

transforming lives and communities worldwide

# ACTS OF SYNOD

2007



CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED  
CHURCH

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2007



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REFORMED  
CHURCH

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June 9-15, 2007  
Fine Arts Center Auditorium  
Calvin College  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

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Synod 2007 was held at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 9-15, 2007. The spirit at synod was excellent and synod did a great deal of work during those days. The whole church owes a debt of gratitude to all who were assembled there to provide leadership for the CRC.

The *Acts of Synod 2007* contains the following:

- Supplementary reports of the Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church in North America and those agencies and committees authorized to file them.
- A supplementary overture and communication to synod re matters completed at a spring classis meeting.
- Financial reports.
- The minutes of Synod 2007.
- An index.

It is necessary for the user of the *Acts of Synod 2007* to keep the *Agenda for Synod 2007* 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 495, following preliminary unnumbered pages. Financial reports begin on page 543. Minutes of synod follow, beginning on page 569. The index references both volumes; the numbers in boldface type refer to pages in the minutes of Synod 2007.

The *Acts of Synod 2007* are more than simply the official record of actions taken. They also demonstrate the work of God in the CRC. This year, synod celebrated 150 years of God's grace through every generation. This record reflects what God has done and continues to do through his church. The Lord has entrusted the CRC with many talents, and he calls us to use those talents wisely and well. As we, his people, seek to be his agents in the transformation of lives and communities worldwide, we do so in the awareness that we serve only in his strength and the power of his Spirit.

"For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen" (Rom. 11:36).

Gerard L. Dykstra, executive director  
Christian Reformed Church in North America

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES SUPPLEMENT

## I. Polity matters

### A. *Interim appointments*

The Board of Trustees approved on behalf of synod the following appointees:

	Classis	Deputy	Alternate	Term
Synodical Deputies	Chatham	Rev. Dirk Miedema	Rev. Richard J. deLange	2008(1)
	Chicago South		Rev. Gerald R. Erffmeyer	
	Grand Rapids North		Rev. Henry Admiraal	
	Yellowstone		Rev. Randal Van Osdol	
Deputies	Heartland Illiana	Timothy J. Ouwinga	Paul A. Hansen Calvin J. Aardsma	2010(1)
CRWRC	Atlantic Northeast	Ms. Jodi Koeman		2010(1)
	Columbia	Mr. Jack Jansons		2009(1)
	Kalamazoo	Mrs. Marci Muller		2010(1)
	Niagara	Mr. Ben Van Hoffen		2010(1)
	Red Mesa	Ms. Mitzie Begay		2009(1)
	Rocky Mountain	Mrs. Carol Ackerman		2009(1)

### B. *Ethnic adviser to Synod 2007*

In addition to the advisers named in the *Agenda for Synod 2007*, page 22, the Board has appointed Ms. Helen Brent to complete the number of advisers needed this year.

### C. *Board of Trustees membership*

- Trustees whose terms expire or who are leaving their region as of June 30, 2007:

Region	Member	Alternate
8	Rev. Robert J. Timmer	Rev. LeRoy G. Christoffels
10	Vacant	Rev. Marvin J. Hofman
11	Mrs. Jane Vander Haagen	Ms. Judy Bredeweg
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Mr. Hessel Kielstra	Mr. Durk De Jong
Toronto	Mr. Enno Meijers	Vacant

### 2. Words of thanks

The services provided by members of the Board of Trustees deserve the recognition and appreciation of synod. The quality of CRC members who are willing to serve the church in governing functions is one of our strengths as a church and community. This year, four of the trustees are



completing six years of service on the Board. They are Mrs. Jane Vander Haagen, Mr. Hessel Kielstra, Mr. Enno Meijers, and Rev. Robert J. Timmer. We thank God for each of them and for their contributions to the Board and the Christian Reformed Church.

*D. Officers of the Board of Trustees for 2007-2008*

1. The CRCNA-Canada Corporation

President: Mr. Keith Oosthoek  
Vice president: Rev. Jake Kuipers  
Secretary: Mrs. Patricia Storteboom

2. The CRCNA-Michigan Corporation

President: Rev. Mark Vermaire  
Vice president: Mr. Dan Cooke  
Vice-all: Mrs. Beverly A. Weeks

3. The binational Board of Trustees officers

President: Mr. Keith Oosthoek  
Vice president: Rev. Mark Vermaire  
Vice-all: Mrs. Patricia Storteboom

*E. With gratitude*

This past year has been one of significant transition and celebration. Dr. Peter Borgdorff has served the denomination well both in the invaluable assistance he provided the newly appointed executive director and in his energetic leadership of our 150th anniversary celebration. It is with thankful gratitude that we recognize Dr. Borgdorff's contributions to the Christian Reformed Church.

*F. Nomination of Ms. Sandy F. Johnson for the position of director of denominational ministries*

The Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Ms. Sandy F. Johnson to the role of director of denominational ministries effective September 1, 2007, and recommends that Synod 2007 ratify the appointment. A curriculum vitae for Ms. Johnson is found in Appendix A.

*G. Diversity Plan*

In response to the instruction of Synod 2005, the Board of Trustees appointed a diversity task force to develop a plan to reflect the diversity of our denomination in its administrative positions. The task force concluded that there is much that can and should be done to enhance the diversity of the denominational staff. Working with the report of the task force, the executive director has developed a multifaceted plan to assure that by the year 2010 the senior staff (level 14 and above) will include 25 percent persons of color and 30 percent women.

In addition to enhancing the senior staff, the Board instructed the ED to develop in conjunction with agency boards and directors a collaborative strategy for the cultivation of board members and other potential leaders among women and within communities of color.

#### H. Repentance for racism

Synod 1918 appointed Lee S. Huizenga, M.D. and John C. De Korne to investigate “Midden Afrika” and China as possible places for Christian Reformed missions. Huizenga and De Korne submitted a report that evaluated advantages and disadvantages of each potential field. They concluded that the Sudan (contemporary Nigeria) was the more important opportunity to be seized in 1920. The denomination’s mission board stated that it was unsure that it had authority to express an opinion on the matter. However, if the board’s opinion was desired, a majority of its members favored China above the Sudan. The synodical advisory committee recommended China over the Sudan. Synod acted in favor of this advice (*Acta Synodi 1920*, p. 49).

Synod gave the following reasons for deciding that the church would begin missions in China rather than the Sudan:

##### 1. Reasons against the choice of the Sudan

- Mission work in the heart of a huge, great land, with bad means of communication, contribute to general practical difficulties.
- The danger of political complications.
- Little or no opportunity for the education of the children of missionaries.
- The people in the Sudan are the type of people of whom one can not expect the most in the kingdom of God.
- The climate presents grave difficulties.
- The close association with churches of less pure confession allied with the Sudan United Mission fills us with fear for the preservation and propagation of our Reformed principles.

##### 2. Reasons for preferring China

- The rich language and literature of the Chinese.
- The healthful climate.
- Relatively good traveling opportunities and communication by telegraph.
- The strategic importance of the land and people of China.
- Opportunity for the education of the children of the missionaries.
- The conservative, intellectual spirit of the Chinese harmonizes more with the character of our people than the emotional nature of the African natives (*Acta Synodi 1920*, pp. 49-50).

While the sin of racism can be identified throughout our history, it is certainly evident in the decision of Synod 1920 to start mission work in China rather than in the Sudan (modern Nigeria) as articulated in the supporting grounds for that decision. The Board of Trustees recommends that, on its 150th anniversary, the Christian Reformed Church publicly confess and repent before God and his church for the sin of racism, apologize for not repenting sooner, and pledge to work against the racism expressed in us.

##### *Grounds:*

- a. Recognizing that statements and actions from one era cannot be judged immediately against the standards of another, these grounds violate fundamental biblical truths:
  - 1) The oneness of all people as created in God’s image;

- 2) Our common, absolute need for the saving grace of God, accomplished by Christ, and applied to us by the Holy Spirit;
  - 3) The fact that the only good that any of us can do arises out of true faith, conforms to God's law, and is done for his glory rather than that which is based on what we think is right or on established human tradition (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 33, answer 91).
- b. These grounds failed to reflect our confessional statement that the promise of the gospel "together with the command to repent and believe, ought to be announced and declared without differentiation or discrimination to all nations and people, to whom God in his good pleasure sends the gospel" (Canons of Dordt, Second Main Point of Doctrine, Article 5 [p. 130 in the CRC Publications 1988 edition of *Ecumenical Creeds and Reformed Confessions*]).
- c. While the church must carefully discern where God calls it to announce the promise of the gospel at any given time, distinguishing between groups of people based on our judgment of what God intends to do among and through them is wrong.

#### *I. Fulton Street Prayer Revival*

On September 23, 1857, at about the same time as the Christian Reformed Church was born, a single businessman in New York City gathered with six others for prayer. From that seemingly insignificant gathering, there grew a movement that has lasted 150 years and changed millions of lives. Significant planning has taken place to commemorate the 150th anniversary of this first gathering. The Board recommends that synod receive a brief presentation concerning the 150th anniversary of the Fulton Street Prayer Meeting during one of its sessions.

#### *J. Director of Home Missions search process*

With the anticipated retirement of Rev. John Rozeboom as director of Christian Reformed Home Missions, the board of Home Missions has appointed a search committee to identify a nominee to lead Home Missions. The committee anticipates that it will complete its work soon and will present a candidate to the board in June or July 2007. In order to ensure a timely and smooth transition, the board of Home Missions has asked the BOT to request that Synod 2007 grant the power-to-act to the BOT with reference to the ratification of a director of Home Missions if one is identified and available prior to Synod 2008.

#### *K. Board of Trustees response to Overture 5*

Overture 5 in the *Agenda for Synod 2007* requests that synod instruct the BOT to meet and report prior to the annual deadline for synodical materials. In addition, the overture requests the appointment of an independent review committee to investigate the current role of the BOT. The Board wishes to communicate the following to synod concerning this overture:

1. That the BOT believes the proposed recommendations to be inadvisable and unnecessary.
2. The BOT functions on behalf of synod and is accountable to synod by assuring that all matters addressed by the BOT are reviewed by and approved by synod itself.

3. Synod has adopted the rules by which the BOT conducts its business on behalf of synod and annually reviews the work of the BOT, thus assuring that the BOT does not overstep its authority or mandate.
4. If the BOT is to do its work in an effective manner and, in order to serve synod and the church well, it needs to meet as close to the time of synod as possible. All work done in the May BOT meeting is reported to synod by way of the supplementary report. The BOT is aware that delegates need sufficient time to read and digest the agenda materials and acknowledges the importance of providing those materials as early as possible. Therefore, the BOT is committed to keeping supplemental materials to a minimum.
5. The BOT notes that on rare occasions, synod instructs the BOT to carry out certain tasks that are either not feasible or not practical due to financial or time constraints. When such matters are addressed by the BOT and decisions are made that are contrary to the instructions of synod, the BOT is careful to bring such matters to the attention of synod, giving every opportunity for synod to respond as it deems appropriate.

*L. Executive sessions of synod*

Synod expects faculty, ethnic and women advisers, and staff consultants to be at every session of synod to give their perspective on any and all matters that arise. Under the present rules, only the faculty advisers and the executive director are permitted to remain for discussions during executive sessions. If these advisers are to serve synod well in all matters that are considered, ethnic and women advisers, as well as staff consultants, could also serve synod well in matters that must be kept confidential. Therefore, the BOT recommends that synod adopt the following regulations regarding closed (executive) sessions of synod:

*Executive Session:* Synod may enter an executive session in unusual or delicate situations. In such sessions, only the delegates, the staff consultants, the seminary advisers, the ethnic advisers, and the women advisers shall be present. If delegates from fully recognized churches in ecclesiastical fellowship are at synod, they also may remain in this session.

*Strict Executive Session:* Synod may enter a strict executive session in very unusual situations when such a course is dictated by due regard for personal honor or for the welfare of the church. In such sessions, only the delegates, the staff consultants, the seminary faculty advisers, the ethnic advisers, and the women advisers shall be present. If any of the above mentioned persons are personally involved in the matter under discussion, they will absent themselves voluntarily or by synodical ruling.

*M. CRC Loan Fund Board nominee*

At the time that the Loan Fund submitted its report for the *Agenda for Synod 2007*, a nominee for the vacant Loan Fund board position had not yet been identified. In light of the BOT directive to increase diversity along with the technical nature of the Loan Fund board, the Loan Fund requests the following single nominee for the vacant position:

*Ms. Christina Bouwer* is a member of Millbrook CRC, Grand Rapids, Michigan. She currently is a member of the Grand Rapids Christian Schools Foundation board and is a middle school youth group leader at her church.

Ms. Bouwer has previously served on the board of the Millbrook Christian School. She is a graduate of Calvin College, is employed by Property Resources, Inc., and was previously employed in banking.

*N. Judicial Code Committee nominee*

Mr. Robert Jonker, chair of the Judicial Code Committee has submitted his resignation due to a recent nomination as a federal judge. The Board of Trustees recommends Mr. Christian Meyer from the Warner, Norcross, and Judd law firm in Grand Rapids for appointment to fill the vacancy.

*Mr. Christian E. Meyer*, a member of Eastern Avenue CRC, Grand Rapids, Michigan, is a partner at Warner Norcross & Judd, LLP, specializing in real estate law. He presently serves on the board of directors for The Rapid (transit authority of Greater Grand Rapids), having served as chair of both the service and planning committee and the legislative committee. In addition, he has served on the executive committee of The Rapid and the ad hoc committee to oversee the design and construction of the new downtown Rapid Central Station. Mr. Meyer has served as chair of the Christian education committee for Eastern Avenue CRC.

*O. CRWRC board at-large nominees*

The board of CRWRC presents the following two single nominees for the Canadian at-large positions on the board of delegates to be forwarded to synod for election.

*Ms. Rebecca teBrake*, a member of Faith CRC, Burlington, Ontario, has expressed a keen desire to be involved with the CRWRC. She is a recent graduate of the University of Ottawa, has done contract work for the CRWRC at the Burlington office, and will be doing volunteer work in Bangladesh this fall. She will help the CRWRC-Canada achieve goals of gender equity and youth representation.

*Mr. Bill Van Geest*, a member of Rehoboth Fellowship CRC, Woodbridge, Ontario, is a management consultant who has held a passion for international relief and development from the age of seven, when he began donating to World Vision. He has worked as a discussion facilitator for the CRWRC on several occasions, most recently for the annual meeting discussing a book written by Mr. Stephen Lewis, United Nations ambassador to Africa, dealing with HIV/AIDS. He has provided services to the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario for more than a decade. Mr. Van Geest will be an asset to CRWRC-Canada by contributing middle-management skills and a passion for the agency's work.

*P. Convening church of synod*

The Board of Trustees has received invitations from two churches to convene synod in 2008 and 2009. The River Walk Community Church of Battle Creek, Michigan, is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2008 (synod would meet at Calvin College). The Elmhurst CRC is in the process of building a new facility and will have it completed prior to June 2009. The Elmhurst council is inviting synod to worship with them in their new worship center and to hold its meetings at Trinity Christian College in 2009.

## II. Program and finance matters

### A. Board of Trustees response to Overture 4

Overture 4 in the *Agenda for Synod 2007* requests that synod reinstate the position of Canadian director of chaplaincy. The Board wishes to communicate the following to synod concerning this overture:

1. The BOT believes the proposed recommendation to be misdirected.
2. Such a request is better processed through the Office of Chaplaincy Ministries to the BOT for review and approval.
3. There are many areas of ministry opportunity across North America and around the world. The BOT has been given the administrative responsibility to assure that these resources are fairly and properly distributed in the most effective ways possible.

### B. Financial matters

1. The Board approved the unified budget for the denominational entities inclusive of the individual budgets of the agencies, the educational institutions, the denominational offices, the Loan Fund, and the Pension Funds of the CRC as presented in the report of the Budget Review Committee.
2. In partial support of the approved unified denominational budget, the Board recommends that synod approve a ministry share of \$298.58 (an increase of 3%) per adult member (age 18 and over) for calendar year 2008.
3. The Board recommends that synod approve the list of above-ministry share offerings as follows:

- a. Denominational agencies recommended for one or more offerings

Back to God Hour – above-ministry-share needs

Calvin College – above-ministry-share needs

Calvin Theological Seminary

1) The Facing Your Future program

2) International Student Subsidy Fund

CRC Foundation

Denominational Services – above-ministry-share needs

Ministry Programs:

Abuse Prevention

Chaplaincy Ministries

Committee for Contact with the Government

Disability Concerns

Pastor-Church Relations

Race Relations

Above-ministry-share needs

Multiracial Student Scholarship Fund

Service-Link Canada

Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action

Urban Aboriginal Ministries

Faith Alive Christian Resources

World Literature Ministries – above-ministry-share needs

Home Missions – above-ministry-share needs

World Missions – above-ministry-share needs

World Relief Committee – one offering per quarter because the agency receives no ministry-share support

b. Denominationally related agencies recommended for one or more offerings

1) Dynamic Youth Ministries

a) GEMS

b) Calvinist Cadet Corps

c) Youth Unlimited/Early Teens

2) Partners Worldwide

4. The Board informs synod that it has approved the renewal of the following accredited agencies for offerings in the churches (year three) in a three-year cycle of support (2006-2008). Synod 2002 approved certain revisions to the guidelines for nondenominational agencies and changed the policy from a required annual application and synodical approval to one that requires an application and synodical approval every three years. In the intervening years, synod indicated that agencies were to submit updated financial information and information regarding any significant programmatic changes. Each nondenominational agency requesting approval submitted the full range of required tri-annual materials for consideration.

Nondenominational agencies recommended for financial support but not necessarily for one or more offerings:

1) United States

a) Benevolent agencies

Bethany Christian Services

Calvary Rehabilitation Center

Cary Christian Center, Inc.

Elim Christian Services

Hope Haven

International Aid, Inc. (medical supplies only)

The Luke Society

Mississippi Christian Family Services (MCFS)

Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services

b) Educational agencies

Center for Public Justice

Christian Schools International

Christian Schools International Foundation (for textbook development)

Dordt College

Friends of ICS (U.S. Foundation of ICS)

International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (IAPCHE)

ITEM – International Theological Education Ministry, Inc.

The King's University College (through the U.S. Foundation)  
Kuyper College  
Redeemer University College (through the U.S. Foundation)  
Rehoboth Christian School  
Roseland Christian School  
Trinity Christian College  
Worldwide Christian Schools

c) Miscellaneous agencies

Audio Scripture Ministries  
Bible League  
Crossroad Bible Institute  
Friendship Ministries  
IDEA Ministries  
IN Network  
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (for specified staff support only)  
Mission India  
Reformed Ecumenical Council  
The Tract League  
Wycliffe Bible Translators

2) Canada

a) Benevolent agencies

Beginnings Counseling & Adoption Services of Ontario, Inc.

b) Educational agencies

Canadian Christian Education Foundation, Inc. (for textbook development)  
Dordt College  
Institute for Christian Studies  
The King's University College  
Kuyper College  
Redeemer University College  
Trinity Christian College  
Worldwide Christian Schools – Canada

c) Miscellaneous agencies

Bible League – Canada  
Evangelical Fellowship of Canada  
Friendship Groups – Canada  
Gideons International – Canada  
IN Network  
Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada  
Work Research Foundation  
Wycliffe Translators of Canada, Inc.

5. Six new requests for accreditation were received, and the Board recommends to synod that the following five be accepted:



## *United States*

### a. Hunting Park Christian Academy, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*Ground:* Hunting Park Christian Academy was established by members of Spirit and Truth Fellowship as well as other CRC congregations to provide an affordable, high quality Christian education for children in pre-kindergarten through the eighth grade from the Hunting Park area of North Philadelphia, an area plagued with the consequences of poverty, domestic violence, and substance abuse. In an attempt to provide an affordable Christian education, approximately 50 percent of the operating budget funding is received from individual donors and supporting churches.

### b. Middle East Reformed Fellowship, United States, Larnaca, Cyprus

*Ground:* Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF) is a religious, nonprofit, and nonpolitical charitable organization serving the Middle East on behalf of Reformed churches and believers worldwide. MERF is being recommended for support of all its work other than media, which is an overlap with the work of The Back to God Hour.

### c. Zuni Christian Mission School, Zuni, New Mexico

*Ground:* Zuni Christian Mission School, founded in 1908, is a member of the Red Mesa Christian School Association. The school's mission is to provide Christian education to Zuni children.

## *Canada*

### a. Citizens for Public Justice (CJL Foundation), Toronto, Ontario

*Ground:* The mission of Citizens for Public Justice (CJL Foundation) is to promote public justice in Canada by shaping key public policy debates through research, analysis, publishing, and public dialogue. Their focus is on issues of poverty, refugee concerns, faith, and public life. CJL Foundation requires all board members to be Christians.

### b. Middle East Reformed Fellowship, Canada, Larnaca, Cyprus

*Ground:* Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF) is a religious, nonprofit, and nonpolitical charitable organization serving the Middle East on behalf of Reformed churches and believers worldwide. MERF is being recommended for support of all its work other than media, which is an overlap with the work of The Back to God Hour.

### 6. The Board recommends to synod that the new request for accreditation by Providence Christian College, Ontario, California, be denied.

*Ground:* The financial viability of this institution, based on submitted reports, is relatively weak and fragile.

7. The Board of Trustees recommends that synod receive as information the Board's decision to establish stated supply compensation for 2008 as follows: not less than \$500 per week for U.S. churches and not less than \$515 per week for Canadian churches.
8. The denominational salary grid  
Hay Associates advises, and the BOT recommends, that Synod 2007 adopt the salary grid as detailed below for use in fiscal year 2007-2008.

2007-2008 Salary Grade and Range Structure						
Level	Proposed U.S. Range			Proposed Canadian Range		
	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum
20	\$106,263	\$132,829	\$159,395			
19	\$95,794	\$119,742	\$143,691			
18	\$85,381	\$106,726	\$128,071	\$96,931	\$121,164	\$145,397
17	\$76,631	\$95,788	\$114,946	\$84,221	\$105,276	\$126,331
16	\$69,292	\$86,615	\$103,938	\$73,702	\$92,128	\$110,553
15	\$63,107	\$78,883	\$94,660	\$64,922	\$81,152	\$97,383
14	\$55,393	\$69,242	\$83,090	\$57,529	\$71,912	\$86,294
13	\$48,925	\$61,157	\$73,388	\$51,340	\$64,175	\$77,010

9. 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 these requests is found in Appendix B.
10. Pension board matters
  - a. The Board of Trustees took note of the average salary survey data for 2007 being \$44,432 in the United States and \$47,308 in Canada. Because the *final* average salary used for pension computation is based on a three-year rolling average (2005, 2006, and 2007), the pension computation for persons retiring in 2008 will be based on \$42,984 for U.S.-based service and \$46,358 for Canadian-based service.  
The Board of Trustees endorsed the Pension Trustees' recommendation that the 2008 per-member assessment for the Canadian Plan be set at \$31 and that the Canadian per-participant assessment be set at \$7,752. Similarly, the 2008 per-member assessment for the U.S. Plan be set at \$26.84 and the U.S. per-participant assessment be set at \$6,064.
  - b. Nominations to Ministers' Pension Funds committees  
The U.S. Board of Pensions has a vacancy on its board and submits the following slate of nominees for election by way of the printed ballot to fill a three-year term beginning July 1, 2007:  
  
Rev. Ecko DeVries, is a retired pastor living in Grand Rapids, Michigan. During his thirty-eight years as an ordained pastor, he served churches in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Muskegon, Michigan, as well as in Grand Rapids. Rev. DeVries is currently a member of Alger Park CRC where he serves in a part-time capacity. He is also a part-time hospital chaplain with Spectrum Health, a member of the board of Faith Alive Christian Resources, and has been a delegate to synod.

*Rev. William Vis* has served the denomination as an ordained minister for twenty-seven years. He has pastored five congregations and presently is pastor of Pine Grove CRC in Howard City, Michigan. His service to the denomination includes membership on the boards of Calvin College, Calvin Theological Seminary, and World Missions, where he has served several terms as board chair. Rev. Vis has been a delegate to synod five times and each time has been a member of the synodical advisory committee on financial matters, including service as reporter for that committee.

### **III. Recommendations**

A. That synod approve the interim appointments made by the Board to the agency boards (BOT Supplement section I, A).

B. That synod ratify the appointment of Mrs. Sandy F. Johnson to the position of director of denominational ministries effective September 1, 2007 (BOT Supplement section I, F).

C. That synod, on the 150th anniversary of the Christian Reformed Church, publicly confess and repent before God and his church for the sin of racism, apologize for not repenting sooner, and pledge to work against the racism expressed in us (BOT Supplement section I, H).

D. That synod receive a brief presentation concerning the 150th anniversary re the Fulton Street Prayer Revival during one of its sessions (BOT Supplement section I, I).

E. That synod grant power-to-act to the BOT with reference to the ratification of a director of Home Missions if one is identified and available prior to Synod 2008 (BOT Supplement section I, J).

F. That synod accept the invitation from two churches to convene synod in 2008 and 2009. The River Walk Community Church of Battle Creek, Michigan, is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2008 (synod would meet at Calvin College). The Elmhurst CRC is in the process of building a new facility and will have it completed prior to June 2009. The Elmhurst council is inviting synod to worship with them in their new worship center and to hold its meetings at Trinity Christian College in 2009 (BOT Supplement section I, P).

G. That synod receive the agencies and institutional budgets as information and approve a ministry share of \$298.58 for calendar year 2008 (BOT Supplement section II, B, 2).

H. That synod adopt the following recommendations with reference to agencies requesting to be placed on the recommended-for-offerings list:

1. 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 (BOT Supplement section II, B, 3).

2. That synod receive as information the list of nondenominational agencies, previously accredited, that have been approved for calendar year 2008 (BOT Supplement section II, B, 4).
3. That synod accept the following new requests for inclusion on the list of accredited nondenominational agencies (BOT Supplement section II, B, 5):

*United States*

- a. Hunting Park Christian Academy, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*Ground:* Hunting Park Christian Academy was established by members of Spirit and Truth Fellowship as well as other CRC congregations to provide an affordable, high quality Christian education for children in pre-kindergarten through the eighth grade from the Hunting Park area of North Philadelphia, an area plagued with the consequences of poverty, domestic violence, and substance abuse. In an attempt to provide an affordable Christian education, approximately 50 percent of the operating budget funding is received from individual donors and supporting churches.

- b. Middle East Reformed Fellowship, United States, Larnaca, Cyprus

*Ground:* Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF) is a religious, nonprofit, and nonpolitical charitable organization serving the Middle East on behalf of Reformed churches and believers worldwide. MERF is being recommended for support of all its work other than media, which is an overlap with the work of The Back to God Hour.

- c. Zuni Christian Mision School, Zuni, New Mexico

*Ground:* Zuni Christian Mission School, founded in 1908, is a member of the Red Mesa Christian School Association. The school's mission is to provide Christian education to Zuni children.

*Canada*

- a. Citizens for Public Justice (CJL Foundation), Toronto, Ontario

*Ground:* The mission of Citizens for Public Justice (CJL Foundation) is to promote public justice in Canada by shaping key public policy debates through research, analysis, publishing, and public dialogue. Their focus is on issues of poverty, refugee concerns, faith, and public life. CJL Foundation requires all board members to be Christians.

- b. Middle East Reformed Fellowship, Canada, Larnaca, Cyprus

*Ground:* Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF) is a religious, nonprofit, and nonpolitical charitable organization serving the Middle East on behalf of Reformed churches and believers worldwide. MERF is being recommended for support of all its work other than media, which is an overlap with the work of The Back to God Hour.

- 4. That synod deny the new request for accreditation by Providence Christian College, Ontario, California (BOT Supplement section II, B, 6).
- I. That synod receive as information the decision of the BOT with reference to stated supply compensation for 2008 (BOT Supplement section II, B, 7).
- J. That synod adopt the denominational salary grid for senior positions as proposed (BOT Supplement section II, B, 8).
- K. That synod receive as information the BOT’s confirmation of the matters presented by the Pension Trustees (BOT Supplement section II, B, 10, a).
- L. That synod by way of the printed ballot elect members to the Ministers’ Pension Funds committees (BOT Supplement section II, B, 10, b).

Board of Trustees of the  
 Christian Reformed Church in North America  
 Gerard L. Dykstra, executive director

Appendix A  
 Curriculum Vitae: Sandy F. Johnson

Personal Description

I grew up in a Christian home, in a small farming community, and in the Christian Reformed Church. As a child I knew God’s love and wanted to serve him. In high school, after attending a Young Calvinist Federation convention, I publicly professed my faith in God in my local church. Since that time, God has led me on a journey of discovering more about his love and grace. My passion in life is to serve God with my spiritual gifts of leadership, administration, giving, and encouragement. God’s plan does not come without fear and challenges, yet, as I look back on challenging times in my life, those challenges have shaped me and my relationship with God, who has been faithful in providing direction for my life.

My spiritual gifts, along with a passion for God’s mission, specifically within the local church, are what I believe my primary qualifications to be. I used my gifts in the banking world to manage, encourage, and challenge people by providing avenues for them to become successful at what they were doing. Although my main work experience is in banking, after thirteen years, God had other ideas. For the last five years, I have been working in and around ministry. My heart loves the ministry that God is doing through his people, and I have been privileged to be part of that by being able to manage people, create systems, and establish structures in order for ministry to flourish.

Education

Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Dordt College, Sioux Center, IA

MBA candidate  
 May 1987

## Experience

March 2004 – present	Ministry consultant
September 2001 – June 2004	Adult ministries coordinator
May 1998 – January 2001	Cash management officer, VP, Ameribank
February 1996 – May 1998	Retail regional manager, VP, Ameribank
November 1989 – February 1996	Regional manager & marketing, Ameribank
August 1987 – November 1989	Retail trainer, Metrobank/Comerica Bank

## Appendix B

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

Synod 1998 approved a number of measures dealing with investment guidelines and disclosures. Two of these appear on page 440 of the *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, 2006, all of the agencies and institutions are 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, 2006

Categories Specified by Investment Policy:

SHORT TERM	
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	
Cash	
Money-market mutual funds	
Certificates of deposit	
FIXED-INCOME ISSUES	
Foundation Liquidity Fund (1)	
Other short term	
FOUNDATION BALANCED FUND (2)	
COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKS	
Publicly traded common, preferred, and convertible preferred stock	
Equity mutual funds	
FIXED-INCOME ISSUES (LONG TERM)	
US treasuries or Canadian gov't bonds	
Publicly traded bonds and notes (investment grade, at least A-rated)	
Bond mutual funds	
CIBC / TAL overdraft accounts	
Interagency Investments (Obligations):	
Loans to CRCNA (Denom. Services)	

Other Investments:

Private equity fund	
Partnerships	
Land contracts	
Life insurance cash value	
Notes receivable	
Common stock -- non-listed	
Real estate (non-operating)	

Total

	The Back to God Hour	Calvin College	Calvin Seminary	CRC Publications	Denominational Services
\$	1,224,378	\$ 4,861,632	\$ 10,849	\$ 200,466	\$ 540,650
	68,861	10,316,664	342,287	160,954	785,157
	106,822	183,568	73,954	422,713	1,024,194 (9)
	1,466,844	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	1,231,446
	3,453,062	-	-	2,203,411	-
	-	2,532,308	25,620,755	-	-
	50,900 (3)	131,405,860	-	-	-
	-	3,191,276	-	-	6,846,028 (9)
	-	-	-	-	4,026,742 (9)
	-	14,405,929	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	(11,374,466) (9)
	20,711	-	-	81,957	(846,000)
	-	9,493,875 (4)	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	289,961 (5)	113,679 (5)	233,898 (5)	-	-
	-	593,440 (6)	-	-	-
	-	357,022 (7)	-	-	-
	6,000 (8)	7,481,423 (8)	-	-	-
\$	6,687,539	\$ 184,946,676	\$ 26,281,743	\$ 3,089,501	\$ 2,233,752

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, 2006

	CRC Foundation	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	\$ 854,451	\$ 440,978	\$ 305,808	\$ 1,159,187	\$ 5,574,746
Money-market mutual funds	187,324	233,212	2,467,734	815,757	1,874,555
Certificates of deposit	290,591	309,248	4,942,980	1,088,647	2,907,945
<b>FIXED-INCOME ISSUES</b>					
Foundation Liquidity Fund (1)	-	431,041	-	-	19,874
Other short term	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FOUNDATION BALANCED FUND (2)</b>	252,974	9,920,591	-	2,794,065	3,134,555
<b>COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKS</b>					
Publicly traded common, preferred, and convertible preferred stock	-	-	-	-	- (3)
Equity mutual funds	-	-	-	238,497	- (3)
<b>FIXED-INCOME ISSUES (LONG TERM)</b>					
US Treasury / Canadian govt bonds	-	-	-	-	-
Publicly traded bonds and notes (investment grade, at least A-rated)	-	-	-	201,270	-
Bond mutual funds	-	-	-	-	- (3)
CIBC / TAL overdraft accounts	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Interagency Investments (Obligations):</b>					
Loans to CRCNA (Denom. Services)	56,341	26,099	-	97,090	563,802
<b>Other Investments:</b>					
Private equity fund	-	-	-	-	-
Partnerships	-	-	-	-	400,000 (10)
Lease contracts	-	-	-	-	-
Life insurance	6,104 (5)	-	-	-	25,848 (5)
Life insurance - cash value	-	-	-	-	-
Notes receivable	-	-	(6)	-	-
Common stock - non-listed	-	-	-	-	-
Real estate (non-operating)	-	42,957	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	\$ 1,647,795	\$ 11,404,126	\$ 7,716,522	\$ 6,394,513	\$ 14,501,325

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



## As of December 31, 2006

Employees' Retirement Plan - U.S. in U.S. \$	Ministers' Pension Plan U.S. in U.S. \$	Special Assistance Fund U.S. in U.S. \$	Consolidated Group Insurance in U.S. \$	Employees' Retirement Plan - Canada in Canadian \$	Ministers' Pension Plan Canada in Canadian \$	Special Assistance Fund Canada in Canadian \$	Consolidated Group Insurance Canada in Canadian \$
\$ -	\$ 1,921,723	\$ 183,400	\$ 1,617,970	\$ 270,604	\$ 1,457,970	\$ 176,084	\$ 138,187
-	-	-	-	117,598	-	-	-
6,082,718	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	68,650,825	-	-	-	23,706,952	-	-
11,515,333	-	-	-	18,18,862	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	628,271	-	-	-
-	24,395,474	-	3,018,334	-	6,781,372	-	-
2,449,209	-	-	-	203,149	-	-	-
-	11,929,112	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$ 20,047,260	\$ 106,857,134	\$ 183,400	\$ 4,636,304	\$ 3,038,484	\$ 31,946,294	\$ 176,084	\$ 138,187

**Categories Specified by Investment Policy:**

<p><b>SHORT TERM</b></p> <p><b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b> Cash, CDs and money-market mutual funds</p> <p><b>FIXED-INCOME ISSUES</b> Guaranteed investment contracts Stable Asset Income Fund</p>	<p><b>COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKS</b> Publicly traded common, preferred, and convertible preferred stock</p> <p><b>Diversified mutual fund</b> Equity mutual funds</p>	<p><b>FIXED-INCOME ISSUES (LONG TERM)</b> US treasuries, Canadian gov't bonds or Publicly traded bonds and notes (Investment grade, at least A-rated)</p> <p>Bond mutual funds</p>
<p><b>REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS</b></p>		

Total

### **Footnotes to the December 31, 2006 Investment Summary**

1. Foundation pooled/unitized fixed income account for agencies.
2. Foundation pooled/unitized balanced account (fixed income 59.7%, equities 40.3%) for agencies.
3. Donated mutual funds.
4. Interest in private equity funds, including unrealized gains and reinvestments.
5. Cash value of life insurance contracts received as gifts.
6. Includes promissory notes received in the sale of real estate and land received as a gift, as well as notes outstanding on a life insurance policy.
7. Includes investment in Creative Dining Services, owned jointly with Hope College.
8. Real estate received as a gift or held for investment purposes.
9. These investments, which provide security for the overdraft accounts, are part of a Canadian agency concentration/netting for interest cash management and investment program.
10. An interest-earning recoverable advance to Oikocredit, an agency that make loans to small business enterprises in the Third World.

# AGENCY AND COMMITTEE SUPPLEMENTS

## Calvin College Supplement

### I. Introduction

The Calvin College Board of Trustees met May 17-19, 2007, and presents this supplement of additional matters relating to the college.

At this meeting, a dinner was held to honor retiring trustees; retiring faculty and staff; and two distinguished alumni, William J. Garvelink and Joel D. Holtrop. The board interviewed four faculty members, three for *reappointment*, and one for *tenure*, and they interviewed two administrators with faculty status for reappointment. The board also attended commencement, which honored 890 graduates of Calvin College. The commencement speaker was Dr. Michelle Loyd-Paige.

### II. Faculty matters

A. *Retirees* (see Recommendations IV, A)

B. *Faculty reappointments* (see Recommendations IV, B)

C. *Administrative reappointments*

The college made the following administrative appointments and reappointments:

C. Robert Crow, M.A., dean of student development (continuing appointment)

Kathleen L. DeMey, M.A., reference and instruction librarian, Hekman Library (continuing appointment)

Henry E. DeVries, Ph.D., vice president for administration, finance, and information services (continuing appointment)

Jane E. Hendricksma, M.A., dean of students for judicial affairs (continuing appointment)

Sarah E. Kolk, M.A.I., instruction librarian, Hekman Library (two years)

Michelle Loyd-Paige, Ph.D., dean for multicultural affairs (three years)

Karin Y. Maag, Ph.D., director, H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies (five years)

Linda M. McFadden, M. Ln., MBA, reference and acquisitions librarian, Hekman Library (two years)

John Witte, M.A., dean of residence life (four years)

Michelle E. Zomer, M.A., counselor, Broene Center (four years)

Andrew A. DeJong, M.A., interim chaplain (one year)

### III. Election of college trustees

#### A. *Regional trustees*

There are no nominees for regional trustees this year; however, presently there are three vacant alternate positions. The board, at its May meeting, voted not to fill the vacant alternate positions and, in subsequent openings for regional delegates, present nominees for delegates only and to phase out appointments to the alternate position.

#### B. *Alumni trustee*

Ms. Marjorie Youngsma is completing her second term and is not eligible for another term. The Alumni Association nomination committee presents the name of Mr. Ralph Luimes for a three-year term.

*Mr. Ralph Luimes, B.A., Calvin (1983), M.E., University of Ottawa (1991).*

Mr. Luimes taught and served as the athletic director at Lambton Christian School from 1983-1985. He served as director of communications and development for the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools, and as manager of the Ontario Agricultural Human Resource Council from 1994-1998. He presently serves as president and CEO of Hald-Nor Community Credit Union, Ltd., in Caledonia, Ontario. He has been an active servant in his church and community, has received several community service awards, and has served on the council of the Ancaster Christian Reformed Church as a community advisor for aboriginal affairs for the government of Ontario, as well as on the Calvin Christian School board and the Calvin Alumni Association board. Mr. Luimes and his wife, Debra, have three children, Heather and Katy (both Calvin graduates), and a son Rich, who served in the Canadian Armed Forces.

#### C. *At-large trustees*

Mr. Jack Harkema and Ms. Jackie Vander Brug have both served three, three-year terms and are not eligible for reelection. Ms. Elsa Prince-Broekhuizen has completed her second three-year term and has chosen not to renew. The board recommends the following single nominees for a three-year term:

*Mr. Terry L. Van Der Aa, Trinity Christian College, Calvin College (1966), Harvard Business School. Terry is founding chairman of Providence Bank, a Chicago-area bank formed to be a stewardship bank, directing a portion of its profits to Christian charities. This follows a long career as CEO of a number of national and international transportation companies owned by the Van Der Aa family. Mr. Van Der Aa has lectured at Harvard Business School, Krannert Business School at Purdue University, Michigan State University, and the University of North Carolina. He has been recognized as one of the most influential people in public transportation in the United States by leading trade publications. Mr. Van Der Aa and his wife, Linda, have three adult children and reside in Hinsdale, Illinois. He is a member of Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church. His board service includes: Trinity Christian College, Providence Bank, University of Chicago Hospitals, Milwaukee Mutual Insurance Company, Timothy Christian School Foundation, Elim Christian Schools Foundation, V3 Real Estate, Barnabas Foundation, and the Rehoboth Christian School advisory board.*

*Ms. Thelma Venema, Calvin, 1961; B.A., Indiana University Northwest.* Ms. Thelma Venema has been a friend and supporter of Crown Point Christian School for the past twenty years. She has been instrumental in raising several

academic areas from good to excellent and was a member of the school's Appreciative Inquiry Task Force. Until May 2006, she was a member of the executive board, serving as treasurer. She chairs the finance committee and chaired the CSI steering committee leading to the school's accreditation in the summer of 2005. Ms. Venema is a member of the Crown Point Christian Reformed Church. At Calvin she majored in education and completed her B.A. from Indiana University Northwest. She is the former quality assurance director for the Methodist Hospital and was responsible for the State Board of Health and Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations accreditation requirements. Currently, Ms. Venema serves on the Salvation Army advisory board, the New Leaf Resources Board (Christian Counseling Services), and is a member of the Calvin College Regional Council. Ms. Venema is the CFO for two family-owned businesses, which operate in several Midwestern states.

