

transforming lives and communities worldwide

# ACTS OF SYNOD

2008



CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED  
CHURCH

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June 14-19, 2008  
Fine Arts Center Auditorium  
Calvin College  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

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Synod 2008 was held at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 14-19, 2008. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the synod gathered to worship, pray, fellowship, and work together in a spirit of service and grace. The whole church owes these men and women a debt of gratitude for the leadership they have provided.

The *Acts of Synod 2008* 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.
- Supplementary overtures and a communication to synod re matters completed at a spring classis meeting.
- Financial reports.
- The minutes of Synod 2008.
- An index for both the *Acts of Synod* and the *Agenda for Synod 2008*.

It is necessary for the user of the *Acts of Synod 2008* to keep the *Agenda for Synod 2008* 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 321, following preliminary unnumbered pages. Financial reports begin on page 407. The minutes of synod follow, beginning on page 427. The index references both the *Agenda for Synod* and the *Acts of Synod*; the numbers in boldface type refer to pages in the minutes of Synod 2008.

The *Acts of Synod 2008* are more than simply the official record of actions taken. They also demonstrate the work of God in the CRC. This record reflects what God has done and continues to do in and through his church. The Lord has blessed the CRC with many resources, and he calls us to use those resources with care and compassion. As the Christian Reformed Church continues the work of transforming lives and communities worldwide, it does so only in the strength and the power of his Spirit.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

(Eph. 3:20-21)

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

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES SUPPLEMENT

## I. Polity matters

### A. *Interim appointments (Committee 1)*

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

	Classis	Deputy	Alternate	Term
Synodical Deputies	Greater Los Angeles		Rev. Gary M. Stevens	
	Muskegon	Rev. Edward C. Visser		2011(1)
	North Central Iowa		Rev. Thomas J. Niehof	
CRWRC	Minnkota	Mr. John Vander Haar		2011(1)

### B. *Woman adviser to Synod 2008*

In addition to the women advisers named in the *Agenda for Synod 2008*, page 24, the Board has appointed Ms. Lydia DeRuiter 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, 2008:

Region/Classis	Member	Alternate
7	Mrs. N. Theresa Rottschafer	Mr. Walter F. Ackerman
8	Mr. Marion D. Van Soelen	Mr. Lane Bonnema
11	Mrs. Beverly A. Weeks	Mrs. Kathy Steenwyk
12	Mr. Dan Cooke	Mr. Cornelius J. Bushoven
Chatham	Mr. Jack Geschiere	Mr. Patrick McNamara
Lake Superior	Rev. William C. Tuininga	Rev. Evert Busink
Quinte	Rev. Jake Kuipers	Dr. William T. Koopmans
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Rev. John Huizenga	

### 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, seven of the trustees are completing six years of service on the Board. They are Mr. Dan Cooke, Mr. Jack Geschiere, Rev. Jake Kuipers, Mrs. N. Theresa Rottschafer, Rev. William C. Tuininga, Mr. Marion D. Van Soelen, and Mrs. Beverly A. Weeks. In addition, Rev. John Huizenga is moving from the Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan area. We thank God for each of these



dedicated servants and for their contributions to the Board and the Christian Reformed Church.

*D. Officers of the Board of Trustees for 2008-2009*

1. The CRCNA-Canada Corporation

President: Mr. Keith Oosthoek  
Vice president: Mr. Gary VanArragon  
Secretary: Mrs. Patricia Storteboom

2. The CRCNA-Michigan Corporation

President: Rev. Mark D. Vermaire  
Vice president: Rev. Robert A. Lyzenga  
Vice-all: Ms. Suzanne VanEngen

3. The binational Board of Trustees officers

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

*E. Ratification of director of Pastor-Church Relations*

The Board of Trustees met with Rev. Norman J. Thomasma, nominee for the director of Pastor-Church Relations, and ratified his appointment effective January 1, 2009. Rev. Thomasma has been serving as the education specialist and associate director of the Pastor-Church Relations Office since 2002.

*F. The Back to God Hour name change*

The Board of Trustees received and endorsed a recommendation from the board of The Back to God Hour and recommends that synod approve the name change of the agency from The Back to God Hour to *Back to God Ministries International*.

*Grounds:*

1. The present name of the agency grew out of the name of the flagship program, "The Back to God Hour." The identification of the entire ministry with a single English-language broadcast has impeded the agency's ability to communicate its full mission and vision. This difficulty especially relates to the word *Hour* in the present name.
2. The proposed name communicates continuity of mission and vision by maintaining the words *Back to God*. This phrase underscores the mission of the agency both to evangelize and disciple. The agency's mission is to call people everywhere "back to God" and to assist believers to grow in a life centered in Christ.
3. The inclusion of *Ministries* in the proposed name communicates the comprehensive approach the agency uses to evangelize and disciple. *Ministries* allows for future growth as the agency responds to new ministry opportunities.
4. The inclusion of *International* communicates the global impact of the agency. *International* also sends a key message to indigenous staff worldwide that they are fully included in the agency's ministry.

G. *CRWRC U.S. at-large member*

It is recommended that synod appoint the following single nominee as an at-large member to the CRWRC U.S. Board of Delegates:

*Mr. Paul Wassink*, a member of Ivanrest CRC in Wyoming, Michigan, is a certified public accountant and part-owner of The CPA Group, P.C., in Grandville, Michigan. He has served his church as an elder and deacon, as vice president of council, and as chair of the administrative team. Mr. Wassink has chaired various committees and has taught youth education classes. He has served on the board of CRWRC as treasurer and as a member of the executive board and presently serves on a Board of Trustees task force.

H. *Acknowledgement of service*

The Board paid special tribute to four of the denomination's agency and specialized ministry directors at its annual banquet in May. The denomination has been blessed by the diligent and selfless service of these individuals over the years.

1. Retirement of Rev. Herman Keizer, Jr.

Rev. Herman Keizer, Jr., has served as director of Chaplaincy Ministries from 2002 until the present. Prior to that, Rev. Keizer served faithfully as a chaplain in the United States Army. As the director of Chaplaincy Ministries, Rev. Keizer has served not only the CRCNA but the broader Christian community through his work with the United States military. As a church, we are grateful for his many years of service and pray for God's blessing in the future. There will be an opportunity to celebrate Rev. Keizer's ministry at the Testimonial Luncheon on Thursday, June 19, 2008.

2. Retirement of Rev. Duane A. Visser

Rev. Duane A. Visser has served as director of Pastor-Church Relations since 1995 and will pursue other interests after his retirement in January 2009. We are grateful for Rev. Visser's faithful and fruitful work with pastors and churches. God has used him to strengthen the church through his efforts as a mentor, adviser, and counselor. His ministry will also be celebrated at the Testimonial Luncheon on Thursday, June 19, 2008.

3. Retirement of Mr. Gary Mulder

Mr. Gary Mulder has served as the director of Faith Alive Christian Resources (formerly CRC Publications) since 1984. The last twenty-four years have marked significant changes in the world of publishing, and Mr. Mulder has served the church well as the denomination has met these changes with new curricula, study materials, and electronic media to meet the ever-changing needs of the church. We thank God for his years of service and look forward to celebrating his work and ministry at the Testimonial Luncheon on Thursday, June 19, 2008.

4. Retirement of Rev. John A. Rozeboom

Rev. John A. Rozeboom has served as the director of Christian Reformed Home Missions since 1986. Rev. Rozeboom has spent his entire professional career in the Home Missions context beginning in Riverside, California. Together we celebrate the way in which God has used Rev. Rozeboom, his gifts, and his passion to expand and enhance the ministry

of the Christian Reformed Church throughout North America. Synod will have the opportunity to express their thanks at the Testimonial Luncheon on Thursday, June 19, 2008.

*I. Abuse Victims Task Force Report*

Synod 2006, in response to a very difficult and painful case of abuse, instructed the BOT to appoint a small task force to consider how best to respond to the underlying issues raised by Mr. Heersink's appeal: namely, how the denomination ought to be responding, whether in financial terms or otherwise, to the very real consequences of sexual abuse in the lives of current and former members, and that the Board of Trustees report its recommendations to Synod 2008. The Board appointed the task force and has carefully reviewed the report. Based on that report and additional work done through the Office of Abuse Prevention, the BOT submits its final report and recommendations found in Appendix A.

*J. Revised model Articles of Incorporation*

The Board reviewed revised model Articles of Incorporation for churches within the United States. The present models, found in Church Order Supplement, Article 32-d, are designed only for established churches but the need for emerging churches to incorporate is growing. The revised model Articles of Incorporation for churches located in the United States can be found in Appendix B and is being recommended to synod for adoption. A similar model is being prepared for churches in Canada and will be brought to Synod 2009.

*K. CRC Foundation Board*

The Board of Trustees reviewed and approved changes to the CRC Foundation Board bylaws to reflect the role of the recently appointed director of denominational advancement, expand the Foundation Board from nine to twelve members, and address a number of management issues contained in the 1995 version of the bylaws. In addition, the BOT also approved the following new CRC Foundation Mission Statement:

**CRC Foundation Mission Statement**

The Christian Reformed Church (CRC) Foundation is established to resource CRC ministries and programs that the CRCNA determines will contribute to the implementation of the Denominational Ministries Plan. In doing so, the Foundation encourages generosity and stewardship on behalf of these ministries.

The Foundation is committed to strengthening the ministries of the CRCNA agencies and institutions. By working in partnership, we aim to add resources rather than compete for charitable gifts.

A primary function of the Foundation is to seek financial support for initiatives of the CRCNA that fall outside the mandates of the denominational agencies. Each agency has resources to seek charitable gifts to support its own programs. The Foundation may partner with an agency to develop financial resources, but the goal of the Foundation is to seek charitable gifts for programs that are integrative and initiated on behalf of the denomination as a whole.

The Foundation will seek to provide financial resources to encourage new ideas and programs that are not funded through budgets of synod, classis, or agencies. Funds such as these will serve as start-up resources to encourage people who have new visions for ministry. In this role, the Foundation receives gifts, both from estates and individuals, who desire to provide flexibility to the leadership of the CRCNA as to the type and timing of programs funded.

## **II. Program and finance matters**

### *A. 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 \$307.53 (an increase of 3%) per adult member (age 18 and over) for calendar year 2009.
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

The Back to God Hour (new name: Back to God Ministries International)

– 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

CR Home Missions – above-ministry-share needs

CR World Missions – above-ministry-share needs

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

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

ServiceLink Canada

Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action

Urban Aboriginal Ministries

Faith Alive Christian Resources

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) Friendship Ministries
  - 3) 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 (2009-2011). 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:

a. United States

1) Benevolent agencies

Bethany Christian Services  
Cary Christian Center, Inc.  
Elim Christian Services  
The Genesis Center for Recovery  
Hope Haven  
The Luke Society  
Mississippi Christian Family Services (MCFS)  
Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services

2) 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)  
Hunting Park Christian Academy  
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  
Zuni Christian Mission School

3) Miscellaneous agencies

Audio Scripture Ministries  
Bible League  
Crossroad Bible Institute  
IDEA Ministries  
IN Network  
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (for specified staff support only)  
Middle East Reformed Fellowship  
Mission India  
The Tract League  
Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc.

b. Canada

1) Benevolent agencies

Beginnings Counseling & Adoption Services of Ontario, Inc.

2) Educational agencies

Dordt College  
Institute for Christian Studies  
The King's University College  
Kuyper College  
Redeemer University College  
Trinity Christian College  
Worldwide Christian Schools – Canada

3) Miscellaneous agencies

The Bible League – Canada  
Citizens for Public Justice (CJL Foundation)  
Evangelical Fellowship of Canada  
Friendship Groups – Canada  
Gideons International – Canada  
IN Network  
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship of Canada  
Middle East Reformed Fellowship, Canada  
Work Research Foundation  
Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada, Inc.

5. Stated supply compensation

The Board of Trustees recommends that synod receive as information the Board's decision to no longer establish a stated supply compensation amount.

*Grounds:*

- a. In recent years many churches are contracting directly or through the office of Pastor-Church Relations for the services of an interim pastor.

- b. The time and level of involvement vary from occasional preaching and visitation to full-time work, including significant process consultation. Given the wide diversity of such arrangements, it is no longer reasonable to set a standard remuneration amount.

6. The denominational salary grid

Hay Associates advises, and the BOT recommends, that Synod 2008 adopt the salary grid as detailed below for use in fiscal year 2008-2009.

Level	2008-2009 Salary Grade and Range Structure Proposed U.S. Range			Proposed Canadian Range		
	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum
20	\$115,291	\$144,113	\$172,936			
19	\$103,936	\$129,921	\$155,905			
18	\$92,638	\$115,798	\$138,957	\$102,262	\$127,828	\$153,394
17	\$83,144	\$103,930	\$124,716	\$88,853	\$111,066	\$133,279
16	\$74,835	\$93,544	\$112,253	\$77,756	\$97,195	\$116,634
15	\$67,840	\$84,800	\$101,760	\$68,492	\$85,616	\$102,739
14	\$59,271	\$74,089	\$88,906	\$60,406	\$75,507	\$90,609
13	\$52,105	\$65,132	\$78,158	\$53,907	\$67,384	\$80,861

7. Summary of denominational investments and compliance with investment policy

Synod 1998 approved a number of measures dealing with investment guidelines and disclosures. The BOT's response to these requests is found in Appendix C.

8. Pension board matters

The Board of Trustees took note of the average salary survey data for 2008 being \$45,478 in the United States and \$49,531 in Canada. Because the *final* average salary used for pension computation is based on a three-year rolling average (2006, 2007, and 2008), the pension computation for persons retiring in 2009 will be based on \$44,113 for U.S.-based service and \$47,763 for Canadian-based service.

The Board of Trustees endorsed the Pension Trustees' recommendation that the 2009 per-member assessment for the Canadian Plan be set at \$32.64 and that the Canadian per-participant assessment be set at \$8,148. Similarly, the 2009 per-member assessment for the U.S. Plan be set at \$28.20 and the U.S. per-participant assessment be set at \$6,372.

### 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 approve the change in the agency name of The Back to God Hour to *Back to God Ministries International* (BOT Supplement, section I, F).

*Grounds:*

1. The present name of the agency grew out of the name of the flagship program, "The Back to God Hour." The identification of the entire ministry with a single English-language broadcast has impeded the agency's ability to communicate its full mission and vision. This difficulty especially relates to the word *Hour* in the present name.

2. The proposed name communicates continuity of mission and vision by maintaining the words *Back to God*. This phrase underscores the mission of the agency both to evangelize and disciple. The agency's mission is to call people everywhere "back to God" and to assist believers to grow in a life centered in Christ.
3. The inclusion of *Ministries* in the proposed name communicates the comprehensive approach the agency uses to evangelize and disciple. *Ministries* allows for future growth as the agency responds to new ministry opportunities.
4. The inclusion of *International* communicates the global impact of the agency. *International* also sends a key message to indigenous staff worldwide that they are fully included in the agency's ministry.

C. That synod by way of the printed ballot appoint an at-large member to the CRWRC U.S. Board of Delegates (BOT Supplement, section I, G).

D. That synod acknowledge the years of faithful service to the CRCNA of the Reverend Herman Keizer, Jr., as a chaplain in the United States Army and more recently as the director of Chaplaincy Ministries, and honor him at the Testimonial Luncheon on Thursday, June 19, 2008 (BOT Supplement, section I, H, 1).

E. That synod recognize the retirement of the Reverend Duane A. Visser as the director of Pastor-Church Relations for the past thirteen years and honor him at the Testimonial Luncheon on Thursday, June 19, 2008 (BOT Supplement, section I, H, 2).

F. That synod acknowledge Mr. Gary Mulder for his work of twenty-four years as the director of Faith Alive Christian Resources (formerly CRC Publications) and honor him at the Testimonial Luncheon on Thursday, June 19, 2008 (BOT Supplement, section I, H, 3).

G. That synod affirm the faithful service of the Reverend John A. Rozeboom to the Christian Reformed Church since 1969 and more particularly his work as the director of Christian Reformed Home Missions for the past twenty-two years and honor him at the Testimonial Luncheon on Thursday, June 19, 2008 (BOT Supplement, section I, H, 4).

H. That synod adopt the following recommendations regarding the Abuse Victims Task Force Report (BOT Supplement, section I, I):

1. That synod give the privilege of the floor to Rev. Jerry Van Groningen and Ms. Laura Triezenberg as representatives of the Abuse Victims Task Force.
2. That synod encourage church councils to provide for the pastoral care needs of the victim, the alleged offender, families, and congregation when an allegation of abuse against a church leader is brought forward, and that synod encourage the elders to immediately appoint a person or small group of persons, accountable to the elders, who will ensure that the pastoral needs of victims, alleged offenders, families, and congregation are addressed.



*Grounds:*

- a. The elders are charged to provide faithful counsel and discipline for the church.
  - b. A structure and required accountability make it less likely that pastoral needs will be overlooked.
3. That synod declare that congregations have a moral responsibility to cover the direct expenses incurred by a victim of sexual abuse when the abuser is a church leader.

*Grounds:*

- a. An abusive leader represents the church, and thus the church has a duty to seek the healing of victims from the abuse done by its leaders.
  - b. Justice, common sense, and decency demand no less.
4. That synod expand the Advisory Panel's responsibilities to include consideration and recommendations to councils regarding appropriate levels of compensation to victims.

*Grounds:*

- a. Advisory Panels include trained individuals who understand the dynamics and effects of abuse.
  - b. The Advisory Panel is charged to be objective and deliberate in its consideration of all aspects of the situation under investigation.
  - c. The Advisory Panel is the group most familiar with all the circumstances of the situation under investigation.
  - d. Given the training, objectivity, and familiarity that reside within the Advisory Panel, this is the group most able to consider and recommend financial compensation to victims.
5. That synod advise each congregation to regularly review its policies for abuse prevention and liability coverage.

*Grounds:*

- a. Prevention of harm is essential for the well-being of individuals, the congregation, and the witness of the church.
  - b. Stewardly planning and resource use require responsible liability coverage for situations in which abuse occurs despite prevention efforts.
6. That synod encourage church councils to facilitate the use of restorative justice practices when there have been occurrences of sexual abuse against a parishioner by a church leader.

*Grounds:*

- a. Offering this option to victims of sexual abuse in the church follows naturally from the denomination's declared intent to pursue greater use of restorative justice principles.
  - b. Restorative justice methods are an effective means to facilitate healing for victims, offenders, and communities.
7. That synod declare the Office of Abuse Prevention be renamed the "CRC Safe Church Office."

*Grounds:*

- a. The new name recognizes both education in abuse prevention and assistance in responding to allegations of abuse.
  - b. The former Classical Abuse Response Teams were renamed Classical Safe Church Teams in 2006. The name Safe Church Office corresponds with the Classical Safe Church Teams.
8. That synod encourage the Safe Church Office to develop additional relevant educational resources on abuse prevention and leader abuse that are readily available to all church members.

*Grounds:*

- a. Information should be available to everyone in the church, including ministry leaders.
  - b. Education efforts need to address the reality and dynamics of abuse committed by church leaders.
  - c. Wide distribution of educational resources increases the probability that people will protect themselves and their fellow church members more effectively against abuse in the church.
9. That synod declare Safe Church Teams to be regionally instead of classically based, that all regions have a Regional Safe Church team, that members of Regional Safe Church Teams be selected in a manner similar to other regionally selected agency boards, that Regional Safe Church Teams be accountable to the classes within their region, and that each Regional Safe Church Team include members with legal, medical, pastoral, and psychological expertise.

*Grounds:*

- a. Classes that do not currently have a Classical Safe Church Team will have a Regional Safe Church Team.
  - b. Regional Safe Church Teams are a more effective use of resources. The possibility of Regional Safe Church Teams disbanding due to insufficient call for their services is decreased.
  - c. Current Classical Safe Church Team members may be chosen to be on Regional Safe Church Teams and thus continue to contribute their needed expertise and skill.
10. That synod act on the following regarding Victim Advocates:
- a. That synod draw the church's attention to the position and availability of Victim Advocate.

*Grounds:*

- 1) Few people are aware of this position or understand the role of Victim Advocate.
  - 2) A Victim Advocate is valuable for the victim and assists with the process following allegations of abuse.
- b. That synod declare that Victim Advocates must be given the privilege of the floor at classis meetings, at judicial code proceedings, and at the advisory committee of synod when the advocate's case is presented.

*Ground:* When Synod 2005 established and approved the advocate's presence at various meetings, it did not include the advocate at classis meetings, at judicial code proceedings, or at the advisory committee. This corrects that oversight.

