

3. That synod continue its committee to study the Judicial Code for a period of two years to receive and evaluate responses from consistories and classes and present a final report to Synod of 1977. —*Adopted*  
(The report of Advisory Committee 1 continues in Article 47.)

#### ARTICLE 46

Advisory Committee 4, *Confessional Matters*, the Rev. E. Bossenbroek reporting, presents the following: (The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued from Article 25.)

#### SYNODICAL DECISIONS AND THE CONFESSIONS

A. *Material*: Report 47.

B. *Recommendations*:

1. That synod give the privilege of the floor to the reporter, the Rev. J. T. Holwerda and to Dr. Fred Klooster. —*Adopted*

2. That synod adopt the following statement as expressing the use and function of synodical pronouncements on doctrinal and ethical matters and their relation to the confessions:

a. The Reformed Confessions are subordinate to the Scripture and accepted "as a true interpretation of this Word" (Church Order, Art. 1). These confessions are binding upon all the office-bearers as is indicated by their subscription to these confessions in the Form of Subscription. These confessions are binding upon all confessing members of the church as is indicated by their public profession of faith.

b. Synodical pronouncements on doctrinal and ethical matters are subordinate to the confessions, and they "shall be considered settled and binding, unless it is proved that they conflict with the Word of God or the Church Order" (Church Order, Art. 29). All office-bearers and members are expected to abide by these synodical deliverances.

c. The confessions and synodical pronouncements have nuances of differences. They differ in the extent of their jurisdiction, in the nature of their authority, in the distinction of purposes, in the measure of agreement expected, and in their use and function.

d. The use and function of synodical decisions are explicitly or implicitly indicated by the wording of the particular decision itself:

1) When a synodical pronouncement is set forth as an interpretation of the confession, this is its use and function.

2) When a synodical decision involves pronouncements that are related to the confessions or go beyond the confessions, the use and function of such decisions is to further express the faith of the church without such statements thereby becoming additions to the confessions.

3) When a synodical decision involves adjudication of a certain issue, this is its particular use and function although the decision may have doctrinal and ethical implications for the future.

4) When a synodical decision is expressed in the form of a testimony or letter, this is its use and function.

5) When a synodical decision is expressed as a guideline for further study or action, this is its use and function.

6) When a synodical decision is set forth as pastoral advice to churches or individuals, this is its use and function. —*Adopted*

3. That synod authorize publishing and distributing the compiled doctrinal and ethical pronouncements in two forms:

a. In a booklet form with a printing of twelve thousand copies at a cost of approximately fifty cents per copy (mailing costs extra).

*Grounds:*

- 1) Synod of 1973 in its mandate to your committee affirmed "there is need for compiling, publishing, and distributing such declarations in a usable form." This was underscored in the amplified mandate to the committee by Synod of 1974 (Acts of Synod, pp. 40-41).
- 2) Synod envisioned a booklet that would be useful for all office-bearers, study committees, and/or advisory committees as well as those outside of our immediate communion who might be interested. At present the denomination numbers 762 congregations with nine thousand office-bearers.
- b. In looseleaf form, with a durable cover, at a cost of approximately \$2.50 per copy. The same pages used for the booklet can be used for the looseleaf copies. The advantage is that decisions of subsequent synods can easily be inserted and the summary of pronouncements kept up to date. We recommend that the initial printing be 2000 copies.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod instruct the Stated Clerk, in consultation with the Synodical Interim Committee, to provide materials from future Acts of Synod in order that the contents of the looseleaf booklet may be kept up to date.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod thank the committee for its work and discharge it when the above mentioned materials are edited and published.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued in Article 48.)

#### ARTICLE 47

Advisory Committee 1, *Appeals I*, the Rev. J. Joosse reporting, presents the following: (The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 45.)

#### COMMITTEE RE LETTER TO TORONTO II

##### A. *Materials:*

1. Report 52.
2. Communication 8.

##### B. *Recommendations:*

1. That synod express its deep regret regarding the reaction of the Second Toronto Christian Reformed Church to the pastoral admonition and concern as conducted through its committee. Furthermore, that synod again admonish the consistory of the Second Christian Reformed Church to "... reconsider and retract (their) statement, 'We . . . go on record that we are not bound by the decisions of synod, as expressed in the statement under DEVIATIONS,' " contained in a letter dated March, 1974, published by the Association of Christian Reformed Laymen (Acts of Synod, 1974, p. 94).