*Rev. Jin Soo Yoo, B.A., Yonsei University; M.Div., Presbyterian Theological Seminary, South Korea; Calvin Theological Seminary, current Th.M. candidate.*

Rev. Jin Soo Yoo is the senior pastor of All Nations Church in Lake View Terrace, California, where he has served since 1997. His previous experience includes work as a youth pastor and full-time interim pastor at the Sung-Eun Church and as an interim and associate pastor at the Onnuir Church, both in South Korea. He moved to the United States to become regional director of the Tyrannus International Ministry (a publisher and distributor of Christian books) in Los Angeles from 1996-1997. Rev. Yoo was active in the Korean Presbyterian denomination, and, in 1996, God called him to start a church, which became All Nations Church. Under his leadership, All Nations Church—now a congregation of 2,500 adults—affiliated with the Christian Reformed Church in 2002. Rev. Yoo and his wife, Mi Eun, have one 17-year old son, David.

#### **IV. Recommendations**

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

John D. Beebe, Ph.D., professor of biology, emeritus  
 James Bradley, Ph.D., professor of mathematics and statistics, emeritus  
 Daryl M. Brink, Ph.D., professor of mathematics, emeritus  
 Wayne G. Joosse, Ph.D., professor of psychology, emeritus  
 James D. Korf, Ph.D., professor of communications arts and sciences, emeritus  
 Arie Leegwater, Ph.D., professor of chemistry, emeritus  
 Jeffrey R. Pettinga, M.A., professor of physical education, emeritus  
 Kenneth Piers, Ph.D., professor of chemistry, emeritus  
 Edward D. Seely, Ph.D., manager of ministry resource center, emeritus  
 Calvin R. Stapert, Ph.D., professor of music, emeritus  
 LeRoy D. Stegink, Ph.D., professor education, emeritus  
 Robert H. Terborg, Ph.D., professor of psychology, emeritus

B. That synod ratify the following reappointment with tenure:

Mary E. Flikkema, M.S.N., *associate professor* of Nursing

C. That synod by way of the printed ballot elect members for the Calvin College Board of Trustees from the slate of nominees presented.

Calvin College Board of Trustees

Cynthia Rozendal Veenstra, secretary

This report includes actions and recommendations of the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees resulting from its February 9-10, and May 17-18, 2007, meetings.

## **I. Information**

### *A. Board of Trustees*

The trustees, at their meeting on February 9, 2007, elected the following officers for 2007-2008: Rev. Julius Medenblik, chair; Dr. Henk VanAndel, vice chair; and Rev. Ruth Hofman, secretary.

### *B. Graduates*

Sixty-five students were graduated from our degree programs on May 19, 2007.

### *C. Finances*

The budget of \$6,763,940 was approved as presented for 2007-2008.

## **II. Recommendation**

That synod ratify the appointment of faculty member Dr. Mary S. Hulst (contingent upon a successful interview) as assistant professor of preaching for three years effective July 1, 2007. The curriculum vitae for Dr. Hulst can be found in the appendix to this report.

Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees  
Ruth M. Hofman, secretary

## **Appendix**

### **Curriculum Vitae: Mary S. Hulst**

#### **Education**

Ph.D. (2006)	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
M.Div. (1995)	Calvin Theological Seminary
B.A. (1991)	Calvin College

#### **Professional/pastoral experience**

Assistant professor, Communication Arts and Sciences, Calvin College	2006 – 2007
Adjunct professor, Calvin Theological Seminary	Spring 2006, Fall 2006 – Spring 2007
Adjunct professor, Western Theological Seminary	Spring 2006
Preaching associate, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship	Fall 2005 – present
Coordinator, Bible Study Training, Calvin College	Fall 2005 – Spring 2006
Teaching assistant, University of Illinois	Spring 2005
Research assistant, University of Illinois	Fall 2003 – Spring 2005

### **Publications**

- "When Pastors Come . . . and Go." *Reformed Worship*. No. 80 (June 2006).
- "Strange Comfort: A Sermon on Mark 13." *Calvin Theological Journal*. Vol. 41 (2006): 133-37.
- Review of *The Worshiping Life: Meditations on the Order of Worship* by Lisa Nichols Hickman. *Reformed Worship*. No. 79 (December 2005).
- Review of *Useless Beauty: Ecclesiastes through the Lens of Contemporary Film* by Robert K. Johnston. *Perspectives*. December 2005.
- "Strange Comfort." *The Forum* (Calvin Theological Seminary). December 2005.
- "Been on a Guilt Trip Lately?" *The Banner*. Vol. 139 (May 2004).
- "Faithful Doubters." *Perspectives*. Spring 2004.
- "Beyond the 'Children's Message': Welcoming Children in Worship." *Reformed Worship*. No. 70 (December 2003).
- "A Classic TULIP Bouquet: Service Plans Exploring Five Doctrinal Distinctives." *Reformed Worship*. No. 63 (Spring 2002).
- My Heart I Offer*. A Collection of 366 Devotionals Written by Calvin College Alumni and Friends. Calvin College, 2001.
- "Watch Your Mouth." *The Banner*. Vol. 135 (January 2000).
- "Remembering Immanuel." *The Banner*. Vol. 132 (December 1997).

### **Professional activities**

- Leader, The Preacher's Oasis. *The Center for Excellence in Preaching and Calvin Workshops in Communication, Calvin College, July 10-14, 2006.*
- Lecturer, Snow Mountain Ranch Leadership Challenge Institute. *Snow Mountain Ranch, Fraser, Colorado. July 1-8, 2006.*
- Preacher, Wiseman Preaching and Lecture Series, Lent 2006. *First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa, Oklahoma. March 22, 2006.*
- Preacher, workshop leader, and panel member, Symposium on Worship. *Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, January 26-28, 2006.*
- Preacher and panel member, The Bible and Ministry Conference. *Calvin Theological Seminary. June 9-11, 2005.*
- Preacher, Symposium on Worship. *Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, January 29-31, 2004.*
- Consultant, "Preaching in Times of Congregational Transition." *Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, January 12-15, 2004.*
- Reporter and member, "Synodical Committee to Study Bioethics and the Beginning of Life," 1999-2003. *Christian Reformed Church Synod, June 2003.*
- Participant, "The Preaching Project." *Carpenter Foundation funded study of the Sermon Rhetoric of Outstanding Parish Preachers, Spring 2002.*
- Preacher and workshop leader, Conference on Liturgy and Music (COLAM). *Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, July 2001.*
- Preacher and workshop leader, Redeemer College Conference on Worship and the Arts. *Redeemer College, Hamilton, Ontario, July 2000.*



### **Scholarships and awards**

De Kruyter Graduate Scholar in Communication Award, Spring 2006.

Graduate Fellowship, Center for Excellence in Preaching, Calvin Theological Seminary, 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007.

Research Assistantship and Tuition Waiver, The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2003-2004, 2004-2005; Tuition Waiver, 2005-2006, 2006-2007.

Award of Merit, Evangelical Church Press. Awarded for "Remembering Immanuel." *The Banner*. Vol. 132 (December 1997): 14-17.

The Bastian and Lena Vander Wilt Heidelberg Catechism Preaching Award, Calvin Theological Seminary, 1993, 1994.

The Van Hamersveld Scholarship for Women, Calvin Theological Seminary, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994.

The Board of Trustees Scholarship, Calvin College, 1991.

The Ryan Memorial Scholarship, Calvin College, 1990.

## I. Board nominations

In February 2005, the Home Missions Board committed itself to representing the diversity of the ministries in the Christian Reformed denomination as closely as possible in its own composition. The board authorized its officers to seek to expand board representation to meet the following target goals while remaining dedicated to being as lean as possible:

Unordained	40%
Canadian	25%
Female	25%
African American	10%
Hispanic	5% (at least one member)
Native American	5% (at least one member)
Korean	5% (at least one member)

Although the board has not yet met these goals, it has found pursuing these goals to be invigorating to its mission. This past spring, three Home Missions board members retired from service on the board. They represented cultural minorities in the denomination, two of them also female. In light of that turnover, the board submits to synod the following slate of nominees as well as two single nominees for election to three at-large positions to the Home Missions Board:

### *At-large position 1*

*Ms. Shashi DeHaan*, from Burnaby, British Columbia, was raised by her devout Hindu parents. She was actively resistant to Christ's many promptings throughout childhood, but things changed when she met her husband, David, and his family. They wore the love of Christ and thoroughly lived out their faith. Ms. DeHaan had never seen that before. In 1996, she began attending an evening Coffee Break in Kenosha, Wisconsin. In that place, a caring leader and fellow participants helped her experience the Bible as never before—as the Living Word of God. A few years later, she became a baptized, professing Christian at Nelson Avenue Community Church in Burnaby, British Columbia. In this church, Ms. DeHaan has served as Coffee Break director, English as a second language/beginner Bible study leader, junior youth leader, and in a number of ministries in her church. She is grateful that God's plan for her life allows her to share, in His strength, her experience with the many seekers who walk through NACC's doors.

*Ms. Jane Porter*, from Halifax, Nova Scotia, is a member of All Nations CRC where she is currently serving on church council as an elder. She has served as a deacon, chair of the deacons, director of adult education, chair of the education committee, and plans and leads worship at her church. Recipients of two Institute for Christian Worship grants, she and her husband, Doug, work tirelessly to enrich worship. Ms. Porter is studying for a license to preach in her congregation. Her first connection with the CRC was through her involvement with Anathoth Housing Co-operative, a housing project initiated and built by All Nations. Life in the co-op soon led to the Northend Mission, a Home Missions sponsored storefront church situated in inner city Halifax. Ms. Porter and her husband still work toward values of a shared community life in

an urban setting by opening their home to student boarders and promoting hospitality through shared meals and study groups. Ms. Porter grew up in Toronto, Ontario, and became a Christian as a teenager while attending Young Life. As a young adult, she participated in Creation 2, a Christian theatre company. She currently works as a sound recordist in the film industry.

#### *At-large position 2*

Ms. Rosetta Polk-Pugh, from Chicago, Illinois, was introduced to the Christian Reformed Church through Back to God All Nations Church in 1990. There she served as deacon, and her duties included directing the food ministry and serving over one hundred people weekly. She also taught Sunday school and was the director of the youth ministry team. Ms. Polk-Pugh coordinated a 12-step spiritual AA and NA program in the West Englewood area at Back to God. In 2001, she joined Loop Christian Ministries in downtown Chicago, where she presently serves as an elder. She works one-fourth time as a Christian Reformed Campus Minister at Kennedy-King Community College. Ms. Polk-Pugh is also a member of the Black Planning Committee of the Black and Urban Region for CRHM. She has a passion for evangelism and urban ministry, especially among young people. Since her return in 2001 to college, Ms. Polk-Pugh has earned bachelors and masters degrees in social work. By God's grace, she was given an opportunity to serve him as a social worker. She currently works part-time at the Bobby E. Wright Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center, serving the mentally ill on the west side of Chicago.

#### *At-large position 3*

Mr. David Koetje, from Grand Rapids, Michigan, has served many years in Christian education and leadership. He was a teacher and principal in suburban and urban settings in Illinois and Michigan, the executive director of the Calvinist Cadet Corps, superintendent of Grand Rapids Christian Schools, and is currently president/CEO of Christian Schools International. Mr. Koetje has much experience in establishing strategies for organizational growth and expansion and in helping organizations increase people productivity through organizational design, conflict management, and human resource development. Throughout the past twenty-five years, He has been on numerous church committees, community boards, non-profit boards, and community fund drives. Mr. Koetje is a member of Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church where he is an elder and chair of the council.

## **II. Home Missions director search**

In 2006, Home Missions director, Rev. John Rozeboom, requested, and the Home Missions board approved, his retirement from Home Missions in the fall of 2008. Rev. Rozeboom will be 65 on December 22, 2007. In the succession plan approved by the Home Missions board and CRC executive director Rev. Gerard Dykstra, a new director was to be appointed and begin serving in the fall of 2007. Rev. Rozeboom would serve Home Missions in designated roles for a year after the planned fall 2007 appointment of the new Home Missions director.

The Home Missions director search committee assigned by the board, along with Rev. Dykstra, received applications in late 2006, and after an extension, until March 1, 2007. The search committee is still in the process of interviewing

candidates. Because no candidate was nominated or approved by the Home Missions board in time for the May meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Board of Trustees is asking Synod 2007 for approval to ratify an appointment later in the year.

### **III. Recommendation**

That synod by way of the printed ballot elect three at-large members to the Home Missions Board from the nominees presented.

Christian Reformed Home Missions  
John Rozeboom, director

**I. RCA board delegate**

One of the three RCA delegates to the Faith Alive Christian Resources board, Rev. Phyllis Palsma, has resigned her position. The RCA is recommending that Rev. Elizabeth Brown Hardeman be appointed as her replacement on our board.

*Rev. Brown Hardeman* is currently the co-pastor of Alton Reformed Church in Alton, Iowa. She has also served as the Christian education director at Christ's Family Reformed Church in Davenport, Iowa. She has a master of divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan.

The Faith Alive Christian Resources board recommends that synod approve Rev. Brown Hardeman's appointment to its board.

**II. New Living Translation of the Bible et al**

As noted in the *Agenda for Synod 2007*, the Board of Trustees asked Faith Alive Christian Resources to appoint a committee to review the New Living Translation of the Bible in response to an overture from Classis Toronto asking synod to declare that translation "acceptable for CRC worship services."

At its April meeting, the Faith Alive Christian Resources board appointed this committee, to be chaired by Dr. Emily Brink. The composition of the committee is as follows:

**A. For the Old Testament**

- Ms. Lisa J. Hoozeboom, professor of biblical studies, Kuyper College; MTS in biblical studies, Calvin Theological Seminary.
- Dr. William T. Koopmans, pastor of Grace CRC, Chatham, Ontario; Th.D in Old Testament.
- Dr. Clayton Libolt, pastor of River Terrace CRC; Ph.D in biblical studies.
- Dr. Michael Williams, professor of Old Testament, Calvin Theological Seminary; Ph.D in biblical studies.

**B. For the New Testament**

- Dr. Dean Deppe, professor of New Testament, Calvin Theological Seminary; Th.D in New Testament.
- Dr. Thomas Niehof, pastor of Trinity CRC, Ames, Iowa; Th.D. in biblical studies.
- Dr. Derk Oostendorp, retired from World Missions; Th.D. in New Testament.

On April 6, Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra sent a memorandum to Faith Alive Christian Resources regarding Overture 12, which asks synod to approve the English Standard Version of the Bible for use in worship. Rev. Dykstra asked whether the committee appointed to review the NLT might comment on this overture. We will attempt to schedule a meeting of this committee prior to synod to develop a recommendation for synod's advisory committee regarding whether its mandate should include a study of the ESV.

### **III. New hymnal committee**

The Faith Alive Christian Resources report to synod asks synod to approve a recommendation that the CRC and the RCA cooperatively publish a new hymnal provided a budget is developed that shows it can cover costs.

Since that time, assuming that synod approves this recommendation, Faith Alive Christian Resources has done some work to identify an editorial committee to oversee this work. At the time of this writing, this work is still in process.

*Note:* The selection criteria and other information in the appendix of the Faith Alive Christian Resources report to synod should be viewed as working documents that will be given to the committee for further development.

### **IV. Recommendation**

That synod appoint by way of the printed ballot Rev. Brown Hardeman to the Faith Alive Christian Resources board.

Faith Alive Christian Resources  
Gary Mulder, director

**I. Membership and nominations**

Dr. William T. Koopmans has been elected chairman of the Interchurch Relations Committee (IRC) for the year 2007-2008. Rev. Marvin Hofman was elected as vice-chairman.

Rev. Ralph Wigboldus is unable to complete the final year of his second three-year term as a member of the Canadian subcommittee of the IRC. Ms. Louisa Bruinsma will complete the one year remaining on Rev. Wigboldus' term so that the normal rotation of members can be maintained. Because Ms. Bruinsma was scheduled to retire this year, the IRC decided to nominate her replacement on the IRC as originally planned.

With the retirement of Ms. Teresa Renkema, Ms. Louisa Bruinsma, and Dr. Philip De Jonge, the IRC is pleased to present the following names for synod's approval:

Filling the positions vacated by Ms. Teresa Renkema and Dr. Philip De Jonge, the IRC proposes the appointments of Dr. Emily Brink and Rev. Pedro Aviles. Filling the position vacated by Ms. Louisa Bruinsma, the IRC proposes the appointment of Rev. Peter Slofstra.

*Canada*

*Rev. Peter Slofstra*, a native of Friesland, Netherlands, is a graduate of Calvin Theological Seminary, having earned a master of divinity degree in 1977. He is currently the pastor of Hope Fellowship CRC in Oshawa, Ontario. Rev. Slofstra has served on the Home Missions board and has been a delegate to synod three times. He was also part of the Sea to Sea event in Canada—serving on the task force, serving as chaplain, and being a participant cyclist. Rev. Slofstra, in addition to serving in the ministry for the past thirty years, serves as a church visitor and as a church counselor. He served on the IRC advisory committee at Synod 2006 and has seven years of ecumenical experience.

*United States*

*Rev. Pedro Aviles* is pastor of GAP Community CRC in Chicago, Illinois, where he has served since his ordination in 1985. He earned a master of arts degree in leadership from North Park Seminary in Chicago, Illinois, where he serves as a professor in addition to pastoring his church. Rev. Aviles has served on the SCORR board, on the classical Home Missions committee of Classis Northern Illinois, on a Christian school board, and as chair of the GAP church board. Currently, he serves on a new Trinity Christian College church relations committee.

*Dr. Emily Brink* is a member of Eastern Avenue CRC in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She has a doctor of philosophy degree in music theory with over twenty years of teaching experience. In addition, Dr. Brink has been a music and liturgy editor and the first music and liturgy editor for the CRCNA, retiring from that position in 2006. Presently, she is the senior research fellow at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. Her previous experience includes being the editor of *Reformed Worship*, planning conferences, and leading worship at several synods. She is the president of the Hymn Society and a member of the Denominational Relations Committee of the American Guild of

Organists. Dr. Brink has traveled on behalf of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship to Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Synod will note that the IRC is proposing single nominations for the positions that need to be filled. The IRC requests synod's indulgence in proposing single nominees for the following grounds:

*Grounds:*

1. The culture of volunteerism is changing, with the result that it is increasingly difficult to obtain the concurrence of nominees to be placed in nomination (especially on duos).
2. In the appointment of one out of a slate of two nominees, the interest and service of a potentially viable candidate for future service on the Interchurch Relations Committee (as well as other boards and committees) is substantially reduced.
3. The timeline of submitting one's name in November of one year but not learning the outcome of the vote until the end of June the following year is inconsiderate and reduces the interest of potential appointees to be nominated unless their appointment can be reasonably assured.

## **II. Ecumenical visitors at Synod 2007**

A number of ecumenical visitors will be attending synod this year, especially because of the 150th anniversary of the CRC. It is recommended that such visitors be granted the privilege of addressing synod on Wednesday, June 13, 2007, on a schedule as determined by the officers of Synod 2007.

The Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN) has also accepted an invitation to be present at synod in recognition of the 150th anniversary. The IRC recommends that the PCN ecumenical delegate (Rev. Evert Overeen) be extended the courtesy of addressing Synod 2007.

## **III. 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*

The CRC, in accordance with Church Order Article 49, seeks ecumenical relationships with all churches of Christ, particularly those churches that are confessionally Reformed. With some such churches, synod may establish close relationships that are designated as "churches in ecclesiastical fellowship."

The purpose of such close relationships is to:

1. Encourage joint action in Christian endeavors, where possible, and a common Christian witness to the world.
2. Explore whether the unity we share with such churches may include various forms of organizational expression. The shape of such organizational unity should be determined in keeping with prudence and such circumstances as language, distance, and nonessential differences in formal standards and practices.
3. Exchange of fraternal delegates at major assemblies.
4. Engage in pulpit and table fellowship.



5. Exercise mutual concern and encouragement with a view to promoting the fundamentals of Christian unity (*Acts of Synod 1974*, p. 57).
  6. Communicate on major issues of common concern.
  7. Remain abreast of current developments to assure that such fellowship continues to grow in vibrancy.
- 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. Dutch Reformed Church in Africa (DRCA) (1983)  
(Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk in Afrika)
    - d. Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa (DRC) (2001)  
(Die Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk in Suid Afrika)
    - e. Midlands Reformed Churches in South Africa (MRCSA) (1991)  
(Gereformeerde Kerke in Suide-Afrika—Sinode Middelende)
    - f. Reformed Church in Africa (RCA) 1982
    - g. Reformed Churches in South Africa (Synod Potchefstroom) (1974)  
(Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika)
    - h. Reformed Churches in South Africa (Synod Soutpansberg) (1989)
    - i. Reformed Church of Christ in Nigeria (2003)
    - j. Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA) (1982)  
(Verenigende Gereformeerde Kerk in Suider Afrika)
  2. Asia, Australia, and Indonesia
    - a. Christian Reformed Church in Sumba (Indonesia) (1974)  
(Gereja Kristen Sumba)
    - b. Christian Reformed Church in the Philippines (1997)
    - c. Christian Reformed Churches of Australia (CRCA) (1974)
    - d. Dutch Reformed Church in Sri Lanka (1974)
    - e. Reformed Church in Japan (RCJ) (1974)
  3. Europe
    - a. Netherlands Reformed Churches (NRC) (1982)  
(Nederlands Gereformeerde Kerken-Buiten Verband)
    - b. Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN) (1974)  
(de Protestantse Kerk in Nederland)
  4. North America
    - a. Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC) (1977)
    - b. Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) (1986)
    - c. Reformed Church in America (RCA) (1976)

## 5. Latin America

Christian Reformed Church in Cuba (2001)  
(La Iglesia Cristiana Reformada en Cuba)

## 6. 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)

### IV. Bilateral relationships—churches in dialogue

The CRC may also establish relationships with Christian churches that, though not Reformed, may nonetheless enrich the CRC's ecclesiastical fellowship. This category of relationship is called "churches in dialogue." The purpose of such relationships, while less intense than what pertains to churches in ecclesiastical fellowship, is also to maintain contact, correspondence, and conversation. Churches in dialogue may include a wide range of Christian churches with a view to being informed about their ecclesiastical life, their relationships, and how such churches address current issues. It is the CRC's intent to establish closer relationships or restore broken relationships where possible. In seeking such relationships, the CRC intends to be fulfilling its task in keeping with the biblical principles on ecumenicity and the principles for ecumenical practice. The dialogue may include exploration of areas for cooperation. Furthermore, the following will give substance and meaning to the CRC's relationship with churches in dialogue:

A. The CRC will dialogue with churches that desire to establish contact with the CRC because of its Reformed theology, its polity, and its particular emphasis on education, evangelism, and benevolence.

B. The CRC will dialogue with churches that previously have broken ecclesiastical ties with the CRC or have withdrawn from fellowship with the CRC because of certain doctrinal, creedal, church order, or ethical decisions.

C. The CRC will dialogue with churches from differing historical and confessional backgrounds that are willing to address matters of common interest or issues that require clarification.

D. When the CRC is in dialogue with another church, it is desirable that invitations periodically be extended to send delegates to each other's highest assemblies where delegates would be recognized by the assembly.

E. When ecumenical delegates are not exchanged, the IRC will be expected to communicate periodically with these churches and, when appropriate, to inform synod of such correspondence.

F. The IRC shall regularly offer the *Agenda for Synod* and *Acts of Synod* (and any other relevant information) to each of these churches to keep them informed about the CRC and thereby demonstrate our continuing interest in them. In turn, the IRC shall encourage each church in dialogue to inform us by correspondence about itself and its activities.

G. The IRC shall continue to explore specific ways in which we may be of service to these churches through our denominational agencies; for example, through opportunities for higher education of pastors and teachers in our educational institutions, availability of teaching and training materials through CRC Publications, and services of our various boards and committees that could assist needy churches. Such services will require the cooperation of these agencies with the IRC. The IRC shall likewise be alert to services and help that these churches may be able to contribute to the CRC (*Acts of Synod 1993*, pp. 408-10).

It is synod's prerogative to decide with which denominations the CRC will maintain ecclesiastical fellowship, and with which denominations the CRC will be in formal dialogue. Following is a list of churches currently in formal dialogue with the CRC:

1. Christian Reformed Church in Eastern Africa (Uganda)
2. Christian Reformed Church of Myanmar
3. Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (Nkhoma Synod) Malawi
4. Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar
5. Evangelical Reformed Church of Burundi
6. Reformed Church in Zambia
7. Reformed Church of East Africa (Kenya)

## **V. Recommendations**

A. That synod, by way of the printed ballot appoint the needed members for Interchurch Relations Committee as recommended by the IRC.

B. That synod extend the courtesy of addressing synod to the ecumenical guest from the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN).

Interchurch Relations Committee  
Peter Borgdorff, ecumenical officer

The Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee (SMCC) is pleased to submit this supplementary report to Synod 2007 and provide the information below for synod's deliberation and action.

## **I. Candidates for the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church**

A. Each year, it is a privilege to meet and interview the candidate applicants. The interviews are conducted by teams of six persons with each team composed of members of the Board of Trustees of Calvin Theological Seminary, a sermon critic, and at least one member of the SMCC. The cooperation between the SMCC and Calvin Theological Seminary is first rate, and the SMCC is grateful for the assistance provided to make this process of recommending candidates meaningful and uplifting. The SMCC is pleased to recommend the following persons for candidacy to become ministers of the Word in the CRC. Candidates who graduated from other than Calvin Theological Seminary are designated as EPMC (Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy) candidates. Biographical detail for each candidate can be found in the Candidate Booklet under separate cover.

Troy W. Bierma	Zeke R. Nelson (EPMC)
Shawn L. Bootsma (EPMC)	Samuel L. Perry
John A. Bothof	Richard L. Pinckney
Micah J. Bruxvoort	Robert L. Pollema, Jr. (EPMC)
Jeffrey R. Bulthuis	David J. Prince
Nicholas R. Davelaar	Michael L. Ribbens
B. Joy Engelsman (EPMC)	Daniel J. Roels (EPMC)
Tobin S. Gruppen (EPMC)	Benjamin Spalink
Todd H. Hilkemann (EPMC)	David L. Spoelma
Leon H. Johnston	Michael J. VanderKwaak (EPMC)
Benjamin R.T. Katt	Jana L. Vander Laan
James Kim	Maurice Vander Veen
Rita S. Klein-Geltink	Theodore P. Vellinga
Brian D. Kuypers	David Westra
Hyuk Soo Kwon (EPMC)	Brian Willats

B. The rules of synod require that a declared candidate by one synod must request an extension of candidacy status at the following synod if a call has not been accepted. Such applicants are interviewed in order to assess the validity of the request. SMCC recommends the following for candidacy extension approval:

Kenneth R. Bieber	Timothy Koning
Mary L. Bosch	Karen Norris
Bradley Close	Drew Sweetman
William Jensen	

## **II. Presentation of the candidates to synod**

It is recommended that the candidates be presented to synod Tuesday morning, June 12, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. The president of Calvin Theological Seminary and the chairperson of the SMCC will formally introduce the candidates for 2007 to synod for approval.

## **III. Committee membership**

The present membership of the SMCC was approved by Synod 2006 as per the following alignment: Rev. Roy Berkenbosch (2007\*\*), Mr. Norman De Graaf (2007\*\*), Rev. Thea Leunk (chair) (2007\*), Dr. Jay J. Shim (2007\*), Rev. Emmett A. Harrison (2008\*\*), Rev. Henry Jonker (2008\*), Mr. Rudy Gonzalez (2009\*\*), Dr. Annalee Ward (2009\*\*), Dr. Albert Wolters (2009\*), Dr. Peter Borgdorff (ex officio for the ED), Dr. Paul L. Bremer (staff), Dr. Duane Kelderman (ex officio as the Calvin Seminary representative).

*Note:* \* indicates the member is serving the first three-year term; \*\* indicates the member is serving the second three-year term.

Rev. Roy Berkenbosch and Mr. Norman De Graaf are retiring from service on the SMCC as of June 30, 2007. Their contribution to the initial work of the committee has been significant, and the church owes them appreciation for their participation. Because the SMCC has been unsuccessful in finding replacements for both Rev. Berkenbosch and Mr. De Graaf in time for synodical approval, it is requested that the Board of Trustees be authorized to make such appointments on behalf of synod.

Both Rev. Thea Leunk and Dr. Jay J. Shim have completed their first term of service and are eligible for a second three-year term. The SMCC recommends these two members for reelection.

## **IV. Recommendations**

- A. That synod declare those listed in section I, A as candidates for ministry in the Christian Reformed Church.
- B. That synod approve the extensions of candidacy as recommended in section I, B.
- C. That synod by way of the printed ballot ratify the reelection of members for the SMCC from the slate of nominees presented.
- D. That synod authorize the Board of Trustees, upon nomination by the SMCC, to appoint two persons to fill the positions vacated by the retirement of Rev. Roy Berkenbosch and Mr. Norman De Graaf.

Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee  
Paul L. Bremer, staff for the SMCC

# OVERTURE AND COMMUNICATION

**Overture 37: Do Not Restrict Women from Being Synodical Deputies and Delegates**

Classis Chatham overtures Synod 2007 not to adopt the decision of Synod 2006 to restrict the attendance of women (elders and ministers) as synodical deputies and delegates and that Synod 2007 permit women to serve in these capacities now.

*Grounds:*

1. The intention of Synod 2002 was to settle this matter in 2005, not to postpone it.
2. Over 50 percent of all classes welcome women to their meetings as delegates. Should synod not do the same?
3. It is time to honor the convictions and service of our female members.
4. A Sabbath rest of seven years on the matter is too long. Synod has been discussing this issue for over thirty years already (since Synod 1970). Furthermore, this interpretation of a Sabbath rest violates the intention of a Sabbath rest, which is a time for joy in serving the Lord rather than squelching further discussion on a matter.

Classis Chatham

Jack Herder, stated clerk

## Communication 2: Classis Northcentral Iowa

Classis Northcentral Iowa expresses serious concern regarding what we see as a movement away from our Reformed heritage of submission to Scripture's final authority within the CRCNA. Several decisions made by Synod 2006 concern us not only because of the decisions themselves, but also because we see them as part of a larger trend within the CRC of moving away from submission to the *sufficient* and *final authority* of Holy Scripture (*Sola Scriptura*). These concerns are prompted by (but not limited to) several actions of Synod 2006, namely:

1. The decision to open the communion table to all baptized members regardless of age and regardless of whether these individuals have professed faith in Jesus Christ stands in contradiction to Scripture.

We believe that the decision of Synod 2006 departs from the explicit teaching of Holy Scripture that requires that each participant in the Lord's Supper be of sufficient maturity to be able "to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Cor. 11:28-29 NIV).

2. The universal removal of the word *male* from Church Order Article 3-a in every classis—*against the wills of many classes*—contradicts Scripture.

We believe that male headship in the church is explicitly taught in Scripture and that removing the word *male* from Church Order Article 3-a eliminates our right to disqualify female candidates from ordained offices on the grounds of Holy Scripture. Synod's action thus stands in contradiction to Scripture.

3. Synod failed to call First CRC, Toronto, to repentance for their advocacy of electing gay and lesbian members living in committed relationships to serve as officebearers. Such individuals should not even be considered members in good standing.

First CRC has not complied with Classis Toronto's original call (January 23, 2003) for the council of First CRC to: "repent of . . . affirming the validity of committed same-sex relationships" (*Acts of Synod 2004*, p. 630).

*Repentance* (a change of heart and mind) is a separate matter from merely *rescinding* a decision to act. Synod's resolution of this matter only treats the surface issue of adhering to the CRC's guidelines but fails to call the church to repentance for the unbiblical views that they continue to espouse. By substituting compliance with CRC guidelines for compliance with Holy



Scripture, Synod 2006 glossed over vital *moral issues* that must be repented of (see *Acts of Synod 2006*, pp. 653-54).

For this reason, we humbly request that Synod 2007:

1. Not proceed with plans to allow nonprofessing members to receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
2. Not proceed with the removal of the word *male* from Church Order Article 3-a.
3. Reinitiate action re First CRC, Toronto, calling them to repent of their desire to elect gay and lesbian officebearers who are living in committed same-sex relationships.

Classis Northcentral Iowa  
Thomas J. Vos, stated clerk

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)  
Fiscal Year 2007-2008**

	Fiscal 04-05 Actual	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Budget	Fiscal 07-08 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 4,286	\$ 4,489	\$ 3,835	\$ 3,950
% of Total Income	43.4%	45.5%	42.3%	42.1%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 4,209	\$ 3,686	\$ 4,075	\$ 4,305
Estate Gifts	\$ 1,012	\$ 1,375	\$ 825	\$ 825
Total Gift Income	5,221	5,061	4,900	5,130
% of Total Income	52.9%	51.3%	54.0%	54.7%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants-Animation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 360	\$ 322	\$ 340	\$ 300
Total Other Income	360	322	340	300
% of Total Income	3.6%	3.3%	3.7%	3.2%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>9,867</b>	<b>9,872</b>	<b>9,075</b>	<b>9,380</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
<b>Program Services:</b>				
English	\$ 3,391	\$ 2,771	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,575
FTEs	10	10	12	12
International	\$ 3,772	\$ 4,011	\$ 4,695	\$ 4,975
FTEs	13	13	14	14
Television - Animation				
FTEs				
Program Initiatives	\$ 371	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 7,534	\$ 6,782	\$ 7,095	\$ 7,550
Total Program Service FTEs	23	23	26	26
% of Total \$	78.9%	75.2%	78.2%	78.4%
% of Total FTEs	71.9%	69.7%	72.2%	72.2%
<b>Support Services:</b>				
Management & General	\$ 657	\$ 755	\$ 650	\$ 676
FTEs	4	4	4	4
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 1,358	\$ 1,483	\$ 1,330	\$ 1,400
FTEs	5	6	6	6
Total Support Service \$	2,015	2,238	1,980	2,076
Total Support Service FTEs	9	10	10	10
% of Total \$	21.1%	24.8%	21.8%	21.6%
% of Total FTEs	28.1%	30.3%	27.8%	27.8%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 9,549</b>	<b>\$ 9,020</b>	<b>\$ 9,075</b>	<b>\$ 9,626</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 318</b>	<b>\$ 852</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (246)</b>

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.)  
Fiscal Year 2007-2008**

	Fiscal 04-05 Actual	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Budget	Fiscal 07-08 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 2,756	\$ 2,896	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,800
% of Total Income	2.9%	2.8%	2.6%	2.5%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 2,913	\$ 2,730	\$ 3,075	\$ 3,075
Estate Gifts	\$ 26	\$ 7	\$ 19	\$ 20
Total Gift Income	2,939	2,737	3,094	3,095
% of Total Income	3.1%	2.7%	2.9%	2.7%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 88,646	\$ 94,912	\$ 100,747	\$ 106,814
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,622	\$ 2,729	\$ 1,209	\$ 1,208
Total Other Income	90,268	97,641	101,956	108,022
% of Total Income	94.1%	94.5%	94.5%	94.8%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>95,963</b>	<b>103,274</b>	<b>107,850</b>	<b>113,917</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Education	\$ 82,859	\$ 87,923	\$ 94,374	\$ 99,775
FTEs	582	597	600	600
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 82,859	\$ 87,923	\$ 94,374	\$ 99,775
Total Program Service FTEs	582	597	600	600
% of Total \$	87.0%	86.9%	87.5%	87.5%
% of Total FTEs	80.9%	80.7%	79.8%	79.8%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 4,792	\$ 4,992	\$ 4,476	\$ 4,867
FTEs	58	61	65	65
Plant Operations	\$ 5,190	\$ 5,651	\$ 6,381	\$ 6,734
FTEs	55	57	60	60
Fund-raising	\$ 2,375	\$ 2,597	\$ 2,597	\$ 2,597
FTEs	24	25	27	27
Total Support Service \$	12,357	13,240	13,454	14,198
Total Support Service FTEs	137	143	152	152
% of Total \$	13.0%	13.1%	12.5%	12.5%
% of Total FTEs	19.1%	19.3%	20.2%	20.2%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 95,216</b>	<b>\$ 101,163</b>	<b>\$ 107,828</b>	<b>\$ 113,973</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>752</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 747</b>	<b>\$ 2,111</b>	<b>\$ 22</b>	<b>\$ (56)</b>

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.)**  
**Fiscal Year 2007-2008**

	Fiscal 04-05 Actual	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Budget	Fiscal 07-08 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 2,488	\$ 2,695	\$ 3,150	\$ 3,246
% of Total Income	45.0%	44.2%	48.3%	48.0%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 865	\$ 767	\$ 1,010	\$ 1,053
Estate Gifts	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ 50	\$ -
Total Gift Income	915	767	1,060	1,053
% of Total Income	16.6%	12.6%	16.2%	15.6%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 1,751	\$ 1,984	\$ 1,970	\$ 2,082
Grants	\$ 329	\$ 542	\$ 288	\$ 315
Miscellaneous	\$ 44	\$ 107	\$ 59	\$ 68
Total Other Income	2,124	2,633	2,317	2,465
% of Total Income	38.4%	43.2%	35.5%	36.4%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>5,527</b>	<b>6,095</b>	<b>6,527</b>	<b>6,764</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Instructional	\$ 2,384	\$ 2,585	\$ 2,694	\$ 2,798
FTEs	27	27	27	28
Public Service	\$ 49	\$ 52	\$ 56	\$ 58
FTEs	-	1	1	1
Academic Support	\$ 782	\$ 867	\$ 927	\$ 945
FTEs	3	4	4	4
Student Services	\$ 513	\$ 488	\$ 574	\$ 597
FTEs	4	4	4	4
Student Aid	\$ 219	\$ 242	\$ 480	\$ 491
FTEs	1	2	2	2
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 3,947	\$ 4,234	\$ 4,731	\$ 4,889
Total Program Service FTEs	35	38	38	39
% of Total \$	72.9%	73.5%	72.5%	72.3%
% of Total FTEs	76.1%	77.6%	77.6%	76.5%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 739	\$ 790	\$ 914	\$ 944
FTEs	6	6	6	7
Plant Operations	\$ 345	\$ 382	\$ 439	\$ 470
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Fund-raising	\$ 386	\$ 351	\$ 443	\$ 461
FTEs	4	4	4	4
Total Support Service \$	1,470	1,523	1,796	1,875
Total Support Service FTEs	11	11	11	12
% of Total \$	27.1%	26.5%	27.5%	27.7%
% of Total FTEs	23.9%	22.4%	22.4%	23.5%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 5,417</b>	<b>\$ 5,757</b>	<b>\$ 6,527</b>	<b>\$ 6,764</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 110</b>	<b>\$ 338</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

## Christian Reformed Home Missions

### Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2007-2008

	Fiscal 04-05 Actual	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Budget	Fiscal 07-08 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 5,174	\$ 5,472	\$ 4,300	\$ 4,000
% of Total Income	40.3%	67.6%	60.4%	52.2%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 1,392	\$ 1,582	\$ 1,927	\$ 2,015
Estate Gifts	\$ 373	\$ 245	\$ 400	\$ 375
Total Gift Income	1,765	1,827	2,327	2,390
% of Total Income	13.8%	22.6%	32.7%	31.2%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 275
Miscellaneous	\$ 5,884	\$ 791	\$ 492	\$ 1,002
Total Other Income	5,884	791	492	1,277
% of Total Income	45.9%	9.8%	6.9%	16.7%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>12,823</b>	<b>8,090</b>	<b>7,119</b>	<b>7,667</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
New-Church Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Established & Small Churches	\$ 401	\$ 377	\$ 264	\$ 260
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Campus/schools	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	2	-	-	-
Ministry Teams	\$ 5,084	\$ 5,194	\$ 5,521	\$ 6,500
FTEs	35	35	32	38
Ministry Devel & Planning	\$ 908	\$ 1,264	\$ 1,268	\$ 135
FTEs	11	11	8	1
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 6,393	\$ 6,835	\$ 7,053	\$ 6,895
Total Program Service FTEs	50	48	42	41
% of Total \$	78.3%	80.4%	78.6%	77.6%
% of Total FTEs	84.7%	84.2%	82.4%	83.7%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 1,035	\$ 866	\$ 814	\$ 838
FTEs	3	3	3	2
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 732	\$ 802	\$ 1,111	\$ 1,150
FTEs	6	6	6	6
Total Support Service \$	1,767	1,668	1,925	1,988
Total Support Service FTEs	9	9	9	8
% of Total \$	21.7%	19.6%	21.4%	22.4%
% of Total FTEs	15.3%	15.8%	17.6%	16.3%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 8,160</b>	<b>\$ 8,503</b>	<b>\$ 8,978</b>	<b>\$ 8,883</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 4,663</b>	<b>\$ (413)</b>	<b>\$ (1,859)</b>	<b>\$ (1,216)</b>

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)**  
**Fiscal Year 2007-2008**