- c. That synod expand the advocate role to include present and formerly practicing attorneys.

*Grounds:*

- 1) Attorneys are advocates by professional training and experience.
  - 2) In judicial code proceedings, when attorneys often represent the complainant, the victim's advocate will be prepared to function in that capacity.
11. That synod encourage the Safe Church Office to continue to provide resources and regular, combined training to Regional Safe Church Teams and Victim Advocates so that they can do their jobs effectively.

*Grounds:*

- a. Regular training promotes increased effectiveness.
  - b. Regular training introduces opportunity for church members to become informed about and consider ways of implementing practices such as restorative justice.
  - c. Bringing Safe Church Teams and Victim Advocates together ensures that there is communication and contact between these two important groups of people.
12. That synod amend the Procedures and Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader as indicated in the Addendum.

*Ground:* These changes are consistent with the mandate to respond to the needs of victims of abuse.

13. That synod dismiss the Abuse Victims Task Force with thanks.

*I.* That synod adopt the revised model Articles of Incorporation for U.S. churches for inclusion in the Church Order Supplement, Article 32-d (BOT Supplement, section I, J).

*J.* That synod receive the agencies and institutional budgets as information and approve a ministry share of \$307.53 for calendar year 2009 (BOT Supplement, section II, B, 2).

*K.* 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 2009 (BOT Supplement, section II, B, 4).

L. That synod receive as information the Board's decision to no longer establish a stated supply compensation amount (BOT Supplement, section II, B, 5).

*Grounds:*

1. In recent years many churches are contracting directly or through the office of Pastor-Church Relations for the services of an interim pastor.
2. The time and level of involvement vary from occasional preaching and visitation to full-time work, including significant process consultation. Given the wide diversity of such arrangements, it is no longer reasonable to set a standard remuneration amount.

M. That synod adopt the denominational salary grid for senior positions as proposed (BOT Supplement, section II, B, 6).

N. That synod receive as information the BOT's confirmation of the matters presented by the Pension Trustees (BOT Supplement, section II, B, 8).

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

## **Appendix A**

### **Abuse Victims Task Force Report**

#### **Executive Summary of the Abuse Victims Task Force Report**

##### **I. Background**

Few things create more anxiety for the typical church leader than hearing that an allegation of abuse within the congregation has been made. Few situations are more painful for victims of abuse and, thus, require a clear understanding of the process that will lead to justice, healing, and hope. In order to assist church leaders in responding appropriately and confidently in these stressful and painful circumstances, a step-by-step synopsis of the Abuse Victims Task Force Report has been prepared. It is our hope that if the recommendations of the task force are adopted, this will serve as a key or checklist for reference. The more detailed descriptions of the procedures are found within the report itself and should be used when responding to specific circumstances.

##### **II. Step-by-step procedure**

###### *A. When the victim is an adult*

###### **1. Immediate steps**

- a. The victim or a representative brings the written allegation to a member of the church council executive or a member of the Regional Safe Church Team, along with a request that an advisory panel be formed.
- b. The church council executive or the Safe Church Team are informed of the allegation and request (whichever was not directly approached).

- c. The advisory panel is constituted, comprising the members of the Regional Safe Church Team. The advisory panel meets to review materials and determine sufficient evidence to proceed with the matter.
  - d. If the advisory panel discerns credible substance to the allegations, it shall recommend to the church council that the alleged offender be placed on (paid) leave, without prejudice, from all leadership duties.
  - e. Pastoral care for the alleged victim, offender, and their families is initiated at the earliest appropriate time.
2. As soon as possible
- a. The church council provides written notice of the accusation to the alleged offender and places the alleged offender on (paid) leave without judgment regarding the accusations.
  - b. The congregation is informed of the leave from duties, without disclosing information damaging to the reputation of either alleged victim or alleged offender.
  - c. The victim is informed of the availability of a Victim Advocate and is put in contact with the Victim Advocate. If the Victim Advocate is not contacted within one week, the Victim Advocate will contact the alleged victim and see if assistance is desired.
  - d. The council informs a neighboring church council of the allegations and asks that three elders attend their meetings when the alleged abuse is dealt with. Also the council informs the regional pastor of the allegation and requests his/her attendance at these meetings as well.
  - e. The advisory panel shall meet to receive information about the allegation and investigate the claim (through the victim's testimony, written materials, presentation by witnesses, depositions, and so forth). Elders of the church involved and elders from the neighboring church shall be invited to witness all proceedings and/or meetings of the advisory panel. When the meeting is done, the alleged offender is notified that the advisory panel has met.
3. No more than one week later, another meeting of the advisory panel is held at which the alleged offender can present evidence, personal testimony, witnesses, depositions, and so forth.
4. As soon as possible
- a. The advisory panel convenes to consider the truth and gravity of the allegations. It writes a report that includes the following:
    - 1) Its judgment on the veracity of the allegation.
    - 2) Recommendations regarding pastoral care for the victim, offender, and their families.
    - 3) Recommendations regarding discipline.
    - 4) Recommendations regarding financial matters.
  - b. The victim is informed orally of the advisory panel's findings and recommendations, with written notification to follow.

5. Within one week the chairperson of the advisory panel along with the Victim Advocate shall present the written report of the advisory panel's findings and recommendations to the executive committee of the church involved, along with the three elders from the neighboring church and the regional pastor.
6. Within one week
  - a. The church council, along with the three elders from the neighboring church and the regional pastor, is convened to receive the report. It has thirty days to adjudicate the allegations and decide on the appropriate actions.
  - b. The victim and alleged offender are notified of the council conclusions.
7. Further actions could result from appeals, Church Order requirements for deposition, and so forth.

*B. When the victim is a child*

1. As soon as possible
  - a. Anyone who receives a report of an allegation of child abuse against a church leader which creates a reasonable suspicion that abuse has occurred, shall notify the local police or child-protection authorities.
  - b. The one making the report shall notify the church person designated to receive reports of child abuse about the situation and action taken.
  - c. The designated person shall contact the pastor, a member of the church's leadership team, the church's legal counsel, and the church's insurance agent. If one of these people are involved in the situation, then an alternate is to be contacted in their place.
2. In as timely a manner as possible
  - a. Civil process takes place, but the council conducts its own investigation as well.
  - b. The church council shall ask that three elders from a neighboring church and the regional pastor attend meetings dealing with the alleged abuse. Immediate actions of the council shall be the following:
    - 1) Prohibit contact between the alleged offender and the victim, and between the alleged offender and any minor in the congregation.
    - 2) Suspend the alleged offender from office and leadership positions, without prejudice pending outcome of the investigation. The congregation is informed of the leave from duties, without disclosing information damaging to the reputation of either alleged victim or alleged offender.
    - 3) Contact the Regional Safe Church Team and have an advisory panel convened, in order to address issues of pastoral care or financial need.
  - c. The expanded council shall monitor the criminal proceedings and take appropriate actions. Whatever the outcome of the civil process, the expanded council shall decide on future action based on its own

understanding of events, with the assistance of the advisory panel, and in consultation with various authorities and experts.

## **Abuse Victims Task Force Report**

### **Report outline**

#### **I. Mandate, introductory comments, identifying the issues**

##### *A. Mandate and introductory comments*

##### *B. Identifying the issues*

1. Pastoral issues have been overlooked when abuse allegations have surfaced
2. Financial issues related to the consequences of sexual abuse
3. Responding to sexual abuse from a restorative justice framework
4. The Office of Abuse Prevention deals with more than just prevention
5. Education efforts about abuse in the church need strengthening
6. Classical Safe Church Team contributions can be enhanced
7. The Victim Advocate role needs continued development
8. The current procedures designed to deal with allegations of abuse against a church leader need updating

#### **II. Elaborating the issues**

##### *A. Pastoral issues*

1. General pastoral care when an abuse allegation is disclosed
2. Pastoral care for victims and their families
3. Pastoral care for offenders and their families
4. Pastoral care for congregations

##### *B. Financial issues*

##### *C. Restorative justice*

##### *D. The Office of Abuse Prevention*

##### *E. Broadening educational efforts*

##### *F. Classical Safe Church Teams*

##### *G. The Victim Advocate*

##### *H. Procedures and Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader*

#### **III. Recommendations**

Addendum: Procedures and Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader

#### **I. Mandate, introductory comments, identifying the issues**

##### *A. Mandate and introductory comments*

Abuse in the church, particularly when perpetrated by a church leader, is a heinous sin striking at the heart of the Christian community. The very place God designed as a place of refuge, healing, and comfort becomes instead a place of betrayal and pain. Spiritual isolation, confusion about God, and a lifetime struggle to experience hopefulness and happiness within the body of Christ are the spiritual consequences of sexual abuse. Many victims leave the church.

Out of concern for the victim's healing, the offender's correction, and the church's reputation, the sad reality of abuse cannot be ignored and the terrible consequences of abuse must be addressed.

Synod 2006 was confronted with a difficult and painful appeal by Mr. Wesley Heersink. Mr. Heersink's appeal addressed not only the sexual abuse that happened to him many years ago within the context of church ministry, but also the response he received from the local church council, the classis, and the Judicial Code Committee as he sought justice and healing.

Synod did not sustain Mr. Heersink's appeal (*Acts of Synod 2006*, pp. 678-79). Synod did, however, recognize inadequacies in the process involving issues related to sexual abuse by church leaders (as evidenced by the Heersink case) and adopted the recommendation from the Judicial Code Committee that a task force be appointed

to consider how best to respond to the underlying issues raised by Mr. Heersink's appeal: namely how the denomination ought to be responding, whether in financial terms or otherwise, to the very real consequences of sexual abuse in the lives of current and former members. . . .

(*Acts of Synod 2006*, p. 679)

Synod recognized that, as a denomination, we have not always dealt well with the consequences of sexual abuse by church leaders. We have not been pastorally sensitive to victims and their families. Our procedures for justice, healing, and restoration need improvement. In this broken and hurting world, and particularly in the difficult area of sexual abuse, the church seeks to be an agent of justice and reconciliation. This is imperative when the pain of sexual abuse affects members of our body who have been hurt by church leaders.

There is an inherent power imbalance between a pastor/church leader and a parishioner. Notions of consent are irrelevant. In every circumstance the church leader is responsible for keeping godly boundaries in place.

Scripture provides clear and unambiguous direction about how to treat children and indeed all members of the church fellowship: "Do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged" (Col. 3:21) says the apostle Paul to the Colossians. And to the Ephesians Paul writes: "But among you there must not even be a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people" (Eph. 5:3). Abuse violates the heart of these scriptural principles.

#### *B. Identifying the issues*

As the task force reviewed the mandate given to it by Synod 2006, examined current policies, gathered information from people who have been victims of abuse, corresponded with other denominations about existing policies, and met with various experts, the following issues were identified:

1. Pastoral issues have been overlooked when abuse allegations have surfaced

Intense emotion accompanies abuse disclosures and allegations. Congregations polarize, alleged offenders are scorned, and victim's stories are minimized. Pastoral care for the victims, the offenders, their families, and the congregations is needed, for "when one member suffers, all suffer together" (1 Cor. 12:26).



2. Financial issues related to the consequences of sexual abuse

The effects of abuse often include financial costs for victims (i.e., medical treatment, psychotherapy, lost time from work, and costs associated with church and legal procedures). Victims are further victimized when they bear financial burdens resulting from the abuse they received. Justice and healing require bearing the financial burdens of victims.

3. Responding to sexual abuse from a restorative justice framework

As the task force set about examining current denominational practices regarding abuse education and abuse allegations, the task force wondered about alternative ways of justice and reconciliation that merit exploration and implementation. Restorative justice practices offer considerable promise in this regard.

4. The Office of Abuse Prevention deals with more than just prevention

In addition to prevention and education, the Office of Abuse Prevention is called upon to address issues that arise after abuse by a church leader has been disclosed. In the past, confusion arose regarding the role of this office. The title *Office of Abuse Prevention* does not reflect the range of services that churches seek from the office.

5. Education efforts about abuse in the church need strengthening

There are ways to support and enhance educational efforts to church leaders and to all church members.

6. Classical Safe Church Team contributions can be enhanced

The Classical Safe Church Teams formerly referred to as Classical Abuse Response Teams have upon occasion worked well. Some classes have difficulty forming and maintaining Safe Church Teams.

7. The Victim Advocate role needs continued development

Victim Advocates provide highly valuable support, education, and assistance to victims experiencing the church's response to abuse allegations. The Office of Abuse Prevention has begun identifying and training Victim Advocates. These efforts should be supported and expanded.

8. The current procedures designed to deal with allegations of abuse against a church leader need updating

Currently there is in place a set of procedures to deal with allegations of abuse against a church leader. The task force examined these procedures with an eye to clarity, consistency, and helpfulness in better responding to the effects of abuse.

## II. Elaborating the issues

### A. Pastoral issues

The task force placed a notice in *The Banner* requesting input from those affected by abuse within the church. Many responded. The task force is grateful for those who courageously took the risk of responding. For reasons of confidentiality these stories will not be told in this report. However, the stories shared impressed upon the task force the reality of abuse, the ongoing pain that victims of abuse suffer, and the urgent need for the church to respond in a healing and restorative way.

The church has previously focused on important tasks associated with responding to allegations of sexual abuse in church settings. Pastoral needs of victims and their families have received less attention. Victims and their families need immediate and ongoing compassionate pastoral care. They need assurance of God's love for them so that they can heal from the damaging and unmerited abuse they experienced. Offenders and their families also need ongoing compassionate pastoral care as they experience stress and disruption in their lives. And, finally, the local congregation needs care and assistance as it copes with difficult circumstances and community distress.

The following guidelines relate to pastoral care when allegations of sexual abuse against a ministry leader surface. These guidelines are not exhaustive. Churches are encouraged to use these guidelines as stepping off points to provide sensitive pastoral care to victims, offenders, and congregations.

1. General pastoral care when an abuse allegation is disclosed

An abuse allegation against a church leader understandably raises distress in the council room. To ensure that pastoral needs are not inadvertently overlooked, councils need to immediately appoint an individual or small group of wise and experienced pastoral care persons to develop and oversee the implementation of pastoral care for all parties concerned: victims, offenders, their families, and the congregation as a whole.

2. Pastoral care for victims and their families

Victims and their families present a wide range of pastoral care needs. If the abuse occurred recently, they may feel shock, fear, and confusion. If the abuse occurred in the past, they may have been living for years with emotions such as hurt, sadness, anger, rejection from the church, and more. They may be unaware of church policies and procedures for responding to allegations of abuse. Victims need to be taken seriously and offered immediate compassionate support.

a. Systems for support

- Church leaders who are not part of the abuse allegation should contact the victim and family expressing willingness to take the complaint seriously. Church leaders should express sorrow that the victim has this story to tell.
- Support resources should be offered without waiting for requests from the victim and family. The victim and family's decisions regarding use of these resources should be respected and accepted. Support resources include referral to a Victim Advocate, prayer, spiritual guidance, up to date information regarding the response process to the abuse allegation, and financial assistance.
- Victims should receive financial reimbursement for expenses related to the church response processes.
- Victims should receive financial reimbursement for out-of-pocket medical and psychological treatment associated with the abuse regardless of when the abuse occurred. The offender's church at the time of the abuse is responsible for this reimbursement.

- b. Based on thoughtful suggestions from victims and families who previously experienced the abuse response process, the following principles should guide interactions with victims and their families.
  - Victims and families need to be able to speak about their experiences and emotions without blame or shame. They need to know that others hear and understand their pain.
  - Whenever possible, allow victims to make choices in the process following the abuse complaint. Respect their requests as far as possible. Victims may make requests regarding who is present in hearings, the location of hearings, or other steps in the process. Victims will be offered the assistance of a trained Victim Advocate, but victims may choose to use another person for their advocate.
  - Victims and families benefit from close communication with those involved with the response to the allegation process. Keep them informed about steps in the process, decisions made, and the outcomes of hearings. The responsibility for communication with the victim and family should be assigned to a designated person. The Victim Advocate should also have access to this information.
  - Abuse situations raise many complicated spiritual questions. Victims and families may desire assistance with abuse effects in their spiritual lives. Offer prayer and spiritual guidance to assist with these effects and questions.
- c. The effects of abuse do not disappear at the conclusion of the church's response to the allegation. Healing and resolution require considerable time. Pastoral care should continue after the official response process has ended.
  - Healing is promoted when victims and families hear sincere apologies and expressions of regret from offenders, the church, or others involved in the abuse situation. Genuine apologies recognize the wrong, acknowledge the suffering, and take responsibility without blaming the victim or excusing the offender.
  - The deep wounds from abuse often require professional counseling for healing and resolution. The offender's congregation at the time of the abuse should offer assistance with paying for medical and psychological treatment needed to recover from the abuse even if the abuse occurred years prior to the disclosure.
  - Some victims may desire pastoral care support as they wrestle with the concept of forgiveness. Forgiveness is a process that should not be advocated prematurely and cannot be forced by the victim or forced by others.
  - Restorative justice processes can be used for healing following the response process if the victim desires, even if these processes have not been used earlier. They can be effective for promoting healing and peace.
3. Pastoral care for offenders and their families
 

Alleged offenders are often judged prematurely and are not pastored effectively. Paul reminds us that we are to "carry each other's burdens and so fulfill the laws of Christ" (Gal. 6:2). This applies to alleged offenders

as well as to victims. In many cases the spouse and children of alleged offenders are secondary victims of the situation.

- a. The spouse and children of those charged with abuse should not be overlooked for pastoral care. They experience deep distress, confusion, embarrassment, and other strong emotions. Direct expressions of care and concern from non-involved church leaders and others in the congregation are important.
  - b. Regardless of outcome, alleged offenders and their families require continuing pastoral care to assist with the ongoing effects in their lives following an allegation.
4. Pastoral care for congregations

Congregations are deeply affected by allegations of abuse against a church leader. Some members deny the occurrence of abuse even after a careful process has concluded that evidence supports the allegation. When other members support the conclusions of the process and desire a strong response to the offender, the congregation may experience division. Members feel betrayed, confused, angry, or sad. Members may fear that others, including their own children, have been hurt. Abuse allegations raise difficult spiritual questions regarding God and God's church.

For all these reasons and more, congregations need care and time to heal from the effects of abuse allegations against a church leader. The long-term health of the congregation rests on responses that effectively promote grace, peace, and healing.

a. Disclosure

Appropriate disclosure of information supports the process of healing for individuals and the congregation. Disclosure needs to be made to those who need to know, including the congregation. Experience has demonstrated that where disclosure is made to the congregation, the healing within that congregation is better realized. Disclosure should never involve revealing the identity of the victim or of facts that would make the victim readily identifiable. Disclosure is helpful in the following ways:

- It is easier for a congregation to deal with a matter, no matter how unpleasant, if the matter is confronted openly rather than shrouded in secrecy. Disclosure reduces the harmful effects of rumors.
- Disclosure is also necessary in order to fulfill the mission of the church body to reach out to people who need the love, healing, and reconciliation that are the heart of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Disclosure facilitates pastoral care to the congregation. It ministers to people who have been victims of abuse but who have not confronted and dealt with the problem. It may also help to prevent future abuse within the congregation and the community.

(The basis for this section regarding disclosure is information taken from "An ELCA Strategy for Responding to Sexual Abuse in the Church" as found in *Preventing Child Abuse* by Beth Swagman, Faith Alive Christian Resources, Grand Rapids, Mich., 1995.)

b. Communication and education

Sermons addressing all aspects of healing should be preached. If the alleged offender is the pastor, then a pastoral care specialist or a skilled local chaplain can be called upon for one or more sermons. Addressing this issue from the pulpit makes it real and unavoidable. The pulpit is an important component of moving the healing process forward.

Educational presentations by knowledgeable community professionals promote greater understanding of issues for the congregation. Educational materials such as books, pamphlets, training videos, and websites allow for individual use.

c. Support

Holding special prayer services as soon as possible after an abuse allegation provides an opportunity for people to gather and pray in community. These services need not wait until Sunday. Small group gatherings with a trained facilitator can provide opportunities to express doubts, anger, fear, and concern. When the offender is a staff person, fellow church staff members may have particular concerns and emotions that can be addressed in staff groups such as group prayer opportunities, educational opportunities, and process groups.

*B. Financial issues*

Synod 2006 asked the task force to specifically consider how the denomination ought to respond to the financial consequences of sexual abuse in the lives of current and former members. Healing from sexual abuse often requires psychotherapy. In some instances health insurance benefits are available to victims of sexual abuse. In other instances the church's insurance policy where the offender was a member at the time of the offense may pay for psychotherapy. Available benefits from health or liability insurance should be used up first. When those resources have been exhausted, the offender's church at the time of the offense is responsible for additional medical and psychological expenses.

