference's emphases and encouragement.

In keeping with the recommendation adopted by Synod 1998 (see *Acts of Synod 1998*, p. 353), the general secretary and the Multiethnic Conference Planning Committee have made plans "for the continuing interaction of the Multiethnic Conference with synod with the goal of increasing cultural sensitivity, racial justice, and racial reconciliation." On Saturday, June 10, 2000, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., the synodical delegates and Multiethnic Conference attendees will meet together to be challenged by Dr. John Perkins to build together into the twenty-first century. On Sunday, June 11, 2000, the delegates and conference attendees will participate in antiracism training and celebrate together in worship at the synodical praise and prayer service.

#### *C. Ethnic representation at synod*

##### 1. Synodical delegates in 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000

Since the diversity report was adopted in 1996, classes have been more intentional in identifying, nominating, and delegating ethnic leaders to committees, boards, and synod. Synod 1997 had twelve ethnic-minority delegates (6 percent), representing seven different classes (15 percent). Synod 1998 had seventeen ethnic-minority delegates (9 percent), representing nine different classes (19 percent). Synod 1999 had eighteen ethnic-minority delegates (9.5 percent), representing ten different classes (21 percent). Synod 2000 has fifteen ethnic-minority delegates (8 percent), representing nine different classes (19 percent).

##### 2. Ethnic advisers

Synod 1995 adopted the request of an overture to appoint representatives from various ethnic communities to serve as advisers to synod (*Acts of Synod 1995*, pp. 694-95). Guidelines regulating this new position were adopted in 1996 (see *Acts of Synod 1996*, pp. 454-55), and the first ethnic advisers were seated that year. Including Synod 2000, twenty people will have served as ethnic advisers to synod. Although there has been no formal evaluation of the process and position, all informal responses and indicators have led us to believe that this arrangement works reasonably well. One favorable indicator is that four of those who have served as advisers have been sent as delegates to synod in a subsequent year.

## **V. Recommendation re institutional racism training**

The Board of Trustees presents the following recommendation to facilitate the CRC's long-term commitment to antiracism efforts:

That synod affirm the antiracism initiative as detailed in the report and urge all agencies and educational institutions to participate in institutional antiracism training.

### *Grounds:*

- A. Synod 1968 and Synod 1996 strongly encouraged the churches "to evaluate their life and ministry with regard to racial and ethnic composition."
- B. The agencies and institutions that are actively participating speak positively of the current effort to address racism.

## **VI. Conclusion**

The process of learning how to live in a multiethnic environment, how to live in mutually enhancing relationships, and how to reflect the vision for the church as God meant it to be is ongoing. It is both a challenging and a rewarding experience. These realities make up the life of the CRC, its agencies, and its institutions. The Board believes that, even though the progress is sometimes slow, it is also steady. Committed to honoring God, it seeks to encourage integration of God's diversified family in our time.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Position Description for the Canadian Ministries Director**

Approved May 2000

#### **I. Qualifications**

The Canadian ministries director (CMD) shall

- A. Be a member of the Christian Reformed Church with a good knowledge of and commitment to the teaching of Scripture, the Reformed confessions, and the life and polity of the CRC and shall possess a love for the whole mission of the church.
- B. Be fully familiar with and show a good comprehension of the many diverse cultural forces at work in Canada.
- C. Have received appropriate educational training and/or prior ministry-management experience in which leadership and management skills have been demonstrated.
- D. Possess a reputation for personal and professional integrity.
- E. Demonstrate a high level of self-reliance and intuitive judgment in decision making.
- F. Have the ability to plan and work collaboratively in a binational setting with everyone involved in congregational, regional, and denominational ministries.

- G. Have a demonstrated ability in written and oral communication.
- H. Have the capacity to delegate authority.
- I. Have the ability to understand and act on advice with respect to budgetary guidelines, financial reports, and fiscal priorities with reference to ministries in Canada.

## **II. Organizational relationships**

The Canadian ministries director shall

- A. Be an adviser to the Board of Directors of the CRCNA-Canada Corporation and, with reference to Canadian matters, to the Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
- B. Consult with the general secretary as appropriate in the discharge of such duties that relate to the general secretary's overall responsibilities.
- C. Be a member of and chair the meetings of the Canadian Ministries Team.
- D. Be a member of the Ministries Policy Council (MPC) and the Ministries Administrative Council (MAC).

## **III. Accountability**

The Canadian ministries director shall be supervised by the executive director of ministries and, through the EDM, be accountable for his/her performance to the Board of Directors of the CRCNA-Canada Corporation for all matters that affect ministries in Canada.

## **IV. Appointment and term of service**

The appointment of the Canadian ministries director shall be made by the Board of Directors of the CRCNA-Canada Corporation, in consultation with the executive director of ministries. The appointment shall be subject to ratification by synod. The Canadian ministries director shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors of the CRCNA-Canada Corporation. Annual performance reviews shall be conducted according to normal policy and with the participation of the Board of Directors of the CRCNA-Canada Corporation.

## **V. Duties and responsibilities**

The Canadian ministries director shall

- A. Be the leader of the Canadian Ministries Team, which has the responsibility to enhance the unified ministry of the denomination in Canada. In that capacity the Canadian ministries director shall have executive authority within the framework of Section III above while, at the same time, recognizing the collaborative role that needs to be fulfilled with respect to the agencies that have activity in Canada.
- B. Be responsible for developing and implementing, through collaborative efforts, the denominational ministries' goals and plan in Canada.

C. Receive reports from all the ministries and agencies operative in Canada in order to provide an annual analysis and review of these ministries for the Board of Directors of the CRCNA-Canada Corporation. This annual report will contain both observations and recommendations with respect to ministry priorities and distribution of resources for the denominational ministries in Canada.

D. Convene and chair meetings of the Canadian Ministries Team (CMT) and, where there are other groupings for ministry, convene all appropriate personnel. The Canadian ministries director shall ensure cooperation and collaboration of ministries in Canada.

E. Develop, propose, and present an appropriately planned annual budget, incorporating individual budgets from each denominational ministry operative in Canada.

F. Ordinarily attend the meetings of Canadian denominational ministry boards as requested by them or by the EDM or at the Canadian ministry director's own initiative.

G. Serve, in consultation with the general secretary, as spokesperson for the CRC in Canada on matters of communications with the government and on matters of inter-church relations.

H. Be an advocate to the Christian Reformed congregations and classes in Canada on behalf of all CRC ministries responsible to the Board of Directors of the CRCNA-Canada Corporation.

I. Supervise, with the director of finance and administration, the work of the financial staff in Canada. The Canadian ministries director shall obtain the advice needed in matters involving finances from the director of finance and administration.

J. Supervise the personnel and functions of the Coordinated Services program operative in Canada.

K. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors of the CRCNA-Canada Corporation or the EDM.

## APPENDIX C

### Canadian Ministries Board

May 19, 2000

Dear delegates to Synod 2000:

As you are undoubtedly aware, Synod 1997 replaced the Council of the Christian Reformed Churches in Canada with the Canadian Ministries Board, to "be responsible for all the ministries conducted by the agencies and committees of the Christian Reformed churches of Canada" (*Agenda for Synod 1997*, pp. 405-07; *Acts of Synod 1997*, pp 628-29). However, when Synod 1999 chose not to adopt the restructuring proposals for the United States, it effectively nullified that authority. Synod recognized this and instructed 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” (*Acts of Synod 1999*, p. 617).

The Canadian Ministries Board participated in extensive consultations with the Board of Trustees. It unanimously endorsed the governance proposal now before synod and is confident that this proposal, which recognizes and honors the binationality of the CRC, will lead to more effective governance and ownership of Christian Reformed ministries in Canada.

On behalf of the Canadian Ministries Board, I express the strong hope and desire that you will respond favorably to the governance proposal (*Agenda for Synod 2000*, pp 30-32, 52-56). Canadian Ministries Board members and Board of Trustees members would be pleased to discuss this proposal with you if you have the opportunity to contact them before synod meets.

Thank you for your willingness to serve our Lord and his church with your wisdom, time, and energy at this year’s synod. Please be assured that the CMB and I join you in prayer for God’s leading in all your synodical deliberations. May your preparations, travel, and deliberations be touched with our Lord’s grace and peace. As he uses you to be a blessing, may you also be blessed.

Sincerely,

Peter Nicolai, chairperson  
Canadian Ministries Board

## APPENDIX D

### **Executive Summary of the Administrative Realignment for the Agencies and Institutions of the Christian Reformed Church**

(The detailed document is available upon request.)

Synod 1999 affirmed that the Board of Trustees possessed the needed authority to implement many of the objectives advanced in the report of the U.S. Structure Committee. In order to achieve a higher level of ministry integration and cooperation among the agencies, the following administrative changes are being introduced.

1. The present Ministries Coordinating Council (MCC) will become the Ministries Policy Council (MPC) to address overarching denominational and agency ministry issues. The MPC will meet three or four times per year. The membership of the MPC will be composed of agency executive directors, presidents of educational institutions, and several other senior denominational staff personnel. MPC will report to and be accountable to the Board of Trustees, through the executive director of ministries.
2. The present MCC administrative functions will be given to a new group called the Ministries Administrative Council (MAC). The MAC will function as the senior administrative group for denominational ministries. The MAC will function in an advisory role to the executive director of ministries, who functions as the agent for the Board of Trustees. The MAC will normally meet monthly. The membership of the MAC will be selected from among the members of the MPC and other senior denominational

staff. The MAC will report to and be accountable to the Board of Trustees, through the executive director of ministries.

3. The MAC will review the administrative functioning of all agencies for compliance with denominational policy, for collaboration and cooperation within the ministry plan and agreements, for potential legal issues, and for monitoring operations of the agencies within the parameters of their mandates and BOT policies.
4. The MAC may address an agency's administrative group, agency boards, or the Board of Trustees about issues and concerns that fall within the mandate of the MAC.
5. In the event of a difference in judgment between an agency board and the MAC, the matter will be referred to the Board of Trustees for resolution.

*Grounds:*

- a. Clear administrative channels are critical to reaching strategic goals and implementing the Denominational Ministry Plan.
- b. Integrating administrative decision making will ensure greater cooperation, collaboration, and integration of denominational ministries.
- c. The agency boards and the Board of Trustees will have clear administrative recommendations to facilitate a decision-making process that reflects denominational priorities.
- d. Denominational Ministry Plan priorities will be reflected in the MAC recommendations to agency boards and the Board of Trustees.

## **APPENDIX E**

### **Approval of Cambodia as a New Denominational Ministry Field**

#### **I. Recommendation**

##### *A. What is being proposed? What is the nature of the work?*

In mid-1996 CRWRC approved a two-year pilot project in Cambodia. At that time Cambodia was chosen as the first-priority country in the region because of its extreme poverty and the relative openness on the part of the government and the people to the type of development work CRWRC likes to do. There was also an influx of Christians who had been converted from Buddhism in the refugee camps in Thailand. As a result, small churches were beginning to grow across the country.

Work in Cambodia began in June 1996. The first year of operation was exciting, challenging, and stretching. CRWRC is working with four Cambodian development organizations in building their capacity for community development in the areas of health care, literacy, microenterprise, and agricultural production. In addition, CRWRC is working with all of these organizations to integrate the spiritual dimension of their work at both the community and organizational levels of these partner organizations. It has been only in the last five years that the government has allowed indigenous organizations to emerge. The whole concept of grass-roots organizations is new to Cambodia. The pilot program was completed in the 1998-1999 year.

During the current fiscal year, CRWRC is continuing to build and develop relationships with the national organizations, with the intent of building long-term partnerships.

The likelihood of establishing long-term relationships has been greatly enhanced by the interest of Christian Reformed World Missions in making Cambodia one of its fields in Asia. In addition, the Christian Reformed Church in the Philippines and the Cambodian Christian Reformed churches in North America are very interested in collaborating on the ministry in Cambodia.

In November 1999 a team composed of representatives from CRWRC, CRWM, a CRCNA Cambodian church, and the CRC of the Philippines visited Cambodia to determine whether a collaborative approach between the agencies and the churches was possible. Their positive response to the possibilities in Cambodia led to the submission of this proposal to synod.

*B. Is this a cost-effective (stewardly) ministry for the poor, for the target population, and for the partners involved in this agreement?*

The answer to this question is an enthusiastic yes. The need to work at poverty alleviation and at reconciliation after years of war is an obvious need in Cambodia. There is openness to foreign organizations, many churches are being planted, and there is opportunity to do leadership development among the Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia, as well as among other Christian organizations that are present or emerging.

The lack of a foreign presence has meant that the Cambodian people have had to be fairly self-reliant. This means that the community-development and Christian leadership-development approaches of our work would find a solid base.

In addition, working with the Christian Reformed Church in the Philippines will allow us to use resources already in the region or in the country.

*C. Is a consistent wholistic ministry possible?*

1. Can we ensure a meaningful gospel presentation?

A meaningful gospel presentation is already evident. Christian organizations, including nationally established ones, are free to move about the country, and churches are allowed to be established. CRWRC has worked hard to ensure that a spiritual foundation for community-development work has been laid with the community groups we work with, as well as with the organizations with which we have partnered. This has been well received.

2. Is a community church involved?

CRWRC is working with a national Christian organization called the Cambodian Christian Women's Association, which works with churches at the community level. CRWRC has also started to work with the Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia in order to make sure that the church is a major partner in the community-development work that is being done.

*D. Is the work in Cambodia in alignment with the agencies involved, the strategic plan of the CRC, and the local partners?*

1. The mandate and strategic plan of the CRC: Work in Cambodia is very much in line with the mandate and strategic plan of the CRC. The work in

Cambodia is now being planned jointly through the coordinated efforts of the Ministry Plan Team, CRWRC, and CRWM.

2. The agencies involved: The obvious answer to this question is yes. The Cambodian proposal is a jointly planned effort.
3. The specific ministry directions of the field where the program is located: The partners in Cambodia have been very much involved in setting the direction of the program in Cambodia. The intent is to put together a strongly collaborative response.

*E. What are the resource factors (financial and human) and time lines (the length of the agreement)?*

Both CRWRC and CRWM are planning a long-term response to the work in Cambodia. Both development work and the establishment of a Christian church are at infancy levels. Currently CRWRC has two staff positions in Cambodia as well as an internship position. Its annual budget for 2000-2001 will be \$228,754. Financial resources and staff resources for Cambodia have not been difficult to find.

*F. What is the specific recommendation?*

The specific recommendation is that Cambodia be officially approved as a country in which the CRC conducts ministry efforts.

*Grounds:*

1. CRWRC'S efforts in Cambodia have been well received.
2. Both World Missions and CRWRC have targeted Cambodia for a joint response.

Approval of this recommendation means that the CRCNA will make a long-term commitment to work in Cambodia. For both CRWRC and CRWM, adding Cambodia as a ministry field is a natural outcome of the planning processes of both agencies. As new resources become available from phaseouts and increased revenue, new fields can be added. As described earlier in this document, both the churches' potential for growth and the development needs in this country make it a natural place for CRWRC and CRWM to be working jointly.

## **II. Questions concerning collaboration with other CRC agencies and/or other partners**

*A. Was there joint planning with other CRC agencies and/or other evangelical churches in the area that addressed vision, goals, objectives, and strategies of wholistic ministry?*

The planning of this recommendation was very much a joint effort between CRWRC and CRWM. In addition, we hope to involve the Cambodian congregations in the CRCNA and the CRC in the Philippines. The local church organizations in Cambodia were involved in researching this proposal. It is very much the desire of both CRWRC and CRWM to continue this collaborative effort as the program in Cambodia is further implemented.

*B. Does the participation of the identified partner agencies complement the agreed-to strategy?*



CRWRC already has a number of partner organizations in Cambodia. CRWRC is eager to include these organizations in the development of future plans that also would include the resources of CRWM and the CRC in the Philippines.

*C. Has the administration of the other affected CRC agencies and/or other evangelical churches agreed to our work in Cambodia?*

The planning process for work in Cambodia has gone through the Ministry Plan Team and through MCC. As the implementation moves forward, it will be a priority to involve complementary resources from other agencies. This proposal has gone through all the necessary collaborative planning stages to come to this point.

## **APPENDIX F**

### **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 *Acts of Synod 1998*, 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, 1999

Categories Specified by Investment Policy:

	The Back to God Hour	Calvin College	Calvin Seminary	CRC Publications	Denominational Services	CRC Foundation
<b>SHORT TERM</b>						
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>						
Cash	1,949,337	\$ 107,606	\$ -	\$ 555,269	\$ (39,696)	\$ 112,287
Money-market mutual funds	54,669	-	2,004,040	52,915	1,669	43,689
Certificates of deposit	628,526	100,000	-	601,586	881,187	496,904
<b>FIXED-INCOME ISSUES</b>						
Foundation Liquidity Fund (1)	1,528,762	-	-	-	-	-
Other short term	-	8,180,906	-	-	-	-
<b>FOUNDATION BALANCED FUND (2)</b>	2,587,369	-	-	-	-	-
<b>COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKS</b>						
Publicly traded common, preferred, and convertible preferred stock	279,387	679,369	10,660,176	-	-	-
Equity mutual funds	21,895 (3)	54,042,085	-	-	-	-
<b>FIXED-INCOME ISSUES (LONG TERM)</b>						
US treasuries or Canadian gov't bonds	-	3,260,245	-	-	2,306,861 (11)	-
Publicly traded bonds and notes (Investment grade, at least A-rated)	-	24,231,614	-	-	4,616,617 (11)	-
Bond mutual funds	-	-	-	-	(7,266,687) (11)	-
CIBC / TAL overdraft accounts	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Interagency Investments (Obligations):</b>						
Loans to CRCA	414,926	-	-	322,417	(3,176,151)	266,259
<b>Other Investments:</b>						
Private equity fund	-	460,420 (6)	-	-	-	-
Partnerships	285,650 (4)	122,277 (4)	-	-	-	-
Land contracts	-	384,067 (7)	-	-	-	-
Life insurance cash value	256,945 (5)	199,648 (5)	160,019 (5)	-	-	-
Notes receivable	-	678,951 (8)	-	-	-	-
Common stock -- non-listed	-	201,160 (9)	-	-	-	-
Real estate (non-operating)	-	67,500 (10)	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	\$ 8,017,466	\$ 92,715,647	\$ 12,824,235	\$ 1,532,187	\$ (2,676,200)	\$ 919,049

Numbers in parentheses are footnote numbers. See the footnotes that follow.

THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH  
IN NORTH AMERICA  
Agencies and Institutions  
Investment Summary in US\$  
As of December 31, 1999

	Fund for Smaller Churches	Home Missions	Loan Fund	World Missions	World Relief
<b>Categories Specified by Investment Policy:</b>					
<b>SHORT TERM</b>					
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>					
Cash	\$ 519,038	\$ 2,563,313	\$ 74,070	\$ 1,620,275	\$ 1,707,233
Money-market mutual funds	-	165,362	85,788	8,546	165,865
Certificates of deposit	524,962	1,873,973	1,498,017	-	1,885,694
<b>FIXED-INCOME ISSUES</b>					
Foundation Liquidity Fund (1)	-	1,515,432	-	-	1,411,649
Other short term	-	-	-	-	236,789
<b>FOUNDATION BALANCED FUND (2)</b>					
	-	-	-	6,828,812	-
<b>COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKS</b>					
Publicly traded common, preferred, and convertible preferred stock	-	-	-	-	-
Equity mutual funds	-	-	-	202,757	23,516
<b>FIXED-INCOME ISSUES (LONG TERM)</b>					
US treasuries or Canadian govt bonds	-	-	-	-	-
Publicly traded bonds and notes (investment grade, at least A-rated)	-	-	-	-	-
Bond mutual funds	-	-	-	211,806	-
CIBC / TAL overdraft accounts	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Interagency investments (Obligations):</b>					
Loans to CRCNA	-	1,007,561	-	154,361	1,010,827
<b>Other investments:</b>					
Private equity fund	-	-	-	-	-
Partnerships	-	2,995,000	(4)	-	-
Land contracts	-	-	-	101,834	(7)
Life insurance cash value	-	-	-	-	12,831
Notes receivable	-	-	-	-	(5)
Common stock -- non-listed	-	-	-	-	-
Real estate (non-operating)	-	-	-	70,000	(10)
Total	\$ 1,044,000	\$ 10,126,641	\$ 1,657,875	\$ 9,198,391	\$ 6,454,204

Numbers in parentheses are footnote numbers. See the footnotes that follow.

### **Footnotes to the December 31, 1999, Investment Summary**

1. Foundation pooled/unitized fixed-income account for agencies.
2. Foundation pooled/unitized balanced account (fixed income 57.5%, equities 42.5%) for agencies.
3. Mutual funds gifted by donors.
4. Estimated value of IRM partnership investments.
5. Cash value of life-insurance contracts received as gifts.
6. Interest in a private equity fund received as a gift, including unrealized gain.
7. Land contract received as a gift.
8. Includes proceeds from sale of private company stock received as a gift (secured by stock sold), a promissory note received in the sale of land received as a gift, and notes outstanding on a life-insurance policy.
9. Includes investment in Creative Dining Services, owned jointly with Hope College, and \$14,260 stock gift of Dickinson Press Inc.
10. Farmland received as a gift. To be sold on occurrence of specified future event.
11. These investments, which provide security for the overdraft accounts, are part of a Canadian agency concentration/netting for interest cash management and investment program.

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# AGENCY AND COMMITTEE SUPPLEMENTS

## Calvin College

The Calvin College Board of Trustees, having met on May 18-19, 2000, presents this supplement of additional matters relating to the college.

At this meeting a dinner was held honoring retiring trustees, retiring faculty and staff, and two distinguished alumni. The board interviewed two faculty members and discussed the college's requirements for faculty members.

### I. Faculty matters

(See Recommendation IV, A for retirees.)

### II. Election of college trustees

A. *Regional trustees* (see Recommendation IV, B,1)

B. *Alumni trustee* (see Recommendation IV, B, 2)

The board appointed Dr. Orin Gelderloos as an alumni trustee for the one open position. After graduating from Calvin College in 1961, Dr. Gelderloos received an M.A. from Western Michigan University (1964) and a Ph.D. from Northwestern University (1970). He has been a professor of environmental studies at the University of Michigan-Dearborn since 1980. His previous work for Calvin College includes serving two terms on the Calvin Alumni Board and two terms on the Calvin College Board of Trustees as a classical representative, including four years as secretary. Currently he is a member of the Calvin Ecosystem Preserve Board. He has received a number of grants and awards, including the University of Michigan Regents' Distinguished Community Service Award in 1996 and the Conservationist of the Year Award from the Detroit Audubon Society in 1998. Dr. Gelderloos and his wife, Char, are members of Dearborn Christian Reformed Church.

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

Rev. Jason Chen's term expires in 2000. Having considered ethnic diversity, gender balance, clergy/laity, and geographical representation, the board proposes the following for an at-large trustee position for a three-year term:

1. *Rev. Norberto Wolf* is a graduate of Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary. He is presently the director of Race Relations of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, with an office in Southern California. Rev. Wolf served as senior pastor for nineteen years in five congregations of the Iglesia Reformada Argentina and was president of its synod on three occasions. He has published many articles, essays, and editorials in

Argentine magazines and newspapers and has translated five volumes of CRC Publications' New Testament Commentary series and four other theological books into Spanish. He and his wife, Dianne, are members of Latin American Christian Reformed Church, Anaheim, California.

2. Mrs. Cecilia Mereness, Mr. Kenneth Olthoff, and Mr. Maurice Williams are completing their first three-year terms on the board and are being recommended for reelection.
  - a. *Mrs. Cecilia Mereness*, a 1959 graduate of Calvin College, served as director of GEMS (Calvinettes) from 1965 through 1976 and was a trainer/coordinator/consultant for CRC Publications from 1976 through 1997. She was the director of Friendship Ministries from 1983 through 1997. Since her recent retirement she has been teaching English as a second language, serving as a volunteer administrator for her church, and leading community Bible studies. She and her husband, Jud, are members of Church of the Servant (CRC) of Grand Rapids.
  - b. *Mr. Kenneth Olthoff* has worked in various capacities for General Motors Corporation since 1954. Before his retirement in 1991 he was director of personnel at the Packard Electric Division of GM in Warren, Ohio. He holds a B.A. from Calvin College and an M.B.A. from the University of Michigan. He and his wife, Kathy, are members of Sunlight Community Church (CRC), Port St. Lucie, Florida.
  - c. *Mr. Maurice Williams* works in a management position at the Delta Institute in Chicago. He has extensive experience in business development and financial management. He has served on a number of boards, including the Roseland Redevelopment Planning Board, and as director of Roseland Christian Health Ministries. He often speaks publicly on topics related to community development. He graduated from Calvin with a B.A. in 1988 and received an M.B.A. from Keller Graduate School of Management (Chicago) in 1996. Mr. Williams and his wife, Kimberly, are members of Roseland Christian Reformed Church.

### III. "Justice and Prudence: A Petition to Synod 2000" (see Recommendation IV, C)

The board authorized President Gaylen Byker to transmit and explain to synod's Advisory Committee on Church Order I and Advisory Committee on Education a faculty, staff, and student petition regarding campus sentiment about women in office.

### IV. Recommendations

A. 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. Warren J. Boer, D.Min., Director of Broene Center, Emeritus
2. Beverly J. Klooster, Ph.D., Professor of Biology, Emerita
3. James L. Lamse, Ph.D., Professor of Germanic Languages, Emeritus

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

1. Regional trustees

Region	Delegate	Alternate	Term
Far West II	Mr. Charles Pasma	Mr. Jack Veltkamp	2003
Central U.S. I	Mr. Vernon Boerman	Mr. Gerald Baas	2003
Central U.S. II	Dr. Robert L. De Bruin	Mrs. Lois Miller	2003
Central U.S. III	Dr. Jack Postma	(to be determined)	2003
		Dr. Robert Swierenga	2001
Central U.S. IV	Rev. Edward Blankespoor	Mr. Marvin De Boer	2003
Eastern Canada II	Mr. Walter Neutel	Mrs. Susan Koppendrayer	2003

2. Alumni trustee

Dr. Orin Gelderloos                      2003

3. At-large trustee

Rev. Norberto Wolf                      2003

C. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to the chair of the board, Mr. Milton Kuyers; the vice chair of the board, Ms. Janice Veenstra; 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.

Calvin College Board of Trustees  
Edward Blankespoor, secretary



This report includes actions and recommendations of the seminary board of trustees resulting from its plenary meeting of May 2000.

### I. Information

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

For lack of business, the board's executive committee did not meet in April. It conducted its usual business in its meeting of May 18-19. The board approved the appointment of a committee to study the matter of board self-evaluation and to present a report and recommendations at its February 2001 meeting.

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

1. Fifty-seven students graduated from six degree programs this spring. Eight students were given certificates for having completed the Special Program for Ministerial Candidacy.
2. Successful interviews were conducted with thirty-four candidacy applicants recommended by the faculty. The delegates will be provided with candidacy booklets, and the advisory committee on educational matters will receive further information concerning applicants from the seminary administration and board representatives (Recommendation II, A).
3. Four candidates from last year requested extension of their candidacy. The board so recommends to synod (Recommendation II, B).
4. Following board interviews, thirty-eight students were granted either regular or temporary licensure to exhort. Another five students received extension of their licensure to exhort.

#### C. *Plan to recruit qualified ethnic-minority and women faculty members*

In response to a request from Synod 1999, the faculty developed and the board approved a plan to recruit qualified ethnic-minority and women faculty members. This plan appears as an appendix to this supplementary report. It contains recommendations (Recommendation II, C and D).

#### D. *Church Order Article 21*

The board approved for consideration by synod a proposal to amend Church Order Article 21. Proposed by the faculty, the change would stipulate greater involvement by classes in the spiritual nurture and oversight of theological students. It would also be helpful for the classes if a supplement to Article 21 spelled out the tasks of the proposed ministry-preparation committees. The proposal is consistent with what appears in the study-committee report on alternate routes into ministry (Recommendation II, E).

#### E. *Retirement of President James De Jong*

On May 18 President James A. De Jong read a letter to the board announcing his intention to retire at age 62 and to relinquish the title and responsibilities of the presidency at the end of calendar year 2001. He asked the board to grant him accrued sabbatical leave time thereafter, which would take him to his planned early retirement age at the end of July 2003. Rev. Norman Meyer

(chairman) and other trustees expressed thanks to President De Jong for all his service to the seminary. The board accepted the letter, authorized the board officers to work out the details of a transition in the presidency, and granted President De Jong's requested sabbatical.

As authorized by the seminary board of trustees, its officers have begun the process of forming a search committee with the goal of presenting a candidate to Synod 2001.

#### *F. Finances*

A revised budget from that approved in February, with no change in the ministry-share recommendation, will be supplied to the financial advisory committee. The adjustments accommodate the move to a full-time dean of students.

#### *G. Other matters*

The board approved six new awards and scholarships or revised scholarships.

At the donor's request, the board approved renaming a new endowed chair The Martin J. Wyngaarden Senior Professorship in Old Testament Studies, which is a change from what was reported in the printed *Agenda*. The board named Dr. Arie C. Leder as the first recipient of this professorship.

The board authorized the administration to hire a full-time dean of students as soon as possible.

The board approved naming two East Campus apartment buildings The Anthony A. Hoekema Apartments and The Geerhardus Vos Apartments, after notable theologians in our tradition. It also approved naming two sets of off-campus apartments The Simon and Elizabeth L. Stremmer Apartments and The John K. and Betty Boerema, Sr., Apartments, after patrons who contributed substantially to their acquisition.

The board has taken no action to request extension of the adjusted SPMC program. This provisional program was extended one year by Synod 1999 to coincide with synod's consideration of the study-committee report on alternate routes into ministry.

## **II. Recommendations**

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

Avila, Marco A.  
Beunk, Andrew E.  
Bouwers, John H.  
Chong, David Y.  
Davelaar, Wendell D.  
Dekker, Erika L.  
De Vries, John R.  
de Vries, Nathan  
Gardner, William E.  
Hofland, Mark A.  
Holthof, George E.  
Hoogland, William F.

Kooreman, Jack  
Laird, Michael  
Lee, Abraham Sung Soo  
Leunk, Thea Nyhoff  
Likkel, Lynn Vander Giessen  
Moelker, Peter J. A.  
Swieringa, Vern D.  
Tuttle, Spencer M.  
Van Dalen, Derek G.  
Vanderstoep, John A.  
Vande Zande, Mark A.  
Van Harten, David R.

Kim, Simon (Sang-Eun)  
Knight, Wayne A.  
Koeman, Scott B.  
Koetje, Michael D.  
Koopmans, Richard C.

Van Kley, Byron E.  
van Leeuwen, Gerald (Gary)  
Voorhees, Jeffrey D.  
Wagenmaker, Tyler J.  
Zantingh, Andrew

B. That the following candidates from last year be granted extension of candidacy for one year.

Daniel De Vries  
Cindy Holtrop  
Bonnie Natte  
Eufemio Ricardo

C. That the plan to recruit qualified multiethnic and women faculty members be approved as presented to synod.

D. That the Diversity Incentive Loan Program, funded with an annual grant of \$45,000 from the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA through 2010 and adjusted annually for inflation, be approved.

E. That Article 21 of the Church Order be revised in order to encourage the classes to be more involved in the nurture of their theological students (changes indicated by italics):

The churches shall encourage young men to seek to become ministers of the Word and shall grant financial aid to those who are in need of it. Every classis shall maintain a student fund *and shall have a Ministry-Preparation Committee for the nurture of all its theological students.*

The Board of Trustees of  
Calvin Theological Seminary  
Sidney Jansma, Jr., secretary

## APPENDIX

### A Plan to Recruit Qualified Ethnic-Minority and Women Faculty Members

#### I. Introduction

Synod 1999 mandated the seminary to present to Synod 2000 a plan for recruiting qualified multiethnic and women faculty members.

The seminary faculty is grateful for the vision and generosity of Synod 1999 when it “authorize[d] 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.” In its second ground synod saw such an allocation of funds as “another tangible demonstration that the denomination is committed to a seminary faculty that includes ethnic and gender diversity” (*Acts of Synod 1999*, p. 548).

This commitment resonates with the seminary’s own commitment to ethnic diversity in faculty building, first adopted in the late 1970s and reaffirmed in each subsequent faculty search. Two Asians, one for a year and one for four

years, have held teaching appointments in this time period, and a Hispanic professor is scheduled to teach a course this summer. The seminary has encouraged and enabled promising ethnic-minority students to pursue graduate studies. Presently a number of Asian and Asian-American students in our own doctoral program are teaching or assisting in the teaching of seminary courses. Our own program may eventually be the best source of candidates for permanent faculty appointments.

With the presentation of Dr. Ruth Tucker as a nominee for a tenure-track position this year—a person already under consideration when Synod 1999 took its action toward diversity on the seminary faculty—the faculty continues its pattern of openness to gender diversification begun when it named Dr. Emily Brink as an adjunct professor more than a decade ago.

## II. Assignment from Synod 1999

Synod 1999 adopted the following assertion: “Our commitment to becoming an inclusive denomination must come to more visible expression in the seminary faculty” (*Acts of Synod 1999*, Art. 17, III, A, p. 548). Synod assigned the following task to the seminary:

That the seminary board present to Synod 2000 a plan designed to assist the seminary in recruiting qualified ethnic-minority and women faculty members.  
(*Acts of Synod 1999*, Art. 17, III, B, 1, p. 548)

## III. Plan

### A. *Recommendations intended to yield results in the short term*

1. That the seminary’s Educational Policy Committee and three of the seminary’s trustees (appointed by the trustees) review qualifications for faculty appointments to ascertain whether the qualifications truly meet the needs of the churches and whether certain qualifications make it difficult for the seminary to appoint women and members of ethnic-minority groups. This group will report to the faculty and board as soon as possible, making recommendations on alterations in qualifications for faculty appointments that it judges wise in light of its review.
2. That the Educational Policy Committee develop a roster of potential faculty and administrators who are ethnic minorities and/or women and develop relationships with such people. Such relationships may be developed through part-time teaching roles, apprenticeships, lectureships, and the like. This task will be done with a clear understanding of
  - a. The current and future needs for new faculty, part-time instructors, and administrators.
  - b. The minimum professional criteria for filling these positions.
  - c. The standard confessional and ecclesiastical standards for faculty appointments.
  - d. The racial and ethnic diversity of the student body.
3. That the faculty nurture capable ethnic-minority and women students and alumni/ae by encouraging and seeking support for their postgraduate education.

Procedure:

- a. The three divisions of the faculty will seek to identify a total of three such students or alumni/ae per year, one per division.
  - b. The divisions are to report the names of students and alumni/ae so identified to the academic dean by the end of November each year.
  - c. The academic dean will seek and maintain information about sources of funds to support the postgraduate education of the students or alumni/ae identified by the divisions.
  - d. The academic dean will encourage the students or alumni/ae identified by the divisions and assist them in applying to graduate programs and to funding programs.
  - e. The academic dean will report the activities and results of these efforts to the president for report to the seminary's board of trustees at its annual spring meeting.
4. That the academic dean investigate the possibility of faculty exchanges with traditionally African-American seminaries. These exchanges may include, among other activities, special lectures, one-time course offerings, readers for Th.M. theses and Ph.D. dissertations. All exchanges will be arranged with the standard appointment procedures and committee mandates of the seminary. Funds to support this effort will be requested from the denomination's Board of Trustees (see *Acts of Synod 1999*, Art. 17, III, B, 2).
  5. That the seminary encourage current women and ethnic-minority students and recent graduates who have skills appropriate for graduate study to pursue education that will qualify them for faculty appointment. To facilitate their study, the academic dean will maintain and make available sets of materials from agencies that offer scholarships for women and members of ethnic-minority groups to pursue graduate education. Such groups include the Hispanic Theological Initiative and the Fund for Theological Education.
  6. That the seminary create one position in any academic discipline or field that can be filled by a woman or a person of ethnic-minority status who meets the criteria for faculty appointment and who is willing and able to accept the position. The cost of this position is to be borne by revenues to be provided by the synodical Board of Trustees, as stipulated by Synod 1999 (*Acts of Synod 1999*, Art. 17, III, B, 2).
  7. That in written and personal solicitation of churches for suggested faculty appointees, the president continue to highlight the need for ethnic and gender diversity. The seminary's practice has been to highlight the relevant paragraph in solicitation letters and to follow up as many of the letters as possible with a telephone call to further reinforce the need.
  8. That the seminary's trustees and faculty review the seminary's progress regarding the seminary's curriculum, recruitment of students, and faculty appointments in light of the synod's desires for greater ethnic diversity and greater participation by women. The review will be reported annually to synod through 2010.

9. That the seminary president, through the student-recruitment office, annually solicit CRCNA ethnic-minority congregations for the names of high-school-age young people who show promise for Christian ministry.

*B. Activities intended to yield results in the long term*

1. That as soon as possible the seminary develop funding assistance to pay for the doctoral programs of promising Calvin Theological Seminary students or graduates according to the following stipulations:

- a. This program will be administered by the president of the seminary.
- b. Loans will be awarded at the rate of one per year, but each of these loans will be for four years of doctoral education at the rate of \$15,000 for each year. This amount will be raised to keep pace with inflation.
- c. Applicants must be women of any race or ethnic group or men who are African Americans or members of any of the ethnic-minority categories recognized by the Association of Theological Schools.
- d. Applicants must agree to pay back all money received; however, if the recipient is offered and accepts a faculty appointment at the seminary, the first loan will be forgiven at the end of the first year of service; the second, third, and fourth loans will be forgiven at the end of the second, third, and fourth years of service.
- e. The loans will not bear interest.
- f. The repayment rate and time frame will be negotiated by the seminary on an individual basis; however, the time frame for repayment may not exceed fifteen years.
- g. This effort is to be funded by the synodical Board of Trustees, as stipulated by Synod 1999.

2. That the president investigate with appropriate seminaries and related organizations and foundations the development of a large-scale scholarship program to encourage and enable members of ethnic-minority groups and women to pursue doctorates that will prepare them for faculty appointments in evangelical and confessionally Reformed seminaries.

**IV. Conclusion: Diversity Incentive Loan Program at Calvin Seminary**

The seminary welcomes and is deeply appreciative of the financial incentives promised by Synod 1999 to implement a plan to recruit qualified ethnic-minority and women faculty members.

In order to implement the plan as outlined above, the seminary board proposes the creation of the Diversity Incentive Loan Program at Calvin Seminary, funded with an annual grant of \$45,000 from the synodical Board of Trustees through the year 2010, adjusted annually for inflation, to be administered as described. The loan program, if approved, would be given administrative refinement and would be advertised in the 2000-2001 academic year. Awards would be made after January 1, 2001, to Ph.D. students meeting the gender and ethnic criteria.

## **V. Recommendations**

The seminary board presents the following two recommendations in response to the request of Synod 1999.

*A.* That the plan to recruit qualified multiethnic and women faculty members be approved as presented to synod.

*B.* That the Diversity Incentive Loan Program, funded with an annual grant of \$45,000 from the synodical Board of Trustees through 2010 and adjusted annually for inflation, be approved.

### **Response to Report of Synodical Committee to Examine Alternate Routes Being Used to Enter the Ordained Ministry in the CRC**

The CRC Publications Board wishes to respond to Section VII (“CRC denominational standards for full-time nonordained ministry-staff positions”) of the report on alternate routes to full-time ministry in the CRC.

CRC Publications’ ministry could be affected by the recommendations in this section of the report because the positions affected by these recommendations include directors of Christian education and directors of youth ministry, both of which often deal with church education, for which CRC Publications provides resources.

The CRC Publications Board supports the direction outlined in the committee’s proposals because we believe many churches hire staff in these positions who, because of their background and training, have little or no appreciation for the carefully articulated biblical faith that is normally part of the Reformed tradition. However, we believe that the committee’s recommendations go too far. We believe that the requirement of a two-year theological degree or certificate in addition to a Bachelor of Arts degree for these positions is so far beyond what many churches now demand that it is unrealistic to believe that churches will accept these requirements. The staff of Youth Unlimited shares our concerns.

Therefore, the CRC Publications Board proposes the following to synod:

- A. That the following phrase be added to Recommendation A: “or a combination of training and experience equivalent to this degree.”
- B. That Recommendation B be changed to the following:

That synod affirm that the equivalent of one full semester of course work in biblical interpretation and theology from a Reformed or Presbyterian college or seminary should be required for people in these staff positions and that synod encourage the churches either to call persons with this education or to make provision for the attainment of such professional accomplishment through concurrent continuing education, perhaps through distance learning:

*Grounds:*

1. The expectation of a two-year theological degree is unrealistic for these positions, though such a degree would be desirable.
2. Even the requirement of a Bachelor of Arts degree might unnecessarily eliminate qualified people from these positions, since many people have had experience in work of this type, perhaps as volunteers, though they have not been formally educated to a B.A. level.
3. The requirement that some course work be taken from a Reformed or Presbyterian college or seminary, though not part of the committee’s proposal, is an important requirement if our children and youth are to benefit from the uniqueness of our denomination.

CRC Publications

Gary Mulder, executive director



## Christian Reformed Home Missions

Christian Reformed Home Missions by way of this supplemental report to Synod 2000 respectfully requests the following:

A. That synod elect members-at-large for the Board of Home Missions in the areas of finance and advancement from among the nominees listed and described below.

1. Member-at-large for finance

*Mrs. Lynne Heyne* is a member of Madison Square CRC, Grand Rapids, Michigan. She is a certified public accountant, a care-group leader in her church, a Bible Study Fellowship discussion leader, and a mentor for D.A. Blodgett's Sisters in Support program.

*Mr. Dewey Westra*, a member of Central Avenue CRC in Holland, Michigan, recently retired from the construction business in Waupun, Wisconsin. He has served as an elder and as a member of the Classical Home Missions Committee of Classis Wisconsin for ten years. He has also served a previous term on the Board of Home Missions.

2. Member-at large for advancement

*Mr. Mark Feldkamp* is a member of Church of the Servant, Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he is a Cadet leader. He worked in advancement at Calvin College for five years and now works for a physician-recruitment service. He has served as alternate member-at-large for advancement.

*Rev. Jack Stulp* of Hudsonville, Michigan, has been active in local and North American evangelizing for more than forty years. He served as president of the Board of Home Missions in the early nineties and continues to give leadership in stewardship and resource development to support mission outreach.

B. That synod approve Home Missions' request to redesignate its current member-at-large for architecture position to member-at-large for intercultural ministry.

*Note:* The Home Missions' member-at-large position for architecture was approved by Synod 1983. See *Acts of Synod 1983*, p. 68.

*Grounds:*

1. Since Home Missions is no longer involved in architectural review of new church facilities, architectural expertise is no longer needed.
2. Home Missions partners with more than ninety ethnic and multicultural new-church, established-church, and campus ministries. Board-member experience in intercultural ministry is valuable.
3. Redesignating this member-at-large position provides greater opportunity for nominating and electing persons of color to the board.

In the event that synod approves redesignation of the current Home Missions board member-at-large position for architecture to member-at-large for intercultural ministry, the following nominations are presented:

Mr. Charles Brown is a member of East Side CRC, Cleveland, Ohio. He owns and runs a construction company. Mr. Brown has served his church as an officebearer and as a mentor-adviser for a new church-parenting ministry in Cleveland.

Rev. Luis Pellecer is pastor of Good Samaritan CRC, Miami, Florida. Rev. Pellecer has served Classis Florida as chair and as church visitor and has served synod as ethnic adviser. He is a member of the Hispanic Ministry Planning Committee for Florida.

*C. Information and recommendations from the Report on Support for Smaller Churches*

At its annual meeting in April 2000, the Board of Home Missions endorsed the Report on Support for Smaller Churches for implementation beginning September 1, 2000 (see Appendix to this supplement). The report is Home Missions' response to the decision and mandate of Synod 1999 that Home Missions assume administrative responsibility for the Fund for Smaller Churches.