	Fiscal 04-05 Actual	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Budget	Fiscal 07-08 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 4,853	\$ 5,135	\$ 4,935	\$ 5,085
% of Total Income	37.4%	40.6%	37.5%	37.8%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 6,399	\$ 6,449	\$ 7,092	\$ 7,100
Estate Gifts	\$ 490	\$ 400	\$ 667	\$ 645
Total Gift Income	6,889	6,849	7,759	7,745
% of Total Income	53.1%	54.1%	59.0%	57.6%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,233	\$ 678	\$ 463	\$ 627
Total Other Income	1,233	678	463	627
% of Total Income	9.5%	5.4%	3.5%	4.7%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>12,975</b>	<b>12,662</b>	<b>13,157</b>	<b>13,457</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Africa	\$ 3,460	\$ 3,519	\$ 3,292	\$ 3,516
FTEs	31	33	30	31
Eurasia	\$ 2,789	\$ 2,407	\$ 2,591	\$ 3,183
FTEs	19	21	17	20
Latin America	\$ 3,538	\$ 3,630	\$ 3,914	\$ 3,917
FTEs	26	28	30	28
Europe	\$ 666	\$ 774	\$ 751	\$ -
FTEs	7	8	7	-
Education	\$ 569	\$ 562	\$ 657	\$ 716
FTEs	5	7	6	7
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 11,022	\$ 10,892	\$ 11,205	\$ 11,332
Total Program Service FTEs	89	96	89	86
% of Total \$	86.7%	86.2%	85.2%	84.2%
% of Total FTEs	88.8%	87.6%	86.8%	86.2%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 786	\$ 857	\$ 869	\$ 908
FTEs	5	5	5	5
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 911	\$ 892	\$ 1,083	\$ 1,217
FTEs	6	8	8	9
Total Support Service \$	1,697	1,749	1,952	2,125
Total Support Service FTEs	11	14	14	14
% of Total \$	13.3%	13.8%	14.8%	15.8%
% of Total FTEs	11.2%	12.4%	13.2%	13.8%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 12,719</b>	<b>\$ 12,641</b>	<b>\$ 13,157</b>	<b>\$ 13,457</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 256</b>	<b>\$ 21</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

# Christian Reformed World Relief Committee

## Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2007-2008

	Fiscal 04-05 Actual	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Budget	Fiscal 07-08 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 19,904	\$ 19,910	\$ 10,262	\$ 13,340
Estate Gifts	\$ 725	\$ 1,039	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,133
Total Gift Income	20,629	20,949	11,362	14,473
% of Total Income	75.0%	67.0%	85.0%	77.1%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ 5,833	\$ 9,572	\$ 1,966	\$ 4,273
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,033	\$ 730	\$ 35	\$ 36
Total Other Income	6,866	10,302	2,001	4,309
% of Total Income	25.0%	33.0%	15.0%	22.9%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>27,495</b>	<b>31,251</b>	<b>13,363</b>	<b>18,782</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Overseas programs	\$ 9,303	\$ 10,290	\$ 7,977	\$ 10,793
FTEs	56	56	56	51
No America programs	\$ 1,159	\$ 1,382	\$ 961	\$ 1,082
FTEs	6	6	6	9
Disaster relief programs (core)	\$ 4,991	\$ 11,997	\$ 1,072	\$ 1,153
Above-budget relief costs		\$	\$ 5,933	\$ 3,453
FTEs	9	9	9	13
Education	\$ 448	\$ 637	\$ 273	\$ 885
FTEs	3	3	3	8
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 15,901	\$ 24,306	\$ 16,216	\$ 17,366
Total Program Service FTEs	74	74	74	81
% of Total \$	85.6%	89.9%	84.6%	80.2%
% of Total FTEs	79.6%	79.6%	77.9%	75.7%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 1,259	\$ 1,385	\$ 1,101	\$ 1,502
FTEs	7	7	7	7
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 1,406	\$ 1,341	\$ 1,862	\$ 2,797
FTEs	12	12	14	19
Total Support Service \$	2,665	2,726	2,963	4,299
Total Support Service FTEs	19	19	21	26
% of Total \$	14.4%	10.1%	15.4%	19.8%
% of Total FTEs	20.4%	20.4%	22.1%	24.3%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 18,566</b>	<b>\$ 27,032</b>	<b>\$ 19,179</b>	<b>\$ 21,665</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 8,929</b>	<b>\$ 4,219</b>	<b>\$ (5,816)</b>	<b>\$ (2,883)</b>



**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)**  
**Fiscal Year 2007-2008**

	Fiscal 04-05 Actual	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Budget	Fiscal 07-08 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 767	\$ 918	\$ 1,257	\$ 1,296
% of Total Income	12.4%	14.3%	19.1%	19.4%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 237	\$ 325	\$ 235	\$ 260
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	237	325	235	260
% of Total Income	3.8%	5.0%	3.6%	3.9%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 5,009	\$ 4,778	\$ 4,719	\$ 4,763
Grants	\$ 62	\$ 264	\$ 253	\$ 253
Miscellaneous	\$ 99	\$ 154	\$ 108	\$ 122
Total Other Income	5,170	5,196	5,080	5,138
% of Total Income	83.7%	80.7%	77.3%	76.8%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>6,174</b>	<b>6,439</b>	<b>6,572</b>	<b>6,694</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Banner	\$ 893	\$ 1,251	\$ 1,327	\$ 1,344
FTEs	3	4	4	4
Education	\$ 3,857	\$ 3,717	\$ 3,637	\$ 3,635
FTEs	18	18	18	17
World Literature	\$ 420	\$ 417	\$ 504	\$ 452
FTEs	3	3	3	2
Teacher Training	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 140	\$ 140
FTEs	-	-	1	1
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	5,170	5,385	5,608	5,571
Total Program Service FTEs	24	25	26	24
% of Total \$	88.3%	88.5%	87.9%	87.0%
% of Total FTEs	92.3%	92.6%	92.9%	92.3%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 684	\$ 699	\$ 775	\$ 831
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	684	699	775	831
Total Support Service FTEs	2	2	2	2
% of Total \$	11.7%	11.5%	12.1%	13.0%
% of Total FTEs	7.7%	7.4%	7.1%	7.7%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 5,854</b>	<b>\$ 6,084</b>	<b>\$ 6,383</b>	<b>\$ 6,402</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 320</b>	<b>\$ 355</b>	<b>\$ 189</b>	<b>\$ 292</b>

## Denominational Services

### Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2007-2008

	Fiscal 04-05 Actual	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Budget	Fiscal 07-08 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 1,943	\$ 2,260	\$ 3,097	\$ 3,086
% of Total Income	64.9%	80.5%	86.9%	85.9%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 436	\$ 422	\$ 15	\$ 20
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	436	423	15	20
% of Total Income	14.6%	15.1%	0.4%	0.6%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ 209	\$ 92	\$ 164	\$ 20
Services & Misc	\$ 408	\$ 31	\$ 287	\$ 467
Total Other Income	617	123	451	487
% of Total Income	20.6%	4.4%	12.7%	13.6%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,996</b>	<b>2,806</b>	<b>3,563</b>	<b>3,593</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Synodical Services & Grants	\$ 979	\$ 1,159	\$ 1,442	\$ 1,418
FTEs	5	5	5	5
Communications	\$ 349	\$ 222	\$ 566	\$ 409
FTEs	3	3	4	4
CRCPlan	\$ 154	\$ 141	\$ 141	\$ 139
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Sea to Sea grants	\$ -	\$ 820	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Program Service \$</b>	<b>\$ 1,482</b>	<b>\$ 2,342</b>	<b>\$ 2,149</b>	<b>\$ 1,966</b>
<b>Total Program Service FTEs</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>% of Total \$</b>	<b>69.7%</b>	<b>70.5%</b>	<b>65.4%</b>	<b>57.8%</b>
<b>% of Total FTEs</b>	<b>64.3%</b>	<b>64.3%</b>	<b>58.8%</b>	<b>55.6%</b>
<b>Support Services:</b>				
Management & General	\$ 585	\$ 923	\$ 873	\$ 953
FTEs	4	4	5	5
D.D.M.				\$ 186
FTEs				1
Fund-raising (Foundation)	\$ 58	\$ 55	\$ 265	\$ 297
FTEs	1	1	2	2
<b>Total Support Service \$</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>1,436</b>
<b>Total Support Service FTEs</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>% of Total \$</b>	<b>30.3%</b>	<b>29.5%</b>	<b>34.6%</b>	<b>42.2%</b>
<b>% of Total FTEs</b>	<b>35.7%</b>	<b>35.7%</b>	<b>41.2%</b>	<b>44.4%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 2,125</b>	<b>\$ 3,320</b>	<b>\$ 3,287</b>	<b>\$ 3,402</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 871</b>	<b>\$ (514)</b>	<b>\$ 276</b>	<b>\$ 191</b>

## Specialized Ministries

### Operating Budget (000s of U.S.) Fiscal Year 2007-2008

	Fiscal 04-05 Actual	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Budget	Fiscal 07-08 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 2,060	\$ 2,229	\$ 2,696	\$ 3,331
% of Total Income	88.6%	87.4%	91.2%	92.0%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 257	\$ 282	\$ 255	\$ 286
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	257	282	255	286
% of Total Income	11.1%	11.1%	8.6%	7.9%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5	\$ 2
Grants	\$ -	\$ 38	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 7	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Other Income	7	38	5	2
% of Total Income	0.3%	1.5%	0.2%	0.1%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,324</b>	<b>2,549</b>	<b>2,956</b>	<b>3,619</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Chaplaincy Services	\$ 182	\$ 198	\$ 223	\$ 235
FTEs	2	2	1	1
Race Relations	\$ 276	\$ 274	\$ 326	\$ 347
FTEs	4	4	3	3
Pastor-Church Relations	\$ 465	\$ 515	\$ 439	\$ 555
FTEs	3	3	3	3
Abuse Prevention	\$ 143	\$ 159	\$ 169	\$ 173
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Disability Concerns	\$ 205	\$ 230	\$ 214	\$ 213
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Social & Restorative Justice	224	289	403	324
FTEs	2	3	5	5
Sust. Pastoral & Church Execl.	350	449	883	1,205
FTEs	1	1	2	3
Ministries in Canada	\$ 542	\$ 613	\$ 636	\$ 670
FTEs	4	4	4	4
Total Program Service \$	\$ 2,387	\$ 2,727	\$ 3,293	\$ 3,722
Total Program Service FTEs	18	19	20	21
% of Total \$	96.8%	97.1%	97.2%	97.5%
% of Total FTEs	94.7%	95.0%	95.2%	95.5%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 47	\$ 47	\$ 58	\$ 61
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 32	\$ 35	\$ 36	\$ 36
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Total Support Service \$	79	82	94	97
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	3.2%	2.9%	2.8%	2.5%
% of Total FTEs	5.3%	5.0%	4.8%	4.5%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 2,466</b>	<b>\$ 2,809</b>	<b>\$ 3,387</b>	<b>\$ 3,819</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (142)</b>	<b>\$ (260)</b>	<b>\$ (431)</b>	<b>\$ (200)</b>

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)  
Fiscal Year 2007-2008**

	Fiscal 04-05 Actual	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Budget	Fiscal 07-08 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
% of Total Income	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%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,137	\$ 1,220	\$ 1,154	\$ 1,679
Total Other Income	1,137	1,220	1,154	1,679
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,137</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>1,154</b>	<b>1,679</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Loan Interest	\$ 564	\$ 694	\$ 825	\$ 1,300
FTEs	1	1	1	1
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 564	\$ 694	\$ 825	\$ 1,300
Total Program Service FTEs	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	75.6%	78.5%	77.0%	84.5%
% of Total FTEs	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 182	\$ 190	\$ 246	\$ 239
FTEs			1	1
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	182	190	246	239
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	24.4%	21.5%	23.0%	15.5%
% of Total FTEs	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 746</b>	<b>\$ 884</b>	<b>\$ 1,071</b>	<b>\$ 1,539</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 391</b>	<b>\$ 336</b>	<b>\$ 83</b>	<b>\$ 140</b>

# Ministers' Pension and Special Assistance Funds – Canada

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

	MPF 2005 Actual	MPF 2006 Actual	SAF 2005 Actual	SAF 2006 Actual
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31	\$ 37
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	91.2%	86.0%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	-	-	-	-
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Income:				
Participant Assessments	\$ 1,666	\$ 1,811	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 4,155	\$ 3,746	\$ 3	\$ 6
Total Other Income	5,821	5,557	3	6
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	8.8%	14.0%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>5,821</b>	<b>5,557</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Distributions	\$ 1,933	\$ 1,961	\$ 15	\$ 3
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 1,933	\$ 1,961	\$ 15	\$ 3
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	85.5%	85.0%	100.0%	100.0%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%		
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 327	\$ 345	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	1	1	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	327	345	-	-
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	-	-
% of Total \$	14.5%	15.0%	0.0%	0.0%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%		
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 2,260</b>	<b>\$ 2,306</b>	<b>\$ 15</b>	<b>\$ 3</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ 3,561</b>	<b>\$ 3,251</b>	<b>\$ 19</b>	<b>\$ 40</b>

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

### Changes in Net Assets (000s of U.S.\$)

	MPF 2005 Actual	MPF 2006 Actual	SAF 2005 Actual	SAF 2006 Actual
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 91	\$ 94
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	95.8%	92.2%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	-	-	-	-
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Income:				
Participant Assessments	\$ 4,168	\$ 4,289	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 6,788	\$ 11,738	\$ 4	\$ 8
Total Other Income	10,956	16,027	4	8
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	4.2%	7.8%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>10,956</b>	<b>16,027</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Distributions	\$ 6,462	\$ 6,650	\$ 58	\$ 47
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 6,462	\$ 6,650	\$ 58	\$ 47
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	89.8%	87.6%	100.0%	100.0%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%		
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 737	\$ 937	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	1	1	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	737	937	-	-
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	-	-
% of Total \$	10.2%	12.4%	0.0%	0.0%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%		
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 7,199</b>	<b>\$ 7,587</b>	<b>\$ 58</b>	<b>\$ 47</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ 3,757</b>	<b>\$ 8,440</b>	<b>\$ 37</b>	<b>\$ 55</b>

## Employees' Retirement Plan – U.S.

### Changes in Net Assets (000s of U.S.\$)

#### ADDITIONS:

Ministry Share	\$	-	\$	-
% of Total Income		0.0%		0.0%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$	-	\$	-
Estate Gifts	\$	-	\$	-
Total Gift Income		-		-
% of Total Income		0.0%		0.0%
Other Income:				
Employer Contributions	\$	968	\$	1,015
Grants	\$	-	\$	-
Miscellaneous	\$	858	\$	1,896
Total Other Income		1,826		2,911
% of Total Income		100.0%		100.0%
TOTAL ADDITIONS		1,826		2,911

#### DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):

Program Services:				
Distributions	\$	976	\$	996
FTEs		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
Total Program-service \$	\$	976	\$	996
Total Program-service FTEs		-		-
% of Total \$		93.4%		94.1%
% of Total FTEs		0.0%		0.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$	69	\$	63
FTEs		1		1
Plant Operations	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
Fund-raising	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
Total Support-service \$		69		63
Total Support-service FTEs		1		1
% of Total \$		6.6%		5.9%
% of Total FTEs		100.0%		100.0%
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$	1,045	\$	1,059
TOTAL FTEs		1		1
NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)	\$	781	\$	1,852

## Consolidated Group Insurance – U.S.

### Changes in Net Assets (000s of U.S.\$)

	2005 Actual	2006 Actual
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>		
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%
Other Gift Income:		
Above Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	-	-
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%
Other Income:		
Participant Premiums	\$ 8,424	\$ 8,766
Grants	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 88	\$ 214
Total Other Income	8,512	8,980
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>8,512</b>	<b>8,980</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>		
Program Services:		
Claims Expense	\$ 6,684	\$ 7,846
FTEs	-	-
Insurance Premiums	\$ 395	\$ 412
FTEs	-	-
TPA & PPO Fees	\$ 562	\$ 602
FTEs	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 7,641	\$ 8,860
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-
% of Total \$	97.6%	97.9%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%
Support Services:		
Management & General	\$ 189	\$ 194
FTEs	3	3
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-
Total Support Service \$	189	194
Total Support Service FTEs	3	3
% of Total \$	4.3%	4.3%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 7,830</b>	<b>\$ 9,054</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ 682</b>	<b>\$ (74)</b>



# REPORT OF SYNOD 2007

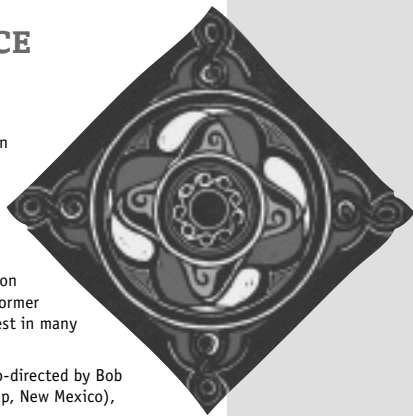
## ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

### *Leading us in music:*

- the anniversary orchestra, conducted by John Varineau (Sherman Street CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.), associate conductor of the Grand Rapids Symphony and conductor of the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony,
- the anniversary choir, with participants from over 100 CRC congregations, led by Anton Armstrong, conductor of the St. Olaf Choir, former professor at Calvin College, and frequent guest in many CRC churches across North America,
- the Rehoboth Christian High School Choir, co-directed by Bob Ippel and Gail DeYoung (Rehoboth CRC, Gallup, New Mexico),
- organist Norma de Waal Malefyt (Hillcrest CRC, Hudsonville, Mich.) and pianist Sean Ivory (Neland Ave. CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.),
- a worship team: Eun Bee Cho (Hahn-In CRC, Wyoming, Mich.), Matt Gruppen (Ann Arbor, Mich. CRC), Kent Hendricks (Third CRC, Lynden, Wash.), Bob Keeley (14th Street CRC, Holland, Mich.), Fred Knapp (Eastern Ave. CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.), Paul Ryan (Seymour CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.), Shelly Veenstra (Caledonia, Mich. CRC), and Joel Unema (Immanuel CRC, Hudsonville, Mich.) and
- a brass ensemble: Mary Hoekstra (LaGrave Ave CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.), Jonathan Karnes (Eastern Ave CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.), Helen Karsten (Comstock CRC, Kalamazoo, Mich.), Jack Karsten (Comstock CRC, Kalamazoo, Mich.), Kevin Soodsma (Beckwith Hills CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.), and Tim VanDerHeide (Moline, Mich. CRC).

### *De Vos Place greeters:*

- Shirley Hoogstra (Mayfair CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.), Vice-President of Student Life, Calvin College
- Rev. Duane Kelderman (Neland Ave. CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.), Vice President of Administration, Calvin Theological Seminary
- Seminarian Anne Zaki (Presbyterian Church of Egypt/Church of the Servant CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.), Calvin Institute of Christian Worship
- Earl James (Madison Square CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.), City Vision, Inc.



*Circle by Elizabeth Steele Halstead, Grand Rapids, Mich. (Reprinted by permission from Visuals for Worship © 2006, Faith Alive Christian Resources)*

Open our lips and  
our mouths will  
sing your praise.

—Psalm 51:15

## Gathering for Worship

*As the doors open*

### *O For A Thousand Tongues: The Sounds of Worship Across Time and Space*

*Fifty brief recorded musical excerpts:*

- from each of the last seven decades, including an early 1940s recording of congregational singing in Pella,
- from congregations and schools in Ancaster, Denver, Edmonton, Grand Rapids, Holland, Hudsonville, Jenison, Kalamazoo, Newport, Palos Heights, Pella, Sacramento, Sioux Center, Surrey, and Tucson,
- from communities with links to the CRC in Costa Rica, Hungary, England, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Micronesia, and the Philippines,
- each of the five 150th anniversary song contest winners.

*The complete set of excerpts will be posted at [www.crcna.org/150](http://www.crcna.org/150), and be available on the video recording that will be made of this service.*

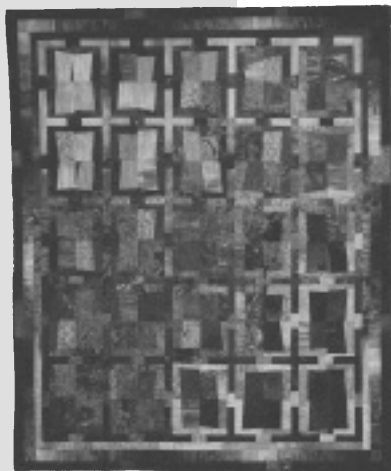
*At 2:30 p.m.*

### *Cantad al Señor!/O Sing to the Lord!: A Musical Tapestry of Praise*

*The orchestra fanfare leads us into a 30-minute festival of song and prayer, with songs of vital faith, both old and new, from many cultures and many centuries of the church's history, including*

- congregational songs,
- prayers for God's blessing by Karen DeMol (First CRC, Sioux Center, Iowa, Dordt College), the Honorable George Heartwell, Mayor of Grand Rapids, Mich., Gary Teja (Calvin CRC, Holland, Mich., Kuyper College)
- anthems of praise by the Rehoboth Christian High School choir,
- anniversary Choir: "Sing, Sing a New Song to the Lord God," arr. by Dale Grotenhuis, emeritus professor of music at Dordt College,
- congregational songs of God's faithfulness and resurrection hope.

*At the close of this pre-service musical mosaic, a brief video will lead us into the greeting.*



*Rhythmic Improvisation*  
by Joanne Alberda, Sioux  
Center, Iowa

## Greeting and Praise

### The Votum and Salutation

"Our help is the name of the Lord. . . " and "Grace to you and peace. . ."

### The CRC 150th Anniversary Hymn (p. 76)

### Shout To The Lord (p. 78)

#### Leading us:

- Rev. Jack Vos (First CRC, Barrie, Ont.), Rev. Esteban Lugo (Oakdale Park CRC, and Director of Race Relations for the CRC), Rev. Stanley Jim (First Navajo CRC, Tohatchi, New Mexico, and Regional Director, CRC Home Missions), Rev. Christian Oh (Han Bit Korean CRC, Rochester Hills, Mich.), and Darlene Meyering (Church of the Servant CRC, CRC Sesquicentennial Committee, chair)
- the pastors of our host congregations, Rev. Stanley Scripps (Grafschaap CRC, Holland, Mich.), Rev. Bill De Vries (First CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.), and Rev. Mark Vande Zande (Noordeloos CRC, Holland, Mich.)
- hymnpoet Bert Polman (Plymouth Heights CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.), long-time professor at Redeemer University College and now at Calvin College, who wrote the words of the anniversary hymn, and musical arranger Robert Nordling (Madison Square CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.), who arranged the anniversary hymn for orchestra



*Celebration by Rev. Angela Taylor-Perry, Grand Rapids, Mich.*

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

—Psalm 122:1

*The single sentence most identified with worship in the Dutch Reformed tradition is from Psalm 124:8 "Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth." This declaration, used at the opening of worship, was called the "Votum" ("vow"), a signal that public worship was nothing less than the speaking of marriage-like covenantal vows to the Lord. As long-time Calvin Seminary President Samuel Volbeda insisted, "Grounding worship in the covenant of grace in this way, the passage puts the whole transaction of public worship in the glorious light of God's redemptive love and faithfulness."*

—unpublished lecture notes from the 1940s

In your light, we  
see light.

—Psalm 36:9

## Gratitude, Repentance, Hope

*Our leaders will guide us through a time of prayer and scripture readings.*

**Gratitude: A Litany of Lights**

**Confession and Lament**

**Assurance of God's Grace**

**Call to Obedience**

*Leading us:*

- in scripture: Becky Oschner (previously at Oskaloosa CRC, Oskaloosa, Iowa and now at Brookside CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.), Cindy Vander Kodde (Sunshine CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich., and member of the 150th anniversary committee), Hemense Orkar (representing the Orkar family, CRWRC, Jos, Nigeria), Mariano Avila, Jr. (Peace and Hope/ Paz y Esperanza CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich, and Communications Manager, CRWM), Rev. Tong Park (Orange Korean CRC, Fullerton, Cal., Korean Ministry and California South Team Leader, CRHM), Onetta Siegersma (Fairway CRC, Jenison, Mich.)
- in prayer: Rev. Jerry Dykstra (Ivanrest CRC, Grandville, Mich., and executive director, Christian Reformed Church in North America), Rev. Bruce Adema (St. Albert, Alb., CRC and Director of Canadian Ministries), Rev. Stanley Jim (First Navajo CRC, Tohatchi, New Mexico, and Regional Director, CRC Home Missions), and Rev. Joan De Vries (Clearview CRC, Oakville, Ont.)



*Free From the Burden* by George Langbroek, St. Catharines, Ontario

## Proclamation of the Word

### Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Drama, with  
Choir Response *I Love  
You, Lord, Today*

### Scripture Reading and Sermon

As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been “Yes and No.” For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not “Yes and No”; but in him it is always “Yes.” For in him every one of God’s promises is a “Yes.” For this reason it is through him that we say the “Amen,” to the glory of God. (2 Corinthians 1:18-20)

#### Leading us:

- Rev. Setri Nyomi, pastor in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ghana and general secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, Geneva, Switzerland
- Circle of Friends Drama Team
- Rev. Roy Berkenbosch (Inglewood CRC, Edmonton, Alb.), director of the Micah Center and Vice President of Student Life and Campus Ministries at The King’s University College



*Alpha and Omega* by Edgar Boevé,  
North Palm Beach, Florida

Your word is a  
lamp to our feet  
and light to our  
path.

—Psalm 119:105

### CLC Circle of Friends Drama Team

*“We have chosen a wordless drama. This allows those who struggle with speech sounds an opportunity to express their faith in Jesus in other ways. We pray this drama is not only a reminder of the physical body of Christ and the process and gift of salvation, we also hope you leave with a renewed understanding of the body of Christ – the church. It’s in that community we each find a place where we can use our gifts and receive support for our needs.”*

*The Christian Learning Center partners with Christian schools, churches, and adult communities to help promote and build inclusive community for those with disabilities—those with unique gifts and needs. Students from this drama group, Circle of Friends, attend the partner schools Zeeland Christian and Holland Christian High School. The group includes four children who have special needs as well as five of their friends from school. They are directed by Barbara Bandstra Newman.*

I will pay my  
vows to the Lord  
in the presence  
of all his people...

—Psalm 116:18

## Profession of Faith

### The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
begotten from the Father before all ages,  
God from God,  
Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made;  
of the same essence as the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and  
the virgin Mary,  
and was made human.  
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried.  
The third day he rose again, according to the  
Scriptures.

He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again with glory  
to judge the living and the dead.  
His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life.  
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.  
He spoke through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,  
and to life in the world to come. Amen.

### In Christ Alone

#### Leading us:

- Rev. Leonard Hofman (Shawnee Park CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.),  
General Secretary Emeritus for the CRC, former president of the  
National Association of Evangelicals



*Baptism* by Lauren Oschner,  
Barb Oschner, and Norm  
Matheis, Sioux Center, Iowa

## Response to the Word in Prayer and Gifts

### Prayers for the World

#### Offering Our Gifts

To support the celebration of the 150th anniversary through worship services, publications, an educational conference, and the founding of the Leadership Institute of the CRC.

*Please sing with the orchestra during the offertory as directed.*

#### Leading us:

- Rev. Jerome Burton (Coit Community CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.) and Rev. Carol Muller (Church of the Servant CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.)
- Rev. Peter Borgdorff (Shawnee Park CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich., Executive Director Emeritus for the CRC)
- Soloists Richard and Mary Cory (Central Ave CRC, Holland, Mich.) and children from Madison Square CRC (Grand Rapids, Mich.), who join the orchestra to lead us in the offertory music



*The Four Soils* by Rev. Randy Buemer, Oak Harbor, Wash.

O God, come to  
our assistance. O  
Lord, hasten to  
help us.

—Psalm 70:1

#### **The Leadership Institute**

*On the occasion of its 150th anniversary in 2007, the Christian Reformed Church, in gratitude to God and with eager resolve to participate in God's mission in the world, announces the establishment of the Leadership Institute of the Christian Reformed Church. The Institute will serve as a catalyst for the formation of leaders in all walks of life to act out of a biblically based understanding of what it means to lead people and institutions to serve in God's world. The Institute will work to build the leadership capacity of local congregations and organizations to function creatively and faithfully in their ministries across all generations in the CRC and across a variety socioeconomic, cultural, racial, and global contexts.*

*For extensive information about this emerging institute, see the Agenda for Synod 2007, available at [www.crcna.org](http://www.crcna.org).*



O taste and see  
that the Lord is  
good; happy are  
those who take  
refuge in him.

—Psalm 34:8

*The liturgy for the Lord's  
Supper is based on the  
1981 Service of Word and  
Sacrament (1987 Psalter  
Hymnal, p. 972).*

## The Lord's Supper

- All professing members of churches in which Jesus Christ is professed as Lord and Savior are warmly invited to join in the celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- As the bread and cup are distributed down each row, please break a piece of bread from the common loaf, and take a cup from the basket. Please hold the bread and cup until all have been served so that we can eat and drink together as a sign of unity.

### God's Invitation and Promises

#### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Please join in speaking or singing the words printed in bold.*

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right for us to give thanks and praise!**

With joy we praise you. . . . Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

*[All sing]* **Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**

**All thy works shall praise thy name,**

**in earth and sky and sea.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!**

**God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

We give thanks to God. . . . Therefore we join our voices with those of every generation, proclaiming our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament:

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again!**

Joining our voices with all parts of Christ's church,  
we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

**Our Father who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our debts,**

**as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil,**

**for thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power,**

**and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### Passing of the Peace

We greet each other in Jesus' name with the words "the Lord be with you . . . and also with you" as a sign of our communion in Christ.

### Distribution

During the distribution of the elements, the choir will lead us in prayer through congregational song and the anthem *View the Present Through the Promise*, arranged by Roy Hopp (Woodlawn CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.).



*Grace Through Every Generation* by Chris Stoffel Overvoorde, Grand Rapids, Mich.

"Since by your fatherly goodness you invite us today to receive the holy testimonies of our peace and reconciliation with you, and since your son Jesus, who died for us, calls to himself all those who labor and are heavy laden, you will surely not reject your servant who begs your grace and seeks salvation and life in the death of Jesus—now then lift my heart to you; give me your Holy Spirit. Grant me grace to approach this table with humble repentance and a thirsty soul that desires your grace. Strengthen my faith so that, receiving by hand these visible signs, I may receive by faith the broken body of Jesus Christ and his blood shed for me as the nourishment of eternal life."

—John Calvin

May God be  
gracious to us  
and bless us and  
make his face to  
shine upon us. . .

—Psalm 67:1

## Acclamations and Benediction

### Psalm 103

Praise the Lord, O my soul;  
**all my inmost being, praise his holy name.**  
praise the Lord, O my soul,  
**and forget not all his benefits—**  
who forgives all your sins  
**and heals all your diseases,**  
who redeems your life from the pit  
**and crowns you with love and compassion.**  
Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
**to receive power and wealth**  
**and wisdom and strength**  
**and honor and glory and praise!**

—Psalm 103:1-4; Revelation 5:12

### Choir Acclamation *Hallelujah, Salvation, and Glory*

### Prayer of Dedication

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*  
(p. 90)



*Sending Out* by Elmer Yazzie,  
Manhattan, Mont.

### Benediction

### Doxology

### Orchestra Postlude

*Following the service, everyone is welcome, weather permitting, to a time for fellowship on the Monroe Mall, located to the north and east of the arena and to the south of the DeVos Place.*

# MINUTES OF SYNOD 2007

## SATURDAY MORNING, June 9, 2007 First Session

### ARTICLE 1

President pro tem Rev. Mark Vande Zande, pastor of Noordeloos Christian Reformed Church, Noordeloos, Michigan, one of three convening churches, welcomes the delegates to Synod 2007.

He introduces Dr. Gaylen Byker, president of Calvin College, who welcomes delegates to the Calvin College campus.

President pro tem Rev. Vande Zande leads in opening prayer. Rev. William C. De Vries, pastor of First Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, reads from Ephesians 3: 7-19 and addresses delegates re the full wisdom of God—all the world should know his wisdom. The apostle Paul prayed for the church that it may have Christ continually dwell in it by the power of the Holy Spirit. God's desire is that his plan be complete in the church through his love. Rev. De Vries leads in prayer and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 609, "How Would the Lord Be Worshipped."

### ARTICLE 2

President pro tem Rev. Stanley Scripps, pastor of Graafschap Christian Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan, requests the executive director (ED), Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra, to call the roll of delegates listed on the credentials of the forty-seven classes:

### DELEGATES TO SYNOD 2007

Classis	Ministers	Elders
Alberta North	Arthur L. Verboon Cecil Van Niejenhuis	Tamba George Foryoh David Haarsma
Alberta South/Saskatchewan	Geoffrey A. Vandermolten John R. Huizinga	Fred Bosma Albert Kooy
Arizona	John J. Berends Lawrence A. Lobdell, Jr.	Kenneth L. Rindels Jose Rayas
Atlantic Northeast	James Vande Lune Jerald D. Lion	Jos Euser Coenraad Bakker
B.C. North-West	John Heidinga Pieter G. Sinia	John H. Wisselink Steven Diertens
B.C. South-East	Carel Geleynse Bert Slofstra	Bill Aalders Gordon Houweling
California South	Cornelius Pool William Verhoef	Rudy Gonzalez Will Libolt
Central California	Bruce A. Persenaire George G. Vink	Mike Sutton Charles Dillender

Chatham	Peter C. Hogeterp	Martin P.J. Bosveld
Chicago South	James R. Poelman	Hank Jagt
Columbia	Cornelius J. De Boer	Ben Dykstra
	Timothy S. Bossenbroek	David W. La Vizzo
Columbia	Joseph M. Kamphuis	John S. Dekker
Eastern Canada	Howard B. Spaan	Paul E. Covey
	Pieter A. Heerema	Bernard H. Berghout
	Nicolaas Cornelisse	Mike Van Dyke
Georgetown	Joel R. Boot	Ronald DeGood
	Gerald A. Koning	Bernard VanderKlok
Grand Rapids East	George F. Vander Weit	Henry J. Baron
	David H. Kromminga	Jonathan D. Bradford
Grand Rapids North	William G. Vis	Wayne Hubers
	Terry D. Slachter	Harry J. Vriend
Grand Rapids South	Curtis A. Walters	Gordon J. Vander Ark
	John M. Ouwinga	Brent R. Cottingham
Grandville	John P. Douma	George W. Talsma
	Thomas K. Groelsema	Sam De Groot
Greater Los Angeles	Melvin Jackson	Merwyn Tanis
	Matthew B. Ford	Bernard Vander Weide
Hackensack	John A. Algera	Colin P. Watson, Sr.
	Ramon Orostizaga	Galen J. Ledebor
Hamilton	Jeffrey P. Janssen	Al Martens
	Shawn R. Brix	George Bergshoeff
Heartland	M. Dale Fopma	Dave Pluim
	Gregory P. Timmer	Newton Trowbridge
Holland	Keith M. Doornbos	Peter Sytsma
	Stanley Scripps	Bruce A. Hekman
Hudson	Peter A. Hoytema	Paul C.H. Szto
	Albert Sideco	Roy G. Heerema
Huron	Ray Vander Kooij	Ralph J. Van Dalen
	Darrell J. Bierman	Fred Veenstra
lakota	Herman Van Niejenhuis	Melvin E. Logterman
	Carl H. Bruxvoort	Lee Van Ruler
Illiana	Joel H. Nederhood	Glenn D. Smits
	Gerrit Veenstra	James A. Van Zyl
Kalamazoo	Kenneth A. Baker	Leonard D. Klok
	Warren H. Lammers	Donald G. DeGroot
Lake Erie	Adrian Eising	Robert W. De Roo
	Harvey A. Stob	Bruce Holleboom
Lake Superior	Steven A. Zwart	Hank Breems
	David L. Smit	Richard Vanderhooft
Minnkota	Timothy J. Brown	Rick A. Fey
	Roger W. Sparks	Lonald O. Lien
Muskegon	Mark D. Bennink	Donald E. Sikkema
	Michael Borgert	Ronald D. Bielema
Niagara	Derek Bouma	George DeRoo
	Harold A. Winter	Jacob Westerhof
Northcentral Iowa	Frank E. Pott	Gary Nibbelink
	Thomas J. Niehof	Ronald Klaasen
Northern Illinois	Gerald W. Frens	Craig Buma
	Jon E. Hoekema	James Van Kampen
Northern Michigan	Keith A. Mannes	Craig Pollington
	Duane J. Timmermans	Al De Boer
Pacific Hanmi	Roger Y. Ryu	Abraham D. Jae
	Ji Hyun Jun	Peter N. Ryu
Pacific Northwest	Jonathan D. Westra	Paul Van Zanten
	Harry J. Weidenaar	Jay A. De Boer
Pella	Douglas M. MacLeod	Ronald D. Hiemstra
	Ryan Faber	Carroll W. Hoksbergen

Quinte	Jake Kuipers	Larry Boyce
Red Mesa	Karl J. House	Gerry Wolters
	Michael J. Meekhof	Ted Charles
Rocky Mountain	Bobby Boyd	Norman Chee
	John Terpstra	Anthony Begay
Southeast U.S.	Richard J. Ebbers	Walter Ackerman
	Stanley J. Workman	Donald J. Bouwer
Thornapple Valley	Vernon Vander Zee	James L. Kelley, Jr.
	Randal L. Meyers	John Vander Wall
Toronto	Benjamin M. Hulst	Ralph H. Veenstra
	Gary Van Leeuwen	Sid Vander Wilp
Wisconsin	Willem J. du Plessis	Ray Scheepstra
	Daniel J. Roeda	Jerrold G. Antoon
Yellowstone	Glenn O. Gerdes	Harvey S. DeYong
	Jack Huttinga	Marion (Mike) Menning
Zeeland	Wilfred Gesch, Jr.	Harry Faber
	Ronald D. De Young	Harvey Koetje
	Tyler J. Wagenmaker	Preston Heyboer

The roll call indicates that the following delegates are absent with notice: Albert Kooy (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), Jos Euser (Atlantic Northeast), Rudy Gonzalez (California South), Charles Dillender (Central California), David W. La Vizzo (Chicago South), Melvin Jackson (Greater Los Angeles), Adrian Eising (Lake Erie), and Norman Chee (Red Mesa).

### ARTICLE 3

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

President: Rev. Joel R. Boot  
Vice President: Rev. Cecil Van Niejenhuis  
First Clerk: Elder Henry J. Baron  
Second Clerk: Rev. Jake Kuipers

### ARTICLE 4

Rev. Scripps welcomes the officers to the podium and congratulates them.

Rev. Joel R. Boot expresses the appreciation of synod to Rev. Mark Vande Zande, Rev. William C. De Vries, and Rev. Stanley Scripps for their participation in the opening of synod.

On behalf of himself and the other officers, Rev. Boot thanks synod for the confidence it has placed in them to lead synod and asks for prayer for the officers in the coming week.

### ARTICLE 5

The president reads the Public Declaration of Agreement with the Forms of Unity. The delegates, by standing, give their assent.

### ARTICLE 6

The president welcomes the CRC chaplains conferees present for the annual conference on the Calvin College campus. He also introduces the Multiethnic conferees present and welcomes them.

The ED welcomes and individually introduces the fraternal delegates who are present: Rev. Johannes (Hans) Horsman from the Netherlands Reformed

Churches (NGK) and Rev. Evert Overeem from the Protestant Church in the Netherlands.

The ED welcomes and individually introduces the faculty advisers who are present: Dr. Lyle Bierma, Dr. Gaylen Byker, Dr. Henry De Moor, Dr. Darwin Glassford, Dr. Scott Hoezee, Dr. Duane K. Kelderman, Dr. Cornelius Plantinga, Dr. John M. Rotman, and Dr. John Witvliet, Jr.

The ED welcomes and individually introduces to synod the ethnic advisers who are present: Ms. Irene Bakker, Ms. Helen Brent, Ms. Yatta Foryoh, Mr. Abel Gonzalez, Rev. Jonathan J. Kim, and Ms. Elaine Yu.

The ED welcomes and individually introduces to synod the women advisers who are present: Ms. Mary R. Baas, Ms. Marilyn J. Baker, Dr. Karen De Mol, Ms. Lydia De Ruiter, Ms. Gloria Sanchez, Ms. Katherine A. Vander Grift, and Ms. Carol Veldman Rudie.

The ED introduces the synod news office staff, the synod office staff, and Calvin College staff.

## ARTICLE 7

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

## ARTICLE 8

The ED 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 2007 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 executive director 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 ED presents the report of the Program Committee, which recommends the following advisory committees for Synod 2007:

*Committee 1—Synodical Services I – Polity Matters*

**Chairman:** Bert Slofstra; **reporter:** Thomas J. Niehof; **ministers:** Michael Bogert, M. Dale Fopma, Gerald W. Frens, Thomas K. Groelsema, Jack Huttinga, Melvin Jackson, Jerald D. Lion, Albert Sideco, Pieter G. Sinia; **elders:** Fred Bosma, Jonathan D. Bradford, Jay A. De Boer, Ronald D. Hiemstra, Bruce Holleboom, David W. La Vizzo, Al Martens, Ralph J. Van Dalen, Lee Van Ruler, John Vander Wall; **advisers:** John M. Rottman, Gloria Sanchez.

*Committee 2—Synodical Services II – Program Matters*

**Chairman:** Stanley J. Workman; **reporter:** Peter C. Hogeterp; **ministers:** Cornelius J. De Boer, Ronald De Young, Karl J. House, Gerald A. Koning, Ramon Orostizaga, Harvey A. Stob, Gerrit Veenstra, Arthur L. Verboon, Steven A. Zwart; **elders:** Jerold G. Antoon, Norman Chee, Al De Boer, John S. Dekker, Charles Dillender, Harry Faber, Abraham D. Jae, Albert Kooy, Fred Veenstra, Ralph Veenstra; **advisers:** John M. Rottman, Helen Brent.