There are many other potential issues related to the settling of financial issues. For example, Who is responsible for expenses related to the abuse response process when the offender is no longer a member at the church where the abuse happened? Are there financial or time limits to what a victim can expect? How are financially responsible recommendations made? Who makes the financial recommendations? The task force recommends that the advisory panel responsibilities be expanded to include recommendations regarding financial reimbursement to the victim. This is detailed further in section H below: Procedures and Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader.

Many churches in the denomination may be unaware of the financial implications and obligations they could encounter should an abuse allegation against a church leader who is or was a member of their fellowship occur. Churches must regularly review and consider their abuse prevention policies as well as their liability insurance.

*C. Restorative justice*

In God's kingdom fullness of life is restored to all creation: justice and mercy live together perfectly. With its emphasis on healing and restoration,

restorative justice is a tool available to the church in situations of injury, abuse, injustice, and brokenness.

The CRC is actively engaged in developing the understanding and use of restorative justice. The Committee to Study Restorative Justice submitted an important informative report to Synod 2005. Synod 2005 adopted all the recommendations of the study report, thereby affirming denominational support for increased use of restorative justice. One recommendation adopted was “that synod encourage the active participation of churches and church members in restorative justice efforts” (*Acts of Synod 2005*, p. 761). The Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action supports efforts to advance the use of restorative justice as described in their website: [www.crcna.org/pages/osjha\\_restorative.cfm](http://www.crcna.org/pages/osjha_restorative.cfm). In addition, the CRC Restorative Justice Advisory Committee in Canada actively seeks opportunities to develop and apply restorative justice principles in a variety of situations including criminal justice and school settings. The denomination is committed to expanding the use of restorative justice principles as a means of promoting justice and healing.

The restorative justice process uses prescribed procedures with a trained facilitator to promote healing, justice, and restoration. Restorative justice principles rely on the notion of respect for all people as imagebearers of God. Relationships and relationship repair is at the heart of restorative justice. As the restorative justice study report explains, “the restorative approach keeps justice tied to people and relationships, to damage done to these people and relationships, and to the sorts of obligations thereby created” (*Agenda for Synod 2005*, p. 538). Restorative justice is victim-focused and used only when desired by the victim. It may involve various stakeholders, including victims, their families, offenders, offenders’ families, leaders, organizations, legal entities, and communities. The process involves careful preparation by the trained facilitator, followed by one or more conferences during which the facilitator leads discussion on planned topics. Decisions regarding further action and follow-up are made in these conferences.

Restorative justice procedures provide a valuable option for victims of sexual abuse when the abuse occurred in a church setting. In the restorative justice model victims speak and their losses are addressed in a safe setting without shaming or blaming the victim.

Restorative justice demands recognition of the wrongs and injuries without denying, minimizing, silencing, or prematurely advocating forgiveness. Restorative justice requires that the offender acknowledge the injury of sexual abuse. The restorative justice process also responds to the injury experienced when others (such as church councils, classes, and so forth) have responded poorly or wrongly. Abuse survivors frequently express their desire for acknowledgment of and validation of their abuse and the subsequent, often life-changing, suffering. Restorative justice conferences provide an effective means to provide for this need to be heard and to develop plans for healing.

The task force is impressed by the work that the Restorative Justice Advisory Committee in Canada has done in aiding the implementation of restorative justice principles in schools and in parts of the criminal justice system in Canada. The committee in Canada has also begun actively discussing the application of restorative justice in church settings including situations of sexual abuse. The Restorative Justice Advisory Committee in Canada

is also deeply aware of the absolute necessity of excellent facilitation by well-trained facilitators when a restorative justice approach is desired. The Restorative Justice Advisory Committee in Canada has contacts with persons outside the CRC who are hard at work in this area. The task force encourages persons and churches interested in using a restorative justice model to contact the Office of Abuse Prevention for information and referral.

Implementing a restorative justice process in instances of sexual abuse in the church may involve costs related to training, consulting, and/or using the services of a trained restorative justice facilitator. Church councils are urged to seriously consider underwriting the costs of such a process. Ideally the involved church council will take the initiative in addressing this. The church conveys its sincerity to the victim that it is eager to be part of the healing and restoration process when it takes the initiative in addressing cost issues.

#### *D. The Office of Abuse Prevention*

As indicated in the *Agenda for Synod 2000*, the primary focus for the Office of Abuse Prevention is education and training for the prevention of abuse (p. 67). Even when the Office of Abuse Prevention is called upon to give advice in specific cases of abuse, the emphasis, according to the *Agenda for Synod 2000* is education and training.

The Office of Abuse Prevention has provided excellent service to the church by raising the awareness of the reality and prevalence of abuse, by assisting local churches to develop policies that are a deterrent to abuse happening, and by guiding the formation of Safe Church Teams. The church is deeply grateful for the Office of Abuse Prevention.

Over the years churches have asked the Office of Abuse Prevention to provide direction following allegations of abuse against a church leader. Churches have asked questions about justice and reconciliation. Others wanted to know how to address the needs of alleged offenders, victims, and their families. Some thought the Office of Abuse Prevention was to protect the church against the claims of victims, others believed the Office of Abuse Prevention stood with the victim against the church. These requests for direction and input have thrust the Office of Abuse Prevention into an area beyond prevention.

The name *Office of Abuse Prevention* does not accurately reflect the range of services that the churches seek when abuse allegations arise. The office should be renamed the *CRC Safe Church Office* in recognition of the variety of services that the office provides.

#### *E. Broadening educational efforts*

Each year there is an abuse awareness week. The Office of Abuse Prevention selects appropriate educational materials for the churches to use for abuse awareness week. (In 2006, 90 out of 1100 churches participated in abuse awareness week.)

Every other year an abuse awareness event is planned. Several thousand booklets and pamphlets are distributed. Individual churches decide whether or not to participate in this educational effort.

Despite the Abuse Prevention office's best efforts over the past twelve years, there is still a dearth of knowledge about abuse and abuse dynamics in the church. Many churches do not have adequate safe church policies



in place. Many classes have not yet formed Safe Church Teams despite the repeated urges of synod to do so. Education needs to be an ongoing focus. In addition to the efforts the Office of Abuse Prevention has already engaged in, the task force envisions all churches having brochures on abuse, prevention, and clergy abuse readily available in literature racks and on literature tables. Other educational efforts might include the development of short videos about abuse prevention in general and abuse by church leaders specifically. These videos could be cost and time effective given the current technological tools available. They could be used for efficient training of staff and church council members as well as education for all church members. Aspiring pastors need training and education about abuse dynamics and clergy abuse. Reminding Calvin Theological Seminary to continually train and educate would-be pastors about abuse dynamics and clergy abuse is a vital component in the church's response to abuse.

#### *F. Classical Safe Church Teams*

Currently Classical Safe Church Teams are charged with a number of functions: they may be called upon to convene advisory panels when allegations of abuse are made against a church leader by an adult; upon request they provide education about abuse; upon request they offer support to abuse victims, alleged offenders, and their families. Classical Safe Church Team members are chosen to serve by their classes.

There is considerable merit in the concept of Safe Church Teams. They have worked well in some situations. They provide a valuable vehicle for inserting impartial wisdom, skill, and up-to date knowledge into the process for handling abuse allegations against a church leader.

However, forming and maintaining effective Classical Safe Church Teams in all classes has been difficult. In a number of classes where there are Classical Safe Church Teams, the teams have been seldom or never called upon. Consequently, some of these Classical Safe Church Teams have disbanded.

While Classical Safe Church Teams have encountered challenges, considerable effort and publicity has been expended on their development. They are a valuable resource for congregations faced with allegations of abuse by a church leader. Safe Church Team members have received mandatory training with additional optional training opportunities. In order to address the challenges while maintaining the strengths of the Safe Church Team system, the task force recommends that *Classical Safe Church Teams* be changed to *Regional Safe Church Teams*. Regional Safe Church Teams are a more effective use of resources. Regional teams will relieve the burden for classes that struggle to maintain a standing team. Regional Safe Church Teams are less likely to fall apart for lack of use.

#### *G. The Victim Advocate*

Synod 2005 approved the use of Victim Advocates. Prior to 2005 victims had a "support person." Victim Advocates walk alongside an adult victim when there are allegations of abuse against a church leader. They provide victims with valuable support, information, and assistance with the process. Victim Advocates receive the same training as members of the Classical Safe Church Teams as well as additional training in advocacy. In 2007 twenty-two people from eleven classes were trained as Victim Advocates.



The task of identifying and training Victim Advocates is off to a fine start. This endeavor should be continued and expanded so that trained Victim Advocates are available throughout the denomination.

Victim Advocates must be given the privilege of the floor at classis meetings, judicial code proceedings, and at the advisory committee of synod when the advocate's case is presented.

#### *H. Procedures and Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader*

The current Procedures and Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader are impressive for their breadth and scope. The task force reviewed the procedures carefully and has two substantive changes to recommend, plus several minor changes.

1. Cases of discipline involving abuse, particularly when committed in the context of the church, merit special handling. So the first major change involves expanding the body to which the advisory panel presents its findings and having that expanded body bear the responsibility for adjudicating the matter.

Here is a description of the current process. The advisory panel, charged with determining if the allegation of abuse is probable, presents its findings to the council where the alleged offender is a member. That council then adjudicates the matter.

The Church Order and its Supplements note that for an officebearer to be placed under general discipline, that officebearer must first be suspended from office through the imposition of special discipline (Church Order Article 82). Such suspension requires the concurring judgment of the council of the nearest church in the same classis (Church Order Supplement, Articles 82-84, c, 1 and d, 1).

Once special discipline has been applied, general discipline takes place, as it would for all members who deviate from faithful obedience to God. General discipline is the responsibility of the council, and the only time that a council is required to inform classis of disciplinary actions is when the erring member is to be excommunicated.

The current process, as just described, has some significant shortcomings when there is an allegation of sexual abuse against a ministry leader. As it stands now, the council, which is called to evaluate the situation and deal with the findings, has opportunity to "sweep it under the rug" or rule in a way that does more to limit liability than provide justice and restoration. This could be because councils find the issue threatening or embarrassing. There may be council members whose loyalty to the alleged offender makes it difficult for them to be objective and impartial.

It is necessary to relieve the council of the church where the alleged victim is a member from being the sole adjudicating body in cases of sexual abuse allegations.

The task force recommends that the council of the church where the alleged offender is a member request that three elders from a neighboring congregation and the regional pastor be present to hear the advisory panel's report and that the same expanded group adjudicate the matter. These measures add objectivity and accountability.

2. The second substantive change involves an additional role for the advisory panel.

The advisory panel tasks are expanded to include making recommendations regarding financial responses for the abuse victim. The panel will be asked to make recommendations for both adult and child victim cases.

The advisory panel is in a good position to develop recommendations that will respond to the needs of the victim and to provide assistance in decision-making for the council of the offender's church. In cases of an adult victim, the advisory panel has detailed information about the situation gained through the established panel processes. For all cases they have background training and, perhaps, experience in the issues associated with abuse in a church setting. Church councils, on the other hand, are faced with difficult decisions in often complex situations for which they have had no prior training or experience. While the council retains authority and responsibility for financial decisions, they will benefit from and appreciate wise counsel and recommendations from the advisory panel.

The advisory panel will consider many financial issues. They will address victims' medical and psychological expenses. They will look at expenses related to the church abuse response process itself, including lost work time. They will examine criteria for an endpoint in the financial process. Responsibility for these expenses will be addressed. They will consider all the issues from a perspective of justice, healing, resolution, and the mission of God's church in the world.

Advisory panel recommendations will be included with the report submitted to the council of the offender's church plus the three elders from the neighboring congregation and the regional pastor. When the advisory panel process has not been fully evoked, then the recommendations will be submitted prior to decision-making by the body of the council plus three neighboring church elders and regional pastor. This group then makes the final decisions regarding the financial recommendations from the advisory panel.

### **III. Recommendations**

A. That synod give the privilege of the floor to Rev. Jerry Van Groningen and Ms. Laura Triezenberg as representatives of the Abuse Victims Task Force.

B. That synod encourage church councils to provide for the pastoral care needs of the victim, the alleged offender, families, and congregation when an allegation of abuse against a church leader is brought forward, and that synod encourage the elders to immediately appoint a person or small group of persons, accountable to the elders, who will ensure that the pastoral needs of victims, alleged offenders, families, and congregation are addressed.

#### *Grounds:*

1. The elders are charged to provide faithful counsel and discipline for the church.
2. A structure and required accountability make it less likely that pastoral needs will be overlooked.

C. That synod declare that congregations have a moral responsibility to cover the direct expenses incurred by a victim of sexual abuse when the abuser is a church leader.

*Grounds:*

1. An abusive leader represents the church, and thus the church has a duty to seek the healing of victims from the abuse done by its leaders.
2. Justice, common sense, and decency demand no less.

D. That synod expand the advisory panel's responsibilities to include consideration and recommendations to councils regarding appropriate levels of compensation to victims.

*Grounds:*

1. Advisory panels include trained individuals who understand the dynamics and effects of abuse.
2. The advisory panel is charged to be objective and deliberate in its consideration of all aspects of the situation under investigation.
3. The advisory panel is the group most familiar with all the circumstances of the situation under investigation.
4. Given the training, objectivity, and familiarity that reside within the advisory panel, this is the group most able to consider and recommend financial compensation to victims.

E. That synod advise each congregation to regularly review its policies for abuse prevention and liability coverage.

*Grounds:*

1. Prevention of harm is essential for the well-being of individuals, the congregation, and the witness of the church.
2. Stewardly planning and resource use require responsible liability coverage for situations in which abuse occurs despite prevention efforts.

F. That synod encourage church councils to facilitate the use of restorative justice practices when there have been occurrences of sexual abuse against a parishioner by a church leader.

*Grounds:*

1. Offering this option to victims of sexual abuse in the church follows naturally from the denomination's declared intent to pursue greater use of restorative justice principles.
2. Restorative justice methods are an effective means to facilitate healing for victims, offenders, and communities.

G. That synod declare the Office of Abuse Prevention be renamed the *CRC Safe Church Office*.

*Grounds:*

1. The new name recognizes both education in abuse prevention and assistance in responding to allegations of abuse.
2. The former Classical Abuse Response Teams were renamed Classical Safe Church Teams in 2006. The name *CRC Safe Church Office* corresponds with the Classical Safe Church Teams.

H. That synod encourage the CRC Safe Church Office to develop additional relevant educational resources on abuse prevention and leader abuse that are readily available to all church members.

*Grounds:*

1. Information should be available to everyone in the church, including ministry leaders.
2. Education efforts need to address the reality and dynamics of abuse committed by church leaders.
3. Wide distribution of educational resources increases the probability that people will protect themselves and their fellow church members more effectively against abuse in the church.

I. That synod declare Safe Church Teams to be regionally based instead of classically based, that all regions have a Regional Safe Church team, that members of Regional Safe Church Teams be selected in a manner similar to other regionally selected agency boards, that Regional Safe Church Teams be accountable to the classes within their region, and that each Regional Safe Church Team include members with legal, medical, pastoral, and psychological expertise.

*Grounds:*

1. Classes that do not currently have a Classical Safe Church Team will have a Regional Safe Church Team.
2. Regional Safe Church Teams are a more effective use of resources. The possibility of Regional Safe Church Teams disbanding due to insufficient call for their services is decreased.
3. Current Classical Safe Church Team members may be chosen to be on Regional Safe Church Teams and thus continue to contribute their needed expertise and skill.

J. That synod act on the following regarding Victim Advocates:

1. That synod draw the church's attention to the position and availability of Victim Advocate.

*Grounds:*

- a. Few people are aware of this position or understand the role of Victim Advocate.
- b. A Victim Advocate is valuable for the victim and assists with the process following allegations of abuse.
2. That synod declare that Victim Advocates must be given the privilege of the floor at classis meetings, at judicial code proceedings, and at the advisory committee of synod when the advocate's case is presented.

*Ground:* When Synod 2005 established and approved the advocate's presence at various meetings, it did not include the advocate at classis meetings, at judicial code proceedings, or at the advisory committee. This corrects that oversight.

3. That synod expand the advocate role to include present and formerly practicing attorneys.

*Grounds:*

- a. Attorneys are advocates by professional training and experience.
- b. In judicial code proceedings, when attorneys often represent the complainant, the victim's advocate will be prepared to function in that capacity.

K. That synod encourage the Safe Church Office to continue to provide resources and regular, combined training to Regional Safe Church Teams and Victim Advocates so that they can do their jobs effectively.

*Grounds:*

1. Regular training promotes increased effectiveness.
2. Regular training introduces opportunity for church members to become informed about and consider ways of implementing practices such as restorative justice.
3. Bringing Safe Church Teams and Victim Advocates together ensures that there is communication and contact between these two important groups of people.

L. That synod amend the Procedures and Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader as indicated in the Addendum.

*Ground:* These changes are consistent with the mandate to respond to the needs of victims of abuse.

M. That synod dismiss the Abuse Victims Task Force with thanks.

Abuse Victims Task Force  
Bruce Adema, staff adviser  
Ronald Nydam  
Irene Oudyk-Suk, reporter  
Laura Triezenberg, chair  
Jerry Van Groningen

## **Addendum**

### **Procedures and Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader**

#### **I. Why a procedure for handling abuse allegations is necessary**

A. Many allegations of child abuse surface after a child reaches adulthood. This may happen when an adult survivor of child abuse becomes separated from an offender in adulthood. Sometimes in adulthood the adult survivor comes to recognize the behavior done to him/her as abusive.

B. Sadly, because some church leaders have been unaware of child-abuse reporting laws and procedures, some victims have been placed at risk, some offenders have gone unnoticed, and some offenders have not been reported to local authorities.

C. Insurance companies that handle liability policies for churches may require reasonable policies and procedures that could reduce the risk of abuse and the costly civil litigation that can, and often does, result.

D. Costly civil litigation also results in an enormous toll on the emotional well-being of the litigants and the churches they attend. Church members are often divided in their support of litigants, and they may be uncertain how to respond with Christian concern toward litigants.

E. Such a procedure is a tangible expression of the church's desire to secure justice and healing for all parties involved when allegations of abuse are made.

In developing and implementing a procedure to handle abuse allegations, two great tensions exist. First, tension exists because the church wants to respond to the horror contained in the allegations and at the same time wants to protect the character, office, and family of someone who may be accused of abuse. Second, tension exists when the church wants its members to stay out of civil court and to resolve disputes in an ecclesiastical manner. Some, however, believing that the church's procedure for resolution is biased in favor of the alleged offender, choose the civil courts for redress.

Currently, the majority of abuse allegations are addressed by local councils/consistories (also referred to as governing bodies in this report) who attempt to follow the principles of Matthew 18:15-17. This approach is sound. At the same time the governing body must recognize in applying these principles that a face-to-face meeting between the alleged offender and the victim may not be immediately advisable. When the victim is forced to face one who has dealt inappropriately with him/her, the victim may feel like a victim once again. Therefore, victims have been unwilling to come forward with their stories even though their silence means that they cannot experience significant healing in their own lives and that an abusive spiritual leader can continue to serve in a position of authority.

The guidelines below will make it easier for people to come forward with their allegations of abuse. There is a set of guidelines for children and another set for adults. Both provide direction to the church for an appropriate and speedy handling of abuse allegations. The guidelines for adults require the formation of an advisory panel consisting of the entire safe church team or selected members of the safe church team. This panel, composed of people with expertise in the dynamics of abuse, will be an invaluable help to the local church and to all parties involved. We encourage all churches to work with an advisory panel when allegations of abuse arise and remind them that the Safe Church Office is available for any assistance needed to accomplish this.

In procedures for both child and adult victims it is still the local council in consultation with three elders from a neighboring CRC in the same classis and the regional pastor that must make a decision based on information received, and a number of factors must be considered when a council makes that decision. Confession, repentance, forgiveness, and healing are significant ingredients in this process. Because forgiveness is at the heart of the Christian gospel, the church is sometimes tempted to believe that these matters have been resolved when forgiveness has been declared. However, if forgiveness is declared in the absence of heartfelt confession and sincere repentance, neither party is assisted. The victims experience resentment because their concerns have been dismissed so lightly; the offenders are not

held accountable for their actions or the consequences of those actions and may go on to abuse again.