The board sends the Report on Support for Smaller Churches to synod as information, with these requests:

1. That Rev. Dirk Hart (Home Missions' Established-Church Department leader) and Rev. John Rozeboom (Home Missions' executive director) be given the privilege of the floor when the report is considered along with the Fund for Smaller Churches report.
2. That synod urge the churches to continue to pay the Fund for Smaller Churches ministry share.

*Grounds:*

- a. The synodical commitment to salary funding continues (*Acts of Synod 1999*, pp. 591-93).
  - b. Synod 1999 decided to retain the FSC/small-church-support ministry share through calendar year 2002 (*Acts of Synod 1999*, Art. 40, I, C, 5, p. 593).
  - c. For at least the next two years, 2001 and 2002, support for smaller churches will be administered by Home Missions separately from the Home Missions' budget.
3. That synod request the Board of Trustees to set minimum salary and benefits annually to serve as a basis upon which salary support for smaller churches is computed and as a guide for other churches.

Christian Reformed Home Missions  
John Rozeboom, executive director

## APPENDIX

### Report on Support for Smaller Churches

#### I. Introduction

In response to the decision and mandate of Synod 1999 that Christian Reformed Home Missions assume administrative responsibility for the Fund for Smaller Churches (FSC) upon request of the Fund for Smaller Churches Committee, Home Missions provides the following progress report for information and discussion.

Synod 1999 adopted the report of the Task Force on Support for Smaller Churches (*Agenda for Synod 1999*, pp. 35-41; *Acts of Synod 1999*, pp. 591-93) and transferred responsibility from the Fund for Smaller Churches Committee to Christian Reformed Home Missions, beginning in September 2000. Synod decided that the implied commitments of Synod 1995 to current FSC recipients will be honored so that they will not receive less than the amount they would have received under the 1995 formula. This means that for churches now in the system the gradually reducing salary-support formula will remain in effect (60 percent of formula in 2000, 50 percent of formula for 2001, etc.). Sometime in the first decade of the twenty-first century, the formula will end salary support. In addition, synod decided that so-called “heritage churches” may continue to receive full support as long as classis pays at the rate of one dollar for every two dollars contributed by CRHM.

#### II. The impact of these decisions is that, beginning on September 1, 2000, there will be three systems.

##### A. *The current gradually reducing system of salary support*

This system involves maintaining a complicated formula of salary, benefits, and expenses approved each year by synod. Even churches not funded by FSC appreciate these recommendations because they, in effect, constitute the minimum salary approved by synod and are followed by local councils to set salary for their pastors.

The formula includes a salary minimum for U.S. churches, a salary minimum for Canadian churches, a service increment, a child allowance, automobile expense allowance, health/dental/life insurance allowance, Social Security offset for U.S. churches, medical-expenses offset for Canadian churches, Christian-school allowance, stated-supply salary allowance, and minimum contribution per professing member.

These figures are reduced by a formula put in place by Synod 1995. In addition, there is a continuing-education allowance, for which all smaller churches are eligible whether or not they receive salary support. The FSC Committee has tried, unsuccessfully, to simplify the formula.

Under the current FSC rules, a church may apply for salary support when it has seventy-five (75) professing members. Churches become ineligible when the number of professing members falls below fifty (50). When a church has ninety to one hundred (90-100) professing members, the formula “runs out.” This salary-support system applies only to churches currently in the FSC system—about fifty churches.

Because the salary and benefits figures are useful to many smaller churches, it is recommended that they remain in place and that the annual task of setting these figures be given to the Board of Trustees.

### *B. Heritage churches*

The formula for heritage churches is the same as that in the system described above except that there is no annual 10 percent reduction. As long as a church does not fall below the minimum of fifty (50) professing members and does not grow to between ninety and a hundred (90-100) professing members, there is, theoretically, no cut-off date. Both the classis and Home Missions must agree that a church qualifies as a heritage church,<sup>1</sup> and the classis must agree to contribute one dollar for every two dollars contributed by the denomination. It is estimated there are at most half a dozen potential heritage churches.

### *C. The new smaller-churches program-support system*

The new support program for small churches expects smaller churches to be self-governing, self-supporting, self-perpetuating, and self-expressing (the so-called “four selves”). At the same time, it recognizes that smaller churches have limited means and that financial incentives can help them do new or more innovative programming. A smaller church is defined as a congregation with up to 150 total members or up to 100 professing members over the age of 18. Emerging churches receiving new-church-development funding and established churches receiving partnership funding from Home Missions are not eligible for program support. The program-support system includes such things as

#### 1. Program funding with emphasis on programs that impact the community.

Examples of this are supplies and materials for DVBS, bringing in a SWIM team, community mailing, advertising, participating in a county fair, day care, church-school supplies and materials, running a food pantry, materials and/or a speaker for a witnessing-training or other leadership-training program, printing a church pamphlet, purchasing a video projector, paying for a planning consultation, and so on. Program funding could include salary support for a second staff person where warranted.

The classical home-missions committee or an equivalent committee as well as the Home Missions regional director (HMRD) and/or Home Missions intercultural-ministry director (HMID) must endorse the grant request. Grants up to \$1,999 will be sent in one payment and not require a report. Grants of \$2,000 and over will be sent in quarterly payments and require quarterly reports. Grants are for one year at a time. Program

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<sup>1</sup>Small churches classified as “heritage churches” may continue to receive salary support when both of the following conditions are met:

- a) 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.
- b) 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.

funding grants are not available to churches receiving salary support under the FSC system.

2. A one-time grant of up to \$600 for a church to purchase or update its computer and printers, with the understanding that the church will have an e-mail address. Payment will be made upon receipt of a simple application and proof of purchase. The request should be made to the HMRD or HMID, who will endorse the request before sending it on to the Home Missions' central office. This provision is also available to congregations receiving salary support.
3. Annual support for continuing education of the pastor and/or other leaders, with the understanding that Home Missions will pay \$2.00 (up to \$600) for every \$1.00 invested by the church. A brief report on the training activity and receipts will be sufficient to ensure payment. The report and receipts should be sent to the HMRD or HMID, who will endorse the payment request before sending it on to the Home Missions' central office. This provision is also available to congregations receiving salary support.
4. Smaller-church conferences for training, sharing, and encouragement, rotating among three or four areas in the denomination, with Home Missions paying for the conference and for part or all of the transportation.
5. Consultation to assist in evaluation, planning, and decision making—with emphasis on planning when a pastor leaves. The process will be patterned after the current ABC and Scenario of Choice processes.
6. Appointment of one or more part-time smaller-church specialists trained in consultation with smaller churches.
7. A semiannual smaller-church newsletter.
8. Other ways of helping smaller churches, especially as suggested by the smaller churches themselves.

### I. Bilateral relationships—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 imposed by Synod 1989 on our relationship with the Reformed Churches in South Africa (RCSA) (Synod Potchefstroom). Synod 2000 of the RCSA went on record as declaring themselves to be churches in correspondence (ecclesiastical fellowship) 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)
  - 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. Christian Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (CGKN/CRCN) (see Agenda for Synod 2000, p. 197)*

A reply has been received from the Interchurch Relations Committee of the CGKN indicating a willingness to meet with members of the CRCNA to discuss the possibilities of a relationship within the framework of our Ecumenical Charter. The IRC will seek to rekindle a relationship between the CRCN and the CRCNA.

## II. Multilateral relationships—ecumenical organizations

*A. North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC) (see Agenda for Synod 2000, pp. 195-96)*

The IRC asked a subcommittee to review the CRCNA's membership in NAPARC. The subcommittee reviewed the IRC's report to Synod 1996 (*Acts of Synod 1996*, pp. 388-91), along with other considerations that factor into the CRCNA's suspended status with respect to NAPARC. At its April 28, 2000, meeting the IRC adopted the recommendation of its subcommittee that the CRCNA continue its relationship with NAPARC as a suspended member denomination.

#### *Grounds:*

1. In keeping with its Ecumenical Charter, "the CRCNA should seek rapprochement with all churches of Christ. . . particularly churches which are Reformed as to confession, polity, and liturgy, as determined not only by their formal standards, but also by their actual practice." Although there are differences among the member denominations of NAPARC, the oneness in Christ and in confession that we share requires that we work with and toward one another rather than against and away from one another.
2. Through the initiation of the CRCNA delegation, NAPARC 1999 adopted a proposal regarding a study of the role and purpose of

NAPARC. We believe we should see the project through (see *Agenda for Synod 2000*, p. 195).

3. Officebearers of the CRCNA as well as some individual representatives of NAPARC member churches have expressed regret that the CRCNA is currently a suspended member denomination of the council, preferring that regular membership be reestablished.
4. Withdrawing from membership in NAPARC may have a negative impact on any future CRCNA attempts to establish ecclesiastical fellowship with groups that have separated from our denomination, such as the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, churches within the United Reformed Church, or others.

*B. National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) (see Agenda for Synod 2000, p. 196)*

The NAE held its convention in March 2000 at Arlington, Virginia. Dr. David Engelhard and Rev. Norberto Wolf served as delegates to the convention. For the first time Aliansa de Ministerios Evangelicos Nacionales (AMEN), a network of Hispanic evangelical organizations, held its summit in conjunction with the NAE convention. A Washington Insight Briefing for young people was also held conjointly.

Newly elected chairpersons of the NAE Board of Directors are Dr. Edward Foggs, chairman (Church of God, Anderson, Indiana), Dr. L. Edward Davis, first vice chairman (Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Livonia, Michigan), and Ms. Diane Knippers, second vice chairperson (Institute on Religion and Democracy, Washington, D.C.).

An NAE bylaw change was approved by the board, namely, that churches may be members of NAE while they are members of other multilateral ecumenical associations or councils, provided they can sign NAE's Statement of Faith.

**III. Merger of the Canadian Interchurch Relations Committee and the denominational Interchurch Relations Committee (see *Agenda for Synod 2000*, p. 202, and Appendix F, pp. 253-55)**

As was proposed in the *Agenda for Synod 2000* (p. 255), the joint IRC committees come with the following recommendation regarding the members and terms of the merged committee:

*Recommendation:* That synod ratify the committee composition of the merged Interchurch Relations Committee and appoint the following members for the terms of service indicated:

*Canadian Members*

Rev. Robert Haven (2001)  
Mrs. Claire Elgersma (2001)  
Mr. Johannes De Viet (2002)  
Rev. Michael Veenema (2002)  
Rev. Richard Vander Vaart (2003)  
Rev. Michael Winnowski (2003)

*U.S. Members*

Rev. Peter Brouwer (2001)  
Rev. Leonard J. Hofman (2001)  
Rev. Michiel De Berdt (2002)  
Dr. Henry Zwaanstra (2002)  
Dr. Lyle Bierma (2003)  
Rev. Jason Chen (2003)



*Grounds:*

- A. This allows for continuity in the newly formed committee during the year of transition.
- B. It is difficult to recruit new members to the committee while the merger proposal is waiting approval.

**IV. Recommendation requiring synodical action (see Section III)**

That synod ratify the committee composition of the merged Interchurch Relations Committee and appoint the members for the terms of service indicated.

Interchurch Relations Committee

Leonard J. Hofman, administrative secretary

Henry Zwaanstra, president

# OVERTURES AND COMMUNICATIONS

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# OVERTURES

## **Overture 28: Not to Adopt Recommendations of the Committee to Review the Decision re Women in Office for Synod 2000**

The council of Charlottetown CRC, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, overtures synod not to adopt either the recommendations of the Committee to Review the Decision re Women in Office or the minority report re Regulation 1.

### *Grounds:*

1. The recommendations of the committee will cut off discussion.
2. The proposed changes in Church Order Supplement 3-a will further implement the process toward full ordination of women.  
Examples: Proposed changes to Church Order Supplement, Article 3-a will result in the following:
  - a. Women may be appointed as synodical deputies (Regulation 2).
  - b. Women ministers of the Word may be appointed for fields of labor within classes where women are permitted to hold office (Regulation 6).
3. The effect of Regulations 4 and 7 is that, if a delegate is convinced that the Word of God permits the ordination only of men to the ruling offices of the church, he will be removed from the candidate-examination process and indeed will not have full rights.
  - a. Regulation 4 states, "No members of classis shall be required to participate against their convictions in processing ministerial credentials or taking part in a candidate's examination."
  - b. Regulation 7 states in part, "... no delegate should vote against a female candidate on the basis of gender alone."
4. This report and its recommendations will further alienate those that have broken ties with us because it is yet another step toward opening all the ruling offices to women.

Council of Charlottetown CRC,  
Charlottetown, PEI  
Tony Enserink, clerk

*Note:* This overture was submitted to Classis Eastern Canada but was not adopted.

### **Overture 29: Return to Pre-1995 Decision re Women in Office**

The council of Charlottetown CRC, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, overtures synod to return to the position held prior to 1995 with regard to the ordination of women.

*Grounds:*

1. The principles of headship are clearly outlined in Scripture both for the home and for the church (I Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:22-24; Col. 3:18; I Pet. 3:1; I Cor. 14:33-35; I Tim. 2:11-14).
2. Synod 1984 formulated this principle of headship; it was reaffirmed by Synod 1985 and retained by Synod 1992. No “compelling biblical grounds” have been advanced for changing it.

Council of Charlottetown CRC,  
Charlottetown, PEI  
Tony Enserink, clerk

*Note:* This overture was submitted to Classis Eastern Canada but was not adopted.

### **Overture 30: Adopt Minority Report re Regulation 1 in the Report re Women in Office**

Classis Holland overtures synod to adopt the minority report re Regulation 1 in the report of the Committee to Review the Decision re Women in Office for Synod 2000. In addition to the grounds submitted by the minority report re Regulation 1, we submit the following:

*Grounds:*

1. Since synod is the broadest assembly of the church and is therefore highly visible and widely respected, barring women from delegation to synod damages its credibility, will tend to retard the full acceptance of women’s gifts in the church, and will continue the de facto status of women as second-class members in a very visible way.
2. The majority report (Recommendation F) urges that women be seated as advisers. It would allow their participation in the deliberations of synod without voting rights, comparing the practice of allowing women advisers to the present practice of allowing ethnic advisers at synod. Such a comparison is specious. Ethnic advisers are present not because anyone thinks ethnic delegates ought not to be delegates at all but because ethnic persons are underrepresented as delegates. Since the majority report provides that women be present as advisers to synod, allowing them as regular delegates seems a reasonable step.

Classis Holland  
Jack Stulp, stated clerk

## Overture 31: Do Full Justice to the Biblical Responsibilities and Ecclesiastical Rights of All Confessing Members

### I. Introduction

The CRC's Committee to Review the Decision re Women in Office for Synod 2000, appointed in 1998, makes the following recommendations to synod:

B. That, although there are within the denomination firmly held differences on the issue of ordaining women to the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist, synod declare that these differences do not separate us either from Christ or from his church and that therefore it is our responsibility to seek earnestly to live together in unity and to minister together for the glory of God.

*Grounds:*

1. The Lord of the church and his apostles call us to live in unity (John 17; Eph. 4:1-3).
2. In spite of different conclusions they have drawn from Scripture, proponents of both sides have made their cases from Scripture, and they are together in desiring to honor Christ as head of the church.
3. As a denomination we have a rich heritage together and have been led into many important ministries.
4. Living and serving together in love will be a blessing to us and our children, a witness to other churches and the world, and God glorifying.

C. That synod again urge the church councils and classes to nurture and make appropriate provision for the full use of the gifts that the Spirit gives to all their members, both women and men.

*Grounds:*

1. Such use of gifts is an essential part of honoring Jesus Christ as Lord of the church.
2. Neglect in the use of these gifts impoverishes the church's ministry, witness, and fellowship.
3. Full use of women's gifts is mandatory, regardless of the stance taken on the women-in-office issue.

D. That synod retain the classical-local option approved in 1995 [and make a few minor changes in the existing Church Order Supplement, Article 3-a].

*(Agenda for Synod 2000, p. 384)*

Grace Christian Reformed Church of Scarborough, Ontario, feels compelled to urge synod to ensure that the mandatory "full use of women's gifts" (see Ground C, 3) be applied to all offices and assemblies of the Christian Reformed Church. At Grace CRC it has long been our practice to affirm the use of women's gifts as deacons, elders, and ministers. Our convictions have been captured in a document entitled "Confessional Affirmation Regarding Full Participation in the Life of the Church and Its Responsibilities," which received the unanimous support of the congregation in 1995. We urge synod to confess that, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we all—men and women—participate *fully* in the life of the church, its responsibilities, its joys, and its sufferings.

### II. Response to the process

We note that both synod and the Committee to Review the Decision re Women in Office had the opportunity to show initiative toward making full use of women's gifts by developing a process for reviewing the decision of

Synod 1995 in a way that incorporated women's as well as men's experiences in the church. Synod could have selected a committee that was gender balanced, and the committee could have solicited women's responses to the survey. The fact that synod and the committee did not do so is particularly disconcerting since the committee uses the "absence of a growing consensus" in the denomination as the very basis of its recommendations. In addition, the committee uses its survey results to justify its decision to maintain status quo on this issue. Its focus on developing consensus and maintaining a semblance of unity in the church, valid as these considerations are, appears to have hindered the committee from developing a prophetic vision with regard to the issue of women in office.

### **III. Response to the recommendations**

Synod 2000 should make it clear once and for all that our confessional unity is rooted in Jesus Christ and that our denominational unity must be a living expression of the biblical confession that "Jesus is Lord." Our confessional declarations should shape our denominational practices, not vice versa. The declaration that "full use of women's gifts is mandatory" must be demonstrated in a synodical decision to ordain women as elders, ministers, and evangelists, without discrimination.

Synod should indeed recognize and promote "the full use of the gifts that the Spirit gives to all [the churches'] members, both women and men." But synod should also be consistent and should equally affirm the right to ordination for qualified women. Synod cannot in good faith and with a clear conscience fully embrace the biblical principle of gender equality and at the same time severely restrict the application and implementation of this vital confessional principle in order to avoid denominational problems resulting from certain "firmly held differences on the issue."

Synod should affirm that all men and women are equally created in God's image. We all are equally called to reflect God's likeness. We all are equally challenged to be God's image bearers in all facets of our lives. This biblical teaching is God given. Therefore, this truth should be confessed publicly and enacted consistently by all God's people in all relationships, activities, institutions, and organizations.

### **IV. Response to the characterization of the issue**

Synod should not let the fact that the ordination-of-women issue has been characterized as "emotionally charged" stop it from making a definitive pronouncement on the issue. Abortion, war, sexual abuse and exploitation, political and racial discrimination, environmental degradation, and economic and social oppression—all issues dealt with by previous synods—have been similarly characterized. However, the recognition that these issues were emotionally charged did not prevent past synods from making definitive pronouncements.

We urge synod to do full justice to women's gifts and to the issue of women in office in light of the cosmic scope of redemption and the sweeping significance of Jesus' life-transforming ministry of reconciliation. The committee characterizes the ordination issue as a wisdom issue, indicating it is not an essential confessional issue. In the process, the committee seems to limit the life-embracing meaning of "confessional" to doctrinal differences. Similarly, in

its argument that the ordination of women is not a moral issue, the committee seems to limit the meaning of the Christian moral code to that which is summarized in the Ten Commandments, omitting morality as found in the all-encompassing “new covenant,” established by Jesus Christ. In asserting that the ordination-of-women issue is a wisdom issue, the committee similarly appears to restrict the comprehensive nature of Jesus’ redemptive work. Biblical wisdom literature, however, is fully comprehensive, ignoring no person or aspect of life as it teaches us how to walk fully on the path of redemption. Numerous Scripture passages elaborate on the fundamental meaning of becoming wise in Christ. Repeatedly these passages remind us of our creaturely calling to seek and practice biblical wisdom: to discern the spirits, to know the Truth, and to act truly. Jesus, as the personification of wisdom, welcomes without discrimination all who ask for forgiveness of their sin, who desire the freedom to serve, who seek the coming of God’s liberating reign and the practice of love, mercy, justice, and righteousness.

Because the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, any action (or failure to act) born out of any effort that restricts and stymies, blocks and postpones the work of the Spirit in any of our brothers or sisters is an action that inhibits the growth of wisdom. It is unwise. Biblical wisdom requires no less than that we enable one another to lay hold of the redemptive birthright that is ours in the opportunity for full, faithful stewardship of our God-given gifts in his service. To do less is unacceptable. We may not sell one another short. True wisdom requires that we move forward with understanding of and compassion for one another—but that we do indeed move forward.

## **V. Concluding reflections**

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

(II Cor. 5:17-18)

We all, men and women alike, have been given the liberating message and ministry of radical reconciliation in and through Christ. For this God-given, overarching responsibility we personally—and our churches communally—urgently require a credible, proactive societal presence. For our creation-wide mission we need deeper communal conviction and greater denominational coherence.

Therefore, we urge synod to declare that we are called to confess and practice more faithfully our fundamental unity in Christ. We must do so by inviting, welcoming, and enabling all God’s gifted people, women and men alike, “in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . to all the privileges of full communion. . . . to full participation in the life of the church. . . . and to its responsibilities, its joys, and its sufferings” (Form for Public Profession of Faith). Synod must recognize that all qualified men and women are entitled to participate fully in God’s all-embracing ministry of reconciliation in all our congregations, assemblies, agencies, institutions, and organizations.

## **VI. Overture**

In view of the foregoing, the council of Grace Christian Reformed Church, Scarborough, Ontario, overtures synod finally and immediately to begin doing



full justice to the biblical responsibilities and ecclesiastical rights of *all* confessing members in good standing by welcoming and encouraging both women and men to all offices within all the congregations and assemblies of the Christian Reformed Church and in its agencies, institutions, and organizations.

Council of Grace CRC, Scarborough, ON  
Rudy Boonstra, clerk

*Note:* This overture was submitted to Classis Toronto but was not adopted.

# COMMUNICATIONS

## **Communication 4: Classis Central California**

Recently in Classis Central California a young man underwent a classical examination for the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church. He had been duly called by a congregation within the classis for a ministry position on its staff. The classical examination was successfully completed, and Classis Central California received the concurrence of the synodical deputies who were present for the examination. However, subsequent to passing the classical examination and prior to his ordination, this candidate decided that this was not the time for him to enter the ordained ministry.

The Classical Interim Committee of Classis Central California was informed of this decision and had much discussion about the matter with the general secretary of the Christian Reformed Church, Dr. David Engelhard. It is a matter without precedent in the history of the church, as far as anyone can tell. The matter was finally resolved when the young man, on the advice of the interim committee, withdrew his acceptance of the call he had received. Classis Central California then declared that the classical examination he had sustained no longer had efficacy.

Classis Central California would like clarification on the following matters:

1. What is the status of a candidate for ministry who has passed a classical examination but delays being ordained?
2. When does a person formally enter the ministry in the Christian Reformed Church?
3. Should there be a guideline limiting the time allowed between a candidate's passing of a classical examination and that candidate's ordination?

Classis Central California  
Harold Hiemstra, stated clerk

## **Communication 5: Council of Trinity CRC, Visalia, CA**

The report of the Committee to Review the Decision re Women in Office generally does a good job of presenting arguments used on both sides of the women-in-church-office issue. We appreciate the call to nurture and make appropriate provision for the full use of the gifts that the Spirit gives to all members, both women and men. Furthermore, we agree that differences on the issue of ordaining women do not separate us either from Christ or from his church and that therefore it is our responsibility to live together in unity and to minister together for the glory of God. Finally, though we were concerned that

the report would recommend that synod require all classes to open all offices to women, we are thankful that this option is not one of the committee's recommendations.

Part of the committee's mandate was to adduce a "biblical-theological argument to undergird the position(s) recommended." This part of the mandate is necessary because the 1995 decision to open all the offices to women had no biblical-theological grounds attached. One of the most important decisions made by Synod 1995 was made without any biblical-theological grounds.

In the section of the report that presents a case for closing offices to women, we question the use of one proof text. Acts 20:28 is given as a proof text for the statement "Thus the Old Testament pattern seems to have continued into the New, though of course here male leadership has been modified and defined by what God has done in Christ." Whatever else Acts 20:28 may say, it does not say anything about how male leadership has been modified and defined by what God has done in Christ.

The report states that Galatians 3:38 is an "important passage" for those in favor of women in church office. But an examination of this text reveals that it declares that male and female share equally in salvation in Christ—nothing more and nothing less. It is alarming that so many who have had good theological training force this text to say more than it says.

It is clear from this report that the committee never seriously considered the option of recommending that synod close the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist. What is especially disappointing are the reasons given—namely, it is "not advisable" because the arguments against are "not convincing to a large segment of the denomination," "returning to the no vote of Synod 1994 is not a viable option unless much greater clarity has been achieved," and "there is the practical problem of what to do in those instances where women have been ordained to ruling offices" (Section VI, par. 2). These conclusions were reached after survey results of councils and classes were tabulated.

We believe that the present position of the church is the result of the feminist movement's dissatisfaction with the God-ordained role for women. We find that in the report this sad state of affairs is being perpetuated because a survey indicates apathy and lack of concern for the issue of women in church office in the CRC. This issue needs to be decided on biblical grounds, not by majority vote, not on the basis of survey results, not because of the desires of the feminist movement.

The fourth section of the report deals with allowable differences in the church and issues a call for ecclesiastical unity. These are high and worthwhile goals, but they may never be sought at the expense of biblical truths and obedience to Scripture. Furthermore, the attempt to define the women-in-church-office issue as a "wisdom principle" is misguided. The report states,

... wisdom principles help people pull together insights and truths from a number of spheres: the nature of the created order, observable societal principles and circumstances, and, in particular, the nature of humankind as illuminated by God's special revelation. Wisdom teachings provide boundaries and goals for human life in the presence of God.

(Section IV)

As applied to the women-in-church-office issue, this statement means that the Bible is not enough. It means we need something more than the Bible:

human reason, sociology, psychology, and so forth. Once we start down this road, we elevate human reason above divine revelation. Furthermore, the wisdom literature in the Bible is wisdom that comes from God and never contradicts what is found elsewhere in the Word.

We urge Synod 2000 to reject the report of the Committee to Review the Decision re Women in Office.

Council of Trinity CRC, Visalia, CA  
John Van Tol, clerk

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**Communication 6: Council of Trinity CRC, Visalia, CA**

The purpose of the end-of-life report submitted to synod by the Committee for Contact with the Government (Canada) is to help the church approach and deal with end-of-life issues in a pastorally sensitive way. We believe this report has done that, particularly in the following ways:

1. It strongly affirms that life is a gift from God and that suicide and mercy killing are not appropriate responses to the anguish and despair which life sometimes brings.
2. The four very touching vignettes show us how important it is to carry one another's burdens.
3. Section VI ("Toward communities of care") of the report gives us the challenge to become a caring, sharing community toward those facing the end of life. The pastoral advice it gives is very helpful.
4. Finally, the bibliography at the end steers us to additional resources.

We encourage Synod 2000 to adopt this report as being worthwhile for study by the churches.

Council of Trinity CRC, Visalia, CA  
John Van Tol, clerk

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# FINANCIAL REPORTS

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# The Back to God Hour/CRC TV

## Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 2000-2001

	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Actual	Fiscal 99-00 Budget	Fiscal 00-01 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Ministry Share	\$ 4,420	\$ 4,439	\$ 4,414	\$ 4,449	\$ 4,353	\$ 4,650	\$ 4,545
% of Total Income	55.4%	51.2%	49.6%	48.9%	51.5%	49.1%	49.9%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Ministry Share	\$ 3,259	\$ 3,402	\$ 3,399	\$ 3,301	\$ 2,997	\$ 3,965	\$ 3,510
Estate Gifts	\$ 179	\$ 691	\$ 1,030	\$ 1,202	\$ 667	\$ 600	\$ 600
Total Gift Income	3,438	4,093	4,429	4,503	3,664	4,565	4,110
% of Total Income	43.1%	47.2%	49.8%	49.5%	43.3%	48.2%	45.1%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 127	\$ 141	\$ 59	\$ 141	\$ 436	\$ 250	\$ 450
Total Other Income	127	141	59	141	436	250	450
% of Total Income	1.6%	1.6%	0.7%	1.6%	5.2%	2.6%	4.9%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>7,985</b>	<b>8,673</b>	<b>8,902</b>	<b>9,093</b>	<b>8,453</b>	<b>9,465</b>	<b>9,105</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>							
Program Services:							
English	\$ 2,579	\$ 2,496	\$ 2,473	\$ 2,481	\$ 2,603	\$ 2,650	\$ 2,800
FTEs	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
International	\$ 2,847	\$ 2,562	\$ 2,460	\$ 2,592	\$ 2,287	\$ 3,121	\$ 3,124
FTEs	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
Television	\$ 2,131	\$ 2,049	\$ 2,003	\$ 649	\$ 1,312	\$ 3,051	\$ 2,079
FTEs	7	7	6	6	10	8	10
Television - Animation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 437	\$ 500	\$ 250
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 7,557	\$ 7,107	\$ 6,936	\$ 5,722	\$ 6,639	\$ 9,322	\$ 8,253
Total Program Service FTEs	25	25	24	24	28	26	28
% of Total \$	87.4%	88.5%	87.0%	82.9%	84.5%	87.2%	85.3%
% of Total FTEs	75.8%	75.8%	75.0%	75.0%	80.0%	76.5%	77.8%
Support Services:							
Management & General	\$ 555	\$ 367	\$ 378	\$ 406	\$ 468	\$ 524	\$ 564
FTEs	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 538	\$ 557	\$ 660	\$ 777	\$ 751	\$ 850	\$ 853
FTEs	4	4	4	4	3	4	4
Total Support Service \$	1,093	924	1,038	1,183	1,219	1,374	1,417
Total Support Service FTEs	8	8	8	8	7	8	8
% of Total \$	12.6%	11.5%	13.0%	17.1%	15.5%	12.8%	14.7%
% of Total FTEs	24.2%	24.2%	25.0%	25.0%	20.0%	23.5%	22.2%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 8,650</b>	<b>\$ 8,031</b>	<b>\$ 7,974</b>	<b>\$ 6,905</b>	<b>\$ 7,858</b>	<b>\$ 10,696</b>	<b>\$ 9,670</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (665)</b>	<b>\$ 642</b>	<b>\$ 928</b>	<b>\$ 2,188</b>	<b>\$ 595</b>	<b>\$ (1,231)</b>	<b>\$ (565)</b>





# Calvin Theological Seminary

## Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 2000-2001

	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Actual	Fiscal 99-00 Budget	Fiscal 00-01 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Ministry Share	\$ 1,762	\$ 1,823	\$ 1,900	\$ 1,995	\$ 2,213	\$ 2,170	\$ 2,330
% of Total Income	57.4%	53.0%	52.3%	51.8%	54.3%	50.9%	51.1%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Ministry Share	\$ 363	\$ 541	\$ 468	\$ 604	\$ 561	\$ 673	\$ 722
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ 71	\$ 145	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	363	612	613	604	561	673	722
% of Total Income	11.8%	17.8%	16.9%	15.7%	13.8%	15.8%	15.8%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ 691	\$ 761	\$ 878	\$ 988	\$ 983	\$ 1,122	\$ 1,175
Grants	\$ 143	\$ 136	\$ 170	\$ 164	\$ 210	\$ 200	\$ 231
Miscellaneous	\$ 110	\$ 108	\$ 74	\$ 101	\$ 108	\$ 102	\$ 102
Total Other Income	944	1,005	1,122	1,253	1,301	1,424	1,508
% of Total Income	30.8%	29.2%	30.9%	32.5%	31.9%	33.4%	33.1%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>3,069</b>	<b>3,440</b>	<b>3,635</b>	<b>3,852</b>	<b>4,075</b>	<b>4,267</b>	<b>4,560</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>							
Program Services:							
Instructional	\$ 1,734	\$ 1,834	\$ 1,820	\$ 1,777	\$ 1,924	\$ 2,054	\$ 2,127
FTEs	24	24	24	24	23	22	24
Public Service	\$ 75	\$ 94	\$ 58	\$ 68	\$ 96	\$ 83	\$ 93
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Academic Support	\$ 375	\$ 393	\$ 379	\$ 474	\$ 527	\$ 529	\$ 561
FTEs	3	3	3	3	3	4	3
Student Services	\$ 235	\$ 221	\$ 230	\$ 260	\$ 330	\$ 357	\$ 455
FTEs	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Student Aid	\$ 111	\$ 148	\$ 168	\$ 258	\$ 289	\$ 264	\$ 281
FTEs	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	2,530	2,690	2,655	2,837	3,166	3,287	3,517
Total Program Service FTEs	30	30	30	29	29	29	31
% of Total \$	79.9%	77.9%	78.2%	76.6%	76.9%	77.0%	77.0%
% of Total FTEs	86.8%	85.6%	84.4%	84.2%	80.6%	82.9%	81.6%
Support Services:							
Management & General	\$ 312	\$ 334	\$ 403	\$ 476	\$ 553	\$ 531	\$ 595
FTEs	3	3	4	4	4	4	4
Plant Operations	\$ 178	\$ 227	\$ 185	\$ 207	\$ 216	\$ 253	\$ 238
FTEs	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Fund-raising	\$ 145	\$ 201	\$ 154	\$ 182	\$ 184	\$ 196	\$ 210
FTEs	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Total Support Service \$	635	762	742	865	953	980	1,043
Total Support Service FTEs	5	5	6	6	7	6	7
% of Total \$	20.1%	22.1%	21.8%	23.4%	23.1%	23.0%	22.9%
% of Total FTEs	13.2%	14.4%	15.6%	15.8%	19.4%	17.1%	18.4%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 3,165</b>	<b>\$ 3,452</b>	<b>\$ 3,397</b>	<b>\$ 3,702</b>	<b>\$ 4,119</b>	<b>\$ 4,267</b>	<b>\$ 4,560</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$(96)</b>	<b>\$(12)</b>	<b>\$ 238</b>	<b>\$ 150</b>	<b>\$(44)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

# Canadian Ministries Board Ministries

## Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 2000-2001

	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Actual	Fiscal 99-00 Budget	Fiscal 00-01 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Ministry Share	\$ 558	\$ 564	\$ 592	\$ 560	\$ 530	\$ 776	\$ 750
% of Total Income	90.4%	90.4%	89.6%	88.7%	88.0%	93.9%	93.8%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Ministry Share	\$ 4	\$ 8	\$ 16	\$ 17	\$ 11	\$ -	\$ -
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	4	8	16	17	11	-	-
% of Total Income	0.6%	1.3%	2.4%	2.7%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ 50	\$ 47	\$ 48	\$ 51	\$ 52	\$ 50	\$ 50
Miscellaneous	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 3	\$ 9	\$ -	\$ -
Total Other Income	55	52	53	54	61	50	50
% of Total Income	8.9%	8.3%	8.0%	8.6%	10.1%	6.1%	6.3%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>							
Program Services:							
Govt. Contact/Church in Soc.	\$ 33	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 37	\$ 48	\$ 56	\$ 58
FTEs	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Indian Ministries	\$ 338	\$ 321	\$ 319	\$ 328	\$ 305	\$ 379	\$ 385
FTEs	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Electronic Media	\$ 139	\$ 123	\$ 112	\$ 133	\$ 142	\$ 153	\$ 154
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	\$ 26	\$ 37	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 27	\$ 43	\$ 43
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 536	\$ 521	\$ 519	\$ 546	\$ 522	\$ 631	\$ 640
Total Program Service FTEs	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
% of Total \$	79.2%	79.3%	81.6%	87.6%	75.8%	81.3%	80.0%
% of Total FTEs	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%
Support Services:							
Management & General	\$ 141	\$ 136	\$ 117	\$ 77	\$ 167	\$ 145	\$ 160
FTEs	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	141	136	117	77	167	145	160
Total Support Service FTEs	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
% of Total \$	20.8%	20.7%	18.4%	12.4%	24.2%	18.7%	20.0%
% of Total FTEs	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 677</b>	<b>\$ 657</b>	<b>\$ 636</b>	<b>\$ 623</b>	<b>\$ 689</b>	<b>\$ 776</b>	<b>\$ 800</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (60)</b>	<b>\$ (33)</b>	<b>\$ 25</b>	<b>\$ 8</b>	<b>\$ (87)</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

# CRC Publications

## Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 2000-2001

	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Actual	Fiscal 99-00 Budget	Fiscal 00-01 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Ministry Share	\$ 204	\$ 219	\$ 249	\$ 243	\$ 246	\$ 248	\$ 273
% of Total Income	3.6%	3.3%	4.0%	3.9%	3.8%	3.8%	4.2%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Ministry Share	\$ 66	\$ 229	\$ 99	\$ 128	\$ 121	\$ 130	\$ 90
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	66	229	99	128	121	130	90
% of Total Income	1.2%	3.5%	1.6%	2.0%	1.8%	2.0%	1.4%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ 5,234	\$ 5,888	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,691	\$ 5,792	\$ 5,846	\$ 5,933
Grants	\$ 22	\$ 56	\$ 8	\$ 76	\$ 134	\$ 183	\$ 155
Miscellaneous	\$ 155	\$ 234	\$ 134	\$ 152	\$ 252	\$ 112	\$ 127
Total Other Income	5,411	6,178	5,942	5,919	6,178	6,141	6,215
% of Total Income	95.2%	93.2%	94.5%	94.1%	94.4%	94.2%	94.5%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>5,681</b>	<b>6,626</b>	<b>6,290</b>	<b>6,290</b>	<b>6,545</b>	<b>6,519</b>	<b>6,578</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>							
Program Services:							
<i>Banner</i>							
	\$ 1,473	\$ 1,569	\$ 1,479	\$ 1,276	\$ 1,360	\$ 1,287	\$ 1,361
FTEs	8	8	8	7	7	7	7
Education							
	\$ 3,512	\$ 3,898	\$ 3,577	\$ 3,752	\$ 3,757	\$ 3,645	\$ 3,680
FTEs	21	22	22	22	22	23	22
World Literature							
	\$ 378	\$ 536	\$ 502	\$ 632	\$ 884	\$ 786	\$ 959
FTEs	4	4	4	4	4	5	6
Agency Printing (PS)							
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	5,363	6,003	5,558	5,660	6,001	5,718	6,000
Total Program Service FTEs	33	34	34	33	33	35	35
% of Total \$	89.8%	89.7%	90.8%	91.0%	90.7%	89.8%	89.7%
% of Total FTEs	80.5%	81.0%	85.0%	86.8%	86.8%	87.5%	87.5%
Support Services:							
Management & General							
	\$ 609	\$ 688	\$ 566	\$ 561	\$ 612	\$ 649	\$ 688
FTEs	8	8	6	5	5	5	5
Plant Operations							
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising							
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	609	688	566	561	612	649	688
Total Support Service FTEs	8	8	6	5	5	5	5
% of Total \$	10.2%	10.3%	9.2%	9.0%	9.3%	10.2%	10.3%
% of Total FTEs	19.5%	19.0%	15.0%	13.2%	13.2%	12.5%	12.5%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>5,972</b>	<b>6,691</b>	<b>6,124</b>	<b>6,221</b>	<b>6,613</b>	<b>6,367</b>	<b>6,688</b>
TOTAL FTEs	41	42	40	38	38	40	40
<b>NET INCOME (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (291)</b>	<b>\$ (65)</b>	<b>\$ 166</b>	<b>\$ 69</b>	<b>\$ (68)</b>	<b>\$ 152</b>	<b>\$ (110)</b>



# Christian Reformed World Missions

## Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 2000-2001

	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Actual	Fiscal 99-00 Budget	Fiscal 00-01 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Ministry Share	\$ 4,916	\$ 5,086	\$ 5,052	\$ 5,070	\$ 5,030	\$ 5,135	\$ 5,135
% of Total Income	39.4%	39.2%	38.1%	36.4%	38.8%	39.2%	39.1%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Ministry Share	\$ 4,332	\$ 4,933	\$ 4,975	\$ 5,168	\$ 5,265	\$ 5,407	\$ 5,593
Estate Gifts	\$ 328	\$ 410	\$ 309	\$ 844	\$ 372	\$ 657	\$ 617
Total Gift Income	4,660	5,343	5,284	6,012	5,637	6,064	6,210
% of Total Income	37.3%	41.2%	39.9%	43.2%	43.5%	46.3%	47.3%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ 1,314	\$ 929	\$ 972	\$ 1,060	\$ 1,016	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,599	\$ 1,621	\$ 1,950	\$ 1,774	\$ 1,282	\$ 905	\$ 789
Total Other Income	2,913	2,550	2,922	2,834	2,298	1,905	1,789
% of Total Income	23.3%	19.6%	22.0%	20.4%	17.7%	14.5%	13.6%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>12,489</b>	<b>12,979</b>	<b>13,258</b>	<b>13,916</b>	<b>12,965</b>	<b>13,104</b>	<b>13,134</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>							
Program Services:							
Africa	\$ 3,125	\$ 2,681	\$ 2,919	\$ 2,992	\$ 2,914	\$ 3,203	\$ 3,193
FTEs	72	72	73	70	65	76	73
Asia	\$ 5,415	\$ 4,426	\$ 4,053	\$ 3,743	\$ 4,296	\$ 5,420	\$ 4,930
FTEs	66	67	63	64	66	80	85
Latin America	\$ 3,170	\$ 3,251	\$ 3,347	\$ 3,173	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,395	\$ 3,472
FTEs	75	70	72	70	69	70	72
Europe	\$ 416	\$ 479	\$ 466	\$ 498	\$ 675	\$ 609	\$ 672
FTEs	20	23	23	20	20	20	20
Education	\$ 338	\$ 408	\$ 399	\$ 407	\$ 385	\$ 374	\$ 404
FTEs	5	4	4	4	4	4	5
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	12,464	11,245	11,184	10,813	11,770	13,001	12,671
Total Program Service FTEs	237	235	234	228	224	249	255
% of Total \$	89.6%	88.4%	88.3%	87.3%	88.4%	89.0%	88.5%
% of Total FTEs	91.5%	91.9%	91.6%	91.9%	92.2%	93.1%	93.8%
Support Services:							
Management & General	\$ 768	\$ 813	\$ 851	\$ 929	\$ 919	\$ 964	\$ 1,026
FTEs	13	12	13	12	11	11	11
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 682	\$ 669	\$ 637	\$ 640	\$ 628	\$ 651	\$ 618
FTEs	9	8	9	8	8	7	6
Total Support Service \$	1,450	1,482	1,488	1,569	1,547	1,615	1,644
Total Support Service FTEs	22	21	21	20	19	18	17
% of Total \$	10.4%	11.6%	11.7%	12.7%	11.6%	11.0%	11.5%
% of Total FTEs	8.5%	8.1%	8.4%	8.1%	7.8%	6.9%	6.3%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 13,914</b>	<b>\$ 12,727</b>	<b>\$ 12,672</b>	<b>\$ 12,382</b>	<b>\$ 13,317</b>	<b>\$ 14,616</b>	<b>\$ 14,315</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>272</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (1,425)</b>	<b>\$ 252</b>	<b>\$ 586</b>	<b>\$ 1,534</b>	<b>\$ (352)</b>	<b>\$ (1,512)</b>	<b>\$ (1,181)</b>