*Committee 3—Education*

**Chairman:** David Kromminga; **reporter:** William Verhoef; **ministers:** Wilfred Gesch, Jr., Pieter A. Heerema, John M. Ouwinga, Daniel J. Roeda, Roger Y. Ryu, Roger W. Sparks, Gregory P. Timmer; **elders:** George Bergshoeff, Martin P. J. Bosveld, Jos Euser, Gord Houweling, James L. Kelley, Jr., Gary Nibbelink, Craig Pollington, Jose Rayas, Donald E. Sikkema, Harry J. Vriend, John H. Wisselink; **advisers:** Elaine Yu, Duane K. Kelderman.

*Committee 4—Publications*

**Chairman:** Kenneth A. Baker; **reporter:** Peter A. Hoytema; **ministers:** Matthew B. Ford, John Heidinga, Jeffrey P. Janssen, Joel Nederhood, David L. Smith, Duane J. Timmermans, Ray Vander Kooij, George F. Vander Weit; **elders:** Coenraad Bakker, Bernard H. Berghout, Craig Buma, Brent R. Cottingham, Sam De Groot, Harv S. DeYong, Rudy Gonzalez, Dave Pluim, Kenneth L. Rindels, Peter N. Ryu, Gerry Wolters; **advisers:** Darwin Glassford, Karen De Mol.



#### *Committee 5—Missions*

**Chairman:** Vernon Vander Zee; **reporter:** Timothy J. Brown; **ministers:** Darrell J. Bierman, Carl H. Bruxvoort, Keith M. Doornbos, Richard J. Ebbers, Adrian Eising, John E. Hoekema, Benjamin M. Hulst, Ji Hyun Jun, Frank E. Pott; **elders:** Bill Aalders, Ronald D. Bielema, Larry Boyce, Ronald DeGood, Ben Dykstra, Harvey Koetje, Will Libolt, Ray Scheepstra, Merwyn Tanis, Gordon J. Vander Ark; **advisers:** Irene Bakker, John Witvliet, Jr., Mary R. Baas.

#### *Committee 6—Financial Matters*

**Chairman:** Stanley Scripps; **reporter:** William G. Vis; **ministers:** John J. Berends, Nicolaas Cornelisse, Willem J. du Plessis, John R. Huizinga, Douglas MacLeod, Harry Weidenaar; **elders:** Walter Ackerman, Paul E. Covey, Donald G. DeGroot, Steven Diertens, Rick A. Fey, David Haarsma, Roy G. Heerema, Hank Jagt, Galen J. Ledebor, James Van Kampen, Bernard Vander Weide, Jacob Westerhof; **adviser:** Marilyn J. Baker.

#### *Committee 7—Interdenominational Matters*

**Chairman:** Bruce A. Persenaire; **reporter:** Terry D. Slachter; **ministers:** Bobby Boyd, John P. Douma, Ryan Faber, Carel Geleynse, Joseph M. Kamp-huis, Warren H. Lammers, James R. Poelman, James Vande Lune, Tyler J. Wagenmaker; **elders:** Donald J. Bouwer, Hank Breems, George DeRoo, Tamba George Foryoh, Melvin E. Logterman, Glenn D. Smits, Peter Systma, Mike Van Dyke, Paul Van Zanten, Colin P. Watson, Sr.; **advisers:** Abel Gonzalez, Lyle Bierma, Lydia De Ruiter.

#### *Committee 8—Church Order and Appeals*

**Chairman:** George G. Vink; **reporter:** John Terpstra; **ministers:** Glenn O. Gerdes, Jake Kuipers, Keith A. Mannes, Cornelius Pool, Gary Van Leeuwen, Herman Van Niejenhuis, Geoffrey Vandermolen, Curtis A. Walters, Jonathan D. Westra, Harold A. Winter; **elders:** Ted Charles, Preston Heyboer, Carrol W. Hoksbergen, Wayne Hubers, Ronald Klaasen, Ronald O. Lien, Marion Menning, Newton Trowbridge, Richard Vanderhooft, Bernard VanderKlok; **advisers:** Yatta Foryoh, Henry De Moor, Katherine A. Vander Grift.

#### *Committee 9—Third Wave Pentecostalism*

**Chairman:** Shawn R. Brix; **reporter:** Bruce A. Hekman; **ministers:** John A. Algera, Mark D. Bennink, Timothy S. Bossenbroek, Derek Bouma, Lawrence A. Lobdell, Michael Meekhof, Randal L. Meyers, Howard B. Spaan, Paul C. H. Szto; **elders:** Henry J. Baron, Anthony Begay, Robert W. De Roo, Leonard D. Klok, Mike Sutton, George W. Talsma, James A. Van Zyl, Sid Vander Wilp; **advisers:** Jonathan J. Kim, Scott Hoezee, Carol Veldman Rudie.

#### *Recommendation:*

That synod adopt the report of the Program Committee, including membership on the advisory committees for Synod 2007.

—Adopted

#### ARTICLE 10

The ED presents the Agenda Directory for Synod 2007, which contains a complete listing of every matter on the agenda that requires synodical action. He indicates where the materials may be found, to which advisory committee each item has been assigned, and where each committee will meet.

ARTICLE 11

The president of synod, Rev. Joel R. Boot, leads in closing prayer. Synod adjourns at 11:06 a.m. Synod will reconvene Monday at 8:15 a.m.

MONDAY MORNING, June 11, 2007  
Second Session

ARTICLE 12

Rev. James R. Poelman reads from Psalm 57 and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 469, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” and *Psalter Hymnal* 253, “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty.” He leads in opening prayer.

Dr. Joel H. Nederhood reads selections from Scripture and addresses delegates re *remembering* God’s faithfulness—emphasizing that members of the early CRC denomination were people of “the Book.”

Rev. Poelman announces *Psalter Hymnal* 454, “Now Thank We All Our God” and leads in a litany of the Lord’s Prayer. Morning worship closes with the singing of *Psalter Hymnal* 567, “We’ve Come This Far by Faith.”

ARTICLE 13

The roll indicates that the following delegates who were absent on Saturday are now present: Albert Kooy (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), Jos Euser (Atlantic Northeast), Rudy Gonzalez (California South), Charles Dillender (Central California), David W. La Vizzo (Chicago South), Melvin Jackson (Greater Los Angeles), Adrian Eising (Lake Erie), and Norman Chee (Red Mesa). They rise to show their assent with the Forms of Unity.

All delegates are present.

ARTICLE 14

The officers of synod announce the following appointments:

Testimonial Dinner Committee:

Woman adviser Karen De Mol  
Rev. Keith Mannes  
Rev. Cornelius Pool  
Pastor George F. Vander Weit

Worship Planning Committee:

Rev. John A. Algera  
Rev. Peter A. Hoytema  
Rev. James R. Poelman  
Faculty adviser John Witvliet, Jr.  
Rev. Mark Vande Zande

Sergeant at Arms:

Rev. Karl J. House

Hospitality Committee:

Dr. Peter Borgdorff  
Rev. Carel Geleynse  
Rev. Marvin Hofman  
Dr. Carol Rottman

Minutes-Review Committee:

Elder David Haarsma  
Rev. Harvey A. Stob

The ED welcomes and introduces staff and guests who are present. He welcomes fraternal delegate Rev. Kobus J.J. Gerber from the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa.

## ARTICLE 15

The ED 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 16

The morning session is adjourned at 9:32 a.m. so that delegates can work in advisory committees.

## MONDAY EVENING, June 11, 2007

### Third Session

## ARTICLE 17

Rev. Carel Gelynse announces *Psalter Hymnal* 233, “Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship” and leads in a responsive reading of Psalm 66. He leads in opening prayer and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 117, “Hallelujah, Hallelujah.”

The executive director introduces fraternal delegate Rev. Istifanus Bala Bahago from the Christian Reformed Church of Nigeria and guest Rev. Simon Peter Emiau, superintendent of the Pentecostal Assemblies of God, Uganda.

## ARTICLE 18

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. William Verhoef reporting, presents the following:

### I. Calvin Theological Seminary

#### A. Materials

1. Calvin Theological Seminary Report, pp. 190-97
2. Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement, including appendix

#### B. Observations

Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) experienced an excellent year. Its faculty served the church in numerous ways beyond the preparation of students for ministry and contributed much to the health and welfare of the CRC. Its Center for Excellence in Preaching provided many with tools, ideas, resources, and encouragement. The Discerning Your Calling initiative is renewing a culture of calling in the CRCNA in churches and on high school and college campuses throughout North America. At the center of all this is a formation for ministry vision that is impacting the culture and curriculum of CTS as the seminary seeks to live in community before God.

#### C. Recommendations

1. That Mr. Sidney Jansma, Jr., Calvin Theological Seminary board chair; and Rev. Ruth M. Hofman, secretary, be given the privilege of the floor when seminary matters are presented.

—*Granted*

2. That synod ratify the following reappointment of an administrator with faculty status:

Dr. Henry De Moor, vice president for academic affairs for three years

—*Adopted*

3. That synod approve the following faculty reappointments:

Carl J. Bosma, associate professor of Old Testament with tenure

Dean B. Deppe, professor of New Testament with tenure

John M. Rottman, associate professor of preaching for two years

John D. Witvliet, Jr., associate professor of worship for two years (half-time)

—*Adopted*

4. That synod approve two offerings for Calvin Theological Seminary (the International Student Subsidy Fund and the Facing Your Future program).

—*Adopted*

5. That synod ratify the appointment of faculty member Dr. Mary S. Hulst (contingent upon a successful interview) as assistant professor of preaching for three years effective July 1, 2007, and that she be interviewed by Rev. David H. Kromminga during the Wednesday evening session of synod.

—*Adopted*

## II. Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee

### A. *Materials*: Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee Supplement

### B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Rev. Thea Leunk, Dr. Peter Borgdorff, and Dr. Paul Bremer when the Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee (SMCC) report is discussed.

—*Granted*

2. That synod declare the following as candidates for ministry in the Christian Reformed Church:

Troy W. Bierma

Shawn L. Bootsma

John A. Bothof

Micah J. Bruxvoort

Jeffrey R. Bulthuis

Nicholas R. Davelaar

B. Joy Engelsman

Tobin S. Gruppen

Todd H. Hilkemann

Leon H. Johnston

Benjamin R.T. Katt

James Kim

Rita S. Klein-Geltink

Brian D. Kuyper

Hyuk Soo Kwon

Zeke R. Nelson

Samuel L. Perry

Richard L. Pinckney

Robert L. Pollema, Jr.

David J. Prince

Michael L. Ribbens

Daniel J. Roels

Benjamin Spalink

David L. Spoelma

Michael J. VanderKwaak

Jana L. Vander Laan

Maurice Vander Veen

Theodore P. Vellinga

David Westra

Brian Willats

—*Adopted*

3. That synod approve a one-year extension of candidacy for the following candidates:

Kenneth R. Bieber  
Mary L. Bosch  
Bradley Close  
William Jensen

Timothy Koning  
Karen Norris  
Drew Sweetman

—Adopted

4. That synod authorize the Board of Trustees, upon nomination by the SMCC, to appoint two persons to fill the SMCC positions vacated by the retirement of Rev. Roy Berkenbosch and Mr. Norman De Graaf.

*Ground:* The SMCC has been unsuccessful in finding replacements for both Rev. Berkenbosch and Mr. De Graaf in time for synodical approval.

—Adopted

### **III. Response to Overture 8: Allow Candidates to Be Called from the Reformed Church in America**

A. *Materials:* Overture 8, pp. 414-15

B. *Recommendation:* That synod not accede to Overture 8.

*Grounds:*

1. The processes for candidacy in the two denominations, on the one hand, and the process for the orderly exchange of pastors between the CRC and the Reformed Church in America (RCA), on the other hand, are distinctly different.
2. Synod has declared that all students studying at other seminaries who aspire to be ministers in the CRC must complete the Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy.
3. The overture does not present compelling reasons for any exception to the existing policy.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 52.)

### **ARTICLE 19**

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Terry D. Slachter reporting, presents the following:

#### **Interchurch Relations Committee**

A. *Materials*

1. Interchurch Relations Committee Report, including appendix, pp. 277-87
2. Interchurch Relations Committee Supplement

B. *Recommendations*

1. That Dr. Philip De Jonge (president) and Dr. Peter Borgdorff be given the privilege of the floor when matters relating to the Interchurch Relations Committee are being discussed.

—Granted

2. That synod express its gratitude to Rev. Ralph Wigboldus and Rev. Philip De Jonge for serving the cause of ecumenicity for the CRC.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod approve Ms. Louisa Bruinsma to complete Rev. Wigboldus' term for one year.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod extend the courtesy of addressing synod to the ecumenical guest, Rev. Evert Overeem, from the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN).

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued in Article 29.)

## ARTICLE 20

Advisory Committee 4, Publications, Rev. Peter A. Hoytema reporting, presents the following:

### **Faith Alive Christian Resources (formerly CRC Publications)**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Faith Alive Report, including appendix, pp. 198-213
2. Faith Alive Christian Resources Supplement

#### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to the following people when matters of Faith Alive Christian Resources are discussed:

For the board

Rev. Sidney Couperus, president  
Mr. Gary Mulder, director

For *The Banner*

Rev. Robert De Moor, editor in chief

For Faith Alive

Rev. Leonard Vander Zee, editor in chief  
Rev. Joyce Borger, worship editor

—*Granted*

2. That synod recommend the Friendship Ministries (United States) and Friendship Series Charities (Canada) to the churches for financial support for 2008.

—*Adopted*

3. New hymnal

#### a. Observations

In recent years, the impact of technology on public worship has been significant and unprecedented. One of the ways this is evident is in the extent to which hymn books are used during congregational singing.

Even though video projection is widely used among the CRC and the Reformed Church in America (RCA) congregations, Faith Alive Christian Resources believes that producing a printed hymnal has merit, particularly in those congregations where the use of printed hymnals continues to be valued. Furthermore, Faith Alive has determined that costs for a new hymnal would be covered if 15-20 percent of CRC and RCA congregations purchase them.

- b. Recommendation: That synod approve that the CRC and the RCA cooperatively publish a new comprehensive printed hymnal (see section IV, 3, b).

*Grounds:*

- 1) A new hymnal that is based in the Reformed tradition would serve to enhance the denominational identity of both the CRC and the RCA as well as other Reformed bodies.
- 2) A cooperative project such as this would be another significant step in developing closer ties between the RCA and the CRC.
- 3) Results of a recent survey of the two denominations show that 20 percent or more of the churches would possibly purchase a hymnal if one were published by Faith Alive. This degree of acceptance means that costs would be recovered.
- 4) Even churches that would not purchase new hymnals would benefit from the list of songs from various genres included in this hymnal.
- 5) Because the same process of compiling and editing would need to be followed for producing an electronic product, the development cost of producing a printed hymnal is not significantly more than producing an electronic product for use by the churches.

*Note:* Faith Alive Christian Resources will continue to explore the possibility of producing a digital version of the final product.

*—Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued in Article 32.)

## ARTICLE 21

Advisory Committee 2, Synodical Services II, Rev. Peter C. Hogeterp reporting, presents the following:

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

#### *A. Materials*

1. Board of Trustees (section II, A, 23 and Program section II, B, including appendices F, and H-M), pp. 29, 31-37, 99-128, 130-47
2. Board of Trustees Supplement section II, A

## *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Mr. Keith Oosthoek, chairman of the Board; Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed when matters pertaining to the Board of Trustees are discussed.  

*—Granted*
2. That synod gratefully acknowledge the work of the Office of Disability Concerns and its director, Rev. Mark Stephenson, in the ministry with people with disabilities and that the biblical perspective that in the church “everybody belongs, everybody serves” be affirmed.  

*—Adopted*
3. That synod gratefully acknowledge the work of the Office of Race Relations and its director, Rev. Esteban Lugo, in the ministry of racial reconciliation and that the vision of God’s people in all their wonderful diversity celebrating their glorious unity in Christ be affirmed.  

*—Adopted*
4. That synod encourage churches, classes, and our institutions to celebrate All Nations Heritage Week from September 30 through October 7, 2007, with an invitation to celebrate All Nations Heritage Sunday with special services on October 7, 2007.  

*—Adopted*
5. That synod gratefully acknowledge the work of the Office of Chaplaincy Ministries, its director, Rev. Herman Keizer, Jr., and the 101 CRC chaplains who serve in a wide range of contexts and that the opportunity given to the church through its chaplains to minister in these spheres be seized and celebrated.  

*—Adopted*
6. That synod gratefully acknowledge the work of the Office of Pastor-Church Relations, its director, Rev. Duane Visser, and education specialist, Rev. Norman Thomasma, in an increasing demand for their services both in interventions in difficult situations and in educational opportunities with pastors, staff, councils, and classes.  

*—Adopted*
7. That synod gratefully acknowledge the work of the Office of Abuse Prevention and its director, Ms. Beth A. Swagman, and her continuing work in promoting safe church teams in all our classes and child safety policies in local churches.  

*—Adopted*
8. That synod gratefully acknowledge the work of the Office of Ministry Planning and its director, Rev. Michael Bruinooge, in its valuable assistance to pastors in promoting Sustaining Pastoral Excellence (SPE) and the launch of the Sustaining Congregational Excellence (SCE) program.  

*—Adopted*
9. That synod gratefully acknowledge the work of the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action and its coordinator, Mr. Peter VanderMeulen, in helping



churches become aware of and take action on social justice and hunger issues so that we become “salt and light in the service of God’s justice and mercy.”

—Adopted

## **II. Response to Overture 4: Reinstate the Position of Canadian Director of Chaplaincy Ministries**

A. *Materials*: Overture 4, pp. 394-98

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod not accede to Overture 4.

*Ground*: The overture is misdirected; it should be processed through the Office of Chaplaincy Ministries to the BOT for review and approval.

—Adopted

2. That synod direct the BOT to consider the leadership and staffing needs for the CRC’s chaplaincy ministries in Canada and the United States and to institute a structure that achieves maximum effectiveness in both countries.

*Ground*: Overture 4 gives a convincing argument for an expanded role for chaplaincy development in Canada.

—Adopted

3. That this be synod’s response to Overture 4.

—Adopted

## **III. Response to Overture 7: Enforce Establishment of Abuse Prevention and Safe Church Teams**

A. *Materials*: Overture 7, pp. 413-14

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod not accede to Overture 7 on the ground that it asks synod to move beyond its authority to enforce.

—Adopted

2. That synod reaffirm that every organized church needs a child safety policy and every classis needs a safe church team to protect the most vulnerable part of our church populations. The church needs to be a safe haven for its members.

—Adopted

3. That synod remind all congregations that local laws must be followed in terms of reporting requirements related to suspected abuse.

—Adopted

4. That synod remind churches that sample child safety policies and other resources, including those by Faith Alive Christian Resources, are available from the Office of Abuse Prevention.

—Adopted

5. That this be synod's response to Overture 7.

—*Adopted*

## ARTICLE 22

Advisory Committee 5, Missions, Rev. Timothy J. Brown reporting, presents the following:

### I. The Back to God Hour

A. *Materials*: The Back to God Hour Report, pp. 181-86

B. *Observations*

Dr. Robert Heerspink, the director of The Back to God Hour, met with our committee. The following are highlights of his remarks:

- The twenty-first century is marked by the continual development of new kinds of media and also the unified delivery system of the Internet.
- There are approximately four million Reformed believers in the Middle East. At least one Presbyterian congregation is in Baghdad. Many of these believers are nurtured spiritually by the Arabic-language ministry of The Back to God Hour.
- Text messaging has emerged as a means by which follow-up can be done with inquirers in the Arab-speaking world.
- A website that provides a Korean-language version of the *Today* devotional has logged as many as a million hits per month. The Back to God Hour is exploring the possibility of publishing a printed Korean-English version of the *Today*.
- The *Kids Corner* program is available in a podcast format so that parents may download it for their younger children.
- Spanish-language broadcast minister Rev. Guillermo Serrano is taking advantage of opportunities to provide workshops in homiletics and media technology in conjunction with the Presbyterian Church in Mexico.

We rejoice that The Back to God Hour strives to take full advantage of these and many other media opportunities to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations.

C. *Recommendation*: That Mr. Sybren Vander Zwaag, president; and Dr. Robert Heerspink, director of The Back to God Hour, be given the privilege of the floor when The Back to God Hour matters are discussed.

—*Granted*

### II. Christian Reformed Home Missions

A. *Materials*

1. Christian Reformed Home Missions Report, pp. 214-29
2. Christian Reformed Home Missions Supplement

### *B. Observations*

Dr. Mary Buteyn, the president of the Home Missions board, and Rev. John Rozeboom, the director of Home Missions, met with our committee.

Highlights of their presentation follow:

- Home Missions continues to pursue the goal of planting twenty to thirty churches per year and, by God’s grace, is experiencing success in reaching that goal.
- Of 341 new churches planted in the period 1988 through 2007, over half (190) have been ethnic rather than European-American.
- More than half of ministry start-up and staffing grants go to ethnic-majority CRC ministries.
- Home Missions works in partnership with mission-focused churches for renewal, large-scale reorganizing, rebirth, and new ministry birth.
- Home Missions is empowering regional teams to serve classes and congregations in the work of mission.
- In collaboration with classes, leadership training, coaching, and support are provided in English, Spanish, and Korean through Leadership Development Networks.
- Home Missions collaborates with other CRC agencies, including Faith Alive Christian Resources, CRWRC, The Back to God Hour, and World Missions in the shared task of the pursuit of the mission of God in North America.

We give thanks to God that Home Missions seeks to be a conscience and catalyst for mission within the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

### *C. Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Dr. Mary Buteyn, Home Missions board president, and Rev. John Rozeboom, director of Home Missions, when matters pertaining to Home Missions are discussed.  
*—Granted*
2. That synod encourage all Christian Reformed churches to recognize Easter Sunday and Reformation Day Sunday as significant opportunities to receive an offering for Christian Reformed Home Missions.  
*—Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued in Article 48.)

### ARTICLE 23

Elder delegate Martin P.J. Bosveld leads in closing prayer. The evening session is adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

ARTICLE 24

Rev. Mark Vande Zande reads from Psalm 100 and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 473, “To God Be the Glory.” He leads in opening prayer and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 483, “How Great Thou Art;” vs. 1, sung in Korean by Mr. Hyonhyun Cho; vss. 1-4 by all present in English. Rev. Vande Zande announces *Palter Hymnal* 579, “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” as a time of prayer, ending with the singing of “God Is So Good” in various languages.

Rev. Albert Sideco reads from Jeremiah 6:16 and addresses synod re *rejoicing*. Morning worship is concluded with the singing of *Sing! A New Creation* 145, “There Is a Redeemer.”

The roll indicates Melvin Jackson (Greater Los Angeles) is absent.

ARTICLE 25

A delegate presents the following motion:

That synod recognize World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of October (October 7, 2007), and encourage congregations to celebrate it in conjunction with the observance of All Nations Heritage Sunday.

*Grounds:*

1. The sacrament of communion—a witness that “we who are many form one body for we all partake of the one loaf” (1 Cor. 10:17)—is fitting on All Nations Heritage Sunday.
2. It is appropriate on All Nations Heritage Sunday to not only celebrate all the nations that are part of the CRC but also to celebrate that the CRC is part of a church that spans all nations.

—Adopted

ARTICLE 26

Advisory Committee 6, Financial Matters, Rev. William G. Vis reporting, presents the following:

**I. Personal appeal**

A. *Materials:* Personal Appeal by Mr. José A. Lopez

B. *Recommendation:* That synod not sustain the appellant’s appeal.

*Ground:* Classis and the church visitors have followed proper order.

—Adopted

**II. Communication 2: Northcentral Iowa**

A. *Materials:* Communication 2: Classis Northcentral Iowa, section 3 and Recommendation 3.

B. *Recommendation:* That synod receive Communication 2 for information.

—Adopted

### III. CRC Loan Fund, Inc., U.S.

A. *Materials*: CRC Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. Report, pp. 261-62

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

—*Granted*

### IV. Pensions and Insurance

A. *Materials*

1. Pensions and Insurance Report, pp. 263-68
2. Board of Trustees Supplement section II, B, 10

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to members of the Canadian Pension Trustees, of the U.S. Board of Pensions, and to Mr. John H. Bolt 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 2008 as housing allowance for United States income-tax purposes (IRS Ruling 1.107-1) but only to the extent that the pension is used to rent or provide a home.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod receive for information the following pension board matters:

- a. The Board of Trustees took note of the average salary survey data for 2007 being \$44,432 in the United States and \$47,308 in Canada. Because the *final* average salary used for pension computation is based on a three-year rolling average (2005, 2006, 2007), the pension computation for persons retiring in 2008 will be based on \$42,984 for U.S.-based service and \$46,358 for Canadian-based service.
- b. The Board of Trustees endorsed the recommendation that the 2008 per-member assessment for the Canadian Plan be set at \$31 and that the Canadian per-participant assessment be set at \$7,752. Similarly, the 2008 per-member assessment for the U.S. Plan be set at \$26.84 and the U.S. per-participant assessment be set at \$6,064.

—*Adopted*

### V. Board of Trustees

A. *Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report section II, C, including Appendix N, pp. 37, 148-78
2. Board of Trustees Supplement sections I, M; II, B, including Appendix B
3. *Agenda for Synod 2007—Financial and Business Supplement*

## *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod receive as information the condensed financial statements for the agencies and educational institutions (see Appendix N).  
—*Adopted*
2. That synod receive the agencies and institutional budgets as information and approve a ministry share of \$298.58 for calendar year 2008 (BOT Supplement section II, B, 2).  
—*Adopted*
3. That synod adopt the following recommendations with reference to agencies requesting to be placed on the recommended-for-offerings list:
  - a. 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 (BOT Supplement section II, B, 3).  
—*Adopted*
  - b. That synod receive as information the list of nondenominational agencies, previously accredited, that have been approved for calendar year 2008 (BOT Supplement section II, B, 4).  
—*Adopted*
  - c. That synod accept the following new requests for inclusion on the list of accredited nondenominational agencies (BOT Supplement section II, B, 5):

### *United States*

#### 1) Hunting Park Christian Academy, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*Ground:* Hunting Park Christian Academy was established by members of Spirit and Truth Fellowship as well as other CRC congregations to provide an affordable, high quality Christian education for children in pre-kindergarten through the eighth grade from the Hunting Park area of North Philadelphia, an area plagued with the consequences of poverty, domestic violence, and substance abuse. In an attempt to provide an affordable Christian education, approximately 50 percent of the operating budget funding is received from individual donors and supporting churches.

#### 2) Middle East Reformed Fellowship, United States, Lanarca, Cyprus

*Ground:* Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF) is a religious, nonprofit, and nonpolitical charitable organization serving the Middle East on behalf of Reformed churches and believers worldwide. MERF is being recommended for support of all its work other than media, which is an overlap with the work of The Back to God Hour.

3) Zuni Christian Mission School, Zuni, New Mexico

*Ground:* Zuni Christian Mission School, founded in 1908, is a member of the Red Mesa Christian School Association. The school's mission is to provide Christian education to Zuni children.

*Canada*

4) Citizens for Public Justice (CJL Foundation), Toronto, Ontario

*Ground:* The mission of Citizens for Public Justice (CJL Foundation) is to promote public justice in Canada by shaping key public policy debates through research, analysis, publishing, and public dialogue. Their focus is on issues of poverty, refugee concerns, faith, and public life. CJL Foundation requires all board members to be Christians.

5) Middle East Reformed Fellowship, Canada, Lanarca, Cyprus

*Ground:* Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF) is a religious, nonprofit, and nonpolitical charitable organization serving the Middle East on behalf of Reformed churches and believers worldwide. MERF is being recommended for support of all its work other than media, which is an overlap with the work of The Back to God Hour.

—Adopted

- d. That synod deny the new request for accreditation by Providence Christian College, Ontario, California (BOT Supplement section II, B, 6).

*Ground:* The financial viability of this institution, based on submitted reports, is relatively weak and fragile.

—Defeated

(The report of Advisory Committee 6 is continued in Article 28.)

ARTICLE 27

The president introduces Dr. Neal Plantinga who leads in prayer for the candidates. Rev. Thea Leunk, chair of the Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee, introduces the following candidates who are present:

Troy W. Bierma  
Shawn L. Bootsma (EPMC)  
Micah J. Bruxvoort  
Jeffrey R. Bulthuis  
B. Joy Engelsman (EPMC)  
Tobin S. Gruppen (EPMC)  
Rita S. Klein-Geltink  
Brian Dan Kuyper  
Samuel L. Perry

Richard L. Pinckney  
David J. Prince  
Michael L. Ribbens  
Daniel J. Roels (EPMC)  
David L. Spoelma  
Jana L. Vander Laan  
Theodore P. Vellinga  
David Westra

Rev. Leunk addresses the candidates from Colossians 2. The president of synod addresses the candidates from 2 Timothy 3:10ff, encouraging them to “keep the message alive.” The executive director leads in prayer for the candidates.

## ARTICLE 28

Elder delegate George DeRoo (Niagara) has left due to a family emergency. Melvin Jackson (Greater Los Angeles) is now present.

(The report of Advisory Committee 6 is continued from Article 26.)

Advisory Committee 6, Financial Matters, Rev. William G. Vis reporting, presents the following:

### I. Board of Trustees

#### A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report section II, C, including Appendix N, pp. 37, 148-78
2. Board of Trustees Supplement sections I, M; II, B, including Appendix B
3. *Agenda for Synod 2007—Financial and Business Supplement*

#### B. Recommendations

1. That synod receive as information the Board’s decision to establish stated supply compensation for 2008 as follows: not less than \$500 per week for U.S. churches and not less than \$515 per week for Canadian churches (BOT Supplement section II, B, 7).

—Adopted

2. That synod adopt the denominational salary grid for senior positions as proposed (BOT Supplement section II, B, 8).

—Adopted

3. That synod note the availability of offering vouchers from the denominational office. These may be used by the churches to provide tax deductibility for cash contributions.

—Received as information

### II. Response to Overture 18: Establish a Group to Study Ways in Which to Allocate Denominational Ministry Shares among Local Congregations

#### A. Materials: Overture 18, pp. 438-43

#### B. Recommendation: That synod not accede to Overture 18.

##### *Grounds:*

1. The present system raises significant funds at limited cost, promoting covenant obligations.
2. The percentage of actual receipts to projected receipts has stabilized.

—Defeated



*Notes:*

1. Congregations are encouraged to make use of the many excellent materials available on stewardship to encourage a biblical viewpoint on the use of one's time, talents, and treasure.
2. Classes are encouraged to educate newer congregations in the history and value of the ministry share structure.

A delegate presents the following motion:

That synod instruct the BOT to establish a study committee or a task force to explore alternative methods by which denominational ministry share contributions could be allocated each year among local congregations.

*Grounds:*

1. The current funding method ignores important financial considerations such as the earning power of the local congregation's membership, the state of the local economy where the congregation is located, and the financial well-being of the local church. Presently, the ministry share calculation accounts for only the relative size of the local congregation with the sliding scale and, indirectly, some demographics and hardship designations using certain membership categories.
2. The current funding method has highlighted a tension within some churches between counting members for pastoral purposes and minimizing membership counts for financial purposes that was not anticipated in Report 32 (*Agenda for Synod 1992*, pp. 385-409). A study exploring the feasibility of:
  - a. Eliminating the need for congregations to classify members in different categories, such as active, inactive, 18 or younger, or hardship and/or
  - b. Removing membership counts as a factor in the ministry share formula to resolve this tension and return membership status primarily to the pastoral arena of elders where it belongs.
3. The current funding method has not been extensively reviewed since 1992. Technology since that time has vastly changed financial modeling, information-gathering, and reporting. These changes may yield a sustainable ministry share contribution method that embraces the differences in our local congregations.
4. As reported in *The Banner* (July 2006, p. 39), Synod 2006 noted that only 70 percent of projected receipts were actually collected. In 2002, the present ministry share system generated only 71 percent of its projected yearly receipts, up from 61.3 percent at its lowest point in 1997 (*Agenda for Synod 2004*, p. 404). Thus, the present system is clearly not reliable. A study may determine whether the shortfall is due to local financial pressures, real and/or perceived inequities in the ministry share calculation, or sheer disregard for the ministry share calculation. Report 32 (*Agenda for Synod 1992*) was undertaken partly as a result of a drop in actual ministry share receipts from 88 percent (1980) to 78 percent (1990) of projected receipts. In light of this further drop in actual ministry share receipts, despite the changes from the 1992 report, it is time to determine whether there is a problem with perception, the formula, or the level of funding of ministry shares.

*Note:* Since 1993, the difference between actual denominational receipts and projected denominational receipts is only available to synodical delegates in the financial supplement they are given at synod. More detailed information on this yearly shortfall has not been available to the local membership since 2002.

5. The annual counting and classifying of members as active, inactive, or hardship, as well as the procedures required by classis to approve membership counts, has become a source of tension among the Board of Trustees, classes, and the local congregations—so much so that implications have been made that local congregations are “manipulating numbers” (*Agenda for Synod 2006*, pp. 50-54; *Agenda for Synod 2005*, pp. 49-52).
6. Alternative biblically based funding models exist. For example, one alternative, the synodical tithe (“Voices,” *The Banner*, June 2003), is based on the funding of the tabernacle (and later the temple in Jerusalem) as found in Numbers 18, especially verses 21-29 and is reinforced in Nehemiah 10:37-39.
7. The current funding method is derived primarily from the needs of various denominational agencies. A study may be able to discover an alternative method that forges a balance between present denominational needs and the funding abilities of local congregations.

—Adopted

The above motion was rescinded later in the week (see Article 58).

### **III. Response to Overture 19: Provide Pension Subsidy for Institutional Chaplains not Covered by Employers’ Pension Plans**

A. *Materials:* Overture 19, pp. 443-45

B. *Recommendation:* That synod refer Overture 19 to the pension trustees for advice to Synod 2008.

*Notes:*

1. We hope that a way can be found to provide assistance for chaplains that were already in place when the 2004 decision was made.
2. Since 1969, synod has instructed that a determination be made by the synodical deputies that adequate provision has been made regarding suitable arrangements for defraying the costs of a chaplain’s pension at the time permission is granted for a minister to engage in the specialized ministry (*Acts of Synod 1969*, p. 48). This requirement should be rigorously enforced.

—Adopted

#### **IV. Response to Overture 20: Change the Pension Fund Policy So It Does Not Discriminate Against Pastors of Small Churches**

A. *Materials*: Overture 20, p. 446

B. *Recommendation*: That synod not accede to Overture 20.

*Ground*: The pension trustees regularly review the data and reflect on the changes in participation since the funding changes of 2004. Additionally, the trustees have recently contacted all classes regarding the pastors within their bounds who are not enrolled in the pension plans.

—*Defeated*

Overture 20 is referred back to Advisory Committee 6 for further response.

(The report of Advisory Committee 6 is continued in Article 58.)

#### **ARTICLE 29**

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued from Article 19.)

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Terry D. Slachter reporting, presents the following:

#### **Interchurch Relations Committee**

A. *Materials*: Interchurch Relations Committee Report, p. 283

B. *Observations*

The advisory committee discussed the status of the Interchurch Relations Committee's work of establishing "a formal process of discussion and consideration of the Belhar Confession with a view toward making a recommendation to a future synod concerning its applicability to, and compatibility with, the confessional basis of the CRC" (*Acts of Synod 2006*, p. 273). The committee also had an opportunity to dialogue with a representative of the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa concerning the historical context of the Belhar Confession and its current status among the Reformed Churches of South Africa.

C. *Recommendation*: That synod encourage the ongoing work of the Interchurch Relations Committee to inform and engage the churches concerning the Belhar Confession and the issues raised by it through: (1) a greater dissemination of the Belhar Confession to the congregations in order to familiarize the denomination with it and the issues raised by it, and (2) regional level dialogues to be initiated by the Interchurch Relations Committee as part of their process of expediting a recommendation to Synod 2009.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued in Article 53.)

#### **ARTICLE 30**

Dr. Peter Borgdorff, executive director – emeritus, introduces ecumenical guest Dr. Setri Nyomi, general secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC), who addresses synod. Dr. Borgdorff thanks Dr. Nyomi and leads in prayer for him and WARC.

The morning session is adjourned at 11:39 a.m. Ethnic adviser Elaine Yu leads in closing prayer.

## **TUESDAY AFTERNOON, June 12, 2007**

### **Fifth Session**

#### **ARTICLE 31**

The president introduces Dr. Gaylen Byker, president of Calvin College, who reads Psalm 122:1 and addresses delegates re the faculty and students of Calvin College, as well as its institutes and special programs by way of PowerPoint. He leads in opening prayer and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 556, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

#### **ARTICLE 32**

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued from Article 20.)

Advisory Committee 4, Publications, Rev. Peter A. Hoytema reporting, presents the following:

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

A. *Materials*: Board of Trustees Report sections II, A, 6-7, 12, including appendices A and C, pp. 25, 26, 42-43, 64-78

##### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod recognize the appointment of Rev. Leonard J. Vander Zee as Faith Alive editor in chief (II, A, 6).  
—Adopted
2. That synod receive the revised draft of *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony* as information and encourage the churches to submit their comments to the committee by September 30, 2007, so that the final draft can be submitted to Synod 2008.  
—Adopted

##### **II. Historical Committee**

A. *Materials*: Historical Committee Report, pp. 269-76

##### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Dr. Richard Harms when matters pertaining to the Historical Committee come before synod.  
—Granted
2. That synod approve the use of facsimile transmitted letters of authorization or signed emails for granting access to congregational records. Such authorization would still come only from the specific congregation's council.  
—Adopted

3. That synod emphasize to the local congregations that they diligently produce and keep minutes and emphasize that it is incumbent on retiring clerks to transfer to their successors all such records and that newly appointed clerks make a specific effort to ensure that they receive a complete set of all minutes when they begin their term.  
—*Adopted*
4. That synod urge congregations to contact the Archives before discarding any copies of minutes and noncurrent membership records in order that existing gaps in the archival holdings may be filled. Further, that congregations regularly contact the Archives to determine whether it is time to microfilm minutes, typically done once every ten years.  
—*Adopted*
5. That synod remind the stated clerks of each classis that all the records of discontinued ministries be sent to the Archives for safekeeping.  
—*Adopted*
6. That synod encourage all classes to continue to keep the Archives on their mailing lists (surface or electronic) because this has proven to be the most expedient means to prevent gaps from occurring in these records.  
—*Adopted*

### **III. Sermons for Reading Services**

A. *Materials*: Sermons for Reading Services Report, p. 288

B. *Recommendation*: That synod approve the work of the Sermons for Reading Services Committee and encourage the churches to avail themselves of the sermons for reading services on the CRCNA website.

—*Adopted*

### **IV. Response to Overture 1: Allow Ordained Ministers of Emerging Churches to Serve as Delegates to Classis; and Overture 2: Allow the Interpretation of Church Order Article 40-a to Include Delegates from Emerging Churches as well as Organized Churches**

A. *Materials*

1. Overture 1, p. 391
2. Overture 2, pp. 392-94

B. *Background*

Church Order Article 40-a states that “the council of each church shall delegate a minister and an elder to classis. . . .” The intention of this article and the practice of our denomination indicate that the article’s use of the word *church* refers to organized, not emerging churches. Though ministers who are officially connected with the organized churches of a classis may attend its meetings, may be given an advisory voice, and may participate in the committee work of classis at the discretion of the classis (*Acts of Synod 1964*, p. 57), synod has not specifically addressed the participation of other officebearers or steering committee members of emerging churches. Overtures 1 and 2 ask that Article 40 be revised or interpreted to permit full participation of the leader-

ship of all churches in the classis, thereby creating a greater sense of community and ownership and enriching the ministries and meetings of classis. Such delegation would also immediately involve the leadership of emerging churches and train them for the responsibilities that will be theirs when they become organized. Synod can give permission for a classis to invite such delegation without obligating all classes to do so by adding a supplement to Article 40-a.

### *C. Recommendations*

1. That synod add the following to Supplement, Article 40-a of the Church Order: "If a classis so desires, it may also invite emerging churches to delegate two officebearers to the meetings of classis."

—Adopted

2. That synod declare this to be its answer to Overtures 1 and 2.

—Adopted

## **V. Response to Overture 6: Address Issue of Undocumented Workers**

### *A. Materials: Overture 6, pp. 402-13*

### *B. Background*

For several years, a church in Classis Zeeland has engaged in significant ministry to the Hispanic members of its community through hospitality, ESL (English as a Second Language) classes, Bible studies, and so forth. The Lord is blessing that ministry. A number of people came to faith in Christ and desired to become members of the congregation. The church struggled with how to receive people who were in the country unlawfully while still maintaining the respect for law to which the Word of God calls God's people. It asked the classis for its assistance, and a committee of classis presented its report and recommendations at the January 2007 classis meeting. The church that overtured classis found these recommendations helpful and received its first undocumented worker into membership on May 27, 2007.