Even when forgiveness is appropriately granted, decisions still remain about whether or not a person may continue to serve in a position of responsibility and trust in the church. When the offender is an officebearer, the Church Order gives guidance in terms of suspension/deposition; when the offender is a church leader (but not an officebearer), the same kinds of questions must be considered. Thus, council members should be knowledgeable about abuse. Members of the regional advisory panel are able to assist local councils when these matters are discussed even in the case of children.

Confession, repentance, and forgiveness are not the end of this matter but are the beginning of a healing process. Abuse, even the allegation of abuse, is accompanied by a great deal of pain, which permanently changes people's lives. The church in its guidelines and in its continuing ministry must facilitate healing for all parties involved. It is our prayer that the following guidelines will better equip the church to evaluate specific allegations of abuse so that justice and healing may be realized.

## II. Guidelines

Member churches and classes should be allowed some freedom in defining the term *church leader*. A member church or classis may use the definition of church leader that is consistent with its general liability policy or other insurance coverage.

### A. Definitions

The Canadian provinces and each of the fifty United States have legal definitions of child abuse, child sexual abuse and exploitation, and physical abuse as well as a host of definitions of crimes committed against adults, including assault and battery, rape, and sexual harassment. Ecclesiastical procedures such as those outlined in sections 2 and 3 below cannot measure a person's guilt by a legal standard; only civil authorities are entitled to hold a person accountable for violation of a civil or criminal code. For that reason, an ecclesiastical procedure cannot judge a person to be guilty of child abuse or rape as defined by law. An ecclesiastical procedure can, however, judge someone to be guilty of ungodly conduct, misuse of power, misuse of spiritual authority, sexually inappropriate behavior, and neglect and abuse of office. These behaviors are not violations of civil or criminal code and therefore are not subject to criminal prosecution or civil redress. They are, instead, behaviors that violate the trust and well-being of individuals and the community of believers and taint the office held by the offender.

The following definitions are given to further assist the churches in understanding the types of behaviors that might constitute ungodly conduct, misuse of power, sexually inappropriate behavior, and so forth:

- Physical abuse is any nonaccidental injury inflicted on another person. It is sometimes a single event but more often a chronic pattern of behavior. It may result from severe punishment.
- Sexual abuse is exploitation of a person regardless of age or circumstance for the sexual gratification of another.



## *B. Introduction to procedures*

Various procedures may be followed when allegations of abuse are made against a church leader. The age of the alleged victim, local laws, and the nature of the allegation help to determine which procedure to follow. The following sections describe procedures for situations in which the victim is a child and for situations in which the victim is an adult. The procedures give direction in these difficult situations that frequently include strong emotions. They are designed to provide safety, to promote healing and to seek justice. Regardless of the procedure followed, those involved in responding to allegations of abuse must take great care not to re-traumatize victims of abuse during the process of responding to the allegations.

An alternative approach to responding to allegations of abuse against a church leader as described below involves the use of restorative justice principles and procedures. This option should be considered whenever possible because of its potential to promote both justice and healing. Restorative justice procedures are used only when desired by the victim and never to minimize leader accountability. For example, an adult who was abused as a teenager may choose to use a restorative justice model in order to express to the offender the deep wounds and life effects caused by the abuse. The offender receives the opportunity to acknowledge the pain that was caused and to take responsibility for it. The victim participates in decisions regarding restitution and offender accountability. This process offers opportunity for deep healing for victim, offender, and community. While involving children in a restorative justice process may not be appropriate, the child's parents may benefit from participation in such a process. As secondary victims, the parents may desire to communicate with the offender in the controlled setting of a restorative justice conference.

## *C. Suggested procedures and guidelines when the abuse victim is a child*

1. A person who receives a report of allegations of child abuse against a church leader (paid staff, officebearer, or appointed volunteer), and concludes that the allegations create a reasonable suspicion that abuse has occurred, should report the matter to local police or child-protection authorities within twenty-four hours of receiving the information.

In addition, a person who has knowledge of any circumstances that create a reasonable suspicion that a church leader has committed child abuse also should report the matter to local police or child-protection authorities within twenty-four hours of coming to that conclusion.

2. As soon as possible after notifying the appropriate authorities, the person who reports the matter should contact the person (hereafter, designated person) within the alleged offender's church who has been designated to receive any report of alleged child abuse. The person who reports the matter should describe the allegations of abuse and/or the circumstances that support the allegations of abuse to the designated person. In addition, the person who reports the matter should inform the designated person if the alleged abuse occurred in the church or in connection with a church-sponsored program.
3. The designated person should contact (1) the pastor, if the minor has not implicated the pastor; (2) a member of the church's leadership team, if



the minor has not implicated this team member; (3) the church's legal counsel; and (4) the church's insurance agent.

If the alleged victim and alleged offender are not members of the same church, each church should appoint a designated person. Together, the designated persons should maintain contact about the progress of the investigation.

Church officials may conduct their own investigation after civil authorities have begun theirs. However, church officials should not reveal the nature of the allegations to the alleged offender until the civil authorities have met with him or her.

4. If the alleged offender admits wrongdoing against the victim at any stage of this process, the admission of guilt should be brought to the attention of the governing body of the church of the alleged offender. The governing body expanded with three elders from a neighboring CRC and the regional pastor (which shall be asked to attend all meetings dealing with the allegation) should deliberate and determine outcomes according to established church polity and procedures.
5. When the designated person determines (1) that the authorities have concluded that the allegations merit serious investigation, or (2) that there is the possibility of formal charges, the designated person should notify the governing body of the alleged offender's church.
  - a. The designated person should present to the expanded governing body a written document that specifies the nature of the allegations and any information that is known.
  - b. The expanded governing body should give the alleged offender an opportunity to respond to the allegations.
  - c. In light of the information presented, the expanded governing body should implement the following actions:
    - prohibit contact at church between the alleged offender and the victim and between the alleged offender and any minor in the congregation;
    - suspend responsibilities from office, position, or duty with pay, when applicable, and without prejudice pending the outcome of the investigation; and
    - convene an advisory panel to address issues as they emerge such as financial issues or other pastoral care issues.
6. If and when the designated person learns that the authorities have filed criminal charges against the alleged offender, then the designated person should report this information to the governing body of the alleged offender's church.
  - The designated person should present to the expanded governing body a written document specifying the nature of the allegations and any information that is known.
  - The expanded governing body should give the alleged offender an opportunity to respond to the allegations.

7. When criminal proceedings have concluded, the expanded governing body should promptly revisit the matter, whether the result is conviction, acquittal, or dropped charges. If the criminal charges are dropped or prosecution does not result in a conviction, the expanded governing body should decide whether or not to rescind its earlier action and/or take additional action.
8. If the alleged offender whom the governing body has previously removed or suspended from office is found not guilty of the allegations, the expanded governing body should not reinstate the alleged offender to his or her previous position of leadership until they, in consultation with the police and/or child-protection authorities, legal counsel, and child abuse experts, deem it safe and proper to do so.
9. If the alleged offender is found guilty, the expanded governing body may (1) subject a determined offender (hereafter offender) to further suspension, deposition, or termination of employment, or (2) take such other action against the offender as the circumstances may dictate.
10. A church leader (1) who has made a confession of child abuse, (2) who has been convicted of child abuse in a court of law, or (3) whom the expanded governing body has adjudicated guilty of abuse of a minor should not be reinstated to the position from which he or she has been removed or suspended without the advice of the church's legal counsel.
11. The expanded governing body should notify the congregation when a church leader is removed or suspended from office, position, or duty pending the outcome of an investigation into an allegation of child abuse. This notice should be in writing and should protect the identity and confidentiality of the alleged victim. This disclosure should be pastoral, objectively factual, and not exceed the scope of the information known about the matter at that time. In addition, the governing body should not attempt to state any legal conclusions about the guilt or innocence of any person unless and until the expanded governing body determines that a church leader is an offender.
12. Subject to the best interests of the victim, the governing body should notify the congregation in writing if they conclude that a church leader is an offender. This notice should protect the identity and confidentiality of any innocent parties, including the victim. This written communication should be pastoral and objectively factual.

*D. Suggested procedures and guidelines when the abuse victim is an adult*

The guidelines in this section describe the process to be followed (a) when the alleged victim is an adult or (b) when the alleged victim comes forward as an adult with an allegation of abuse that took place during the victim's childhood or adolescence. The guidelines for handling abuse allegations by an adult against a church leader assume the availability of an advisory panel. The role of the advisory panel is to evaluate the gravity of the allegations and the probable veracity of them. The advisory panel also provides recommendations for council consideration regarding financial responses to the victim, pastoral care, and discipline. The guidelines are as follows:

*Note 1:* Provisions that specify the time to convene a meeting or the place of that meeting are only guidelines and are not requirements of the procedure.

*Note 2:* See section F, for important information regarding both sets of guidelines.

1. If a region has a safe church team, then the person with the allegation or an advocate should contact either a member of the executive committee of the alleged offender's church or a member of the regional safe church team. The contact should include the allegation in writing with a request for an advisory panel.

In those cases when the safe church team is contacted directly, the chairperson of the safe church team notifies the executive committee of the church where the alleged offender is a member that an advisory panel has been requested, and then identifies the alleged offender, and the allegation known at that time. Confidentiality among these parties is very important.

2. If a region does not yet have a safe church team, then the person with the allegation or an advocate should contact a member of the executive committee of the alleged offender's church. The contact should include the allegation in writing with a request for an advisory panel.

The executive committee (or its equivalent), after consulting with one another (no one of those consulting may be implicated by the victim) and after reviewing the alternatives, should contact the nearest regional safe church team to convene a panel. The advisory panel should be convened as soon as possible after the allegation is presented to a member of the executive committee or its equivalent.

The advisory panel shall meet to hear the allegation and review the materials that are available. If it deems there is sufficient evidence to proceed with the matter, it shall recommend to the church council that the alleged offender be placed on leave from leadership duties, with pay and without prejudice.

3. The governing body of the church of the alleged offender shall provide written notification of the allegation to the alleged offender. Upon receipt of written notification of allegation, the alleged offender will be put on leave (with pay if a staff member) from all leadership duties. The governing body shall provide written notification of this action to the congregation. (Councils are reminded that at this point no judgment has been made and the rights of the alleged offender are to be sustained. Thus care must be made in how the leave from duties is communicated—it may be neither damaging to the person's reputation nor deceptive.) The identity of the victim will not be disclosed.
4. The advisory panel will inform the alleged victim that a victim advocate is available to assist, and the panel will provide contact information. If the victim advocate has not been contacted within one week, the victim advocate will contact the alleged victim directly to offer assistance.
5. The governing body should inform the governing body of a neighboring CRC in the same classis of the allegation and response process initiated. The governing body should request that the neighboring CRC appoint

three elders to attend all council meetings involving the alleged abuse. In addition, the executive committee should inform the regional pastor of the situation and request the regional pastor's attendance at all council meetings that address the allegations and associated responses.

6. A representative of the advisory panel should inform the victim that an advisory-panel meeting will be held. The advisory panel chooses the location and the time for the meeting. The victim and witnesses should be available for the meeting. The panel members, the pastor, the president or vice-president of council, or the victim should make no public mention of the meeting.
7. When the advisory panel is convened, a chairperson should be appointed who is responsible to bring all panel members under a pledge of confidentiality regarding the name(s) of the alleged victim(s), the name of the alleged offender, and any details of the allegation brought forward. The summary of the advisory panel should also be confidential, as well as any report of the advisory panel. If the council chooses, it may have two representatives observe the hearing panels of the advisory panel. All matters of confidentiality apply to the council observers. The three elders from the neighboring CRC council and the regional pastor who will be joining the council meetings regarding the allegation may also attend advisory panel meetings as observers.
8. The advisory panel should receive all the information presented to it by the victim, examine the contents of all written materials, question the presenters, and consult with identified experts as needed. The experts must be knowledgeable in abuse dynamics, legal matters, church polity, child welfare, etc. The pledge of confidentiality extends to them as well.

For the advisory panel, supporting evidence may be in the form of written materials, witnesses, depositions (taken under oath), or oral testimony, including hearsay testimony. When distance would make it difficult or costly for travel or cause an undesirable delay in convening the advisory panel, videotaping and telephone conferencing are allowable.
9. A representative of the advisory panel should contact the alleged offender and notify him/her that an advisory panel meeting has taken place. The alleged offender should then be invited to present his/her defense before the same advisory panel at a time and location chosen by the panel. Whenever possible, the alleged offender should appear before the panel within seven days after the victim does. At the time the alleged offender is notified, he/she should be given information about the charges, including specific incidents, dates of specific incidents when possible, and indication of witnesses or corroborating evidence. The charges must be presented in writing.
10. The advisory panel should receive all the information presented to it by the alleged offender, examine the contents of all written materials, question the alleged offender and witnesses, and consult with experts as needed. For the advisory panel, supporting evidence for the alleged offender may be in the form of written materials, witnesses, depositions

(taken under oath), or oral testimony. When distance makes it difficult or costly for travel or causes an undesirable delay in convening the advisory panel, videotaping and telephone conferencing are allowable.

11. The advisory panel should convene to consider the gravity and the probable veracity of the allegations as quickly as possible. A summary of its findings should be put in written form for all panel members to sign. The written report may contain specific recommendations for pastoral care and/or discipline.
12. The advisory panel report should include recommendations for the council of the alleged offender's church regarding financial matters as part of the response to a victim of abuse by a church leader. The advisory panel should address the victim's medical and psychological expenses and consider expenses related to the church abuse response process itself, including lost work time. They should examine criteria for an endpoint in the financial process. Responsibility for these expenses should also be addressed. They should consider all the issues from a perspective of justice, healing, resolution, and the mission of God's church in the world.
13. The chairperson of the advisory panel accompanied by the victim advocate should report the panel's summary to the executive committee (or its equivalent) of the council of the alleged offender's church, including the regional pastor and three elders from the council of a neighboring CRC in the same classis designated to be present at all council meetings dealing with the allegation. This meeting should be convened within one week of the advisory panel's formulation of its summary. Members of the advisory panel should contact the victim orally and in writing with the panel's findings.
14. The executive committee (or its equivalent) of the council should convene the governing body within one week to bring the panel's summary and its recommendations for pastoral care and/or discipline. The advisory panel ends when the chairperson of the advisory panel reports the panel's summary to the governing body of the alleged offender's church, including the regional pastor and three elders from a neighboring CRC church. If one of the governing body's members is implicated by the alleged victim, he/she is excused from participation in the deliberative work of the governing body dealing with the allegations against that member. The chairperson of the advisory panel should report the panel's summary, and the advocate will be present.

The council has thirty days from receipt of the report to adjudicate the allegations and decide the next course of action. The council should notify the alleged offender and the victim of its findings. If a decision is made to take no further action on the report, or if the action taken by the expanded governing body is contrary to the findings of the advisory panel, then the chairperson of the advisory panel, after consultation with the advocate, will submit a copy of the report to the Classical Interim Committee (CIC) with a request for further action.

Further action could include the following:

- The Classical Interim Committee meets with the executive committee of the council including the three elders from a neighboring CRC and the regional pastor, the chairperson of the panel, and the advocate to review the findings and discuss the possible steps to take with respect to the report.
  - The Classical Interim Committee meets with the expanded governing body to review the findings and discuss the possible steps to take with respect to the report.
  - The Classical Interim Committee reports on the matter at the next classis meeting.
15. If the governing body judges the allegations to be weighty and probable, then two members shall notify the alleged offender in writing within seven days. The designees should also indicate to the alleged offender the specific charges and the names of those making the charges. Also, within seven days, the victim(s) should be notified by two members of the council that charges of abuse have been received against the alleged offender and that he/she/they are being notified of such charges.
- A summary of the council's deliberations should be given to the alleged offender in writing if requested. The alleged offender may acknowledge or deny his/her guilt at the notification meeting. Such acknowledgment or denial should be confirmed by the two council members present. If the alleged offender acknowledges the allegations, the council should be convened as soon as possible to initiate steps of discipline by following Church Order Articles 82 and 83. Both the offender and the victim should be notified in writing of the pastoral-care and church-discipline steps taken at this meeting. When the council decides either to suspend or depose from office, it should inform the congregation in writing of this action.
16. If the alleged offender denies the allegations made against him/her, the council has the responsibility to conduct a formal hearing to determine the likelihood of the alleged offender's guilt. The formal hearing should be conducted prior to any recommended steps of discipline.

The formal hearing should be conducted within one week of the notification meeting in which the alleged offender denies the allegations against him/her. The alleged offender has the right to receive the specific charges in writing and to meet the victim in the hearing. If a face-to-face meeting between the alleged offender and victim would be detrimental to the victim, then alternate arrangements might be made for the victim to be available but out of the sight or presence of the alleged offender. A tape recording of the testimony should be made.

The expanded governing body should convene in executive session to deliberate the truthfulness of the allegation(s) and the alleged offender's guilt or innocence. If the alleged offender is found innocent, the matter ends, and both the alleged offender and the victim should be notified of the council's deliberations in writing. If the alleged offender is found guilty, the council should be convened as soon as possible to initiate appropriate steps of discipline. Both the offender and the victim should

be notified in writing of the pastoral-care and church-discipline steps taken at this council meeting.

17. The offender may appeal the decision of the council in matters of discipline. Such appeals should be addressed to the classis, where standard appeal procedures are applied.

#### *E. Restorative justice alternatives*

God calls us to join him in furthering his kingdom in the fallen world. In God's kingdom fullness of life is restored for all creation; justice and mercy live together perfectly. With an emphasis on healing and restoration, restorative justice is a tool we can use to further God's kingdom in situations of injury, abuse, injustice, and brokenness.

The CRC is actively engaged in developing the understanding and use of restorative justice. Synod 2005 adopted all the recommendations of the Committee to Study Restorative Justice, thereby affirming denominational support for increased use of restorative justice. One recommendation adopted was "that synod encourage the active participation of churches and church members in restorative justice efforts."

The restorative justice process uses prescribed procedures with a trained facilitator to promote healing, justice, and restoration. It is based on relationships, respect and people as imagebearers of God. As the restorative justice study report explains, "the restorative approach keeps justice tied to people and relationships, to damage done to these people and relationships, and to the sorts of obligations thereby created." It is victim focused and is used only when desired by the victim. It may involve various stakeholders including victims, their families, offenders, offenders' families, leaders, organizations, legal entities, and communities. The process involves careful preparation by the trained facilitator followed by one or more conferences during which the facilitator leads discussion on planned topics. Decisions regarding further action and follow-up are made in these conferences.

Restorative justice procedures provide a valuable option for victims of sexual abuse that occurred in church settings. In the restorative justice model victims speak and their losses are addressed in a safe setting without shame or blame. Justice demands recognition of the wrongs and injuries without denying, minimizing, silencing, or prematurely advocating forgiveness. Justice requires acknowledgment not only of injury by the sexual offender but also of injury resulting from responses by others such as leadership, community, or organizations. Abuse survivors frequently express their desire for acknowledgment of and validation of their abuse and the subsequent, often life-changing, suffering. Restorative justice conferences provide an effective means to provide for this need to be heard and to develop plans for healing.

#### *E. Five important footnotes regarding both sets of guidelines*

1. The circumstances of abuse may dictate that church officials deviate from these guidelines. In addition, state and provincial laws vary somewhat in terms of the manner in which abuse is defined and how it should be reported. The presumption should be in favor of following the guidelines in the case of each allegation of abuse; however, the church is best served by retaining legal counsel with expertise in the area to define the legal standards relevant to a particular jurisdiction. Furthermore, the



Safe Church Office can be consulted regarding the application of the guidelines.

2. The guidelines anticipate that the victim's allegations will be disclosed to certain entities or individuals at certain times. At each stage of the proceedings outlined in the guidelines, those individuals who disclose and/or receive information relating to the allegations should use extensive precautions to ensure that the allegations and surrounding circumstances are not shared with any entities or individuals other than those expressly described under these guidelines or required by law. Accuracy is of the utmost importance in the disclosure of allegations or surrounding circumstances to those individuals or entities named in these guidelines. Wrongful or inaccurate dissemination of information can lead to adverse legal consequences.
3. Whenever a disclosure of allegations of child abuse or assault is warranted, the disclosure must include the language of the criminal code along with the indication that criminal authorities have made the charges and will follow them up to the full extent of their capabilities. If the allegations are ungodly conduct, abuse of office, and so forth, then the disclosure must include the language of the Church Order along with the indication that church officials will follow up to the full extent of their capabilities. After a judgment on the matter is rendered, subsequent disclosure must include the language of the Church Order; an explanation of the violation(s) may be given but only with care so as to protect the identity of the victim. Failure to explain the nature of the violation enables the offender to continue a pattern of denial or minimization and promotes the perception that the matter is being covered up somehow.
4. Member churches and classes that adopt these guidelines should check with their own legal counsel about potential liability that arises from the guidelines. By adopting the guidelines, the member church and its classis may be assuming legal obligations not dictated under the laws of their jurisdiction. The liability of the advisory panel that serves the member church or classis should also be discussed with legal counsel.
5. Denominational personnel should not serve on either safe church team or an advisory panel.