# Christian Reformed World Relief Committee

## Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 2000-2001

	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Actual	Fiscal 99-00 Budget	Fiscal 00-01 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	\$ 7,364	\$ 7,022	\$ 8,581	\$ 8,185	\$ 11,998	\$ 9,279	\$ 9,588
Estate Gifts	\$ 273	\$ 692	\$ 176	\$ 895	\$ 371	\$ 350	\$ 550
Total Gift Income	7,637	7,714	8,757	9,080	12,369	9,629	10,138
% of Total Income	80.2%	80.5%	79.2%	81.7%	90.9%	90.0%	90.1%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ 1,791	\$ 1,454	\$ 2,160	\$ 1,926	\$ 1,028	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Miscellaneous	\$ 97	\$ 409	\$ 139	\$ 107	\$ 215	\$ 70	\$ 120
Total Other Income	1,888	1,863	2,299	2,033	1,244	1,070	1,120
% of Total Income	19.8%	19.5%	20.8%	18.3%	9.1%	10.0%	9.9%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>9,525</b>	<b>9,577</b>	<b>11,056</b>	<b>11,113</b>	<b>13,613</b>	<b>10,699</b>	<b>11,258</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>							
Program Services:							
Overseas programs	\$ 5,906	\$ 5,488	\$ 5,548	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,551	\$ 6,543	\$ 6,878
FTEs	46	58	47	36	53	52	55
N. America programs	\$ 1,246	\$ 918	\$ 815	\$ 778	\$ 947	\$ 987	\$ 1,020
FTEs	12	11	11	10	6	7	8
Disaster-relief programs	\$ 1,984	\$ 938	\$ 1,674	\$ 1,822	\$ 2,370	\$ 724	\$ 745
FTEs	4	5	5	5	8	6	8
Education	\$ -	\$ 243	\$ 190	\$ 94	\$ 196	\$ 307	\$ 454
FTEs	-	1	1	1	1	2	1
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	9,136	7,587	8,227	7,694	9,065	8,561	9,097
Total Program Service FTEs	62	75	64	52	68	66	72
% of Total \$	81.6%	80.5%	81.1%	77.5%	79.8%	80.6%	81.7%
% of Total FTEs	75.6%	78.9%	75.3%	72.2%	77.3%	76.7%	79.1%
Support Services:							
Management & General	\$ 1,058	\$ 968	\$ 932	\$ 1,183	\$ 1,152	\$ 1,012	\$ 937
FTEs	11	11	11	10	8	8	7
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 998	\$ 875	\$ 983	\$ 1,053	\$ 1,144	\$ 1,043	\$ 1,096
FTEs	9	9	10	10	12	12	12
Total Support Service \$	2,056	1,843	1,915	2,236	2,296	2,055	2,033
Total Support Service FTEs	20	20	21	20	20	20	19
% of Total \$	18.4%	19.5%	18.9%	22.5%	20.2%	19.4%	18.3%
% of Total FTEs	24.4%	21.1%	24.7%	27.8%	22.7%	23.3%	20.9%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 11,192</b>	<b>\$ 9,430</b>	<b>\$ 10,142</b>	<b>\$ 9,930</b>	<b>\$ 11,361</b>	<b>\$ 10,616</b>	<b>\$ 11,130</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (1,667)</b>	<b>\$ 147</b>	<b>\$ 914</b>	<b>\$ 1,183</b>	<b>\$ 2,252</b>	<b>\$ 83</b>	<b>\$ 128</b>

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

## Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 2000-2001

	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Actual	Fiscal 99-00 Budget	Fiscal 00-01 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>						
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
% of Total Income	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%
Other Income:						
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 750	\$ 857	\$ 925	\$ 970	\$ 900	\$ 925
Total Other Income	750	857	925	970	900	925
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>925</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>						
Program Services:						
Loan Interest	\$ 437	\$ 541	\$ 597	\$ 631	\$ 650	\$ 675
FTEs	2	2	2	1	1	1
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 437	\$ 541	\$ 597	\$ 631	\$ 650	\$ 675
Total Program Service FTEs	2	2	2	1	1	1
% of Total \$	71.2%	70.4%	75.3%	83.8%	76.5%	77.1%
% of Total FTEs	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	52.4%	52.4%	50.0%
Support Services:						
Management & General	\$ 177	\$ 227	\$ 196	\$ 122	\$ 200	\$ 200
FTEs	2	2	2	1	1	1
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	177	227	196	122	200	200
Total Support Service FTEs	2	2	2	1	1	1
% of Total \$	28.8%	29.6%	24.7%	16.2%	23.5%	22.9%
% of Total FTEs	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	47.6%	47.6%	50.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 614</b>	<b>\$ 768</b>	<b>\$ 793</b>	<b>\$ 753</b>	<b>\$ 850</b>	<b>\$ 875</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 136</b>	<b>\$ 89</b>	<b>\$ 132</b>	<b>\$ 217</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>



## Denominational Services

### Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 2000-2001

	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Actual	Fiscal 99-00 Budget	Fiscal 00-01 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Ministry Share	\$ 1,539	\$ 1,564	\$ 1,523	\$ 1,520	\$ 1,717	\$ 2,040	\$ 2,050
% of Total Income	19.6%	19.7%	19.4%	15.6%	16.6%	20.9%	19.7%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Ministry Share	\$ 7	\$ 22	\$ 8	\$ 1	\$ 2	\$ 1	\$ 1
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	7	22	8	1	2	1	1
% of Total Income	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ 6,115	\$ 4,901	\$ 4,847	\$ 4,362	\$ 5,239	\$ 4,637	\$ 4,755
Grants	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 73	\$ 703	\$ 308	\$ 150	\$ 150
Miscellaneous	\$ 176	\$ 1,195	\$ 1,414	\$ 3,156	\$ 3,071	\$ 2,917	\$ 3,460
Total Other Income	6,291	6,346	6,334	8,221	8,618	7,704	8,365
% of Total Income	80.3%	80.0%	80.5%	84.4%	83.4%	79.1%	80.3%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>7,837</b>	<b>7,932</b>	<b>7,865</b>	<b>9,742</b>	<b>10,337</b>	<b>9,745</b>	<b>10,416</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>							
Program Services:							
Synodical Services & Grants	\$ 520	\$ 670	\$ 736	\$ 785	\$ 826	\$ 933	\$ 986
FTEs	4	4	5	5	5	5	5
Education/FreeToServe	\$ 27	\$ 275	\$ 950	\$ 126	\$ 287	\$ 242	\$ 246
FTEs	1	1	4	1	1	1	1
CRCPlan *	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 122	\$ 184	\$ 183
FTEs	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
CS/PS Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 5,641	\$ 4,779	\$ 4,715	\$ 4,630	\$ 5,346	\$ 4,774	\$ 4,848
FTEs	41	40	39	39	35	34	34
Finance/Payroll Services **	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41	\$ 1,030	\$ 1,160	\$ 1,387	\$ 1,494
FTEs	-	-	1	17	17	17	17
CSIS	\$ 346	\$ 515	\$ 530	\$ 685	\$ 809	\$ 423	\$ 718
FTEs	4	4	5	5	5	6	9
Personnel	\$ -	\$ 99	\$ 96	\$ 107	\$ 126	\$ 130	\$ 142
FTEs	-	2	2	2	2	2	2
Total Program Service \$	\$ 6,534	\$ 6,338	\$ 7,068	\$ 7,363	\$ 8,676	\$ 8,073	\$ 8,617
Total Program Service FTEs	50	51	56	69	66	66	69
% of Total \$	82.6%	80.5%	84.1%	86.0%	87.4%	85.2%	83.8%
% of Total FTEs	84.7%	83.6%	84.8%	90.8%	90.4%	88.0%	88.5%
*Amount for 2000-01 is net of \$200m from Found and \$64m from agencies ** Includes audit cost of \$173,000 for 2000-01							
Support Services:							
Management & General	\$ 504	\$ 628	\$ 549	\$ 411	\$ 434	\$ 488	\$ 678
FTEs	5	6	6	3	3	4	4
Plant Operations/Debt Serv.	\$ 853	\$ 833	\$ 752	\$ 752	\$ 771	\$ 769	\$ 771
FTEs	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Fund-raising/Communication	\$ 23	\$ 72	\$ 38	\$ 36	\$ 47	\$ 145	\$ 218
FTEs	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Total Support Service \$	1,380	1,533	1,339	1,199	1,252	1,402	1,667
Total Support Service FTEs	9	10	10	7	7	9	9
% of Total \$	17.4%	19.5%	15.9%	14.0%	12.6%	14.8%	16.2%
% of Total FTEs	15.3%	16.4%	15.2%	9.2%	9.6%	12.0%	11.5%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 7,914</b>	<b>\$ 7,871</b>	<b>\$ 8,407</b>	<b>\$ 8,562</b>	<b>\$ 9,928</b>	<b>\$ 9,475</b>	<b>\$ 10,284</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (77)</b>	<b>\$ 61</b>	<b>\$ (542)</b>	<b>\$ 1,180</b>	<b>\$ 409</b>	<b>\$ 270</b>	<b>\$ 132</b>

## Fund for Smaller Churches

### Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 2000-2001

	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Actual	Fiscal 99-00 Budget	Fiscal 00-01 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Ministry Share	\$ 675	\$ 916	\$ 913	\$ 904	\$ 788	\$ 550	\$ 455
% of Total Income	99.3%	96.3%	98.9%	98.0%	91.8%	97.2%	93.8%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Ministry Share	\$ 2	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 3	\$ 37	\$ 4	\$ 5
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	2	1	1	3	71	4	5
% of Total Income	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	8.2%	0.7%	1.0%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 3	\$ 34	\$ 9	\$ 15	\$ -	\$ 12	\$ 25
Total Other Income	3	34	9	15	-	12	25
% of Total Income	0.4%	3.6%	1.0%	1.6%	0.0%	2.1%	5.2%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>485</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>							
Program Services:							
Subsidy Requests	\$ 677	\$ 750	\$ 718	\$ 594	\$ 468	\$ 590	\$ 560
FTVolunteer(s)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Auto Reimbursements	\$ 50	\$ 54	\$ 58	\$ 47	\$ 34	\$ 50	\$ 60
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moving Expenses	\$ 7	\$ 8	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 5	\$ 15	\$ 30
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Education	\$ 4	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 4	\$ 6	\$ 5	\$ 25
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Conference	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	738	817	795	659	512	660	690
Total Program Service FTEs	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	99.2%	98.6%	98.5%	98.2%	97.7%	97.6%	97.9%
% of Total FTEs	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%
Support Services:							
Management & General	\$ 6	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 16	\$ 15
FTVolunteer(s)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	6	12	12	12	12	16	15
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	0.8%	1.4%	1.5%	1.8%	2.3%	2.4%	2.1%
% of Total FTEs	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>705</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 INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>(\$ 64)</b>	<b>\$ 122</b>	<b>\$ 116</b>	<b>\$ 251</b>	<b>\$ 335</b>	<b>(\$ 110)</b>	<b>(\$ 220)</b>

## Ministers' Pension and Special Assistance Funds - Canada

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

	-----MPF-----			-----SAF-----		
	1997 Actual	1998 Actual	1999 Actual	1997 Actual	1998 Actual	1999 Actual
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>						
Ministry Share	\$ 618	\$ 343	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37	\$ 31
% of Total Income	13.6%	12.3%	0.0%	0.0%	88.1%	81.6%
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%
Other Income:						
Participant Assessments	\$ 180	\$ 917	\$ 923	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 3,755	\$ 1,526	\$ 3,094	\$ 4	\$ 5	\$ 7
Total Other Income	3,935	2,443	4,017	4	5	7
% of Total Income	86.4%	87.7%	100.0%	100.0%	11.9%	18.4%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>4,553</b>	<b>2,786</b>	<b>4,017</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>						
Program Services:						
Distributions	\$ 1,088	\$ 1,164	\$ 1,274	\$ 24	\$ 5	\$ 15
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 1,088	\$ 1,164	\$ 1,274	\$ 24	\$ 5	\$ 15
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	89.0%	83.2%	86.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-	-	-
Support Services:						
Management & General	\$ 135	\$ 235	\$ 208	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	1	1	1	-	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	135	235	208	-	-	-
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	1	-	-	-
% of Total \$	11.0%	16.8%	14.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 1,223</b>	<b>\$ 1,399</b>	<b>\$ 1,482</b>	<b>\$ 24</b>	<b>\$ 5</b>	<b>\$ 15</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ 3,330</b>	<b>\$ 1,387</b>	<b>\$ 2,535</b>	<b>\$ (20)</b>	<b>\$ 37</b>	<b>\$ 23</b>

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

## Changes in Net Assets (000s)

	-----MPF-----			-----SAF-----		
	1997 Actual	1998 Actual	1999 Actual	1997 Actual	1998 Actual	1999 Actual
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>						
Ministry Share	\$ 1,498	\$ 451	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 159	\$ 55
% of Total Income	8.5%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	94.6%	78.6%
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%
Other Income:						
Participant Assessments	\$ 710	\$ 2,509	\$ 2,530	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 15,456	\$ 10,867	\$ 8,379	\$ 8	\$ 9	\$ 15
Total Other Income	16,166	13,376	10,909	8	9	15
% of Total Income	91.5%	96.7%	100.0%	100.0%	5.4%	21.4%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>17,664</b>	<b>13,827</b>	<b>10,909</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>						
Program Services:						
Distributions	\$ 4,165	\$ 4,190	\$ 4,663	\$ 16	\$ 89	\$ 16
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 4,165	\$ 4,190	\$ 4,663	\$ 16	\$ 89	\$ 16
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	91.0%	88.7%	90.4%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-	-	-
Support Services:						
Management & General	\$ 414	\$ 534	\$ 498	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	2	2	2	-	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	414	534	498	-	-	-
Total Support Service FTEs	2	2	2	-	-	-
% of Total \$	9.0%	11.3%	9.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 4,579</b>	<b>\$ 4,724</b>	<b>\$ 5,161</b>	<b>\$ 16</b>	<b>\$ 89</b>	<b>\$ 16</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ 13,085</b>	<b>\$ 9,103</b>	<b>\$ 5,748</b>	<b>\$ (8)</b>	<b>\$ 79</b>	<b>\$ 54</b>

## Employees' Retirement Plan - U.S.

### Changes in Net Assets (000s)

	1997 Actual	1998 Actual	1999 Actual
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>			
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	-
% of Total Income	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%
Other Income:			
Employer Contributions	\$ 777	\$ 749	\$ 791
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	-
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,758	\$ 1,342	\$ 1,026
Total Other Income	2,535	2,091	1,817
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>2,535</b>	<b>2,091</b>	<b>1,817</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>			
Program Services:			
Distributions	\$ 1,744	\$ 1,190	\$ 877
FTEs	-	-	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	-
Total Program-service \$	\$ 1,744	\$ 1,190	\$ 877
Total Program-service FTEs	-	-	-
% of Total \$	97.5%	94.9%	94.8%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Support Services:			
Management & General	\$ 45	\$ 64	\$ 48
FTEs	1	1	1
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	-	-	-
Total Support-service \$	45	64	48
Total Support-service FTEs	1	1	1
% of Total \$	2.5%	5.1%	5.2%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 1,789</b>	<b>\$ 1,254</b>	<b>\$ 925</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ 746</b>	<b>\$ 837</b>	<b>\$ 892</b>

## Consolidated Group Insurance - U.S.

### Changes in Net Assets (000s)

	1997 Actual	1998 Actual	1999 Actual
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>			
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
% of Total Income	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%
Other Income:			
Participant Premiums	\$ 5,427	\$ 5,505	\$ 6,545
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 357	\$ 148	\$ 36
Total Other Income	5,784	5,653	6,581
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>5,784</b>	<b>5,653</b>	<b>6,581</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>			
Program Services:			
Claims Expense	\$ 5,131	\$ 5,144	\$ 5,252
FT Volunteer(s)	-	-	-
Insurance Premiums	\$ 500	\$ 363	\$ 375
FTEs	-	-	-
TPA & PPO Fees	\$ 274	\$ 314	\$ 336
FTEs	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 5,905	\$ 5,821	\$ 5,963
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-	-
% of Total \$	97.5%	95.6%	96.7%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Support Services:			
Management & General	\$ 154	\$ 265	\$ 201
FTEs	3	3	3
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	154	265	201
Total Support Service FTEs	3	3	3
% of Total \$	2.5%	4.3%	4.3%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 6,059</b>	<b>\$ 6,086</b>	<b>\$ 6,164</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ (275)</b>	<b>\$ (433)</b>	<b>\$ 417</b>

# Pastoral Ministries

## Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 2000-2001

	Fiscal 94-95 Actual	Fiscal 95-96 Actual	Fiscal 96-97 Actual	Fiscal 97-98 Actual	Fiscal 98-99 Actual	Fiscal 99-00 Budget	Fiscal 00-01 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>							
Ministry Share	\$ 1,032	\$ 1,123	\$ 1,153	\$ 1,121	\$ 1,039	\$ 1,086	\$ 1,096
% of Total Income	86.8%	85.2%	85.1%	85.8%	84.2%	86.3%	77.2%
Other Gift Income:							
Above Ministry Share	\$ 136	\$ 165	\$ 187	\$ 176	\$ 186	\$ 168	\$ 199
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	136	165	187	176	186	168	199
% of Total Income	11.4%	12.5%	13.8%	13.5%	15.1%	13.4%	14.0%
Other Income:							
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2	\$ 1	\$ 2	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ 30	\$ 3	\$ 2	\$ 7	\$ 4	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 21	\$ -	\$ 10	\$ 7	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 125
Total Other Income	21	30	15	10	9	4	125
% of Total Income	1.8%	2.3%	1.1%	0.8%	0.7%	0.3%	8.8%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,189</b>	<b>1,318</b>	<b>1,355</b>	<b>1,307</b>	<b>1,234</b>	<b>1,258</b>	<b>1,420</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>							
Program Services:							
Chaplaincy Services	\$ 376	\$ 421	\$ 418	\$ 302	\$ 222	\$ 207	\$ 284
FTEs	3	3	2	2	2	2	3
Race Relations	\$ 219	\$ 241	\$ 270	\$ 262	\$ 240	\$ 263	\$ 303
FTEs	4	4	3	3	3	3	4
Pastor-Church Relations	\$ 78	\$ 124	\$ 80	\$ 101	\$ 131	\$ 200	\$ 439
FTEs	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Abuse Prevention	\$ 44	\$ 55	\$ 55	\$ 92	\$ 91	\$ 114	\$ 161
FTEs	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Disability Concerns	\$ 105	\$ 120	\$ 121	\$ 97	\$ 102	\$ 121	\$ 181
FTEs	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 822	\$ 961	\$ 944	\$ 854	\$ 786	\$ 905	\$ 1,368
Total Program Service FTEs	11	10	8	8	8	8	11
% of Total \$	76.0%	79.2%	78.1%	70.3%	68.5%	71.9%	96.3%
% of Total FTEs	84.6%	76.9%	66.7%	61.5%	61.5%	66.7%	91.7%
Support Services:							
Management & General	\$ 260	\$ 223	\$ 198	\$ 296	\$ 277	\$ 307	\$ -
FTEs	2	3	3	4	4	4	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ 30	\$ 67	\$ 65	\$ 85	\$ 46	\$ 52
FTEs	-	-	1	1	1	-	1
Total Support Service \$	260	253	265	361	362	353	52
Total Support Service FTEs	2	3	4	5	5	4	1
% of Total \$	24.0%	20.8%	21.9%	29.7%	31.5%	28.1%	3.7%
% of Total FTEs	15.4%	23.1%	33.3%	38.5%	38.5%	33.3%	8.3%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 1,082</b>	<b>\$ 1,214</b>	<b>\$ 1,209</b>	<b>\$ 1,215</b>	<b>\$ 1,148</b>	<b>\$ 1,258</b>	<b>\$ 1,420</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 107</b>	<b>\$ 104</b>	<b>\$ 146</b>	<b>\$ 92</b>	<b>\$ 86</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

# **REPORT OF SYNOD 2000**



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# MULTIETHNIC WORSHIP AND SYNODICAL PRAYER AND PRAISE SERVICE 2000

Sunday, June 11, 2000  
4:00 p.m.  
Calvin College Fieldhouse  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

## *God's People Gather for Worship*

**Musical Preludes** . . . . . Mr. John Matias with the Potter's House Choir  
Mr. John Szto, piano

**Flags of the Nations** . . . . . Carried by the Cadets and GEMS from  
First Jenison CRC and Coit Community CRC

These are flags of twenty of the thirty-two nations the Christian Reformed Church works with around the world. CRWRC works in twenty-four nations overseas.

**Welcome** . . . . . Dr. Marvin J. Vander Vliet  
Pastor of First CRC, Jenison

### **\*Call to Worship**

"Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples!  
For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord  
endures forever. Praise the Lord." (Psalm 117)

**\*Prayer of Adoration** . . . . . Mrs. Carole Scholten

**\*Hymn** . . . . . "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given,  
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

**\*God's Greeting** . . . . . Dr. Marvin J. Vander Vliet

**God's People Worship by Profession**

Praise Choir . . . . . Mr. Dennis De Haan, Director

**“I Exalt Thee”** (Psalm 97:9)

For thou, O Lord, art high above all the earth.  
Thou art exalted far above all gods.  
For thou, O Lord, art high above all the earth,  
Thou art exalted far above all gods.  
I exalt thee, I exalt thee, I exalt thee, O Lord.  
I exalt thee, I exalt thee, I exalt thee, O Lord.

“I Exalt Thee,” words and music by Pete Sanchez, Jr. © Pete Sanchez, Jr.  
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**“There Is a Redeemer”**

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.  
Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son;  
And leaving your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.  
  
Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.  
Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son;  
And leaving your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.

“There Is a Redeemer,” words and music by Melody Green© 1982  
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**“Oh, How Good Is Christ the Lord”** (“Oh, Qué Bueno Es Jesús”)

Oh, how good is Christ the Lord! On the cross he died for me.  
He has pardoned all my sin. Glory be to Jesus.  
Glory be to Jesus! Glory be to Jesus!  
In three days he rose again. Glory be to Jesus!  
  
Oh, qué bue-no es Jesús. Que por mí mu-rió en la cruz.  
Mis pe-ca-dos per-do-nó. A su nom-bre glo-ria.  
A su nom-bre glo-ria. A su nom-bre glo-ria.  
En tres días re-su-ci-tó. A su nom-bre glo-ria.

“Oh, How Good Is Christ the Lord.” Used by permission.  
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**Nicene Creed** . . . . . Selected Individuals and Congregation

This creed will be recited in the languages of the people in the approximate order of their involvement in the CRC and then together in English to express our unity in a new way.

1. We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
2. We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the father before all ages,
3. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
4. Begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.
5. Through him all things were made.
6. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;

7. He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human.
8. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried.
9. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
10. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
11. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.
12. His kingdom will never end.
13. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.
14. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
15. He spoke through the prophets.
16. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
17. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
18. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come.

Congregation: Amen

**Nicene Creed** (in English) ..... Congregation

**\*Hymn** ..... “Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

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

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!

***God’s People Listen to His Word***

**Scripture** ..... I Corinthians 2:1-5

**Meditation** ..... “Celebrating the Life”  
 Dr. John Perkins

Dr. John Perkins is founder and board chairman of the Christian Community Development Association and president of the John Perkins Foundation. He grew up in Mississippi amidst grinding poverty. He returned to his boyhood home to share the gospel of Christ with his people and has been recognized with seven honorary doctorates.

***God’s People Celebrate Ministry***

**Pastoral Prayer** ..... Dr. Marvin J. Vander Vliet

We pray for the Delegates to Synod 2000.

**“The Church’s One Foundation”** ..... Congregation

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.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;  
her charter of salvation; one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

We pray for the Multiethnic Conference.

**“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”** ..... Congregation

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:  
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,  
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:  
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love,” words and music by Peter Scholtes © 1966. Administered by Lorenz Publishing. Used by permission. CCLI License # 400063

We pray for Fraternal Delegates.

**“In Christ There Is No East or West”** ..... Congregation

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no pride of birth;  
the chosen family God has blessed now spans the whole wide earth.

For God in Christ has made us one from every land and race;  
He reconciled us through his Son and met us with his grace.

“In Christ There Is No East or West.” Used by permission. CCLI License # 400063

We pray for the Missionaries.

**“Lead Me, Guide Me”** ..... Congregation

Lead me, guide me, along the way,  
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with you,  
lead me my whole life through.

We pray for the Chaplains.

**“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”** ..... Congregation

Comfort, comfort now my people; speak of peace: so says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning under sorrow’s load.  
Cry out to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
tell her that her sins I cover and her warfare now is over.

We pray for the Candidates.

**“Be Thou My Vision”** ..... Congregation

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart  
Nought be all else to me, save that thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

“Be Thou My Vision,” ©1968 Singspiration, Inc. Used by permission.  
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We pray for the Worshipers.

**“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”** ..... Congregation

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying,” words and music by Ken Medema  
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**Introduction to Offering** (taken by the ushers) . . . . Dr. Marvin J. Vander Vliet

**Offertory Prayer**..... Evangelist Jerome Burton

**Offering** ..... For Race Relations’ Multiracial Student Scholarship Fund

**Offertory**..... Mr. John Szto

***God’s People Remember Jesus***

**Service of Communion**..... Dr. Marvin J. Vander Vliet

**Invitation to the Lord’s Supper**

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

Since it is our privilege today to celebrate the blessed sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, we are called to prepare our hearts by rightly examining ourselves. “Do this in remembrance of me,” says Jesus as he invites us to his holy supper. It is not only a privilege but also a personal responsibility to respond to this gracious invitation. The apostle Paul alerts all of us to this responsibility in I Corinthians 11:27: “Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.”

In the light of this scriptural teaching, the elders invite you to join in the communion celebration on the basis of the following personal affirmations:

1. I confess that I am a sinner and truly repent of my sins.
2. I believe in Jesus as my Savior and Lord, who forgives all my sins because of his sacrifice on the cross.
3. I desire to show my thankfulness to God by resolving to live in faith and obedience before my Lord and in love and peace with my neighbors.
4. I am a professing member in a Christian church and would receive the Lord’s Supper if it were served in my home church today.

We are confident that the Savior accepts us at his table when we come in humble faith with sorrow for our sins and with a will to follow him as he commands. If you can affirm these articles of faith in Christ, you are invited to join the communion celebration. May God bless you.

### **The Thanksgiving**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

Minister: With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you have created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who became the true paschal Lamb that was sacrificed for our salvation. Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

### **The Institution**

Minister: We give thanks to God the Father that our Savior, Jesus Christ, before he suffered, gave us this memorial of his sacrifice, until he comes again. At his last supper, the Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup after supper and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this in remembrance of me." For whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes (I Cor. 11:23-26). Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament.

**People: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

### **Prayer of Consecration**

Minister: Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and cup may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we and all your saints be united with Christ and remain faithful in hope and love. Gather your whole church, O Lord, into the glory of your kingdom. We pray in the name of Jesus, your Son and our Savior.

All: Amen

### **The Communion**

Minister: Take, eat, remember, and believe that the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins.

Minister: Take, drink, remember, and believe that the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins.

**Distribution of the Elements**

Elders and ministers will say to each participant:  
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, given for you.

Please note:

*Those seated on the floor:* Please go in the direction of those serving your aisle or in the direction of the arrows on the floor. Proceed after communion to follow the next row in a circle back to your own seat.

*Those seated in bleachers:* Please go in the direction of those serving your aisle. After communion descend to the open row in front of you and be seated after you move to the end. You will not be in the same seat after communion as before.

**Ministry of Music** . . . . . Dr. Charsie Randolph Sawyer

Melodies of Praise  
“Jesus Paid It All,” “Near the Cross,”  
“Nothing but the Blood,” “At the Cross”

**\*Hymn** . . . . . “Hallelujah Chorus”  
Impromptu choir directed by Dr. Pearl Shangkuan

**\*Benediction** (in the languages of the people)  
“The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.” (I Corinthians 16:23)

**\*Postlude.** . . . . . Mr. John Szto

**Participants:**

- Rev. John Matias . . . . . Associate Director, Multicultural Admissions, Calvin College
- Potter’s House Choir . . . . . Potter’s House Christian School
- Mr. John Szto . . . . . Queens Christian Reformed Church
- Dr. Marvin J. Vander Vliet . . . . . Senior Pastor, First Jenison Christian Reformed Church
- Mrs. Carole Scholten . . . . . Director of Evangelism, First Jenison Christian Reformed Church
- Mr. David Kolmodin . . . . . Band Director, Unity Christian High School
- Mr. Dennis De Haan . . . . . Director of the Praise Choir, First Jenison Christian Reformed Church
- Evangelist Jerome Burton . . . . . Coit Community Christian Reformed Church
- Dr. Charsie Randolph Sawyer . . . . . Music Department, Calvin College
- Dr. Pearl Shangkuan . . . . . Director, Calvin Oratorio Society  
Music Department, Calvin College



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# MINUTES OF SYNOD 2000

**SATURDAY MORNING, June 10, 2000**

**First Session**

## ARTICLE 1

President pro tem Dr. Marvin Vander Vliet, pastor of First Christian Reformed Church, Jenison, Michigan, the convening church, announces *Psalter Hymnal* 556, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

Dr. Vander Vliet reads from Proverbs 3. He welcomes the delegates to Synod 2000 and challenges them by the following mnemonic device to make the acts of Synod 2000 memorable:

Accept Jesus Christ as your Lord. Trust the Lord with all your heart, and he will give you wisdom and strength, guidance and understanding.

Confess your errors. Lean on God's Word; lean *not* on your own understanding. Pride is innate in all of us. Seek God's wisdom.

Testify to God's presence. Listen to what God is doing. Open your ears.

Talk to one another.

See what God can do. We owe all that we achieve to him. Act confidently and wisely as you lean on him.

He announces *Psalter Hymnal* 292, "Living for Jesus."

Dr. Vander Vliet introduces Dr. Gaylen Byker, president of Calvin College, who welcomes the delegates to the Calvin 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 2000

Classis	Ministers	Elders
Alberta North	Cecil Van Niejenhuis John A. Ooms	William Wildeboer Jason C. Van Doesburg
Alberta South/Saskatchewan	J. Cameron Fraser Andrew G. Vander Leek	Albert J. Kooy Allen H. Brander
Arizona	Frederick J. Walhof Frank E. Pott	Eduardo A. Gonzalez Rodney J. Huguen
Atlantic Northeast	Alvern Gelder James L. Vande Lune	Kenneth Prol Harold O. Plantinga
B.C. North-West	Harvey J. Roosma James R. Poelman	David A. Hornor Gerry Dykstra

B.C. South-East	Bert Slofstra	Fred Gietema
California South	Herb G. de Ruyter	Dick Vanden Berg
Central California	Bruce T. Ballast	Phil Du Bois
Chatham	Mark D. Vermaire	Dirk Jasperse
Chicago South	Philip V. De Jonge	Bruce C. Nikkel
Columbia	Kevin J. Adams	Eberhard G. Wiedenmeyer
Eastern Canada	Dirk Miedema	William De Jong
Georgetown	Paul D. Stadt	Jerry G. Roukema
Grand Rapids East	Duane J. Van Loo	Marvin H. De Vries
Grand Rapids North	John M. Ouwinga	John D. Wassenaar
Grand Rapids South	Alvin J. Machiela	Ronald M. Leistra
Grandville	Jerry D. Lion	Simon Ramak
Greater Los Angeles	Henry G. Gunnink	Ed Vanderveer
Hackensack	Nicolaas Cornelisse	Jean J. Lauziere
Hamilton	Terry L. Genzink	Gordon J. De Kruyter
Heartland	Laryn G. Zoerhof	Lawrence Vredevoogd
Holland	Peter M. Jonker	Henry J. Baron
Hudson	Carl L. Kammeraad	Philip J. Quist
Huron	Jeffrey M. Meyer	Philip E. Van Heest
Iakota	Ronald G. Baker	Harry J. Vander Meer
Illiana	Kenneth E. Van Wyk	Herman E. Scholten
Kalamazoo	Curtis A. Walters	Richard L. Bouma
Lake Erie	Calvin D. Compagner	Willard Berkenpas
Lake Superior	Carlos G. Tapanes	Arnold D. Morren
Minnkota	Stanley E. Ver Heul	Bernard Vander Weide
Muskegon	Andrew K. Chun	Cornelius W. Slegers
Niagara	Douglas H. Bratt	Kevin H. Miller
Northcentral Iowa	Ezequiel N. Romero	Denis Calix
Northern Illinois	Erick J. Schuringa	Mark Vander Vliet
Northern Michigan	Richard E. Grift	Bruce Dykstra
	Timothy J. Ouwinga	George De Vries, Jr.
	John A. Vermeer	Hubert W. Schuller
	James H. Scholten	James L. Strikwerda
	Michael De Vries	Gustave J. Van Den Berge
	Leonard A. Kuyvenhoven	Peter Hagendoorn
	Vernon F. Geurkink	Henry F. Bakker
	Shawn R. Brix	Hans Nusselder
	Jack Westerhof	John Zwart
	Charles J. DeRidder	Abraham H. Bos
	Bernard J. Haan	Martin Dekkenga
	Lester W. Van Essen	Raymond F. Ooms
	Calvin R. Hoogendoorn	David A. Janke
	Joseph A. Brinks	Ron L. Sportel
	Philip J. Boender	Roger L. Klok
	Clayton G. Libolt	Eric Svaan
	Emmett A. Harrison	Wesley D. Van Houten
	Roger D. Kramer	Will G. De Boer
	William Versteeg	James L. Marcus
	David A. Bosch	Arnold Gorter
	Gerrit Besteman	Peter H. Vander Lugt
	Richard J. Hamstra	Dennis M. Helmus
	Gerald D. Postema	Les D. De Vries
	Jerry J. Hoytema	Ed Koke
	Richard J. de Lange	Lowell Witvoet
	Henry Dykema	Lauris R. Frerichs
	Steven J. Mulder	John C. Dykstra
	Bruce J. Vaandrager	Hendrik Sliekers
	John F. Schuurman	Ralph Lubben
	Peter R. Byma	Bradley W. Center
	Keith A. Mannes	Gerald A. Talsma

Pacific Hanmi	Chung C. Cho David W. Yang	Ji Kwang Chang Young Jin Park
Pacific Northwest	Rodney Vander Ley Steven D. Frieswick	George Klungel Douglas E. Fakkema
Pella	Thomas R. Dykstra Robert J. Timmer	Vernon Haagsma Howard E. Groenendyk
Quinte	Christopher J. De Vos Karl J. House	Ralph Pypker George J. Vink
Red Mesa	Paul H. Redhouse Stanley Jim	Roland A. Sandoval Tom Roskamp
Rocky Mountain	Mark D. Timmer Roger Y. Ryu	Harold C. Anton Edward J. Schans
Southeast U.S.	Daniel G. Buis Luis A. Pellecer	George N. De Boer Robert Molendyk
Thornapple Valley	Roger D. Bultman Norman L. Meyer	Casey C. Jen Ralph H. Veenstra
Toronto	Hendrik P. Bruinsma H. Richard Nanninga	John Kamerman Tom H. Horlings
Wisconsin	Clifford E. Bajema Peter T. Verhulst	Donald L. Hughes Donald J. Voogt
Yellowstone	Bernard J. Van Ee Jacob C. Weeda	Duane R. Korthuis John P. Pos
Zeeland	Ronald J. Meyer Calvin D. Vander Meyden	Theron Van Rhee Gary De Haan

The roll call indicates that the following delegates are absent: Elder James L. Strikwerda (Holland), Elder Henry F. Bakker (Hudson), Rev. Philip J. Boender (Kalamazoo), Rev. David W. Yang (Pacific Hanmi), Rev. Stanley Jim (Red Mesa).

Alternate Rev. Gary M. Stevens (Kalamazoo) has replaced Rev. Philip J. Boender.

### ARTICLE 3

The assembly proceeds to elect officers. The following are elected:

President: Rev. Michael De Vries  
Vice President: Rev. Norman L. Meyer  
First Clerk: Elder Henry Baron  
Second Clerk: Rev. Jack Westerhof

### ARTICLE 4

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

The president of synod, Rev. Michael De Vries, expresses the appreciation of synod to Dr. Marvin Vander Vliet 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 the synod during the coming week. He briefly addresses synod. Reminding the delegates of the approaching Pentecost, he reads from Acts 1 and emphasizes their obedience to the Lord.

### 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 college president, the ethnic advisers, and the representatives of denominational boards and agencies.

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

Dr. Engelhard welcomes Mrs. Eileen Christofferson and Mrs. Eldean Kamp, who have been commissioned by their classes to serve as prayer intercessors at and for synod. Mrs. Susan Byker is also welcomed as an additional participant in this ministry.

Dr. Engelhard welcomes and introduces fraternal delegates Rev. Peter Tuit (Christian Reformed Churches of Australia), Prof. Andries du Plooy (Reformed Churches in South Africa), Dr. M.J. du Plessis (Reformed Churches in South Africa), Rev. Alex Boshuizen (Netherlands Reformed Churches), and Dr. Henk Geertsema (Netherlands Reformed Churches).

The executive director of ministries introduces the agency directors who are present and the faculty advisers.

The general secretary introduces the synod office staff.

## 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 2000 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” (*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 2000:

### *Committee 1—Synodical Services*

**Chairman:** Jacob C. Weeda; **reporter:** Laryn G. Zoerhof; **ministers:** Gerrit Besteman, Philip J. Boender, Herb G. de Ruyter, J. Cameron Fraser, Steven D. Frieswick, Terry L. Genzink, Frank E. Pott; **elders:** William De Jong, George De Vries, Jr., Dirk Jasperse, Ralph Lubben, Kevin H. Miller, Robert Molendyk, Cornelius W. Slegers, John Zwart; **adviser:** George Boyd.

### *Committee 2—Missions*

**Chairman:** Bruce T. Ballast; **reporter:** Ronald J. Meyer; **ministers:** Kevin J. Adams, Nicholaas Cornelisse, Henry Dykema, Alvern Gelder, Richard E. Grift, Gerald D. Postema, Rodney Vander Ley; **elders:** Eduardo A. Gonzalez, David A. Hornor, Donald L. Hughes, Albert J. Kooy, Herman E. Scholten, Hubert W. Schuller, Gustave J. Van Den Berge, Ralph H. Veenstra; **advisers:** Khay Bakkam, Gary J. Bekker.

### *Committee 3—Education*

**Chairman:** Cecil Van Niejenhuis; **reporter:** Clayton G. Libolt; **ministers:** Thomas R. Dykstra, Roger D. Kramer, Jerry D. Lion, Paul D. Stadt, Stanley E. Ver Heul, Curtis A. Walters; **elders:** Gordon J. De Kruyter, Les D. De Vries, Gerry Dykstra, Howard E. Groenendyk, Duane R. Korthuis, Hendrik Sliemers, James L. Strikwerda, Eberhard G. Wiedenmeyer, Lowell Witvoet; **advisers:** Pedro Aviles, Gaylen J. Byker, James De Jong.

### *Committee 4—Publications*

**Chairman:** Carl L. Kammeraad; **reporter:** John F. Schuurman; **ministers:** Richard J. Hamstra, Jeffrey M. Meyer, Andrew G. Vander Leek, Bernard J. Van Ee, Frederick J. Walhof; **elders:** John C. Dykstra, Fred Gietema, Peter Hagedoorn, Arnold D. Morren, Harold O. Plantinga, Jerry G. Roukema, Roland A.

Sandoval, Edward J. Schans, Peter H. Vander Lugt; **advisers:** Gary J. Bekker, George Boyd.

*Committee 5—Pastoral Ministries*

**Chairman:** James H. Scholten; **reporter:** Shawn R. Brix; **ministers:** Ronald G. Baker, Karl J. House, Luis A. Pellecer, Roger Y. Ryu, James L. Vande Lune, Calvin D. Vander Meyden; **elders:** Denis Calix, Bradley W. Center, Philip Du Bois, Tom H. Horlings, Philip E. Van Heest, Wesley D. Van Houten, George J. Vink, Donald Voogt; **advisers:** Earl James, Ronald J. Nydam.

*Committee 6—Financial Matters*

**Chairman:** Harry J. Vander Meer; **reporter:** Ed Vanderveer; **ministers:** David A. Bosch, Calvin D. Compagner, Timothy J. Owinga, James R. Poelman, Lester W. Van Essen, William Versteeg; **elders:** Abraham H. Bos, Richard L. Bouma, Martin Dekkinga, Marvin H. De Vries, Lauris R. Frerichs, Roger L. Klok, Kenneth Prol, Dick Vanden Berg, Bernard Vander Weide, Theron Van Rhee.

*Committee 7—Interdenominational Matters*

**Chairman:** William Wildeboer; **reporter:** Duane J. Van Loo; **ministers:** Daniel G. Buis, Chung Cho, Henry G. Gunnink, Bernard J. Haan, Harvey Roosma, Carlos G. Tapanes, Peter T. Verhulst, David W. Yang; **elders:** Willard Berkenpas, Arnold Gorter, John Kamerman, James L. Marcus, Raymond F. Ooms, Philip J. Quist, Lawrence Vredevoogd; **advisers:** John Bolt, Harold Roscher.

*Committee 8—Church Order I*

**Chairman:** Charles DeRidder; **reporter:** John A. Ooms; **ministers:** Joseph A. Brinks, Roger D. Bultman, Andrew K. Chun, Jerry J. Hoytema, Alvin J. Machiela, Paul H. Redhouse, Mark D. Vermaire; **elders:** Henry F. Bakker, Will G. De Boer, Dennis M. Helmus, David A. Janke, George Klungel, Jean J. Lauziere, John P. Pos, Ralph Pypker; **advisers:** Arie C. Leder, Kinfun Wong.

*Committee 9—Church Order II*

**Chairman:** Hendrik P. Bruinsma; **reporter:** Richard J. de Lange; **ministers:** Douglas H. Bratt, Leonard A. Kuyvenhoven, Keith A. Mannes, Ezequiel N. Romero, Erick J. Schuringa, John Vermeer; **elders:** Harold C. Anton, Gary De Haan, Vernon Haagsma, Casey C. Jen, Ed Koke, Gerald A. Talsma, Mark Vander Vliet, John D. Wassenaar; **advisers:** Bobby Boyd, Henry De Moor.

*Committee 10—Alternate Routes to Ministry*

**Chairman:** Kenneth E. Van Wyk; **reporter:** Calvin R. Hoogendoorn; **ministers:** Peter R. Byrna, Christopher J. De Vos, Stanley Jim, Peter M. Jonker, H. Richard Nanninga, Mark D. Timmer, Robert J. Timmer; **elders:** Allen H. Brander, Ji Kwang Chang, George N. De Boer, Douglas E. Fakkema, Young Jin Park, Simon Ramak, Eric Svaan, Jason C. Van Doesburg; **advisers:** Pedro Aviles, Henry Zwaanstra.

*Committee 11—End-of-Life Issues*

**Chairman:** Clifford E. Bajema; **reporter:** Bert Slofstra; **ministers:** Philip V. De Jonge, Vernon F. Geurkink, Emmett A. Harrison, Dirk Miedema, Steven J. Mulder, John M. Owinga, Bruce J. Vaandrager; **elders:** Bruce Dykstra, Rodney

J. Hugen, Ronald M. Leistra, Bruce C. Nikkel, Hans Nusselder, Tom Roskamp, Ronald L. Sportel; **advisers:** Earl James, Jeff A.D. Weima.

*Recommendation:*

That synod adopt the report of the Program Committee, including membership on the advisory committees for Synod 2000 as amended.

—*Adopted*

**ARTICLE 10**

The general secretary presents the Agenda Directory for Synod 2000, 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. Michael De Vries, leads the assembly in closing prayer, and synod adjourns at 12:01 p.m. Synod will reconvene Monday at 8:00 a.m.

**MONDAY MORNING, June 12, 2000**

**Second Session**

**ARTICLE 12**

The president announces that elder delegate Mr. William De Jong's (Chatham) father-in-law has passed away, Rev. H. Richard Nanninga (Toronto) has received notification of a death in his congregation, and Evangelist Edwin R. Arevalo of Jersey City, New Jersey, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

**ARTICLE 13**

Delegate Rev. Norman Meyer, vice president, leads the assembly in the following liturgy:

**We Approach Our God**

Meyer: 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!*

Meyer: Hear the Word of the Lord (the reading of Romans 10:11-15).