Knowing that other churches face this issue, Classis Zeeland sent its report to Synod 2007, hoping that it would stimulate a positive, denomination-wide discussion of this issue and requesting synod to ask the United States government to make "a just and equitable legislative response to the present immigration issue." Unfortunately, the pastoral context out of which Zeeland's report arose is not clearly evident in the report, and the overture begins by framing the issue as one of "church discipline," discipline that was focused on undocumented workers and not on employers and others who profit from their labors. Thus, a report that arose out of a heart for bringing people to the Lord's Table was heard by the wider church as an attempt to keep them from the Table. We sorrowfully note that a number of members of our denominational family were deeply hurt by it. Therefore, we believe it is not wise to recommend this report "to the churches for study, discussion, and application."

However, because a number of our churches are struggling with the concerns raised in the report, we believe that the denomination will be well served by a study of these matters. In the meantime, we have encouraged Rev. Esteban Lugo, director of the Office of Race Relations, and the delegates of Classis Zeeland to facilitate a meeting to discuss the hurt caused by this report

and to explore additional ways of showing compassion to and seeking justice for the people to whom the churches in the classis are ministering.

*C. Recommendations*

1. That synod appoint a study committee to report to Synod 2010 with the following mandate:

To study the issue of the migration of workers as it relates to the church's ministries of inclusion, compassion, and hospitality, and to propose ways for the church to advocate on behalf of those who are marginalized.

—Adopted

Advisory Committee chair Rev. Kenneth A. Baker leads in prayer for the church to grow through this and be a church of inclusion.

2. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 6.

—Adopted

**VI. Response to Overture 12: Approve the English Standard Version of the Bible for Use in Worship**

*A. Materials:* Overture 12, p. 426

*B. Recommendations*

1. That synod designate the English Standard Version (ESV) as acceptable for use in CRC worship services.

*Ground:* The ESV follows the translation of the American Standard Version and Revised Standard Version, which have long been approved by synods for use in CRC worship services.

—Adopted

2. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 12.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued in Article 73.)

**ARTICLE 33**

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services I, Rev. Thomas J. Niehof reporting, presents the following:

**Board of Trustees**

*A. Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (Polity sections II, A, 1-5, 8-11, 13-15, 18-22, 24-27, including appendices D, E, and G), pp. 21-31, 78-99, 129-30
2. Board of Trustees Supplement sections I, A-L, N, P, including Appendix A

## *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Mr. Keith Oosthoek, chairman of the Board; Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed 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 (II, A, 1, Supplement I, A).  

*—Adopted*
3. That synod thank Dr. Peter Borgdorff who in the past year has served the denomination well both in the invaluable assistance he has provided the newly appointed executive director and in his energetic leadership of our 150th anniversary celebration. With gratitude we recognize Dr. Borgdorff's contributions to the Christian Reformed Church.  

*—Adopted*
4. That synod initiate a process for a revision of the Church Order and its Supplements for the purpose of an orderly updating to incorporate the synodical decisions and regulations that govern the life of the denomination and the churches and that synod instruct the BOT to appoint a task force to propose such a revision for consideration by the churches and synod (II, A, 18).  

*—Adopted*
5. That synod adopt the following resolution of thanksgiving for the life of Dr. George Vandervelde (II, A, 24):

### **Resolution of Thanksgiving for the Person and Service of George Vandervelde**

The Board of Trustees and the Interchurch Relations Committee of the Christian Reformed Church desire to express gratitude to God for the life and ministry of George Vandervelde. His many years of service to the church worldwide and as an ecumenical ambassador for the Christian Reformed Church is gratefully noted and celebrated. George's keen intellect and winsome personality made him an effective participant in numerous church-wide discussions, complex ecumenical relationships, and an articulate spokesperson for all matters reformed. Christian condolences are extended to George's wife, Bea, and their children in this time of mourning their loss. The Church in many places will miss his contributions to the oneness of God's people in Christ. Bea and other members of the family are commended to God's gracious care.

*—Adopted*

6. That synod approve the recommendations of the Pacific Hanmi Monitoring Committee as follows (II, A, 26):
  - a. That synod extend the life of Classis Pacific Hanmi until it becomes evident that a Korean-speaking classis is no longer necessary.



- b. That synod thank the synodical deputies from the classes neighboring Classis Pacific Hanmi for their work in establishing relationships with the Korean community and that they be asked to continue to actively advise, encourage, and support the work of Classis Pacific Hanmi as appropriate, according to the CRC Church Order.
- c. That synod encourage the leadership of Classis Pacific Hanmi to
  - 1) Continue the work of training and assimilating first generation Korean leaders through the use of the Korean Institute of Ministry, the Home Missions Korean ministry director, and whatever other resources in the CRC seem to be appropriate;
  - 2) Set up an advisory team of people beyond their classis who can provide resources to them in their continuing life and assimilation; and
  - 3) Report to synod on a bi-annual basis on their learning, success, and progress as a unique and valued part of the CRC.
- d. That synod dismiss the Pacific Hanmi Monitoring Committee with thanks.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 35.)

#### ARTICLE 34

Advisory Committee 8, Church Order and Appeals, Rev. Geoffrey Vandermolen reporting, presents the following:

#### **Women in Ecclesiastical Office (majority report)**

##### *A. Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report section II, A, 16, a, p. 27
2. Overtures 21-35, and 37, pp. 446-78
3. Communication 2, section 2

##### *B. Background*

The decisions of the synods of past years involving the issue of women's ordination have been vigorously debated. Regardless of one's personal convictions on the matter, the debate that has occurred around this topic has happened in large part because all parties involved have had a strong desire to honor each other and above all to honor God and the authority of his Word. We continue to stand in this tradition.

Both the minority and the majority report agree on one thing, namely, that Article 3-a of the Church Order be changed in such a way as to allow *all* confessing members of the church who meet the biblical requirements to be eligible for the offices of minister, elder, deacon, and ministry associate. Both reports desire to guide the church to a place where we can most lovingly embrace one another and join in ministry in this world together.

Our committee struggled together with this issue in a manner that showed love, care, and respect. Our point of divergence came when we began to discuss the implications of how to best walk together with the proposed

change to Church Order Article 3-a. We believe it is the right and responsibility of each local congregation to choose delegates to classis within synodical parameters and the right and responsibility of each classis to choose delegates to synod within synodical parameters.

We have traveled a great distance on this journey. Let us remember a few of the important milestones along the way:

One important milestone in that journey came in 1995. After almost twenty-five years of discussion, Synod 1995 declared that, “there are two different perspectives and convictions, both of which honor the Scriptures as the infallible Word of God on the issue of whether women are allowed to serve in the offices of elder, minister and evangelist” (*Acts of Synod 1995*, p. 731).

Thus, Synod 1995 permitted all congregations in the denomination to ordain women elders. In addition, all congregations in a classis that declared the word *male* in Church Order Article 3-a inoperative were permitted to ordain women ministers and ministry associates. In order to give the church time to rest from the debate, Synod 1995 also made provisions for its decision to be reviewed in five years.

When the decision of Synod 1995 was reviewed by Synod 2000, provision was once again made for subsequent review of this same matter in five more years, at Synod 2005. Synod 2005 reviewed this issue but did not set a point in time to review it again. Instead, Synod 2005 instructed the Board of Trustees to “revisit the issue of female delegates to synod at such a time when a majority of classes has declared the word *male* inoperative” (*Acts of Synod 2005*, p. 759).

Synod explained *revisit* to mean “that when the threshold has been passed, the Board of Trustees will take note of that and recommend appropriate actions in their report to the next synod” (*Acts of Synod 2005*, p. 760).

Synod 2006 took up the issue again because the threshold had been passed. The advisory committee recommended to Synod 2006 that the word *male* be deleted from Church Order Article 3-a provided that women delegates not be delegated to synod or serve as synodical deputies and that there be a seven-year sabbatical on the discussion of this topic. In the end, Synod 2006 adopted the proposal to change Church Order Article 3-a and included the provisions in the Church Order Supplement. The same synod did approve the appointment of a female synodical deputy by way of exception.

Let us also be guided by our history, current practice, and Church Order. One guiding principle can be gained from Synod 1957. Our denomination struggled for seven years with the right of women to vote at congregational meetings. Synod 1957 said:

Synod decides that women may participate in congregational meetings with the right to vote subject to the rules that govern the participation of men. The question as to whether and when the women members of any church shall be invited to participate in the activities of its congregational meetings is left to the judgment of each consistory.

(*Acts of Synod 1957*, Article 155, p. 90)

By using the word *may*, synod set a particular tone and direction but did not force the will of any council. We intend to honor this spirit in our proposal.

A second guiding principle can be found in the current practice of Classis Greater Los Angeles, as described in Overture 32, *Agenda for Synod 2007*.

We would observe that in Classis Greater Los Angeles and in numerous other classes we have been able to function peacefully in this area. Our practice in

Greater Los Angeles allows each congregation on the local level to decide how to handle this matter. On the regional level, (i.e., at the meetings and functions of classes), each local congregation delegates whomever it feels appropriate. Those who have so-called problems in principle with women in roles of leadership show forbearance in such regional gatherings. Those who have problems in principle with the exclusion of women in leadership roles, show forbearance by not being critical of other congregations and by not interfering with their local decisions.

(Agenda for Synod 2007, p. 473)

This classis has found a way to maintain unity despite having differing convictions. This solution is rooted in the ability of this classis to “bear with one another” while also respecting the decisions of the local church to choose their delegates. We believe this is instructive for us.

A third guiding principle can be gained from the current practice found in Classis Chatham and Classis Toronto. Several delegates come from churches that oppose women in office, and they do not desire to be seated with women at the broader assemblies. These delegates register their protest and, in so doing, their conscience is unburdened, and they are free to participate.

A fourth guiding principle arises out of Church Order Article 34, which states that the “major assemblies are composed of office bearers who are delegated by their minor assemblies.”

We note that the responsibility of delegation to the major assemblies is placed in the hands of the elders who receive their authority from Jesus Christ, our Head (Eph. 1:22). We believe our proposal restores that right in each church.

We celebrate that because Synod 1995 made possible the ordination of women, the Christian Reformed Church has been richly blessed by the service provided by these pastors, elders, deacons, and ministry associates. Women are serving our denomination in a variety of governing roles including:

- Forty-two ordained women pastors serving in parish-based ministry, World Missions, church planting, chaplaincy, instruction at the seminary, and dean of the Chapel at Calvin College;
- Senior directors of denominational agencies;
- Chairpersons and members of denominational boards;
- Members of the Board of Trustees;
- Many elders, deacons, and ministry associates.

### C. Recommendations

1. That synod adopt the deletion of the word *male* from Church Order Article 3-a, and that synod declare that congregations may, but will not be required, to allow women to serve in the office of minister, elder, or ministry associate.
2. That synod adopt the changes proposed by Synod 2006 to Church Order Article 3-a along with related revisions necessitated by the deletion of the word *male* from Article 3-a. The revised version follows (II, A, 16, a):

#### *Article 3*

- a. All confessing members of the church who meet the biblical requirements are eligible for the offices of minister, elder, *deacon*, and ministry associate.

- b. Only those who have been officially called and ordained or installed shall hold and exercise office in the church (Cf. Supplements Article 45, and 48).

*Grounds:*

- a. This is consistent with Recommendation C, 3 of the *Acts of Synod 2006* (p. 723).
  - b. The majority of classes have now declared the word *male* inoperative in Church Order Article 3-a.
  - c. This is consistent with the biblical framework recommended to the churches for study by Synod 2000 (*Acts of Synod 2000*, pp. 694-95, 698-99).
3. That synod make the following changes to the Church Order Supplement:
    - a. Delete Church Order Supplement, Article 3-a.
    - b. Insert the following in Church Order Supplement, Article 48:

A classis may appoint a female minister as synodical deputy as long as, out of consideration for the neighboring classes, a male minister is the alternate.
  4. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to make additional revisions to the Church Order and Supplement that may be necessary in light of the decisions made by Synod 2007. This includes the removal of the Church Order Supplement Article 45-b prohibiting female synodical delegates.
  5. That synod declare this to be its response to Overtures 21-35, and 37.

*D. Conclusion*

We solemnly recognize the weight of this decision. With humble yearning for a gracious, reverent, and holy treatment of one another, we call upon all members of the Christian Reformed Church, which is only a small part of “the whole family in heaven and on earth who derive their name from the Father” (Eph. 3:14), to unite in the work of the Lord, and to gather in all of our assemblies in a way that honors one another, despite our different biblical views.

In particular, we beseech individuals, churches, and classes of the Christian Reformed Church to continue to live out the teaching of our Lord in Christian servitude and humility (Mark 9:37); to be quietly devoted to ministry in Christ’s name, to consider others better than ourselves (Phil. 2:3); to continue in patience in the work of the church; and to persist in our denominational work cheerfully, dutifully, and gracefully. We ask this because Jesus calls us to be eager about the harvest and obedient to the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20, Luke 10:1, 2).

In a world of darkness, Jesus identified us as the light of the world. Together, as brothers and sisters, we can let our light shine before men, that the world may see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven (Matt. 5:14-16).

Let us bend our necks together under the good yoke of Christ, who turned to his Father and said:

I pray . . . that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are

one. . . . May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

(John 17:20-23 NIV)

We have made these recommendations to synod and to our churches in the conviction that Christ beckons us follow him to his work, side by side, to the glory of the Father.

According to the Rules for Synodical Procedure, the minority report re the issue of women in ecclesiastical office is presented as information by delegate Rev. John Terpstra:

### **Women in Ecclesiastical Office (minority report)**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report section II, A, 16, a, p. 27
2. Overtures 21-33, and 37, pp. 452-78
3. Communication 2, section 2

#### *B. Background*

The material covered in this section is largely taken from documents included in the *Agenda for Synod 2007* and the *Acts of Synod 2006*.

#### 1. Decisions of Synod 1995

After almost twenty-five years of discussion, our denomination said, "There are two different perspectives and convictions, both of which honor the Scriptures as the infallible Word of God, on the issue of whether women are allowed to serve in the offices of elder, minister and evangelist" (*Acts of Synod 1995*, p. 731). The two positions are summarized by the study committee to Synod 2000 (*Agenda for Synod 2000*, pp. 355-73).

Thus, Synod 1995 permitted all congregations in the denomination to ordain women elders. In addition, all congregations in a classis that declared the word *male* in Church Order Article 3-a inoperative were permitted to ordain women ministers and ministry associates.

#### 2. Decisions since 1995 regarding synodical deputies

Synod 2005 revised the 1995 regulation that prohibited women ministers from serving as synodical deputies by allowing such service as long as both the synodical deputy and the alternate were not women. Synod honored the convictions of classes that wished to use the gifts of women members by permitting them to elect a women minister to serve as a synodical deputy or alternate. It honored the convictions of classes that did not wish to use the services of a woman synodical deputy by ensuring that a male deputy or alternate would be available.

#### 3. Delegation of women officebearers to synod

Synod 2005 instructed the Board of Trustees to "revisit the issue of female delegates to synod at such a time when a majority of classes has declared the word *male* inoperative" (*Acts of Synod 2005*, p. 759). Synod explained *revisit* as meaning "that when the threshold has been passed, the Board of Trustees will take note of that and recommend appropriate actions in their report to the next synod" (*Acts of Synod 2005*, p. 760).

That has now happened. Twenty-six of our forty-seven classes have declared the word *male* in Church Order Article 3-a inoperative. Synod 2006 adopted a recommendation to delete the word *male* from Church Order Article 3-a and proposed to Synod 2007 a revision to Church Order Article 3-a to read as follows:

All confessing members of the church who meet the biblical requirements are eligible for the offices of minister, elder, deacon, and ministry associate.  
(*Acts of Synod 2006*, p. 723)

4. Deletion of the word *male* in Church Order Article 3-a

Now that the majority of classes has declared the word *male* in Church Order Article 3-a inoperative, Synod 2007 should adopt the change proposed by Synod 2006 to delete the word *male* from that article.

5. Use of women's gifts

In the last decade, it has become increasingly evident that men and women are working together in our denomination to build Christ's church through the use of their God-given gifts. Women are serving our denomination in a variety of governing roles, including: forty-two ordained women pastors serving in parish ministry, world missions, church planting, chaplaincy, seminary professors, Dean of the Chapel at Calvin College, senior directors of denominational agencies, chairpersons of denominational boards and committees, members of the Board of Trustees, and members of synodical study committees.

6. Pastoral observation

Any current discussion and decision regarding women in church office must take into account the history of the discussion over the last several decades. Particularly instructive to the issues before us today are the decisions of the last twelve years. Synod 1995 affirmed that "there are two different perspectives and convictions, both of which honor the scriptures as the infallible Word of God, on the issue of whether women are allowed to serve in the offices of elder, minister and evangelist" (*Acts of Synod 1995*, p. 731). Although this assertion by synod has been challenged at times and is not universally embraced by the churches, it remains the stated position of the denomination.

Several synods, the majority of our classes, and many churches of the denomination have increasingly taken action to permit increased opportunity for women for service in these offices. Many churches have elected women as elders and several have called women pastors. More than half of the classes have declared the word *male* in Church Order Article 3-a inoperative. At the same time, many classes and churches do not permit women to serve in these offices.

Many who remain in the denomination fear that their convictions either already are or will be bound by the denomination's position on this issue. Nevertheless, the denomination's essential position on the issue has remained constant, and the denominational anxiety and conflict on the issue has been quieted considerably. Thus, we have clearly stated, long-held convictions on the matter without having clear consensus while also maintaining a biblical understanding of unity.

We respectfully encourage and invite synod to join us in our attempt to walk together, rather than apart, on this difficult issue. The words of Ephesians 4:1-3 are pastorally instructive: "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod adopt the deletion of the word *male* from Church Order Article 3-a provided that:
  - a. All congregations may, but will not be required to allow women to serve in the office of pastor, elder, or ministry associate;
  - b. Classes may, in keeping with their understanding of the biblical position on the role of women in ecclesiastical office, declare that women office-bearers (ministers, elders, deacons) may not be delegated to classis.

*Grounds:*

- a. For over a decade, the denomination's official position has been that both of the two different perspectives and convictions on the issue of whether women are allowed to serve in the offices of elder, minister, and ministry associate are within the bounds of biblical authority and Reformed theology.
  - b. The majority of classes have now declared the word *male* inoperative in Church Order Article 3-a.
  - c. This allows women to serve in the offices of minister, elder, and ministry associate on the synodical level while honoring and respecting those who oppose women serving in the offices of minister or elder at the local and regional level.
2. That synod adopt the changes proposed by Synod 2006 to Church Order Article 3-a along with related revisions necessitated by the deletion of the word *male* from Article 3-a. The revised version follows:

*Article 3*

- a. All confessing members of the church who meet the biblical requirements are eligible for the offices of minister, elder, *deacon*, and ministry associate.
  - b. Only those who have been officially called and ordained or installed shall hold and exercise office in the church.  
(Cf. Supplements, Articles 3-a, 6-B, 45, and 48)
3. That synod make the following changes to the regulations of Church Order Supplement, Article 3-a:
  - a. Delete Regulation 1 and replace with the following:
    - 1) All congregations may, but will not be required to allow women to serve in the office of pastor, elder, or ministry associate;
    - 2) Classes may, in keeping with their understanding of the biblical position on the role of women in ecclesiastical



office, declare that women officebearers (ministers, elders, deacons) may not be delegated to classis.

- 3) All duly elected and ordained officebearers may be delegated to synod. Officebearers shall not be asked to participate against their convictions.

- b. Delete Regulation 2 and insert the following regulation into Church Order Supplement, Article 48-a dealing with synodical deputies:

A classis may appoint a female minister to serve as a synodical deputy as long as, out of consideration for neighboring classes, male minister is the alternate.

- c. Retain Regulation 3

- d. Revise Regulation 4 as follows: (delete strikethrough and add italicized)

~~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 ministry associate but its classis has not authorized its constituent churches to ordain and install women in the offices of elder, minister, and ministry associate, the classis is encouraged to declare an exception to Church Order Article 3-a and allow the church to proceed. The classis may, however, make an additional ruling that the female pastor may not be delegated to classis until classis extends an invitation. Every classis shall respect the right and responsibility of its constituent churches to call and ordain officebearers according to their own biblical convictions.~~

No members of classis shall be required to participate against their convictions in a candidate's examination or in processing ministerial credentials. The examination for ordination of a female candidate may then be conducted by a *classis contracta* consisting of delegates from churches that do not object. In the event that a quorum cannot be found, representatives from churches in a neighboring classis may be invited to achieve the equivalent of a quorum.

*Ground:* The seating of women delegates is covered in Regulation 1-b above.

- e. Delete Regulation 5

A classis that has not authorized its constituent churches to ordain and install women in the offices of elder, minister, and ministry associate 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 church in which they hold office.



*Ground:* This regulation is no longer necessary now that the deletion of the word *male* from Church Order Article 3-a has been adopted and the matter of elder delegates to broader assemblies is addressed in Regulation 1-b.

- f. Revise Regulation 6 by deleting the strikethrough language

~~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.

- g. Retain Regulation 7

- h. Replace current Regulation 8 with the proposed Regulation

*Current*

The executive director shall maintain a list of classes that have authorized their constituent churches to ordain and install women in the offices of elder, *deacon*, minister, and ministry associate and shall publish the list annually in the *Agenda for Synod* and in the *Yearbook* (*Acts of Synod 1995*, pp. 733-35; *Acts of Synod 2000*, pp. 696-98; *Acts of Synod 2005*, pp. 758-60).

*Proposed*

The executive director shall maintain a list of classes that have declared that women officebearers (ministers, elders, deacons) may not be delegated to classis.

4. That synod insert the following regulation into Church Order Supplement, Articles 40-a and 45:

Delegates who believe the seating of women delegates is in violation of the Word of God may record their protest on the appropriate credentials.

5. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to make additional revisions to the Church Order and Supplement that may be necessary in light of the decisions made by Synod 2007.

6. That synod declare this to be its response to Overtures 21-33, and 37.

Synod will address the majority and minority reports for Advisory Committee 8 during the evening session.

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued in Article 38.)

## ARTICLE 35

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 33.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services I, Rev. Thomas J. Niehof reporting, presents the following:

## **Board of Trustees**

### *A. Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (Polity sections II, A, 1-5, 8-11, 13-15, 18-22, 24-27, including appendices D, E, and G) pp. 21-31, 78-99, 129-30
2. Board of Trustees Supplement sections I, A-L, N, P, including Appendix A

### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod ratify the appointment of Mrs. Sandy F. Johnson to the position of director of denominational ministries effective September 1, 2007 (BOT Supplement section I, F).

—*Adopted*

2. That synod receive a brief presentation concerning the 150th anniversary of the Fulton Street Prayer Revival during one of its sessions (BOT Supplement section I, I).

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 49.)

## **ARTICLE 36**

Ms. Claire Elgersma addresses synod re the upcoming Sea to Sea 2008 bike tour and presents a PowerPoint introduction to the tour. She leads in closing prayer.

The afternoon session is adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

## **TUESDAY EVENING, June 12, 2007**

### **Sixth Session**

## **ARTICLE 37**

First clerk Henry J. Baron leads in a litany of Psalm 145 from *Sing! A New Creation* 27 and leads in opening prayer. He announces *Sing! A New Creation* 177, “O Christ, the Great Foundation.”

## **ARTICLE 38**

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 34.)

Following the rules of procedure, synod returns to consideration of the recommendations of the advisory committee’s majority report.

Advisory Committee 8, Church Order and Appeals, Rev. Geoffrey Vandermolen reporting, presents the following:

## Women in Ecclesiastical Office (majority report)

### A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report section II, A, 16, a, p. 27
2. Overtures 21-35, 37, pp. 446-78
3. Communication 2, section 2

B. *Recommendation*: That synod adopt the changes proposed by Synod 2006 to Church Order Article 3-a along with related revisions necessitated by the deletion of the word *male* from Article 3-a. The revised version follows (II, A, 16, a):

#### *Article 3*

- a. All confessing members of the church who meet the biblical requirements are eligible for the offices of minister, elder, *deacon*, and ministry associate.
- b. Only those who have been officially called and ordained or installed shall hold and exercise office in the church.

#### *Grounds*:

- a. This is consistent with Recommendation C, 3 of the *Acts of Synod 2006* (p. 723).
- b. The majority of classes have now declared the word *male* inoperative in Church Order Article 3-a.
- c. This is consistent with the biblical framework recommended to the churches for study by Synod 2000 (*Acts of Synod 2000*, pp. 694-95, 698-99).

Following discussion of the above recommendation of the majority report, a motion carries to table the majority report to address the recommendations of the minority report.

Advisory Committee 8, Church Order and Appeals, Rev. John Terpstra reporting, presents the following:

### *Recommendation of the minority report*

That synod adopt the deletion of the word *male* from Church Order Article 3-a provided that:

- a. All congregations may, but will not be required to allow women to serve in the office of pastor, elder, or ministry associate;
- b. Classes may, in keeping with their understanding of the biblical position on the role of women in ecclesiastical office, declare that women office-bearers (ministers, elders, deacons) may not be delegated to classis.

#### *Grounds*:

- a. For over a decade, the denomination's official position has been that both of the two different perspectives and convictions on the issue of whether women are allowed to serve in the offices of elder, minister, and ministry associate are within the bounds of biblical authority and Reformed theology.

- b. The majority of classes have now declared the word *male* inoperative in Church Order Article 3-a.
- c. This allows women to serve in the offices of minister, elder, and ministry associate on the synodical level while honoring and respecting those who oppose women serving in the offices of minister or elder at the local and regional level.

—Adopted

The following negative votes are registered: Keith A. Mannes (Northern Michigan) and Geoffrey Vandermolen (Alberta South/Saskatchewan).

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued in Article 42.)

#### ARTICLE 39

The ED introduces Ms. Sandy F. Johnson, newly appointed director of denominational ministries for the Christian Reformed Church, who addresses synod. She leads synod in prayer.

#### ARTICLE 40

The evening session is adjourned at 9:03 p.m. Rev. Herman Van Nieuwenhuis leads in closing prayer.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING, June 13, 2007 Seventh Session

#### ARTICLE 41

Rev. John A. Algera calls synod to worship and introduces Ms. Rhae-Ann Booker and Mr. Randy Wolthuis who lead in the singing of “I Love You Lord, Today” (150th Anniversary Celebration Program) and *Sing! A New Creation* 48, “Praise Him! Jesus, Blessed Savior.” Rev. Algera leads in a litany from the *Contemporary Testimony* 37-39, 42-43. Delegates pray in small groups and conclude by singing *Sing! A New Creation* 227, “I Love the Lord.”

Rev. Denise Posie from Immanuel CRC, Kalamazoo, Michigan, addresses delegates from Philippians 4 re *rejoicing* and leads in prayer. Delegates conclude with the singing of *Psalter Hymnal* 462, “Amazing Grace—How Sweet the Sound.”

The roll indicates that all are present. Alternate elder Ken Van Dyke (Niagara) replaces elder George De Roo. He rises to express agreement with the forms of unity.

#### ARTICLE 42

(The report from Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 38.)

Advisory Committee 8, Church Order and Appeals, Rev. John Terpstra reporting, presents the following:

## Women in Ecclesiastical Office (minority report)

### A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report section II, A, 16, a, p. 27
2. Overtures 21–33, 37, pp. 452–78
3. Communication 2, sections 2 and 4

### B. Recommendations

1. That synod adopt the changes proposed by Synod 2006 to Church Order Article 3-a along with related revisions necessitated by the deletion of the word *male* from Article 3-a. The revised version follows:

#### Article 3

a. All confessing members of the church who meet the biblical requirements are eligible for the offices of minister, elder, *deacon*, and ministry associate.

b. Only those who have been officially called and ordained or installed shall hold and exercise office in the church.

(Cf. Supplement, Articles 3-a, 6-B, 45, and 48)

—Adopted

2. That synod make the following changes to the regulations of Church Order Supplement, Article 3-a:

a. Delete Regulation 1 and replace with the following:

- 1) All congregations may, but will not be required to, allow women to serve in the office of minister, elder, deacon, or ministry associate.
- 2) Classes may, in keeping with their understanding of the biblical position on the role of women in ecclesiastical office, declare that women officebearers (ministers, elders, deacons) may not be delegated to classis.
- 3) All duly elected and ordained officebearers may be delegated to synod. Officebearers shall not be asked to participate against their convictions.

—Adopted

b. Delete Regulation 2 and insert the following regulation into Church Order Supplement, Article 48-a dealing with synodical deputies:

A classis may appoint a female minister to serve as a synodical deputy as long as, out of consideration for neighboring classes, a male minister is the alternate.

—Adopted

c. Retain Regulation 3

—Adopted

d. Revise Regulation 4 as follows: (delete strikethrough and add italicized)

~~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 ministry associate but its classis has not authorized its constituent churches to ordain and install women in the offices of elder, minister, and ministry associate, the classis is encouraged to declare an exception to Church Order Article 3-a and allow the church to proceed. The classis may, however, make an additional ruling that the female pastor may not be delegated to classis until classis extends an invitation. *Every classis shall respect the prerogative of its constituent churches to call and ordain officebearers according to their own biblical convictions.* No members of classis shall be required to participate against their convictions in a candidate's examination or in processing ministerial credentials. The examination for ordination of a female candidate may then be conducted by a *classis contracta* consisting of delegates from churches that do not object. In the event that a quorum cannot be found, representatives from churches in a neighboring classis may be invited to achieve the equivalent of a quorum.

*Ground:* The seating of women delegates is covered in Regulation 1-b above.

—Adopted

e. Delete Regulation 5

*Ground:* This regulation is no longer necessary now that the deletion of the word *male* from Church Order Article 3-a has been adopted and the matter of elder delegates to broader assemblies is addressed in Regulation 1-b.

—Adopted

f. Revise Regulation 6 by deleting the strikethrough language

~~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

g. Retain Regulation 7

—Adopted

h. Replace current Regulation 8 with the proposed Regulation

*Current*

The executive director shall maintain a list of classes that have authorized their constituent churches to ordain and install women in the offices of elder, *deacon*, minister, and ministry associate and shall publish the list annually in the *Agenda for Synod* and in the *Yearbook* (*Acts of Synod 1995*, pp. 733-35; *Acts of Synod 2000*, pp. 696-98; *Acts of Synod 2005*, pp. 758-60).

*Proposed*

The executive director shall maintain a list of classes that have declared that women officebearers (ministers, elders, deacons) may not be delegated to classis.

*—Adopted*

3. That synod insert the following regulation into Church Order Supplement, Articles 40-a and 45:

Delegates who believe the seating of women delegates is in violation of the Word of God may record their protest on the appropriate credentials.

*—Adopted*

4. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to make additional revisions to the Church Order and Supplement that may be necessary in light of the decisions made by Synod 2007.

*—Adopted*

5. That synod declare this to be its response to Overtures 21-33, and 37.

*—Adopted*

The president leads in a prayer of unity:

“Our Lord and our God, King of the church, Lord of the universe, in whom we live and move and have our being, you are one and your son died to make us one. For decades, we have been arguing, debating, disagreeing. Now we have made a far reaching decision that will change a lot of things for our denomination and for members of our denomination on both sides of the issue. It is our prayer that the Christ who makes all things possible and without whom we can do nothing will make it possible for us different, disagreeing, sometimes even disagreeable people to be one—to be one for your purpose so that the world may see and know him. Bless us to that end. Bless those on both sides of the issue who still hurt. Heal wounds, ease pain, grant forgiveness, give patience, and lead us together, Lord Jesus. We ask this in your precious name and for your sake, and to it we all say together, Amen.”

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued in Article 57.)

#### ARTICLE 43

Rev. Carel Geleynse introduces Rev. Istifanus Bala Bahago, fraternal delegate from the Christian Reformed Church of Nigeria, who addresses synod. Rev. Geleynse responds.

Dr. Carol Rottman introduces Dr. Richard Van Houten, general secretary of the Reformed Ecumenical Council, who addresses synod. Dr. Peter Borgdorff responds.

Dr. Peter Borgdorff introduces Rev. John Ornee, president of the general synod of the Reformed Church in America (RCA), who addresses synod and shows a video of Dr. Borgdorff’s address to the RCA general synod on behalf of the CRC on June 8, 2007. Dr. Borgdorff responds.

Rev. Marvin Hofman introduces Rev. Johannes (Hans) Horsman, fraternal delegate from the Netherlands Reformed Churches (NGK), who addresses synod. Rev. Hofman responds.

#### ARTICLE 44

The morning session is adjourned at 11:53 a.m. Elder delegate Jose Rayas leads in closing prayer. Delegates close with the singing of the “Doxology.”

### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, June 13, 2007

#### Eighth Session

#### ARTICLE 45

Mr. Gary Mulder, director of Faith Alive Christian Resources, introduces Ms. Jolanda Malburg, trainer and consultant for churches, who leads in reading of a litany and announces *Sing! A New Creation* 145, “There Is a Redeemer.” She leads in prayer and announces *Sing! A New Creation* 282, “Song of Hope.”

Mr. Mulder, along with Rev. Leonard Vander Zee, theological editor of Faith Alive, and Rev. Bob DeMoor, *Banner* editor in chief, give an update of the work of Faith Alive through multimedia presentation.

#### ARTICLE 46

The vice president assumes the chair.

Dr. Peter Borgdorff introduces Rev. Evert Overeem, ecumenical guest from the Protestant Church in the Netherlands, who addresses synod. Dr. Borgdorff responds.

Rev. Bruce Adema introduces Pastor Lawrence B. de los Trinos, fraternal delegate from the Christian Reformed Church in the Philippines, who addresses synod. Rev. Adema responds.

Dr. Philip De Jonge introduces Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah, fraternal delegate from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC), who addresses synod. Dr. De Jonge responds by offering prayer for the EPC.

Dr. Peter Borgdorff introduces Dr. Kobus J.J. Gerber, fraternal delegate from the Dutch Reformed Church – South Africa, who addresses synod. Dr. Borgdorff responds.

Dr. Borgdorff notes that letters of greeting have been received from the following: the Reformed Churches in South Africa, the Dutch Reformed Church in Ceylon (Sri Lanka), the Reformed Church in Japan, the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia, and the Reformed Church in Africa – South Africa.

The vice president offers prayer for the churches represented by these ecumenical guests.

#### ARTICLE 47

Advisory Committee 9, Third Wave Pentecostalism, elder delegate Bruce A. Hekman reporting, presents the following:

#### Committee to Study Third Wave Pentecostalism

##### A. Materials

1. Committee to Study Third Wave Pentecostalism Report – Majority Report, including appendices, pp. 331-62; Minority Report, including appendices, pp. 363-88
2. Overture 36, pp. 478-82



## B. Observations

The Reformed tradition affirms the Spirit's powerful work in the lives of believers and the corporate life of the church. Yet, the CRC must thoughtfully and seriously test the tenets and practices of the third wave movement against Scripture and our confessional tradition.

The advisory committee is grateful to the Committee to Study Third Wave Pentecostalism for laying the groundwork for assisting our churches in wrestling with the manifestations of the Holy Spirit's work as expressed in the third wave. This advisory committee affirms the gracious openness of the majority report and believes it is the beginning of a thoughtful dialogue concerning a movement that already has significant influence in the denomination. Nevertheless, the advisory committee notes that the study committee's majority report must go further in grounding its recommendations biblically, confessionally, and theologically so that it will become a more useful pastoral tool.

Finally, the advisory committee discussed the concerns raised by the minority report but chose not to adopt its recommendations.

## C. Recommendations

1. That synod withhold action on the recommendations of both the majority and minority reports of the Committee to Study Third Wave Pentecostalism.

### *Grounds:*

- a. By not providing sufficient biblical study and theological reflection on key aspects of the third wave movement, both reports fail to adequately fulfill the synodical mandate "to examine the biblical teaching, Reformed confessions, theological implications, and pastoral dimensions related to third wave Pentecostalism (spiritual warfare, deliverance ministries, and so forth), with a view to providing advice to the churches" (*Acts of Synod 2004*, p. 608).
- b. Overture 36 raises significant issues and questions that need to be addressed.

—Adopted

2. That synod recommit the majority report and augment the membership of the majority study committee in order to fulfill the study committee's original mandate, answer the significant issues and questions raised by Overture 36, and report to Synod 2009.

### *Grounds:*

- a. The current majority study committee recognizes the limitations of the majority report and supports this recommendation.
- b. The original study committee reached an impasse that the advisory committee judged could not be bridged.
- c. The majority report needs to:
  - 1) Address the issues and questions raised in Overture 36 in the areas of prophecy, prayer, healing, and spiritual warfare by providing adequate biblical study and theological reflection to ground the affirmations, cautions, and recommendations of the report.

- 2) Incorporate key elements of Report 34 of 1973, and address the relevance of that report to the specifics of the third wave movement.
- 3) Provide a more fully developed biblical-theological rubric (guidelines) to assist pastors and others in the church to exercise discernment when they encounter specific manifestations of the Spirit that could be identified as third wave.

—Adopted

3. That synod regard the above recommendations as synod's response to Overture 36.

—Adopted

4. That synod add the following people to the reconstituted majority study committee membership re third wave Pentecostalism:

Dr. Carl J. Bosma  
Rev. Timothy J. Brown  
Rev. Jeff Stam

—Adopted

5. That synod dismiss the authors of the minority report with thanks.

—Adopted

## ARTICLE 48

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued from Article 22.)

Advisory Committee 5, Missions, Rev. Timothy J. Brown reporting, presents the following:

### I. Christian Reformed World Missions

A. *Materials*: Christian Reformed World Missions Report, pp. 230-45

B. *Observations*

Dr. Gary J. Bekker, director of Christian Reformed World Missions; Ms. Joy Engelsman, president of World Missions-USA; Mr. Al Karsten, director of North America Ministries; and Rev. John Tenyenhuis, president of World Missions-Canada, met with the advisory committee. The following are highlights of their presentation:

- Christian Reformed World Missions supports and unites the efforts of our churches in the work of intercultural missions.
- World Missions works with many different international partners in church planting and in the development of churches and leaders.
- In the ministry of intercultural missions, World Missions also collaborates with agencies such as CRWRC and The Back to God Hour.
- Great challenges and opportunities for missions exist throughout the world. China was singled out as a country that provides many opportunities and challenges.
- This year, the following missionaries will be retiring after long and faithful service: Gord Buys, John and Jerre De Young, Dick and Margaret

Seinen, Ken and Sally Vander Wal, and Bill and Laura Van Tol. We celebrate their commitment to Christ through World Missions.

- Our missionaries value not only our financial and prayer support but also our expressions of personal interest and spiritual concern through letters and cards.
- Each of our churches is strongly encouraged to have a World Missions contact person who promotes missions at the local level.

May God continue to use Christian Reformed World Missions to forward the ministry of bringing the gospel interculturally throughout the world.

### *C. Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the president of World Mission-Canada, Rev. John Tenyenhuis; the president of World Missions-USA, Ms. Joy Engelsman; and the World Missions director, Dr. Gary J. Bekker, the privilege of meeting with appropriate advisory committees of synod and representing World Missions to synod when synod deals with matters related to this agency.

—*Granted*

2. That synod along with the Board of Trustees encourage all Christian Reformed churches to recognize Pentecost Sunday as a significant opportunity to pray for and take an offering for Christian Reformed World Missions.

—*Adopted*

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

*A. Materials:* Christian Reformed World Relief Committee Report, pp. 246-60

### *B. Observations*

Mr. Andrew Ryskamp, director of CRWRC-U.S.A.; Ms. Ida Mutoigo, director of CRWRC-Canada; Mr. Chris Van Spronsen, president of CRWRC-U.S.A.; and Rev. Simon Peter Emai, superintendent of the Pentecostal Assembly of God in Uganda, met with the advisory committee. Rev. Emai represents one of the partner churches that CRWRC works with in Uganda. Highlights of CRWRC's presentation include the following:

- CRWRC seeks to come alongside Christian organizations and networks to build sustainable change within communities. They seek to build on assets that God has already placed within local communities. In this, they provide a model that our churches in North America would do well to imitate.
- Rev. Emai described the partnership between CRWRC, the Pentecostal Assembly of God in Uganda, and the Anglican Church in Uganda. Common causes and concerns have drawn hearts together. In partnership with CRWRC, the Ugandan churches have learned a response of listening to communities and helping them develop their internal capacity to help themselves.
- CRWRC also seeks to develop churches and people in North America who work for the physical and spiritual transformation of communities. Through CRWRC, thousands of North Americans have become involved in this ministry as partners and volunteers.

- Our congregations must continue to hear the challenge to address the global epidemic of HIV/AIDS and to respond to global poverty through such campaigns as the Micah Challenge.

We praise God that, through the partnerships fostered by CRWRC, communities around the globe are tasting God's shalom.

### *C. Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Mr. Chris Van Spronsen, president of CRWRC-U.S.A.; Mr. Jim Romahn, president of CRWRC-Canada; Mr. Andrew Ryskamp, director of CRWRC-U.S.A.; and Ms. Ida Mutoigo, director of CRWRC-Canada when CRWRC matters are discussed and need to be addressed.

—*Granted*

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

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued in Article 67.)

## ARTICLE 49

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 35.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services I, Rev. Thomas J. Niehof reporting, presents the following:

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

#### *A. Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (Polity sections II, A, 1-5, 8-11, 13-15, 18-22, 24-27, including appendices D, E, and G), pp. 21-31, 78-99, 129-30
2. Board of Trustees Supplement sections I, A-L, N, P, including Appendix A

#### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod grant power-to-act to the BOT with reference to the ratification of a director of Home Missions if one is identified and available prior to Synod 2008 (BOT Supplement section I, J).
2. That synod accept the invitation from the following churches to convene synod in 2008 and 2009:
  - a. The River Walk Community Church of Battle Creek, Michigan, is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2008 (synod would meet at Calvin College).
  - b. The Elmhurst CRC is in the process of building a new facility and will have it completed prior to June 2009. The Elmhurst council is inviting synod to worship with them in their new worship center and to hold its meetings at Trinity Christian College in 2009 (BOT Supplement section I, P).