## **Appendix B**

### **Model Articles of Incorporation - U.S.**

#### **ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We, the undersigned, desiring to become incorporated under the provisions of \_\_\_\_\_ of the Public Acts of the State of \_\_\_\_\_ adopt the following Articles of Incorporation:



**ARTICLE I  
NAME OF CORPORATION**

The name of this corporation (church) is \_\_\_\_\_

**ARTICLE II  
LOCATION**

The location of the church shall be in the City of \_\_\_\_\_, County of \_\_\_\_\_, State of \_\_\_\_\_. The street address and mailing address of the registered office of the church shall be \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (state) \_\_\_\_\_. The name of the resident agent at the registered office is \_\_\_\_\_.

**ARTICLE III  
FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES**

This church is a member church of the Christian Reformed Church in North America and recognizes the following as the fundamental principles of doctrine and government: (1) The Bible as the inspired and infallible Word of God and the only rule for faith and life, and (2) the formulas of unity of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, namely: The Belgic Confession, The Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort, and any amendments or additions as the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church in North America ("Synod") may adopt.

**ARTICLE IV  
PURPOSES**

This church is a nonprofit, ecclesiastical corporation organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) (the "Code").

The church shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Code. This church has not been formed for pecuniary profit or gain. No part of the assets, income or profit of the church shall inure to the benefit of its members, council members, or officers. However, the church shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this Article IV.

No substantial part of the activities of this church shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. This church shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

## ARTICLE V GOVERNANCE

The ecclesiastical government of the church shall be conducted in accordance with the Church Order of the Christian Reformed Church in North America as Synod shall adopt or revise (the “Church Order”). This church is an emerging church as defined under the Church Order (an “Emerging Church”).

The council of this church, as defined under the Church Order, shall constitute the Board of Trustees and shall have all powers over the temporalities of this church as the Church Order and relevant state law may prescribe.

Any persons elected to the office of elder or deacon according to the Church Order and the pastor(s), if there be one or more, must be members of the church. The corporate functions related to an office shall cease on the vacating of the office, but a vacancy in the office of the pastor(s) shall in no way affect the church or the Board of Trustees.

As an Emerging Church, this church’s initial Board of Trustees will be its incorporators. During the time when this church remains an Emerging Church, the pastor(s) of this church will name successor members of the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the designated representatives of [its calling church][its Classis].

## ARTICLE VI PROPERTY

### (a) Manner In Which Held.

Except as expressly provided under this Article VI, all real and personal property shall be held exclusively in furtherance of the purposes of this church as a member church of the Christian Reformed Church in North America and in furtherance of the principles of doctrine and ecclesiastical government outlined under Articles III and V of these Articles of Incorporation and interpreted by the Classis of which the church is a member (the “Classis”) subject to review on appeal by Synod consistent with the Church Order.

### (b) In The Event Of Dissolution.

In the event of the disbanding of this church and the dissolution of this corporation, the church’s remaining assets, if any, after the payment of its debts and expenses, shall be conveyed as the Board of Trustees may propose and as the affirmative vote of a majority of the members shall determine, subject to each of the following:

(1) The Classis must approve the disbanding of this church and the dissolution of this corporation;

(2) If this church is still an Emerging Church, then the Board of Trustees shall receive the concurrence of its Classis in formulating its proposal for property distribution;

(3) If this church is no longer an Emerging Church, then the Board of Trustees shall receive the advice of the its Classis in formulating its proposal for property distribution;

(4) The vote of the members shall be in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) of Article VII of these Articles of Incorporation; and

(5) All remaining assets must be distributed only to one or more organizations which qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

(c) In The Event Of Consensual Division.

In the event that a majority of the members of this church agree to consensually divide this church, with the consent of the Classis, into two (2) or more member churches of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, all real and personal property of this corporation shall be distributed as a majority vote of the members determine in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) of Article VII of these Articles of Incorporation.

(d) In The Event Of Irreconcilable Division.

In the event that the Classis (or Synod on appeal) determines that an irreconcilable division (schism) has occurred within this church, the confessing members of this church who, according to the exclusive determination of the Classis (or Synod on appeal), remain true to the purposes of this church as a member church of the Christian Reformed Church in North America and the principles of doctrine and ecclesiastical government outlined under Articles III and V of these Articles of Incorporation shall be the lawful congregation of this church and shall have the exclusive right to hold and enjoy the real and personal property of this church. Nothing in this Article VI shall prevent the Classis (or Synod on appeal) from determining, in keeping with the scriptural injunction of 1 Corinthians 6, that more than one group of confessing members of this church are each a lawful congregation and dividing the real and personal property between the groups of members as Classis (or Synod on appeal) may determine. Classis (or Synod on appeal) also shall have the exclusive discretion to determine the circumstances which may warrant the division of the real and personal property between a group or groups of former members who choose not to remain in ecclesiastical fellowship with the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

## ARTICLE VII MEMBERSHIP VOTING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN ACTIONS

(a) Except as provided under paragraphs (b) through (d) of this Article VII of these Articles of Incorporation, the Board of Trustees shall have the authority to bargain, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or release any real estate belonging to the church; to erect and repair church buildings, parsonages, schoolhouses, and other buildings for the direct and legitimate use of the church; and to fix the salary of anyone in its employment.

(b) No purchase, sale or conveyance, mortgage, lease, or fixing of salaries shall occur under paragraph (a) of this Article VII of these Articles of Incorporation unless the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the church shall be first obtained at a meeting of the members present and entitled to vote. This meeting shall be specially called for that purpose by notice given for two successive Sundays at the usual place of meeting.

(c) In the event of schism, the provisions of Article VI(d) shall control the disposition of any real or personal property, and this Article VII shall not be effective.

(d) No sale, mortgage, or conveyance shall be made of any gift, grant, donation, conveyance, or bequest, which would be inconsistent with the express terms or plain intent of the grant, donation, gift, conveyance, or bequest.

## **ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS**

The Board of Trustees may at any time, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Trustees, adopt amendments to these Articles of Incorporation. Notwithstanding the preceding provision, the Board of Trustees shall not adopt any amendments to these Articles of Incorporation which are inconsistent with the provisions of Articles III through VIII unless approved by the Classis (or Synod on appeal).

Before any such amendment shall become effective, the Trustees shall obtain an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the church, present and entitled to vote at a meeting specially called for that purpose, of which notice has first been given as provided for under paragraph (b) of Article VII of these Articles of Incorporation.

## **ARTICLE IX LIMITED LIABILITY**

(a) No member of the Board of Trustees of the church who is a volunteer Trustee, and no volunteer officer ("Officer") shall be personally liable to this church or to its members for monetary damages for a breach of the Trustee's or Officer's fiduciary duty; provided, however, that this provision shall not eliminate or limit the liability of a director or officer for any of the following:

- (1) A breach of the Trustee's or Officer's duty of loyalty to the church or to its members;
- (2) Acts or omissions not in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;
- (3) A violation of Section 551(1) of the Act;
- (4) A transaction from which the Trustee or Officer derived an improper personal benefit;
- (5) An act or omission of a Trustee or Officer occurring before filing these Articles of Incorporation; or
- (6) An act or omission that is grossly negligent.

(b) The church hereby assumes all liability to any person other than the church or its members for all acts or omissions of a Trustee who is a volunteer Trustee as defined in the Act incurred in the good faith performance of the Trustee's duties as such; provided, however, that the church shall not be considered to have assumed any liability to the extent such assumption is inconsistent with the status of the church as an organization described in

Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or results in the imposition of tax under Section 4958 of the Code.

(c) The church hereby assumes the liability for all acts or omissions of a volunteer director, volunteer officer, or other volunteer occurring after filing these Articles of Incorporation if all of the following are met:

(1) The volunteer was acting or reasonably believed he or she was acting within the scope of his or her authority;

(2) The volunteer was acting in good faith;

(3) The volunteer conduct did not amount to gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct;

(4) The volunteer conduct was not an intentional tort; and

(5) The volunteer conduct was not a tort arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle for which tort liability may be imposed.

Provided, however, that the church shall not be considered to have assumed any liability of a volunteer to the extent such assumption is inconsistent with the status of the church as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or results in the imposition of tax under Section 4958 of the Code.

If the Act is amended after filing these Articles of Incorporation to authorize the further elimination or limitation of the liability of directors or officers of nonprofit corporations, then the liability of members of the Board of Directors and of officers of the church, in addition to the limitation, elimination, and assumption of personal liability contained in this Article VII, shall be assumed by the church or eliminated or limited to the fullest extent permitted by the Act as so amended, except to the extent such limitation, elimination, or assumption of liability is inconsistent with the status of the church as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or results in the imposition of tax under Section 4958 of the Code. No amendment or repeal of this Article VII shall apply to or have any effect on the liability or alleged liability of any member of the Board of Directors or officer of this church for or with respect to any acts or omissions of such director occurring prior to the effective date of any such amendment or repeal.

## ARTICLE X TERM

The term of this corporation is perpetual.

In witness of which, we, the parties hereby associating, for the purpose of giving legal effect to these articles, sign our names and places of residence:

Done at the city (or village) of \_\_\_\_\_,  
county of \_\_\_\_\_ and State of \_\_\_\_\_, this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**This document requires at least three notarized signatures.**

(Signatures)                      (No.) (Street)                      (City)                      (State)                      (Zip code)

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All signatures must be notarized. Attach separate notarizations if necessary.

State of \_\_\_\_\_ }  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ } ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
by \_\_\_\_\_

(All persons signing must appear before the notary. List names here.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Notary)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Type or Print Name of Notary)

Notary Public for \_\_\_\_\_ County,  
State of \_\_\_\_\_  
My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

(Notary Seal)

Name of person or organization remitting fees:

Preparer's name and business telephone number:

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## Appendix C

### 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, 2007, 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, 2007

**Categories Specified by Investment Policy:**

	The Back to God Hour	Calvin College	Calvin Seminary	Faith Alive	Denominational Services
<b>SHORT TERM</b>					
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>					
Cash	\$ 2,315,676	\$ 699,637	\$ 164,935	\$ 209,481	\$ 687,521 (9)
Money-market mutual funds	521,358	5,070,759	394,940	239,106	1,376,382
Certificates of deposit	439,362	295,019	90,133	201,501	982,923
<b>FIXED-INCOME ISSUES</b>					
Foundation Liquidity Fund (1)	1,149,852	-	-	-	-
Other short term	-	-	-	-	1,508,294
<b>FOUNDATION BALANCED FUND (2)</b>	3,755,190	-	-	2,826,846	-
<b>COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKS</b>					
Publicly traded common, preferred, and convertible preferred stock					
Equity mutual funds	501,309 (3)	1,222,496 (3)	54,821	-	-
		162,457,393	30,799,792	-	-
<b>FIXED-INCOME ISSUES (LONG TERM)</b>					
US treasuries or Canadian gov't bonds	-	87,573,276	-	-	8,360,036 (9)
Publicly traded bonds and notes	-	-	-	-	-
(Investment grade, at least A-rated)	188,155	14,523,817	2,605,221	-	5,055,854 (9)
Bond mutual funds	-	-	-	-	-
CIBC / TAL overdraft accounts	-	-	-	-	(14,233,268) (9)
<b>Interagency Investments (Obligations):</b>					
Loans to CRCNA (Denom. Services)	104,596	-	-	47,970	(606,000)
<b>Other Investments:</b>					
Private equity fund	-	14,061,147 (4)	747,826	-	-
Partnerships	-	-	-	-	-
Land contracts	-	-	-	-	-
Life insurance cash value	330,831 (5)	120,680 (5)	125,408 (5)	-	-
Notes receivable	-	579,872 (6)	-	-	-
Common stock -- non-listed	-	345,912 (7)	-	-	-
Real estate (non-operating)	6,000 (8)	16,404,493 (8)	1,159,266	-	-
<b>Total</b>	\$ 9,312,329	\$ 303,354,400	\$ 36,142,342	\$ 3,524,904	\$ 3,131,740

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, 2007

	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	\$ 957,692	\$ 612,832	\$ 110,393	\$ 1,534,852	\$ 4,390,882
Money-market mutual funds	67,817	244,437	2,508,306	1,057,595	1,513,672
Certificates of deposit	57,151	225,369	3,760,600	801,971	1,274,768
<b>FIXED-INCOME ISSUES</b>					
Foundation Liquidity Fund (1)	-	359,103	-	-	22,220
Other short term	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FOUNDATION BALANCED FUND (2)</b>	275,109	9,397,191	-	3,238,153	3,408,815
<b>COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKS</b>					
Publicly traded common, preferred, and convertible preferred stock	-	-	-	-	-
Equity mutual funds	-	-	-	476,122 (3)	-
<b>FIXED-INCOME ISSUES (LONG TERM)</b>					
US treasuries or Canadian gov't bonds	-	-	-	-	-
Publicly traded bonds and notes	-	-	-	-	-
(investment grade, at least A-rated)	-	-	-	-	-
Bond mutual funds	-	-	-	225,976 (3)	-
CIBC / TAL overdraft accounts	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Interagency Investments (Obligations):</b>					
Loans to CRCNA (Denom. Services)	13,605	51,391	-	84,964	303,474
<b>Other Investments:</b>					
Private equity fund	-	-	-	-	-
Partnerships	-	-	-	-	307,060 (10)
Land contracts	-	-	-	-	-
Life insurance cash value	8,431 (5)	-	-	-	27,577 (5)
Notes receivable	-	-	-	-	-
Common stock – non-listed	-	-	-	-	-
Real estate (non-operating)	-	42,957	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	\$ 1,379,805	\$ 10,933,280	\$ 6,379,299	\$ 7,419,633	\$ 11,248,468

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

## As of December 31, 2007

Total

## Footnotes to the December 31, 2007 Investment Summary

1. Foundation pooled/unitized fixed income account for agencies.
2. Foundation pooled/unitized balanced account (fixed income 61.2%, equities 38.8%) 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, and 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 makes 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 15-17, 2008, and presents this supplement of additional matters relating to the college. At this meeting a dinner was held honoring retiring trustees, retiring faculty and staff, as well as distinguished alumni, Mr. David J. (B.A.) and Mrs. Janice Entingh Dykgraaf (B.A.) of Christian Reformed World Missions, and Dr. Fritz Rottman (Ph.D.), connected in his retirement to CRWRC. The board interviewed five faculty members or administrators with faculty status; four for *reappointment*, and one for *tenure*. The board members also attended commencement which honored 857 graduates of Calvin College. The 2008 commencement speaker was author Mr. Philip Yancey.

### II. Faculty matters

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

The Calvin College Board of Trustees recommends that synod give appropriate recognition to the following individuals for service to Calvin College and the Christian Reformed Church and confer on them the titles listed below, where indicated:

Martin Bolt, Ph.D., professor of psychology, emeritus  
Peter Y. De Jong, Ph.D., professor of social work, emeritus  
Anamarie L. Joosse, Ed.S., counselor, Broene Counseling Center, emerita  
Ellen B. Monsma, Ph.D., director, Off-Campus Programs  
Glen E. Van Andel, Ph.D., professor of recreation, emeritus

#### B. *Faculty reappointments* (see Recommendations IV, B and C)

The board recommends that synod ratify the following faculty reappointment with tenure:

Leonard D. Van Drunen, Ph.D., associate professor of business

The board also recommends that synod ratify the following faculty reappointment:

KaiLonn L. Dunsmore, Ph.D., assistant professor of education

#### C. *Administrative reappointments*

The college made the following faculty reappointments and faculty status administrative appointments, effective as noted:

1. Jack Bosscher, M.A., associate professor (mathematics) and counselor, academic services (two years)
2. Jack M. Du Mez, M.A., assistant professor (English) and counselor, academic services (two years)
3. Cynthia J. Kok, Ph.D., counselor, Broene Counseling Center (continuing administrative appointment)
4. Steven J. Putt, M.L.I.S., electronic services librarian, Hekman Library (four years)
5. Eugene L. Schemper, M.L.I.S., theological librarian, Hekman Library (continuing administrative appointment)
6. Randall L. Wolthuis, Ph.D., director, Broene Counseling Center (continuing administrative appointment)
7. Cheryl K. Brandsen, Ph.D., academic dean, Social Sciences and Contextual Studies Division (three years, effective August 1, 2008)
8. Randall L. Bytwerk, Ph.D., coordinator, Developing a Christian Mind Program (two years, effective August 1, 2008)
9. Janel M. Curry, Ph.D., Gary and Henrietta Byker Chair in Christian Perspectives on Political, Social, and Economic Thought (three years, effective August 1, 2008)
10. Kenneth D. Erffmeyer, M.B.A., vice president of advancement (two years, effective June 9, 2008)
11. Susan M. Felch, Ph.D., director, Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship (three years, effective August 1, 2008)
12. Younghill Lee, Ph.D., Spoelhof Teacher-Scholar in Residence (one year, effective September 1, 2008)
13. James M. Penning, Ph.D., director, Center for Social Research (three years, effective June 1, 2008)
14. Michael J. Stob, Ph.D., dean for institutional effectiveness (three years, effective August 1, 2009)

### III. Election of college trustees

Mr. Stephen C.L. Chong and Mrs. Cynthia Rozendal Veenstra have served three terms as at-large trustees and are not eligible for reelection. The board recommends the following single nominees for election to a first three-year term:

*Ms. Christine A. Metzger*, Calvin College, B.A.; Covenant College, M.A. Ms. Metzger serves as head of school at Mustard Seed School, a K-12 school in Hoboken, New Jersey. She graduated from Calvin College in 1989 with a degree in education and has taught at Christian schools in New Jersey, Florida, and Colorado, and has been at Mustard Seed School since 2000. Ms. Metzger has served professionally on the Potter's House Accreditation Team, holds a Christian Schools International Professional Administrator certificate, served a Christian Schools International Administrative Internship in their Leadership Development Program in 1995, participated in a Summer 2000 In Depth Study Tour with Ray Vander Laan with 55 Christian school leaders, was the featured speaker for the Redeemer New York Church Education Forum, and served on the design team for the Van Lunen Institute for Executive Management of Christian Schools in 2006. She recently completed a term as a Van Lunen Fellow at Calvin College. Ms. Metzger is a member of the Redeemer Hoboken (PCA) Church where she has served on the pastoral leadership

team and as the outreach/hospitality coordinator. She has also served as deacon on the women's ministry team and worship team, and she is a member of a small group Bible study. She has served her community on the Hoboken Clergy Coalition, the Hudson County Alliance for Independent Schools, the Hoboken Chamber of Commerce, and the Hoboken Family Alliance.

*Dr. Jack Veltkamp*, Calvin College B.A.; University of Washington School of Dentistry, D.D. Dr. Veltkamp served in the U.S. Air Force as an air traffic control officer for five years after graduating from Calvin College, with one year in Southeast Asia. He subsequently attended dental school and has been practicing family dentistry for thirty-three years in Lynden, Washington. Dr. Veltkamp has served on the Lynden Christian School Board with four years as president, and he has served as chair of the education and the discipleship committees at Third CRC, Lynden, Washington, as well as serving as a coach with his wife, Diane, in small group ministry. He has served on the boards of Christian Schools International and The Back to God Hour, and has been area chapter president for the Calvin Alumni Association. Dr. Veltkamp traveled in his capacity as a dentist with Calvin professor Peter Tigchelaar on a medical interim in Ecuador and formerly was an alternate on the Calvin College Board of Trustees.

#### **IV. Recommendations**

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

Martin Bolt, Ph.D., professor of psychology, emeritus

Peter Y. De Jong, Ph.D., professor of social work, emeritus

Anamarie L. Joosse, Ed.S., counselor, Broene Counseling Center, emerita

Ellen B. Monsma, Ph.D., director, Off-Campus Programs

Glen E. Van Andel, Ph.D., professor of recreation, emeritus

B. That synod ratify the following faculty reappointment with tenure:

Leonard D. Van Drunen, Ph.D., associate professor of business

C. That synod ratify the following faculty reappointment:

KaiLonnie L. Dunsmore, Ph.D., assistant professor of education

D. That synod by way of the printed ballot elect two at-large members to the Calvin College Board of Trustees.

Calvin College Board of Trustees

Cynthia Rozendal Veenstra, secretary

# **I. Board nominations to at-large positions**

In February 2005 the Home Missions board committed itself to representing the diversity of the ministries in the Christian Reformed Church 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 dedicated to the desire to remain 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 we have not yet met them, we have found pursuing these goals to be invigorating to our mission. Additionally, in February 2008 the board designated two at-large positions for young adults. The following motion was passed at the February 2008 CRHM board meeting:

In order to enhance our relationship with younger CRC members and to invite them into full participation in the governance and direction setting of Christian Reformed Home Missions, we hereby designate two (2) at-large board seats for young adults.