“As the Scripture says, ‘Anyone 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!*

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

Meyer: The Lord be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

### **God Speaks to Us**

Candidate Wayne Knight:

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!*

*Psalter Hymnal* 548: 1, 3, “When We Walk with the Lord”

Rev. Norman Meyer:

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!*

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

Andrew E. (Kim) Beunk and family  
John H. (Geraldine) Bouwers and family  
Wendell D. Davelaar  
Erika L. Dekker (Tim Postuma)  
John R. (Kim) De Vries  
Nathan de Vries  
William E. Gardner and family  
George E. (Tena) Holthof and family  
William F. (Grace) Hoogland and family  
Wayne A. (Catherine) Knight and family  
Scott B. Koeman  
Michael D. Koetje  
Jack (Eileen) Kooreman and family  
Michael (Laura) Laird  
Thea Nyhof (Robert) Leunk  
Peter J. A. (Lisa) Moelker and family  
Spencer M. (Cathy) Tuttle and family  
Derek G. (Shirley) Van Dalen and family  
John A. (Carol) Vanderstoep and family  
Mark A. (Kim) Vande Zande  
David R. (Lisa) Van Harten and family  
Byron E. (Renee) Van Kley and family  
Jeffrey D. (Katie) Voorhees  
Tyler J. Wagenmaker  
Andrew (Kelly) Zantingh and family

Synod president Rev. Michael De Vries addresses the candidates from Act 8: 26-40.

*Psalter Hymnal* 521: 1-3, “God of the Prophets”

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

A Litany of Thanksgiving:

Candidate John De Vries:

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

All: *We thank you, O Lord.*

J. De Vries: For strength and health, for faith and vision, for work and leisure,  
for your universal kingdom,

All: *We thank you, O Lord.*

J. De Vries: For family and friends who have supported us in these years of  
studies and preparation,

All: *We thank you, O Lord.*

J. De Vries: 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.*

J. De Vries: 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.*

J. De Vries: For professors, pastors, and peers who have taught us, encouraged  
us, and challenged us,

All: *We thank you, Lord.*

J. De Vries: All glory, all power, all honor, and all praise,

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

*Psalter Hymnal, 238: 1, 3, 5, "We Come, O Christ, to You"*

Prayer for all the candidates: Rev. Norman Meyer

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

*Psalter Hymnal 424, "Spirit of the Living God"*

Meyer: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

## **ARTICLE 14**

The officers announce the following appointments:

Sergeant at Arms:  
Elder Ed Vanderveer

Minutes-Review Committee:  
Rev. Terry L. Genzink  
Elder Bruce C. Nikkel

Devotions Committee:  
Rev. Karl J. House  
Rev. Luis A. Pellecer  
Rev. John M. Ouwinga

Testimonial Luncheon Committee:  
Rev. Douglas H. Bratt  
Rev. Roger D. Kramer

The officers recommend that Overture 31 be received as legally before synod and be assigned to Advisory Committee 8.

—Adopted

#### ARTICLE 15

The roll call indicates that the following who were absent on Saturday are now present: Elder James L. Strikwerda (Holland), Elder Henry F. Bakker (Hudson), Rev. Philip J. Boender (Kalamazoo), Rev. David W. Yang (Pacific Hanmi), Rev. Stanley Jim (Red Mesa). They rise to express agreement with the forms of unity.

Dr. Engelhard introduces Rev. Pedro Aviles and Rev. George Boyd, ethnic advisers, and fraternal delegate Rev. Ken Iwasaki (Reformed Church in Japan), who have arrived at synod.

#### ARTICLE 16

The morning session is adjourned at 9:12 a.m. so that delegates can work in advisory committees. Synod will reconvene on Monday at 7:00 p.m.

### MONDAY EVENING, June 12, 2000

#### Third Session

#### ARTICLE 17

Rev. Jack Westerhof announces *Psalter Hymnal* 253, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," and reads from Philippians 4: 4-8. He leads in opening prayer, remembering especially the family of Mr. Marlin Van Elderen, who passed away early this morning at the age of 54.

Rev. Jack Westerhof announces *Psalter Hymnal* 560, "Like a River Glorious."  
The president thanks the organist, Mr. Dick Gootjes, for his participation.

#### ARTICLE 18

Advisory Committee 2, Missions, Rev. Ronald J. Meyer reporting, presents the following:

##### I. The Back to God Hour

A. *Material*: Back to God Hour Report, pp.113-17

##### B. Observations

1. "Insight," a four-and-a-half-minute radio commentary heard weekdays on approximately eighty stations, is hosted by Dr. Joel Nederhood, who, although retired from The Back to God Hour, has consented to this assignment.
2. The 1996 decision of The Back to God Hour Board to focus the French-language ministry on Africa was initially implemented in August 1999, when Rev. Paul Mpindi and his family moved to Banqui, Central African Republic, in an attempt to set up a French-language ministry there. An evaluation is also in process to determine whether there might be a better base of operation.

3. Indonesian radio pastor, Dr. Junus Atmarumeksa, intends to retire within the next two years. A process is underway, in conjunction with the church in Indonesia, to identify and recruit his successor.
4. The recent addition of an Internet site to the Japanese-language ministry has proved a valuable adjunct to the other ministry tools.
5. Cooperative work with Home Missions is helping selected developing church plants to raise their visibility through the use of media campaigns.

*C. Recommendation*

That Mr. Keith Oosthoek, 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*

**II. Home Missions**

*A. Materials*

1. Home Missions Report (excluding the Appendix), pp. 139-50
2. Home Missions Supplement (excluding Section C and the Appendix)

*B. Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Rev. Michael Reitsma, U.S. and Canada 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*

3. That synod approve Home Missions' request to redesignate its current member-at-large for architecture position to member-at-large for intercultural ministry.

*Note:* The Home Missions' member-at-large position for architecture was approved by Synod 1983. See *Acts of Synod 1983*, p. 68.

*Grounds:*

- a. Since Home Missions is no longer involved in architectural review of new church facilities, architectural expertise is no longer needed.
- b. Home Missions partners with more than ninety ethnic and multicultural new-church, established-church, and campus ministries. Board-member experience in intercultural ministry is valuable.
- c. Redesignating this member-at-large position provides greater opportunity for nominating and electing persons of color to the board.

—*Adopted*

*Note:* In the event that synod approves redesignation of the current Home Missions board-member-at-large position for architecture to member-at-large for intercultural ministry, the following nominations are presented:

*Mr. Charles Brown* is a member of East Side CRC, Cleveland, Ohio. He owns and runs a construction company. Mr. Brown has served his church as an officebearer and as a mentor-adviser for a new-church parenting ministry in Cleveland.

*Rev. Luis Pellecer* is pastor of Good Samaritan CRC, Miami, Florida. Rev. Pellecer has served Classis Florida as chair and as church visitor and has served synod as ethnic adviser. He is a member of the Hispanic Ministry Planning Committee for Florida.

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

A. *Material:* CR World Relief Committee Report, pp. 165-72

#### **B. 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 CRWRC missionaries who are presently in North America be presented to and acknowledged by synod.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod commend the work of mercy carried on by CRWRC and urge the churches to take at least four offerings per year in lieu of ministry-share support.

—*Adopted*

### **IV. World Missions**

A. *Material:* World Missions Report, pp. 157-64

#### **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 encourage all Christian Reformed churches to recognize Pentecost Sunday as a significant opportunity to take an offering for Christian Reformed World Missions.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 23.)

## ARTICLE 19

The evening session is adjourned; Elder Mark Vander Vliet leads in closing prayer. Synod will reconvene on Tuesday at 8:00 a.m.

## TUESDAY MORNING, June 13, 2000

### Fourth Session

## ARTICLE 20

First clerk Elder Henry Baron announces *Psalter Hymnal* 593, “My Song Forever Shall Record.” He leads in opening prayer and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 565, “Abide with Us, Our Savior.”

The roll call indicates that Rev. H. Richard Nanninga (Toronto), Elder Richard L. Bouma (Grand Rapids South), and Rev. Roger Bultman (Thornapple Valley) are absent.

Elder Thomas C. Kroesbergen (Chatham) has replaced Elder William De Jong. He rises to express agreement with the forms of unity.

## ARTICLE 21

Advisory Committee 5, Pastoral Ministries, Rev. Shawn R. Brix reporting, presents the following:

### I. Abuse Prevention

#### A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report, Appendix E, pp. 66-68
2. Board of Trustees Report, Appendix F, pp. 68-69

#### B. Recommendations

1. That Ms. Beth Swagman (Abuse Prevention director) be given the privilege of the floor when matters pertaining to the office of Abuse Prevention are discussed.  
—*Granted*
2. That synod express its concern to the BOT that the goal of establishing an advisory committee to guide the Abuse Prevention ministry is still not accomplished (see Appendix E, *Agenda for Synod 2000*, p. 67).  
—*Adopted*
3. That synod encourage each classis to develop and support a classical abuse-response team and that each classis fully embrace this team as a legitimate and important ministry of classis.

*Ground:* Even though synod has affirmed the importance of such a ministry, only four or five classes currently have functional abuse-response teams (see Appendix F, *Agenda for Synod 2000*, p. 69).

—*Adopted*

*Note:* See Article 43, where the above motion was reconsidered and revised.

4. That synod take note of the Board of Trustees' decisions concerning Abuse Prevention, as detailed in Appendix E, *Agenda for Synod 2000*, pp. 66-68.  
—Adopted

## II. Chaplaincy Ministries

A. *Material*: Board of Trustees Report, Appendix G, pp. 69-70

### B. *Recommendations*

1. That Rev. Jacob P. Heerema (Chaplaincy Ministries director) be given the privilege of the floor when matters pertaining to Chaplaincy Ministries are discussed.  
—Granted
2. That synod affirm the distinctive nature of Chaplaincy Ministries and its ever-expanding role in an increasingly broken world.  
—Adopted

## III. Disability Concerns

A. *Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report, Appendix E, pp. 66-68  
2. Board of Trustees Report, Appendix H, pp. 70-72

### B. *Recommendations*

1. That Dr. James Vanderlaan (Disability Concerns director) be given the privilege of the floor when matters pertaining to the office of Disability Concerns are discussed.  
—Granted
2. That synod encourage each classis to establish a network of disability-concerns consultants and congregational contacts to work in cooperation with the office of Disability Concerns.  
—Adopted
3. That synod take note of the Board of Trustees' decisions concerning Disability Concerns as detailed in Appendix E, *Agenda for Synod 2000*, pp. 66-68.  
—Adopted

## IV. Pastor-Church Relations

A. *Material*: Board of Trustees Report, Appendix I, pp. 72-74

### B. *Recommendations*

1. That Rev. Duane Visser (Pastor-Church Relations director) be given the privilege of the floor when matters pertaining to the office of Pastor-Church Relations are discussed.  
—Granted

2. That synod ask the BOT to address the problem of inadequate staffing in the Pastor-Church Relations office and formulate a solution.

*Ground:* Due to the amount of crisis and intervention ministry, the intended work of this office (training and prevention) is often more dream than reality.

—Adopted

3. That synod remind councils and pastors of the importance of working with the Pastor-Church Relations office in order to diffuse and resolve conflict in its earliest stages.

—Adopted

## **V. Race Relations**

A. *Material:* Board of Trustees Report, Appendix J, pp. 74-76

### *B. Recommendations*

1. That Rev. Norberto Wolf (Race Relations director and regional director for Southern California) be given the privilege of the floor when matters pertaining to the office of Race Relations are addressed.

—Granted

2. That synod encourage churches to celebrate All Nations Heritage Week from 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

## **VI. Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action**

A. *Material:* Board of Trustees Report, Appendix K, pp. 76-79

### *B. Recommendations*

1. That Peter Vander Meulen (coordinator for Social Justice and Hunger Action) be given the privilege of the floor when matters pertaining to the office of Social Justice and Hunger Action are discussed.

—Granted

2. That synod affirm the work of the Social Justice and Hunger Action office on behalf of and to the institutional church as being important, legitimate, and consistent with our Reformed world and life view.

—Adopted



## VII. Pastoral ministries, general concerns

A. *Materials*: Board of Trustees Report, Appendices E-K, pp. 66-79

### B. *Recommendation*

That synod affirm the value of each of these six ministries, express thanks for the work of their directors and staff, and commend these directors for dealing with the ongoing difficulties and challenges related to the recent changes within the denominational administrative structure.

—Adopted

## ARTICLE 22

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

## ARTICLE 23

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 18.)

Advisory Committee 2, Missions, Rev. Ronald J. Meyer reporting, presents the following:

### **Board of Trustees**

#### A. *Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report, Appendix D, pp. 52-66
2. Board of Trustees Supplement, Section IV and Appendices C and E
3. Overture 22, pp. 500-02

#### B. *Introduction*

Synod 1999 decided not to adopt the recommendations of the U.S. Structure Committee to make substantial changes in the makeup of the Board of Trustees and the function of agency boards. In effect, this decision nullified the possibility for a separate and meaningful Canadian Ministries Board. Synod 1999 itself recognized the problem that it was creating when it also decided to “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” (*Acts of Synod 1999*, Art. 49, B, 6, p. 617).

The advisory committee, having received the recommendations of the BOT and having discussed the proposal with BOT members, presents the following to Synod 2000.

#### C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod reassign the mandate and responsibilities of the Canadian Ministries Board to a reconstituted and enlarged binational Board of Trustees and approve the following recommendations regarding governance (*Agenda for Synod 2000*, pp. 60-61, IV, A, 1-4).
  - a. Reconstitute and enlarge the Board of Trustees (BOT) to be composed of thirty-two (32) members, fifteen (15) from Canada and fifteen (15) from the United States. In addition, the general secretary and the executive

director of ministries shall serve as ex officio members. Collectively these members of the Board shall be the binational trustees of the synod of the Christian Reformed Church in North America and shall be known as the Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

- b. Declare that the Canadian members and the ex officio members of the Board of Trustees shall serve as the Board of Directors of the CRCNA-Canada Corporation and be responsible for all specific “in Canada” functions that cannot be, or ought not be, the responsibility of a synodical binational Board. The Canadian ministries director shall be an adviser to the directors of the CRCNA-Canada Corporation.
- c. Declare that the United States members and the ex officio members of the Board of Trustees shall serve as the Board of Directors of the CRCNA-Michigan Corporation and be responsible for all specific “in the United States” functions that cannot be, or ought not be, the responsibility of the synodical binational board.
- d. Approve the following means of electing Board members:
  - 1) One (1) member shall be from each of the twelve (12) classes of Canada. One (1) or more member(s) shall be from each of the regions in the United States up to a total of twelve (12) members. In addition, three (3) members-at-large shall be from Canada and three (3) from the United States.
  - 2) Each of the twelve (12) Canadian classes will be requested to submit two or more names for the position that needs to be filled from that classis. In addition, Canadian classes may submit names for at-large positions on the Board that need to be filled from time to time.
  - 3) Each of the classes in the United States regions will submit names for the position that needs to be filled from among the membership of the classes in a specified region. In addition, United States classes may submit names for at-large positions on the Board that need to be filled from time to time.
  - 4) The Board of Trustees will receive the names from the classes and compose a slate of two (2) names for each position that needs to be filled. The Board of Trustees will observe the synodical guidelines for balance and inclusiveness with respect to geographical distribution, ecclesiastical offices held by nominees, clergy and nonclergy, race, and gender.
  - 5) If the procedure described above does not produce a sufficient number of nominees who, in the judgment of the Board, are qualified to serve as either regular or alternate members or if the Board makes the judgment that the synodical guidelines for balancing board membership need to be invoked, the Board may then, in consultation with the classes affected, add other names to the list of nominations submitted to synod.
  - 6) The BOT shall submit a complete slate of names to synod for election of Board members. Consistent with synodical practice, a nominee not elected as a BOT member will be designated by synod as the alternate BOT member.

*Note:* This procedure honors three values in the election process for Board of Trustees membership: (a) It maintains congregational and classical involvement in suggesting candidates for trusteeship; (b) it enables the Board to honor the diversity of the church in its nomination process; (c) it permits the assembly that is served by the trustees to elect the trustees.

*Grounds:*

- a) These recommendations comply with the mandate of Synod 1999 that the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Canadian Ministries Board, develop an effective ministries and governance proposal for binational ministries and report to Synod 2000.
- b) These recommendations have been endorsed by the Canadian Ministries Board.

—Adopted

- 2. That synod mandate the Board of Trustees to amend its constitution and bylaws consistent with the recommendations contained in this proposal and report back to Synod 2001.

*Ground:* The Constitution and Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA need to be amended to accommodate the specifics of the proposal contained in this report.

—Adopted

- 3. That synod ratify the reconfiguration of the Board and the slate of names for membership on the Board and approve the term date for each member (see BOT Supplement, Section IV).

- a. Canadian members (representing classes)

Alberta North	Dr. William H. Vanden Born	2003
Alberta South	Rev. Alvin Beukema	2001
B.C. North-West	Rev. William C. Veenstra	2003
B.C. South-East	Rev. Bert Slofstra	2003
Chatham	Rev. Peter Nicolai	2002
Huron	Rev. Edward Den Haan	2002
Niagara	Mr. Leo Van Tuyl	2003
Hamilton	Mr. J. Hans Vander Stoep	2001
Eastern Canada	Mr. Tom Luimes	2001
Quinte	Mr. Ralph Pypker	2002
Toronto	Rev. Gordon H. Pols	2001
Lake Superior	Mr. John Harris	2002

At-large members

Ms. Stephanie Baker-Collins	2001
Mrs. Sarah Cook	2002
Mr. Ed Vanderveer	2003

- b. U.S. members (representing regions)

Far West U.S. I	Rev. Raymond Slim	2002
Far West U.S. II	Dr. Tom Van Groningen	2002
Great Plains	Rev. Aldon L. Kuiper	2001
	Mr. Harold Van Maanen	2002

Central U.S. I	Rev. Wayne W. Leys	2003
Central U.S. II	Rev. Alvin L. Hoksbergen	2003
Central U.S. III	Rev. John P. Gorter	2001
	Mr. Kenneth Kuipers	2003
Central U.S. IV	Mrs. Kathleen Smith	2001
	Rev. Duane K. Kelderman	2002
Eastern U.S.	Rev. Stanley J. Workman	2002
At-large members		
	Ms. Mamie Thomas	2001
	Ms. Gail Jansen	2003
	Mr. Howard Johnson	2001
	Dr. Carol Rottman	2001

—Adopted

4. That synod declare that this is its response to Overture 22 (Lake Erie) re submitting this governance proposal to the churches for their review.

*Grounds:*

- a. This proposal is a direct response to an instruction from Synod 1999.
- b. This proposal is not the work of a study committee which needs to be circulated to the churches by November 1, prior to a subsequent synod.
- c. This change in governance will not substantively affect the life and ministry of congregations and classes but rather the administrative operation of the BOT.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 26.)

#### ARTICLE 24

The morning session is adjourned; Rev. Ronald G. Baker leads in closing prayer, remembering especially Tim Prol, the nineteen-year-old son of Elder Kenneth Prol (Atlantic Northeast), who is undergoing surgery today.

#### TUESDAY AFTERNOON, June 13, 2000

##### Fifth Session

#### ARTICLE 25

The president introduces Dr. James A. De Jong, president of Calvin Theological Seminary, who announces *Psalter Hymnal 237*, “We Praise You, O God.” He reads selected texts from Philippians and Colossians. The assembly views *Facing Your Future*, a program designed for youth interested in ministry, and a brief slide presentation, *125 Years of Service to Church and Kingdom*, celebrating the March 14, 2001, anniversary of Calvin Theological Seminary. Dr. De Jong presents proposed plans for the expansion of the current seminary facility. He announces *Psalter Hymnal 525*, “O Christians, Haste.”

The president commends Dr. De Jong for his work.

## ARTICLE 26

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 23.)

Advisory Committee 2, Missions, Rev. Ronald J. Meyer reporting, presents the following recommendation:

### **Board of Trustees**

A. *Material:* Board of Trustees Supplement, Section IV and Appendix E

C. *Recommendations* (continued)

5. That synod approve Cambodia as a new field of ministry.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. CRWRC's efforts in Cambodia have been well received.
- b. Both World Missions and CRWRC have targeted Cambodia for a joint response.

—*Adopted*

Rev. Merle Den Blyker, executive director of Christian Reformed World Missions, gives a brief presentation on the efforts in Cambodia.

## ARTICLE 27

Advisory Committee 4, Publications, Rev. John F. Schuurman reporting, presents the following:

### **I. CRC Publications**

A. *Material:* CRC Publications Report, pp. 125-38

B. *Recommendation*

That the following persons be granted the privilege of the floor when matters pertaining to CRC Publications are discussed:

For the board

- Mr. Fred Herfst, president
- Ms. Winnie Klop, vice president
- Mr. Gary Mulder, executive director

For *The Banner*

- Dr. John Suk, editor-in-chief

For Education, Worship, and Evangelism

- Rev. Robert De Moor, editor-in-chief

—*Granted*

## II. Historical Committee

A. *Material*: Historical Committee Report, pp. 190-93

### B. *Recommendations*

1. That Dr. Harry Boonstra (chair) and Dr. Richard Harms (secretary) be permitted to represent the committee when matters pertaining to its mandate come before synod.  
—*Granted*
2. That synod urge those classes that have not sent copies of their minutes to the archives to do so by adding the archives to their mailing lists. This action on the part of classes will help to fill the gaps in the archival holdings.  
—*Adopted*
3. That synod permit the research use of all congregational records, as well as classical and synodical executive minutes, that are more than one hundred years old. This permission is subject to the provisions of the Confidential Records Covenant.  
—*Adopted*
4. That synod instruct the BOT, in consultation with the Historical Committee, to appoint an ad hoc committee to prepare for commemoration of the denomination's sesquicentennial in 2007.  
—*Adopted*
5. That synod instruct the BOT to report to Synod 2001 the ad hoc committee's members, mandate, and projected budget.  
—*Adopted*
6. That because of an oversight Dr. Henry Zwaanstra be reappointed for a second term.  
—*Adopted*

The general secretary calls attention to the list of names of retired ministers who have served a significant number of years and to the list of churches celebrating significant anniversaries in the year 2000.

The following individuals will celebrate significant anniversaries in the ordained ministry:

73 years	Oren Holtrop
70 years	Gareth S. Kok
65 years	Elco H. Oostendorp Jerry J. Pott John O. Schuring
60 years	Gerrit B. Boerfyn Lambert Doezema Repko W. Popma

55 years Edward G. Boer  
John C. Derksen  
Jacob D. Eppinga  
George D. Vanderhill  
William F. Vander Hoven  
James W. Van Weelden

50 years Lugene A. Bazuin  
Martin D. Geleynse  
John A. Hoeksema  
Dick C. Los  
Roger D. Posthuma  
Lammert Slofstra  
Leonard Stockmeier

The following congregations will celebrate significant anniversaries of their organization:

175 years Clifton, NJ – Richfield (entered denomination in 1890)  
Monsey, NY – New Hope (entered denomination in 1890)

125 years Jenison, MI – First  
Kentwood, MI – Kelloggsville

100 years Kanawha, IA  
Lynden, WA – First

75 years Grand Rapids, MI – East Leonard  
Grand Rapids, MI – Fuller Avenue  
Hull, IA – Hope (entered denomination in 1961)  
Kalamazoo, MI – Grace (entered denomination in 1945)

50 years Abbotsford, BC – First  
Barrhead, AB  
Barrie, ON – First  
Bellflower, CA – Rosewood  
Bouwmanville, ON – Rehoboth  
Brockville, ON – Bethel  
Cochrane, ON  
Cornwall, ON – Immanuel  
Delta, BC – First Ladner  
Des Moines, IA  
Drayton, ON  
Essex, ON  
Hamilton, ON  
Langley, BC – First  
Lethbridge, AB – First  
London, ON – First  
Mississauga, ON – Clarkston  
Orangeville, ON  
Oskaloosa, IA – Bethel  
Rocky Mountain House, AB – First  
Stoney Creek, ON – Fruitland

Sussex, NJ  
Thunder Bay, ON – First  
Toronto, ON – First  
Wheaton, IL  
Willmar, MN  
Zeeland, MI – Bethel

25 years Chatham, ON – Glory  
Flagstaff, AZ – Hope Community  
Grandville, MI – Fellowship  
Hudsonville, MI – Georgetown  
Lethbridge, ON – Maranatha  
Norfolk, VA – Ocean View

The vice president offers a prayer of thanksgiving.

### III. Sermons for Reading Services Committee

A. *Material*: Services for Reading Committee Report, p. 256

#### B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod approve the publication of *The Living Word* for 2001 to provide sermons for reading services for the churches.  
—Adopted
2. That synod encourage the churches to subscribe to this service for the benefit of churches and individuals.  
—Adopted
3. That synod, by way of exception to VI, D, 7, b (Rules of Synodical Procedure, p. 89), extend the term of Mr. Ray Vander Ploeg for an additional three years.

#### *Grounds*:

- a. Mr. Vander Ploeg has served well as secretary-treasurer.
- b. Mr. Vander Ploeg has agreed to the extension.

—Adopted

### IV. Committee to Review the One-Week Synod

#### A. *Materials*

1. Report of the Committee to Review the One-Week Synod, *Agenda for Synod 2000*, pp. 409-15
2. Committee to Design a One-Calendar-Week Synod Report, *Agenda for Synod 1996*, pp. 239-42

#### B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to the chairman and the reporter of the committee, Rev. Howard Vanderwell and Rev. Wayne Brouwer, when this report is considered.

—Granted



2. That synod continue its practice of one-week annual meetings.

*Grounds:*

- a. The designated trial period has shown that the business of synod can be accomplished in a week or less.
- b. “. . . direct costs are lower than those for longer synods” (cf. *Agenda for Synod 2000*, p. 410, C, 1).

—Adopted

3. That synod adopt as guidelines the changes to the one-week-synod schedule that are detailed below (this replaces the study-committee report’s V and VI, *Agenda for Synod 2000*, pp. 413-14):
  - a. Synodical meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m. on the first Saturday. All opening matters are to be concluded by 11:00 a.m.
  - b. Advisory-committee chairpersons and reporters will meet for lunch on the first Saturday of synod to review procedures.
  - c. After lunch, advisory committees will begin their deliberations.
  - d. Delegates will gather for a time of worship beginning at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. This service should be a time of singing, celebration of the Lord’s Supper, preaching, and prayer for synod. Details of this service will be planned jointly by the convening church and the Board of Trustees.
  - e. Each day will begin with a time of worship. The Program Committee should schedule delegates for leading in worship when it makes advisory-committee assignments.
  - f. Synod will conclude by noon of the second Saturday.

The advisory committee believes these changes in the current one-week-synod schedule would address most of the concerns regarding the time constraints, preparation, and rest needs of the delegates to the annual meetings.

**Proposed daily schedule**

*Opening Saturday*

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Opening session of synod Election of officers Finalization of committee assignments
11:00 - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch and orientation of committee chairpersons and reporters
1:00 - 5:30 p.m.	Advisory-committee meetings
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Advisory-committee meetings

*Sunday*

3:00 p.m.	Synodical worship service
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Dinner
Evening	Free time for fellowship

*Monday*

8:15 - 8:30 a.m.	Opening worship
8:30 - 9:15 a.m.	Brief plenary session
9:15 - 11:45 a.m.	Advisory-committee meetings
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:15 - 5:00 p.m.	Advisory-committee meetings
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Advisory-committee meetings

*Tuesday – Friday*

8:15 - 8:30 a.m.	Opening worship
8:30 - 11:45 a.m.	Plenary session
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:15 - 5:00 p.m.	Plenary session
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 - 9 :00 p.m.	Plenary session

*Saturday*

8:15 - 8:45 a.m.	Opening worship
8:45 - 11:45 a.m.	Plenary session
(Final adjournment by 11:45 a.m.)	

—*Adopted*

4. That synod authorize the general secretary to revise the Rules for Synodical Procedure in accordance with changes adopted in any or all of these recommendations.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod dismiss the committee with thanks.

—*Adopted*

**ARTICLE 28**

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services, Rev. Laryn G. Zoerhof reporting, presents the following:

**I. Board of Trustees**

**A. Materials**

1. Board of Trustees Report, pp. 19-51 (excluding Appendices D-L)
2. Board of Trustees Supplement, Sections I, II, III, V, VI (A-E) and Appendices A, B, and D
3. Synodical deputies' reports
4. Notifications of retirement
5. Overture 17
6. Overture 21

**B. Recommendations**

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Mr. William Weidenaar, chairman of the Board; Dr. David H. 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 institution boards (Sections II, A , 1 and 2 and Supplement I).

Board	Classis	Member	Alternate	Term
Synodical Deputies	Columbia		Rev. K. Van Schelven	
	Grand Rapids East	Rev. J.A. Molenbeek	Rev. S. Venhuizen	2003
	Grandville		Rev. D.A. Kamstra	
	Greater Los Angeles		Rev. R.D. Goudzwaard	
	Holland		Rev. M. De Vries	
	Northern Illinois		Rev. T.D. Kauffman	
	Pacific Northwest		Rev. H.J. Weidenaar	
CRC Publications	Rocky Mountain		Rev. K.R. Rip	
	Atlantic Northeast		Ms. J. Spoelhof	
	Chicago South		Dr. D. Sinnema	
	Grand Rapids East	Ms. C. Blauwkamp	Ms. C. Van Dyke	2003
	Heartland		Mr. L. Bosma	
	Kalamazoo	Ms. J. Wierenga		2002
Home Missions	Niagara	Mr. B. Witvoet	Mrs. T. Loerts	2003
	Rocky Mountain	Ms. C. Mulder		2003
	Eastern Canada		Mrs. M. Buteyn	
	Grand Rapids South		Dr. R.B. Swierenga	
	Greater Los Angeles	Rev. T.P. Doorn		2003
	Hackensack	Rev. S. Holmes		2003
	Heartland		Rev. J. Sajdak	
	Illiana		Mr. H. Ver Beek	
	Kalamazoo	Rev. M.A. Minegar	Rev. M.A. Scheffers	2003
	Niagara		Rev. P. Slofstra	
	Northern Illinois		Rev. D.R. Armstrong	
World Missions	Rocky Mountain		Rev. R.A. Lyzenga	
	Wisconsin	Rev. A. Veenstra		2001
	Columbia		Mrs. P. Van Antwerpen	
	Grand Rapids South		Rev. R.L. Fynewever	
	Greater Los Angeles		Rev. P.H. Kim	
	lakota	Rev. C. Hoekstra	Rev. R.W. Sparks	2003
	Illiana		Rev. I. Torres	
	Niagara		Rev. R.J. Loerts	
	Northern Illinois		Ms. C. Hoogheem	
	Pacific Northwest		Rev. H.C. Song	
CRWRC	Pella		Dr. D. Daining	
	Rocky Mountain	Ms. J. Engelsman	Mr. W. Lemcke	2003
	Arizona		Dr. M. Rand	
	Atlantic Northeast		Ms. G. Ranney	
	Columbia	Ms. L. Ackerman	Mr. N. Gillenwater	2003
	Greater Los Angeles	Mr. R. Boekstein	Mr. S. Slegers	2003
	Hamilton		Mr. P. Zwart	
	lakota		Mr. L. Netjes	
	Illiana		Mr. D. Bratt	
	Lake Erie		Mr. O. Turrentine	
	Northcentral Iowa		Mr. B. Goemaat	
	Northern Michigan		Mr. B. Dracht	
	Pella		Mr. R. Nugteren	
Rocky Mountain	Mr. R. Pasterkamp	Ms. M. Jonker	2003	
At-large	Ms. P. De Wilde		2003	

—*Adopted*

### 3. Guide for Conducting Church Visiting

#### a. Background

About three years ago the Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church formed a task force to explore the practice of church visiting within the CRC. Board members as well as the general secretary had received some encouragement from the classes to examine the practice and provide whatever assistance might be available to strengthen this long-standing practice of Reformed churches. One factor that surfaced repeatedly and in various contexts is that the Guide for Conducting Church Visiting needs to be reviewed and revised.

#### b. Recommendations

- 1) That synod adopt the proposed new Guide for Conducting Church Visiting (*Agenda for Synod 2000*, Appendix A, pp. 36-44) for a five-year trial period with Section III, F (*Agenda for Synod 2000*, p. 39) amended to read as follows:

F. Members of the congregation meeting with church visitors. Members of the congregation who have a concern about congregational life and/or about the present leadership of the congregation may meet with the church visitors. Any members wishing to meet with the church visitors must inform the council of their intention and identify the substance of their concerns before meeting with the church visitors.

—Adopted

- 2) That synod authorize the general secretary to distribute the guide in a booklet format for the use of the churches and church visitors.  
—Adopted
- 3) That synod request church visitors, stated clerks of classes, and all church councils to submit reactions regarding the new guide to the general secretary by November 1, 2004, so that the Board of Trustees can prepare a recommendation regarding the ongoing use of the guide to Synod 2005.  
—Adopted

4. That synod approve a time for presentations by Calvin Theological Seminary, Christian Reformed World Missions, and the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee.

—Adopted

#### 5. Recommendations re Classis Pacific Hanmi

- a. That synod rejoice in the progress made by Classis Pacific Hanmi in its first four years and encourage the classis and the monitoring committee in its continuing work (see *Agenda for Synod 2000*, p. 51).

—Adopted

- b. That synod endorse the two goals of the monitoring committee, as stated in Part VI, A of the committee's report: (1) that Pacific Hanmi be encouraged to work toward greater participation of elders in its classical processes; (2) that Pacific Hanmi and the monitoring commit-

tee continue to work diligently in learning and implementing the guidelines of the CRC Church Order, especially as it pertains to the credentialing and supervision of pastors.

—Adopted

- c. That synod accept the first four-year review of the ministry of Classis Pacific Hanmi (see *Agenda for Synod 2000*, pp. 45-51).

—Adopted

6. That synod ratify the names of those who have been elected by their regions to serve on the Board of Trustees.

Central U.S. I	Rev. Wayne Leys	Dr. James La Grand (alt.)
Central U.S. III	Mr. Kenneth Kuipers	Mr. Del Huisingh (alt.)
Western Canada	Rev. Bert Slofstra	Rev. James Poelman (alt.)

—Adopted

7. That synod continue for an additional five-year period the practice of appointing up to seven ethnic advisers to serve at synod, with the expectation that Synod 2003 will appoint a committee to conduct a review of this practice and report back to Synod 2005.

*Ground:* The positive results of this practice warrant a five-year continuation, after which there will be more evidence and experience by which to judge the practice.

—Adopted

8. That synod affirm the antiracism initiatives as detailed in the Ethnic and Racial Diversity report and urge all agencies and educational institutions to participate in institutional antiracism training (see BOT Supplement, Appendix A).

*Grounds:*

- a. Synod 1968 and Synod 1996 strongly encouraged the churches “to evaluate their life and ministry with regard to racial and ethnic composition.”
- b. The agencies and institutions that are actively participating speak positively of the current effort to address racism.

—Adopted

9. That synod grant power to act to the Board of Trustees for ratifying the appointment of a new Canadian ministries director.

—Adopted

10. That synod receive as information the revised position description for the Canadian ministries director as approved by the Canadian Ministries Board and the Board of Trustees (see BOT Supplement, Appendix B). It is understood that future revisions of the position description will be the responsibility of the Board of Trustees.

—Adopted

11. That synod receive as information the executive summary of the administrative realignment for the agencies and institutions of the Christian Reformed Church (BOT Supplement, Appendix D). (A copy of the

detailed administrative proposal was made available to the advisory committee.)

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 30.)

#### ARTICLE 29

Elder William Covert (Holland) replaces Dr. James L. Strikwerda. He rises to express agreement with the forms of unity.

#### ARTICLE 30

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 28.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services, Rev. Laryn G. Zoerhof reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Response to Overture 17: Reduce the Number of *Agenda for Synods* and *Acts of Synods* Sent to Each Council**

A. *Material*: Overture 17, p. 493

#### *B. Recommendation*

That synod not accede to Overture 17.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. Since 1987 the number of copies of the *Agenda* and *Acts of Synod* sent to each church has been equal to one-half the number of council members, unless a church has requested a different number. Churches that do not need that many copies of the *Agenda* and *Acts* are encouraged to reduce the number of copies ordered on the *Yearbook* questionnaire.
- b. It is important for councils to receive a sufficient number of copies of the *Agenda for Synod* and *Acts of Synod* so that council members can be informed of the various reports, studies, and decisions of synod.

—*Adopted*

### **II. Response to Overture 21: Remove SCUPE from List of Causes Recommended for Financial Support**

A. *Material*: Overture 21, p. 500

#### *B. Recommendation*

That synod accede to Overture 21 to remove SCUPE (Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education) from the denominational list of agencies recommended for financial support.

#### *Grounds:*

1. Calvin Theological Seminary has disaffiliated itself from this organization.
2. In the past few years the denomination has developed an alternative program for the education and training of those who are called to witness in the urban setting.

3. One of SCUPE's board members, a member of the executive committee, is a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints.

—Adopted

### III. Convening church for Synod 2001

#### *Recommendations*

- A. That synod accept the offer of Church of the Servant of Grand Rapids, Michigan, to serve as the convening church for Synod 2001.

—Adopted

- B. That synod accept the offer of the Han-Bit Korean Church of Rochester Hills, Michigan, to serve as the convening church for Synod 2002.

—Adopted

### IV. Work of synodical deputies

*Note:* The following actions of synodical deputies were inadvertently omitted from the advisory committee's report to Synod 1999 and therefore needed to be acted upon by Synod 2000.

#### A. *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 the request for shared ministry of Luctor CRC and Prairie View RCA.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

#### B. *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 at Beaver Creek Federal Prison	Toronto (9-24-98)	H.R. De Bolster, Hamilton H. Vander Plaata, 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 G. Bouma, Thornapple Valley
H. Wildeboer	Dir. of D.Min. program at Tyndale Seminary, Toronto, and regional director of Established - Church Development, Home Missions	Quinte (9-22-98)	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 Christian Reformed 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 felt that the matter at hand warranted this. We do not consider the 1986 decision as a precedent.

**Recommendation:** That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

### C. 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.

**Recommendation:** That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted



*D. 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 Iakota, 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 Iakota in its 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.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*E. Release from office to enter a nonministerial vocation, Article 14-c*

1. Synodical deputies J.J. Steigenga (Grand Rapids South), S.E. Hoesee (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 due to 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.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*F. 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.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*G. 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.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—*Adopted*

*H. 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 Han-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 Baek 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.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

#### *I. Extension of eligibility for call 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.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*J. 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.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*Note:* The above actions of synodical deputies were not acted upon by Synod 1999 and therefore were submitted to Synod 2000 for action.

**V. Ministerial retirements**

**A. Information**

Synod has received notice of the following ministerial retirements:

Minister	Classis	Effective Date
Alvin Beukema	Alberta South/Saskatchewan	May 1, 2000
William A. Bierling	Greater Los Angeles	March 1, 2000
Harry Boonstra	Grand Rapids East	August 1, 1999
Henk De Bruyn	Lake Superior	January 18, 2000
Harold T. De Jong	Pacific Northwest	April 19, 2000
Walter De Ruiters	Huron	July 31, 2000
Michael De Vries	Holland	July 1, 2000
Robert De Vries	Lake Erie	July 24, 2000
Willem D. Dirksen	Huron	July 1, 2000
M. Bernard Fynaardt	Lake Superior	September 3, 2000
Evert Gritter	Alberta North	July 31, 2000
John D. Hellinga	Chatham	January 20, 2000
Gary G. Hofland	Yellowstone	April 1, 2000
Marvin P. Hoogland	Chicago South	January 30, 2000
Gerrit Koedoot	Northcentral Iowa	February 1, 2000
Roger A. Kok	Grand Rapids East	September 30, 2000
Dick Kwantes	B.C. North-West	May 8, 2000
Jong Un Lee	California South	February 1, 2000
Jacob A. Quartel	Huron	May 31, 2000
Eugene Rubingh	Rocky Mountain	April 1, 2000
Herman Salomons	Alberta South/Saskatchewan	January 1, 2000

Henry B. Vanden Heuvel	Chicago South	January 3, 2000
Stanley J. Vander Klay	Atlantic Northeast	October 1, 2000
H. Aubrey Van Hoff	Chatham	February 1, 2000
Simon Wolfert	B.C. North-West	June 1, 2000

**B. Recommendations**

1. That synod acknowledge with profound gratitude the faithful labors of these ministers. —Adopted
2. That the vice president of synod offer a prayer of thanksgiving for their many years of dedicated service. —Adopted

**VI. 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
Martin A. Benckhuysen	Lake Erie (10-2-99)	G.W. Sheeres, Thornapple Valley R. Opperwall, Grand Rapids East J.J. Steigenga, Grand Rapids South
Jerry L. Blom	Grand Rapids North (9-21-99)	G. Bouma, Thornapple Valley S.E. Hoezee, Grand Rapids North J.R. Boot, Georgetown
Moses Chung	Greater Los Angeles (9-23-99)	G.G. Vink, Central California S.J. Kang, Pacific Hanmi F.E. Pott, Arizona
Steven J. Datema	Muskegon (9-30-99)	J.S. Meyer, Holland J.J. Steigenga, Grand Rapids South G. Bouma, Thornapple Valley
John P. Douma	Minnkota (8-4-99)	J.G. Busscher, Lake Superior C.E. Fennema, Iakota J.M. Gray, Heartland
<i>Deputies' comment: We recommend a mentor strong in systematic theology with the intent to make his preaching biblically solid.</i>		
Glenn O. Gerdes	Wisconsin (9-28-99)	P. De Jong, Northern Illinois D.J. Van Loo, Chicago South H.J. Schutt, Illiana
Michelle R.A. Gritter	B.C. South-East (3-5-99)	H.G. Samplonius, Alberta North J. Corvers, Alberta South/ Saskatchewan H. Jonker, B.C. North-West
Jon E. Hoekema	California South (2-10-00)	F.E. Pott, Arizona J. Van Schepen, Greater Los Angeles G.G. Vink, Central California
Timothy Howerzyl	Chicago South (9-16-99)	L.J. Kuiper, Wisconsin T.H. Douma, Northern Illinois H.J. Schutt, Illiana
Jeffrey P. Janssen	Hamilton (9-20-99)	J. De Jong, Niagara R. Kooops, Huron H.D. Praamsma, Toronto

John R. Kemper	B.C. South-East (11-16-99)	J. Corvers, Alberta South/ Saskatchewan J.S. Hielema, B.C. North-West H.G. Samplonius, Alberta North
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*Deputies' comments:* The synodical deputies took note, both in the assigned sermon and the additional sermons, that there was an absence of reflection on the immediate context of the assigned texts and relating this to the life of the congregation. As synodical deputies we encourage Classis B.C. South-East to assign a senior pastor to the candidate with the specific mandate to focus on biblical exegesis and the relevance of this exegesis to the sermon.

Gregory J. Kett	Atlantic Northeast (11-11-99)	J.G. Keizer, Hudson P.R. De Vries, Hackensack W.T. Koopmans, Quinte
Ernest Kim	Central California (9-21-99)	K.D. Koeman, Pacific Northwest G.P. Hutt, Columbia D.W. Lagerwey, California South
Tony W. Koeman	Central California (12-2-99)	J. Van Schepen, Greater Los Angeles D.W. Lagerwey, California South D.L. Recker, Columbia
Ken H. Lee	California South (7-25-99)	J. Van Schepen, Greater Los Angeles G.G. Vink, Central California F.E. Pott, Arizona

*Deputies' observations and clarifications:*

The Church Order in Article 10 states, "... The classis, in the presence of the deputies, shall examine him [the candidate] concerning his doctrine and life in accordance with synodical regulations. . . ." We recognize that due to various factors or situations it may be difficult to assemble the entire classis. We believe that a *classis contracta* would then be in order and would serve the intent of our synodical regulations.

However, as deputies requested to attend the examination of Candidate Kenneth Lee, called by the Orange Korean CRC to serve as a missionary to Japan, we found ourselves facing an unnecessary situation. Upon arriving at Calvary CRC of Chino, we were apprised of Classis California South's decision at its May meeting that a "committee" of five pastors and elders would be assigned the task of examining the candidate. We had inquired regarding the July 20 meeting's being a *classis contracta* and had not received a direct response. We assumed that more than a total of five would be involved. In light of the above, we asked to meet with Classis California South's stated clerk and the "delegates" to the examination. After considerable discussion, with referencing to their May meeting's decision, it was concluded that classis had incorrectly asked a committee of classis to do something that we as deputies felt was not a correct understanding of Article 10. In actuality, the "committee" consisted of the stated clerk, an evangelist, and three ordained CRC pastors. Thus the evangelist was understood to represent the elders of classis. This appears to us a significant exclusion, not intended in classical deliberations.