—*Adopted*

—*Adopted*

3. That synod adopt the following regulations regarding closed (executive) sessions of synod (BOT Supplement section I, L):

*Executive Session:* Synod may enter an executive session in unusual or delicate situations. In such sessions, only the delegates, the staff consultants, the seminary advisers, the ethnic advisers, and the women advisers shall be present. If delegates from fully recognized churches in ecclesiastical fellowship are at synod, they also may remain in this session.

*Strict Executive Session:* Synod may enter a strict executive session in very unusual situations when such a course is dictated by due regard for personal honor or for the welfare of the church. In such sessions, only the delegates, the staff consultants, the seminary faculty advisers, the ethnic advisers, and the women advisers shall be present. If any of the above-mentioned persons are personally involved in the matter under discussion, they will absent themselves voluntarily or by synodical ruling.

—Adopted

## **II. Sesquicentennial Committee (150th Anniversary Committee)**

A. *Materials:* Sesquicentennial Committee Report, pp. 289-91

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Ms. Darlene Meyering, chairperson; Dr. Richard Harms, secretary; and Dr. Peter Borgdorff when the report of the Sesquicentennial Committee is discussed.

—Granted

2. That synod remind the churches of the endorsement provided by Synod 2006 for the \$5 million endowment campaign to establish an Institute for Christian Leadership as a sesquicentennial gift to the CRC and encourage the churches to contribute with not less than two offerings during 2007.

—Adopted

3. That synod thank the committee for their excellent work in planning and hosting the 150th Anniversary Celebration Service on Sunday, June 10, 2007.

—Adopted

4. That synod approve the work of the committee.

—Adopted

## **III. Response to Overture 3: Transfer First CRC, Prinsburg, Minnesota, to Classis Minnkota**

A. *Materials:* Overture 3, p. 394

B. *Recommendation:* That synod accede to Overture 3.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 59.)

## ARTICLE 50

The afternoon session is adjourned at 4:59 p.m. Rev. M. Dale Fopma leads in closing prayer.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING, June 13, 2007

### Ninth Session

## ARTICLE 51

Rev. Bruce A. Persenaire reads from Luke 7 and leads in opening prayer. He announces *Psalter Hymnal* 291, “May the Mind of Christ My Savior.”

Rev. Mark Vande Zande (Holland) replaces Rev. Keith Doornbos for the evening session. Rev. John A. Algera (Hackensack) is absent with notice.

## ARTICLE 52

The president resumes the chair.

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 18.)

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. William Verhoef reporting, presents the following:

### Calvin Theological Seminary

#### A. *Materials*

1. Calvin Theological Seminary Report, pp. 190-97
2. Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement, including appendix

Synod proceeds according to the adopted procedure and, following the completed interview, considers the following recommendation:

*B. Recommendation:* That synod ratify the appointment of Dr. Mary S. Hulst as assistant professor of preaching for three years effective July 1, 2007.

—*Adopted*

(The work of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 64.)

## ARTICLE 53

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued from Article 29.)

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Terry D. Slachter reporting, presents the following:

## **I. Response to Overture 16: Appoint a Study Committee to Address the Issue of Who Can Present a Child for Baptism**

A. *Materials*: Overture 16, pp. 433-37

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod not accede to Overture 16.

*Grounds*:

- a. Historically and ordinarily, it is understood that only believing parents (parent) and/or their legal guardians can present children for baptism (Church Order Article 56).
- b. The local consistory has the authority for the administration of the sacrament of baptism (Church Order Article 55).
- c. There are insufficient grounds to warrant a study committee.

—*Adopted*

2. That this be synod's response to Overture 16.

—*Adopted*

## **II. Response to Overture 17: Appoint a Study Committee to Study the Growing Practice of Infant Dedication and the Practice of Infant Baptism**

A. *Materials*: Overture 17, p. 437

B. *Recommendation*: That synod not accede to Overture 17.

Delegates spend time discussing the above recommendation and take up the matter again on Thursday.

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued in Article 56.)

### **ARTICLE 54**

The evening session is adjourned at 9:05 p.m. Second clerk Jake Kuipers leads in closing prayer.

## **THURSDAY MORNING, June 14, 2007 Tenth Session**

### **ARTICLE 55**

Rev. Peter A. Hoytema calls delegates to worship. Rev. Ramon Orostizaga announces "You're Worthy of My Praise/Yo Te Alabo" and *Sing! A New Creation* 223, "Shout to the Lord." Rev. Hoytema leads in a litany of confession based on the Ten Commandments. Synod responds with the singing of "Open the Eyes of My Heart/ Abre Mi Ojos."

Dr. Neal Plantinga reads from Acts 2 and addresses synod re *rededicating*—the Spirit blows where it wills. The gift of the Holy Spirit—the promise—is for everyone.

Rev. Hoytema closes with a litany of prayer and announces *Sing! A New Creation* 288, "My Friends, May You Grow in Grace."

The roll indicates that all are present. Rev. Ken Van Dyk (Grand Rapids South) replaces Rev. John M. Ouwinga.

## ARTICLE 56

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued from Article 53.)

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Terry D. Slachter reporting, presents the following:

### **Response to Overture 17: Appoint a Study Committee to Study the Growing Practice of Infant Dedication and the Practice of Infant Baptism**

A. *Materials*: Overture 17, p. 437

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod not accede to Overture 17.
2. That synod affirm its commitment to the practice of baptizing infants.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. The practice of infant dedication can never replace the beauty of the expression of God's covenant of grace communicated in the sacrament of baptizing infants.
  - b. The practice of baptizing infants is the normative practice prescribed by the Reformed confessions (HC Q. and A. 74; BC Art. 34; and the Church Order Art. 56.).
3. That synod strongly discourage the practice of infant dedication.  
*Ground*: Any allowance of infant dedication propagates views contrary with the doctrinal positions of the church (*Acts of Synod 1964*, p. 63).
  4. That synod mandate the Faith Formation Committee to provide biblical and pastoral guidance for councils who are conversing with those members who are requesting infant dedication in place of infant baptism.

*Ground*: Covenantal theology is foundational for faith formation (Gen. 17:1-14; 1 Cor. 7:14; Acts 2:38-39).

5. That synod mandate the Faith Formation Committee to provide guidance concerning liturgical practices surrounding infant baptism.

*Ground*: Because liturgical practices teach doctrine, it is important that liturgical practices reflect the doctrinal standards of the denomination.

6. That this be synod's response to Overture 17.

The above report and recommendations are reviewed and tabled until the report of Advisory Committee 5 can be addressed.

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued in Article 71.)



## ARTICLE 57

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 42.)

Advisory Committee 8, Church Order and Appeals, Rev. John Timmer reporting, presents the following:

### **Response to Personal Appeal 1: Rev. R.J. Meyer**

A. *Materials:* Personal Appeal 1

B. *Recommendation:* That synod declare this personal appeal out of order.

*Grounds:*

1. In its content, the communication of Rev. R.J. Meyer is not an appeal but a request for a revision of a previous decision of synod.
2. Contrary to synodical regulations (Church Order Supplement, Article 31), the request was not processed in the minor assemblies.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued in Article 63.)

## ARTICLE 58

(The report of Advisory Committee 6 is continued from Article 28.)

Advisory Committee 6, Financial Matters, Rev. William G. Vis reporting, presents the following:

### **Response to Overture 20: Change the Pension Fund Policy So It Does Not Discriminate Against Pastors of Small Churches**

A. *Materials:* Overture 20, p. 446

B. *Background*

Synod 2007, in response to Overture 18, instructed the BOT to appoint a study committee or task force to explore alternative methods by which denominational-share contributions could be allocated each year among local congregations. In response to Overture 20, which deals with concerns about the ministers' retirement plans, synod recommitted the matter to the advisory committee. The committee believes that the concerns underlying both matters have a common basis in the understanding of the denomination's communal covenantal commitment to one another. Rather than deal with these matters individually, the committee believes there is value in dealing with them in a broader context.

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod rescind its decision, in response to Overture 18, to instruct the BOT to appoint a study committee or task force to explore alternative methods by which denominational-share contributions could be allocated each year among local congregations.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod instruct the BOT to form a study committee or task force to consider the denomination's communal covenantal commitment to one another, especially as that relates to financially providing for our institutions, agencies, ministries, and churches, and that the BOT bring any findings and recommendations to Synod 2009.

*Grounds:*

- a. The sole purpose of this recommendation is to expand the mandate of the study committee or task force originally anticipated in the earlier discussion.
- b. The mandate provides a broader focus in addition to the aspects of ministry share and pensions.
- c. The mandate provides for a cohesive approach to the concerns expressed in Overtures 18 and 20.
- d. This will allow us to move forward strategically in unity.

—Adopted

3. That this be synod's response to Overtures 18 and 20.

—Adopted

## ARTICLE 59

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 49.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services I, Rev. Thomas J. Niehof reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Response to Overture 5: Appoint a Review Committee to Evaluate the Denominational Board of Trustees and Require the BOT to Adhere to Synodical Deadlines**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Overture 5, pp. 398-402
2. Board of Trustees Supplement section I, K

#### *B. Observations*

1. Synod reminds the classes that members of the Board of Trustees are available to report to classis. Synod encourages the classes to invite their representative from the BOT, and to give adequate time on the floor of classis for their reports.
2. Synod reminds the BOT to ensure that the BOT highlights that are sent to the classes accurately reflect the actions of the BOT.
3. As noted below, this overture contains some inaccuracies; nonetheless, it demonstrates the need for a clear understanding of the relationship between the BOT and synod. As approved by Synod 1993, the constitution of the BOT states that its purposes are "to transact all matters assigned to it by synod; to supervise the management of the agencies and committees established by synod and designated in the bylaws of the Board, including the planning, coordinating, and integrating of their work; and to cooperate with the educational institutions affiliated with the denomination toward

integrating the respective missions of those institutions into the denominational ministry program.”

B. *Recommendation:* That synod not accede to Overture 5.

*Grounds:*

1. Some of the information presented in this overture is not factually accurate.
  - a. The overture contends that a church council in classis Zeeland was prevented from presenting Synod 2006 with a response to a decision made at the BOT meeting of May 2006. However, the advisory committee notes that the letter from the church in Classis Zeeland was in fact put into the hands of the advisory committee at synod.
  - b. The budget reallocation referred to in the overture was proposed and approved by the Ministry Council, and the BOT concurred with that recommendation. The money available to Home Missions was in fact the same as budgeted and was not reduced during the year referenced.
  - c. The BOT, both in its minutes and in its official report in the *Agenda for Synod 2006*, did not alter the language of synod from *instruct* to *request*, as the overture contends. The BOT highlights sent to classes made this change, and we note the importance of clear communication in our observations above.
2. The Board is the agent of synod throughout the year and not simply another agency of the denomination. The members of the Board are nominated by the churches, elected by synod, and report to synod annually. Thus, the Board is evaluated annually by synod.
3. With regard to biographical information on all delegates to synod, the advisory committee believes that the BOT accomplished the spirit of what Synod 2006 instructed them to do (see *Agenda for Synod 2007*, pp. 28-29). After investigating the logistics of gathering, collating, and editing such information, it was determined that providing such information in a timely fashion was not feasible. The BOT instructed the office of the executive director to review the process and enhance it in such a way as will most effectively serve the delegates. Accordingly, the executive director provided written biographical information about each delegate to Synod 2007 for the nomination process of potential officers of synod.
4. The BOT, in its role of overseeing the agencies, needs to meet just prior to synod.

—Adopted

**II. Ministerial retirements**

A. *Information*

Synod has received notice of the following ministerial retirements:

Minister	Classis	Effective Date
Merle H. Bierma	Columbia	July 1, 2007
Harry J. Bierman	Eastern Canada	July 15, 2007
Harvey A. Brink	Pella	January 16, 2007
Bernard Dykstra	Minnkota	October 1, 2007

Eric F. Evenhuis	California South	January 1, 2006
Adolph W. Heersink	Yellowstone	May 10, 2006
James Tai Kim	Greater Los Angeles	July 1, 2007
Phillip J. Kok	Central California	September 25, 2006
Roger Kraker	Zeeland	February 1, 2007
James LaGrand	Illiana	October 1, 2006
Wondae A. Lee	Rocky Mountain	February 28, 2007
Markus J. Lise	Quinte	October 21, 2007
Henry Lunshof	Huron	May 31, 2007
Galen H. Meyer	Grand Rapids East	January 6, 2007
Ralph R. Mueller	Grand Rapids East	May 1, 2007
John Nash	Southeast U.S.	January 20, 2007
Ronald J. Noorman	Georgetown	January 31, 2007
Henry Numan	B.C. North-West	January 14, 2007
Thomas J. Oosterhuis	Alberta North	July 1, 2007
Oscar C. Perdomo	Columbia	December 13, 2006
Gordon H. Pols	Hamilton	August 24, 2006
Jay R. Pruim	Kalamazoo	June 16, 2007
James F. Remeur	Grand Rapids East	March 1, 2007
Fred D. Rietema	Pacific Northwest	October 4, 2006
Peter Y. Shin	California South	June 17, 2007
David J. Tigchelaar	Niagara	June 1, 2007
Duane E. Tinklenberg	Heartland	December 31, 2006
George J. VanArragon	Niagara	August 31, 2007
Kenneth D. Van De Griend	Wisconsin	June 1, 2007
Epke Vander Berg	Grand Rapids East	June 1, 2007
R. John Van der Borgh	Illiana	January 2, 2007
Dale W. Vander Veen	Georgetown	August 1, 2006
Kenneth J. Vanderwal	Grand Rapids North	February 1, 2007
William Van Tol	Grand Rapids East	September 12, 2007
John Veenstra	Quinte	June 30, 2007
Kenneth Vis	Grand Rapids East	July 7, 2007
Douglas A. Warners	Muskegan	July 8, 2007
Karl J. Wiersum	Rocky Mountain	September 29, 2006
Donald J. Wyenberg	Rocky Mountain	April 1, 2007

### B. Recommendations

1. That synod offer a prayer of gratitude for the servants of God mentioned above and the many years of faithful service that they represent.

—Adopted

Rev. Bert Slofstra leads in prayer for the service of retiring ministers of the Word.

2. That synod ask the ED to send a letter of appreciation to each of the retirees that have been identified.

—Granted

## III. Work of synodical deputies

### A. Classical examination of candidates

Synodical deputies report their concurrence with the decisions of classes to admit the following to the office of minister of the Word:

Candidate	Classis	Synodical Deputies and Classes
Aaron Baart	Iakota (9/20/06)	G.M. McGuire (Northcentral Iowa) L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota) D. Tinklenberg (Heartland)
Sune Ho Bae	Greater Los Angeles (4/17/07)	J. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain) B. Persenaire (Central California) W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa)
Randy I. Beumer	Pacific Northwest (10/12/06)	K. Van Schelven (Columbia) H. Jonker (B.C. South-East) H. Numan (B.C. North-West)
Nicholas A. Blystra	Central California (3/06/07)	K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest) R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles) K. Van Schelven (Columbia)
Jaclyn D. Guikema Busch	Grand Rapids East (1/18/07)	T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North) W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South) G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley)
Lora A. Byker Copley	Grand Rapids East (9/21/06)	H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North) D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley) W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South)
Jantina Tineke Cornelison	Atlantic Northeast (3/08/07)	R. Engle (Lake Erie) C. Vander Neut (Hackensack) D. Wisse (Hudson)
Daryl J. DeKlerk	Toronto (1/18/07)	G. Van Smeedyk (Niagara) J. Kerssies (Huron) G.H. Pols (Hamilton)
Gregg Michael DeMey	Muskegon (9/21/06)	S.R. Van Eck (Illiana) T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North) D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South)
Nathan Gritter	Lake Erie (11/04/06)	T. Leunk (Grand Rapids East) T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North) D.M. Stravers (Holland)
Peter Hofman	Wisconsin (6/20/06)	J. Schuurman (Northern Illinois) J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South) G. Veenstra (Illiana)
Mwaya Wa Kitavi	Grand Rapids North (9/19/06)	W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South) M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown) D.A. Kamstra (Grandville)
Mark Knetsch	Hamilton (9/19/06)	D. Miedema (Chatham) G. Van Smeedyk (Niagara) J. Kerssies (Huron)
Steven Kooy	Quinte (5/28/07)	J. Kerssies (Huron) J. Kerkhof (Toronto) N. Cornelisse (Eastern Canada)
Steven Koster	Chicago South (11/01/06)	M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois) D.J. Roeda (Wisconsin) G. Veenstra (Illiana)
Jose Antonio (Tony) Lara	Arizona (9/16/06)	J.P. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain) D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles) W. Verhoef (California South)
Dale Melenberg	Alberta South/ Saskatchewan (10/27/06)	H. Vriend (Alberta North) H. Jonker (B.C. South-East) H. Numan (B.C. North-West)

Brian L. Ochnser	Thornapple Valley (8/08/06)	H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North) T. Leunk (Grand Rapids East) M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown)
Trevor Payton	Hamilton (11/07/07)	D. Miedema (Chatham) H.A. Vander Windt (Niagara) J. Kerssies (Huron)
Joel W. Renkema	Chicago South (9/20/06)	S. Van Eck (Illiana) D. Van De Griend (Wisconsin) J. Schuurman (Northern Illinois)
Joel Schreurs	Rocky Mountain (9/29/06)	T. Vander Ziel (Yellowstone) W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa) W. Verhoef (California South)
Ron J. Smeding	Quinte (9/26/06)	G.H. Pols (Hamilton) H.D. Praamsma (Toronto) J. Kerssies (Huron)
Bradley John Smith	Central California (5/30/07)	K. Van Schelven (Columbia) W. Verhoef (California South) R. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles)
Kevin te Brake	Quinte (11/30/06)	D. Meijer (Eastern Canada) H.D. Praamsma (Toronto) J. Kerssies (Huron)
Robert J. Toornstra	Columbia (9/30/06)	D. Kwantes (B.C. North-West) A. Helder (Central California) K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest)
Kenneth J. Vander Ploeg	Arizona (9/16/06)	J.P. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain) D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles) W. Verhoef (California South)
Julia Annette Prins Vander Veen	B.C. North-West (3/06/07)	J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan) M.J. Kooy (Pacific Northwest) H. Jonker (B.C. North-West)
Trevor G. Vander Veen	B.C. North-West (3/06/07)	J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan) M.J. Kooy (Pacific Northwest) H. Jonker (B.C. North-West)
Joel D. Vande Werken	Hudson (3/06/07)	R. Engle (Lake Erie) D. Bratt (Hackensack) S. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast)
Eugene D. Vis	Iakota (9/19/06)	G.M. McGuire (Northcentral Iowa) L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota) D. Tinklenberg (Heartland)
Winston Visser	Eastern Canada (1/16/07)	J. Kerssies (Huron) H.D. Praamsma (Toronto) E.W. Visser (Quinte)
Stephen J. Wolma	Thornapple Valley (8/08/06)	H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North) T. Leunk (Grand Rapids East) M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown)
Sid Ypma	B.C. North-West (9/26/06)	K. Van Schelven (Columbia) M.J. Kooy (Pacific Northwest) H. Jonker (B.C. South-East)

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

—*Adopted*

*B. Classical examinations via Church Order Article 7*

1. Synodical deputies L.J. Hofman (Grand Rapids East), M. DeVries (Holland), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on January 18, 2007, to admit **Mr. Russell Boersma** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies R. Timmer (Iakota), L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota), and F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), having considered the gifts of the applicant, and having heard the examination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, **do not concur** in the decision of Classis Lake Superior, in session on March 6, 2007, to declare **Mr. Rob Braun** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), W. Verhoef (California South), and J.P. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain), 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 Arizona, in session on September 15, 2006, to declare **Mr. Eduardo Gonzalez** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies J.P. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain), W. Verhoef (California South), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Arizona, in session on March 3, 2007, to admit **Mr. Eduardo Gonzalez** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
5. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), J. Dykhuis (Red Mesa), and T. Vander Ziel (Yellowstone), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 6, 2006, to admit **Mr. David Hornor**, to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
6. Synodical deputies D. Wisse (Hudson), C. Vander Neut (Hackensack), and R. Engle (Lake Erie), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast in session on October 7, 2006, to admit **Mr. Kenneth Prol**, to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
7. Synodical deputies D. Miedema (Chatham), G.H. Pols (Hamilton), and J. Kerkhof (Toronto), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of Maranatha Christian Reformed Church 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 Niagara, in session on February 15, 2007, to grant **Mr. Kenneth Van Dyk** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches until May 16, 2007.

8. Synodical deputies G.H. Pols (Hamilton), D. Miedema (Chatham), and J. Kerkhof (Toronto), having considered the gifts of the applicant, and having heard the examination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Niagara, in session on May 16, 2007, to declare **Mr. Kenneth Van Dyk** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
9. Synodical deputies D.J. Roeda (Wisconsin), W.D. Vis (Minnkota), and D. Tinklinberg (Heartland), concur in the decision of Classis Lake Superior, in session on September 18, 2006, that **Mr. Tom Van Engen's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.

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

—*Adopted*

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

1. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), B. Persenaire (Central California), and F.J. Walhof (Arizona), 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 September 19, 2006, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. David Chang**) from another denomination (Evangelical Church Alliance) to serve as pastor of Fountain of Life Mission Church, La Habra, California.
2. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain), B. Persenaire (Central California), and W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. David Chang**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on April 17, 2007, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies H. Vriend (Alberta North), J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), and H. Numan (B.C. North-West), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis B.C. South-East in session on September 26, 2006, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Joseph Chen**) from another denomination (The Home of Christ, Taiwan) to serve as pastor of Zion Christian Reformed Church, Abbotsford, British Columbia.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in an ethnic church, Chinese speaking.

4. Synodical deputies H. Vriend (Alberta North), J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), and H. Numan (B.C. North-West), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Joseph Chen**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on September 26, 2006, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
5. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), B. Persenaire (Central California), and F.J. Walhof (Arizona), 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 September 19, 2006, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Hyoung Jook [Joseph] Chun**) from another denomination (Korean Presbyterian Church) to serve as church planter in Buena Park, California.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in an ethnic church, Korean.

6. Synodical deputies W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), B. Persenaire (Central California), and F.J. Walhof (Arizona), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Hyoung Jook [Joseph] Chun**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on October 24, 2006, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
7. Synodical deputies R. Timmer (Iakota), J. Van Marion (Lake Superior), and D. Tinklenberg (Heartland), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Minnkota, in session on September 14, 2006, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Andrew W. Henry**) from another denomination (Church of Christ in the Sudan among the Tiv [NKST]) to serve as minister of Word in the Worthington Christian Reformed Church with emphasis on ministry to the international community in Worthington, Minnesota.
8. Synodical deputies J. Van Marion (Lake Superior), R. Timmer (Iakota), and D. Tinklenberg (Heartland), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Andrew W. Henry**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Minnkota, in session on September 14, 2006, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
9. Synodical deputies B. Persenaire (Central California), W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. NamJoong Kang**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 12, 2006, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
10. Synodical deputies B. Persenaire (Central California), W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. SeoKi Kang**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 12, 2006, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
11. Synodical deputies H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), K. Van Schelven (Columbia), and H. Numan (B.C. North-West), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Bom Su Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific North-West, in session on October 12, 2006, to declare him eligible

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

12. Synodical deputies S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), M. Lucas (Hudson), and R. Engle (Lake Erie), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Eun Beom Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 19, 2006, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
13. Synodical deputies B. Persenaire (Central California), W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), 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 12, 2006, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Sun-il Kim**) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church USA [PCUSA]) to serve as pastor of Oxnard Korean Christian Reformed Church, Oxnard, California.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in an ethnic minority church.

14. Synodical deputies N. Koch (California South), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and P. Persenaire (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Sun-il Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on February 13, 2007, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
15. Synodical deputies B. Persenaire (Central California), W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Sung Soo Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 12, 2006, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
16. Synodical deputies B. Persenaire (Central California), W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), 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 22, 2006, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Yong Sik Kim**) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church in America [PCA]) to serve as pastor at South Bay Early Church, a non-denominational church entering the CRC.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in ethnic minority churches.

17. Synodical deputies N. Koch (California South), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and B. Persenaire (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Yong Sik Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on February 13, 2007, to declare him eligible for

call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

18. Synodical deputies J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), M.J. Kooy (Pacific Northwest), and H. Numan (B.C. North-West), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8 (pre-Synod 2006) concur in the declaration of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on March 7, 2007, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. YoungMan Kwon**) from the Korean Presbyterian Church, to serve as pastor of Vancouver Han-Bit Christian Reformed Church, Surry, British Columbia.

*Statement of need:* (1) There is a need for indigenous leadership in the ethnic Korean churches. (2) Although the need requirement normally takes place at a classis meeting prior to the subsequent meeting for the colloquium doctum, we determine and agree that it was fully the intention of Classis B.C. South-East to declare the need factor at its September 2006 session of classis (to be followed later by the intended classis contracta meeting in December 2006).

19. Synodical deputies B. Persenaire (Central California), W.K. Butler (Red Mesa), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Eun Sung Lee**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 12, 2006, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
20. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), B. Persenaire (Central California), and F.J. Walhof (Arizona), 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 September 19, 2006, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Heun Rok [James] Lee**) from another denomination (Korean Presbyterian Church) to serve as church planter in Buena Park, California.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in ethnic-minority (Korean) churches.

21. Synodical deputies W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), B. Persenaire (Central California), and F.J. Walhof (Arizona), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Heun Rok (James) Lee**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on October 24, 2006, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
22. Synodical deputies B. Persenaire (Central California), W.K. Butler (Red Mesa), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Jae Seong Moon**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 12, 2006, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

23. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), B. Persenaire (Central California), and F.J. Walhof (Arizona), 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 September 19, 2006, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Jonas Muljo**) from another denomination (Gereja Bethel Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia) to serve as pastor of Christian Indonesian Community Church, of Anaheim, California.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in ethnic-minority churches.

24. Synodical deputies F.J. Walhof (Arizona), B. Persenaire (Central California), and W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Jonas Muljo**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on October 24, 2006, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
25. Synodical deputies J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), M.J. Kooy (Pacific Northwest), and H. Numan (B.C. North-West), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8 (pre-Synod 2006) concur in the declaration of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on March 7, 2007, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Jong Pil Oh**) from the Korean Presbyterian Church, to serve as pastor of New Life Korean Christian Reformed Church, Abbotsford, British Columbia.

*Statement of need:* (1) There is a need for indigenous leadership in the ethnic Korean churches. (2) Although the need requirement normally takes place at a classis meeting prior to the subsequent meeting for the colloquium doctum, we determine and agree that it was fully the intention of Classis B.C. South-East to declare the need factor at its September 2006 session of classis (to be followed later by the intended classis contracta meeting in December 2006).

26. Synodical deputies B. Persenaire (Central California), W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), 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 12, 2006, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. SungJae Park**) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church in America [PCA]) to serve as pastor at Arum Doun Church, Saugus, California, a nondenominational church entering the CRC.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in ethnic-minority churches.

27. Synodical deputies N. Koch (California South), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and B. Persenaire (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. SungJae Park**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on February 13, 2007, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

28. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), B. Persenaire (Central California), and F.J. Walhof (Arizona), 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 September 19, 2006, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Henry Mogollón Reyes**) from another denomination (Concilio Internacional Jesucristo Soberano) to serve as a church planter in Anaheim, California.  
*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in ethnic-minority churches.
29. Synodical deputies F.J. Walhof (Arizona), B. Persenaire (Central California), and W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Henry Mogollón Reyes**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on October 24, 2006, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
30. Synodical deputies T. Vander Ziel (Yellowstone), W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), and W. Verhoef (California South), 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 Rocky Mountain, in session on March 9, 2007, to declare **Rev. Scott Roberts** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
31. Synodical deputies H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), G.H. Pols (Hamilton), and J.M. Van de Hoef (Huron), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Chatham, in session on September 12, 2006, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. George J. Saylor**) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church in the USA) to serve as church planter in North London, Ontario.
32. Synodical deputies J. Kerssies (Huron), J. Kerkhof (Toronto), and G.H. Pols (Hamilton), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. George J. Saylor**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Chatham, in session on January 23, 2007, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
33. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 21, 2006, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. J. Chris Schroeder**) from another denomination (United Methodist) to serve as pastor.

*Statement of need:* There are many pastoral vacancies in our denomination. Rev. Schroeder has demonstrated his qualifications over the past few years in his work as a volunteer at Madison Square CRC.

34. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. J. Chris Schroeder**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 21, 2006, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

35. Synodical deputies B. Persenaire (Central California), W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), 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 12, 2006, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Seung Ho Shin**) from another denomination (Korean Presbyterian) to serve as pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church (CRC), Downey, California.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in ethnic-minority churches.

36. Synodical deputies N. Koch (California South), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and B. Persenaire (Central California), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on February 13, 2007, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Sungil Sohn**) from another denomination (Korean Presbyterian Church) to serve as senior pastor at Greenfield Presbyterian Christian Reformed Church, Los Angeles, California.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in ethnic-minority churches.

37. Synodical deputies N. Koch (California South), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and B. Persenaire (Central California), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on February 13, 2007, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. WonJoon Sohng**) from another denomination (Korean Evangelical Church of America) to serve as senior pastor of Hanain Christian Reformed Church, (entering the CRC), Monrovia, California.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in ethnic-minority churches.

38. Synodical deputies J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), and H. Numan (B.C. North-West), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Colin Ward**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta North, in session on October 17, 2006, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

39. Synodical deputies N. Koch (California South), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and B. Persenaire (Central California), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on February 13, 2007, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister



(**Rev. Dong Eun Woo**) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church in America) to serve as senior pastor at San Jose Church of God's Peace Christian Reformed Church, (entering the CRC), San Jose, California.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in ethnic-minority churches.

40. Synodical deputies J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), M.J. Kooy (Pacific Northwest), and H. Numan (B.C. North-West), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8 (pre-Synod 2006) concur in the declaration of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on March 7, 2007, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Jackil Yang**) from the Korean Presbyterian Church, to serve as pastor of Vancouver Han-Bit Christian Reformed Church, Surrey, British Columbia.

*Statement of need:* (1) There is a need for indigenous leadership in the ethnic Korean churches. (2) Although the need requirement normally takes place at a classis meeting prior to the subsequent meeting for the colloquium doctum, we determine and agree that it was fully the intention of Classis B.C. South-East to declare the need factor at its September 2006 session of classis (to be followed later by the intended classis contracta meeting in December 2006).

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

—Adopted

*D. Ministers in specialized services, Church Order Article 12-c*

1. Synodical deputies R. Timmer (Iakota), L.R. Christoffels (Minnkota), and F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Bridgewood Christian Reformed Church of Savage, Minnesota, 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 Superior, in session on March 6, 2007, to approve the position of director of training for Faithful and True Ministries as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Mark Brouwer**.
2. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Madison Square 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 September 21, 2006, to approve the position of Marketplace Chaplains, USA as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by candidate **Ms. Jaclyn Bush**.
3. Synodical deputies D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Aetna Christian Reformed Church of Falmouth, 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 Northern Michigan, in session on March 6, 2007, to approve the position of chaplain at Mercy Hospice (Cadillac, Michigan) as

consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Bradley Center**.

4. Synodical deputies W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), G.G. Heyboer (Zeeland), and D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Fairway Christian Reformed Church of Jenison, 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 Georgetown, in session on September 4, 2006, to approve the position of chaplain/executive director of Chaplain Services as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. John De Vries**.
5. Synodical deputies T. Vander Ziel (Yellowstone), W. Verhoef (California South), and W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Eastern Hills Christian Reformed Church of Aurora, 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 29, 2006, to approve the position of chaplain of Denver Health as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Ed Hommes**.
6. Synodical deputies J. Schuurman (Northern Illinois), J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), and G. Veenstra (Illiana), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Delavan Christian Reformed Church of Delavan, Wisconsin, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Wisconsin, in session on June 20, 2006, to approve the position of hospice chaplain as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Timothy Hull**.
7. Synodical deputies H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), E.W. Visser (Quinte), and J. Kerssies (Huron), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Calvary Christian Reformed Church of Ottawa, Ontario, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on October 20, 2006, to approve the position of pastor in Next Level Ministry as consistent with the ministry of Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Bryan J. Hummel**.
8. Synodical deputies H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), E.W. Visser (Quinte), and J. Kerssies (Huron), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Calvin Christian Reformed Church of Ottawa, Ontario, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on October 20, 2006, to approve the position of researcher for the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Derek Miedema**.
9. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), R. Engle (Lake Erie), and J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of South Kendall Community Christian Reformed Church of Miami, Florida, and having been satisfied that lines of



accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on September 19, 2006, to approve the position of chaplain at the Ft. Meyers Shell Point Retirement Community as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Don Steenhoek**.

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

—Adopted

*E. Loaning a minister to another denomination under Article 13-c*

Synodical deputies K. Van Schelven (Columbia), H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), and H. Numan (B.C. North-West), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on October 12, 2006, to approve loaning **Rev. David K. Watson** to Eun-Gwang Presbyterian Church of Lacey, Washington.

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

—Adopted

*F. Release from the ministry under Article 14-b*

1. Synodical deputies J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), and K. Van De Griend (Wisconsin), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Dr. Calvin Bremer**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Illiana, in session on September 27, 2006, to declare that **Dr. Calvin Bremer** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), and K. Van Schelven (Columbia), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Abraham Kei-Wing Lee**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Central California, in session on March 3, 2007, to declare that **Rev. Abraham Kei-Wing Lee** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Samuel B. Reeves, Jr.**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on May 17, 2007, to declare that **Rev. Samuel B. Reeves, Jr.** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies S.R. Van Eck (Illiana), K. Van De Griend (Wisconsin), and J. Schuurman (Northern Illinois), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Erica Schemper**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Chicago South, in session on September 20, 2006, to declare that **Rev. Erica Schemper** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

5. Synodical deputies D. Roeda (Wisconsin), H. DeVries (Kalamazoo), and D.M. Stravers (Holland), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Stephen Van Eck** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Illiana, in session on March 6, 2007, to declare that **Rev. Stephen Van Eck** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
6. Synodical deputies A. Helder (Central California), D. Kwantes (B.C. North-West), and K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), having heard the discussions relating to the de facto resignation of **Rev. Byron Van Kley**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Columbia, in session on September 30, 2006, to declare that **Rev. Byron Van Kley** 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*

Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on May 17, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Robert J. Rienstra** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation.

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

—Adopted

*H. Release from office of one whose vocation is judged to be nonministerial, Article 14-d*

Synodical deputies J. Dykhuis (Red Mesa), T. Vander Ziel (Yellowstone), and W. Verhoef (California South) having heard the discussion of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 6, 2006, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-d, that **Rev. Douglas J. Hunderman**, having entered a vocation that is judged to be nonministerial, 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

*I. Release from ministry in a congregation under Article 17-a*

1. Synodical deputies D. Miedema (Chatham), G. Van Smeedyk (Niagara), and J. Kerssies (Huron), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Hamilton, in session on September 19, 2006, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Steve Baarda** is released from ministerial service in Immanuel Christian Reformed Church of Simcoe, Ontario.

2. Synodical deputies J. Schuurman (Northern Illinois), J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), and G. Veenstra (Illiana), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Wisconsin, in session on June 20, 2006, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Robert Brenton** is released from ministerial service in First Christian Reformed Church of Randolph, Wisconsin.
3. Synodical deputies W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), and A. Petroelje (Muskegon), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Northern Michigan, in session on September 26, 2006, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Tom De Does** is released from ministerial service in Lucas Christian Reformed Church of McBain, Michigan.
4. Synodical deputies K. Van De Griend (Wisconsin), J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), and G. Veenstra (Illiana), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on September 27, 2006, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Nathan Elgersma** is released from ministerial service in Lombard Christian Reformed Church of Lombard, Illinois.
5. Synodical deputies F.J. Walhof (Arizona), B. Persenaire (Central California), and W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on October 24, 2006, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Samuel Flores** is released from ministerial service in Rosewood Christian Reformed Church of Bellflower, California.
6. Synodical deputies J. Corvers (Alberta South/ Saskatchewan), M.J. Kooy (Pacific Northwest), and H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis B.C. North-West, in session on March 6, 2006, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Koendert J. Koster** is honorably released from ministerial service in Richmond Christian Reformed Church of Richmond, British Columbia.
7. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), R. Engle (Lake Erie), and J.T. Medenblik, having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on March 2, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Xavier Suarez** is honorably released from ministerial service in Inglesia Christiana Reformada Buenas Nuevas Christian Reformed Church of Miami, Florida.
8. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), J. Dykhuis (Red Mesa), and T. Vander Ziel (Yellowstone), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 6, 2006, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Mark Tidd** is released from

ministerial service in Crestview Christian Reformed Church of Boulder, Colorado.

9. Synodical deputies J. Kerssies (Huron), J. Kerkhof (Toronto), and G.H. Pols (Hamilton), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Quinte, in session on March 22, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Jack Vander Veer** is released from ministerial service in Grace Christian Reformed Church of Cobourg, Ohio.
10. Synodical deputies G.H. Pols (Hamilton), D. Miedema (Chatham), and J. Kerkhof (Toronto), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Niagara, in session on May 2, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Walt Vanderwerf** is released from ministerial service in Maranatha Christian Reformed Church of St. Catharines, Ontario.
11. Synodical deputies J. Dykhuis (Red Mesa), T. Vander Ziel (Yellowstone), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 6, 2006, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Ray Yeo** is released from ministerial service in Crestview Christian Reformed Church of Boulder, Colorado.
12. Synodical deputies R. Timmer (Iakota), L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota), and D. Tinklenberg (Heartland), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Pella, in session on September 16, 2006, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Bill Zeilstra** is released from ministerial service in Second Christian Reformed Church of Pella, Iowa.

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

—Adopted

*J. Extension of eligibility for call under Article 17-c*

1. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 21, 2006, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Ruth Hofman**'s eligibility for call is extended for one year.
2. Synodical deputies H. Vriend (Alberta North), J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), and H. Numan (B.C. North-West), having heard the discussion of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on September 26, 2006, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. John Kemper**'s eligibility for call is extended for one year.
3. Synodical deputies K. Van Schelven (Columbia), H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), and H. Numan (B.C. North-West), having heard the discussion of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on October 12, 2006, concur in the

decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Stan Kruis**'s eligibility for call is extended for one year.

4. Synodical deputies D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), and M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session on January 16, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Augusto Liza**'s eligibility for call is extended for one year.
5. Synodical deputies J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), and H. Numan (B.C. North-West), having heard the discussion of Classis Alberta North prior to the session on March 6, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, the **Rev. Tony Maan**'s eligibility for call is extended for one year.
6. Synodical deputies D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), D.M. Stravers (Holland), and M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), having heard the discussion of Classis Zeeland, in session on September 20, 2006, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Dongo Pewee**'s eligibility for call is extended for one year.
7. Synodical deputies B. Persenaire (Central California), R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), and F.J. Walhof (Arizona), having read the discussion of Classis California South, in session on November 18, 2006, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, the **Rev. Leonard Siregar**'s eligibility for call is extended for one year.
8. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 21, 2006, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Steve Venhuizen**'s eligibility for call is extended for one year.

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

—*Adopted*

*K. Release from the office of minister of the Word 17-c*

1. Synodical deputies R. Engle (Lake Erie), C. Vander Neut (Hackensack), and D. Wisse (Hudson), having heard the discussion of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on March 8, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Will Gardner** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies F.J. Walhof (Arizona), R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the discussion of Classis Central California, in session on September 19, 2006, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Mark Hofland** is released from the office of ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

3. Synodical deputies G. Van Smeedyk (Niagara), D. Miedema (Chatham), and J. Kerssies (Huron), having heard the discussion of Classis Hamilton, in session on May 15, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Sririsack Saythavy** 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. Declaration that a ministry associate's position fits the guidelines adopted by Synod 2001 under Article 23*

1. Synodical deputies F.J. Walhof (Arizona), B. Persenaire (Central California), and W. Verhoef (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Fountain of Life Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Fountain Valley, California, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on September 19, 2006, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Fatu AuAu** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
2. Synodical deputies H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), H. Numan (B.C. North-West), and K. Van Schelven (Columbia) having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Bethel Christian Reformed Church, Lynden, Washington, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on March 6, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Ms. Yuanita Gitamara** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
3. Synodical deputies J. Gray (Pella), R. Timmer (Iakota), and L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Northern Lighthouse Christian Reformed Church, Lincoln, Nebraska, (with permission of Calvary Christian Reformed Church, Orange City, Iowa), and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis of the Heartland, in session on March 10, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Jeff Heerspink** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
4. Synodical deputies D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Pathway Ministries Christian Reformed Church of Byron Center, Michigan, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Grandville, in session on September 15, 2005, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Jim Heethuis** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.