(CRHM Board Minute 5528, c)

In light of these goals, we submit to synod the following single nominees for election to at-large positions:

## *Position 1*

*Mr. James Jones* turned his life over to the Lord after what he calls the “warrior stage” of his life. He called out to the Lord for help, and the Lord answered him. While dating his wife, he joined her family at Cutlerville East CRC, where he made profession of faith and later served as a deacon. Six years later they moved to Grand Rapids and became members of Oakdale Park CRC, where he has taught Sunday school and served as elder and president of council. He was called from a job in industry to join the staff ministry team at Oakdale Park as administrator in 1999. He currently serves as pastor of outreach and pastoral care and is responsible for community ministry and men’s small group ministry. Mr. Jones has developed a neighborhood program, Community Connectors, to involve members of the church in building relationships with community members. Mr. Jones is active on several boards, including Light House Ministries and the Potter’s House School, works with Oakdale Neighbors (a Christian community development organization), and does a joint ministry with Seymour CRC for “Single Parent Family Camp” at Camp Tall Turf. He has continued his education for ministry.

## *Position 2*

*Rev. Roger Ryu* is pastor of SoMang CRC in Las Vegas, Nevada. His church is a member congregation of Classis Pacific Hanmi, which holds worship services in English and Korean. Last year SoMang CRC grew by 10 percent

through evangelism. Rev. Ryu has also served churches in Northbrook, Illinois; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Orlando, Florida; and Wyoming, Michigan.

The following slates of nominees are being presented for young adult at-large positions:

#### *Position 3*

*Ms. Aeri Paek* was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1989 and moved to Cypress, California, when she was eleven. She is a member of Korean CRC of Orange County (KCRIOC), which has provided her with numerous opportunities for ministry leadership. Ms. Paek has been a praise team vocalist, a youth group ministry team leader, and a small group leader. She has also been involved in children's ministry leadership, and she loves music and serving others. Ms. Paek is currently a student at Calvin College, where she is on a pre-medicine pathway with an interest in biochemistry and psychology. She wants to become a doctor with a long-term goal of being a medical missionary. Ms. Paek has a heart for missions and for helping people who do not receive the medical attention that they need. Her parents are bilingual, and she has been raised with a strong influence from the Korean culture and is able to speak both Korean and English.

*Ms. Katie Timmermans* has been a part of the Christian Reformed Church since birth. She grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and through her parents, church, and Christian school, she came to realize her Christian calling to seek justice and love mercy in all aspects of life. This understanding was more fully developed during her time at Calvin College through experiences such as living on the Mosaic Floor (a floor committed to being racially diverse and exploring issues of racism and multiculturalism), working at the Service-Learning Center (an office which brings students and community organizations together), and living in an intentional Christian community called Project Neighborhood house. Ms. Timmermans graduated from Calvin in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. Currently she lives in Grand Rapids and is the assistant manager of Four Friends Coffeehouse. She plans to open her own coffeehouse and recently took a class that included writing a business plan to further this dream. The purpose of the coffeehouse will be to foster community, celebrate the arts, and create a space where all are welcome and can experience God's love. Ms. Timmermans recently became a member of Grace CRC, where she teaches Sunday school.

#### *Position 4*

*Mr. Jordan Koopmans'* relationship with God is absolutely the most important thing in his life. Building this relationship and sharing his faith are the top priorities in his life. He was born into a Christian family, and has been raised in the Christian Reformed Church in Prince George, British Columbia. Mr. Koopmans will graduate at the end of May 2008 with a BSc in biochemistry. His years at university have given him the opportunity to engage in campus ministry and share his faith. He has valued and made use of our CRC chaplains at the University of Northern British Columbia. Mr. Koopmans is a leader in his church's Cadet program, has participated twice in the Alpha course, and last summer, participated in CR World Missions' Summer Mission Program in Eastern Europe. He shares, "God is guiding me on a



journey. I am not sure where it may lead, but I strongly believe that missions are going to be a big part of it, and I take comfort in knowing where it ends.”

*Mr. Silas Krabbe* is a young adult member of River Park CRC in south Calgary, Alberta. He grew up in the CRC, attended the local Christian school and has studied at the University of Calgary, where he participated in the CRC campus ministry. Mr. Krabbe just completed a year in discipleship studies at Columbia Bible College, a Mennonite affiliated college. Through this experience, he gained an appreciation for the value of community in Christian life. Through reading and church visits he has become familiar with the emergent church movement and their successes and failures. Mr. Krabbe is continuing on a career path in biblical studies and community development. A heart for social justice has led Mr. Krabbe to be involved in ministries such as a short-term mission to Himalayan people of Northern India, and Juarez, Mexico. He was also involved with a skateboard ministry through Young Life this past year to reach out to low income youth. Through his job as a freestyle mountain bike instructor, he is aware of the current cultural trends of youth. Mr. Krabbe is also working with the youth group in his church to include camping trips as a component of discipleship, thereby enjoying God’s creation and developing community through shared experience.

## **II. Recommendations**

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

B. That synod receive the following Resolution of Gratitude in recognition of Rev. John A. Rozeboom’s service as director of Christian Reformed Home Missions:

### **Resolution of Gratitude for the Service of the Reverend John A. Rozeboom**

The Board of Christian Reformed Home Missions wishes to share with the wider denomination its gratitude to God for the faithful service of Reverend John A. Rozeboom. Rev. Rozeboom has served his entire professional career with Home Missions, first as a local church pastor in Riverside, California, from 1969 to 1976, then as the West Coast Regional Missionary from 1976 to 1986 and, finally, as director of Christian Reformed Home Missions from 1986 until the present. Rev. Rozeboom served to keep “the main thing the main thing.” He brought to his years of service a heart impassioned by God’s mercy for lost children, a mind that comprehended strategic leadership and planning as God-given tools for the building-up of his church, and a personality shaped by the stories of simple Christians who faithfully worked out their salvation unnoticed by the wise of the world. We give thanks to God for Rev. Rozeboom’s humble and God-glorifying service to the Christian Reformed Church, and invite the denomination to join us in this thanksgiving.

Christian Reformed Home Missions  
John A. Rozeboom, director

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

A. Each year it is a privilege to meet and interview the applicants for candidacy. This year the size of the graduating class is unusually large due to alterations in Calvin Theological Seminary's master of divinity program. The interviews for these candidates were conducted this year by teams of four persons. The Candidacy Committee 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). Biographical details for each of the candidates can be found under separate cover in the Candidate Booklet.

Alblas, James	Lee, John R.
Armstrong, Peter - EPMC	Meadows, Jacob
Birnbaum, Paul	Meinen, Henry W.
Boardman, Martin - EPMC	Oh, Peter
Boersma, Steven G.	Oliveira, Benjamin M.
Bork, Brian	Palacios, Dominic J.
Bud, Ioan Daniel	Pedersen, Christian R.
Buist, Keith	Reyenga, Henry J.
Cassis, Christopher	Roukema, Daniel - EPMC
Compagner, Darrin J.B.	Schreiber, Ryan
DeVries, Scott A.	Stockdale, David P.
De Wit, Stephen	Suh, E. Joyce
Dirksen, Eric J.	Van Beek, Nicholas
Dozeman, Steve	Van Berkel, David
Eisenga, Adam - EPMC	Vandenberg, Zachary
Hackett, Paul G. - EPMC	Vander Hoek, Grant - EPMC
Harris, William - EPMC	Vandermeer, Jeffrey
Hilbelink, Mark	Vandervalk, Chad
Hoekema, Craig	Van Drunen, Joshua
Hogge, Laurie W.	Van Hill, Craig
Hummelman, Margaret - EPMC	Van Noort, Steven - EPMC
Jenista, Margaret J.	Van Soelen, Joel
Jennings, Ladan - EPMC	van Stee, Mark W.
Kilbreath, C. Layne - EPMC	Vos, Bradley - EPMC
Knochenhauer, James	Walters, Aaron - EPMC
Kralt, James A.	Zylstra, Daniel C. - EPMC
Lanser, Matthew	

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 by the Candidacy Committee in order to assess the validity of the request and to offer words of encouragement. The Candidacy Committee recommends the following for candidacy extension approval:

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

It is recommended that the candidates be presented to Synod 2008 on Tuesday, June 17, at 9:30 a.m. The director of candidacy and the president of Calvin Theological Seminary will formally introduce the candidates for 2008 to synod.

## **III. Committee membership**

The current membership of the Candidacy Committee is described on page 166 of the *Agenda for Synod 2008*. Through an oversight the report failed to note that two of the members, Mr. Roy Heerema and Rev. Jack B. Vos, were appointed in August of 2007 by the executive committee of the Board of Trustees to replace retiring members Rev. Roy Berkenbosch and Mr. Norman De Graaf. Synod 2007 had given the BOT authorization to make these appointments. The Candidacy Committee is grateful for those who offer their service and insight for the work of this committee.

## **IV. Financial support for individuals preparing for ministry**

Synod 2006 considered an overture asking that the Candidacy Committee (rather than individual classes) maintain and administer a student assistant fund for ministerial students in need of financial assistance. Synod did not adopt the overture but did “encourage the Candidacy Committee to work diligently to provide clear leadership and advice to the Classis Ministerial Leadership Teams (CMLTs) on the financial equity and balance of support for all who are studying for the ordained ministry” (*Acts of Synod 2006*, p. 731).

Among its many other tasks, the Candidacy Committee is in the process of developing guidelines for use by classes when offering assistance to students preparing for ministry service in the CRC. It is the committee’s plan to communicate these guidelines to the CMLTs by the end of 2008.

## **V. Guideline for assessing whether Article 8 is the appropriate route to ministry**

One of the tasks of the Candidacy Committee is to determine which route to ministry (Church Order Article 6, 7, 8, or 23) is appropriate in a given situation. Church Order Article 8 applies to ordained ministers coming from other denominations. In its historical usage, it was assumed that ordination entailed a denominational process roughly equivalent to the CRC’s and that the person so ordained had received a formal theological education very similar to the formal education prescribed by the CRC in Article 6. Today those assumptions are no longer valid. For example, ordination in another church may be much more local than denominational and may entail no formal theological education.

The Candidacy Committee has struggled to apply Article 8 in a way that honors the original spirit and intention of the article but also takes into account the changing forms and practices of both ordination and theological training for ministry. To that end, the Candidacy Committee has adopted the following guideline for the Candidacy Committee, classes, and classical

ministry leadership teams to use in assessing whether Church Order Article 8 is the appropriate route to ministry in the CRC:

The person shall be duly ordained, recommended by an appropriate ecclesiastical authority, and theologically trained. *Theological training* will ordinarily include a documentable program of training that covers the knowledge, character, and skills standards for ministry in the CRC. In adopting this guideline the Candidacy Committee is aware that questions remain about what is a “documentable program of training” and acknowledges the need to continue to develop ways to assess the theological training of Article 8 candidates.

(Candidacy Committee Minute 0105 – 26; Jan. 5, 2008)

It is important to clarify that this guideline is not an addition to Article 8, but, rather, is a policy guideline to help the Candidacy Committee and church discern whether and when Article 8 may be appropriate. The guideline has already been helpful for the Candidacy Committee in its work and is included in this supplemental report as information for all classes, classical ministry leadership teams, and potential candidates for ministry.

## **VI. 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.

Candidacy Committee  
David R. Koll, director

## **I. Membership**

Dr. William Koopmans has been reelected chair of the Interchurch Relations Committee (IRC) for the year 2008-2009. Rev. Marvin Hofman was elected as vice-chair.

The IRC recognizes two of its members that are concluding their first three-year term and recommends that synod approve Rev. Carel Geleynse and Rev. Marvin J. Hofman for reappointment to a second term.

## **II. Ecumenical visitors at Synod 2008**

A number of ecumenical visitors will be attending synod this year. It is recommended that such visitors be granted the privilege of addressing synod on Wednesday, June 18, 2008, on a schedule as determined by the officers of Synod 2008. The following fraternal delegates and ecumenical guests have either confirmed their presence at Synod 2008 or are seeking a visa to enter the United States:

Rev. Yakubu Ishaya Tsojon	Christian Reformed Church of Nigeria
Pastor Bahago Istifanus Bala	Christian Reformed Church of Nigeria
Dr. Kobus Gerber	Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa
Pastor Herry Amimu	Evangelical Reformed Church of Burundi
Rev. Sylvestre Ciza	Evangelical Reformed Church of Burundi
Pastor Pacifique Niyonkomezi	Evangelical Reformed Church of Burundi
Rev. Ira-Rimam Matthias Iratsi	Reformed Church of Christ in Nigeria
Rev. Samson Eturete Akoru	Reformed Church of East Africa
Rev. Geoffrey Kiptanui Sangok	Reformed Church of East Africa
Rev. William Zulu	Reformed Church in Zambia
Rev. Madalitso Banda	Reformed Church in Zambia

## **III. Appointments of representation**

### *A. National Council of Churches*

For many years the CRC has participated in the Faith and Order Commission of the United States National Council of Churches (NCC). Dr. George Vandervelde served as the CRC representative until his death in late 2006. The NCC has requested the appointment of another CRC member and the IRC is presently in the process of identifying a person to be appointed. It is expected that this matter can be finalized by the time synod convenes and the information will then be provided to the advisory committee.

### *B. The Canadian Council of Churches*

The Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) is served by two CRC representatives. Rev. Bruce Adema is presently a member and Ms. Louisa Bruinsma has been serving but will leave that position upon her retirement from the Interchurch Relations Committee. The IRC has appointed Rev. Peter Slofstra to replace Ms. Bruinsma.

## **IV. 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 Church of 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)

## **V. 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 Faith Alive Christian Resources, 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:

- A. *Christian Reformed Church in Eastern Africa (Uganda)*
- B. *Christian Reformed Church of Myanmar*
- C. *Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (Nkhoma Synod) Malawi*
- D. *Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar*
- E. *Evangelical Reformed Church of Burundi*
- F. *Reformed Church in Zambia*
- G. *Reformed Church of East Africa (Kenya)*

It is worthy of note that representatives of the Interchurch Relations Committee are currently in active discussions with both the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Mennonite Church Canada. With the Presbyterian Church the dialogue is at the church-to-church committee level while the Mennonite discussions are being conducted at the staff level.

## **VI. Recommendations**

A. That synod, by way of the printed ballot, reappoint the Revs. Carel Geleynse and Marvin J. Hofman as members of the Interchurch Relations Committee for a term of three years (2008-2011).



B. That synod express its appreciation to retiring committee members Ms. Louisa Bruinsma, Dr. Bertha Mook, and Mr. Abe Vreeke for their service to the Christian Reformed Church as members of the Interchurch Relations Committee.

Interchurch Relations Committee  
Peter Borgdorff, ecumenical officer

# OVERTURES AND COMMUNICATION

## Overture 24: Refer the Matter of Clarifying the Form of Subscription to a New Committee

### I. Introduction

The council of Neerlandia Christian Reformed Church supports the decision of Synod 2005 to clarify the meaning of the Form of Subscription. However, we do not support the redefinition of confessional subscription embodied in the Form of Subscription Revision Task Force Report. We responded to the original report of the task force charged with revising the language of the Form of Subscription. Having reviewed the revised report printed in the *Agenda for Synod 2008*, the council finds its concerns inadequately addressed and judges the report and the proposed subscription document inadequate and detrimental to the unity, faithfulness, and well-being of the churches. Because the report of the task force has come to the churches at such a late date, the council did not have the opportunity to present this overture to Classis Alberta North. Therefore, we submit this overture directly to Synod 2008. The council of Neerlandia CRC urges synod of the CRCNA not to accept the report of the task force or its proposed doctrinal covenant. Moreover, the council of Neerlandia CRC urges the synod to dissolve the task force and commit the matter to a new committee of experts who can fulfill the original mandate proposed by Synod 2005.

### II. Rationale

#### A. *Failure to fulfill the mandate of Synod 2005*

The primary reason why the report of the task force and its proposed doctrinal covenant should not be accepted by the churches is that it was not the mandate of this task force to produce such a report or document. The mandate given by synod to the committee was as follows:

1. That a revised edition of the Form of Subscription be presented to Synod 2007 for consideration and possible adoption, with the understanding that the purpose of the revision is to clarify the meaning of the Form of Subscription.
2. That the proposed revision of the Form of Subscription be drafted by a committee appointed by the Board of Trustees.
3. In their work, we encourage the committee to take note of the guidelines as to the meaning of subscription found in the 2004 Church Order Supplements (p. 26).

4. That the draft of a proposed revision be sent to the churches no later than January 1, 2007.

*Grounds:*

- a. The survey conducted among the churches indicates that a substantial number of churches believe that an update is desirable.
- b. The present Form of Subscription contains statements that are subject to misinterpretation.
- c. A more contemporary expression of agreement will make the requirements more meaningful.

(*Acts of Synod 2005*, p. 735)

Instead of pursuing this mandate, the essence of which was to *clarify the language* of the Form of Subscription (FOS), the task force *redefined and reinvented* confessional subscription in the CRCNA. The task force had no moral authority or authorization to do so. The mandate from synod was clear and unambiguous: “the purpose of the revision is to *clarify the meaning* of the Form of Subscription” (emphasis added).

In addition, the task force failed to follow the advice of synod to “take note of the guidelines as to the meaning of subscription found in the 2004 Church Order Supplements.” These guidelines clarify what confessional subscription does and does not entail. It seems that the most reasonable interpretation of this advice would entail the integration of these clarifications into a revised Form of Subscription. The task force, however, judges these guidelines to be inadequate, claiming that “they do not appear to be sufficient for people who perceive difficulties in signing the FOS” (*Agenda for Synod 2008*, p. 244). Besides the fact that the task force provides no evidence for this assertion, it does not fall to the task force to evaluate the effectiveness of these guidelines. Their mandate was to use these guidelines to clarify the Form of Subscription.

*B. Failure to adequately address the issues*

The task force report fails to adequately address the basic issues and principles involved in confessional subscription. While such study may have occurred, it is not evidenced in the report. There is no reference to the considerable amount of published material pertaining to discussions of confessional subscription in the Lutheran or Presbyterian confessional traditions.<sup>1</sup> There is no evidence in the report that would indicate even a basic grasp of what is called “Reformed Symbolics,” that is, the study of the creeds and confessions. Elementary distinctions, such as that between a *quia* subscription and a *quatenus* subscription, are nowhere to be found in the report.<sup>2</sup> There are no references to standard studies of the creeds or confessional

<sup>1</sup> Note the volume of essays written from a Presbyterian perspective by David W. Hall, ed., *The Practice of Confessional Subscription* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1995). A classic essay from the Presbyterian tradition is that of Samuel Miller, *Doctrinal Integrity*. In the Lutheran confessional tradition there are numerous articles on the subject, e.g. those of Gerhard O. Forde and George Lindbeck, both titled, “Confessional Subscription: What Does It Mean for Lutherans Today?” in *Word and World* 11/3 (1991): 316-320.

<sup>2</sup> This distinction refers to whether one subscribes to the confessions *because* (Latin *quia*) those confessions faithfully summarize and reflect the teachings of Scripture, or only *insofar as* (*quatenus*) or to the extent that the confessions accurately represent biblical teachings. The latter form of subscription allows for tremendous latitude on the part of the subscriber, perhaps even to the extent of denying the teachings of the confessions altogether.

subscription.<sup>3</sup> The task force does not cite important theological studies of the matter by scholars in the Reformed tradition.<sup>4</sup> The report does not consider the history of confessional debate in the CRC and its ecclesiastical cousins; most notably absent is any discussion of how issues of confessional integrity contributed to major church schism such as the *Afscheiding* of 1834 and the *Doleantie* of 1886. The report does cite synodical decisions regarding confessional subscription, but does so primarily to point out alleged inadequacies or deficiencies in these decisions of the churches.

Further evidence of this failure of understanding comes in the form of including the Contemporary Testimony along with the three forms of unity in the subscription document. There is an important difference in function and weight between the historic Reformed confessions and occasional testimonies such as *Our World Belongs to God*. This has always been the understanding of the CRC, as evidenced by the synod (1986) that approved the Contemporary Testimony as an application of the Reformed faith to modern circumstances with the stipulation that this document is “subordinate to our creeds and confessions.”