After more discussion and a realization by the members of Classis California South that this matter should not recur, we concluded that it would be unfair to Candidate Lee's departure plans to postpone the examination until a classis meeting could be called. The stated clerk indicated that Classis California South is still recovering from a decimation in its leadership and constituency and therefore the above situation presented itself. We could appreciate these concerns, but . . . . The members of California South present made it clear that they regretted their action and would avoid its recurrence.

We decided to proceed with the examination, which went well, although the candidate's nervousness was most likely increased by the delay that we occasioned. It is our intention that this letter explain to all parties concerned why we acted as we did and encouraged Classis California South to adhere more closely to prescribed regulations. If they must deviate from common practice, consultation with affected deputies, the general secretary, or other such persons would be encouraged strongly. In addition, we did suggest that if Classis California South would like to see a change in the manner of examining candidates, then the route of overturing for a change would be the appropriate avenue.

Daryl J. Meijer	Eastern Canada (10-22-99)	H.D. Praamsma J. Zantingh, Hamilton R. Koops, Huron
Derek E. Miedema	Chatham (9-14-99)	H.R. De Bolster, Hamilton J. De Jong, Niagara R. Koops, Huron
Mbunga (Paul) Mpindi	Thornapple Valley (7-27-99)	J.P. Gorter, Grandville S.E. Hoezee, Grand Rapids East G.A. Koning, Grand Rapids North
Charles C. Oh	California South (10-9-99)	D.R. Koll, Greater Los Angeles F.E. Pott, Arizona G.G. Vink, Central California



Ruth J. Romeyn	Grand Rapids East (1-20-00)	J.R. Boot, Georgetown J.H. Looman, Kalamazoo G.W. Sheeres, Thornapple Valley
Darren C. Roorda	Pacific Northwest (9-18-99)	J. Boonstra, B.C. South-East L.H. Batterink, B.C. North-West D.L. Recker, Columbia
Kent A. Rottman	Grandville (9-2-99)	G.W. Sheeres, Thornapple Valley J.R. Boot, Georgetown S.E. Hoezee, Grand Rapids East
Stanley J. Sturing	Lake Erie (10-2-99)	G.W. Sheeres, Thornapple Valley R. Opperwall, Grand Rapids East J.J. Steigenga, Grand Rapids South
Gil Sung Suh	Lake Erie (3-4-00)	J.R. Boot, Georgetown G. Bouma, Thornapple Valley J.A. Molenbeek, Grand Rapids East
David K. Sung	Lake Erie (3-4-00)	J.R. Boot, Georgetown G. Bouma, Thornapple Valley J.A. Molenbeek, Grand Rapids East
Elzo Tenyenhuis	Huron (9-8-99)	H.R. De Bolster, Hamilton J. De Jong, Niagara J. Kuntz (Toronto)
Simon A. Tuin	Kalamazoo (9-14-99)	W.J. Dykstra, Lake Erie T.J. Lapinsky, Georgetown J.J. Steigenga, Grand Rapids South
Paul J. Van Dyken, Jr.	Arizona (9-11-99)	W.K. Bulthuis, Red Mesa J.P. Boonstra, Rocky Mountain J. Van Schepen, Greater Los Angeles
Steven W. Venhuizen	Grand Rapids East (9-16-99)	G.A. Koning, Grand Rapids North J.H. Looman, Kalamazoo G.W. Sheeres, Thornapple Valley
William D. Weber	Iakota (11-16-99)	J.M. Gray, Heartland T.J. Brown, Minnkota T.J. Niehof, Northcentral Iowa
Ralph S. Wigboldus	Chatham (9-14-99)	H.R. De Bolster, Hamilton J. De Jong, Niagara R. Koops, Huron
Michael J. Williams	Thornapple Valley (6-6-00)	S. Venhuizen, Grand Rapids East G.A. Koning, Grand Rapids North J.J. Steigenga, Grand Rapids South
Paul K. Yu	Zeeland (6-7-00)	J. Hasper, Holland T.J. Lapinsky, Georgetown A.J. Schoonveld, Grandville
Todd M. Zuidema	Grand Rapids North (9-21-99)	G. Bouma, Thornapple Valley J.R. Boot, Georgetown S.E. Hoezee, Grand Rapids East

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—*Adopted*

**B. Classical examinations via Church Order Article 7**

1. Synodical deputies J.J. Hoogland (Hudson), S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), and W.J. Dykstra (Lake Erie), 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

Hackensack in session on September 28, 1999, to declare **Mr. Edwin R. Arevalo** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

2. Synodical deputies G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), J.G. Keizer (Hudson), and S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), 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 March 7, 2000, to admit **Mr. Edwin R. Arevalo** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies J.J. Steigenga (Grand Rapids South), G.A. Koning (Grand Rapids North), and R. Opperwall (Grand Rapids East), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of Aetna Christian Reformed Church and having considered the statement of **need** brought by Aetna Christian Reformed Church and Classis Northern Michigan for the ordination of **Mr. Brad Center** via Article 7, do *not* concur in the decision of Classis Northern Michigan, in session March 7, 2000, that “urgent need” as defined by synod in connection with the provisions of Church Order Article 7 has been demonstrated by the Aetna Christian Reformed Church and Classis Northern Michigan.

*Grounds:*

- a. We have not seen evidence that the Aetna church has “put forth a sustained and realistic effort to obtain a minister from within the Christian Reformed Church.”
- b. The ministry needs of the Aetna CRC are being met with Brad Center serving as an ordained evangelist.
- c. No compelling reason has been given for setting aside the prescribed academic requirements for ordination to the ministry of the Word.

*Note:* After receiving and discussing the report of the synodical deputies, Classis Northern Michigan adopted a motion to concur with the advice of the deputies.

4. Synodical deputies J.M. Gray (Heartland), T.J. Brown (Minnkota), and D.A. Zylstra (Northcentral Iowa), 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 Iakota, in session on September 21, 1999, to declare **Mr. Wilfred Gesch, Jr.**, eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* We encourage Mr. Gesch to avail himself of an opportunity to take some clinical pastoral education.

5. Synodical deputies J.M. Gray (Heartland), T.J. Brown (Minnkota), and T.J. Niehof (Northcentral Iowa), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Iakota, in session on November 16, 1999, to admit **Mr. Wilfred Gesch, Jr.**, to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* We encourage Wilfred Gesch to continue his biblical and theological education.

6. Synodical deputies J.G. Keizer (Hudson), W.T. Koopmans (Quinte), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having examined the written credentials submitted by Classis Atlantic Northeast and having considered the need in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7 and its supplement, do *not* concur in the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on September 25, 1999, to grant **Mr. William Johnson** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches.

*Background:*

Synodical deputies J.G. Keizer (Hudson), W.T. Koopmans (Quinte), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto) were requested to attend this meeting in conjunction with a proposal submitted to Classis Atlantic Northeast (CANE) to begin a Church Order Article 7 process for Mr. William Johnson. In advance, the deputies were supplied with a copy of the psychological evaluation as well as a document entitled "Need for Admission to CRC Ministry"; a modified version of this document was provided to us at the meeting of classis on September 25.

*The decision of CANE:*

Following a period of discussion, CANE voted unanimously to declare that there is an urgent need that warrants proceeding with the steps toward ordination of Mr. Johnson via Church Order Article 7.

*Decision of the synodical deputies:*

Having received the relevant materials and having participated in the discussion at classis, we were unable to concur with the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast. Our nonconcurrency was unanimous. We submitted the following report to classis:

As synodical deputies, we consider it a privilege to have been witness to the discussion pertaining to the request to proceed with an examination of Mr. Bill Johnson for ordination to the ministry via Church Order Article 7. We are encouraged by and impressed with CANE's New England Vision. We are also deeply impressed with Bill Johnson's dedication to ministry, his apparent giftedness, and his eagerness to partner with CANE in the establishment of CRC churches. However, as synodical deputies, we are unable to concur that the present situation meets the criteria for ordination as prescribed by Church Order Article 7. As an alternative, we encourage classis to pursue the possibilities that are available through Church Order Article 23, namely, ordination as an evangelist. Such ordination as an evangelist entails the following positive elements:

- a. Examination as an evangelist can proceed quickly, without denominational concurrence.
- b. The relationship of evangelist with classis entails both that the evangelist is endorsed as an official representative of the calling church as an agent of ministry and that he is accountable to the calling church.

*Reasons for nonconcurrency with CANE:*

Some of the delegates at the September 25 meeting of CANE were understandably disappointed with the nonconcurrency of the synodical deputies. They requested further explanation as to why, in our opinion, the criteria for Church Order Article 7 have not been met. We are hereby presenting a summary of our reasoning.

Mr. Johnson is currently serving a Baptist congregation; he has indicated that he does not intend to leave this congregation, nor does this congregation have any immediate intentions of joining the CRC. Mr. Johnson also indicated that he would not consider becoming the pastor of an emerging CRC. The proposed relationship between Mr. Johnson and Classis Atlantic Northeast is described as consultative. Alongside of his regular ministry as Baptist pastor, he would encourage other groups to join the CRC, thereby serving as a catalyst for CANE's New England Vision. Since Mr. Johnson does not intend to enter full-time ministry in the CRC as a CRC pastor, we concluded that the envisioned working relationship between Mr. Johnson and CANE does not constitute an urgent need for ordination.

*Conclusions:*

As synodical deputies, we were disappointed that the suggestion to consider ordination as an evangelist under Church Order Article 23 was dismissed by Mr. Johnson with the statement, "I am not interested in being an evangelist." We believe it is possible for CANE and Mr. Johnson to formalize a constructive working relationship to meet the goals of the New England Vision through means other than ordination via Church Order Article 7.

7. Synodical deputies J.G. Keizer (Hudson), W.T. Koopmans (Quinte), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of Pleasant Street CRC of Whitinsville, Massachusetts, having considered the need, and having heard the examination for licensure to exhort in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7 and its supplement, concur in the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on May 11, 2000, to grant **Mr. William Johnson** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches.

*Statement of need:* That Classis Atlantic Northeast finds that an urgent need exists to admit Mr. William Johnson to the ordained ministry of the Christian Reformed Church via the provisions of Church Order Article 7.

- a. Mr. Johnson is a man of proven exceptional gifts for ministry.
    - 1) He is serving as a pastor in a large and growing church.
    - 2) He is taking a rigorous course at Reformed Theological Seminary and maintaining an excellent grade-point average.
  - b. Mr. Johnson is uniquely situated in Maine to fulfill the New England Strategy.
    - 1) As a native of Maine he is accepted by the people there.
    - 2) He is widely respected within his community.
  - c. Mr. Johnson would be able to quickly develop a Christian Reformed presence in Maine.
    - 1) He has developed a network of small worshiping groups in a ring around Pittsfield, Maine, some of which are preparing to seek affiliation with a denomination.
    - 2) A detailed job description has been prepared of the work Mr. Johnson would perform as a Christian Reformed minister.
    - 3) Christian Reformed Home Missions has recognized his unique position in Maine and has approved a grant to fund his work on behalf of the CRC.
    - 4) His elders have endorsed the concept of his being ordained in the CRC.
8. Synodical deputies J. De Jong (Niagara), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and J. Zantingh (Hamilton), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of First CRC of London, Ontario, having considered the need, and having heard the examination for licensure to exhort in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7 and its supplement, concur in the decision of Classis Chatham, in session on January 25, 2000, to grant **Mr. Pieter Pereboom** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches until September 2000.

*Statement of need:*

We concur with Classis Chatham that there is an urgent need for ministers in the CRC.

- a. Over 120 vacancies in the denomination.
  - b. Seven vacancies in Classis Chatham.
  - c. The number of available candidates is insufficient.
9. Synodical deputies J. Hasper (Holland), J.H. Looman (Kalamazoo), and T.D. Kauffman (Northern Illinois), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of

Lansing, Illinois, having considered the need, and having heard the examination for licensure to exhort in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7 and its supplement, concur in the decision of Classis Illiana, in session on May 23, 2000, to grant **Mr. George Koopmans** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches until September 2000.

*Statement of need:* General needs in the denomination were previously described in a previous meeting of classis. Concurrence on need was given in that report.

*Deputies' comments:* Mr. Koopmans has shown that he is ready for licensure. He is ready to have his call tested by his peers. In terms of giftedness he has theological education, abilities in original language, and has shown that he is collegial toward his peers and his denomination.

10. Synodical deputies L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin) and H.J. Schutt (Illiana), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Fulton, Illinois, having considered the need, and having heard the examination for licensure to exhort in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7 and its supplement, concur in the decision of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on March 1, 2000, to grant **Mr. Jake Ritzema** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches until March 2001.

*Statement of need:*

- a. The chronically high number of vacant churches in the denomination.
- b. The local need of the Fox Valley CRC and the First CRC Fulton.

11. Synodical deputies A. Beukema (Alberta South/Saskatchewan) and H.G. Samplonius (Alberta North), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of Second CRC, Abbotsford, British Columbia, and the endorsement by First CRC, Lynden, Washington, having considered the need, and having heard the examination for licensure to exhort in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7 and its supplement, concur in the decision of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on September 17, 1999, to grant **Mr. Merwyn Rylaarsdam** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches until September 30, 2000.

*Statement of need:*

- a. Hillside CRC (emerging) has a need to move toward organization.
- b. There are 120+ vacancies in the denomination.
- c. There is a need for persons with special gifts to guide new and emerging churches toward maturity.

12. Synodical deputies L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), T.J. Niehof (Northcentral Iowa), and J.M. Gray (Heartland), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of First CRC, Brandon, Ontario, and having considered the need in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7 and its supplement, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Superior, in session on September 24, 1999, to proceed with the examination for candidacy for ministry of **Mr. David Swinney** in March 2000.

*Statement of need:* (The attached document is summarized as follows):

- a. The number of vacancies throughout the denomination warrants allowing the ordination of a gifted person by way of Article 7.
- b. It appears that Canadian churches are having a harder time getting pastors than those in the U.S.A.

*Deputies' comment:* Mr. Swinney has been licensed to preach by Classis Lake Superior for the past three years.

13. Synodical deputies L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), L.G. Christoffels (Minnesota), and T.J. Niehof (Northcentral Iowa), 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 Lake Superior, in session on March 7, 2000, to declare **Mr. David Swinney** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comment:* All the required credentials per Article 7 were examined and are in order.

14. Synodical deputies H.R. De Bolster (Hamilton), J. De Jong (Niagara), and R. Koops (Huron), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Chatham, in session September 14, 1999, to admit candidate **Mr. Vic Vandermolen** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
15. Synodical deputies P. De Jong (Northern Illinois), D.J. Van Loo (Chicago South), and H.J. Schutt (Illiana), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of Hmong Christian Reformed Church of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, having considered the need, and having heard the examination for licensure to exhort in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7 and its supplement, concur in the decision of Classis Wisconsin, in session on September 28, 1999, to grant **Mr. Kou Vang** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches until March 2000.
16. Synodical deputies P. De Jong (Northern Illinois), D.J. Van Loo (Chicago South), and G.M. Mc Guire (Northcentral Iowa), 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 Wisconsin, in session on March 7, 2000, to declare **Mr. Kou Vang** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* We encourage classis to continue to mentor Mr. Vang and provide any help that may be needed to enable Mr. Vang to take advantage of continuing-education opportunities and to build his library.

17. Synodical deputies T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), H.J. Schutt (Illiana), and L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of Hyde Park Christian Reformed Church, having considered the **need**, and having heard the examination for licensure to exhort in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7 and its supplement, concur in the decision of Classis Chicago South, in session on July 13, 1999, to grant **Mr. Ping Philip Wu** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches until July 13, 2000.

*Statement of need:*

- a. The Hyde Park Church has searched for a CRC pastor to fill its particular ministry needs and has found no one so far.

- b. Ping Philip Wu has been involved with the Hyde Park Church, has led worship there, is particularly qualified for the Hyde Park ministry, and feels strongly called to become a pastor to these people.
  - c. The Hyde Park Church, meeting June 27, 1999, unanimously endorsed Ping Philip Wu to pursue ordination in the CRC according to Church Order Article 7.
  - d. Since Ping Philip Wu does have a M.Div. degree from Northern Baptist Seminary, classis grants an exception to the process of Article 7 based on Mr. Wu's age (60 years old) and particular gifts matching the ethnic and language needs of the congregation.
18. Synodical deputies L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), and H.J. Schutt (Illiana), 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 Chicago South, in session on September 16, 1999, to declare **Mr. Ping Philip Wu** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
  19. Synodical deputies L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), and H.J. Schutt (Illiana), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Chicago South, in session on September 16, 1999, to admit **Mr. Ping Philip Wu** 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*

*C. Ministers from other denominations, Church Order Article 8*

1. Synodical deputies J.S. Meyer (Holland), D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), and G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Grandville, in session on September 16, 1999, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination to serve as pastor of Hahn-In CRC, Wyoming, Michigan.

*Deputies' comments:* We take note of the fact that the pastor is taking courses at Calvin Seminary. We encourage him to continue to take courses at the seminary in consultation with staff at Calvin Seminary and his council.

2. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), L.H. Batterink (B.C. North-West), and D.L. Recker (Columbia), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on September 18, 1999, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Hap Dong Presbyterian) to serve as pastor at Lynnwood Korean CRC.

*Statement of need:* Ethnic character (Korean) of Lynnwood CRC.

3. Synodical deputies H.J. Bierman (Huron), J. De Jong (Niagara), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, do *not* concur in the declaration of Classis Hamilton, in session on January 18, 2000, that a

**need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Presbyterian Church of Canada) to serve as minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church.

*Grounds:*

- a. There was no written specification of need submitted to the synodical deputies as required by Church Order Supplement, Article 8, D, 6, 1999 edition. The Church Order calls for “extra ordinary qualifications” on the part of ministers of other denominations who make application to classis under Church Order Article 8.
- b. There were no grounds appended to the motion tendered on the floor of classis to declare need.

*Deputies’ comments:* The synodical deputies strongly recommend (1) that classis appoint an ad hoc committee to meet with Rev. Pieter Greyling to prepare more carefully and (2) that classis suggest to its member churches that they avail themselves of the services of Rev. Greyling in order to promote more informal feedback when the matter arises again.

4. Synodical deputies G.G. Vink (Central California), S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), and F.E. Pott (Arizona), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Soo-Min Bang**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on September 23, 1999, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies’ comments:* We urge Classis Greater Los Angeles to appoint a mentor to assist Rev. Bang in his orientation to CRC history and practice.

5. Synodical deputies D.W. De Groot (Iakota), J.G. Busscher (Lake Superior), and J.M. Gray (Heartland), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Minnkota, in session on March 4, 1999, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Wellspring Christian Fellowship Independent) to serve as minister in Mountain Lake Christian Reformed Church.

*Statement of need:* There is a general need for pastors to serve in rural congregations such as Mountain Lake. There is also a specific need to serve the Laotian community which Mountain Lake CRC seeks to reach and Brother Besteman seems qualified to serve.

*Deputies’ comments:* Our concurrence is contingent upon the financial viability of this congregation. This involves a need for classis to commit itself to substantial financial support.

6. Synodical deputies F.E. Pott (Arizona), J. Van Schepen (Greater Los Angeles), and D.W. Lagerwey (California South), 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 14, 2000, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Dae-Shin Presbyterian in Korea) to serve as pastor of Church of One Heart.

*Statement of need:* Church of One Heart is in the process of affiliating with the Christian Reformed Church.

*Deputies’ comments:* We recommend that Pastor Choi study Christian Reformed polity, history, doctrine, and practice.

7. Synodical deputies S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), P.R. De Vries (Hackensack), and R.E. Van Hofwegen (Southeast U.S.), having reviewed



the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Hudson, in session on March 1, 2000, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Evangelical Free) to serve as teacher of Bible at Eastern Christian High School.

*Statement of need:* Dr. Jack Wilson “has such extraordinary qualifications that the church recognizes that it would be important for the denomination to acquire his service.”

8. Synodical deputies F.E. Pott (Arizona), J. Van Schepen (Greater Los Angeles), 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 California South, in session on May 11, 2000, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Hervormde Kerk of Indonesia) to serve as pastor of the emerging Indonesian Protestant Ekklesia in the process of affiliating with the CRCNA.

*Statement of need:* Rev. Siregar is uniquely qualified to serve this church as an ethnically aware and trained person of Indonesian background.

9. Synodical deputies F.E. Pott (Arizona), J. Van Schepen (Greater Los Angeles), 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 California South, in session on May 11, 2000, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister from another denomination (Evangelical Free) to serve as new-church developer.

*Statement of need:* Rev. Michael Bischof is very qualified, and the classis has done a diligent search to secure others for many needed positions for a long period.

10. Synodical deputies S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), D.W. Lagerwey (California South), 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 16, 2000, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (Rev. Jae Duk Lee) from another denomination (Hannam Presbyterian Church) to serve as pastor of The Lord’s Church of Love in Gardena, California.
11. Synodical deputies S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), D.W. Lagerwey (California South), 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 16, 2000, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (Rev. Ken Choe) from another denomination (Korean Presbyterian Church in America) to serve as pastor of the Los Angeles home church.
12. Synodical deputies S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), D.W. Lagerwey (California South), 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 16, 2000, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (Rev. Ron Black) from another denomination (Church of God in Christ) to serve as pastor of New Ground Harvest Church in Los Angeles, California.

13. Synodical deputies J.M. Gray (Heartland), D.W. De Groot (Iakota), and J.G. Busscher (Lake Superior), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Gerrit Besteman**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Minnkota, in session on September 16, 1999, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
14. Synodical deputies J. De Jong (Niagara), R. Koops (Huron), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Michael W. Goheen**, in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Hamilton, in session on September 20, 1999, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
15. Synodical deputies F.J. Walhof (Arizona), J. Van Schepen (Greater Los Angeles), 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 September 14, 1999, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (Rev. Young Pong Kim) from another denomination (Korean Presbytery of America in the General Assembly) to serve as senior pastor of Overseas Korean Presbyterian Church.

*Statement of need:* Due to some difficult situations occasioned by the pastor's leaving, the church needed to call quickly to secure the man provided for them. A good discussion at classis assured the deputies of the unique, legitimate need at this time.

16. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (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 California South, in session on October 9, 1999, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (Rev. Byoung Sun Lee) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church U.S.A.—Korean) to serve as church planter of a daughter church to the Korean CRC of Orange County.

*Statement of need:* Although Rev. Byoung Sun Lee is already 57 years, the Korean CRC has determined that he is the "most qualified of all." They've done a "search" of possible candidates via Rev. Tong Park's office.

17. Synodical deputies J. Van Schepen (Greater Los Angeles), F.E. Pott (Arizona), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Byoung Sun Lee**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on February 10, 2000, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America upon the satisfactory completion of the scheduled summer (2000) orientation and training with Rev. Ken Cho.
18. Synodical deputies J.M. Gray (Heartland), W.K. Bulhuis (Red Mesa), and J. Weeda (Yellowstone), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Wondae Lee**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on September 28, 1999, to

declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

19. Synodical deputies J.S. Meyer (Holland), G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), and D.A. Struyk (Classis Grand Rapids South), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Byoung-Eun Park**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Grandville, in session on October 28, 1999, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
20. Synodical deputies K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), J. Weeda (Yellowstone), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Dr. Oscar Perdomo**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Columbia, in session on September 22, 1999, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* Recognizing God's gracious gift to Quincy by way of Dr. Perdomo, we do encourage the further development of his ministry through appropriate reading and mentorship.

21. Synodical deputies F.E. Pott (Arizona), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Tim Spykstra**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on October 9, 1999, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* Classis California South diligently pursued the recommendations made at the time of establishing need, as reported to Synod 1999 (see *Acts of Synod 1999*, pp. 609-10).

22. Synodical deputies J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West) and J. Corvers (Alberta South and Saskatchewan), having heard the discussion of Classis Alberta North, in session October 26-27, 1999, regarding **need** for the services of **Rev. Nic Wolmarans**, cannot concur with the motion to declare a need.

*Grounds:*

- a. The *Manual of Christian Reformed Church Government* states on page 88, e: "The need for calling a minister of another denomination shall be acknowledged when:
  - 1) The minister to be called has such extraordinary qualifications that the church recognizes that it would be important for the denomination to acquire his service, or
  - 2) the need of a particular congregation for a pastor is so urgent that it can be met only by calling a minister from another denomination."The synodical deputies are also concerned about j, 3, page 89, which states "Age limit of forty years (as a general rule)." Rev. Wolmarans is 46 years old.
- b. A memorandum from Dr. David Engelhard, dated March 18, 1998, states that we have about ninety\* vacancies, which we need for the calling system to work effectively. Added to this is that presently fourteen candidates are still waiting for a call. We as synodical deputies want to emphasize that those candidates have special gifts too and therefore are to have our primary consideration.
- c. The undersigned also believe that more adequate reports about Rev. Wolmarans should have been available to the delegates in order to prevent the confusion so apparent on the floor of classis.

\*The ninety vacancies have now dropped to sixty vacancies, as the letter from Rocky Mountain House indicates.

23. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East) and D.L. Recker (Columbia), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Dong Kwan Yi**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on March 1, 2000, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* Pastor Yi comes to us from the Madison Sah-Lang Church (PCA) of Madison, Wisconsin, called by Lynnwood Korean CRC.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*D. Ministers in specialized services, Church Order Article 12-c*

1. Synodical deputies H.G. Samplonius (Alberta North), J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), and H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of New Life Christian Reformed Church of Abbotsford, British Columbia, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on March 5, 1999, to approve the position of **Bible teacher and chaplain at Abbotsford Christian High School** as consistent with the ministry of the Word.
2. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), L.H. Batterink (B.C. North-West), and D.L. Recker (Columbia), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Mill Creek Christian Reformed Church of Mill Creek, Washington, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on September 18, 1999, to approve the position of **community pastoral-care chaplain** as consistent with the ministry of the Word.
3. Synodical deputies J.M. Gray (Heartland), T.J. Brown (Minnkota), and D.A. Zylstra (Northcentral Iowa), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Trinity Christian Reformed Church of Rock Valley, Iowa, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Iakota, in session on September 21, 1999, to approve the position of **executive director of Justice for All** as consistent with the ministry of the Word.
4. Synodical deputies W.J. Dykstra (Lake Erie), S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), and J.J. Hoogland (Hudson), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Madison Christian Reformed Church of Paterson, New Jersey, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 28, 1999, to approve the position of **executive director of Madison Avenue Crossroads—Community Ministries** as consistent with the ministry of the Word.

*Deputies' comment:* This organization is the outreach arm of the Madison Avenue CRC and is under its direct supervision.

5. Synodical deputies J. Hasper (Holland), G.A. Koning (Grand Rapids North), and J.H. Looman (Kalamazoo), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Byron Center, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grandville, in session on May 18, 2000, to approve the position of **professor of theology at Calvin College** as consistent with the ministry of the Word.

*Grounds:*

- a. Many other ministers of the Word in the past have taught at Calvin College and other Reformed colleges.
  - b. This position is spiritual in nature and directly related to the ministerial calling of teacher.
6. Synodical deputies J.R. Boot (Georgetown), A.J. Schoonveld (Grandville), and J.L. Alferink (Zeeland), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Faith Christian Reformed Church of Holland, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Holland, in session on January 27, 2000, to approve the position of chaplaincy at My Brother's House and My Sister's House as consistent with the ministry of the Word by **Rev. Ronald D. Baker**.
  7. Synodical deputies J.R. Boot (Georgetown), A.J. Schoonveld (Grandville), and J.L. Alferink (Zeeland), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of South Bend Christian Reformed Church of South Bend, Indiana, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Holland, in session on January 27, 2000, to approve the position of chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital and Health Center as consistent with the ministry of the Word by **Rev. Mark D. Deckinga**.
  8. Synodical deputies J. Hasper (Holland), T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), and J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Crown Point, Indiana, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Illiana, in session on March 7, 2000, to approve the position of chaplain at the Chicago Christian Counseling Center as consistent with the ministry of the Word by **Rev. Karl J. De Lange**.
  9. Synodical deputies S.E. Hoeze (Grand Rapids East), and D.A. Warners (Grand Rapids North), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on January 20, 2000, to approve the position of vice president of academic administration at Reformed Bible College as consistent with the ministry of the Word by **Rev. Melvin J. Flikkema**.

10. Synodical deputies W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), J.M. Gray (Heartland), and J. Weeda (Yellowstone), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Greeley, Colorado, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on September 28, 1999, to approve the position of chaplain of Hospice of Northern Colorado as consistent with the ministry of the Word by **Rev. Dennis A. Kamper**.
11. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), J.H. Looman (Kalamazoo), and J.R. Boot (Georgetown), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Church of the Servant Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on January 20, 2000, to approve the position of classical-care coordinator for South Grand Rapids Classis of the Reformed Church in America as consistent with the ministry of the Word by **Rev. Ronald L. Peterson**.
12. Synodical deputies G.A. Koning (Grand Rapids North), J.H. Looman (Kalamazoo), and G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 16, 1999, to approve the position of chaplain at Spectrum Health, Grand Rapids, Michigan as consistent with the ministry of the Word by **Ms. Ruth J. Romeyn**.
13. Synodical deputies J.R. Boot (Georgetown), G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), and J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Crosspoint Christian Reformed Church of Cincinnati, Ohio, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Erie, in session on March 4, 2000, to approve the position of chaplain at the Warren Correctional Facility in Lebanon, Ohio, and the St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Covington, Kentucky, as consistent with the ministry of the Word by **Rev. Paul D. Sikkema**.
14. Synodical deputies T.J. Lapinsky (Georgetown), W.J. Dykstra (Lake Erie), and J.J. Steigenga (Grand Rapids South), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Westwood Christian Reformed Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Kalamazoo, in session on September 14, 1999, to approve the position of chaplain at Spectrum Health of Grand Rapids, Michigan, as consistent with the ministry of the Word by **Rev. Steven J. Van Heest**.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—*Adopted*

*E. Loaning a minister to another denomination under Article 13-b*

1. Synodical deputies A.J. Schoonveld (Grandville), J.J. Steigenga (Grand Rapids South), and J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-b, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Erie, in session on May 25, 2000, to approve loaning **Rev. Richard W. Loerop** to serve Ludington Community Church of Ludington, Michigan.
2. Synodical deputies J.R. Boot (Georgetown), G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), and J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-b, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Erie, in session on March 4, 2000, to approve loaning **Rev. David Sung** to serve in the English ministry of the Ann Arbor Korean Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

*Deputies' comments:* Pension arrangements will be determined in October 2000.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*F. Release from the ministry under Article 14-b*

1. Synodical deputies J.R. Boot (Georgetown), G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), and J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rayfield Benton**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Erie, in session on March 4, 2000, to declare that **Rayfield Benton** is dismissed from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies T.J. Lapinsky (Georgetown), D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), and J.L. Alferink (Zeeland), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **William Brander**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Holland, in session on May 11, 2000, to declare that **William Brander** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), R.L. Bierenga (Muskegon), and J.H. Looman (Kalamazoo), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Michael T. Brands**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on May 18, 2000, to declare that **Michael T. Brands** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies J. Hasper (Holland), T.J. Lapinsky (Georgetown), and A.J. Schoonveld (Grandville), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Marion C. Groenendyk**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Zeeland, in session on June 7, 2000, to declare that **Marion C. Groenendyk** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

5. Synodical deputies F.J. Walhof (Arizona), J. Van Schepen (Greater Los Angeles), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Boo Young Jang**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 14, 1999, to declare that **Boo Young Jang** is dismissed from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
6. Synodical deputies J.S. Meyer (Holland), A.L. Hoksbergen (Muskegon), and J.P. Gorter (Grandville), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Daryl E. Kats**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Zeeland, in session on September 15, 1999, to declare that **Daryl E. Kats** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
7. Synodical deputies J. Weeda (Yellowstone), W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), and J.M. Gray (Heartland), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Philip J. Koster**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on September 28, 1999, to declare that **Philip Koster** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America in the status of one deposed.
8. Synodical deputies J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), and D.L. Recker (Columbia), having heard the discussion relating to the resignation of **Paul S. Lam**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis B.C. North-West, in session on September 21, 1999, to declare that **Paul S. Lam** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.  
  
*Deputies' comments:* Our concurrence was given in a September 23, 1999, conference call with the stated clerk of Classis B.C. North-West in which he fully apprised us of the situation and classis' decision.
9. Synodical deputies S.R. Van Eck (Kalamazoo), H.J. Schutt (Illiana), and L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **William R. Lenters**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Chicago South, in session on April 27, 2000, to declare that **William R. Lenters** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America in the status of one deposed.
10. Synodical deputies J.S. Meyer (Holland), G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), and J.J. Steigenga (Grand Rapids South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Keith W. Tanis**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Muskegon, in session on September 30, 1999, to declare that **Keith W. Tanis** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
11. Synodical deputies T.J. Brown (Minnkota), D.W. De Groot (Iakota), and L.J. Howerzyl (Pella), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **P. Wayne Townsend**, in accordance with Church Order Article



14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Northcentral Iowa, in session on February 29, 2000, to declare that **P. Wayne Townsend** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* Rev. Townsend has accepted a call to a church in the Reformed Church in America.

12. Synodical deputies G.G. Vink (Central California) D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and F.E. Pott (Arizona), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Paul Yang**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on October 9, 1999, to declare that **Paul C. Yang** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*G. Release from office to enter a nonministerial vocation, Article 14-c*

1. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), J.H. Looman (Kalamazoo), and J.R. Boot (Georgetown) concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on January 20, 2000, to release **Matthew R. Estrada** from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church and to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that his status is that of one deposed.
2. Synodical deputies J. Hasper (Holland), T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), and J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), having heard the discussion of Classis Illiana, in session on March 7, 2000, concur in the decision of classis to acquiesce in the resignation of **Melvin Jonkman** and to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Melvin Jonkman** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America in the status of one deposed.
3. Synodical deputies S.E. Hoezee (Grand Rapids East), G.A. Koning (Grand Rapids North), and J.P. Gorter (Grandville), having heard the discussion of Classis Thornapple Valley, in session on September 28, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Alfred S. Luke** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America in the status of one deposed.

*Deputies' comments:* We also concur in the decision “to declare that Alfred S. Luke is in the status of one deposed.”

4. Synodical deputies S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), D.W. Lagerwey (California South), and J. Van Schepen (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the discussion of Classis Central California, in session on March 7, 2000, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Alan J. Nikkel** is dismissed from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation and that his status be considered as one dismissed.
5. Synodical deputies J.J. Hoogland (Hudson), W.J. Dykstra (Lake Erie), and S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), having heard the discussion of

Classis Hackensack, in session on September 28, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Jack Reiffer** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation.

6. Synodical deputies W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), J. Van Schepen (Greater Los Angeles), and J.P. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain), having heard the discussion of Classis Arizona, in session on September 11, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Stephen R. Steenstra** 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:* This is Rev. Steenstra's desire.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*H. Return to office of a person who was honorably released to enter a nonministerial vocation, Article 14-e*

Synodical deputies H.J. Bierman (Huron), J. Zantingh (Hamilton), and H.A. Vander Windt (Niagara), having heard the interview of the applicant and the discussion of Classis Toronto, in session on September 23, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-e, that **Dr. John Vander Stelt** is 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

*I. Release from ministry in a congregation under Article 17-a*

1. Synodical deputies J. Hasper (Holland), G.A. Koning (Grand Rapids North), and J.H. Looman (Kalamazoo), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Grandville, in session on May 18, 2000, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Craig R. Cunningham** is released from ministerial service in Hanley Christian Reformed Church of Grandville, Michigan.
2. Synodical deputies W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), J.P. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain), and J. Van Schepen (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Arizona, in session on September 11, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Charles H. Fondse** is released from ministerial service as chaplain at Calvary Rehabilitation Center (Palm Lane, Scottsdale, AZ, calling church).

*Deputies' comments:* Released on the grounds that the chaplaincy position has been eliminated by Calvary's new owners.

3. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West), and D.L. Recker (Columbia), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Pacific Northwest, in contracted

session on April 25, 2000, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Thomas L. Haan** is released from ministerial service in Second Christian Reformed Church of Lynden, Washington.

4. Synodical deputies K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), J. Weeda (Yellowstone), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Columbia, in session on September 22, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Chan Joo Jung** is released from ministerial service in Hope Presbyterian Christian Reformed Church of Spokane, Washington.
5. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), L.H. Batterink (B.C. North-West), and D.L. Recker (Columbia), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on September 18, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare in accordance with Church Order 17-a, that **Rev. In Sung Kim** is released from ministerial service in Lynnwood Korean Christian Reformed Church of Lynnwood, Washington.
6. Synodical deputies L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), and H.J. Schutt (Illiana), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Chicago South, in session on September 16, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. William R. Lenters** is released from ministerial service in Hope Christian Reformed Church, Oak Forest, Illinois.

*Deputies' comments:* In keeping with the provisions of Church Order Supplement, Article 17, certain stipulations must be met before Rev. Lenters may accept a call or have his credentials transferred to another church.

*Note:* The stipulations are on file.

7. Synodical deputies W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), J. Van Schepen (Greater Los Angeles), and J.P. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Arizona, in session on September 11, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Esteban Lugo** is released from ministerial service in Principe de Paz Christian Reformed Church of Phoenix, Arizona (Palm Lane, Scottsdale, AZ, calling church).

*Deputies' comments:* Released on the grounds that Principe de Paz CRC is no longer in existence.

8. Synodical deputies J.L. Alferink (Zeeland), R. Brinks (Northern Michigan), and A.L. Hoksbergen (Muskegon), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on May 18, 2000, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Ralph R. Mueller** is released from ministerial service in Ideal Park CRC of Wyoming, Michigan.

*Deputies' comments:* In keeping with provisions of Church Order Supplement, Article 17, the following stipulations must be met before Rev. Ralph Mueller may accept a call or

have his credentials transferred to another church: Evaluation and assistance are required before Rev. Mueller may be declared eligible for another call.

9. Synodical deputies P. De Jong (Northern Illinois), D.J. Van Loo (Chicago South), H.J. Schutt (Illiana), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Wisconsin, in session on May 22, 2000, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Donald E. Range** is released from ministerial service in Onalaska Christian Reformed Church of Onalaska, Wisconsin.

*Deputies' comments:* In keeping with provisions of Church Order Supplement, Article 17, the following stipulations must be met before Rev. Donald Range may accept a call or have his credentials transferred to another church:

- a. He must undergo six months of counseling under the supervision of the Pastor-Church Relations office.
  - b. He is not to lead worship services within the churches during this time period.
  - c. His ministerial credentials are to be sent to the Geneva Church in Madison, which will supervise this process.
10. Synodical deputies S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), G.G. Vink (Central California), and F.E. Pott (Arizona), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on September 23, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. David Shin** is released from ministerial service in Cho Won Christian Reformed Church of Los Angeles, California.
  11. Synodical deputies J.M. Gray (Heartland), D.W. De Groot (Iakota), and D.A. Zylstra (Northcentral Iowa), having heard the weighty reasons\* provided and the discussion of Classis Pella, in session on September 17, 1999, reluctantly concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. David W. Stevenson** is released from ministerial service in Leighton Christian Reformed Church of Leighton, Iowa.

\*Classis indicated that there were weighty reasons but was unwilling to articulate them.

*Deputies' comments:*

We recommend the following for Rev. Stevenson and Classis Pella:

- a. Completion of counseling currently taking place at Pella Pine Rest.
- b. A meeting with Rev. Duane Visser of CR Pastor-Church Relations to assess Rev. Stevenson's continued ministry within the CRC is strongly encouraged.
- c. Classis Pella was aware of the tensions between David Stevenson and Leighton CRC for five years, apparently without taking remedial action.
- d. Classis Pella could have profited significantly by paying greater attention to the Church Order.

*Stipulation for Leighton CRC:* We strongly encourage the Leighton CRC to seek to arrange a term of pulpit supply with one of the denominationally appointed interim pastors prior to issuing a call.

12. Synodical deputies P. De Jong (Northern Illinois), D.J. Van Loo (Chicago South), and H.J. Schutt (Illiana), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Wisconsin, in session on September 28, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. John C. Tousley** is released from ministerial service in Alto Christian Reformed Church of Alto, Wisconsin.

13. Synodical deputies T.J. Brown (Minnkota), L.J. Howerzyl (Pella), and D.W. De Groot (Iakota), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Northcentral Iowa, in session on September 7, 1999, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. P. Wayne Townsend** is released from ministerial service in Cedar Falls Christian Reformed Church of Cedar Falls, Iowa.

14. Synodical deputies H.R. De Bolster (Hamilton), J. De Jong (Niagara), and W.T. Koopmans (Quinte), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Toronto, in session on January 20, 2000, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Peter Veltman** is released from ministerial service in Cochrane Christian Reformed Church of Cochrane, Ontario.

*Stipulation:* Rev. Peter Veltman must be evaluated and assisted in a manner to be worked out in mutual consultation between Rev. Veltman and Classis Toronto.

15. Synodical deputies L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota), and T.J. Niehof (Northcentral Iowa), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Lake Superior, in session on March 7, 2000, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. William Versluys** is released from ministerial service in Bethel Christian Reformed Church of Princeton, Minnesota.

*Stipulation:* Rev. William Versluys is eligible to accept a call on May 1, 2000, per the declaration of the council at that time.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

#### *J. Extension of eligibility for call under Article 17-c*

1. Synodical deputies K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), J. Weeda (Yellowstone), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having heard the discussion of Classis Columbia, in session on September 22, 1999, 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.

*Deputies' comments:* We urge the Parklane CRC to publicize via *The Banner* Rev. Bosscher's availability for call at least quarterly for the next year.

2. Synodical deputies L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin) and H.J. Schutt (Illiana), having heard the discussion of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on March 1, 2000, concur in the decision of classis, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, to grant **Dr. Do-Hong Jou** a one-year extension of his eligibility for call through March 2001, according to Church Order Article 17-c, during which time the Korean Christian Reformed Church will investigate calling him as a professor of theology.

3. Synodical deputies W.K. Bulhuis (Red Mesa), J. Van Schepen (Greater Los Angeles), and J.P. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain), having heard the discussion of Classis Arizona, in session on September 11, 1999, concur in the decision

of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Alfred Lindemulder's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.

4. Synodical deputies A.J. Schoonveld (Grandville), J.L. Alferink (Zeeland), and G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), having heard the discussion of Classis Georgetown, in session on February 17, 2000, 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.
5. Synodical deputies L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), T.J. Niehof (Northcentral Iowa), and J.M. Gray (Heartland) concur in the decision of Classis Lake Superior, in session on September 24, 1999, to extend **Rev. Randy J. Rozema's** eligibility for call for six months.

*Note:* At its September 1998 session Classis Lake Superior was informed by the synodical deputies that "in the event that Rev. Rozema asks for another extension, he will have to appear in person." There is no record of anyone having informed him of this. Extending his leave of absence for six months will allow him to appear at the March session of classis.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*K. Release from the office of minister of the Word under Article 17-c*

1. Synodical deputies J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West), and J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), having heard the discussion of Classis Alberta North, in session on March 3, 2000, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Jacob H. Binnema** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* This action was taken in response to Classis Alberta North's decision not to continue Jacob H. Binnema's ministerial credentials.

2. Synodical deputies L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota), and T.J. Niehof (Northcentral Iowa), having heard the discussion of Classis Lake Superior, in session on March 7, 2000, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Randy J. Rozema** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*L. Resignation of a retired minister*

Synodical deputies J.S. Meyer (Holland), G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), and D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), having heard **Douglas R. Zimmerman's** letter of resignation from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America, concur with the decision of Classis Grandville to acquiesce in his resignation with regret. We commend Classis Grandville for having taken steps for pastoral care for D.R. Zimmerman with the hope of future restoration.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

Delegate David A. Janke leads in prayer for the individuals included in the synodical-deputy reports.