5. Synodical deputies B. Persenaire (Central California), J. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain), and W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Bethany Christian Reformed Church of Bellflower, California, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on April 17, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Yi-Ming Kao** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
6. Synodical deputies H. Vriend (Alberta North), J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), and H. Numan (B.C. North-West), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Sahali Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Kamloops, British Columbia, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on September 26, 2006, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Tae Kim** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
7. Synodical deputies F.J. Walhof (Arizona), B. Persenaire (Central California), and W. Verhoef (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Hope International Christian Reformed Church of Arcadia, California, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on September 19, 2006, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Ms. Esther Kiyose** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
8. Synodical deputies B. Persenaire (Central California), J. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain), and W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Grace Filipino Christian Reformed Church of Bellflower, California, and having compared them to the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on April 17, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Jerry Kraesig** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
9. Synodical deputies F.J. Walhof (Arizona), B. Persenaire (Central California), and W. Verhoef (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Hope International Christian Reformed Church of Arcadia, California, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on September 19, 2006, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. SangGuen Lee** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
10. Synodical deputies B. Persenaire (Central California), R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), and F.J. Walhof (Arizona), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Trinity Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of San Diego, California, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001,

concur with the decision of Classis California South, in session on November 18, 2006, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Jose Muñoz** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.

11. Synodical deputies F.J. Walhof (Arizona), B. Persenaire (Central California), and W. Verhoef (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Little Saigon Christian Reformed Church of Westminster, California, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on September 19, 2006, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Nhan Nguyen** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
12. Synodical deputies F.J. Walhof (Arizona), B. Persenaire (Central California), and W. Verhoef (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Bethel Christian Reformed Church of Sun Valley, California, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on September 19, 2006, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Abraham Perez** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
13. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), and S.R. Van Eck (Illiana), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Racine Christian Reformed Church of Racine, Wisconsin, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Wisconsin, in session on February 28, 2006, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Henry Perez** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
14. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on September 21, 2006, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mrs. Amy Schenkel** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
15. Synodical deputies J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), M.J. Kooy (Pacific Northwest), and H. Numan (B.C. North-West), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of the Ladner Christian Reformed Church of Delta, British Columbia, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on March 7, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Jed Schoepp** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
16. Synodical deputies G. Van Smeedyk (Niagara), D. Miedema (Chatham), and J. Kerssies (Huron), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Hamilton, and



having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Hamilton, in session on May 15, 2007, that the ministry associate position of church planter to be filled by **Mr. Tim Sheridan** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.

17. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Madison Square Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Grand Rapids East, in session on May 17, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Ms. JoAnn Swart** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
18. Synodical deputies H. Vriend (Alberta North), H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), and H. Numan (B.C. North-West), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Taber Christian Reformed Church of Taber, Alberta, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session on October 27, 2006, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Ken Vis** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
19. Synodical deputies G.H. Pols (Hamilton), J. Kerssies (Huron), and B.B. Bakker (Quinte), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Clearview Christian Reformed Church of Oakville, Ontario, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Toronto, in session on September 26, 2006, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. John Wildeboer** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
20. Synodical deputies B. Persenaire (Central California), J. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain), and W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Bethany Christian Reformed Church of Bellflower, California, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on April 17, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Wallace Williams** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
21. Synodical deputies T. Leunk (Grand Rapids East), T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), and D.M. Stravers (Holland), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Lake Erie, in session on November 4, 2006, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Ms. Pat Zandstra** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.

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

—Adopted

*M. Deposition of a minister of the Word under Articles 82-83*

Synodical deputies J. Gray (Pella), L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota), and D. Tinklenberg (Heartland), having heard the grounds submitted by the council of Shalom Christian Reformed Church of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and the discussion of Classis Iakota, in session on August 24, 2006, concur in the decision of classis to approve, in accordance with Church Order Articles 82 and 83, the deposition of **Rev. Charles De Ridder** from the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Recommendations:*

1. That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.
  2. That synod offer a prayer for the many pastors, families, and congregations that are listed above, thanking God for the joys that are represented, and asking God for his mercy and healing in the pain that has been experienced.
- Adopted*

Rev. Bert Slofstra leads in prayer for the congregations, the many people, and the families affected by the above actions.

**IV. Board of Trustees**

*A. Materials:* Board of Trustees Supplement section I, H

*B. Observations*

The Board of Trustees of the CRCNA is to be commended for bringing to the attention of Synod 2007 a profound and disturbing blemish concerning our denominational missions history. The decision of Synod 1920 to initiate mission work in China rather than the Sudan was indeed made, in part, on racist grounds. This was a decision based in part on sinful values that clearly requires confession and repentance. While we can acknowledge that the decision of Synod 1920 was made in a sociopolitical context vastly less informed than ours today, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever” (Heb. 13:8).

Nevertheless, the BOT recommendation to synod prompts concern for several reasons.

First, after citing the single particularly egregious decision made by Synod 1920, there is an unexplained leap from the example to the recommendation that we confess and repent for the more broad “sin of racism.” The BOT then goes further and recommends that the CRCNA “apologize for not repenting sooner” and, finally, that we “pledge to work against the racism expressed in us.” By alternating between the specific 1920 matter and more general and presumably current racism, we are concerned that opportunity for impact may be compromised. Immediately following this recommendation, the BOT provides grounds that appear to be distinctly oriented back to the specific and most regrettable 1920 decision.

Second, there is a conspicuous absence of any reference to the efforts of the denomination since 1920 regarding the subject of racism and/or racial justice. Among the twenty-one different synods that have considered the matter, at a minimum Synods 1959, 1968, 1969, 1970, and 1971 made clear that racially motivated decisions by the church, church members, or related institutions

“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*, p. 19). More importantly, over the last fifty-plus years, the Lord has greatly prospered multicultural ministries by the CRCNA and its member congregations. Indeed, the life and ministry of our denomination has come to much better reflect the beautiful diversity of God’s family.

Third, we are concerned that the BOT recommendation does little to challenge the church and its members to new levels of engagement in education and action for racial healing. If synod were to adopt the present BOT recommendation, what would be different the next morning or next year in Chatham or Chicago?

Let there be no mistake, the CRCNA has yet to confess and repent for the racism associated with the 1920 decision. It seems best that synod *and* the churches do so in ways that truly engage God’s people. Following a heartfelt repentance, we should both thank God for his blessings upon our efforts thus far and petition the Lord for continued direction as we seek to more perfectly manifest the shalom that he wants for all people.

*C. Recommendation:* That the CRCNA on the occasion of its 150th anniversary publicly acknowledge that the mission field decision made by Synod 1920 was motivated in part by racist values, and, as such, the denomination and its members must publicly confess and repent for this sin.

*Grounds:*

1. We recognize that statements and actions from one era cannot be judged immediately against the standards of another. Nevertheless, the grounds given by Synod 1920 for the decision to go to China and not to the Sudan violate fundamental biblical truths:
  - a. The oneness of all people as created in God’s image;
  - b. Our common, absolute need for the saving grace of God, accomplished by Christ, and applied to us by the Holy Spirit;
  - c. The fact that the only good that any of us can do arises out of true faith, conforms to God’s law, and is done for his glory rather than that which is based on what we think is right or on established human tradition (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 33, Answer 91).
2. These grounds failed to reflect our confessional statement that the promise of the gospel “together with the command to repent and believe, ought to be announced and declared without differentiation or discrimination to all nations and people, to whom God in his good pleasure sends the gospel” (Canons of Dordt, Second Main Point of Doctrine, Article 5 [p. 130 in the CRC Publications 1988 edition of *Ecumenical Creeds and Reformed Confessions*]).
3. While the church must carefully discern where God calls it to announce the promise of the gospel at any given time, distinguishing between groups of people based on our judgment of what God intends to do among and through them is wrong.

Synod spends a significant amount of time discussing the above recommendation but no decision is made.

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 62.)

## ARTICLE 60

Rev. Michael Bruinooge introduces a video presentation re the Fulton Street Prayer Revival planned for September 21-23, 2007. He introduces Rev. Jonathan Brownson, minister of prayer for the Reformed Church in America, and Rev. Douglas Kampstra who addresses synod re the anniversary event.

The morning session is adjourned at 11:53 a.m. Rev. Kampstra leads in closing prayer.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON, June 14, 2007

### Eleventh Session

## ARTICLE 61

Rev. Bruce Adema, director of Canadian ministries, reads from Isaiah 2 and leads in a time of prayer for the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, and for world peace, remembering especially CPT In Soon Gho Hoagland, LTC William Hensen, LTC Gordon Terpstra, LTC Robert Bierenga, LTCOL Charles Conelisse, and LCDR Thomas Walcott. Synod sings *Psalter Hymnal* 624, "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" in response.

Rev. Michael Bruinooge, director of ministry planning, presents a PowerPoint presentation on the specialized ministries of the CRC and leads in opening prayer.

Rev. Michael J. Meekhof (Red Mesa) is absent with notice.

## ARTICLE 62

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 59.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services I, Rev. Thomas J. Niehof reporting, presents the following:

### Board of Trustees

A. *Materials:* Board of Trustees Supplement section I, H

B. *Recommendations*

1. That the CRCNA on the occasion of its 150th anniversary publicly acknowledge that the mission field decision made by Synod 1920 was motivated in part by racist values, and, as such, the denomination and its members must publicly confess and repent for this sin.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. Recognizing that statements and actions from one era cannot be judged immediately against the standards of another, these grounds violate fundamental biblical truths:
  - 1) The oneness of all people as created in God's image;
  - 2) Our common, absolute need for the saving grace of God, accomplished by Christ, and applied to us by the Holy Spirit;

- 3) The fact that the only good that any of us can do arises out of true faith, conforms to God's law, and is done for his glory rather than that which is based on what we think is right or on established human tradition (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 33, Answer 91).
- b. These grounds failed to reflect our confessional statement that the promise of the gospel "together with the command to repent and believe, ought to be announced and declared without differentiation or discrimination to all nations and people, to whom God in his good pleasure sends the gospel" (Canons of Dordt, Second Main Point of Doctrine, Article 5 [p. 130 in the CRC Publications 1988 edition of *Ecumenical Creeds and Reformed Confessions*]).
- c. While the church must carefully discern where God calls it to announce the promise of the gospel at any given time, distinguishing between groups of people based on our judgment of what God intends to do among and through them is wrong.

—Adopted

2. That the officers of synod arrange a dedicated time during Synod 2007 for the leadership of the denomination to confess and repent of this sin.

—Adopted

3. That we thank God for his blessing upon our effort to build shalom with all of his people and for prospering our efforts to build a communion that is becoming increasingly representative of the beautiful diversity of his family.

*Ground:* While we can in no way claim success or a job completed, God has worked mightily in the CRCNA to educate and transform our church, many of its related institutions, and its members. It is good to celebrate the gains the Lord has enabled us to make. Further, it is good to honor the leadership of those whom God has raised up before us. They deserve our thanks, and, in doing so, we can learn from them and challenge new leadership to develop for our continued service to Christ's kingdom.

—Adopted

4. That we ask God for his continued blessing as we go forward in our personal and corporate life-changing efforts to heal the racism that lurks in us all and, in so doing, to speed the day when the CRCNA truly reflects the transforming power of Christ.

—Adopted

5. That synod encourage the churches to make use of the new resource, entitled *Dance of Racial Reconciliation*, or *Widening the Circle* available from the Office of Race Relations.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 74.)

## ARTICLE 63

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 57.)

Advisory Committee 8, Church Order and Appeals, Rev. John Terpstra reporting, presents the following:

### **Response to Overtures 33, 34, and 35 Re Sabbath Rest**

A. *Materials*: Overtures 33, 34, and 35, pp. 474-78

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod accede to the intent of Overtures 33, 34, and 35 by not following the encouragement of Synod 2006 to begin a seven-year period where the matter of the use of women's gifts is not discussed in the assemblies of the church.

*Grounds*:

- a. Encouraging the church to keep silent about something that is critically significant to them is not healthy and may indeed create more unrest in the future.
- b. Our discussions on this matter at the congregational, council, classical, and synodical levels in the past have contributed to a better understanding of one another and the mutual hope for healing and reconciliation.
- c. Using the term *Sabbath rest* to prohibit discussion about this critical matter does a disservice to the biblical concept of Sabbath.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod declare this to be its response to Overtures 33, 34, and 35.

—*Adopted*

### **ARTICLE 64**

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 52.)

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. William Verhoef reporting, presents the following:

### **Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee and Response to Overture 11: Broaden the Use of Ministry Associates**

A. *Materials*

1. Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee Report, including appendices A and B, pp. 292-311
2. Overture 11, pp. 419-26

B. *Observations*

Synod 2004 established the SMCC, and Synod 2006 approved its mandate. The SMCC has worked hard to do what synod has asked it to do. Synod mandated the SMCC to foster the development of pastoral leadership in the CRC as well as to achieve more consistency, fairness, and justice in the way various routes to ministry are used. The SMCC spent much time this past year struggling with the Church Order Article 7 requests and the wording of Article 7 itself. In making decisions about those requests, the SMCC was impressed with the high bar that the Church Order and its Supplement sets for Article 7 candidates. No applicants in the past year met the high standards of Article 7

in the view of the SMCC. There were at least three contextual considerations operative in its assessment of Article 7 candidates: assessing extraordinary spiritual giftedness (and hardship), the greater accessibility of theological education today, and the reality of creating a separate denominational pool of candidates for ministry. The SMCC envisions a return to the use of Article 7 in line with its centuries-long use by the CRC and its predecessors in the Netherlands. It will be used exactly as the Church Order requires—in highly exceptional circumstances.

Given its perspective on the use of Article 7, the SMCC felt a double burden to help the church find new and creative ways to use the gifts of its members. It took another look at Article 23, which regulates the office of ministry associate. The SMCC believes that the CRC is blessed to have the highly versatile office of ministry associate and could more effectively meet its congregational leadership needs if the office of ministry associate were more valued, used, and supported. It suggests changes in Church Order Article 23 that would expand the role of ministry associate and have a positive impact upon ministry leadership in the CRC.

Classis Greater Los Angeles requests that the office of ministry associate be broadened in such a way as to allow a carefully selected type of organized church to ordain a ministry associate as a solo pastor. The judgment of both the classis and the denomination needs to be made regarding each case. The advisory committee believes that its proposals have merit.

### *C. Recommendations*

1. That synod remind the church that the offices of minister of the Word, elder, deacon, and ministry associate “differ from each other only in mandate and task, not in dignity and honor” (Church Order Article 2).
2. That synod declare that, in addition to meeting the high standards of Church Order Article 7, a person who seeks to be ordained as a minister of the Word by way of Article 7 must also do so in the context of a particular congregation’s desire and commitment to call that person to serve as minister of the Word.

*—Adopted*

#### *Grounds:*

- a. Such linkage of candidate and a specific congregational call better aligns our present use of Article 7 with its historical usage. This declaration reflects the fact that our denomination has done this in practice for most of its history. The first exception to it occurred in 1999. From then on, only two more such exceptions were made.
- b. Such linkage of candidate and a specific congregational call would preclude the creation of a denomination-wide pool of Article 7 candidates with no call alongside a pool of Article 6 candidates with no call. Declaring candidacy and availability for call in every Christian Reformed congregation lies within the prerogative of the synod—not a single classis (albeit with the concurrence of synodical deputies).
- c. Licensure to exhort during the Article 7 period of probation is granted by a classis and restricts ministry activity to that particular classis. Hence, in distinction from Article 6 processes, there is no opportunity



for congregations within other classes to make judgments about the singular giftedness of an Article 7 candidate, leaving only the synodical deputies to represent the entire denomination.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod add the following sentence to Church Order Article 23-c (which describes ministry associates in organized congregations):

Ministry associates who have served an organized congregation along with a minister of the Word may, in exceptional circumstances and with the approval of classis and the concurrence of synodical deputies, continue serving that congregation as a solo pastor after the minister of the Word has left.

*Ground:* This provision acknowledges that there are certain situations in which the time-tested relationship and ministry partnership of a particular organized congregation and particular ministry associate warrant exceptional consideration and an exception to the requirement that ministry associates serving organized congregations may only do so along with the minister of the Word.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 72.)

#### ARTICLE 65

The afternoon session is adjourned at 5:00 p.m. Elder delegate Gary Nibbelink leads in closing prayer.

### THURSDAY EVENING, June 14, 2007 Twelfth Session

#### ARTICLE 66

Woman adviser Carol Veldman Rudie announces *Psalter Hymnal* 187, “O, Praise the Lord for It Is Good” and reads from Isaiah 61. She announces *Sing! A New Creation* 268, “Here I Am Lord” and leads in opening prayer.

#### ARTICLE 67

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued from Article 48.)

Advisory Committee 5, Missions, Rev. Timothy J. Brown reporting, presents the following:

#### Children at the Lord’s Supper

##### A. *Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report section II, A, 16, b, including Appendix B and its addendum, pp. 27, 43-63
2. Overture 13, pp. 426-27
3. Overture 14, pp. 427-33



4. Overture 15, p. 433
5. Communication 2

#### *B. Observations*

Various synodical study committees in the past have studied the issue of how covenant children partake of the Lord's Supper. Committees have reported to Synods 1986, 1988, and 1995. Their reports have not been unified. One voice in these reports has said that covenant children must publicly profess their faith in Jesus Christ in order to participate in the Lord's Supper. Another voice has said that baptized children should be welcomed to the Lord's Table simply on the basis of their covenant status and that public profession of faith is not a prerequisite.

In response to an overture from Classis Holland, Synod 2006 adopted the following recommendation: "That synod allow for the admission of all baptized members to the Lord's Supper on the basis of their full membership in the covenant community." Synod also directed the BOT to appoint a task force to "bring any appropriate Church Order Articles into conformity with" this decision as well as to "evaluate the impact and implementation of the 1995 synodical decisions regarding synod's position on children at the Lord's Supper." The task force was also mandated to "propose approaches to further the discipleship of professing and communicant children" and to "evaluate the manner in which our churches are implementing Church Order Article 59-b and propose appropriate ways of celebrating the entrance of young confessing members into the full privileges and responsibilities of adult membership."

This task force was appointed, has done its work, and has made its recommendations through the Board of Trustees report. Synod has also received Overtures 13, 14, and 15, which relate to this subject, as well as Communication 2.

The advisory committee has carefully reviewed and discussed these materials. The committee reflects the diverse thinking within the denomination on the issue of children at the Lord's Supper. However, the advisory committee has made a concerted effort to present a unified report to synod.

#### *C. Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Rev. Michael Abma and Mrs. Pat Nederveld when the report on Children at the Lord's Supper is discussed.

*—Granted*

2. That synod assign the Faith Formation Committee the responsibility of sharing the seven universal themes prepared by the Reformed Ecumenical Council with the churches at its discretion:
  - a. There is only one category of membership in the church. All members of the church are full members of the church. While some members of the church may not have all the same privileges as all other members of the church, nevertheless, anyone who is a member of the church is fully a member of the church. When God made his covenant with his covenant people, he made a single covenant with Abraham and his descendants. After Pentecost, the apostle Peter confirmed that this covenant promise is to believers and to their children.

- b. Baptism is the mark by which covenant youth are identified as members of the church. While baptism does not in itself bring youth to salvation, it is the divinely appointed mark by which the children of believers are identified as members of Christ's church.
- c. The means of grace function together to build one community of faith. Some in the community of faith may not fully understand the preaching of the Word or actively participate in the Supper of the Lord. Nevertheless, both the sacraments together and the preaching of the gospel, are given to build up the one body of Christ. Neither the preaching nor the sacraments should ever be used to bring divisions into the body.
- d. The sacraments are given to nurture the entire community. Both baptism and the Lord's Supper serve to nurture faith in different ways at different stages in a person's growth and development. However, both sacraments nurture the faith of the entire church, not just certain members of it.
- e. Participation in the sacraments calls for a response of faith as well as involvement in the community of faith. Both baptism and the Lord's Supper are given by the Lord to call forth more and more faithful obedience to him. This obedience includes public confession of Jesus as Lord and a life that evidences a heart of faith.
- f. Instruction of Christian youth is designed to structure the response and growth of faith. Within the covenant community, instruction is not designed to initiate faith but rather to cultivate and structure the ongoing response and growth of faith. Formal instruction assumes that faith is already present within covenant youth and continues even though public expressions of that faith may have been made.
- g. Christian youth should be called to exercise the office of believer. Youth should be given the opportunity to exercise their office as believers appropriate to every stage of their growth in maturity and faith. The gifts of youth should be recognized, affirmed, and employed in service both to the Christian community and to others.

*(Acts of the Council, Grand Rapids, 1996, pp. 12-14, 44-47)*

*Grounds:*

- a. These valuable statements have originated in an ecumenical context and could be confusing if not explicitly related to the specific issues we are confronting.
- b. If shared with the churches either as a whole or in part by the committee, along with helpful and appropriate comments, the churches will benefit more fully from this document.

*—Adopted*

- 3. That synod establish a Faith Formation Committee (to be appointed by the Board of Trustees) with the following mandate:

To deepen the integration of biblical teaching; confessional norms; church polity; and liturgical, educational, and pastoral practices in the CRC with respect to (1) participation in the Lord's Supper and (2) public profession of faith, by means of:

- a. Formulating a clear statement about the participation of baptized children at the Lord's Supper and the practice of public profession of faith for use in the churches. The statement should include, first, an explanation of 1 Corinthians 11 and other relevant Scripture texts in light of the principles of Reformed

hermeneutics and, second, a discussion of the Reformed confessions with emphasis on the implications of the relationship between covenant and sacraments.

- b. Describing how Christian Reformed congregations in various contexts are experiencing intergenerational faith formation and sacramental practice and discerning which liturgical, educational, and organizational practices should be commended by synod to the entire denomination on the basis of their pastoral and theological integrity.
- c. Discussing with various agencies and organizations that work in the areas of faith formation, pastoral care, and worship (e.g., Calvin Theological Seminary, Home Missions, Youth Unlimited, Christian Schools International, the Center for Excellence in Preaching at Calvin Theological Seminary, and the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship) what kinds of collaborative educational efforts best promise to support pastorally sensitive, theologically grounded work in these topics.
- d. Providing guidelines, liturgical materials, and pastoral advice on these topics in collaboration with Faith Alive Christian Resources.
- e. Serving as a resource for discussions of these topics at a congregational and classical level.
- f. Reporting to synod annually for the next five years.

*Grounds:*

- a. Our approach to the question of participation at the Lord's Supper and public profession of faith must proceed on the basis of a clear statement of biblical and theological rationale.
- b. A study committee on biblical and theological issues alone is insufficient. An ongoing discussion needs to take place at all levels of the church to link our theology with our practice within a whole cluster of issues that relate to the sacraments, the preached Word, faith formation, church discipline, and practices that sustain lifelong discipleship.
- c. Our approach to children at the Lord's Supper and profession of faith needs to be part of a larger discussion of faithful and vital intergenerational faith formation in various contexts. Mutual accountability and learning among very different types of congregations is only likely to happen when there are intentional structures in place to promote it.
- d. Several congregations are already asking for shared wisdom on this topic.
- e. Given strongly held opinions on this issue and growing diversity of practices, this topic is likely to be discussed throughout the denomination for at least the next five years. A pastorally and theologically oriented committee, attuned to the diversity of ministry settings within the denomination, would be well positioned to shepherd a healthy theological dialogue within the denomination over time.

- f. This approach would be a cost-effective means of shepherding this discussion, especially given the availability of the Internet to promote communication among committee members and to disseminate information to the denomination.
- g. The work of such a committee would be a fitting way to carry forward the themes, insights, and energy developed during the denominational Year of Faith Formation (2007-2008).

*Note:* The advisory committee believes that the Faith Formation Committee is needed whether synod adopts, fails to adopt, or delays adopting the Church Order revisions presented in the Board of Trustees report. Synod's action on these Church Order revisions would certainly affect the context of the committee's work, but not its mandate, its value, or its potential positive impact.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod receive for information the Church Order revisions in the Board of Trustees report (see Appendix B, section II, A) and forward them to the Faith Formation Committee for further review in light of the committee's biblical and theological study.

*Grounds:*

- a. Changes in the Church Order should follow biblical and theological study and reflection on our confessions (e.g., Belgic Confession Art. 35 and Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 81).
- b. Many churches are not aware of the decision of Synod 2006 on this matter.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod, during the five year period of the Faith Formation Committee's mandate, grant to congregations the freedom to admit all baptized members to the Lord's Table upon approval of the consistory.

*Ground:* Synod 2006 was persuaded that the study committee reports of 1986, 1988, and 1995 provide sufficient biblical and theological grounds for the admittance of baptized members to the Lord's Table on the basis of Reformed covenantal theology.

—*Defeated*

6. That the concerns expressed in Overtures 13, 14, and 15 and Communication 2 be referred to the Faith Formation Committee and that synod declare that the above actions are its response to these overtures and this communication.

—*Adopted*

7. That synod express appreciation to the task force of the BOT for its sensitive and useful report.

—*Adopted*

## ARTICLE 68

The evening session is adjourned at 9:33 p.m. Elder delegate Tamba George Foryoh and ethnic adviser Yatta Foryoh lead in singing of a salvation song in the Mende African language. Vice president Cecil Van Niejenhuis leads in closing prayer.

**FRIDAY MORNING, June 15, 2007**  
**Thirteenth Session**

**ARTICLE 69**

The executive director calls synod to a prayer of repentance and reconciliation—all present encircle the auditorium. Vice president Cecil Van Nijenhuis reads a selection from the Belhar Confession. Elder delegate Colin P. Watson, Sr., leads in prayer followed by the singing of *Sing! A New Creation* 259, “Holy Holy Holy” and “Take My Life.” The executive director leads in a litany from the draft *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony* 15-18. Dr. Joel H. Nederhood leads in prayer followed by the singing of *Sing! A New Creation* 56, “Change My Heart, O God.” The ED leads in prayer. The time of worship concludes with the singing of “There Is a Fountain” and “We Are One in the Spirit.”

The roll indicates that Norman Chee (Red Mesa), Harry Faber (Yellowstone), Gerald A. Koning (Georgetown) Merwyn Tanis (Greater Los Angeles), Paul Van Zanten (Pacific Northwest), and Harry J. Weidenaar (Pacific Northwest) are absent.

**ARTICLE 70**

A delegate presents the following motion:

That synod, on this 150th anniversary of our denomination and the 150th anniversary of the Fulton Street Noon Prayer Meeting, urge the members of our churches, especially the leadership of our congregations, to either begin or to become part of an hour of prayer in their communities.

*Grounds:*

1. Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5 TNIV). Remaining or dwelling in Jesus is what prayer is all about.
2. Prayer is one of the greatest ways God draws together the members of his splintered family.
3. As we seek God in communal prayer, he guides and motivates us to work and serve him and our community in greater ways.
4. Communal prayer and praise is one of the very best ways to spend an hour of our week with our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

—Adopted

**ARTICLE 71**

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued from Article 56.)

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Terry D. Slachter reporting, presents the following:

## **Response to Overture 17: Appoint a Study Committee to Study the Growing Practice of Infant Dedication and the Practice of Infant Baptism**

A. *Materials*: Overture 17, p. 437

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod not accede to Overture 17.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod affirm the church's commitment to the practice of covenant baptism.

*Grounds*:

- a. The practice of infant dedication can never replace the beauty of the expression of God's covenant of grace communicated in the sacrament of baptizing infants.
- b. The practice of baptizing infants is the normative practice prescribed by the Reformed confessions (HC Q. and A. 74; BC Art. 34; and Church Order Art. 56.)

—*Adopted*

3. That synod discourage the practice of infant dedication.

*Ground*: This reflects what is stated in Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 74 and in our baptismal form.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod mandate the Faith Formation Committee to provide biblical and pastoral guidance for councils who are conversing with those members who are requesting infant dedication in place of infant baptism.

*Ground*: More than forty years have passed since synod last addressed infant baptism. We live in a different day than when synod last addressed these matters, and the churches would be well served by carefully considering together questions not previously raised surrounding infant dedication, as well as be provided with a fresh articulation of the practice of infant baptism.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod mandate the Faith Formation Committee to provide guidance concerning liturgical practices surrounding infant baptism.

*Ground*: Because liturgical practices teach doctrine, it is important that liturgical practices reflect the doctrinal standards of the denomination.

—*Adopted*

6. That this be synod's response to Overture 17.

—*Adopted*

## **ARTICLE 72**

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 64.)

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. William Verhoef reporting, presents the following:

## I. Introduction

*Recommendation:* That synod note the importance of denominationally related institutions of higher education in our experience of God's grace through the generations and acknowledge the value of such education even in an environment of higher costs.

—Adopted

## II. Calvin College

### A. Materials

1. Calvin College Report, pp. 187-89
2. Calvin College Supplement

### B. Recommendations

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to the chair of the board, Mr. Bastian A. Knoppers; and the president of the college, Dr. Gaylen J. Byker, when matters pertaining to education are presented.  
—Granted
2. That synod ratify the following reappointments with tenure (*italics indicate promotion to that rank*):
  - a. Eric J. Arnoys, Ph.D., *associate professor* of chemistry and biochemistry
  - b. Brian R. Bolt, Ph.D., *professor* of physical education
  - c. Arlene J. Hoogewerf, Ph.D., *associate professor* of biology
  - d. Stacy Jackson, Ph.D., *professor* of economics and business
  - e. Joel M.P. Navarro, D.M.A., *associate professor* of music
  - f. Michael J. Page, Ph.D., *professor* of communication arts and sciences
  - g. Dwight E. TenHuisen, Ph.D., *associate professor* of Spanish
  - h. Amber L. Warners, Ph.D., *associate professor* of physical education
  - i. Mary E. Flikkema, M.S.N., *associate professor* of nursing  
—Adopted
3. That synod give appropriate recognition to the following for service to Calvin College and the Christian Reformed Church and confer on them the titles listed below:

John D. Beebe, Ph.D., professor of biology, emeritus  
James Bradley, Ph.D., professor of mathematics and statistics, emeritus  
Daryl M. Brink, Ph.D., professor of mathematics, emeritus  
Wayne G. Joosse, Ph.D., professor of psychology, emeritus  
James D. Korf, Ph.D., professor of communications arts and sciences, emeritus  
Arie Leegwater, Ph.D., professor of chemistry, emeritus  
Jeffrey R. Pettinga, M.A., professor of physical education, emeritus  
Kenneth Piers, Ph.D., professor of chemistry, emeritus  
Edward D. Seely, Ph.D., manager of ministry resource center, emeritus  
Calvin R. Stapert, Ph.D., professor of music, emeritus  
LeRoy D. Stegink, Ph.D., professor education, emeritus  
Robert H. Terborg, Ph.D., professor of psychology, emeritus

—Adopted

### **III. Dordt College**

*A. Materials:* Dordt College Report, pp. 315-16

*B. Recommendation:* That synod commend Dordt College for its unceasing work of equipping students for lives of wholehearted kingdom service, for seeking Christ-centered renewal in all aspects of contemporary life, and for working to expand and extend the impact of Christ's kingdom around the world.

—Adopted

### **IV. Institute for Christian Studies**

*A. Materials:* Institute for Christian Studies Report, pp. 317-18

*B. Recommendation:* That synod commend the Institute for Christian Studies as it looks back on the blessings of the past year—for the work of the Institute's new president, Dr. John Suk, and the anticipation that his time at the Institute may be a time of great blessing; for the work of the Institute in continuing to provide Christian leadership to the academic community; and for the several conferences that the Institute sponsored in the past year. In addition, synod also extends sympathy to the ICS community as it mourns the passing of Dr. George Vandervelde.

—Adopted

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

*A. Materials:* The King's University College Report, pp. 319-20

*B. Recommendation:* That synod commend The King's University College as it explores what Educating for Shalom means; as it moves forward in awe and delight, learning and teaching the wonders of the world; and as it encourages the students to develop their gifts. Synod also shares its concern with the enrollment challenges that are facing The King's University College today and encourages classes and congregations to make this issue a prayer concern.

—Adopted

### **VI. Kuyper College**

*A. Materials:* Kuyper College Report, p. 321

*B. Recommendation:* That synod commend Kuyper College for its program additions in music and worship, social work, distance education, and sports ministry. Synod also commends Kuyper College for its expanding multi-cultural student population, and for its focus on Christian vocations in both domestic and international settings. Synod thanks the president, board, faculty, and staff for their vision and initiative in educating for kingdom service.

—Adopted



## **VII. Redeemer University College**

A. *Materials*: Redeemer University College Report, pp. 322-23

B. *Recommendation*: That synod commend Redeemer University College in this their twenty-fifth year of educational ministry for serving a growing and diverse student body with solid Christian and Reformed education, expanding the faculty and programs, and expanding the facilities. Synod also shares Redeemer's concern for the rising cost of education and encourages its continued efforts to make Christian higher education available to as many students as possible.

—Adopted

## **VIII. Trinity Christian College**

A. *Materials*: Trinity Christian College Report, pp. 324-25

B. *Recommendation*: That synod commend Trinity Christian College as it gives thanks to God for his blessings of growth in various ways: As a more diverse ethnic community; in partnership with area churches through the Church Connection Initiative at Trinity (CCIT); as an urban and suburban Reformed witness to the Chicagoland area; and as a servant community to global needs, as well as concerns in the more immediate area. May God continue to guide this academic community as it serves the coming of Christ's kingdom.

—Adopted

## **IX. Dynamic Youth Ministries**

A. *Materials*: Dynamic Youth Ministries Report, pp. 326-28

B. *Recommendation*: That synod commend the work of Dynamic Youth Ministries as it continues to provide avenues and opportunities to train and develop the youth of our denomination and beyond through the Calvinist Cadet Corps, GEMS Girl's Clubs, and Youth Unlimited. Synod notes with thanksgiving the beginning of Cadet and GEMS programs in Africa.

—Adopted

*Note*: Youth Unlimited continues to strive to teach and offer opportunities for teens to grow and live out their Christian faith by promoting events and materials that encourage teens to go "beyond hammering a nail and painting a wall" and by encouraging them to develop relationships with their neighbors and their Lord. May God continue to bless the work of Dynamic Youth Ministries as these ministries continue to assist the church in equipping and training faithful followers of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 77.)

## **ARTICLE 73**

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued from Article 32.)

Advisory Committee 4, Publications, Rev. Peter A. Hoytema reporting, presents the following:

## **Faith Alive Christian Resources (formerly CRC Publications)**

A. *Materials*: Overture 6, pp. 402-13

B. *Recommendation*: That synod approve the following list of individuals to serve on a nine-member committee to study the issue of the migration of workers:

Dr. Joel Carpenter  
Ms. Rose Dekker  
Ms. Kathy Hanenburg  
Rev. Andrew Narm  
Rev. Ramon Orostizaga  
Mr. Duane Postma  
Mr. Chris Pullenayegem  
Ms. Theresa Renkema  
Mr. Daniel Vink  
Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra (ex officio)  
Calvin Theological Seminary professor (adviser)

—*Adopted*

### **ARTICLE 74**

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 62.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services I, Rev. Thomas J. Niehof reporting, presents the following:

#### **Board of Trustees**

A. *Materials*: Communication 1, pp. 483-89

B. *Recommendation*: That synod take note of the concerns raised in Communication 1.

—*Adopted*

### **ARTICLE 75**

The morning session is adjourned at 11:55 a.m. Rev. Timothy S. Bossenbroek leads in closing prayer.

## **FRIDAY AFTERNOON, June 15, 2007**

### **Fourteenth Session**

#### **ARTICLE 76**

Vice president Cecil Van Niejenhuis announces *Psalter Hymnal* 501, “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” and leads in opening prayer.

## ARTICLE 77

(The report from Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 72.)

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. William Verhoef reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee and Response to Overture 11: Broaden the Use of Ministry Associates**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee Report, including appendices A and B, pp. 292-311
2. Overture 11, pp. 419-26

#### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod adopt the following wording for Church Order Article 23-b (which describes ministry associates in emerging congregations):

Ministry associates who continue to serve a newly organized congregation beyond this reasonable period of transition must seek the permission of classis with the concurrence of the synodical deputies.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. This provision acknowledges certain circumstances in which it may be appropriate for the ministry associate's service to continue beyond this reasonable period of transition and gives classis a way to validate and clearly legitimize such service.
- b. By requiring classical permission, this provision maintains the exceptional nature of such continued service.

—Adopted

2. That synod add to Church Order Article 23 a new lettered statement:

d. Ministry associates may be called to serve as solo pastors in organized congregations if the classis, with the concurring advice of synodical deputies, ascertains that such congregations have economic need and are from a ministry context where the standards for pastoral preparation required by Articles 6, 7, or 8 are not presently practical.

(The former Article 23-d becomes 23-e.)

#### *Grounds:*

- a. This arrangement provides a path into ministry in organized congregations for individuals entering the CRC who do not have a master of divinity degree or do not meet the other standards required for Church Order Article 6, 7, or 8 ordination to minister of the Word.
- b. This arrangement preserves Articles 6, 7, and 8 as the normal routes to pastoral ministry in the CRC.
- c. This arrangement helps the denomination address the significant current and anticipated need for pastors to serve in our churches.

d. This arrangement has already been a blessing to a number of congregations in the Christian Reformed Church.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod declare that ministry associates serving as solo pastors of organized congregations and “acknowledged as elders of their calling churches” (Church Order Article 23) may be sent as ministerial delegates to synod and nominated to serve in other denominational functions where a person must normally be a minister of the Word and that this change be reflected in a Supplement to Church Order Article 45.

*Ground:* This arrangement allows the classes and the broader church to recognize and make use of the pastoral gifts of those serving as solo pastors who are ordained as ministry associates.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod declare additions to Church Order Article 23 in Recommendation 2 above (new Article 23-d) to be a substantial change requiring adoption by Synod 2008.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod declare Recommendations 1-3 above to be the response to Overture 11.

—*Adopted*

6. That synod instruct the SMCC to generate more feasible and flexible alternatives to the Modified Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy that take into account the diversity of Article 7 and 8 candidates and ministry settings in the CRC.

—*Adopted*

7. That synod instruct the SMCC to address questions regarding the professional status of ministry associate in certain chaplaincy settings (e.g., ministerial privileges in prison or hospital settings) with a view to facilitating their ministry in such settings.

—*Adopted*

## **II. Response to Overtures 9 and 10: Do Not Approve Changes to the Church Order Articles 7 and 8 re the SMCC (majority report)**

### *A. Materials*

1. Overture 9, pp. 415-18
2. Overture 10, pp. 418-19
3. Board of Trustees Report section II, A, 17, pp. 27-28

### *B. Observation*

The advisory committee reviewed previous synodical decisions related to the SMCC’s mandate and function and to the concerns raised in Overtures 9 and 10.

C. *Recommendation*: That synod not accede to Overtures 9 and 10.

*Grounds*:

1. The SMCC is operating within the mandate and function given to it by synod.
2. The concerns expressed in the overtures do not provide compelling reasons to change the mandate and function of the SMCC.

According to the Rules of Synodical Procedure, the minority report re a response to Overtures 9 and 10, is presented as information by elder delegate Jose Rayas:

**Response to Overtures 9 and 10: Do Not Approve Changes to the Church Order Articles 7 and 8 re the SMCC  
(minority report)**

A. *Materials*

1. Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee Supplement, pp. 292-311
2. Overture 9, pp. 415-18
3. Overture 10, pp. 418-19

B. *Introduction*

Historically, the CRC has had several routes into ministry within the denomination: Articles 6, 7, 8, and 23.

Synod 2004 established the Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee (SMCC) in response to recommendations made by the Committee to Provide Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Ministry. Since then, a procedure has been established in fulfillment of the mandate. There is much tension, however, regarding the mandate and the execution of these guidelines.

In order to address this fully, we must keep in mind the variety of settings in which CRC ministry is carried out across the continent. Many and varied are the people of God who desire to serve him in their own context: Koreans, Hispanics, African Americans, and many more.

While we do not dissent with the advisory committee's recommendations up to this point, the minority cannot follow the majority of the committee in regard to its evaluation of the SMCC's execution of its mandate. Although the minority does not encourage synod to adopt Overtures 9 and 10, it does believe that these overtures raise important concerns regarding the discharge of the SMCC's task.

The minority recognizes that there have been abuses of Article 7 that the SMCC is rightly trying to prevent. However, the SMCC has chosen to be highly restrictive in its dealing with potential applicants.

The minority believes there must be flexibility in the process to address the empty pulpits and the needs of the established and new emerging churches that are coming up in a different cultural/linguistic context.

C. *Observations*

The SMCC notes in its report that "when it applied these stringent criteria to the requests received this past year, in no case was it persuaded that the applicants met the high standard of Article 7" (*Agenda for Synod 2007*, p. 295). After conversation with members of the SMCC in our advisory committee, it is

difficult to imagine an individual who could actually meet the criteria based on the SMCC's interpretation of the standard.

#### *D. Recommendations*

1. That synod instruct the SMCC to reexamine its overly restrictive interpretation of the necessary qualifications for admittance to ministry under Article 7.

