



CHRISTIAN
REFORMED
CHURCH
IN
NORTH
AMERICA

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CRC Councils
and Members of CRC Congregations

Dear Church Councils and CRC Members:

Unity. Justice. Reconciliation. These biblical themes resonate in the heart of the Church and are central to the calling we have received from the Lord.

Synod 2009 had the opportunity to prayerfully reflect on these themes as they considered how to engage the Belhar Confession. This confession, arising out of the experience of the Reformed community in South Africa, speaks to Reformed believers worldwide as we together seek unity, justice, and reconciliation.

After careful, thoughtful deliberation, Synod 2009 has proposed to Synod 2012 that the Belhar Confession be adopted as a fourth confession of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. Recognizing the importance of this proposal, synod also proposed that the time between Synods 2009 and 2012 be used by the churches to "adequately study and reflect on this proposal." In addition, the CRC's Ecumenical Relations Committee was authorized to promote the study of the Belhar Confession over the next three years. Such study and reflection will inform the churches and prepare the delegates to Synod 2012 for their deliberative task.

The Belhar Confession and the related documents are available for download from the CRC website (www.crcna.org/belhar), or call Faith Alive Christian Resources at 800-333-8300 to receive a hard copy packet of the Belhar Confession, the Synod 2009 Introduction, the Statement of Introduction by the CRC and RCA, and the Accompanying Letter to the Belhar by the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (limit one per church). Other study materials and discussion guides will be available in the near future. Please send any questions or correspondence related to the Belhar Confession to Belhar@crcna.org.

May God bless you as you delve deep into the Scriptures, and may he give you wisdom to enlighten us all.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra,
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