The task force also fails to understand the Form of Subscription’s function with regard to establishing a framework for a communal confession of the Reformed faith and a mechanism of accountability with respect to that communal confession. Subscription to the confessions implies personal and individual submission to the judgment of the confessional community in matters of biblical and confessional teaching and interpretation. The purpose of this is not some kind of overbearing ecclesiastical control or doctrinal straitjacket, as implied by the task force’s use of the phrase “silencing language.”

Finally, the fact that the doctrinal covenant includes a subscription to the Scriptures also gives the wrong impression. Creeds and confessions have always been formulas that the church has used to indicate how the church interprets the Scriptures, and which define the proper reading of the Scriptures. To add a subscription to the Scriptures confuses the matter, and derives once again from a negative misunderstanding of the function of the Reformed confessions. It gives the impression of a kind of dichotomy between the Bible and the confessions. But in fact we subscribe to the Reformed confessions not *in case* they reflect the teaching of Scripture (a *quatenus* subscription) but *because* they do (a *quia* subscription). We do so notwithstanding the fact that our confessions are subordinate to Scripture and subject to revision.

<sup>3</sup> For example, Philip Schaff, *The Creeds of Christendom*, 3 vols. (New York, Harper, 1919 [frequently reprinted]); Jaroslav Pelikan and Valerie Hotchkiss, eds., *Creeds & Confessions of Faith in the Christian Tradition*, 4 vols. (New Haven, Yale, 2003); Wilhelm Niesel, *Reformed Symbolics: A Comparison of Catholicism, Orthodoxy and Protestantism*, tr. David Lewis (Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd, 1962). See also Philip Schaff, *The Harmony of the Reformed Confessions, as Related to the Present State of Evangelical Theology. An Essay Delivered before the General Presbyterian Council at Edinburgh, July 4, 1877. Together with the Action of the Council on Confessions and Formulas of Subscription*. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1877.

<sup>4</sup> For example, see Abraham Kuyper, “Calvinism and Confessional Revision.” *The Presbyterian and Reformed Review*, July, 1891.

### C. *Failure to maintain a balanced perspective*

The first draft of the task force report contained numerous assertions that were highly biased against both the confessions and confessional subscription. These statements portrayed the CRC in dark and ominous terms, and the FOS as some kind of draconian tool used to silence dissent and discussion in the churches, as if we lived under some kind of Reformed inquisition. Nothing could be further from the truth. These pejorative and groundless statements came with no historical evidence to back them up. While the most offensive assertions have been removed from the revised report, the underlying assumptions remain, namely, that the FOS represents an outdated form of ecclesiastical control utilized by a church that was overly anxious about its doctrinal and confessional integrity.

The task force asserted, for example, that the CRC viewed its orthodox identity to be so tenuous and its mission in the world so fraught with danger that a “regulating instrument was needed to be employed to keep the CRC orthodox” (*Agenda for Synod 2008*, p. 235). The committee fails to understand that confessional subscription has been employed in the Reformed and Lutheran traditions since the sixteenth century, and is not a knee-jerk reaction of fearful, fortress-mentality Dutch immigrants to North America, as the original report implied.

In addition, the original report asserted that “historically, the FOS has functioned negatively to effectively shut down discussion on various confessional issues rather than positively to encourage the ongoing development of the confessions in the life of the church. In other words, the FOS has been used to define a standard of purity in the church more than being a witness to unity.” This is also a biased and groundless assertion that seems to be designed to paint the FOS in the worst possible light. Given the healthy debate that has always existed in the CRC, as well as the confessional revision that has taken place over the last century, this assertion is self-evidently false.

The report asserted: “Historically, the strong emphasis within the Form of Subscription on the primacy of the confessions has at times muted the voice of the Scriptures in the life of the church.” But the task force offers no evidence that this was ever the case, and the confessions themselves acknowledge the primacy of the Scriptures.

The original report went on to say, “Ironically, it has been under the current FOS’s stern watch that a significant and increasing neglect of the confessions has occurred.” This assertion is the logical equivalent of claiming that, because people die in automobile accidents while wearing seatbelts, seatbelts are not helpful. Neglect of the confessions is not due to the FOS, but due to the negligence of officebearers and assemblies. In fact, while doctrinal and confessional decline can occur even with a meaningful mechanism of confessional subscription in place, it will certainly occur, and be accelerated, if our confessional subscription is weakened and watered down. The FOS, then, is a necessary but not sufficient condition for confessional integrity.

While the task force eliminated or modified the most offensive statements in the revision of their report, the underlying bias, along with a fundamental misunderstanding of the nature of confessional subscription, remains. The perspective of the task force is one that gives undue weight to the concerns and culture of the moment, and particularly to the nebulous phenomenon known as postmodernism. This bias is reflected in comments like the

following: "By accepting the historic confessions as faithful for their time and place, we will avoid both a hardening of contextualized truth into timeless truth and the fostering of a divisive attitude toward other Christians" (2007 Form of Subscription Revision Committee Draft Report, p. 5). This statement is highly suspect, since the New Testament gospel itself is both contextualized in first-century Palestine, and yet timeless.

Nor does a robust confessional identity entail the fostering of division or hostility toward other Christians. Genuine ecumenicity and interdenominational dialogue can only take place in a context where one's own identity is fully embraced. Noted Lutheran scholar George Lindbeck writes:

the proper model of ecumenical unity is not monolithic uniformity, but a reconciled diversity which retains, among other things, confessional propria [distinctives]. Lutherans can and should continue to subscribe to their historic teachings on law and gospel or the real presence, for example, as preferable (at least for them) to Roman or Reformed ones. Reconciled diversity can involve more confessional commitment than this, but not less.

And on the contemporary relevance of his own confessional tradition, Lindbeck comments:

It was the Confessions which indirectly fueled Kierkegaard's *Attack on Christendom* and, more directly, the work of Bonhoeffer and others in the Confessing Church. The catholic creeds may have once sufficed as communally authoritative guides to scriptural interpretation, but the Reformation confessional witness has long been vital. Moreover, so it can be argued, it is more than ever needed in our ecumenical age, not only for Lutherans, but for the church universal.<sup>5</sup>

The task force argues that the utility of the FOS is coming under question, and "increased cultural and ethnic diversity, the increase in new church plants, and the cultural moment often described as postmodernism are among the factors raising these questions" (*Agenda for Synod 2008*, p. 243). But the task force is making many unsubstantiated assumptions here, namely, that ethnic diversity will somehow be impeded by confessional integrity, that church plants will be impeded by a robust confessional identity, and that postmodernism should be dictating or directing the way we do ministry in the CRC.

One of the most troubling aspects of the proposed doctrinal covenant is that it creates a false dichotomy between the truth of the gospel as it was stated in the Reformed Confessions and the truth of the gospel as it must be preached and taught today in the twenty-first century. It exaggerates the datedness of the Three Forms of Unity while overly exalting the relevance of the Contemporary Testimony. It also formulates the doctrinal covenant in such a way that the subscriber can easily relegate the Reformed Confessions to the past, like some kind of historical relics, to which one looks back fondly, while considering the Contemporary Testimony to be the real standard of doctrine in the church. The document refers to the Three Forms of Unity as "the church's faithful expressions of the Gospel in their time," and the Contemporary Testimony as "the church's testimony of faith for our time." This characterization is unacceptable, both because the Contemporary Testimony

<sup>5</sup> George Lindbeck, "Confessional Subscription: What Does It Mean for Lutherans Today?" *Word and World* 11/3 (1991): 319, 320.

is not, and was not, intended to be a doctrinal standard, and because the demotion of our confessions to faithful testimonies of sixteenth-century faith grossly devalues their continuing relevance.

Finally, the task force report seems to be unaware of the potential division in the church that could very well result from the proposed doctrinal covenant. In the judgment of the Neerlandia CRC council, the potential for such division, as well as further decline in denominational loyalty and confessional integrity, would certainly increase as a result of adopting the vague, self-doubting, and much less robust doctrinal covenant proposed by the task force.

### III. Overture

The council of Neerlandia Christian Reformed Church overtures Synod 2008 not to adopt the proposed doctrinal covenant, and to refer the matter to a new committee with instructions to fulfill the original mandate of Synod 2005.

#### *Grounds:*

1. The task force failed to fulfill its mandate to clarify the language of the Form of Subscription and to make use of the 1976 guidelines for confessional subscription and, instead, redefined confessional subscription in the CRCNA, which it was not authorized to do.
2. The task force report and the proposed doctrinal covenant exhibit inadequate reflection on the issues involved in confessional subscription.
3. The task force report and the proposed doctrinal covenant exhibit a bias against the contemporary relevance of the confessions and against the importance of confessional subscription to a confessional church.
4. The adoption of the doctrinal covenant would lead to division and mistrust in the denomination and contribute to a decline in denominational loyalty and confessional integrity.
5. The current task force has not adequately addressed the concerns of the churches that responded to its original report and proposed covenant of ordination (as it was then titled).

Council of Neerlandia CRC, Neerlandia, Alberta  
David Tuininga, clerk

### **Overture 25: Do Not Adopt the Proposed Doctrinal Covenant of Ordination**

Classis Hudson overtures Synod 2008 not to adopt the proposed Doctrinal Covenant of Ordination which was submitted by the Form of Subscription Revision Committee.

#### *Grounds:*

1. The proposed Doctrinal Covenant of Ordination fails to achieve its stated purpose of helping councils and officebearers clarify the meaning of subscription to the Reformed confessions.
  - a. The ambiguous language of the Doctrinal Covenant of Ordination, in particular its reference to the Reformed confessions as "faithful



expressions of the gospel in their time," fosters confusion rather than clarity about what it means to serve faithfully as an officebearer in our denomination today.

- b. The Church Order (Articles 29, 30, and 82) and its Supplements (Articles 5 and 30-c) of the Christian Reformed Church already contain procedures to address perceived conflicts between the Reformed confessions and the teaching of Scripture.
2. The Doctrinal Covenant of Ordination does not do justice to the calling of an officebearer to refute false teaching in addition to promoting sound doctrine (Titus 1:9; 2 Tim. 2:25).
3. Though Synod 2005 acknowledged the need for revising the Form of Subscription, the need for an entirely new document has never been established by synod.
4. Because the proposed Doctrinal Covenant of Ordination is of confessional significance for the denomination and has a direct impact on the ministry of the churches, it seems unwise for synod to consider it without the opportunity for meaningful review and discussion by councils and classes.

Classis Hudson

Peter Hoytema, stated clerk

## **Overture 26: Reject the Proposed Covenant of Ordination and Call Churches to a Renewed Understanding of the Role of the Form of Subscription**

Classis Columbia overtures Synod 2008 to reject the proposed Covenant of Ordination and to call the churches to a renewed understanding of the role which the Form of Subscription plays in the life of our churches.

### *Grounds:*

1. The Covenant of Ordination suggests that our three forms of unity were "faithful expressions of the gospel *in their time* which define the tradition of our Reformed understanding of Scripture and continue to direct us today." We believe that this wording will allow for an erosion of the authority of these confessions. Relegating the three forms of unity to "their time" suggests that the core essentials of the gospel change over time, are different today, and may be different again in the future. We believe that the three forms are faithful expressions of the gospel for our time as well. The three forms are authoritative expressions of the gospel today, and the Covenant of Ordination weakens that authority.
2. The responsibility of officebearers with respect to these confessions is left vague and unclear. If we wish to maintain the distinctiveness of our Reformed heritage, then those who hold office in our churches have a responsibility to defend, teach, and subscribe to the expressions of our faith which define our Reformed identity. The Covenant of Ordination simply says that we are "to be shaped and governed by them and to promote them." The language is weak and allows for a lesser responsibility to these doctrines.

3. We believe that the Contemporary Testimony is a useful document and that it has its place in the life of the Christian Reformed Church. However, we do not believe that it should have binding authority over officebearers. This testimony was never intended to be such a binding document.
4. This issue has drawn attention to the diminishing role that the Form of Subscription is playing in our churches. Our Reformed identity is important, and those who hold office in our churches should be encouraged to understand our Reformed distinctiveness. Promoting a better understanding of the Form of Subscription would benefit the churches.

Classis Columbia

Howard B. Spaan, stated clerk

## **Overture 27: Do Not Adopt Recommendations of the Board of Trustees Regarding Denominational Boards and Committees**

### **I. Background**

#### *A. Introduction*

The Board of Trustees of the CRCNA (BOT) is recommending “that synod change the current practice of presenting a slate of nominees for denominational board and committee positions and that only single nominations be required” (*Agenda for Synod 2008*, p. 28). In terms of membership on its own Board, it is recommending that it “no longer be required to appoint alternate members” (*Agenda for Synod 2008*, p. 29). Some members of our denomination already feel that the denomination does not care about them and assert that they have little input into board decisions that affect their ministries. Whether this is reality or perception is debatable. However, the steps recommended in these recommendations increase that reality or perception. Classis Grand Rapids East urges synod to defeat both recommendations.

#### *B. Single nominees*

##### **1. The current process**

At present the majority of our denominational boards are regionally constituted. There are two exceptions. The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee has a delegate from each classis, something that was true of most denominational boards until the early 1990s. The BOT itself is regionally constituted in the United States and classically constituted in Canada.

Nominees to all major boards are suggested by the classes and considered by the boards, who may also suggest additional nominees. Two final nominees are selected for each open position. Synod itself votes on nominees for the Board of Trustees. However, for the remaining boards, the classes in a particular region (there are twelve regions in the denomination) vote for their regional delegate and the votes of each classis in the region are tallied to determine who of the two nominees will be the delegate and, where applicable, who will be the alternate. The results of these elections are then sent to synod for ratification.

2. The proposed process

Synod is now being asked to approve a process in which classes will still submit nominees for open positions, but the boards themselves will select a single nominee to fill the open position.

3. The grounds for abandoning the current process

The first reason why the BOT wishes to abandon the current process is because “it is increasingly difficult to obtain the concurrence of nominees to be placed in nomination (especially on duos)” (*Agenda for Synod 2008*, p. 28). This is not true for Region 11. Region 11 is comprised of six classes: Grand Rapids East, Grand Rapids North, Grand Rapids South, Grandville, Lake Erie, and Thornapple Valley. These six classes responded to the latest request for nominees by submitting twenty-six nominees for five positions, more than enough to elect a delegate and an alternate for each board. Five nominees were submitted for the denominational Board of Trustees, eight for the Calvin College board, six for the Calvin Theological Seminary board, three for the Faith Alive Christian Resources board, and four for the World Missions board. In addition, the World Missions board added an additional nominee to bring the total number of nominees for five positions to twenty-seven. This demonstrates an interest in the work of the denomination and a commitment to freely offer time and talents for the sake of the denomination. This interest is present even when nominees realize they must wait a number of months before they know whether they have been elected (ground 3). This interest continues to be present even when some have previously offered themselves for a particular position and have not been asked to serve (ground 2).

4. The consequences of abandoning the current process

We frequently say we value the input of many and wish to share decision-making power, but it seems as if decisions continue to be made that centralize authority instead of sharing it. This recommendation of the BOT will eliminate all elections in the denomination and will create self-perpetuating boards and committees. If accepted, this recommendation will send a message to the churches, classes, and regions that their voice is not important.

5. Another approach?

Of the twenty-six nominees submitted by the six classes in our region, twelve of them were submitted by one classis, Grand Rapids East. This is not unusual. A number of years ago, Dr. David Engelhard, then the denominational stated clerk, indicated to the previous stated clerk of our classis that the classis consistently submitted a large number of nominees. It would be easy to attribute this to the proximity of this classis to the U.S. headquarters or to the size of the churches in the classis. The basic reason probably lies elsewhere.

In Classis Grand Rapids East, the nominating committee prepares a very brief job description of each board position, a description that also gives the dates on which each board meets. This information is sent electronically to the pastors and administrative assistants of all congregations with a request that these people publish the information in their church newsletter and/or put it on their bulletin board and call attention to it via

bulletin announcements. Each council is specifically asked to spend time thinking about possible nominees and to electronically send the pertinent job description to the potential nominee. In addition, the nominating committee makes personal contacts with pastors and with potential nominees. We have done a survey of the other classes in our region and have found that a similar process does not exist in those classes. One stated clerk responded to our inquiry by saying, "I'm open to suggestions to do this better."

It's possible for the denominational office to send brief job descriptions electronically to stated clerks who could send them electronically to church councils. This is a process that has been successful in one classis. There is reason to believe that it could be successful in others. Perhaps there are other processes in other classes that have been successful. Before ending all elections in the denomination, synod ought to ask the Board of Trustees to consider creative ways to increase the number of qualified nominees.

The BOT's recommendation also mentions "denominational committees." These service committees are listed in the *Acts of Synod 2007* (pp. 674-75) and in the *Yearbook 2008* (pp. 649-50). Some of these require a particular kind of interest or expertise, and it may be that qualified nominees are not as readily available as are nominees for the major boards. It's understandable that a small committee might find it "increasingly difficult to obtain the concurrence of nominees to be placed in nomination." However, classes, which have not been asked to submit nominees for such committees, may well be able to supply nominees if they are asked to do so. Again, it would not be difficult for the denominational office to prepare job descriptions for the service committees so that stated clerks and councils could readily make these needs known.

## 6. Conclusion

Synod should not approve this recommendation. To do so will further decrease interest and involvement in the work of the denomination. Instead, synod should encourage the BOT and the classes to find ways to increase interest and involvement in the work of the denomination.

### C. *Elimination of alternates to the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA*

#### 1. The current arrangement

For years the majority of our denominational boards have had alternates who serve when a delegate is unable to do so. Only recently have some boards eliminated alternates. The alternate may never serve, may serve for a single meeting or two, or may step into the position permanently when the delegate must resign. As alternates, they receive minutes of meetings and are knowledgeable about the board on which they serve. As such, they serve as additional advocates for the ministry of the board they serve.

#### 2. The proposed arrangement

Synod is now being asked to approve the elimination of alternates to the Board of Trustees.

3. The ground for abandoning the current arrangement

The BOT wishes to abandon the current arrangement because “this makes it possible for thirty additional people to serve on other boards and committees without conflict of time or interest” and because “alternates who attend Board meetings only occasionally are often unfamiliar with issues and procedures” (*Agenda for Synod 2008*, p. 29). As reported above, twenty-seven members in our region indicated that they would be willing to tie up their time and talents by serving the denomination, even though they realize that alternates may seldom, if ever, be called to serve. Because alternates do get minutes and other materials, there is every opportunity for them to be familiar with the issues under discussion.

4. The consequences of abandoning the current arrangement

If the current arrangement is abandoned, the most obvious consequence is that particular classes or regions will not be represented at the board meeting. Those classes or regions will have no one to bring their specific concerns and perspectives to the meeting and will have no one from whom they can receive a firsthand report as to how their specific concerns were addressed. For example, at the February 2008 BOT meeting three of the thirty delegates were absent. Had not alternates served in their stead, some classes or regions would not have been represented. In addition, within the past year a BOT delegate was no longer able to serve, and her alternate immediately took her place. By contrast, when our delegate to a board which no longer elects alternates left the region in 2006, the board decided to retain him as our regional delegate. In essence, we have had no regional delegate on that board for the last two years. This only deepens the already existing feeling of some that the boards do not exist to serve the churches, but that the churches exist to serve the boards.

A second consequence of abandoning the current arrangement is that it severs the connection which thirty people from across the denomination have with the ministry of the denomination. It means that the BOT will have thirty fewer people who can knowledgeably report to the churches about its ministry. It also means that none of these thirty people will have the possibility of experiencing firsthand the work of their denomination through their service as an alternate.

5. Conclusion

To eliminate alternates is another step in distancing our boards from the churches. Synod should not approve this recommendation.

## II. Overture

Classis Grand Rapids East overtures Synod 2008 to

A. Defeat the recommendation of the Board of Trustees “that only single nominations be required” for denominational board and committee positions.

*Grounds:*

1. This recommendation further centralizes authority instead of involving the classes or regions in the ministry of the denomination and gives the impression that denominational boards are not interested in hearing the voices of the classes or regions.

2. This recommendation will end all board and committee elections in the denomination.
3. This recommendation will result in self-perpetuating boards and committees.
4. The experience of some classes is that there is a substantial number of nominees who are willing to be placed in nomination. There are creative ways that can be explored to increase the pool of nominees from the classes.
5. The classes could be requested to submit nominees for the service committees, something that is not currently done.