## **VII. Classis contracta and a quorum**

### **A. *Materials:* Synodical deputies' report**

#### **B. *Background***

The Church Order does not give classes permission to hold an official meeting when only some of the churches of classis are expected to attend. The Church Order doesn't officially define what type of a quorum is necessary for conducting classical business, but the tradition of the CRC is that all councils are invited and expected to attend a classis meeting. Although there are no provisions in the Church Order for a contracted meeting, some classes have used this method to conduct their business and have met with fewer than half the churches of the region present (*classis contracta*).

Synodical deputies Revs. Frank Pott, John Van Schepen, and George Vink have informed synod that they were invited to come to a classis meeting which turned out to be a *classis contracta*. The meeting was called for the purpose of examining a candidate for ministry, and only five officebearers (four ministers of the Word and an evangelist) were present for the meeting. The deputies rightly concluded that this was not an appropriate representation for an official meeting of classis. Rather than embarrass the candidate and delay his examination and departure to the mission field, the deputies permitted the examination to be held.

This incident is not isolated, but it is the most serious violation of our common practice. The advisory committee is motivated by the above incident to recommend to synod that synod express itself clearly regarding the practice of *classis contracta*, especially as it relates to making decisions about admission to and release from the office of minister of the Word and decisions about specialized ministry that require the concurrence of the synodical deputies.

#### **C. *Recommendation***

That synod declare that any classical decision requiring the concurrence of the synodical deputies be made in the presence of delegates from all the churches which are members of the classis in which the action is being taken. If a *classis contracta* is necessary because of justifiable circumstances, to be determined in consultation with the deputies, a contracted classis shall never be convened with fewer than half the churches represented. A quorum for a *classis contracta* shall be half the churches of a classis plus one.

#### ***Grounds:***

1. Any business requiring the presence of the synodical deputies is sufficiently weighty for the life of the church to require the deliberation of the full classis.
2. The expectation that a quorum of half the churches of the classis plus one for a contracted classis meeting is not unreasonable and follows accepted practice for a quorum in many organizations.
3. A regulative statement on this matter will greatly assist the synodical deputies, who encounter a variety of practices when going from one classis to another.

—Adopted

*D. Recognition of synodical deputies*

The general secretary asks all synodical deputies present to stand so that they may be publicly recognized for their work.

ARTICLE 31

The afternoon session is adjourned. Elder John Kamerman leads in closing prayer.

**TUESDAY EVENING, June 13, 2000**  
**Sixth Session**

ARTICLE 32

Rev. Emmett A. Harrison announces *Psalter Hymnal* 567, "We've Come This Far by Faith," and reads from Joshua 1. He announces *Psalter Hymnal* 632, "To God Be the Glory," and leads in opening prayer.

ARTICLE 33

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. Clayton Libolt reporting, presents the following:

**I. Calvin Theological Seminary**

A. *Material*: Calvin Theological Seminary Report, pp.123-24

B. *Recommendations*

1. That the appointment of Dr. Ruth Tucker as Associate Professor of Domestic Missiology for three years, 2000-2003, be ratified, pending a successful synodical interview.

—Adopted

2. That the interview for Dr. Tucker proceed as follows:

- a. Dr. James De Jong, president of the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees, will introduce Dr. Tucker to synod.
- b. Rev. Cecil Van Niejenhuis will interview Dr. Tucker for a maximum of thirty minutes.
- c. Delegates will be permitted to ask questions for a maximum of thirty minutes.

—Adopted

C. *Interview with Dr. Ruth Tucker*

Synod enters into executive session.

The recommendation to ratify the appointment of Dr. Ruth Tucker is

—Adopted

Synod returns to open session. The president congratulates Dr. Tucker.

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 37.)



## ARTICLE 34

The evening session is adjourned; Rev. Ezequiel N. Romero leads in closing prayer.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING, June 14, 2000 Seventh Session

### ARTICLE 35

Rev. Karl House announces *Psalter Hymnal* 517, “There’s No God as Great,” and reads from Acts 13. He leads in opening prayer and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 508, “Jesus, with Your Church Abide.”

The roll indicates that the following delegates are absent: Elder Philip E. Van Heest (Grand Rapids North), Rev. Ezequiel N. Romero (Hackensack).

### ARTICLE 36

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Duanne J. Van Loo reporting, presents the following:

#### I. Interchurch Relations Committee

##### A. Materials

1. Interchurch Relations Committee Report, pp.194-255
2. Interchurch Relations Committee Supplement

##### B. Recommendations

1. That Dr. Henry Zwaanstra (president), Dr. Lyle Bierma (vice president), and Rev. Leonard J. Hofman (administrative secretary), 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 thank the IRC for its diligent work on behalf of the CRCNA.

—*Adopted*

#### II. Ecumenical Charter

##### A. Materials

1. Interchurch Relations Committee Report, pp. 201-02
2. Interchurch Relations Committee Supplement, Appendix E, pp. 245-53

##### B. Observations

Synod 1996 took note of the Interchurch Relations Committee’s (IRC) intent to review and revise the Ecumenical Charter in ways that would guide the CRCNA through the changing scene of interchurch relations (*Acts of Synod 1996*, pp. 387, 527-28). Scripture challenges us both as local churches and as a denomination to strive toward a oneness in Jesus Christ and to overcome divisions in the body of Christ. The new Ecumenical Charter reaffirms and

builds on the biblical principles and guidelines of the existing Ecumenical Charter (1987) and enables the CRCNA to meet the challenges and opportunities in coming years. This new charter will guide the denomination in its relationships with other denominations or churches (bilateral) and with ecumenical organizations or associations (multilateral).

*C. Recommendation*

That synod approve the new Ecumenical Charter.

—*Adopted*

**III. Merger of Canadian Interchurch Relations Committee and the denominational Interchurch Relations Committee**

*A. Materials*

1. Interchurch Relations Committee Report, p. 202
2. Interchurch Relations Committee Supplement, Appendix F, pp. 253-55

*B. Background*

The IRC of the CRCNA is made up of members from churches in the United States and Canada. There is also an Interchurch Relations Committee in Canada, which reports to the Canadian Ministries Board. Questions arise as to which committee has the authority and/or responsibility to pursue or process interchurch-relations matters in our binational church. With the merger being proposed, the IRC has adopted a motion that specific mandates for the U.S. and Canadian subcommittees will be developed by the restructured IRC of the CRCNA and incorporated into bylaws that are consistent with the provisions of the merger.

*C. Recommendations*

1. That synod approve the merger of the Interchurch Relations Committee of the Canadian Ministries Board with the denominational Interchurch Relations Committee and endorse the concept of a single denominational Interchurch Relations Committee that exercises overall responsibility for the denomination's ecumenical activity and has equal representation from the CRC churches in the U.S.A. and Canada.

*Grounds:*

- a. This is consistent with our understanding of being a binational church.
- b. This enables us not only to address specific U.S. or Canadian interchurch concerns but also to deal jointly with other international interchurch-relations matters as a binational church.
- c. Both of the current interchurch-relations committees and the Canadian Ministries Board endorse this merger.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod approve the following specifics for the composition, mandate, and reporting procedure for the proposed IRC:

*a. Composition*

The Interchurch Relations Committee shall be composed of twelve members with equal representation from Canada and the U.S.A. In

addition, the general secretary of the CRCNA and the Canadian ministries director shall serve as ex officio members with voice and vote.

b. Mandate

The Interchurch Relations Committee, in conformity with the provisions of the CRCNA's Church Order and Ecumenical Charter and in accordance with synodical decisions, shall maintain and promote contact with the worldwide church through bilateral and multilateral relationships. Furthermore, the IRC shall recommend to synod any proposed changes in ecumenical policy or practice. Any new bilateral or multilateral relationships need to be approved by synod.

- 1) The Canadian members shall constitute a Canadian subcommittee of the IRC which shall be responsible for maintaining the ecumenical activity in Canada delegated to it by the IRC and for recommending to the IRC the establishment of new bilateral or multilateral relationships within Canada.
- 2) The United States members shall constitute a United States subcommittee of the IRC and shall be responsible for maintaining the ecumenical activity in the U.S.A. delegated to it by the IRC and for recommending to the IRC the establishment of new bilateral or multilateral relationships within the U.S.A.

c. Reporting

The IRC shall annually present to synod in the printed *Agenda for Synod* a report of its activities which includes a summary of all the interchurch relations comprehended in its charter and mandate and whatever recommendations it deems necessary.

—Adopted

3. That synod ratify the committee composition of the merged Interchurch Relations Committee and appoint the members for the terms of service indicated.

*Canadian Members*

Rev. Robert Haven (2001)  
Mrs. Claire Elgersma (2001)  
Mr. Johannes DeViet (2002)  
Rev. Michael Veenema (2002)  
Rev. Richard Vander Vaart (2003)  
Rev. Michael Winnowski (2003)

*U.S. Members*

Rev. Peter Brouwer (2001)  
Rev. Leonard J. Hofman (2001)  
Rev. Michiel De Berdt (2002)  
Dr. Henry Zwaanstra (2002)  
Dr. Lyle Bierma (2003)  
Rev. Jason Chen (2003)

*Grounds:*

- a. This allows for continuity in the newly formed committee during the year of transition.
- b. It is difficult to recruit new members to the committee while the merger proposal is waiting approval.

—Adopted

#### **IV. Christian Reformed Churches of Australia (formerly Reformed Churches of Australia) re Christ's descent into hell**

##### **A. Materials**

1. Interchurch Relations Committee Report, p. 200
2. Interchurch Relations Committee Supplement, Appendix B, pp. 212-28

##### **B. Background**

In 1998 the IRC received from the Reformed Churches of Australia, now known as the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia (CRCA), materials relating to a gravamen which that church had received pertaining to the statement "he descended into hell" in the Apostles' Creed. In response to the CRCA's request that the CRCNA study the gravamen and, in keeping with the fifth provision of ecclesiastical fellowship, namely, "communication on major issues of joint concern," the IRC appointed a committee to study it. The report of the committee was submitted to Synod 1999 and then referred back to the IRC for revision and for submission to Synod 2000 (*Acts of Synod 1999*, pp. 576-77).

Please note that this is not a doctrinal matter or a gravamen being brought to the synod of the CRCNA for resolution. This is simply a request for advice in keeping with our ecclesiastical fellowship.

##### **C. Recommendation**

That synod adopt the revised report and the recommendations of the Committee to Study the Materials from the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia re Christ's Descent into Hell as a response of the Christian Reformed Church in North America to the request from the CRCA for study and advice.

—*Adopted*

#### **ARTICLE 37**

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 33.)

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. Clayton G. Libolt reporting, presents the following:

##### **I. Calvin Theological Seminary**

###### **A. Materials**

1. Calvin Theological Seminary Report, pp. 123-24
2. Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement
3. Candidate booklet

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

1. That Rev. Norman Meyer, chairman, and Mr. Sidney Jansma, Jr., secretary, be given the privilege of the floor when seminary matters are presented.

—*Granted*

2. That the following trustees and alternates be reappointed for second terms:

Eastern Canada I	Mr. Martin Bosveld, trustee Mr. Jack Geschiere, alternate
Far West U.S. I	Rev. Alfred Lindemulder, trustee Rev. Daniel Brink, alternate
Far West U.S. II	Rev. Kenneth Koeman, trustee Rev. James R. Kok, alternate
Great Plains U.S. II	Rev. Roger Kramer, trustee Rev. William Zeilstra, alternate
At-large	Mr. Mark B. Muller, trustee Mr. Donald Nydam, alternate

—Adopted

3. That Dr. Michael J. Williams be reappointed for two years, 2000-2002, as *associate professor* of Old Testament (italics indicate advance in rank).

—Adopted

4. That Dr. Lyle Bierma be declared eligible for a call as minister of the Word.

*Grounds:*

- The expectation and practice have been to appoint seminary professors who have pastoral experience, which presupposes ordination.
- Our Reformed polity long regarded the theological teacher as a fourth office in the church, with the accountability and vows entailed in ordination. It was only relatively recently that this office was blended with the office of minister of the Word.
- The faculty and board have approved a plan for Dr. Bierma to gain additional experience in preaching, the only area in which adequate experience could not be documented.
- Precedent exists in the cases of other recent regular-faculty appointments of nonordained persons.

—Adopted

5. That synod approve above-ministry-share collections for general operations, the Seminary Revolving Loan Fund (as in previous years), and a special, one-time 125th anniversary offering for the student-center addition in March 2001.

—Adopted

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

\*Avila, Marco A.  
 Beunk, Andrew E.  
 Bouwers, John H.  
 Chong, David Y.  
 Davelaar, Wendell D.  
 Dekker, Erika L.  
 De Vries, John R.  
 de Vries, Nathan  
 Gardner, William E.  
 Hofland, Mark A.  
 \*Holthof, George E.  
 Hoogland, William F.  
 Kim, Simon (Sang-Eun)  
 Knight, Wayne A.  
 \*Koeman, Scott B.  
 Koetje, Michael D.  
 Koopmans, Richard C.

\*Kooreman, Jack  
 Laird, Michael  
 Lee, Abraham Sung Soo  
 \*Leunk, Thea Nyhoff  
 Likkel, Lynn Vander Giessen  
 Moelker, Peter J. A.  
 Swieringa, Vern D.  
 Tuttle, Spencer M.  
 Van Dalen, Derek G.  
 Vanderstoep, John A.  
 Vande Zande, Mark A.  
 Van Harten, David R.  
 Van Kley, Byron E.  
 van Leeuwen, Gerald (Gary)  
 Voorhees, Jeffrey D.  
 Wagenmaker, Tyler J.  
 Zantingh, Andrew

*Note:* Candidates are eligible to receive calls two weeks after they have been declared eligible by synod or after announcement by the general secretary. The asterisks designate candidates with academic requirements still to be completed.

—Adopted

7. That the following candidates from last year be granted extension of candidacy for one year:

Daniel De Vries  
 Cindy Holtrop  
 Bonnie Natte  
 Eufemio Ricardo

—Adopted

## II. Calvin College

### A. *Materials*

1. Calvin College Report, pp. 118-19
2. Calvin College Supplement

### B. *Observations*

Calvin College has emerged as a leader among colleges in general and among evangelical colleges in particular. Over the past year the prominence of the college has been frequently noted in a variety of publications. Several of the major guides for colleges have listed Calvin among the best. A few representative remarks are listed below:

- *U.S. News and World Report* lists Calvin among America’s best colleges and as one of America’s great schools at a great price.
- *The Fiske Guide to Colleges* says, “. . . one of the country’s top two evangelical colleges.”
- *Colleges That Encourage Character Development* calls Calvin “one of America’s character-building colleges.”

In a major article in the Catholic publication *Commonweal*, entitled “Something to Be Reckoned With: The Evangelical Mind Awakens,” James Turner writes of the “curious prominence of Calvin College,” noting in reference to the scholars produced by Calvin that the Christian Reformed Church, “though weak in numbers . . . is sturdy in mind.” Other articles in other journals have spoken of the “Calvin school of historiography” and of the prominence of Calvin’s contributions in the area of the uses and perils of modern electronic media. Calvin has come to be widely considered as the intellectual leader in the renaissance of evangelical thought.

In achieving this status Calvin has remained firmly dedicated to its Reformed roots and to its connection to the Christian Reformed Church. Calvin College, its administration, and its faculty are to be commended and thanked for the leadership and luster they bring to our denomination.

### C. Recommendations

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to the chair of the board, Mr. Milton Kuylers; the vice chair of the board, Ms. Janice Veenstra; 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.
 

—Adopted
2. That synod ratify the following reappointments with tenure (*italics indicate promotion to that rank*):
  - a. Debra L. Bakker, H.S.D., *Professor* of Physical Education
  - b. Beryl L. Hugen, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology and Social Work
  - c. Hyesook Kim, D.M.A., *Professor* of Music
  - d. Henry M. Luttkhuizen, Ph.D., *Professor* of Art
  - e. Helen M. Sterk, Ph.D., Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences
  - f. Thomas R. Thompson, Ph.D., *Professor* of Religion and Theology
  - g. Steven H. Vander Leest, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Engineering

—Adopted
3. 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. Warren J. Boer, D.Min., Director of the Broene Center, Emeritus
  - b. Beverly J. Klooster, Ph.D., Professor of Biology, Emerita
  - c. James L. Lamse, Ph.D., Professor of Germanic Languages, Emeritus

—Adopted
4. That synod ratify the following appointments to the board (terms to begin and end on the convening date of the first full board meeting following the meeting of synod):
  - a. Regional trustees

Region	Delegate	Alternate	Term
Far West II	Mr. Charles Pasma	Mr. Jack Veltkamp	2003
Central U.S. I	Mr. Vernon Boerman	Mr. Gerald Baas	2003
Central U.S. II	Dr. Robert L. De Bruin	Mrs. Lois Miller	2003

Central U.S. III	Dr. Jack Postma	(to be determined)	2003
		Dr. Robert Swierenga	2001
Central U.S. IV	Rev. Edward Blankespoor	Mr. Marvin De Boer	2003
Eastern Canada II	Mr. Walter Neutel	Mrs. Susan Koppendrayner	2003

b. Alumni trustee

Dr. Orin Gelderloos 2003

c. At-large trustee

Rev. Norberto Wolf 2003

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 42.)

ARTICLE 38

Dr. David H. Engelhard introduces Rev. Peter Tuit, fraternal delegate from the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia, who addresses synod. The president of synod responds.

Rev. Michiel M. De Berdt introduces Rev. Ken Iwasaki, fraternal delegate from the Reformed Church in Japan, who addresses synod. The president of synod responds.

Rev. Leonard J. Hofman introduces Dr. M.J. du Plessis, fraternal delegate from the Reformed Churches in South Africa, who addresses synod. The president of synod responds.

Rev. Leonard J. Hofman introduces Rev. Alex Boshuizen, fraternal delegate from the Netherlands Reformed Churches, who addresses synod. The president of synod responds.

Dr. David H. Engelhard introduces Dr. William Evans, fraternal delegate from the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, who addresses synod. The president of synod responds.

ARTICLE 39

The morning session is adjourned. Elder Philip E. Van Heest reads the first stanza of *Psalter Hymnal* 315, “Blest Be the Tie That Binds,” and leads in closing prayer.

**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, June 14, 2000**

**Eighth Session**

ARTICLE 40

The president introduces Rev. Merle Den Bleyker, executive director of Christian Reformed World Missions, who announces *Psalter Hymnal* 523, “Lord, You Give the Great Commission.” He leads in opening prayer, and he thanks the delegates of synod for the prayers offered for him during the previous year, when he was diagnosed with and treated for cancer. He reads from Ephesians 2:19. Rev. Den Bleyker introduces the slide presentation *March to the Millennium*, which highlights the history, successes, and direction of



Christian Reformed World Missions. He acknowledges World Missions staff who are present and leads in opening prayer.

The president expresses gratitude for Rev. Den Bleyker's health and for the work of World Missions.

#### ARTICLE 41

Dr. David H. Engelhard introduces Rev. David P. Baak, fraternal delegate from the Reformed Church in America, who addresses synod. The president responds.

Dr. David H. Engelhard introduces Dr. L. Edward Davis, fraternal delegate from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, who addresses synod. The president responds.

#### ARTICLE 42

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 37.)

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. Clayton G. Libolt reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Calvin Theological Seminary**

#### **A. *Material:* Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement**

#### **B. *Background***

Synod 1999 mandated the seminary to present to Synod 2000 a plan for recruiting women and members of ethnic-minority groups into its faculty. Synod adopted two recommendations (*Acts of Synod 1999*, p. 548):

1. That the seminary board present to Synod 2000 a plan designed to assist the seminary in recruiting qualified ethnic-minority and women faculty.
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 allocated into the seminary budget at the regular funding cycle.

In response to this mandate, the seminary board has proposed the following plan:

#### **C. *A plan to recruit qualified ethnic-minority and women faculty members***

#### **1. Activities intended to yield results in the short term**

- a. That the seminary's Educational Policy Committee and three of the seminary's trustees (appointed by the trustees) review qualifications for faculty appointments to ascertain whether the qualifications truly meet the needs of the churches and whether certain qualifications make it difficult for the seminary to appoint women and members of ethnic-minority groups. This group will report to the faculty and board as soon as possible, making recommendations for alterations in the qualifications for faculty appointments that it judges wise in light of its review.
- b. That the Educational Policy Committee develop a roster of potential faculty and administrators who are ethnic-minority persons and/or

women and develop relationships with such people. Such relationships can be developed through part-time teaching roles, apprenticeships, lectureships, and the like. This task will be done with a clear understanding of

- 1) The current and future needs for new faculty, part-time instructors, and administrators.
  - 2) The minimum professional criteria for filling these positions.
  - 3) The standard confessional and ecclesiastical standards for faculty appointments.
  - 4) The racial and ethnic diversity of the student body.
- c. That the faculty nurture capable ethnic-minority and women students and alumni/ae by encouraging and seeking support for their postgraduate education.

Procedure:

- 1) The three divisions of the faculty will seek to identify a total of three such students or alumni/ae per year, one per division.
  - 2) The divisions are to report the names of students and alumni/ae so identified to the academic dean by the end of November each year.
  - 3) The academic dean will seek and maintain information about sources of funds to support the postgraduate education of the students or alumni/ae identified by the divisions.
  - 4) The academic dean will encourage the students or alumni/ae identified by the divisions and will assist them in applying to graduate programs and to funding programs.
  - 5) The academic dean will report the activities and results of these efforts to the president for report to the seminary's board of trustees at its annual spring meeting.
- d. That the academic dean investigate the possibility of faculty exchanges with traditionally African-American seminaries. These exchanges may include, among other activities, special lectures, one-time course offerings, readers for Th.M. theses and Ph.D. dissertations. All exchanges will be arranged with the standard appointment procedures and committee mandates of the seminary.
- e. That the seminary encourage current women and ethnic-minority students and recent graduates who have skills appropriate for graduate study to pursue education that will qualify them for faculty appointment. To facilitate their study, the academic dean will maintain and make available sets of materials from agencies that offer scholarships for women and members of ethnic-minority groups to pursue graduate education. Such groups include the Hispanic Theological Initiative and the Fund for Theological Education.
- f. That the seminary create one position in any academic discipline or field that can be filled by a woman or a person of ethnic-minority status who meets the criteria for faculty appointment and who is willing and able to accept the position.

- g. That, in written and personal solicitation of churches for suggested faculty appointees, the president continue to highlight the need for ethnic and gender diversity. The seminary's practice has been to highlight the relevant paragraph in solicitation letters and to follow up as many of the letters as possible with a telephone call to further reinforce the need.
  - h. That the seminary's trustees and faculty review the seminary's progress regarding the seminary's curriculum, recruitment of students, and faculty appointments in light of the synod's desires for greater ethnic diversity and greater participation by women. The review will be reported annually to synod through 2010.
  - i. That the seminary president, through the student-recruitment office, annually solicit from CRCNA ethnic-minority congregations the names of high-school-age young people who show promise for Christian ministry.
2. Activities intended to yield results in the long term
- a. That as soon as possible the seminary develop funding assistance to pay for the doctoral programs of promising Calvin Theological Seminary students or graduates, according to the following stipulations:
    - 1) This program will be administered by the president of the seminary.
    - 2) Loans will be awarded at the rate of one per year, but each of these loans will be for four years of doctoral education at the rate of \$15,000 for each year. This amount will be raised to keep pace with inflation.
    - 3) Applicants must be women of any race or ethnic group or men who are African Americans or members of any of the ethnic-minority categories recognized by the Association of Theological Schools.
    - 4) Applicants must agree to pay back all money received; however, if the recipient is offered and accepts a faculty appointment at the seminary, the first loan will be forgiven at the end of the first year of service; the second, third, and fourth loans will be forgiven at the end of the second, third, and fourth years of service.
    - 5) The loans will not bear interest.
    - 6) The repayment rate and time frame will be negotiated by the seminary on an individual basis; however, the time frame for repayment may not exceed fifteen years.
  - b. That the president investigate with appropriate seminaries and related organizations and foundations the development of a large-scale scholarship program to encourage and enable members of ethnic-minority groups and women to pursue doctorates that will prepare them for faculty appointments in evangelical and confessionally Reformed seminaries.

#### *D. Recommendations*

- 1. That the plan to recruit ethnic-minority and women faculty members be approved as presented to synod.

*—Adopted*

2. That funding for C, 1, d (faculty exchanges), C, 1, f (an additional academic position), and C, 2, a (Diversity Incentive Loan Fund) in the plan above, approximately \$120,000 to \$150,000 annually, be incorporated into the seminary budget as soon as possible within the regular budget process and that for this purpose the denominational Board of Trustees give priority consideration to requests by the seminary for ministry shares to help fund these initiatives.

—Adopted

## **II. Committee to Study Continuing Professional Education for Pastors and Ministry Staff in the Christian Reformed Church in North America**

A. *Material*: Report of the Committee to Study Continuing Professional Education for Pastors and Ministry Staff in the Christian Reformed Church in North America, pp. 417-24

### **B. Recommendations**

1. That Rev. Duane Visser and Dr. Gary Bekker of the study committee be given the privilege of the floor when this report is discussed.

—Granted

2. That synod urge all councils (a) to establish a policy for continuing education, (b) to establish the expectation that their pastor(s) and ministry staff annually engage in an appropriate program of continuing education for ministry, and (c) to hold ministers and other ministry staff accountable for obtaining continuing education and for the content of the programs. This accountability is to be based on clear criteria adopted by the council in consultation with the minister(s) and ministry staff.

—Adopted

3. That synod urge church councils to grant pastors and ministry staff adequate time (approximately ten days per year) for annual continuing education and budget sufficient funds (approximately \$1,200) to cover this education.

—Adopted

4. That synod urge all classes to create a scholarship fund to which pastors and staff may apply with the endorsement of the church council.

—Adopted

5. That synod establish a denominational continuing-education fund to assist congregations and classes that are unable to fund all continuing education in their regions. Such a fund would provide more equitable funding throughout the denomination. Not all congregations and/or classes have equal resources, and small, less financially established congregations and their pastors are as much in need of continuing education as larger, more financially stable congregations.

—Adopted

6. That synod

- a. Set a ministry share of \$.50 annually, beginning in the fiscal year 2001-2002, for this fund for a period of three years.
- b. Request Pastor-Church Relations to appoint a three-person committee to receive and respond to applications from classes requesting assistance for continuing education in their regions. The committee will be approved by the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA.
- c. Ask Pastor-Church Relations and the new committee to provide Synod 2001 with a written policy and procedure for granting funds to those congregations and classes that seek assistance.
- d. Request Pastor-Church Relations to provide guidance to classes and churches with respect to implementing continuing-education plans and policies.

—Adopted

7. That synod request the CRC Foundation to assist the denominational continuing-education fund by providing start-up funding up to \$50,000 so that there will be resources available during 2000-2001, before ministry shares are received.

—Adopted

8. That Recommendation 2 above and the following sample question be included in the revised church-visiting guide in the section pertaining to the work of ministers: What policies have been established in order to provide adequate time, sufficient funds, and proper accountability for continuing education for your pastor(s) and ministry staff?

—Adopted

9. That synod receive the report of the Committee to Study Continuing Professional Education for Pastors and Ministry Staff as information and dismiss the committee with thanks.

—Received

### III. Dordt College

A. *Material:* Dordt College Report, pp. 259-60

B. *Recommendation*

That synod receive with gratitude and praise to a faithful God the report of Dordt College and take note of the record student enrollment, the successful completion of its fund-raising project (Dordt 2000 Campaign), and its effort in offering a curriculum where the Word of the sovereign Lord provides the guiding light on every part of life.

—Adopted

#### **IV. Institute for Christian Studies**

A. *Material*: Institute for Christian Studies Report, p. 261

B. *Recommendation*

That synod note with thanksgiving (1) that ICS continues to serve the Christian community through solid research and creative teaching, (2) that the agreement with the Toronto School of Theology has the potential to greatly increase the reach of Reformed philosophy within ecumenical circles, and (3) that the fruit of their Reformed scholarship continues to be shared in ecumenical as well as secular circles, thanks largely to the support of Christian Reformed people.

—Adopted

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

A. *Material*: The King's University College Report, pp. 262-63

B. *Recommendation*

That synod (1) share in the joy of The King's University College for the several new programs it has been able to implement and for a special performance award granted to the college by the provincial government and (2) commend King's for its continuing dedication to the cause of Christian higher education in the name of our King and Savior.

—Adopted

#### **VI. Redeemer College**

A. *Material*: Redeemer College Report, pp. 264-65

B. *Recommendation*

That synod thank God (1) for the 25 percent increase in enrollment at Redeemer in the past year, enabling the college to increase both the number and the reach of its programs, (2) for the continued strong support for Redeemer from churches, and (3) for the many other blessings that Redeemer has experienced in preparing students for service.

—Adopted

#### **VII. Reformed Bible College**

A. *Material*: Reformed Bible College Report, p. 266

B. *Recommendation*

That synod (1) give thanks to God for the growth experienced by Reformed Bible College, including an enrollment increase of 62 percent and an increase from 2 to 7 percent in minority enrollment over the past two years, which has resulted in an increased ability on the part of the college to help the church in areas of youth work, worship leadership, pre-seminary training, and urban church needs, (2) commend the college for its reaccreditation from the North Central Association, and (3) offer prayers for wisdom as this expanding institution plans for the future.

—Adopted

## VIII. Trinity Christian College

A. *Material:* Trinity Christian College Report, pp. 267-68

### B. *Recommendation*

That synod (1) rejoice with Trinity Christian College in the construction of a new chapel/fine arts building, which will be completed this fall, filling a great need not only for the college but also for the surrounding community, and (2) take note of the growth in student enrollment and programs, giving thanks to God for the many blessings experienced by Trinity.

—Adopted

Rev. Clayton G. Libolt offers prayer for all the good things happening in these institutions.

## IX. Youth-Ministry Committee

A. *Material:* Youth-Ministry Committee Report, pp. 185-89

### B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to the Youth-Ministry Committee chairperson, Dr. Syd Hielema, and the secretary, Mrs. Glenda Tamming-Tebben.

—Granted

2. That synod approve the following for three-year terms on the YMC:

a. As member-at-large, *Dr. Syd Hielema*

Dr. Hielema is a professor of theology at Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa. He has been involved in youth ministry for over ten years.

b. As Eastern Canada representative, *Mr. Pieter Pereboom*

Mr. Pereboom is presently the youth pastor at First CRC in London, Ontario.

—Adopted

## ARTICLE 43

A delegate moves that synod reconsider its decision re Abuse Prevention (see Article 21).

—Adopted

The previous decision is revised by the following recommendation:

That synod urge each classis to make a serious and energetic effort to develop and support an active classical abuse-response team and to fully embrace this team as a legitimate and important ministry of classis.

—Adopted

## ARTICLE 44

Advisory Committee 11, End-of-Life Issues, Rev. Bert Slofstra reporting, presents the following:

### **Responsibility and Community at the End of Life**

A. *Material*: Report of the Committee for Contact with the Government (Canada) Regarding Responsibility and Community at the End of Life, pp. 425-48

#### B. *Observations*

The advisory committee's discussion of the Committee for Contact with the Government (CCG) report focused on two areas of concern: its status and its content.

With respect to its status, the advisory committee observes that the report comes to synod in an unusual way. The introduction to the CCG report notes that this report was prepared at the invitation of Synod 1997 as that synod's response to an overture (Overture 12) requesting synod to appoint a study committee to determine a position on the practice of euthanasia. After adopting a recommendation not to accede to the overture, Synod 1997 decided instead to invite "the CCG to broaden [a study it had already made and circulated to the churches in Canada for comment] to include exegetical material and the practical application of biblical principles for persons making decisions about death and dying and that the CCG make available future drafts of these materials to churches in the United States as well as Canada for evaluation and discussion" (*Acts of Synod 1997*, p. 608). The ground given for this decision was that the CCG was already working on a study paper on the relevant issues and that "for synod to set up a new study committee would be duplicative and not timely" (*Acts of Synod 1997*, p. 608). That leads us to the conclusion that the CCG report is not technically the product of a synodically appointed study committee. This conclusion seems to be affirmed by the request of Synod 1997 that the CCG, contrary to regular procedure for study-committee reports, distribute any future drafts of its materials regarding decisions about death and dying only to the churches and not to a future synod for evaluation and discussion. In addition, we note that a regular synodical study committee would probably have had a membership both larger—in terms of numbers—and broader—in terms of nationality and expertise—than that of the committee that brings this report to Synod 2000.

At the same time, however, the language of Synod 1997 in response to Overture 12 was somewhat ambiguous. The ground it gave for its recommendation might be seen as suggesting that synod did not see the need for appointing a synodical study committee since it considered that the CCG was already functioning as such. It is also true that the CCG did, in fact, function as a study committee and that it was treated as such both by virtue of having its costs covered by the denomination and by having its report included in the *Agenda for Synod 2000*. Therefore, in spite of the irregularities noted above, the advisory committee judges that this report is legitimately before synod.

With respect to its content, the advisory committee deeply appreciates the pastoral tone of the CCG report, a tone effectively highlighted by means of the poignant vignettes and personal stories the report relates. We commend the report for its insistence that facing and making decisions about death and



dying are realities that must be addressed by individuals and communities today rather than tomorrow. We also applaud the report for the pastoral principles it provides for the care of the dying, specifically and especially those of community and compassion. Furthermore, we are grateful for the way it reminds us that the only appropriate answer to the question so often raised in our society today, namely, “Whose life is it anyway?,” is that our lives belong to God and that all decisions and actions with respect to care for the dying and end-of-life issues must arise out of that conviction.

We also note, however, that there are many end-of-life issues the CCG report does not address. For example, in encouraging the preparation of advance directives for palliative care, the report does not give any guidelines to what appropriate directives would look like; the report does not define the difference between terminal illness and imminent death nor deal with the different levels of treatment or termination of such appropriate to each stage of the dying process; it does not deal with the limited nature of resources and the justice issues the allocation of resources raises; it does not address management and control issues with respect to medical interventions. In short, the CCG report does not deal with all the issues that need to be addressed for persons facing and/or making decisions about death and dying, nor does it provide the kind of ethical precision and fully developed ethical framework necessary to deal with such matters. We emphasize, however, that this is not a criticism of the CCG report, since it neither intended nor pretends to address all the important end-of-life issues we face today. Rather, it is the basis for some of the advisory-committee recommendations that follow below.

### *C. Recommendations*

1. That synod give the privilege of the floor to designated representatives of the Committee for Contact with the Government.

—*Granted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 11 is continued in Article 59.)

### ARTICLE 45

The afternoon session is adjourned; Rev. Stanley Jim leads in closing prayer.

## **WEDNESDAY EVENING, June 14, 2000**

### **Ninth Session**

### ARTICLE 46

Rev. Kevin J. Adams announces *Psalter Hymnal* 486, “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing,” and reads from Luke 15:11-32. He leads in opening prayer, especially remembering Elder Harold C. Anton’s son who is fighting a forest fire in Fort Collins, Colorado. He announces *Psalter Hymnal* 530, “I Love to Tell the Story.”

## ARTICLE 47

Advisory Committee 8, Church Order I, Rev. John A. Ooms reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Committee to Review the Decision re Women in Office for Synod 2000 (majority report)**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Committee to Review the Decision re Women in Office for Synod 2000 Report, pp. 351-407
2. Overtures 1-13, pp. 451-88
3. Overtures 28-31, Supplement
4. Communications 2 and 3, pp. 514-15
5. Communication 5, Supplement

#### *B. Note*

The study committee alerts synod to a significant error on page 383, fifth paragraph, fourth line: “two stances allowed by Scripture” should read, “two stances allowed by synod.”

#### *C. Observations*

1. The members of the advisory committee, both majority and minority, approached their work with a spirit of cooperation in order to evaluate the report of the study committee and serve synod with a unified report. The committee spent many hours in dialogue with four members of the study committee to understand as clearly as possible the report and the intent of its authors. Some members of the advisory committee were of a mind to return to the position of 1994 regarding the ordination of women to the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist. Others wished to delete the word “male” from Church Order Article 3-a. Some wished to stand by the recommendations of the study committee and in general continue in the course initiated by Synod 1995. Through respectful listening and speaking with one another, the committee shared the same experience as that of the study committee, which was “able to carry out its work in a spirit of love, honesty, and unity of purpose” (*Agenda for Synod 2000*, p. 353). All but two of our members agreed to work with the recommendations of the study committee. What the advisory committee of 1995 wrote captures our experience as well:

In spite of our differences, there was a constant appreciation for the faith of each member and for the conscientious approach toward the problem on the part of every member. Perhaps if this attitude had been more widely practiced on both sides in the denomination, this issue would not have caused as much pain and disunity as it has.

(*Acts of Synod, 1995*, p. 726, Section B)

2. Synod 1995’s decision to review the matter of women’s ordination to the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist in the year 2000 seems to have been interpreted as a moratorium on discussing the issue of women’s ordination by the members of the church. The advisory committee desires that the church not become complacent over the existence of differing and some-

times conflicting interpretations of Scripture. Such differences ought to make us restless for dialogue rather than resigned to silence. This restlessness must not drive us apart. Rather, it must spur us on to work together for a deeper understanding that may lead to a consensus that we cannot imagine at the present time.

3. Several overtures asking synod to return to the position of 1994 used the words “clear” or “clearly” to describe the Scripture’s teachings on the matter of the ordination of women. Our committee recognizes that not only did the majority report of Synod 1995 take exception to this designation; the minority report did as well: “That synod declare that Synod 1994, in stating that ‘Scripture was clear,’ failed to recognize that both sides had faithfully sought to interpret Scripture on this issue” (*Acts of Synod, 1995*, p. 731, Section C, 2).
4. In the recent issue of *Calvin Seminary Forum* (Summer 2000, Vol. 7, No. 2), Dr. Henry Zwaanstra rightly observes that

great matters of truth are never satisfactorily settled in the church by conducting surveys, nor by a raising of hands or a simple counting of ballots. They are settled only when the church reaches a consensus based on God’s Word under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. To reach such a consensus sometimes takes a long time.

Our committee is convinced that synod ought not to be pressed at this time to adjudicate the validity of various interpretations by majority vote. Past attempts to resolve the issue of women’s ordination in this way have proved to be unsuccessful and dissatisfying. Greater consensus must come on the local and classical level first.

5. It is consistent with the logic and direction of both the decision of Synod 1995 and of the study committee’s report of Synod 2000 to allow classes that have declared the word “male” in Article 3-a of the Church Order inoperative to delegate women officebearers to synod. However, out of consideration for the differing convictions and painful situations within churches and classes of our denomination, we do not believe it would be wise at this time to delegate women to synod.

#### *D. Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to John Van Ryn (chair), William Koopmans, Gayla Postma, and Jack Vos (reporter) for the discussion of this report.

—*Granted*

2. That synod declare that, although there are within the denomination firmly held differences on the issue of ordaining women to the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist, these differences do not separate us from Christ, nor are they of such an essential nature that they warrant division within the church. Therefore, it is our responsibility to seek earnestly to live together in unity and to minister together for the glory of God.

*Grounds:*

- a. The Lord of the church and his apostles call us to live in unity (John 17; Eph. 4:1-3).
  - b. In spite of different conclusions, all have drawn their arguments from Scripture and are together in desiring to honor Christ as Head of the church.
  - c. As a denomination we have a rich heritage together and have been led into many important ministries.
  - d. Living and serving together in love will be a blessing to us and our children, a witness to other churches and the world, and God glorifying.
3. That synod acknowledge that the church continues to struggle communally with the differences among us on the issue of the ordination of women to the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist and that with the Spirit's guidance it is striving to reach an ever-broadening consensus.

*Grounds:*

- a. There is a need for continued discussion for the sake of achieving greater clarity on the issue of the ordination of women to the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist.
  - b. There is a need to lower the passion level people experience because of the differences of opinion.
  - c. There is a need to learn how to approach our differences from the perspective of the unity we have in Christ.
  - d. There is a need to honor the mutual desire to listen to Scripture as the wholly reliable Word of God.
4. That synod again urge councils and classes to nurture and make appropriate provision for the full use of the gifts that the Spirit gives to all their members, both women and men.

*Grounds:*

- a. Such use of the Spirit's gifts is an essential part of honoring Jesus Christ as the Lord of the church.
  - b. Such use of the Spirit's gifts enriches the church's ministry, witness, and fellowship.
  - c. Such use of the Spirit's gifts is mandatory, regardless of the stance taken on the women-in-office issue.
5. That synod retain the classical-local option approved in 1995 and approve the following regulations as Church Order Supplement, Article 3-a.

*Grounds:*

- a. There is a need for continued discussion for the sake of achieving greater clarity on the issue of ordination of women to the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist.
- b. There is a need to lower the passion level people experience because of the differences of opinion.
- c. There is a need to learn how to approach our differences from the perspective of the unity we have in Christ.
- d. There is a need to honor the mutual desire to listen to Scripture as the wholly reliable Word of God.

### **Proposed Supplement, Article 3-a**

A. A classis may, in response to local needs and circumstances, declare that the word *male* in Article 3-a of the Church Order is inoperative and authorize the churches under its jurisdiction to ordain and install women in the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist.

#### **B. Regulations**

1. A classis which has decided that the word *male* in Article 3-a is inoperative for its constituent churches shall not, out of consideration for the conviction of other classes, delegate women officebearers to synod.

##### *Grounds:*

- a. The 1995 decision of synod allows classical-local option in the ordination of women as ministers, elders, and evangelists. Since the majority of classes have not exercised that option, the classes which have taken that decision ought to refrain from delegating women to synod.
  - b. For the unity of the church it seems wise at this time to retain this regulation.
  - c. The classical-local option adopted by synod allows members to transfer from one congregation to another and congregations to transfer from one classis to another, but a comparable transfer for conviction's sake is not possible at the synodical level.
2. A classis which has decided that the word *male* in Article 3-a is inoperative for its constituent churches may appoint a female minister to serve as synodical deputy as long as, out of consideration for neighboring classes, a male minister is the alternate.
  3. Synodical deputies shall not be asked to participate against their conviction in any matter relating to ministers of the Word, as provided in Articles 6-18 and 82-84 of the Church Order.
  4. If a local congregation, in keeping with its understanding of the biblical position on the role of women in ecclesiastical office and in response to local needs and circumstances, desires to call and ordain a female pastor or evangelist but its classis has not authorized its constituent churches to ordain and install women in the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist, the classis may declare an exception to Article 3-a and allow the church to proceed, but it may also make an additional ruling that the female pastor may not be delegated to classis until classis extends an invitation. No members of classis shall be required to participate against their convictions in processing ministerial credentials or taking part in a candidate's examination.

##### *Grounds:*

- a. This arrangement would allow local congregations to call the personnel they deem necessary while remaining in covenant with their classes and respecting the convictions of neighboring churches that may not approve of women in ordained offices.
  - b. It provides a more viable alternative for such congregations than switching to classes that do permit the ordination of women to all offices.
  - c. This has already proved to be a workable solution in Classis Kalamazoo and Classis Pacific Northwest.
5. A classis that has not authorized its constituent churches to ordain and install women in the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist shall nevertheless acknowledge a church's right, in keeping with its understanding of the biblical position on the role of women in ecclesiastical office and in response to local needs and circumstances,

to take exception to the decision of classis as it applies to the office of elder, provided that the role of women elders is restricted to the local churches in which they hold office.

6. Synodical agencies may appoint or approve the appointment of women as ministers of the Word for fields of labor within classes where women are permitted to hold office. Women ministers may not be approved for fields of labor outside North America where our partner churches do not permit the ordination of women.
7. In the consideration of applications submitted by qualified women for candidacy for the office of minister of the Word, both the Board of Trustees of Calvin Theological Seminary and synod shall ensure that trustees and delegates will not be forced to participate against their convictions. In the declaration of candidacy, delegates may exercise their right to abstain from voting.
8. The general secretary shall maintain a list of classes that have authorized their constituent churches to ordain and install women in the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist and shall publish the list annually in the *Agenda for Synod* and in the *Yearbook*.

