

## SYNODICAL SERVICES I

Chairman: Rev. Bert Slofstra  
Reporter: Rev. Paul R. De Vries

### Board of Trustees

A. *Materials*: Board of Trustees Report (Polity sections II, A, 12 including Appendix D), pp. 28-29, 78-83

### B. *Observations*

The agenda item before us is the restructuring of the Ministry Council. We are not opposed in principle to the new structure. However, within our committee we heard a strong message of concern and pain regarding the role of people of color within the leadership structure of our denomination. Therefore, we make the following recommendations.

### C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod instruct the BOT to be relentless and faithful advocates in promoting multiethnic communication, dialogue, and leadership development at the denominational, classical, and congregational levels.
2. That synod request the BOT to instruct the executive director to convene an ethnically-inclusive group to develop a statement of vision and strategy for increasing multiethnic representation within the leadership of the denomination and report to Synod 2010.

*Ground*: We believe the current structure of denominational leadership does not adequately address the fundamental concerns regarding advancement of people of color at all levels of congregational and denominational life.