##### *Grounds:*

- a. The SMCC's standard that an applicant for consideration for Article 7 be "more gifted than most if not all seminarians" (p. 296) is not necessitated by Article 7. For example, it could be maintained, and one could hope, that most seminarians are singularly gifted individuals.
  - b. The SMCC needs to consider such factors as proven and consistently fruitful service within an established or an emerging church as an indication of such singular giftedness.
  - c. The SMCC's process does not allow for a comprehensive assessment of such gifts and abilities. Usually, the determination is made without any interview of the applicants. Such interviews are impossible without a significant increase in staffing for the SMCC.
  - d. The SMCC admits that "the application of Article 7 has always been shaped by the particular historical circumstances in which the church found itself at the time" (p. 295). The SMCC should consider the unique opportunity to incorporate brothers and sisters of nonmajority cultures into the CRC as a historical circumstance meriting a less restrictive interpretation than the one SMCC has chosen.
  - e. Current SMCC practice effectively removes the determination of qualification for Article 7 from the classis and the synodical deputies. The SMCC could assist the classis and synodical deputies with standards for interviews of applicants for Article 7.
2. That synod consider the above as its response to Overtures 9 and 10.

Following the rules of procedure, synod returns to consideration of the recommendation of the advisory committee's majority report.

##### *Recommendations of the majority report*

1. That synod not accede to Overtures 9 and 10.

##### *Grounds:*

- a. The SMCC is operating within the mandate and function given to it by synod.
- b. The concerns expressed in the overtures do not provide compelling reasons to change the mandate and function of the SMCC.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod thank the SMCC and its members for the difficult but necessary work it does for our denomination.

—*Adopted*

## ARTICLE 78

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 Synod 2008

#### A. Officers

1. Executive director: Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra
2. Director of denominational ministries: Ms. Sandy F. Johnson
3. Director of synodical services: Ms. Diane S. Recker
4. Director of finance and administration: Mr. John H. Bolt
5. Director of Canadian ministries: Rev. Bruce G. Adema

#### B. Functionaries

Arrangements for Synod 2008: Mr. Jeff Stob, director of conference and campus events at Calvin College

#### C. Convening church

Convening church for Synod 2008: The River Walk Community Christian Reformed Church, Battle Creek, Michigan

### II. Synodical deputies

Classis	Deputy	Alternate	Term Expires
Alberta North	Rev. Harry Vriend	Rev. Cecil Van Niejenhuis	2009(2)
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Rev. Jake Corvers	Rev. Andrew Joosse	2010(2)
Arizona	Rev. John J. Berends		2008(1)
Atlantic Northeast	Rev. Stanley J. Vander Klay	Rev. James Vande Lune	2009(1)
B.C. North-West	Rev. Henry Numan	Rev. Dick Kwantes	2010(2)
B.C. South-East	Rev. Henry Jonker	Rev. Alvin Beukema	2010(2)
California South	Rev. William Verhoef	Rev. Neville Koch	2010(2)
Central California	Rev. Bruce Persenaire	Rev. Al Helder	2010(2)
Chatham	Rev. Dirk Miedema	Rev. Rich deLange	2008(1)
Chicago South	Rev. Julius T. Medenblik	Rev. Gerald R. Erffmeyer.	2008(2)
Columbia	Rev. Kenneth Van Schelven	Rev. Jelmer P. Groenewold	2009(2)
Eastern Canada	Rev. Nicolaas Cornelisse	Rev. Daryl J. Meijer	2009(2)
Georgetown	Rev. Matthew A. Palsrok	Rev. Gerald Koning	2010(2)
Grand Rapids East	Rev. Thea Leunk	Rev. Leonard J. Hofman	2009(1)
Grand Rapids North	Rev. Henry Admiraal	Rev. Terry D. Slachter	2010(1)
Grand Rapids South	Rev. Wilmer R. Witte	Rev. David A. Struyk	2007(2)
Grandville	Rev. Douglas A. Kamstra		2007(2)
Greater Los Angeles	Rev. Ronald D. Goudzwaard	Rev. David R. Koll	2009(1)
Hackensack	Rev. Clair Vander Neut	Rev. Douglas H. Bratt	2009(2)
Hamilton	Rev. Gordon H. Pols	Rev. Henry Kranenburg	2010(2)
Heartland	Rev. Timothy J. Ouwinga	Rev. Paul A. Hansen	2010(1)
Holland	Rev. Dick M. Stravers	Rev. Michael De Vries	2009(2)
Hudson	Rev. Donald Wisse	Rev. Norman Brown	2010(1)
Huron	Rev. John Kerssies	Rev. Jacob M. Van de Hoef	2009(1)
lakota	Rev. Robert Timmer	Rev. Aldon Kuiper	2008(1)
Illiana	Rev. Gerrit Veenstra	Rev. Calvin J. Aardsma	2010(2)
Kalamazoo	Rev. Hendrik De Vries	Rev. Kenneth A. Baker	2008(1)
Lake Erie	Rev. Randall Engle	Rev. Robert Arbogast	2008(2)
Lake Superior	Rev. Jack Van Marion	Rev. David L. Smit	2008(1)

Minnkota	Rev. LeRoy G. Christoffels	Rev. William D. Vis	2010(2)
Muskegon	Rev. Allen Petroelje	Rev. Gerald D. Postema	2010(2)
Niagara	Rev. Harry A. Vander Windt	Rev. Gerald Van Smeerdyk	2008(1)
Northcentral Iowa	Rev. Frank E. Pott	Rev. George M. McGuire	2010(2)
Northern Illinois	Rev. Merle Den Bleyker	Rev. John Schuurman	2009(2)
Northern Michigan	Rev. Robert D. Steen	Rev. Ronald Klimp	2010(2)
Pacific Hanmi	Rev. Suh Hyun Park	Rev. Byung Duk Min	2009(1)
Pacific Northwest	Rev. Kenneth D. Koeman	Rev. Michael J. Kooy	2007(2)
Pella	Rev. Jack Gray	Rev. Jeffrey L. Sajdak	2010(2)
Quinte	Rev. B. Bernard Bakker	Rev. Ed W. Visser	2009(2)
Red Mesa	Rev. W. Keith Bulthuis	Rev. John Dykhuis	2009(1)
Rocky Mountain	Rev. Jacob P. Boonstra		2007(2)
Southeast U.S.	Rev. Vernon Vander Zee		2009(2)
Thornapple Valley	Rev. David D. Poolman	Rev. Gerard Bouma	2010(2)
Toronto	Rev. Jack Kerkhof	Rev. Nick Overduin	2009(1)
Wisconsin	Rev. Daniel J. Roeda		2008(1)
Yellowstone	Rev. Thomas Vander Ziel	Rev. Randal Van Osdol	2008(2)
Zeeland	Rev. Gerry G. Heyboer	Rev. Ronald De Young	2008(1)

### III. Boards and committees

*Note:* Members of the regional boards (Board of Trustees of the CRCNA, the boards of The Back to God Hour, Calvin College, Calvin Theological Seminary, Christian Reformed Home Missions, Christian Reformed World Missions, and Faith Alive Christian Resources) are elected from the following twelve Regions:

*Region 1*—Classes B.C. North-West and B.C. South-East

*Region 2*—Classes Alberta North, Alberta South/Saskatchewan, and Lake Superior (Canadian congregations)

*Region 3*—Classes Eastern Canada, Quinte, and Toronto

*Region 4*—Classes Chatham, Hamilton, Huron, and Niagara

*Region 5*—Classes Columbia, Pacific Northwest, and Yellowstone

*Region 6*—Classes Central California, Greater Los Angeles, California South, and Pacific Hanmi

*Region 7*—Classes Rocky Mountain, Red Mesa, and Arizona

*Region 8*—Classes Heartland, Iakota, Lake Superior (U.S. congregations), Minnkota, Northcentral Iowa, and Pella

*Region 9*—Classes Illiana, Chicago South, Northern Illinois, and Wisconsin

*Region 10*—Classes Georgetown, Holland, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Northern Michigan, and Zeeland

*Region 11*—Grand Rapids East, Grand Rapids North, Grand Rapids South, Grandville, Lake Erie, and Thornapple Valley

*Region 12*—Classes Atlantic Northeast, Hackensack, Hudson, and Southeast U.S.

#### A. Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

District	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
<i>Canadian members</i>			
Alberta North	Rev. John Pasma	Rev. Neil De Koning	2009(2)
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Rev. John R. Huizinga	Rev. Kevin J. Vryhof	2010(1)
B.C. North-West	Mr. William Crofton	Mr. Andy deRuyter	2009(2)
B.C. South-East	Rev. Kenneth D. Boonstra	Rev. Colin Vander Ploeg	2009(1)
Chatham	Mr. Jack Geschiere	Mr. Patrick McNamara	2008(2)



Eastern Canada	Rev. Paul R. Vanderkooy		2010(2)
Hamilton	Rev. Arie G. Van Eek	Rev. William C. Veenstra	2010(2)
Huron	Mr. Gary VanArragon	Mr. Jack Tacoma	2008(1)
Lake Superior	Rev. William C. Tuininga	Rev. Evert Busink	2008(2)
Niagara	Rev. Andrew E. Beunk	Rev. James C. Dekker	2009(2)
Quinte	Rev. Jake Kuipers	Dr. William T. Koopmans	2008(2)
Toronto	Mr. Marten Mol	Mr. Peter A. Neteboom	2010(1)
At-large	Ms. Gayle Monsma	Ms. Hilda Roukema	2008(1)
	Mr. Keith Oosthoek	Mr. Bert Schouten	2009(2)
	Mrs. Patricia Storteboom	Mrs. Cindy Bruin	2010(2)
<i>U.S. members</i>			
Region 5	Rev. Rod Vander Ley		2010(2)
Region 6	Rev. Mark D. Vermaire	Rev. Carl Kromminga, Jr.	2008(1)
Region 7	Mrs. N. Theresa Rottschafer	Mr. Walter F. Ackerman	2008(2)
Region 8	Mr. Gary Van Engelenhoven	Mr. Joe Van Tol	2010(1)
	Mr. Marion D. Van Soelen	Mr. Lane Bonnema	2008(2)
Region 9	Rev. Robert A. Lyzenga	Dr. James La Grand	2009(1)
Region 10	Rev. John Rop, Jr.	Dr. Ronald D. De Young	2009(1)
	Ms. Suzanne Van Engen	Mr. Edward Zylstra	2010(1)
Region 11	Ms. JoAnn Liefiers Swart	Ms. Cynthia M. VanderKodde	2010(1)
	Rev. Daniel B. Mouw	Rev. Kenneth E. Van Wyk	2010(2)
	Mrs. Beverly A. Weeks	Mrs. Kathy Steenwyk	2008(2)
Region 12	Mr. Dan Cooke	Mr. Cornelius J. Bushoven	2008(2)
At-large	Mr. James Clousing		2010(2)
	Rev. Mary S. Hulst	Rev. Eleanor M. Rietkerk	2009(1)
	Ms. Sari Mills	Mrs. Cindy Vander Kodde	2010(2)
Ex officio	Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra, executive director		
<i>B. The Back to God Hour</i>			
Region	Member		Term Expires
Region 1	Rev. Ezra Sui Cheung Ng		2010(2)
Region 2	Mrs. Rose Olthuis		2008(2)
Region 3	Mr. Sybren VanderZwaag		2009(2)
Region 4	Ms. Alice Klamer		2010(1)
Region 5	Rev. Mark Van Haitsma		2008(2)
Region 6	Rev. Bruce Persenaire		2009(1)
Region 7	Mr. Henry W. Rottschafer		2008(2)
Region 8	Rev. Timothy Brown		2010(1)
Region 9	Ms. Ellen Hamilton		2010(2)
Region 10	Rev. Marvin J. Hofman		2008(1)
	Mrs. Carol Woltjer		2008(1)
Region 11	Mr. Lorin Bossenbroek		2009(1)
	Mr. Arnold Morren		2008(1)
Region 12	Mr. Jim Putt		2009(1)
At-large	Mr. Harry Boessenkool		2009(1)
<i>C. Calvin College Board of Trustees</i>			
Region	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
Regions 1 and 2	Dr. Alyce Oosterhuis	Rev. Christopher Fluit	2008(1)
Region 3	Mr. Martin Mudde	Dr. Ineke Neutel	2009(2)
Region 4	Mr. Peter J. Schuurman		2010(2)
Region 5	Mr. Ronald M. Leistra		2009(2)

Region 6	Mrs. Karen Wynbeek	Mrs. Mavis A. Moon	2010(2)
Region 7	Dr. Mary Poel	Dr. Philip L. Kamps	2008(1)
Region 8	Rev. David A. Zylstra	Mrs. Kimberly Brinks-Starkenburgh	2010(2)
Region 9	Mr. Craig D. Friesema	Dr. William F. De Rose	2008(2)
Region 10	Rev. Gerald L. Hoek	Mr. Perry D. Recker	2009(2)
	Rev. Joseph A. Brinks	Mrs. Barbara A. Buteyn	2009(2)
	Mr. Roger N. Brummel	Mr. Calvin Hulst	2009(1)
	Mr. William R. Ryckbost	Mrs. Nancy Van Antwerpen-Mulder	2010(2)
Region 11	Mr. William J. Alphenaar, Jr.	Dr. Ralph Katerberg	2008(2)
	Mr. James Haagsma	Ms. Evonne Plantinga	2009(2)
	Mr. Craig B. Klamer	Mr. Max B. Van Wyk	2010(2)
Region 12	Rev. Douglas H. Bratt	Mr. Donald Sporn	2008(2)
Alumni	Mr. Ronald E. Baylor		2008(1)
	Mr. Ralph Luimes		2010(1)
	Mrs. Ruth J. Vis		2009(2)
At-large	Mr. Stephen C.L. Chong		2008(3)
	Mr. Bastian A. Knoppers		2009(2)
	Rev. Harry W. Lew		2009(2)
	Mr. Scott A. Spoelhof		2009(1)
	Mr. Terry L. Vander Aa		2010(1)
	Mr. David Vander Ploeg		2008(2)
	Ms. Michelle L. Van Dyke		2008(1)
	Mrs. Janice K. Van Dyke-Zeilstra		2008(2)
	Mrs. Cynthia A. Rozendal Veenstra		2008(3)
	Ms. Thelma Venema		2010(1)
	Rev. Norberto E. Wolf		2009(3)
	Rev. Jin Soo Yoo		2010(1)

*D. Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees*

Region	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
Region 1	Mr. Curt Gesch		2010(2)
Region 2	Dr. Henk Van Andel	Mr. Henry Bekkering	2008(1)
Region 3	Rev. Joan De Vries	Rev. Peter Slofstra	2010(2)
Region 4	Rev. Jack De Vries	Rev. Frederick Heslinga	2009(2)
	Rev. James Poelman	Rev. Shawn Brix	2008(1)
Region 5	Ms. Sue Imig	Ms. Leslie C. Ruiter	2009(2)
Region 6	Rev. Kevin J. Adams	Rev. George G. Vink	2010(2)
Region 7	Dr. John Ratmeyer		2009(1)
Region 8	Rev. Greg Dyk	Rev. James T. Petersen	2009(1)
	Mr. Byron Noordewier	Ms. Jerelyn Schelhaas	2009(1)
Region 9	Rev. Julius T. Medenblik	Rev. Joel J. Sheeres	2010(2)
Region 10	Rev. Richard Hamstra	Rev. Christopher De Vos	2008(1)
	Rev. William Renkema	Rev. Timothy De Jonge	2010(1)
Region 11	Rev. Ruth Hofman	Rev. Rozanne Bruins	2008(2)
	Ms. Doris Rikkers	Mr. Gary Tinklenberg	2009(1)
Region 12	Rev. Andrew Chun	Rev. Xavier L. Suarez	2008(2)
At-large	Ms. Jinny Bult De Jong	Ms. Kim Vande Vusse	2010(1)
	Ms. Susan Keesen	Ms. Jeri Schelhaas	2010(1)
	Mr. Douglas L. Kool	Mr. James V. Hoekstra	2009(2)

*E. Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions*

Region	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
Region 1	Mr. Victor Chen	Rev. Henry Devries	2009(2)
Region 2	Rev. Phil F. Reinders	Rev. Ronald E. Klok	2009(2)
Region 3	Rev. Samuel Cooper	Mr. Peter Runia	2008(2)
Region 4	Mr. Michael Talsma	Mr. Al Martens	2009(1)
Region 5	Rev. Virgil Michael	Dr. Clifton Sanders	2009(1)
Region 6	Rev. Paul H. Vander Klay	Rev. Cornelius Pool	2010(2)
Region 7	Mr. Rodney Hugen	Mr. Ernie Benally	2008(1)
Region 8	Ms. Marcia Allspach		2010(2)
Region 9	Dr. Harley Ver Beek	Rev. Joel Zuidema	2009(1)
Region 10	Rev. Peter R. Byrna	Rev. Paul Bakker	2008(2)
Region 11	Dr. Mary Buteyn	Rev. Jerome Burton	2010(2)
Region 12	Ms. Beth Fylstra	Rev. Al Gelder	2010(1)
At-large	Ms. Sashi DeHaan		2010(1)
	Mr. David Koetje		2010(1)
	Dr. Allan Kramer		2008(2)
	Ms. Rosetta Polk-Pugh		2010(1)

*F. Christian Reformed World Missions Board*

Region	Member	Term Expires
Region 1	Ms. Jacoba (Ko) Spyksma	2008(1)
Region 2	Rev. Edward Jager	2010(1)
Region 3	Rev. John Tenyenhuis	2009(2)
Region 4	Ms. Harmene Sytsma	2008(2)
At-large	Rev. Robert Loerts	2008(2)
	Ms. Jocelyn Langendoen	2009(1)
Region 5	Rev. Loren Swier	2009(2)
Region 6	Mr. Jay Sankey	2010(1)
Region 7	Mrs. DeAnn Hunt	2010(1)
Region 8	Mr. Ken Van Zee	2009(1)
Region 9	Rev. Gary Schipper	2010(2)
Region 10	Ms. Jan Stravers	2009(1)
Region 11	Rev. Archie Vander Hart	2008(2)
Region 12	Rev. Kenneth Vander Wall	2008(2)
At-large	Mr. Craig Pollington	2010(1)
	Ms. Evelyn Huttinga	2010(2)
	Rev. Manny Bersach	2008(1)
	Mr. Colin Watson	2009(1)

*G. Christian Reformed World Relief Committee*

Classis	Member	Term Expires
Alberta North	Mr. Quentin Nanninga	2008(1)
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Mr. George Lubberts*	2009(2)
Arizona	Mr. J.P. Bear	2009(1)
Atlantic Northeast	Ms. Jodi Koeman	2010(1)
B.C. North-West	Mr. Gerrit Keegstra	2009(1)
B.C. South-East	Mr. John Richey*	2010(1)
California South	Ms. Susan Lim	2009(1)
Central California	Mr. Albert Veldstra	2008(1)

Chatham	Mr. Ed deJong	2009(1)
Chicago South	Ms. Debbie Turrisi	2010(2)
Columbia	Mr. Jack Jansons	2009(1)
Eastern Canada	Mrs. Renee Gray	2008(2)
Georgetown	Mr. Bernard Potgeter	2010(2)
Grand Rapids East	Mr. William Haverkamp	2010(1)
Grand Rapids North	Mr. Wayne Van Wylen	2008(1)
Grand Rapids South	Mr. Randy Ledeboer	2008(1)
Grandville	Mr. Lawrence Hoogerhyde, Sr.*	2010(2)
Greater Los Angeles	Ms. Joyce Vander Vis	2009(2)
Hackensack	(Vacant)	2010(1)
Hamilton	Mr. Dirk Veeneman*	2009(2)
Heartland	Mr. Harvey Verbrugge	2008(1)
Holland	Rev. Anthony Louwerse	2009(1)
Hudson	Mr. Steve Eichhorn	2010(1)
Huron	Mr. Jim Romahn*	2008(2)
lakota	Ms. Nancy Visser*	2008(2)
Illiana	Mr. Robert Vermeulen	2010(1)
Kalamazoo	Mrs. Marci Muller	2010(1)
Lake Erie	Ms. Anita Beem	2010(1)
Lake Superior (Canada)	Mr. Henry Bakker	2008(1)
Lake Superior (U.S.)	Mr. Willis Wubben	2009(1)
Minnkota	Mr. John Schaap	2009(1)
Muskegon	Ms. Mary Ann Mellema	2010(2)
Niagara	Mr. Ben Van Hoffen	2010(1)
Northcentral Iowa	Mr. Wes Bonnema	2010(2)
Northern Illinois	Rev. Juan Flores	2008(2)
Northern Michigan	Mr. Ken Vander Heide	2008(1)
Pacific Hanmi	Rev. Dong Il Kim	2008(1)
Pacific Northwest	Mr. Pieter Kroon	2009(2)
Pella	Mr. Randy Nugteren	2009(1)
Quinte	Mr. Frank Westerhof	2007(2)
Red Mesa	Ms. Mitzie Begay	2009(1)
Rocky Mountain	Mrs. Carol Ackerman*	2009(1)
Southeast U.S.	(Vacant)	2010(1)
Thornapple Valley	Mr. Chris Van Spronsen*	2010(2)
Toronto	Mr. Dennis Jurjens	2008(1)
Wisconsin	Mr. Duane DuMez	2010(2)
Yellowstone	Ms. Dawn Menning*	2010(2)
Zeeland	Mrs. Pat Lampen	2010(1)
Pastoral adviser (U.S.)	Dr. Mariano Avila*	2008(1)
Pastoral adviser (Canada)	Rev. Roy Berkenbosch*	2008(1)
At-large Canada	Mrs. Mary Both	2009(2)
	Mr. Bany Castellanos*	2009(2)
	Mr. Ulrich Haasdyk	2009(2)
	Ms. Gerda Kits*	2008(1)
	Ms. Rebecca TeBrake	2010(1)
	Mr. Bill Van Geest	2010(1)
	Ms. Joanne Van Loenen	2009(2)
At-large U.S.	Mr. Vincent Bivens	2008(2)
	Ms. Martha Carey	2009(1)
	Mr. Stan Cole*	2008(1)
	Mr. Marvin DeBoer	2008(1)
	Mr. Lawrence DeRuiter	2008(1)
	Ms. Jackie Terpstra	2008(1)
	Mr. Fred Van Swol	2008(1)

\* Also a member of the Board of Directors

## H. Faith Alive Christian Resources

Region	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
Region 1	Rev. Joel Ringma	Ms. Kathy Roosma	2010(1)
Region 2	Rev. William Nieuwenhuis	Ms. Anita Veeneman	2008(1)
Region 3	Mrs. Irene Bakker	Ms. Carrie Zwart	2010(2)
Region 4	Rev. Pieter Pereboom	Rev. Jack Van de Hoef	2009(1)
Region 5	Mrs. Beverly Vander Beek	Ms. Kathy Eekhof	2009(1)
Region 6	Ms. Ruth Palma	Mr. Matthew Kim	2009(2)
Region 7	Ms. Wilma Wiersma		2009(1)
Region 8	Mr. Jim Lipscomb	Dr. Mike Vanden Bosch	2009(2)
Region 9	Ms. Mae Cooper	Ms. Veronique Le Blanc	2008(1)
Region 10	Rev. Kenneth Baker	Rev. Hendrik de Vries	2008(1)
Region 11	Rev. Ecko De Vries	Rev. James E. Blankespoor	2008(2)
Region 12	Mr. John Szto	Ms. JoMae Spoelhof	2009(2)
At-large	Mr. Cal Jen		2010(1)
	Mr. Ji Hyun Jun		2008(2)
	Mr. Tom Prince		2009(1)
At-large - Reformed Church in America			
	Rev. George Brown	Rev. Kirsty DePree	2008(1)
	Rev. Brown Hardeman	(for the three RCA	2010(1)
	Rev. Jim O'Connell	at-large members)	2008(1)

## IV. Service committees

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

Mr. Ronald Haan (2008/1), Mr. Scott Lee (2008/1), Mr. Ronald Baylor (2009/2), Mr. Donald Koopman (2009/1), Ms. Christina Brouwer (2010/1), Rev. Chad M. Steenwyk (2010/1); ex officio member: Mr. Carl A. Gronsman.

### B. Historical Committee

Rev. Eugene Schemper (2008/1), Dr. James A. DeJong (2009/1), Mrs. Angie Ploegstra (2010/1), Mr. William Sytsma (2010/1), secretary (ex officio) Dr. Richard Harms.

### C. Interchurch Relations Committee

Rev. Carel Geleynse (2008/1), Rev. Marvin J. Hofman (2008/1), Ms. Louisa Bruinsma (2008/2), Dr. Bertha Mook (2008/2), Mr. Abe Vreeke (2008/2), Dr. William T. Koopmans (2009/1), Dr. Carol Rottman (2009/1), Dr. David M. Rylaarsdam (2009/2), Rev. Pedro Aviles (2010/1), Dr. Emily Brink (2010/1), Dr. James R. Payton (2010/2), Rev. Peter Slofstra (2010/1), ex officio members: Rev. Bruce G. Adema, Dr. Peter Borgdorff, Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra.

### D. Judicial Code Committee

Dr. Ralph Smeda (2008/2), Rev. John J. Steigenga (2008/2), Mrs. Carol Ackerman (2009/2), Rev. Andrew K. Chun (2009/2), Mr. Bill Kort (2009/1), Mr. Robert L. DeJong (2010/2), Ms. Susan Keesen (2010/2), Mr. Christian E. Meyer (2010/1), Mr. Gordon Vander Leek (2010/2).

### E. Ministers' Pension Funds committees

#### Canadian Pension Trustees

Mr. Harry Schep (2008/1), Ms. Claire Veenstra (2008/1), Mr. Gregory Kist (2009/1), Rev. Jake Kuipers (2009/3), Mr. Ary de Jong (2010/2).

#### *U.S. Board of Pensions*

Mr. James Clousing (2008/1), Mr. Ray Vander Weele (2009/2), Mr. Alan Van Noord (2009/1), Mr. William Terpstra (2010/2), Rev. William G. Vis (2010/1).

#### *F. Sermons for Reading Services Committee*

Rev. John Kerssies (2008/1), Rev. Gordon Pols (2008/1), Rev. Paul Stadt (2008/1), Rev. Richard J. deLange (2009/1), chairman/secretary.

#### *G. Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee*

Rev. Henry Jonker (2008/1), Mr. Rudy Gonzalez (2009/2), Dr. Annalee Ward (2009/2), Rev. Emmett A. Harrison (2008/2), Dr. Albert Wolters (2009/1), Rev. Thea Leunk (chair) (2010/2), Dr. Jay J. Shim (2010/2), Dr. Peter Borgdorff (ex officio for the ED), Dr. Paul L. Bremer (staff), Dr. Duane Kelderman (ex officio as the Calvin Seminary representative).

### **V. Study committees**

#### *A. Committee to Study Third Wave Pentecostalism II* (scheduled to report in 2009)

Rev. Amanda J. Benckhuysen, Dr. Carl J. Bosma, Rev. Timothy J. Brown, Rev. Jeff Stam, Dr. Paul Tameling, Rev. Ray Vander Kooij, Dr. Al Wolters, Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra.

#### *B. Committee to Study the Migration of Workers* (scheduled to report in 2010)

Dr. Joel Carpenter, Ms. Rose Dekker, Ms. Kathy Hanenburg, Rev. Andrew Narm, Rev. Ramon Orostizaga, Mr. Duane Postma, Mr. Chris Pullenayegem, Ms. Theresa Renkema, Mr. Daniel Vink, Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra (ex officio), seminary adviser.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the list of the boards and committees.

—*Adopted*

### **ARTICLE 79**

The president of synod, Rev. Joel R. Boot expresses thanks to his fellow officers—Rev. Cecil Van Niejenhuis, vice president; Dr. Henry J. Baron, first clerk; and Rev. Jake Kuipers, second clerk—for all the hard work and support that they have given during the past week. He also expresses appreciation to the faculty advisers, ethnic advisers, women advisers, and staff advisers for the important role they play during deliberations. The president gives special recognition to Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra, executive director, for his contribution to synod. He thanks Dr. Gaylen Byker and the Calvin College staff for doing a wonderful job of hosting synod. He expresses gratitude to the synod prayer coordinator, the organist, the synod office staff, and the synod news office staff.

The vice president, Rev. Cecil Van Niejenhuis, expresses thanks on behalf of synod to the president for his leadership during Synod 2007.

The executive director expresses the gratitude of synod to the four officers and presents them with gifts.

### **ARTICLE 80**

The president emphasizes that it is a privilege to serve synod, especially in this 150th anniversary year. He reads from John 17 and addresses synod re the importance of being one, asking delegates to “remember this room.” He announces Psalter Hymnal 267, “And Can It Be” and leads in closing prayer. Synod is adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

# DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES AND RECOMMENDED AGENCIES FOR 2008

# DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES AND RECOMMENDED AGENCIES FOR 2008

## I. Denominational ministry shares

AGENCY	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8
Base amount per member	268.83	268.83	268.83	268.83	268.83	268.83	268.83	268.83
Calvin College*	71.60	45.40	34.00	6.90	41.50	19.90	10.60	6.80
Total ministry-share per member	340.43	314.23	302.83	275.73	310.33	288.73	279.43	275.63

\*Areas which benefit from a ministry-share reduction should employ the following monies saved to finance their area colleges:

Per professing member	-	10.14	21.54	48.64	14.04	35.64	44.94	48.74
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### Classis Area Table for Calvin College amount:

AREA 1	Grand Rapids East; Grand Rapids North; Grand Rapids South; Grandville; Thornapple Valley
AREA 2	Georgetown; Holland; Kalamazoo; Lake Erie; Muskegon; Northern Michigan; Zeeland
AREA 3	Chicago South; Illiana; Northern Illinois; Southeast U.S.; Wisconsin
AREA 4	Heartland; Iakota; Lake Superior; Minnkota; Northcentral Iowa; Pella
AREA 5	Atlantic Northeast; Hackensack; Hudson
AREA 6	Arizona; Columbia; California South; Central California; Greater Los Angeles; Pacific Hanmi; Pacific Northwest; Red Mesa; Rocky Mountain; Yellowstone
AREA 7	Chatham; Eastern Canada; Hamilton; Huron; Niagara; Quinte; Toronto
AREA 8	Alberta North; Alberta South/Saskatchewan; B.C. North-West; B.C. South-East

### Stated Supply

Effective January 1, 2008, the weekly stated supply shall not be less than \$500 for churches located in the United States and not less than \$515 for churches in Canada.



**Denominational ministry-share allocation  
for the fiscal period July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008**

	<b>2007 ministry-share allocation effective 7/01/07</b>	<b>2008 ministry-share allocation effective 1/01/08</b>
<b>BACK TO GOD HOUR</b>	\$ 42.83	\$ 44.11
<b>CALVIN COLLEGE*</b>	28.89	29.75
<b>CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY</b>	34.52	35.56
<b>FAITH ALIVE CHRISTIAN RESOURCES</b>	13.34	13.74
<b>HOME MISSIONS</b>	44.00	44.00
<b>WORLD MISSIONS</b>	53.55	55.16
<b>WORLD RELIEF</b>	-	-
<b>DENOMINATIONAL SERVICES</b>		
Synod assembly, BOT, and general administration	33.98	34.00
<b>SUSTAINING CONGREGATIONAL EXCELLENCE</b>	10.00	10.00
<b>SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES</b>	27.45	30.90
Abuse Prevention		
Chaplaincy Ministries		
Disability Concerns		
Ministries in Canada		
Pastor-Church Relations		
Race Relations		
Restorative Justice		
Social Justice and Hunger Action		
<b>SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND</b>	1.32	1.36
	<u>\$ 289.88</u>	<u>\$ 298.58</u>

\*Represents the composit rate. Actual rate varies by area.

## II. Agencies recommended for financial support in 2008

### A. Denominational agencies recommended for one or more offerings

Canadian Business Number

1. The Back to God Hour—above-ministry-share needs .....13240 2090 RR0001
2. Calvin College—above-ministry-share needs .....(per Schedule VIII)
3. Calvin Theological Seminary .....(per Schedule VIII)
  - a. The Facing Your Future program
  - b. International Student Subsidy Fund
4. CRC Foundation.....883678708 RR0001
5. Denominational Services (Ministry Programs)—above-ministry-share needs
  - a. Abuse Prevention—above-ministry-share needs .....856901285 RR0002
  - b. Chaplaincy Ministries—above-ministry-share needs .....856901285 RR0002
  - c. Committee for Contact with the Government .....856901285 RR0002
  - d. Disability Concerns—above-ministry-share needs .....856901285 RR0002
  - e. Pastor-Church Relations—above-ministry-share needs .....856901285 RR0002
  - f. Race Relations .....856901285 RR0002
    - 1) Above-ministry-share needs
    - 2) Multiracial Student Scholarship Fund
  - g. Service-Link Canada .....856901285 RR0002
  - h. Social Justice and Hunger Action .....856901285 RR0002
  - i. Urban Aboriginal Ministries .....856901285 RR0002
6. CR Home Missions—above-ministry-share needs .....10691 9640 RR0001
7. CR World Missions—above-ministry-share needs .....11881 2643 RR0001
8. CR World Relief—one offering per quarter because CRWRC receives no ministry-share support .....118857366 RR0001
9. Faith Alive Christian Resources
  - World Literature Ministries—above-ministry-share needs .....856901285 RR0002

### B. Denominationally related or affiliated agencies recommended for one or more offerings

1. Dynamic Youth Ministries
  - a. GEMS .....88992 0799 RR0001
  - b. Calvinist Cadet Corps .....88992 0799 RR0001
  - c. Youth Unlimited / Early Teens .....88992 0799 RR0001
2. Partners Worldwide .....NA

### 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, Inc.
4. Elim Christian Services
5. Hope Haven

6. International Aid, Inc. (medical supplies only)
7. The Luke Society
8. Mississippi Christian Family Services (MCFS)
9. Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services

*B. Educational agencies*

1. Center for Public Justice
2. Christian Schools International
3. Christian Schools International Foundation (for textbook development)
4. Dordt College
5. Friends of ICS (U.S. Foundation of ICS)
6. Hunting Park Christian Academy
7. International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (IAPCHE)
8. ITEM—International Theological Education Ministries, Inc.
9. The King's University College (through the U.S. Foundation)
10. Kuyper College
11. Providence Christian College
12. Redeemer University College (through the U.S. Foundation)
13. Rehoboth Christian School
14. Roseland Christian School
15. Trinity Christian College
16. Worldwide Christian Schools
17. Zuni Christian Mission School

*C. Miscellaneous agencies*

1. Audio Scripture Ministries
2. Bible League
3. Crossroad Bible Institute
4. Friendship Ministries
5. IDEA Ministries
6. IN Network
7. InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (endorsed for local specified staff support only)
8. Middle East Reformed Fellowship, U.S.
9. Mission India
10. Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC)
11. The Tract League
12. Wycliffe Bible Translators

**Canadian agencies**

- A. Benevolent agency* Canadian Business Number  
 Beginnings Counseling & Adoption Services of Ontario, Inc. ....11880 2388 RR0001

*B. Educational agencies*

1. Canadian Christian Education Foundation, Inc.  
 (for textbook development).....11883 0207 RR0001
2. Dordt College.....(per Schedule VIII)
3. Institute for Christian Studies .....10750 8434 RR0001
4. The King's University College .....10808 5911 RR0001
5. Kuyper College .....(per Schedule VIII)
6. Redeemer University College .....12331 3660 RR0001
7. Trinity Christian College .....(per Schedule VIII)
8. Worldwide Christian Schools - Canada .....88945 9970 RR0001

C. <i>Miscellaneous agencies</i>	
1. Bible League - Canada .....	10822 2084 RR0001
2. Citizens for Public Justice (CJL Foundation) .....	89438 3512 RR0001
3. Evangelical Fellowship of Canada .....	10735 3922 RR0001
4. Friendship Groups - Canada .....	11893 2375 RR0001
5. Gideons International - Canada .....	10808 2991 RR0001
6. IN Network .....	12994 3072 RR0001
7. Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada .....	10751 3160 RR0001
8. Middle East Reformed Fellowship, Canada .....	89085 1058 RR0001
9. Work Research Foundation .....	11892 9207 RR0001
10. Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada, Inc. ....	10822 3371 RR0001

# INDEX

(Page numbers in **boldface type** refer to the minutes of synod; page numbers in regular type refer to agenda and supplementary materials.)

Initialisms and abbreviations from the *Agenda* and *Acts of Synod 2007*

ACRE - Association of Christian Reformed Educators  
 ACT - Action by Churches Together  
 ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act  
 APC - Association of Professional Chaplains  
 APCE - Association of Presbyterian Church Educators  
 ARPC - Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church  
 ART - Abuse Response Team  
 BOT - Board of Trustees  
 CAJ - Christian Academy in Japan  
 CASA - Church's Auxiliary for Social Action  
 CCC - Canadian Council of Churches  
 CCG - Committee for Contact with the Government  
 CCIT - Church Connection Initiative at Trinity  
 CCT-USA - Christian Churches Together in the U.S.A.  
 CEP - Center for Excellence in Preaching  
 CFGB - Canadian Foodgrains Bank  
 CIDA - Canadian International Development Agency  
 CJL Foundation - Citizens for Public Justice  
 CMLT - Classis Ministerial Leadership Teams  
 COCREF - Christian Reformed Schools of the Dominican Republic  
 CRCA - Christian Reformed Churches of Australia  
 CRCMA - Christian Reformed Campus Ministry Association  
 CRCN - Christian Reformed Church of Nigeria  
 CRCP - Christian Reformed Church of the Philippines  
 CRECH - Consortium de la Renforcement de l'Éducation Chrétienne en Haiti  
 CRHM - Christian Reformed Home Missions  
 CRMT - Classis Renewal Ministry Team  
 CRWM - Christian Reformed World Missions  
 CRWRC - Christian Reformed World Relief Committee  
 CSI - Christian Schools International  
 CWS - Church World Service  
 DCM - Director of Canadian Ministries  
 DDM - Director of Denominational Ministries  
 DFA - Director of Finance and Administration  
 DMP - Denominational Ministries Plan  
 DoD - Department of Defense  
 DORR - Dance of Racial Reconciliation  
 DRC - Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa

DRCA - Dutch Reformed Church in Africa  
 DRS - Disaster Response Services  
 DYC - Discerning Your Calling  
 ED - Executive Director  
 EFC - Evangelical Fellowship of Canada  
 EFICOR - Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief  
 ELIC - English Language Institute - China  
 EPC - Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
 EPMC - Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy  
 ERISA - Employee Retirement Income Security Act  
 ERRC - Educational Resources and Referrals - China  
 ESV - English Standard Version  
 FAJ - Fédération des Associations de Jeunesses de L'UEBH  
 FFM - Formation for Ministry  
 FHI - Food for the Hungry International  
 FNC - Fund for Needy Churches  
 FRB - Food Resources Bank  
 FSC - Fund for Smaller Churches  
 FSCO - Financial Services Commission of Ontario  
 GKI - Reformed Church of Indonesia  
 GKN - Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland  
 HCRC - Haitian Christian Reformed Church  
 HPCD - Haitian Partners for Christian Development  
 IAPCHE - International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education  
 ICA - International Coalition of Apostles  
 ICE - Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
 ICS - Institute for Christian Studies  
 IDP - Internally Displaced People  
 IRC - Interchurch Relations Committee  
 ITEM - International Theological Education Ministries  
 KIM - Korean Institute of Ministry  
 KMD - Korean Ministry Director  
 LDN - Leadership Development Networks  
 LRA - Lord's Resistance Army  
 MC - Ministry Council  
 MDG - Millennial Development Goals  
 MEPMC - Modified Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy  
 MEPP - Multi-Employee Pension Plan  
 MERF - Middle East Reformed Fellowship  
 MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers  
 MPS - Ministries Plan Scorecard  
 MRCSA - Midlands Reformed Churches in South Africa  
 MUC - Christian University Student Movement  
 NAE - National Association of Evangelicals  
 NAFTA - North American Free Trade Agreement  
 NAPARC - North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council  
 NAR - New Apostolic Reformation  
 NCD - Natural Church Development  
 NGOs - Nongovernmental Organizations  
 NIV - New International Version  
 NKST - The Church of Christ among the Tiv (Nongo U Kristu U Ken Sudan Hen Tiv)

NLT - New Living Translation  
 NRC - Netherlands Reformed Churches  
 OPC - Orthodox Presbyterian Church  
 OSJHA - Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action  
 PBA - Pension Benefits Act  
 PCA - Presbyterian Church in America  
 PCC - Presbyterian Church in Canada  
 PCN - Protestant Church in the Netherlands  
 PCR - Pastor-Church Relations  
 PCUSA - Presbyterian Church in the USA  
 PRMI - Presbyterian Reformed Ministries International  
 PRODOLA - Doctoral Program for Latin America  
 RCA - Reformed Church in Africa  
 RCA - Reformed Church in America  
 RCC - Roman Catholic Church  
 RCCN - Reformed Church of Christ in Nigeria  
 RCJ - Reformed Church of Japan  
 REC - Reformed Ecumenical Council  
 RSV - Revised Standard Version  
 SALT - Senior Academy for Learning at Trinity  
 SCC & SRC - Smaller Church Compensation and Subsidy Review Committee  
 SCE - Sustaining Congregational Excellence  
 SLSW - Strategic-Level Spiritual Warfare  
 SMCC - Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee  
 SMP - Summer Mission Program  
 SPE - Sustaining Pastoral Excellence  
 SWN - Spiritual Warfare Network  
 TEE - Theological Education by Extension  
 TNIV - Today's New International Version  
 UNELA - Evangelical University of Latin America  
 URCSA - Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa  
 USAID - United States Agency for International Development  
 WARC - World Alliance of Reformed Churches  
 WRC - World Reformed Communion  
 ZOA - Auid Oost Azie

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