*Note:* The grounds listed in 1 and 4 above are not intended for inclusion in the supplement. They are intended only to serve synod in its deliberations.

6. That Synod 2003 appoint a committee consisting of an appropriate balance of men and women to review the classical-local option with respect to women serving in the offices of minister, elder, and evangelist and to report its findings to Synod 2005.

*Grounds:*

- a. Since 1995 little public discussion has taken place to bring the church to unified insight into the issue.
  - b. This time line provides opportunity for continuing discussion.
7. That synod invite those who have become estranged from the Christian Reformed Church over the issue of women in office to study this report, read it for the further clarity it may provide, and receive it as a warm invitation for the restoration of fellowship; and that synod urge the Interchurch Relations Committee to use this report in suitable ways to promote understanding among churches with which the denomination has or had ecumenical ties and to seek restoration where these ties have been broken.
  8. That synod declare this to be its response to Overtures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 28, 29, 30, 31 and Communications 2, 3, and 5.
  9. That synod declare the work of the study committee completed and dismiss it with thanks for its service.

According to the Rules for Synodical Procedure, the minority report re the issue of women in office is presented as information by Elder Henry F. Bakker:

## **Committee to Review the Decision re Women in Office for Synod 2000 (minority report)**

### *A. Materials*

1. Report of the Committee to Review the Decision re Women in Office for Synod 2000, pp. 351-407
2. Overture 5, pp. 455-59
3. Overture 8, pp. 462-68

### *B. Background*

The minority of the advisory committee wishes to express its appreciation for the work of the Committee to Review the Decision re Women in Office for Synod 2000 and the work of Advisory Committee 8. The atmosphere of mutual respect, diligence, and helpfulness among all members of the advisory group has been most refreshing. This attitude has been very effective in advancing the discussion. Our hope is that synod and our denomination will also deal with this issue in a similar manner.

This committee supports majority-report Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 and finds them helpful in encouraging the search for unity and scriptural truth. We believe, however, that Recommendation 5 of the majority report does not point the CRCNA to the best scriptural interpretation and therefore should not be approved. We believe that the voice heard in the majority of the overtures to synod must be recognized by synod and that the church would not be well served if this position were not presented.

The CRCNA's rich history has resulted from the firm foundation of Scripture and a refusal to change its teachings without a convincing scriptural argument. While disagreement is painful for us all, we must state that there are Scripture passages that cannot be convincingly explained with the arguments presented by the study committee.

### *C. Observations*

1. Our membership rolls exhibit the impact of the years of struggle with this issue. During the 1980s the CRC realized an average annual increase in membership of 2,186 members per year. In the 1990s we witnessed an average membership decline of 3,786 members per year.
2. That our difficulties are not over is evident from the fact that a noticeable majority of the overtures presented to this committee call the CRC to return to its historic (1994) position. The dissatisfaction remains.
3. The minority of the committee believes that the data indicate that the acceptance of both positions regarding women in office will continue the conflict. Regardless of the pain, the answer needs to be determined by the same authority used through the years, the Scriptures. The church has acknowledged that both views are based on Scripture. Two contrary interpretations of biblical teaching cannot both be equally legitimate.

### *D. Recommendations*

1. That synod delete the supplement to Church Order Article 3-a, adopted at Synod 1995. Convincing scriptural argument must be presented before a change in position is to be embraced.

2. That synod terminate the ordination of women ministers and evangelists in the Christian Reformed Church no later than one year from the date this recommendation may be approved and terminate ordination of women elders when the terms of present women elders expire but no later than three years from their installation.
3. That synod seek to reestablish ecclesiastical fellowship with churches and organizations that have severed relations with the Christian Reformed Church because of the decision allowing women to serve in the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist.

*Grounds:*

The church's historic practice is mandated by Scripture:

- a. I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. Both Scriptures give solid direction as to the qualifications of an elder. The masculine requirement is unavoidable.
- b. I Timothy 2:11-3:7. I Timothy 2:11-12 states that women are not to have authority over men. I Timothy 3:1-13 continues with an immediate application of this teaching to the offices of the church. Recent scholarship concerning the meaning of the word translated "authority," not available to Synod 1995, reaffirms the traditional understanding of this word, namely, the rightful and appropriate exercise of authority, and it does not mean an abuse of authority or "lording it over" another.
- c. The general analogy of Scripture supports the inclusion of men alone in the office of minister, evangelist, and elder. The general analogy is defined as biblical teaching which "does not rest on the explicit statements of the Bible, but on the obvious scope and importance of its teachings as a whole" (Louis Berkhof, *Principles of Biblical Interpretation*, pp. 164-65). Thus, while Scripture teaches that men and women are equally created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-28) and equally redeemed by Christ (Gal. 3:28), it also teaches that men and women, both in the original created state and in the present redeemed state, have diverse roles and responsibilities. This diversity is seen in creation. This diversity is also seen in redemption:
  - In general, man is called the head of woman (I Cor. 11:3, 7-9).
  - In the family the husband is the head of the wife (Eph. 5:22-24; I Pet. 3:1, 5-6).
  - In the church male leadership is seen in the New Testament.
  - Jesus chose only male apostles.
  - All pastors and elders in the New Testament are male.
  - In addition to the passages from I Timothy and I Corinthians cited above, Paul teaches male leadership in the church in the teaching and ruling offices (see Titus 1:6).
- d. The biblical texts cited in support of the proposed change in Church Order Article 3-a are not persuasive.
  - Genesis 1:26-28 teaches that men and women equally bear the image of God but does not prove that one may hold ecclesiastical office simply because one bears the image of God.
  - Acts 2:17-18 describes the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all God's people but does not prove that all who have the Spirit may hold ecclesiastical office.



- Galatians 3:28 declares that men and women are one in Christ, but that fact does not mean that women may hold ecclesiastical office any more than it means that the Christian husband is not the head of his wife (Eph. 5:23).
- 4. That synod invite those who have become estranged from the Christian Reformed Church over the issue of women in office to understand the basis for both positions found jointly in the majority and minority reports of the advisory committee along with the report from the Committee to Review the Decision re Women in Office for Synod 2000. An informed choice seems to be a wiser choice.
- 5. That synod declare that this be the answer to Overtures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 28, 29, 30 and Communications 2, 3, and 5.
- 6. That synod declare that the majority report position regarding Overture 14 be upheld.
- 7. That synod declare the work of the study committee completed and dismiss it with thanks for its service.

Synod returns to its consideration of the recommendations of the advisory committee's majority report.

*D. Recommendations (continued)*

- 2. That synod declare that, although there are within the denomination firmly held differences on the issue of ordaining women to the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist, these differences do not separate us from Christ, nor are they of such an essential nature that they warrant division within the church. Therefore, it is our responsibility to seek earnestly to live together in unity and to minister together for the glory of God.

*Grounds:*

- a. The Lord of the church and his apostles call us to live in unity (John 17; Eph. 4:1-3).
  - b. In spite of different conclusions, all have drawn their arguments from Scripture and are together in desiring to honor Christ as Head of the church.
  - c. As a denomination we have a rich heritage together and have been led into many important ministries.
  - d. Living and serving together in love will be a blessing to us and our children, a witness to other churches and the world, and God glorifying.
- Adopted*
- 3. That synod acknowledge that the church continues to struggle communally with the differences among us on the issue of the ordination of women to the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist and that with the Spirit's guidance it is striving to reach an ever-broadening consensus.

*Grounds:*

- a. There is a need for continued discussion for the sake of achieving greater clarity on the issue of the ordination of women to the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist.

- b. There is a need to lower the passion level people experience because of the differences of opinion.
- c. There is a need to learn how to approach our differences from the perspective of the unity we have in Christ.
- d. There is a need to honor the mutual desire to listen to Scripture as the wholly reliable Word of God.

*—Adopted*

4. That synod again urge councils and classes to nurture and make appropriate provision for the full use of the gifts that the Spirit gives to all their members, both women and men.

*Grounds:*

- a. Such use of the Spirit's gifts is an essential part of honoring Jesus Christ as the Lord of the church.
- b. Such use of the Spirit's gifts enriches the church's ministry, witness, and fellowship.
- c. Such use of the Spirit's gifts is mandatory, regardless of the stance taken on the women-in-office issue.

*—Adopted*

A delegate moves that Recommendation 5 be divided into two parts for voting purposes.

*—Adopted*

(As a result of splitting Recommendation 5, Recommendations 5-9 of the advisory-committee's majority report are renumbered from Article 47, I, D, 5.)

5. That synod retain the classical-local option approved in 1995.

The president offers a prayer for wisdom and guidance for the delegates as they vote.

*—Adopted*

The following negative votes are registered: Jason C. Van Doesburg (Alberta North), Thomas C. Kroesbergen (Chatham), John D. Wassenaar (Chicago South), John A. Vermeer (Heartland), Raymond F. Ooms (Illiana), Bradley W. Center (Northern Michigan), David A. Bosch (Minnkota), Thomas R. Dykstra (Pella), Ronald J. Meyer (Zeeland).

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued in Article 50.)

#### ARTICLE 48

The evening session is adjourned; Rev. Bernard J. Haan leads in closing prayer.

**THURSDAY MORNING, June 15, 2000**  
**Tenth Session**

**ARTICLE 49**

Rev. George Boyd, ethnic adviser, announces *Psalter Hymnal* 249, “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty,” and reads from Revelation 4:8-11. He leads in opening prayer and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 504, “Holy God, We Praise Your Name.”

The roll call indicates that all delegates are present.

**ARTICLE 50**

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 47.)

Advisory Committee 8, Church Order I, Rev. John A. Ooms reporting, presents the following:

**Committee to Review the Decision re Women in Office for Synod 2000**

**A. Materials**

1. Committee to Review the Decision re Women in Office for Synod 2000 Report, pp. 351-407
2. Overtures 1-13, pp. 451-88
3. Overtures 28-31, Supplement
4. Communications 2 and 3, pp. 514-15
5. Communication 5, Supplement

**D. Recommendations** (continued)

6. That synod approve the following regulations as Church Order Supplement, Article 3-a.

**Proposed supplement**

- A. A classis may, in keeping with its understanding of the biblical position on the role of women in ecclesiastical office and in response to local needs and circumstances, declare that the word *male* in Article 3-a of the Church Order is inoperative and authorize the churches under its jurisdiction to ordain and install women in the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist.

—*Adopted*

**B. Regulations**

1. A classis which has decided that the word *male* in Church Order Article 3-a is inoperative for its constituent churches shall not, out of consideration for the conviction of other classes, delegate women officebearers to synod.

**Grounds:**

- a. The 1995 decision of synod allows classical-local option in the ordination of women as ministers, elders, and evangelists. Since the majority of classes have not exercised that option, the classes which have taken that decision ought to refrain from delegating women to synod.
- b. For the unity of the church it seems wise at this time to retain this regulation.

- c. The classical-local option adopted by synod allows members to transfer from one congregation to another and congregations to transfer from one classis to another, but a comparable transfer for conviction's sake is not possible at the synodical level. —*Adopted*
2. A classis which has decided that the word *male* in Church Order Article 3-a is inoperative for its constituent churches may appoint a female minister to serve as synodical deputy as long as, out of consideration for neighboring classes, a male minister is the alternate. —*Defeated*
3. Synodical deputies shall not be asked to participate against their conviction in any matter relating to ministers of the Word as provided in Articles 6-18 and 82-84 of the Church Order. —*Adopted*
4. If a local congregation, in keeping with its understanding of the biblical position on the role of women in ecclesiastical office and in response to local needs and circumstances, desires to call and ordain a female pastor or evangelist but its classis has not authorized its constituent churches to ordain and install women in the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist, the classis is encouraged to declare an exception to Church Order Article 3-a and allow the church to proceed, but it may also make an additional ruling that the female pastor may not be delegated to classis until classis extends an invitation. No members of classis shall be required to participate against their convictions in a candidate's examination or in processing ministerial credentials or taking part in a candidate's examination.

*Grounds:*

- a. This arrangement would allow local congregations to call the personnel they deem necessary while remaining in covenant with their classes and respecting the convictions of neighboring churches that may not approve of women in ordained offices.
- b. It provides a more viable alternative for such congregations than switching to classes that do permit the ordination of women to all offices.
- c. This has already proved to be a workable solution in Classis Kalamazoo and Classis Pacific Northwest.

—*Adopted*

The following negative votes are registered: Jason C. Van Doesburg (Alberta North), John A. Vermeer (Heartland).

5. A classis that has not authorized its constituent churches to ordain and install women in the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist shall nevertheless acknowledge a church's right, in keeping with its understanding of the biblical position on the role of women in ecclesiastical office and in response to local needs and circumstances, to take exception to the decision of classis as it applies to the office of elder, provided that the role of women elders is restricted to the local churches in which they hold office. —*Adopted*
6. Synodical agencies may appoint or approve the appointment of women as ministers of the Word for fields of labor within classes where women are permitted to hold office. Women ministers may not be approved for fields of labor outside North America where our partner churches do not permit the ordination of women. —*Adopted*

7. In the consideration of applications submitted by qualified women for candidacy for the office of minister of the Word, both the Board of Trustees of Calvin Theological Seminary and synod shall ensure that trustees and delegates will not be forced to participate against their convictions. In the declaration of candidacy delegates may exercise their right to abstain from voting.

—Adopted

8. The general secretary shall maintain a list of classes that have authorized their constituent churches to ordain and install women in the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist and shall publish the list annually in the *Agenda for Synod* and in the *Yearbook*.

—Adopted

*Note:* The grounds listed in 1 and 4 above are not intended for inclusion in the supplement. They are intended only to serve synod in its deliberations.

*Grounds:*

- a. There is a need for continued discussion for the sake of achieving greater clarity on the issue of ordination of women to the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist.
  - b. There is a need to lower the passion level people experience because of the differences of opinion.
  - c. There is a need to learn how to approach our differences from out of the unity we have in Christ.
  - d. There is a need to honor the mutual desire to listen to Scripture as the wholly reliable Word of God.
7. That Synod 2003 appoint a committee consisting of an appropriate balance of men and women to review the classical-local option with respect to women serving in the offices of minister, elder, and evangelist and to report its findings to Synod 2005.

*Grounds:*

- a. Since 1995 little public discussion has taken place to bring the church to unified insight into the issue.
  - b. This time line provides opportunity for continuing discussion.
- Adopted
8. That synod invite those who have become estranged from the Christian Reformed Church over the issue of women in office to study this report, read it for the further clarity it may provide, and receive it as a warm invitation for the restoration of fellowship; and that synod urge the Interchurch Relations Committee to use this report in suitable ways for promoting understanding among churches with which the denomination has or had ecumenical ties and for seeking restoration where these ties have been broken.
- Adopted
9. That synod declare this to be its response to Overtures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 28, 29, 30, 31 and Communications 2, 3, and 5.

—Adopted

The following negative vote is registered: George Klungel (Pacific Northwest).

10. The general secretary presents the following motion:

That synod declare that the section regarding “biblical-theological argumentation” in the review committee’s report (see *Agenda for Synod 2000*, pp. 355-73) provides the biblical evidence required to undergird the declaration of Synod 1995 that the perspectives and convictions re women in office articulated in the CRC “honor the Scriptures as the infallible Word of God.”

—Adopted

11. That until the review in 2005, synod make provision to have up to seven women from various regions in the CRC serve as advisers to synod.

*Grounds:*

- a. Women can make a valuable contribution to the work of synod.
- b. The presence and input of ethnic advisers have been beneficial to synod and the churches.

—Adopted

12. That synod declare the work of the study committee completed and dismiss it with thanks for its service.

—Adopted

#### ARTICLE 51

The second clerk presents the following motion:

That synod reconsider the decision not to reveal the vote tally on Recommendation 5 of Advisory Committee 8, majority report.

—Defeated

The following negative votes are registered: Elder Roger L. Klok (Kalamazoo), Elder Ronald L. Sportel (Kalamazoo).

#### ARTICLE 52

The general secretary recognizes Mr. Timothy Norton, executive director of the Lord’s Day Alliance.

#### ARTICLE 53

The morning session is adjourned. Elder Eduardo A. Gonzalez leads in closing prayer.

### **THURSDAY AFTERNOON, June 15, 2000 Eleventh Session**

#### ARTICLE 54

The president shares with synod the good news received by Rev. Frank E. Pott that his test results for cancer came back negative.

The president introduces Mr. Wayne deJong, CRWRC-U.S. director, and Mr. Andy Ryskamp, CRWRC-Canada director. Mr. Ryskamp leads in opening prayer and reads from Isaiah 58. Mr. deJong and Mr. Ryskamp present the

long-range mission, vision, and foundational policies of CRWRC. Mr. Ryskamp acknowledges the CRWRC staff who are present. He announces *Psalter Hymnal* 601, “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love.”

The president of synod responds and expresses gratitude for the work Mr. Ryskamp and Mr. deJong have done for CRWRC.

The president expresses gratitude to Mrs. Nelvina Ilbrink and committee members Rev. Douglas H. Bratt, Rev. Roger D. Kramer, and Rev. John M. Ouwinga for planning the Testimonial Luncheon.

## ARTICLE 55

Advisory Committee 10, Alternate Routes to Ministry, Rev. Calvin Hoogendoorn reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Committee to Examine Alternate Routes Being Used to Enter the Ordained Ministry in the CRC**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Committee to Examine Alternate Routes Being Used to Enter the Ministry in the CRC Report, pp. 271-350
2. CR Home Missions Report – Appendix, pp. 150-56
3. CRC Publications Supplement
4. Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement, Recommendation E, pp. 3-4
5. Overture 15, pp. 489-90
6. Overture 16, pp. 490-93

#### *B. Observations*

Synod 1996 appointed the Committee to Examine Routes Being Used to Enter the Ordained Ministry in the CRC with the following threefold mandate:

(1) to examine routes presently being used to ordained ministry in the CRC and related denominations, (2) to define standards for effective ministry (ordained and unordained staff ministry) in the CRC, and (3) to propose any changes in present policy that it judges to be necessary.

*(Acts of Synod 1996, p. 530)*

In carrying out its mandate, the study committee determined to achieve a number of goals:

1. To maintain a commitment to a theologically well-educated clergy.
2. To provide increased flexibility in the pursuit of ministry for evangelists, ethnic minorities, and others uniquely gifted.
3. To shift more responsibility to local churches and classes in the oversight, training, and mentoring of candidates for the ministry.
4. To identify standards that could also be applied to other areas of “non-professional” ministry within the church (“principle of proportionality”).

As an advisory committee we encourage synod to affirm the general direction of the report and give thanks to God for the demonstrated hard work of the study committee both to affirm our confessional heritage and to begin to broaden our understanding of the possible routes into the ordained ministry.

There is consensus that the Christian Reformed Church has been and will continue to be best served by ministers who are well-educated and well-trained in proportion to the level of their authorized service. We encourage synod, therefore, to adopt the standards recommended in the study-committee report.

Though there is consensus regarding ministry standards, significant challenges lie in the area of positive and flexible ways to credential individuals for ordained ministry. In light of the fact that the study committee itself admits not being able to speak with a common voice and not having completed its work, we make two observations.

First, a number of alternate routes are currently being either developed or employed for entrance to the ordained ministry in the Christian Reformed Church. Specifically, some classes have developed evangelist-training programs and Home Missions-supported Leadership Development Networks, both of which have served well the goal of developing a well-educated and well-equipped professional clergy. We believe, therefore, that there remain a number of unanswered questions regarding the proposed processes for training ministers. Some of the significant issues deserving further examination and reflection include but are not limited to the following:

1. To study, in order to understand, learn from, and possibly use, the processes already established and implemented for ministry training in some classes and the Home Missions-supported Leadership Development Networks so that competing interests are avoided and local interests within denominational guidelines are not undermined.
2. To determine whether the process described for the training of an evangelist (*Agenda for Synod 2000*, Recommendation J, pp. 307-08) is also generally applicable to the training of ethnic leaders, Church Order Article 7 applicants, and, in some cases, Church Order Article 8 applicants.
3. To carefully define the relationship between the proposed standing denominational Ministry Leadership Advisory Council (MLAC) and the proposed, standing, classical ministerial-candidacy committees (CMCC) so that the MLAC remains an advisory/resource committee and the work of local churches and classes is legitimately honored.

In whatever form these issues are addressed and resolved, we believe that the primary emphasis should be on a solution that is both positive and flexible so that, in light of the never-ending need for the gospel of Jesus Christ to reach the ends of the earth, more people are encouraged to enter the ordained ministry in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

Second, we believe further reflection and examination are needed regarding two matters related to Calvin Theological Seminary:

1. To determine whether the current and proposed Special Program for Ministerial Candidacy (SPMC) are flexible enough to meet the needs of ministerial candidates in special circumstances.
2. To determine, in light of the proposed increase in congregational and classical oversight in ministry preparation, whether the Calvin Theological Seminary faculty and board of trustees should have primary responsibility



to recommend candidates for the ordained ministry in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

In light of these observations, we believe that synod should appoint a new study committee specifically mandated to further explore and build on the current study committee's work by positively identifying flexible routes to credential those who seek entrance to the ordained ministry.

### *C. Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Robert Den Dulk (chair), John Bolt (reporter), and Willis Van Groningen as representatives of the study committee when the report is considered.

—*Granted*

2. That synod express its gratitude to God for the diverse ways in which the Holy Spirit has called and equipped people for ministry through alternative as well as traditional routes (see Part II, Supplement B).

—*Adopted*

3. That, in response to the committee's mandate to clarify "standards for effective ministry in the CRC," synod adopt and refer to the churches the following guiding principles:

- a. The Reformed confessional heritage is the basic foundation for all ministry-staff job descriptions. A principle of proportionality should be thoughtfully applied to all persons who fill staff positions in any Christian Reformed church. The degree of understanding and skill required to apply the confessional tradition is proportional to the level of ministry responsibility assigned. As one's sphere of authorized service extends, so should one's capability for understanding, articulating, and discipling others in the Christian faith and Reformed confessional tradition.

- b. The CRC is committed to a theologically well-trained clergy and to maintaining the expectation that "the completion of a satisfactory theological training shall be required for admission to the ministry of the Word" (Church Order Article 6-a).

—*Adopted*

4. That synod remind the churches that are seeking guidance in setting standards for effective ministry of the general scriptural teaching concerning personal qualifications for ministry as found in passages such as Matthew 18; 20:20-28; 28:18-20; Acts 6; II Corinthians 4; 5; Ephesians 4; I and II Timothy.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod affirm and refer to the churches the following basic **character** standards for all ministry positions and personnel, recognizing that they must be adapted to specific circumstances and situations:

Any person called to serve Christ in a Christian Reformed church ministry position should be

- a. Publicly committed to Christ and his church, submitting to its discipline.

- b. Exemplary in piety and holy conduct of life, a humble person of prayer who trusts in God's providence.
- c. Of good reputation, emotionally mature, honest, trustworthy, reliable.
- d. Caring and compassionate for the lost and the weak.
- e. Eager to learn and grow in faith, knowledge, and love.
- f. Joyful in affirming the goodness of God's creation and communicating to others a delight in its beauty.
- g. Sensitive to others in all their personal and cultural variety.

(See also Calvin Theological Seminary's Personal Qualifications for Ministry – *Agenda for Synod 2000*, pp. 345-50.)

—Adopted

6. That synod affirm and refer to the churches the following as the basic standards of biblical-theological **knowledge** expected of all persons hired in ministry positions in a Christian Reformed church:

a. Biblical foundations

Any person called to serve Christ in a CRC ministry position should

- 1) Know the content of the Old and New Testaments.
- 2) Know and be able to explain the basic structure and flow of biblical-redemptive covenantal history centered in Christ (promise and fulfillment).
- 3) Be able to identify main themes (covenant, kingdom of God, holiness) of Scripture as well as the large divisions (law, prophets, writings) and specific types of biblical literature.
- 4. Be able to articulate the significance of the various sections, books, or types of biblical literature to contemporary issues and questions.

b. Theological foundations

Any person called to serve Christ in a CRC ministry position should

- 1) Know and be able to explain the basic teachings of the universal Christian tradition concerning God, humanity, the person and work of Christ, salvation, the church, the last things.
- 2) Know, be able to explain, be ready and willing to defend the three forms of unity and a Reformed confessional stance on key doctrines such as predestination, unity of the covenant, infant baptism, millennialism, the cosmic scope of the Reformed worldview.
- 3) Have a rudimentary knowledge of and ability to respond to the key challenges posed to the Christian and Reformed faith in North America by the major world religions, the major cults, and the various forms of New Age spirituality.
- 4) Know the key concepts of CRC church polity.

—Adopted

7. That synod affirm and refer to the churches the following as the basic standards of the **skills** expected of all persons hired in ministry positions in a Christian Reformed church:

Any person called to serve Christ in a CRC ministry position should

- a. Be prepared “to give an answer to everyone who asks [you] to give the reason for the hope that [you] have” (I Pet. 3:15).
- b. Be able and willing to make a clear presentation of the gospel to an unbeliever.
- c. Be able to teach and disciple persons to deeper faith in and obedience to Jesus Christ.
- d. Be able to prepare and deliver short biblically based messages for public occasions (nursing homes, prisons, civic occasions).
- e. Be capable of effectively leading a group in various tasks, including Bible studies, task completion, resolving conflict.

—Adopted

8. That synod urge the churches hiring full-time nonordained ministry personnel to seek persons who are educated in their respective fields. A four-year college degree and additional theological training are recommended. Churches should consider assisting personnel to receive concurrent education when there is a need for additional training.

—Adopted

9. That synod appoint a new study committee to further explore and build on the implications of the report of the Committee to Examine Routes Being Used to Enter the Ordained Ministry in the CRC by positively identifying flexible routes to credential those who seek entrance to the ordained ministry. Specific attention is to be given but not limited to the following:
  - a. An examination of the processes currently used by a number of classes for the training of individuals for ministry—such as ethnic minorities, Church Order Articles 7 and 23 applicants, and Home Missions’ Leadership Development Networks—to determine their key components for the formation of a well-equipped and well-trained ordained ministry.
  - b. An examination of the proposed standardized framework for the training, education, and mentoring of evangelists (Recommendation J, pp. 307-08) to determine its key components for the formation of a well-equipped and well-trained ministry.
  - c. An examination of the proposed framework in the study-committee report for alternative routes, Section VIII, B for “Changing offices (from evangelist to minister of the Word)” (*Agenda for Synod 2000*, pp. 300-02) and development of a denominational standard and strategy to guide the process whereby ordained evangelists can receive the additional training needed should a church consider calling such a person to become a (denominationally credentialed) minister of the Word.

*Ground:* There is no stated policy or process for this at present in the CRC.

- d. Based on the adopted standards for a well-equipped and well-trained ministry in the light of 9, a and 9, b above, a definition of a classically based process by which ministry applicants using the current Church Order Articles 7, 8, and 23 will be both encouraged to enter into the ordained ministry and be uniquely equipped for it in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
- e. An evaluation of the proposed denominational Ministry Leadership Advisory Council and the classically based classical ministerial-candidacy committees in terms of the desire to give both local churches and classes more responsibility for the ministry-formation process.
- f. An exploration of the impact of such a process for the current reading of Church Order Articles 7, 8, 21, and 23 and for the function of synodical deputies for classical examinations, and recommendations for any appropriate changes.
- g. In light of the conclusions of 9, a; 9, b; and 9, d above, an exploration of how best to recommend to synod the candidates for ordained ministry.
- h. An explanation of whether the current SPMC program and the study committee's proposed SPMC programs are flexible enough to meet the needs of ministry candidates in special circumstances.
- i. A report to Synod 2003.

*Grounds:*

- 1) The study committee affirmed to the advisory committee that, while significant progress has been made in the study of alternate routes to ministry, more attention to specific detail is still necessary.
- 2) The lack of consistent and clear denominational standards for evangelist-training programs has been an issue for classes and synodical deputies in the classical preparation and examination of evangelists.
- 3) Some classes have already established ministry-training and mentoring programs. Review of these programs may be helpful both to shape the implementation of the current study-committee report and to avoid the possibility of competing standards and processes.
- 4) "The local church is the place where ministry takes place, where alternative ministry positions and tasks as well as alternative routes to ordination are born and nurtured, where the real vocational recruitment takes place. It is thus appropriate that classes develop the appropriate structures where these alternatives can be encouraged and regulated within the framework of denominational standards" (*Agenda for Synod 2000*, Recommendation K, p. 308).
- 5) The critical and urgent need for both ordained and unordained ministers in the Christian Reformed Church suggests the need for ongoing study.

—Adopted

10. That the trial period for the adjusted Special Program for Ministerial Candidacy be extended until the year 2003.

—Adopted

11. That this serves as synod's answer to Overture 15, Overture 16, the CRC Publications Supplement, the CRC Home Missions Appendix, and the Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement.

—Adopted

12. That synod thank and dismiss the current study committee.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 10 is continued in Article 70.)

#### ARTICLE 56

A delegate presents the following motion:

That synod direct the general secretary to develop and update yearly a list of churches that have approved the ordination of women as elders.

##### *Grounds:*

1. This will assist women seminarians, candidates, and pastors in knowing churches where their ministerial calling might be affirmed.
2. This is easily done through an added question in the *Yearbook* questionnaire.

—Adopted

#### ARTICLE 57

The afternoon session is adjourned. Mrs. Eileen Christofferson, prayer intercessor for synod, leads in closing prayer.

### **THURSDAY EVENING, June 15, 2000**

#### **Twelfth Session**

#### ARTICLE 58

Rev. Roger Y. Ryu announces *Psalter Hymnal* 428, "O Worship the King," and reads from I Peter 4:11. He leads in opening prayer and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 548, "When We Walk with the Lord."

#### ARTICLE 59

(The report of Advisory Committee 11 is continued from Article 44.)

Advisory Committee 11, End-of-Life Issues, Rev. Bert Slofstra reporting, presents the following:

#### **Responsibility and Community at the End-of-Life**

A. *Material:* Report of the Committee for Contact with the Government (Canada) Regarding Responsibility and Community at the End of Life, pp. 425-48

*B. Recommendations* (continued)

2. That synod receive Sections I-VII of the report from the Committee to Study Responsibility and Community at the End of Life as pastoral advice to the churches concerning care for the dying, with the following two amendments and one cautionary footnote:

- a. That the words “and replaces” in Section IV, A, p. 431, fourth line, be deleted.
- b. That the word “a” be substituted for the words “as our most” in Section IV, D, p. 432, sixth line.

—*Adopted*

c. In Section IV, B, “The Bible and suicide,” the CCG report may give the impression that the Bible is morally neutral about suicide. The report’s assertion, in connection with the five cases of suicide mentioned in the Bible, that the Bible does “not explicitly condemn those who killed themselves” is *factually* accurate. But this statement must not be taken to mean that the Bible condones suicide. Scripture clearly prohibits all wanton destruction of human life. Such destruction includes the willful ending of one’s own life. The Heidelberg Catechism affirms this when it says, in its treatment of the Sixth Commandment, “. . . I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself, either.” Suicide can certainly be forgiven, but Scripture does not condone it.

—*Recommitted*

3. That synod urge the churches to implement the following guidelines with regard to care for the dying (from Section VIII of the report; advisory-committee amendments are italicized):

- a. That with respect to empowering family members, churches
  - 1) Encourage families to engage in frank discussions about the issues surrounding death and dying.
  - 2) Encourage families to prepare advance directives regarding palliative care.
  - 3) Encourage families, dying persons, and all caregivers to exercise their right and responsibility to be active members of the team for the care of the dying.
- b. That with respect to their local community, churches
  - 1) Identify and match community and congregational resources.
  - 2) Form partnerships with community-care programs and agencies.
  - 3) Encourage members to volunteer in local care programs, e.g., involve youth groups to assist seniors in the community.

- c. That with respect to the health-care community, churches
  - 1) Encourage health-care professionals to recognize that dying persons, their families, doctors, chaplains, pastors, and other caregivers constitute a team for *care for the dying*.
  - 2) Encourage the medical community to give priority to effective pain management.
  - 3) Encourage the medical community to develop *and/or utilize* an end-of-life care plan that goes beyond addressing the mere physical needs of the dying, *e.g., hospice care*.
- d. That with respect to its members, churches
  - 1) Preach and teach a biblical view of death as well as the gospel's hope of life after death.
  - 2) Include in their ministry of prayer the dying, their families, and their caregivers.
  - 3) Cherish and embrace in their church lives the disabled, the aged, the suffering, and those near the end of life.
  - 4) Match gifts and needs in the congregation.
  - 5) Encourage the recognition and development of care-giving skills.
  - 6) Provide respite for caregivers.
  - 7) Provide financial assistance where required.
- e. That with respect to public policy, churches
  - 1) Encourage the allocation of health-care funding for adequate palliative services, home care, and medical support services for all people.
  - 2) Encourage government initiatives that will allow medical treatment aimed at pain relief even if that treatment may unintentionally shorten life.
  - 3) Encourage government initiatives that will promote life-affirming legislation and oppose legislation that endorses assisted suicide or mercy killing.

—Adopted

- 4. That synod request CRC Publications to publish educational materials on care for the dying, using the study report as amended and the guidelines adopted above as appropriate.

*Ground:* There is an urgent need for pastoral advice regarding communal care for the dying.

—Adopted

- 5. That synod encourage the churches to take note of and utilize the bioethics materials already marketed by CRC Publications and make these materials available to their members as well as to health-care professionals in their respective communities.

—Adopted

- 6. That synod appoint a study committee consisting of health-care professionals, theologians/ethicists, pastors, and others to examine the biblical/theological/ethical/public-policy issues posed by the increasing capabilities of medical science to prolong living and dying and to hasten death, with the

goal of (a) providing guidance to Christians as they participate in treatment decisions in the face of life-threatening conditions and (b) providing pastoral advice to the church in its response to the issues of suicide, assisted suicide, and euthanasia. This committee will report to Synod 2003.

*Grounds:*

- a. The scope of the current report is limited primarily to communal care for the dying.
- b. There is a need in the church for biblically informed guidance with respect to matters such as advance directives, DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) orders, the impact of managed care on ethical choices, and justice in access to limited health-care resources.
- c. There is a need for the church to speak prophetically to our society on end-of-life public-policy issues.
- d. These issues are too big for any one church or classis to deal with by itself.
- e. 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), pornography (cf. *Acts of Synod 1988*, pp. 605-07), and bioscience and genetic engineering (*Acts of Synod*, 1999, pp. 608).

—*Defeated*

7. That synod thank the CCG for its report.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 11 is continued in Article 68.)

## ARTICLE 60

Advisory Committee 9, Church Order II, Rev. Richard J. de Lange reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Response to Overture 23: Appoint a Committee to Study Baptism**

A. *Material:* Overture 23, pp. 502-06

#### *B. Observations*

The issue raised by Classis Alberta and Saskatchewan resonates with people throughout the denomination, particularly as the Christian Reformed Church seeks to reach out to the communities in which the Lord has placed us. Our efforts to become more multiethnic and evangelistic have caused us to confront many questions with respect to infant baptism. In reaching out, however, we face the challenge of maintaining our confessional integrity as Reformed Christians within the larger body of the Church of Jesus Christ.

The overture observes that the denomination should not alter its commitment to the sacrament of baptism as outlined and confessed in the Christian Reformed Church. It further observes that excellent studies on this subject already exist. Therefore, rather than revisit the place of infant baptism in the confessions and practice of the CRC, a better solution is to make more accessible and well known what resources already exist in our denomination.



### C. *Recommendation*

That synod not accede to Overture 23.

#### *Grounds:*

1. Article 56 of our Church Order states, “The covenant of God shall be sealed to children of believers. The consistory shall see to it that baptism is requested and administered as soon as feasible.” With those words, the Church Order requires infant baptism to be administered. Our desire to widen the circle of fellowship in the CRC, while good, should not detract from our confessional identity.
2. Good and helpful information on infant baptism is already available. We remind the churches that our confessions highlight the biblical basis for infant baptism (Belgic Confession Art. 34, Heidelberg Catechism Lord’s Day 27, especially Q. and A. 74). Our Church Order (Arts. 56-58) and previous synods (e.g., 1888, 1964, 1971, 1973) speak to this. Our liturgical forms do a good job of teaching the significance of it. There are many good books which adequately cover the theology of infant baptism as well as some of the practical concerns the overture raises. Also, the denomination has advisers available such as seminary professors and the general secretary.
3. The scope of the requested study committee is too broad. The overture asks not only for a study of the doctrine of infant baptism and a historical survey of that doctrine but also for an evaluation of current struggles in the CRC regarding the variety of beliefs and practices regarding baptism.
4. An observation in Overture 23 signals an expectation of “official synodical endorsement” of a study-committee report. Previous synods have almost invariably avoided such endorsement for fear of binding office-bearers to extra-creedal statements. With a study as broad as the overture suggests, that danger looms large.

—*Adopted*

## II. **Response to Overture 24: Alter the CRC’s Position on Homosexuality**

A. *Material:* Overture 24, pp. 506-07

### B. *Recommendation*

That synod not accede to Overture 24.

*Ground:* This overture calls for a revision of a previous synodical decision. Synod 1973 and Synod 1999 addressed this issue, and the overture does not offer “sufficient and new grounds for reconsideration” (Church Order Art. 31).

—*Adopted*

### **III. Response to Overture 25: Endorse the Resolution of the Southern Baptist Convention on Marriage and Family**

A. *Material*: Overture 25, pp. 507-08

#### **B. Observations**

Although we affirm the spirit of the resolution of the Southern Baptist Convention, our denomination has already drafted and approved its own statements concerning the importance of and God's design for marriage and the family, as well as for single persons in our contemporary world. We stand with the larger Christian community in affirming the important role of the family in society through the statements made in *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony*.

#### **C. Recommendation**

That synod not accede to Overture 25.

##### *Grounds:*

1. The CRC has already adequately stated its position on marriage and family as well as on singles in *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraphs 45-49, approved by Synod 1986.
2. "Significant reports concerning marriage have been prepared in recent years, and although they have not all been adopted by synod, they have been submitted to the churches for comments. These reports can be found in the following *Acts of Synod*: 1961, pp. 25-26, 134-40 (the report of the Reformed Ecumenical Synod); 1975, Report 38, pp. 488-514; 1976, Report 35, pp. 458-96; 1977, Report 35, pp. 510-48; 1980, Report 29, pp. 467-85" (*Manual of Christian Reformed Church Government*, 1994, De Ridder and Hofman, p. 349).

—Adopted

### **IV. Response to Overture 26: Add Another Need Criterion to Church Order Supplement, Article 8**

A. *Material*: Overture 26, pp. 509-10

#### **B. Recommendations**

1. That synod declare that (for starting new churches in the U.S. and Canada) the shortage of new-church developers within the CRC shall meet the "need" requirement under Church Order Supplement, Article 8-D, 5.

—Adopted

2. That synod decide that this addition be placed in the Church Order Supplement under Article 8-D, 5.

—Adopted

3. That the results of Recommendations 1 and 2 be reviewed in five years.

—Adopted

4. That synod also place its 1985 decision regarding the need for multicultural and ethnic-minority pastors in the Church Order Supplement under Article 8-D, 5. That decision was "That synod declare that for multicultural or ethnic-minority churches the need for indigenous leadership shall consti-

tute the criterion for meeting the ‘need’ requirements of Article 7 and Article 8 of the Church Order” (*Acts of Synod 1985*, Article 76, C, 11, p. 752).

—Adopted

5. That this be synod’s response to Overture 26.

—Adopted

## **V. Response to Overture 27: Clarify Decision Permitting Term Calls for Ministers of the Word**

A. *Material*: Overture 27, pp. 510-11

### *B. Observations*

Although the original context of the term-call provision introduced in 1987 was for older ministers, the Church Order Supplement does not specifically preclude candidates from receiving term calls.

### *C. Recommendations*

1. That synod declare that when a term call is extended to a candidate, it shall ordinarily include a term of service of not less than two years.

*Ground*: This upholds the integrity of the calling process and the nature of ordination.

—Adopted

2. That synod decide that this addition be placed under Church Order Supplement, Article 8, Section C.

—Adopted

3. That this be synod’s response to Overture 27.

—Adopted

## **VI. Response to Communication 4**

A. *Material*: Communication 4, Supplement

### *B. Observations*

A person formally enters ministry in the CRC at ordination. The classical examination is held in order to permit the calling church to proceed with the ordination of a candidate. When the candidate has sustained the classical examination, the congregation has permission to proceed with ordination. Until the congregation ordains the candidate, the status of the candidate remains the same, namely, unordained.

### *C. Recommendation*

That synod not take action on this communication.

—Adopted

## **ARTICLE 61**

The evening session is adjourned. Elder Casey C. Jen leads in closing prayer.

**FRIDAY MORNING, June 16, 2000**  
**Thirteenth Session**

**ARTICLE 62**

Rev. Mark D. Vermaire announces *Psalter Hymnal* 234, “Alabaré, Alabaré, Alabaré a Mi Señor,” and reads a selection from Scripture. He leads in opening prayer and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 543, “Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer.”

The roll call indicates that the following delegates are absent: Rev. Timothy J. Ouwinga (Heartland), Elder William Covert (Holland), Rev. David W. Yang (Pacific Hanmi), Rev. Paul H. Redhouse (Red Mesa).

Elder Adrian J. Molendyk (Zeeland) has replaced Elder Gary De Haan. He rises to express agreement with the forms of unity.

**ARTICLE 63**

Advisory Committee 6, Financial Matters, Elder Ed Vanderveer reporting, presents the following:

**I. Fund for Smaller Churches**

**A. Materials**

1. Fund for Smaller Churches Report, pp. 176-78
2. CR Home Missions Supplement, Appendix only

**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 that the same privilege be granted to other members of the committee.

—*Granted*

2. That the minimum salary for ministers serving churches receiving assistance from FSC be set at \$32,750 (\$31,500 in 2000) and that Canadian minimum salary be set at  $\$32,750 \times 120\% = \$39,300$  (see 11 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 (\$720 Canadian) 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 \$.325 per mile (\$.325 per kilometer in Canada) times the percentage of ministry-share reduction granted ( $80 - \text{number of families} = \text{percentage of reimbursement}$ ).

—*Adopted*

6. That an allowance of \$4,500 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 11 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 2001 and, if possible, more.  

*—Adopted*
9. That congregations in the U.S. receiving assistance from FSC shall pay a Social Security/Medicare offset to their pastors in the amount of at least \$3,250. Canadian congregations are encouraged to contribute similar amounts toward a 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 \$2,500 in 2001. This shall be granted to Canadian churches provided the amount is designated for similar expenses.  

*—Adopted*
11. That a cost-of-living differential allowance 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 2001 (\$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 continue at \$400 (U.S.) and \$480 (Canada) for 2001. We note that 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 of \$800 (\$960 Canadian) per child for each child attending a Christian school, grades K-12, for 2001.  

*—Adopted*

14. That Rev. Dirk Hart (Home Missions' Established-Church Department leader) and Rev. John Rozeboom (Home Missions' executive director) be given the privilege of the floor when the report on Support for Smaller Churches (see Appendix to Home Missions Supplement) is considered along with the Fund for Smaller Churches report.

—*Granted*

15. That synod urge the churches to continue to pay the Fund for Smaller Churches ministry share.

*Grounds:*

- a. The synodical commitment to salary funding continues (*Acts of Synod 1999*, pp. 591-93).
- b. Synod 1999 decided to retain the FSC/small-church-support ministry share through calendar year 2002 (*Acts of Synod 1999*, Art. 40, I, C, 5, p. 593).
- c. For at least the next two years, 2001 and 2002, support for smaller churches will be administered by Home Missions separately from the Home Missions budget.

—*Adopted*

16. That synod express profound gratitude to the past and present members of the Fund for Smaller Churches Committee for over fifty years of service to the denomination, acknowledge the many years of volunteer service rendered, mostly by members of the Chicago CRC community, and express gratitude to God and to the individuals involved for these excellent services.

—*Adopted*

17. That synod request the Board of Trustees to set minimum salary and benefits annually to serve as a basis upon which salary support for smaller churches will be computed and to guide other churches, with due regard to compensation practices and cost of living as they may vary across North America.

—*Adopted*

The vice president assumes the chair.

## **II. Pensions and Insurance**

### **A. *Material:* Pensions and Insurance Report, pp. 179-84**

#### **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 or to Mr. Kenneth J. Horjus when insurance matters and matters pertaining to pension plans for ministers and employees are discussed.

—*Granted*

2. That synod designate up to 100 percent of a minister's early or normal retirement pension or disability pension for 2001 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*

### **III. Response to Overture 20: Study Other Pension Plans and Consider the Option of a Defined-Contribution Plan for U.S. Ministers' Pension Fund (majority report)**

A. *Material*: Overture 20, pp. 495-500

#### **B. Recommendation**

That synod not accede to this overture but refer it to the pension-fund trustees for consideration.

#### *Grounds:*

1. Misunderstandings exist in the text of this overture.
2. Several plan enhancements are currently being considered by the pension-fund trustees which address some of the concerns stated in the overture.
3. A Special Assistance Fund is in place to address the exceptional needs of pastors.

According to the Rules of Synodical Procedure, the minority report re Overture 20 is presented as information by Rev. L. Van Essen:

### **Response to Overture 20: Study Other Pension Plans and Consider the Option of a Defined-Contribution Plan for U.S. Ministers' Pension Fund (minority report)**

A. *Material*: Overture 20, pp. 495-500

#### **B. Recommendation**

That Synod 2000 instruct the pension-fund trustees, effective January 1, 2001, to adjust the formula for pension determination to meet the trustees' proposed target of providing both active and retired pastors and their survivors with 70 percent of the average annual salary (plus housing). This adjustment can be achieved by increasing the formula for pension determination to 1.46 percent of the final average salary (plus housing) multiplied by the active pastors' and the retirees' years of credited service for *all* years of service instead of only for service rendered after January 1, 2000.

#### *Grounds:*

1. Since retirees and survivors do not earn credited service after retirement and since they do not regularly receive additions to their compensation, they will never be able to achieve the 70 percent target unless their years of service are included in the new multiple of 1.46.
2. Active pastors who will receive pension compensation under the enhancements approved by Synod 1999 will still need to work many more decades to achieve the 70 percent target since the multiple needed (1.46) is presently applied only to years of service accrued *after* January 1, 2000.
3. This is an urgent matter on which a decision should not be delayed.
4. It is the prerogative of synod to establish benefits for its retirees.
5. Many pastors have the perception that the pension-fund trustees are very reluctant to grant any substantial increase in benefits.

*Note:* The implementation of this instruction would cost the fund an additional \$1,750,000 annually. The fund can easily sustain this increase without asking the churches to raise assessments for ministers' pensions since the *net* growth of the fund has averaged around \$11 million over the past five years. There is no reason to expect a significant change in this rate of growth. Synod is strongly urged to adopt this minority report for the sake of retired Christian Reformed clergy and their survivors, those poorly compensated servants who have no voice of their own regarding this matter.

Synod returns to its consideration of the recommendations of the advisory committee majority report.

**Response to Overture 20: Study Other Pension Plans and Consider the Option of a Defined-Contribution Plan for U.S. Ministers' Pension Fund (majority report)**

A. *Material:* Overture 20, pp. 495-500

B. *Recommendation*

That synod not accede to this overture but refer it to the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA for consideration with the pension-fund trustees.

*Grounds:*

1. Misunderstandings exist in the text of this overture.
2. Several plan enhancements are currently being considered by the pension-fund trustees which address some of the concerns stated in the overture.
3. A Special Assistance Fund is in place to address the exceptional needs of pastors.

—Adopted

**Pensions and Insurance** (continued from II above)

A. *Material:* Pensions and Insurance Report, pp. 179-84

B. *Recommendations* (continued)

3. That synod receive as information the decision of the pension trustees regarding the final average salaries to be used in the year 2001 by the pension plans in the application of the benefit formulas. These amounts are \$36,246 in the U.S. and \$37,441 in Canada.

—Adopted

4. That synod receive as information the decision of the pension trustees that the participant assessments for 2001 be \$3,800 in the U.S. and \$4,600 in Canada. Confessing-member assessments have been set at \$16.00 (U.S.) and \$18.00 (Canada).

—Adopted

The president of synod resumes the chair.

Mr. Kenneth J. Horjus, director of finance and administration, presents the *Agenda for Synod 2000—Financial and Business Supplement*.



#### IV. Board of Trustees

##### A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report, Appendix L, pp. 80-109
2. Board of Trustees Supplement, Section VI, F and Appendix F
3. *Agenda for Synod 2000—Financial and Business Supplement*

##### B. Recommendations

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Mr. Kenneth J. Horjus when matters pertaining to finance are discussed.

—*Granted*

2. That synod receive as information the condensed financial statements for the agencies and educational institutions (Board of Trustees Report, Appendix L).

—*Received*

3. That synod approve a ministry share of \$242.21 per confessing member over 18 for calendar year 2001.

The Back to God Hour	\$ 32.61
CRC TV	11.70
Calvin College	26.34
Calvin Theological Seminary	23.28
Canadian Ministries Board ministries	7.77
CRC Publications	3.16
Home Missions	51.16
World Missions	50.22
Denominational Services	
General administration	19.18
Ministry programs	12.79
Fund for Smaller Churches	4.00
	<u>\$242.21</u>

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 6 is continued in Article 66.)

#### ARTICLE 64

The president introduces Dr. Richard Van Houten of the Reformed Ecumenical Council, who addresses synod. The president of synod responds.

The morning session is adjourned; Elder Ralph Pypker leads in closing prayer.

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON, June 16, 2000

##### Fourteenth Session

#### ARTICLE 65

Evangelist Bobby Boyd, ethnic adviser, announces *Psalter Hymnal* 483, “How Great Thou Art,” and reads Psalm 48:9-14. He announces *Psalter Hymnal* 471, “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name,” and leads in opening prayer.

ARTICLE 66

(The report of Advisory Committee 6 is continued from Article 63.)

Advisory Committee 6, Financial Matters, Elder Ed Vanderveer reporting, continues to present the committee’s recommendations:

**I. Board of Trustees**

**A. Materials**

- 1. Board of Trustees Report, Appendix L, pp. 80-109
- 2. Board of Trustees Supplement, Section VI, F and Appendix F
- 3. *Agenda for Synod 2000—Financial and Business Supplement*

**B. Recommendations (continued)**

- 4. That synod approve the proposed salary ranges for 2001, which represent a 3 percent adjustment for both the U.S. and Canadian ranges.

Level	Proposed U.S. 2001 Range			Proposed Canadian 2001 Range		
	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum
20	\$74,266	\$92,833	\$111,399	\$95,665	\$119,581	\$143,497
19	\$67,570	\$84,461	\$101,354	\$82,991	\$103,739	\$124,487
18	\$61,928	\$77,411	\$92,892	\$72,315	\$90,394	\$108,473
17	\$57,169	\$71,462	\$85,754	\$63,309	\$79,136	\$94,963
16	\$53,186	\$66,483	\$79,780	\$55,771	\$69,713	\$83,656
15	\$49,849	\$62,311	\$74,773	\$49,454	\$61,817	\$74,181
14	\$43,757	\$54,695	\$65,635	\$44,116	\$55,144	\$66,173
13	\$38,647	\$48,309	\$57,970	\$39,633	\$49,541	\$59,450

Note: The shaded areas are not currently in use.

—Adopted

- 5. 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.

a. Denominational agencies

Back to God Hour – above-ministry-share needs

Calvin College – above-ministry-share needs

Calvin Theological Seminary

    Above-ministry-share needs

    Revolving Student Loan Fund

    125th Anniversary Fund

CRC Publications

    World Literature Ministries – above-ministry-share needs

Home Missions – above-ministry-share needs

World Relief Committee – one offering per quarter because

    CRWRC receives no ministry-share support

Denominational Services  
Above-ministry-share needs  
Ministry programs  
Abuse Prevention  
Chaplaincy Ministries  
Disability Concerns  
Pastor-Church Relations  
Race Relations  
Above-ministry-share needs  
Multiracial Student Scholarship Fund  
Social Justice and Hunger Action

b. Denominationally related youth agencies

Dynamic Youth Ministries (formerly United Calvinist Youth)  
GEMS  
Calvinist Cadet Corps  
Youth Unlimited/Early Teens (Young Calvinist Federation)

—Adopted

6. That synod approve the list of accredited nondenominational agencies according to the designations assigned to each, as recommended by the Board of Trustees.

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.

a. United States agencies

1) Benevolent agencies

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

2) 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  
Trinity Christian College  
Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia  
Worldwide Christian Schools

3) Miscellaneous agencies

American Bible Society  
Audio Scripture Ministries  
Crossroads Bible Institute  
Friendship Ministries  
Gideons International – U.S.  
International Bible Society  
Lord's Day Alliance  
Metanoia Ministries  
Mission India  
Mississippi Christian Family Services, Inc.  
Reformed Ecumenical Council  
The Bible League  
The Tract League  
Wycliffe Bible Translators

b. Canadian agencies

1) Benevolent agencies

Beginnings Counseling & Adoption Services of Ontario

2) Educational agencies

Canadian Christian Education Foundation  
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

### 3) Miscellaneous agencies

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

—Adopted

## II. Overture 4 (Synod 1999)

Synod 1999 instructed “the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the pension fund trustees to examine the requests of this overture and to report back to Synod 2000” (*Acts of Synod 1999*, p. 572). This overture requested that synod mandate a study of the protocols to be followed when church councils and classes deal with short-term and long-term disability issues for pastors of the CRC.

Synod 2000 has been informed by the Board of Trustees that because of the press of other duties this study has not yet been initiated and that every effort will be made to respond to synod’s instruction in the near future.

The financial-matters advisory committee urges the Board of Trustees to deal with this issue and address the concerns in keeping with the established policies already in place and communicate the same to the churches.

—Received as information

## III. Summary of denominational investments and compliance with investment policy

Synod 1998 approved a number of measures dealing with investment guidelines and disclosures. The Board of Trustees’ response to two of these requests is found in Appendix F of the Board of Trustees Supplement.

—Received as information

## IV. Response to Overture 18: Appoint Committee to Evaluate Denominational Health-Insurance Plan

A. *Material*: Overture 18, pp. 493-94

B. *Recommendation*

This overture requests that synod appoint a study committee to evaluate the effectiveness and viability of the denominational health-insurance plan. The advisory committee recommends that synod not accede to Overture 18.

*Ground*: A task force designated by the Board of Trustees already has such a study in process.

—Adopted

## **V. Response to Overture 19: Establish and Implement a Special-Assistance Fund for Medical Needs Not Met Through Insurance or State and Federal Programs**

A. *Material*: Overture 19, pp. 494-95

### *B. Recommendation*

That synod not accede to this overture from Classis Iakota to establish a denominational special-assistance fund but refer the issues and concerns of this overture to the Board of Trustees for consideration and advice to Classis Iakota.

—Adopted

## **VI. Response to Communication 1**

A. *Material*: Communication 1, p. 513

### *B. Recommendations*

The advisory committee notes that previous synods have required that the annual financial statement of each classis be audited by a certified public or chartered accountant (see *Manual of Christian Reformed Church Government*, p. 232). The committee believes that there are sound reasons for this general requirement.

The advisory committee recommends the following:

1. That synod send a communication to Classis Northcentral Iowa encouraging that classis to remain in compliance with this requirement.
2. That synod advise Classis Northcentral Iowa that, if the classis thinks that a change in this requirement is desirable, it should propose a change by way of an overture to synod.

—Adopted

—Adopted

## **VII. Acknowledgment**

Synod recognizes the work of Mr. Kenneth J. Horjus and his staff both in Grand Rapids and Burlington. It is of great comfort to the church to know that we have knowledgeable, committed, and dedicated staff administering the finances of the denomination.

## **ARTICLE 67**

A delegate presents the following motion:

That the Board of Trustees be advised to work with the pension trustees to increase the pension benefits in stages of 20 percent and, if possible, to reach the stated objective of 70 percent of average ministers' salaries, plus housing allowance, to be applied to both retirees and those still in active service, the created unfunded liability to be amortized over fifteen years or less. As soon as the fund is fully funded, the next stage of 20 percent will be implemented.

—Defeated

## ARTICLE 68

(The report of Advisory Committee 11 is continued from Article 59.)

Advisory Committee 11, End-of-Life Issues, Rev. Bert Slofstra reporting, presents the following:

### **Responsibility and Community at the End of Life**

A. *Material*: Report of the Committee for Contact with the Government (Canada) Regarding Responsibility and Community at the End of Life, pp. 425-48

#### *B. Recommendation*

That synod substitute the following wording for Section IV, B of the report of the committee to study end-of-life issues:

#### *The Bible and suicide*

In view of the growing demand for the legalization of assisted suicide, an examination of biblical givens may be helpful. The call to be willing to lose one's life in order to save it is mentioned six times in the four gospels (Matt. 10:39; Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24; 14:26-27; 17:33; John 12:25). These words of our Lord have prompted many acts of courage and compassion in which individuals were willing to sacrifice their own lives in order to serve others in his name. But such selfless acts of sacrificial love and compassion are not to be confused with the conditions that lead a person to attempt suicide.

Interestingly, the instances of suicide that are mentioned in the Bible do not include *explicit* condemnation of the act (see II Sam. 1:24-25 and II Sam. 2:4-7; also II Sam. 17:23; Judg. 9:52-54; I Kings 16:18-19; Matt. 27:5). This must not be taken to mean, however, that the Bible condones suicide. Scripture clearly prohibits *all* wanton destruction of human life, and that includes the willful ending of one's own life. The Heidelberg Catechism affirms this when it says, in its treatment of the Sixth Commandment, ". . . I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself, either."

Although the scriptural narratives referred to do not explicitly condemn those who took their own lives, their desperate actions *are* generally associated with lives of disobedience. Again, however, these examples of suicide must not be understood to suggest that depressed or suicidal persons today have, at some point in their lives, chosen to pursue the way of evil. We now know that depression is a serious illness, one that can have fatal consequences. It is of special comfort, therefore, for believers to know that, although the Bible does not condone suicide, our gracious God is certainly able to forgive it.

—Adopted

## ARTICLE 69

A delegate presents the following motion:

That synod instruct the BOT to develop a process that will assist the churches to discuss the issue of women in office and promote understanding that will lead to a more unified insight into this matter. The BOT will report its proposed process to Synod 2001.

*Grounds:*

- a. Since 1995 too little public discussion has taken place to bring the church to unified insight into this issue.
- b. The time allowed before the next review of this matter (2005) provides sufficient opportunity for continuing discussion.

—*Defeated*

ARTICLE 70

(The report of Advisory Committee 10 is continued from Article 55.)

Advisory Committee 10, Alternate Routes to Ministry, Rev. Kenneth E. Van Wyk reporting, presents the following:

**Committee to Examine Alternate Routes Being Used to Enter the Ordained Ministry in the CRC**

*A. Materials*

1. Committee to Examine Alternate Routes Being Used to Enter the Ministry in the CRC Report, pp. 271-350
2. CR Home Missions Report – Appendix, pp. 150-56
3. CRC Publications Supplement
4. Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement, Recommendation E, pp. 3-4
5. Overture 15, pp. 489-90
6. Overture 16, pp. 490-93

*B. Recommendation*

That synod approve the following membership for the Committee to Provide Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Ministry:

Rev. Bruce Ballast  
Dr. Gary Bekker  
Rev. Shawn Brix  
Mr. Ted Charles  
Mr. Robert den Dulk, convener  
Rev. Calvin Hoogendoorn  
Rev. Michael Johnson  
Mrs. Thea Leunk  
Ms. Jill Louters  
Rev. Roger Ryu  
Mr. Kenneth Vander Horst  
Rev. Richard Williams  
Dr. David H. Engelhard, ex officio

—*Adopted*

ARTICLE 71

The general secretary reads letters of greetings received from the Reformed Churches in South Africa–Synod Soutpansberg and the Christian Reformed Church in Nigeria.



## ARTICLE 72

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, functionaries, and convening church for 2001

#### 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  
Ms. Laura Vanderschaaf, event coordinator

#### C. Convening church

Convening church for Synod 2001: Church of the Servant CRC, Grand Rapids, Michigan

### II. Synodical deputies

Classis	Deputy	Alternate	Term Expires
Alberta North	Rev. H.G. Samplonius	Rev. H. Vriend	2003
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Rev. J. Corvers	Rev. A. Beukema	2002
Arizona	Rev. F.E. Pott	Rev. F.J. Walhof	2001
Atlantic Northeast	Rev. S.J. Vander Klay	Rev. J.L. Vande Lune	2003
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		2001
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. K. Van Schelven	2003
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. J.A. Molenbeek	Rev. S. Venhuizen	2003
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	Dr. A.J. Schoonveld	Rev. D.A. Kamstra	2001
Greater Los Angeles	Rev. D.R. Koll	Rev. R.D. Goudzwaard	2003
Hackensack	Rev. P.R. De Vries	Rev. D.H. Bratt	2002
Hamilton	Rev. J. Zantingh	Rev. H.R. De Bolster	2001
Heartland	Rev. J.M. Gray	Rev. D. Tinklenberg	2002
Holland	Rev. J. Hasper	Rev. M. De Vries	2001
Hudson	Rev. J.G. Keizer	Rev. K.J. Verhulst	2001
Huron	Rev. R. Koops	Rev. H.J. Bierman	2002
lakota	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	Dr. C. Libolt	2002
Lake Superior	Rev. J.G. Busscher	Rev. W.H. Kooienga	2002
Minnkota	Rev. T.J. Brown	Rev. L.G. Christoffels	2000
Muskegon	Rev. A.L. Hoksbergen	Rev. R.L. Bierenga	2001
Niagara	Rev. J. De Jong	Rev. H.A. Vander Windt	2002

Northcentral Iowa	Rev. T.J. Niehof	Rev. G.M. Mc Guire	2002
Northern Illinois	Rev. T.H. Douma	Rev. T.D. Kauffman	2003
Northern Michigan	Rev. R. Klimp	Rev. R. Brinks	2000
Pacific Hanmi	Rev. S.J. Kang	Rev. Y.O. Kim	2001
Pacific Northwest	Rev. K.D. Koeman	Rev. H.J. Weidenaar	2003
Pella	Rev. L.J. Howerzyl	Rev. H.A. Brink	2001
Quinte	Rev. W.T. Koopmans	Rev. C.D. Tuyl	2003
Red Mesa	Rev. S.A. Jim	Rev. J.W. Dykhuis	2003
Rocky Mountain	Rev. J.P. Boonstra	Rev. K.R. Rip	2003
Southeast U.S.	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		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

Classis/Region	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
<i>Canadian Members</i>			
Alberta North	Dr. W.H. Vanden Born		2003
Alberta South	Rev. A. Beukema		2001
B.C. Northwest	Rev. W.C. Veenstra		2003
B.C. Southeast	Rev. B. Slofstra		2003
Chatham	Rev. P. Nicolai		2002
Huron	Rev. E. Den Haan		2002
Niagara	Mr. Leo Van Tuyl		2003
Hamilton	Mr. J.H. Vander Stoep		2001
Eastern Canada	Mr. T. Luimes		2001
Quinte	Mr. R. Pypker		2002
Toronto	Rev. G.H. Pols		2001
Lake Superior	Mr. J. Harris		2002
At-large members	Ms. S. Baker-Colins		2001
	Mrs. S. Cook		2002
	Mr. E. Vanderveer		2003
<i>U.S. Members</i>			
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	Mr. W. Ackerman	2002
Central U.S. I	Rev. Wayne Leys	Dr. James La Grand	2003
Central U.S. II	Rev. A.L. Hoksbergen	Rev. S.D. Los	2003
Central U.S. III	Rev. J.P. Gorter	Rev. C.D. Compagner	2001
	Mr. Kenneth Kuipers	Mr. Del Huisingh	2003
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
At-large members	Mrs. M. Thomas	Mrs. C. Vander Kodde	2001
	Mrs. G. Jansen	Mrs. T. Rottschafer	2003
	Mr. H. Johnson	Dr. J. Strikwerda	2001
	Dr. C. Rottman	Mrs. M. Minnema	2001
Ex officio members	Dr. David H. Engelhard, general secretary Dr. Peter Borgdorff, executive director of ministries		

*B. The Back to God Hour Board*

Region	Member	Term Expires
Far West U.S. I	Rev. A. Begay	2002
Far West U.S. II	Mrs. C. Holland	2003
Great Plains	Mr. J. Slegers	2002
	Rev. T.J. Brown	2001
Central U.S. I	Rev. R.E. Williams	2001
	Mrs. J. Bilthouse	2003
Central U.S. II	Rev. A. Petroelje	2002
Central U.S. III	Mrs. W. Beckman	2002
	Dr. Robert Heerspink	2003
Central U.S. IV	Rev. R.S. Greenway	2002
	Mrs. Carol Post	2003
Eastern U.S.	Rev. Donald Wisse	2003
Eastern Canada I	Mr. C.K. Oosthoek	2001
Eastern Canada II	Mrs. M. Meyer	2002
	Rev. Harry Salomons	2003
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. Veltkamp	2003
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. Vernon Boerman	Mr. Gerald Baas	2003
Central U.S. II	Dr. Robert De Bruin	Mrs. Lois Miller	2003
Central U.S. III	Mr. J. Postma		2003
	Mr. A. Morren	Dr. Robert Swierenga	2001
Central U.S. IV	Rev. E.J. Blankespoor	Mr. M. De Boer	2003
	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	2003
Western Canada	Mr. R. Koole	Dr. J.S. Hielema	2002
Alumni	Dr. Marvin Kosters		2001
	Ms. Connie Northouse Brummel		2002
	Dr. Orin Gelderloos		2003
At-large	Mr. S.C.L. Chong		2002
	Dr. T. DeMeester		2002
	Dr. Jack Harkema		2001
	Mr. Milton Kuyers		2002
	Mrs. Cecilia Mereness		2003
	Mr. K. Olthoff		2003
	Mr. K. Ozinga		2002
	Ms. Jacquelyn S. Vander Brug		2001
	Ms. Cindi Veenstra		2002
	Mr. Michael A. Volkema		2001
	Mr. M. Williams		2003
	Rev. Norberto Wolf		2003

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

Region	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
Far West U.S. I	Rev. A. Lindemulder	Rev. D. Brink	2003
Far West U.S. II	Rev. K.D. Koeman	Rev. J.R. Kok	2003
Great Plains U.S. I	Mr. Loren Veldhuizen	Mrs. Carol Kramer	2003
Great Plains U.S. II	Rev. R.D. Kramer	Rev. W. Zeilstra	2003
Central U.S. I	Mr. G. Baas	Dr. L. Reedyk	2001
Central U.S. II	Rev. C.J. Oh	Dr. M.S. Khil	2002
Central U.S. III	Mr. W. Byker	Dr. G. Niemeyer	2002
Central U.S. IV	Rev. N.L. Meyer	Rev. J.J. Steigenga	2001
Central U.S. V	Rev. Roger Kok	Rev. Ron Kool	2003
Central U.S. VI	Mr. J. Roskam	Mr. W.F. Stoub	2001
Eastern U.S.	Rev. R.E. Orellana	Rev. L. Seaton	2002
Eastern Canada I	Mr. M. Bosveld	Mr. J. Geschiere	2003
Eastern Canada II	Mr. W. Hultink	Mr. J. De Waard	2002
Eastern Canada III	Mr. J.A. Barnstead	Mr. W. Kort	2001
Western Canada I	Rev. H.G. de Ruyter	Dr. J.S. Hielema	2001
Western Canada II	Rev. C. Van Niejenhuis	Rev. H. Salomons	2002
At-large	Mr. M. Muller	Mr. D. Nydam	2003
	Mr. S.J. Jansma, Jr.	Mr. B. te Velde, Sr.	2001
	Dr. M.E. Toxopeus	Rev. M.S. Antonides	2001

### *E. CRC Publications Board*

Classis	Delegate	Alternate	Term Expires
Alberta North	Ms. Jessie Schut	Rev. W.A. Ten Harmsel	2002
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Ms. J. Weening	Ms. G. Heinen	2002
Arizona	Mr. P. Kuczynski		2001
Atlantic Northeast	Ms. L. Bieze	Ms. J. Spoelhof	2003
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	Rev. R. Vander Vaart	2000
Chicago South	Mr. D. Larsen	Dr. D. Sinnema	2002
Columbia	Mrs. C. Bosch	Mrs. B. Vander Beek	2001
Eastern Canada	Dr. I. Neutel	Mrs. N. Pye	2001
Georgetown	Ms. P. Dornbush	Mr. C. Koning	2001
Grand Rapids East	Ms. C. Blauwkamp	Ms. C. Van Dyke	2003
Grand Rapids North	Mr. A. Stremler	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. Beezhold	2003
Hackensack	Rev. E.N. Romero		2003
Hamilton	Mrs. A. Van der Woerd	Mr. F. Vandervelde	2001
Heartland	Rev. M.D. Fopma	Mr. L. Bosma	2002
Holland	Rev. M. De Vries	Rev. L.J. Vander Zee	2002
Hudson	Mr. D. Holwerda		2000
Huron	Mrs. J. Van Der Velden	Ms. N. Zwart	2002
lakota	Mrs. S. Matheis	Dr. M. Vanden Bosch	2001
Illiana	Mr. R. Wunderink		2001
Kalamazoo	Ms. J. Wierenga	Rev. R. Ritsema	2002
Lake Erie	Dr. C. Libolt	Mrs. L. Miller	2001
Lake Superior	Mrs. C. Rudie		2000

Minnkota	Ms. L. Van Beek	Mr. J. Van Nieuwenhuizen	2001
Muskegon	Ms. J. Meyers	Rev. L.D. Baar	2000
Niagara	Mr. B. Witvoet	Mrs. T. Loerts	2003
Northcentral Iowa	Ms. R. Verbrugge	Rev. S.J. Mulder	2001
Northern Illinois	Rev. J.F. Schuurman	Mrs. B. Brouwer	2002
Northern Michigan	Mrs. B. Verbrugge	Mr. S. Loomis	2003
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	Ms. C. Zwart	Mr. H. Meinema	2003
Red Mesa	Ms. E. Bennally	Mrs. S. Jim	2003
Rocky Mountain	Ms. C. Mulder	Rev. R. De Young	2003
Southeast U.S.	Ms. C. Villanueva		2002
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		2002/2
	Mr. A. Romero		2002/1
	Mr. R. Bandstra		2002/1
Fraternal delegate	Mr. Jeff Japinga (RCA)		2001/2

### *F. Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions*

Classis	Delegate	Alternate	Term Expires
Alberta North	Rev. P. Stel	Rev. R.J. Graff	2002
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan			2000
Arizona	Mr. H. Jansen	Rev. J.A. Dykema	2003
Atlantic Northeast	Rev. A. Gelder	Mrs. K. Exoo	2002
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	Mr. A. Vanden Bos	Mr. J. De Young	2002
Central California	Mr. C.J. Friend	Rev. P.H. Vander Klay	2002
Chatham	Rev. D.R. Tigchelaar		2003
Chicago South	Rev. D.A. Crushshon, Sr.	Rev. C.J. Aardsma	2002
Columbia	Rev. V.L. Michael	Mrs. M. Vrieling	2001
Eastern Canada	Mr. P. Runia	Mrs. M. Buteyn	2001
Georgetown	Rev. John Morren	Rev. L. Doornbos	2003
Grand Rapids East	Rev. W. Vanden Bosch	Mr. J. Witte	2002
Grand Rapids North		Ms. C. Vogel	2001
Grand Rapids South	Rev. R. Smith	Dr. R.B. Swierenga	2003
Grandville		Rev. T.R. Wolthuis	2003
Greater Los Angeles	Rev. T.P. Doorn	Ms. R. Van Dyk	2003
Hackensack	Rev. S. Holmes	Rev. P.R. De Vries	2003
Hamilton	Mrs. D. Proper	Rev. R. Vander Kooij	2003
Heartland	Mr. A. Kramer	Rev. J. Sajdak	2003
Holland		Rev. F.T. Wevers	2000
Hudson	Rev. K.J. Verhulst	Mr. D. Holwerda	2000
Huron	Rev. G.J. Bomhof	Rev. D. Bierman	2002
lakota	Rev. B.J. Haan, Jr.	Rev. C.J. De Ridder	2002
Illiana	Rev. G. S. Janke	Mr. H. Ver Beek	2002
Kalamazoo	Rev. M.A. Minegar	Rev. M.A. Scheffers	2003
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	2001
Muskegon	Rev. E.C. Visser	Rev. C. Uken	2001
Niagara	Rev. W.H. Vander Werf	Rev. P. Slofstra	2002
Northcentral Iowa	Rev. D.J. Dykstra	Rev. G.D. Daley	2000
Northern Illinois	Rev. T.H. Douma	Rev. D.R. Armstrong	2001
Northern Michigan	Rev. D.J. Weemhoff	Rev. P.R. Byma	2000
Pacific Hanmi	Rev. H.J. Park	Rev. I.C. Kim	2001
Pacific Northwest	Rev. M.J. Kooy		2002
Pella	Mr. N. Nikkel	Mr. I. Mulder	2002
Quinte	Rev. K.J. House	Rev. C.J. De Vos	2001
Red Mesa	Mr. T. Charles	Rev. M.J. Meekhof	2003
Rocky Mountain	Rev. C. Vander Neut	Rev. R.A. Lyzenga	2003
Southeast U.S.	Rev. J.A. Vander Slik	Rev. D.G. Buis	2001
Thornapple Valley	Rev. R. Bultman	Rev. R.S. Greenway	2001
Toronto	Rev. S. Cooper	Rev. J.M. Rottman	2001
Wisconsin	Rev. A. Veenstra	Mr. D. Ritzema	2001
Yellowstone	Mr. C. Abee	Mr. J. Westra	2002
Zeeland	Dr. J.E. De Vries	Rev. D.A. Gritter	2002
At-large			
Finance	Mrs. L. Heyne	Mr. D. Westra	2003
Advancement	Mr. J. Stulp	Mr. M. Feldkamp	2003
Intercultural ministry	Mr. C. Brown	Rev. L. Pellecer	2003

### *G. Christian Reformed World Missions Committee*

Classis	Delegate	Alternate	Term Expires
Alberta North	Mrs. S. Mobach	Rev. J.A. Ooms	2002
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Rev. J.R. Huizinga	Rev. A.G. Vander Leek	2001
Arizona	Rev. F.E. Pott	Mr. S.R. Steenstra	2001
Atlantic Northeast	Rev. W.G. Vis	Rev. V.G. Van Ee	2002
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			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	Mr. D. Koetje	Mrs. P. Van Antwerpen	2003
Eastern Canada	Mrs. W. Runia	Mr. M. Van Wyk	2001
Georgetown	Mr. T. Visser	Rev. S. Drenth	2003
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.D. Bolt	Rev. R.L. Fyneweaver	2003
Grandville	Rev. C.G. Tapanes	Rev. A.L. Vander Hart	2001
Greater Los Angeles	Dr. J. Van Schepen	Rev. P.H. Kim	2001
Hackensack	Rev. T.G. Klaasen		2001
Hamilton	Rev. A.C. Geleynse	Ms. H. Sytsma	2001
Heartland	Mr. J. Kooiker	Rev. B.B. Blankers	2003
Holland	Rev. J.C. Hutt	Rev. P.D. Winkle	2001
Hudson	Rev. J.G. Keizer	Rev. J.C. Fisher	2002
Huron	Rev. A.A. Van Geest	Rev. P. Janssens	2001
lakota	Rev. C. Hoekstra	Rev. R.W. Sparks	2003
Illiana	Rev. L.W. Van Essen	Rev. I. Torres	2003
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. G. Essenburg	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. R.J. Loerts	2003
Northcentral Iowa	Mr. P. Eekhoff	Rev. H. Dykema	2000
Northern Illinois	Dr. W. Venema	Ms. C. Hoogheem	2003
Northern Michigan	Rev. W.R. De Young	Rev. J.D. Fox	2003
Pacific Hanmi	Rev. C.C. Cho		2003
Pacific Northwest	Rev. R.J. De Ruiter	Rev. H.C. Song	2003
Pella	Rev. T.R. Dykstra	Dr. D. Daining	2002
Quinte	Rev. E.W. Visser	Rev. R.G. Fisher	2003
Red Mesa	Rev. R.L. Jipping	Rev. J.J. Greydanus	2003
Rocky Mountain	Ms. J. Engelsman	Mr. W. Lemcke	2003
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.J. Meyer	Rev. L. Lobdell	2002

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

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. W. Rozema	Dr. M. Rand	2003
Atlantic Northeast	Mr. T. Woodnorth	Ms. G. Ranney	2001
B.C. North-West	Mr. W. Potma	Mr. J. Van Es	2003
B.C. South-East	Mr. C. Tuin	Mr. J. Richey	2001
California South			1999
Central California	Mr. J. Schoolland	Mr. L. De Ruiter	2002
Chatham	Mr. M. De Vries		2003
Chicago South	Mr. P. Kamp	Mr. R. Van Dellen	2002
Columbia	Ms. L. Ackerman	Mr. N. Gillenwater	2003
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	Mrs. 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. R. Boekstein	Mr. M. Slegers	2003
Hackensack	Ms. C. Van Ess-Dykema	Mr. C. Mast	2001
Hamilton	Mr. J. De Groot	Mr. D. Veeneman	2003
Heartland	Mr. G. Geels	Mr. T. Noteboom II	2002
Holland	Mr. W. Stuk	Rev. R. Pohler	2003
Hudson	Mr. R. Wynjia		2001
Huron	Mr. C. Zondag	Mr. J. Schreuders	2002
Iakota	Mr. D. Postma	Mr. L. Netjes	2002
Illiana	Mr. J. Leffring	Mr. D. Bratt	2002
Kalamazoo	Ms. S. De Boer	Mr. W. Haak	2001
Lake Erie	Mr. J. Van Wyke	Mr. O. Turrentine	2003
Lake Superior, Canada	Mr. L. Slikker	Mr. H. Boven	2001
Lake Superior, U.S.	Ms. M. Buss	Mr. R. Hedman	2001
Minnkota	Mr. R. Huisken	Mr. H. Van Dyke	2000
Muskegon	Mr. D. Drew		2002
Niagara	Mr. L. De Graaf	Ms. S. Vandenberg	2001
Northcentral Iowa	Mr. E. Olthof	Mr. B. Goemaat	2000
Northern Illinois	Ms. R. Strodrtman	Mr. A. Heerema	2002
Northern Michigan	Mr. L. Stahl	Mr. B. Dracht	2002
Pacific Hanmi	Rev. J. H. Oh		2002
Pacific Northwest	Mr. J. De Boer	Ms. G. Visser	2003

Pella	Mr. G. Van Engelenhoven	Mr. R. Nugteren	2003
Quinte	Mr. P. Feddema	Mr. F. Westerhof	2000
Red Mesa	Mr. B. Boyd	Mr. J. Smart	2001
Rocky Mountain	Mr. R. Pasterkamp	Ms. M. Jonker	2003
Southeast U.S.	Mr. J. Boldenow		2001
Thornapple Valley	Mr. K. Buys	Mr. J. Zomerlei	2001
Toronto	Ms. M. Spoelstra	Mr. P. Schaafsma	2002
Wisconsin	Mr. C. Adams	Mr. D. Vree	2001
Yellowstone	Mr. K. Van Dyken	Mr. B. Gagestein	2001
Zeeland	Mr. S. Dykstra	Mr. P. Osterbaan	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)	Ms. P. DeWilde		2003/1
	Ms. B. Hoekstra	Mr. J. Mutoigo	2002/1
Pastoral adviser	Rev. J. Koster	Rev. R. Berkenbosch	2002/1

#### IV. Service committees

##### A. *Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. Committee*

Rev. G.L. Dykstra (2001), Ms. J. Admiraal (2001), Mr. J. Fredricks (2002), Ms. A. Joseph (2002), Mr. A. Leegwater (2003), Mr. C.R. Witte (2003); 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*

Ms. S. Harger (2001), Dr. H. Boonstra (2002), Dr. H. Zwaanstra (2003), Rev. M. De Vries (2003).

##### D. *Interchurch Relations Committee*

Rev. P.W. Brouwer (2001), Ms. C. Elgersma (2001), Rev. R. Haven (2001), Rev. L.J. Hofman (2001), Rev. M. De Berdt (2002), Mr. J. DeViet (2002), Rev. M.L. Veenema (2002), Dr. H. Zwaanstra (2002), Dr. L. Bierma (2003), Rev. J. Chen (2003), Rev. R. Vander Vaart (2003), Rev. M. Winnowski (2003); ex officio members: Dr. D.H. Engelhard and Canadian ministry director.

##### E. *Judicial Code Committee*

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), Mrs. J. Engelhard (2003), Mr. C. Oosterhouse (2003), Mr. L. Veldhuizen (2003).

##### F. *Ministers' Pension Funds committees*

###### *Canadian Pension Trustees*

Mr. J. Knibbe (2001), Mr. J. Woudstra (2001), Mr. B. Dykstra (2002), Mr. J. Luimes (2002), Rev. J. Kuipers (2003).

###### *U.S. Board of Pensions and Insurance*

Mr. T. Waalkes (2001), Rev. E.J. Tamminga (2002), Mr. G. Vande Werken (2002), Mr. L. Bierma (2003), Mr. W. Venema (2003).



### *G. Sermons for Reading Services Committee*

Rev. P.D. Stadt (2002); Rev. G.J. Bomhof (2002); Mr. R. Vander Ploeg (2003), secretary/treasurer; Rev. J. Westerhof (2003); Rev. H. Bruinsma (2001), alternate.

### *H. Youth-Ministry Committee*

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-Tebben (2002), Ms. N. Knol (2002), Ms. M. De Jager (2003), Mr. P. Pereboom (2003); members-at-large: Mr. S. Hielema (2003), Mr. J. Matias (2003); 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, Dr. C. Libolt, Dr. R. Orellana, Rev. J.B. Vos, Mrs. K. Wilk, Dr. D.H. Engelhard (adviser).

### *B. 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 (chair), Rev. C.J. Oh, Rev. H. Van Niejenhuis, Dr. R. Van Noord, Rev. G.L. Zandstra, Dr. D.H. Engelhard (ex officio).

### *C. Committee to Examine Life Issues Raised by Bioscience and Genetic Engineering*

Rev. M.S. Hulst Antonides, Mrs. E. Bierling, Dr. H. Bouma III, Mrs. J. Cook, Dr. R. De Young, Dr. A. Kramer, Mrs. L. Van Milligen, Dr. C. Van Reken (chair), Dr. W. Vogel, Dr. D.H. Engelhard (ex officio).

### *D. Committee to Provide Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Ministry*

Rev. B. Ballast, Dr. G. Bekker, Rev. S. Brix, Mr. T. Charles, Mr. R. den Dulk (chair), Rev. C. Hoogendoorn, Rev. M. Johnson, Mrs. T. Leunk, Ms. J. Louters, Rev. R. Ryu, Mr. K. Vander Horst, Rev. R. Williams, Dr. D.H. Engelhard (ex officio).

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the membership list of the boards and committees.

—Adopted

## **ARTICLE 73**

The president of synod, Rev. Michael De Vries, expresses thanks to his fellow officers—Rev. Norman L. Meyer, vice president; Elder Henry J. Baron, first clerk; and Rev. Jack Westerhof, second clerk—for all the hard work and support they have given. He thanks the faculty advisers and ethnic advisers and gives special recognition to Dr. David H. Engelhard, general secretary, and Dr. Peter Borgdorff, executive director of ministries, for their contribution to synod. He also thanks the staff of Calvin College, including Mr. Jeff Stob, director of conferences and campus events; Mrs. Laura Vanderschaaf, event

coordinator; and Mr. Carl Hordyk, technical-services manager. The president thanks the synod reporters—Mr. Henry Hess and Mr. Mark Volkers—and expresses gratitude to the synod office staff—Mrs. Ina De Moor, Mrs. Nelvina Ilbrink, Mr. Marvin Ilbrink, Mrs. Marlene Oosterhouse, and Mrs. Dee Recker. He also thanks the organist, Mr. Dick Gootjes, and the translator, Rev. Paul Yu.

The vice president, Rev. Norman L. Meyer, expresses thanks on behalf of synod to the president for his leadership during Synod 2000.

The general secretary expresses the gratitude of synod to the four officers and presents them with gifts.

#### ARTICLE 74

The president addresses synod. He reads from Revelation 21:5 and speaks about what it means when God says, “I will make all things new.” The assembly sings *Psalter Hymnal* 548, “When We Walk with the Lord,” and closes by praying the Lord’s Prayer in unison.

Synod adjourns at 3:20 p.m.

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# **DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES AND RECOMMENDED AGENCIES FOR 2001**

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# DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES AND RECOMMENDED AGENCIES FOR 2001

## I. Denominational ministry shares

	Per professing member
Back to God Hour .....	\$32.61
CRC TV .....	11.70
Calvin College*	
	Per professing member
Area 1—Grand Rapids East, Grand Rapids North, Grand Rapids South, Grandville, Thornapple Valley .....	\$54.40
Area 2—Georgetown, Holland, Kalamazoo, Lake Erie, Muskegon, Northern Michigan, Zeeland .....	40.20
Area 3—Chicago South, Illiana, Northern Illinois, Southeast U.S., Wisconsin .....	34.50
Area 4—Heartland, Iakota, Lake Superior, Minnkota, Northcentral Iowa, Pella .....	7.50
Area 5—Atlantic Northeast, Hackensack, Hudson .....	31.90
Area 6—Arizona, Columbia, California South, Central California, Greater Los Angeles, Pacific Hanmi, Pacific Northwest, Red Mesa, Rocky Mountain, Yellowstone .....	19.40
Area 7—Chatham, Eastern Canada, Hamilton, Huron, Niagara, Quinte, Toronto .....	11.80
Area 8—Alberta North, Alberta South, B.C. North-West, B.C. South-East .....	5.10
Calvin Theological Seminary .....	23.28
Canadian Ministries Board ministries .....	7.77
CRC Publications .....	3.16
CR Home Missions .....	51.16
CR World Missions .....	50.22

\*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, \$4.87; Area 3, \$10.57; Area 4, \$37.57; Area 5, \$13.17; Area 6, \$25.67; Area 7, \$33.27; Area 8, \$39.97.

Denominational Services	
Synodical assembly, Board of Trustees, and general administration . . . . .	19.18
Ministry programs . . . . .	12.79
Abuse Prevention	
Chaplaincy Ministries	
Disability Concerns	
Pastor-Church Relations	
Race Relations	
Social Justice and Hunger Awareness	
Fund for Smaller Churches . . . . .	4.00

**II. Agencies recommended for financial support in 2001**

*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)
a. Above-ministry-share needs	
b. 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 . . . . .	12981 5882 RR0001
a. Above-ministry-share needs	
b. Multiracial Student Scholarship Fund	

*B. Denominationally related youth agencies recommended for one or more offerings*

Dynamic Youth Ministries

1. GEMS (Calvinettes) . . . . .	88992 0799 RR0001
2. Calvinist Cadet Corps . . . . .	88992 0799 RR0001
3. 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 by Christian Reformed churches relative 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 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. Crossroads Bible Institute
4. Friendship Ministries
5. Gideons International
6. International Bible Society
7. Lord's Day Alliance of the United States
8. Metanoia Ministries
9. Mission India
10. Mississippi Christian Family Services, Inc.
11. Reformed Ecumenical Council
12. The Bible League
13. The Tract League
14. 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:*

BOT	Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church in North America
CEACA	Committee for Educational Assistance to Churches Abroad
CGI	Consolidated Group Insurance
CITE	Cooperative International Theological Education
CRC	Christian Reformed Church
CRCNA	Christian Reformed Church in North America
CRWRC	Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
DRC	Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa
IRC	Interchurch Relations Committee
RCN	Reformed Churches in the Netherlands

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