B. Defeat the recommendation of the Board of Trustees that it “no longer be required to appoint alternate members [to its Board].”

*Grounds:*

1. This recommendation leaves a classis or region without representation when its delegate is unable to attend a meeting.
2. This recommendation severs the connection which thirty people have to the ministry of the denomination and leaves the board with thirty fewer people who can promote its ministry throughout the denomination.
3. This recommendation is another step by which this Board will become more distant from the churches, classes, and regions. This is especially significant, for “the BOT is not like other denominational boards because, besides its corporate and ministry oversight functions, it is also the interim committee of synod” (*Acts of Synod 2006*, p. 682).

Classis Grand Rapids East  
George F. Vander Weit, stated clerk

## **Overture 28: Defer Action on the Proposed Contemporary Testimony**

### **I. Overture**

Classis Grand Rapids South overtures Synod 2008 to defer action on the proposed revision of the Contemporary Testimony for one year, and to continue the Contemporary Testimony Revision Committee to receive reactions from the churches.

*Grounds:*

1. All but a few of the paragraphs in the final proposal contain changes from the earlier submission. The churches need time to review these changes from the 2007 version to the 2008 version.
2. In the current proposal, the committee offers biblical references. The churches need time to assess the appropriateness of the references that are offered in support of the particular paragraphs.
3. If, as proposed to synod, a revised Contemporary Testimony would become part of the revised Form of Subscription (Covenant of Ordination), the churches need time to process the language, content, and biblical support of a testimony that will join the church’s historical confessions as the authoritative interpretation of Scripture.

## **II. Background**

In summer 2007 the synodical committee distributed the committee's then-current draft revision of the Contemporary Testimony. The committee asked for comments and received many.

The committee's follow-up draft has only recently been released. This latest draft contains numerous changes from the draft distributed last summer. (A raw computer count shows 553 changes, though not all are substantive.) In addition, this latest draft includes scriptural references intended to support the claims made in the Contemporary Testimony. Last summer's draft had no scriptural references.

For the reasons stated above, it is appropriate that the churches have an opportunity to review and comment on this latest draft language and the new scriptural references before synod adopts the proposed language as final.

Classis Grand Rapids South  
Michael W. Hoogeboom, stated clerk

## Communication 3: Council of Ivanrest CRC, Grandville, Michigan

The council of Ivanrest Christian Reformed Church has received a response from the Reverend Arthur J. Schoonveld to Overture 4 (see *Agenda for Synod 2008*, pp. 258-64) regarding the membership of retired pastors. Along with Rev. Schoonveld, we hope that the advisory committee will not recommend the adoption of the overture and will choose instead a healthier response to the issue presented. We are forwarding Rev. Schoonveld's personal response as an appendix for consideration along with our council's communication.

While we recognize, along with Overture 4, that oftentimes tensions arise when retired pastors remain in the church from which they retired, that has been far from our experience. In fact, having the retired pastor remain in membership has, in many ways, been a blessing to all parties involved: the retired pastor, the church members, and the new pastor. Mandating all retiring pastors to transfer their memberships assumes the worst-case scenario for every situation and does not take into account positive situations such as ours. It also ignores the spiritual well-being of the retiring pastor and that pastor's family. Instead of taking action to prevent worst-case scenarios, it would be much more appropriate, as well as godly and biblical, to take action to cultivate the possibility of reaching a best-case scenario in our relationships with each other.

The Pastor-Church Relations Office of the CRC should be the avenue by which an effective and healthy process of retirement is made possible. Too often situations deteriorate because neither party knows how to handle retirement in a healthy way. A blanket policy on the denominational level such as this overture, while being the easiest, is not the best avenue to deal with such situations. Instead, the harder work should be done to educate both retiring pastors, congregations, and new pastors in both the pitfalls and the opportunities retirement affords.

These situations should be allowed to be handled at the local church level between mature Christian adults and professionals. Pastors and congregations must be empowered to have honest and loving conversations that will allow all of them to maintain a healthy spiritual life both in God's kingdom and, quite possibly, together in that local faith community. A tool such as the covenant which is recommended may be very useful in helping to facilitate the necessary conversations that must occur between the various parties involved. It is a tool, however, that should be offered and encouraged, not mandated.

While we appreciate the concern for the local church health shown in Overture 4, it is our hope that the advisory committee will choose to take the



more productive route and advise the Pastor-Church Relations Office of the CRC to develop a healthy response to the issues created by retiring pastors—a process that will enable both individuals and congregations to continue to move toward spiritual health.

Council of Ivanrest CRC, Grandville, Michigan  
Dan Triezenberg, clerk

## **Appendix**

### **Correspondence to Council of Ivanrest CRC**

To Whom It May Concern:

A. As a retired minister in the CRC, I strongly urge the advisory committee not to recommend the adoption of the overture from Classis Grand Rapids East re the membership of retired pastors. When I retired in 2001 after serving the Ivanrest CRC for seven years, my wife and I chose to remain there, with the encouragement of our pastor.

*Grounds:*

1. Membership in a church is the sole responsibility of the local church council, and falls outside the jurisdiction of synod or classis. It is not up to either one of these bodies to legislate where a retired pastor should hold his or her membership.
2. The grounds alleged by Classis Grand Rapids East are mere generalizations, and the exact opposite could be alleged:
  - a. The relationship of the next pastor might easily be enhanced when a former pastor remains a member of the congregation and the former pastor gives his or her unqualified support to the new pastor.
  - b. No evidence is advanced to maintain that the spiritual life and ministry of the previous pastor and spouse can flourish more easily. Although this may be true in some instances, it cannot be proven that this is true in most cases.
  - c. Just as many actual situations could illustrate that there is no need for such a guideline.
  - d. To mandate where within the CRC a retired pastor can or cannot be a member falls outside the authority of both classis and the denomination. To do so is a violation of the autonomy of the local church, and appears at face value to be preposterous as well as arrogant.

B. I strongly urge the advisory committee not to recommend the adoption of the proposed Covenant for Future Relationships.

*Grounds:*

1. It is already clearly understood by almost every retired pastor that any ongoing ministry on their part can only be done at the request of and with the permission of the church leadership.
2. Some of the proposed guidelines listed under B could come by way of suggestions rather than by dictate.

3. The proposal that a retired pastor not make any suggestions, offer no opinions, advice, or criticism, is a restriction of freedom of speech. Such a proposal would seem to fit a dictatorship better than a denomination.
4. The proposed Covenant is not enforceable. What will be done if and when a retired pastor refuses to sign such a covenant? Will there be church discipline? I, for one, would not sign such a Covenant under any circumstance.

My wife and I, together with many other retired pastors and spouses, have an excellent relationship with our pastor. Our spiritual lives are flourishing under his ministry, and we have not been able to find a congregation during the past seven years where we could have done better spiritually. We have encouraged our pastor, have a sense of belonging, and have enough common sense to know that it is not our responsibility to perform weddings, do funerals, or get involved in the pastoral ministry. I do, however, accept periodic preaching assignments when requested. It is my opinion that any problem caused by some former pastors can and should be resolved between the church leadership and the former pastor.

I sincerely hope that the advisory committee will not go beyond offering some general guidelines to help congregations deal with potential problems between the former and present pastor.

Respectfully,

Rev. Arthur J. Schoonveld  
Holland, Michigan

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)  
Fiscal Year 2008-2009**

	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Actual	Fiscal 07-08 Budget	Fiscal 08-09 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 4,489	\$ 4,258	\$ 3,950	\$ 4,035
% of Total Income	45.5%	41.3%	42.1%	37.9%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 3,686	\$ 4,014	\$ 4,305	\$ 5,100
Estate Gifts	\$ 1,375	\$ 1,414	\$ 825	\$ 1,000
Total Gift Income	5,061	5,428	5,130	6,100
% of Total Income	51.3%	52.7%	54.7%	57.3%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants-Animation	\$ -	\$ 62	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 322	\$ 554	\$ 300	\$ 510
Total Other Income	322	616	300	510
% of Total Income	3.3%	6.0%	3.2%	4.8%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>9,872</b>	<b>10,302</b>	<b>9,380</b>	<b>10,645</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
English	\$ 2,771	\$ 2,028	\$ 2,575	\$ 2,593
FTEs	10	10	12	12
International	\$ 4,011	\$ 4,749	\$ 4,975	\$ 5,352
FTEs	13	13	14	14
Television - Animation				
FTEs				
Program Initiatives	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 6,782	\$ 6,777	\$ 7,550	\$ 7,945
Total Program Service FTEs	23	23	26	26
% of Total \$	75.2%	72.2%	78.4%	74.6%
% of Total FTEs	69.7%	69.7%	72.2%	72.2%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 755	\$ 894	\$ 676	\$ 800
FTEs	4	4	4	4
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 1,483	\$ 1,712	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,900
FTEs	6	6	6	6
Total Support Service \$	2,238	2,606	2,076	2,700
Total Support Service FTEs	10	10	10	10
% of Total \$	24.8%	27.8%	21.6%	25.4%
% of Total FTEs	30.3%	30.3%	27.8%	27.8%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 9,020</b>	<b>\$ 9,383</b>	<b>\$ 9,626</b>	<b>\$ 10,645</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 852</b>	<b>\$ 919</b>	<b>\$ (246)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)  
Fiscal Year 2008-2009**

	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Actual	Fiscal 07-08 Budget	Fiscal 08-09 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 2,896	\$ 2,769	\$ 2,769	\$ 2,900
% of Total Income	2.8%	2.5%	2.4%	2.3%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 2,730	\$ 2,788	\$ 2,784	\$ 2,784
Estate Gifts	\$ 7	\$ 23	\$ 17	\$ 17
Total Gift Income	2,737	2,811	2,800	2,800
% of Total Income	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%	2.3%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 94,912	\$ 102,157	\$ 108,396	\$ 115,849
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,729	\$ 3,687	\$ 2,127	\$ 2,127
Total Other Income	97,641	105,844	110,523	117,976
% of Total Income	94.5%	95.0%	95.2%	95.4%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>103,274</b>	<b>111,424</b>	<b>116,092</b>	<b>123,676</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Education	\$ 87,923	\$ 94,540	\$ 100,980	\$ 107,703
FTEs	597	592	611	611
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 87,923	\$ 94,540	\$ 100,980	\$ 107,703
Total Program Service FTEs	597	592	611	611
% of Total \$	86.9%	86.8%	87.0%	87.1%
% of Total FTEs	80.7%	78.7%	77.4%	77.4%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 4,992	\$ 5,789	\$ 5,535	\$ 5,884
FTEs	61	64	71	71
Plant Operations	\$ 5,651	\$ 6,314	\$ 6,807	\$ 7,236
FTEs	57	66	71	71
Fund-raising	\$ 2,597	\$ 2,258	\$ 2,689	\$ 2,858
FTEs	25	30	36	36
Total Support Service \$	13,240	14,361	15,031	15,978
Total Support Service FTEs	143	160	178	178
% of Total \$	13.1%	13.2%	13.0%	12.9%
% of Total FTEs	19.3%	21.3%	22.6%	22.6%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 101,163</b>	<b>\$ 108,901</b>	<b>\$ 116,011</b>	<b>\$ 123,681</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>789</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 2,111</b>	<b>\$ 2,523</b>	<b>\$ 81</b>	<b>\$ (5)</b>

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)  
Fiscal Year 2008-2009**

	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Actual	Fiscal 07-08 Budget	Fiscal 08-09 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 2,695	\$ 2,898	\$ 3,246	\$ 3,296
% of Total Income	44.2%	46.1%	48.0%	46.4%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 767	\$ 801	\$ 1,053	\$ 1,228
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ 13	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	767	814	1,053	1,228
% of Total Income	12.6%	12.9%	15.6%	17.3%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 1,984	\$ 2,026	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,176
Grants	\$ 542	\$ 442	\$ 315	\$ 319
Miscellaneous	\$ 107	\$ 108	\$ 68	\$ 89
Total Other Income	2,633	2,576	2,465	2,584
% of Total Income	43.2%	41.0%	36.4%	36.4%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>6,095</b>	<b>6,288</b>	<b>6,764</b>	<b>7,108</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Instructional	\$ 2,585	\$ 2,715	\$ 2,798	\$ 2,819
FTEs	27	28	28	29
Public Service	\$ 52	\$ 51	\$ 58	\$ 57
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Academic Support	\$ 867	\$ 932	\$ 945	\$ 1,032
FTEs	4	4	4	4
Student Services	\$ 488	\$ 524	\$ 597	\$ 585
FTEs	4	4	4	4
Student Aid	\$ 242	\$ 226	\$ 491	\$ 557
FTEs	2	2	2	2
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 4,234	\$ 4,448	\$ 4,889	\$ 5,050
Total Program Service FTEs	38	39	39	40
% of Total \$	73.5%	71.6%	72.3%	71.0%
% of Total FTEs	77.6%	75.0%	75.0%	76.9%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 790	\$ 913	\$ 944	\$ 1,061
FTEs	6	7	7	7
Plant Operations	\$ 382	\$ 474	\$ 470	\$ 509
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Fund-raising	\$ 351	\$ 377	\$ 461	\$ 488
FTEs	4	5	5	4
Total Support Service \$	1,523	1,764	1,875	2,058
Total Support Service FTEs	11	13	13	12
% of Total \$	26.5%	28.4%	27.7%	29.0%
% of Total FTEs	22.4%	25.0%	25.0%	23.1%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 5,757</b>	<b>\$ 6,212</b>	<b>\$ 6,764</b>	<b>\$ 7,108</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>
		(533) *		
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 338</b>	<b>\$ (457)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

\* \$-533 Cumulative effect of change in retirement accounting principle

## Christian Reformed Home Missions

### Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2008-2009

	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Actual	Fiscal 07-08 Budget	Fiscal 08-09 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 5,472	\$ 4,986	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,060
% of Total Income	67.6%	60.0%	52.4%	52.1%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 1,582	\$ 1,531	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Estate Gifts	\$ 245	\$ 211	\$ 375	\$ 400
Total Gift Income	1,827	1,742	2,375	2,400
% of Total Income	22.6%	21.0%	31.1%	30.8%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ 70	\$ 275	\$ 275
Miscellaneous	\$ 791	\$ 1,508	\$ 982	\$ 1,052
Total Other Income	791	1,578	1,257	1,327
% of Total Income	9.8%	19.0%	16.5%	17.0%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>8,090</b>	<b>8,306</b>	<b>7,632</b>	<b>7,787</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
New-Church Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Established & Small Churches	\$ 377	\$ 367	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	2	2	-	-
Campus/schools	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Ministry Teams	\$ 5,194	\$ 5,322	\$ 5,639	\$ 6,090
FTEs	35	35	26	27
Ministry Devel & Planning	\$ 1,264	\$ 1,321	\$ 869	\$ 899
FTEs	11	8	6	6
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 6,835	\$ 7,010	\$ 6,508	\$ 6,989
Total Program Service FTEs	48	45	32	33
% of Total \$	80.4%	79.9%	75.5%	77.4%
% of Total FTEs	84.2%	83.3%	74.4%	75.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 866	\$ 920	\$ 962	\$ 922
FTEs	3	2	3	3
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 802	\$ 839	\$ 1,150	\$ 1,116
FTEs	6	7	8	8
Total Support Service \$	1,668	1,759	2,112	2,038
Total Support Service FTEs	9	9	11	11
% of Total \$	19.6%	20.1%	24.5%	22.6%
% of Total FTEs	15.8%	16.7%	25.6%	25.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 8,503</b>	<b>\$ 8,769</b>	<b>\$ 8,620</b>	<b>\$ 9,027</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (413)</b>	<b>\$ (463)</b>	<b>\$ (988)</b>	<b>\$ (1,240)</b>

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)  
Fiscal Year 2008-2009**

	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Actual	Fiscal 07-08 Budget	Fiscal 08-09 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 5,135	\$ 4,997	\$ 5,085	\$ 5,500
% of Total Income	40.6%	38.3%	37.8%	39.2%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 6,449	\$ 6,793	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,475
Estate Gifts	\$ 400	\$ 374	\$ 645	\$ 600
Total Gift Income	6,849	7,167	7,745	8,075
% of Total Income	54.1%	55.0%	57.6%	57.5%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 678	\$ 873	\$ 627	\$ 471
Total Other Income	678	873	627	471
% of Total Income	5.4%	6.7%	4.7%	3.4%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>12,662</b>	<b>13,037</b>	<b>13,457</b>	<b>14,046</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Africa	\$ 3,519	\$ 3,483	\$ 3,516	\$ 3,596
FTEs	33	33	31	31
Eurasia	\$ 2,407	\$ 2,056	\$ 3,183	\$ 3,275
FTEs	21	21	20	21
Latin America	\$ 3,630	\$ 4,016	\$ 3,917	\$ 4,100
FTEs	28	28	28	28
Europe	\$ 774	\$ 812	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	8	8	-	-
Education	\$ 562	\$ 681	\$ 716	\$ 744
FTEs	7	7	7	9
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 10,892	\$ 11,048	\$ 11,332	\$ 11,715
Total Program Service FTEs	96	97	86	89
% of Total \$	86.2%	83.5%	84.2%	83.5%
% of Total FTEs	87.6%	88.2%	86.2%	85.6%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 857	\$ 1,035	\$ 908	\$ 1,028
FTEs	5	5	5	5
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 892	\$ 1,146	\$ 1,217	\$ 1,295
FTEs	8	8	9	10
Total Support Service \$	1,749	2,181	2,125	2,323
Total Support Service FTEs	14	13	14	15
% of Total \$	13.8%	16.5%	15.8%	16.5%
% of Total FTEs	12.4%	11.8%	13.8%	14.4%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 12,641</b>	<b>\$ 13,229</b>	<b>\$ 13,457</b>	<b>\$ 14,038</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 21</b>	<b>\$ (192)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 8</b>



# Christian Reformed World Relief Committee

## Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2008-2009

	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Actual	Fiscal 07-08 Budget	Fiscal 08-09 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 18,878	\$ 14,276	\$ 13,340	\$ 17,580
Estate Gifts	\$ 1,039	\$ 1,077	\$ 1,133	\$ 1,200
Total Gift Income	19,917	15,353	14,473	18,780
% of Total Income	63.7%	58.8%	77.1%	64.3%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ 9,572	\$ 8,781	\$ 4,273	\$ 9,835
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,762	\$ 1,996	\$ 36	\$ 600
Total Other Income	11,334	10,777	4,309	10,435
% of Total Income	36.3%	41.2%	22.9%	35.7%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>31,251</b>	<b>26,130</b>	<b>18,782</b>	<b>29,215</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Overseas programs	\$ 10,290	\$ 11,217	\$ 11,045	\$ 12,869
FTEs	56	53	51	54
No America programs	\$ 1,382	\$ 1,625	\$ 1,092	\$ 1,504
FTEs	6	6	9	6
Disaster relief programs (core)	\$ 11,997	\$ 12,846	\$ 4,606	\$ 1,671
Above-budget relief costs	9	13	13	14
FTEs	-	-	-	6,086
Education				
FTEs	\$ 637	\$ 652	\$ 885	\$ 1,440
	3	5	8	6
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service FTEs	\$ 24,306	\$ 26,340	\$ 17,628	\$ 23,570
% of Total \$	74	77	81	80
% of Total FTEs	89.9%	88.0%	81.4%	80.2%
	79.6%	74.8%	77.1%	70.8%
Support Services:				
Management & General				
FTEs	\$ 1,385	\$ 2,051	\$ 1,502	\$ 2,292
Plant Operations	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 8
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	-	-	-	-
FTEs	\$ 1,341	\$ 1,529	\$ 2,535	\$ 3,515
Total Support Service \$	12	19	17	25
Total Support Service FTEs	2,726	3,580	4,037	5,807
% of Total \$	19	26	24	33
% of Total FTEs	10.1%	12.0%	18.6%	19.8%
	20.4%	25.2%	22.9%	29.2%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>\$ 27,032</b>	<b>\$ 29,920</b>	<b>\$ 21,665</b>	<b>\$ 29,377</b>
	93	103	105	113
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 4,219</b>	<b>\$ (3,790)</b>	<b>\$ (2,883)</b>	<b>\$ (162)</b>

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.)  
Fiscal Year 2008-2009**

	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Actual	Fiscal 07-08 Budget	Fiscal 08-09 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 918	\$ 1,051	\$ 1,296	\$ 1,146
% of Total Income	14.3%	15.8%	19.4%	18.2%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 325	\$ 295	\$ 260	\$ 255
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	325	295	260	255
% of Total Income	5.0%	4.4%	3.9%	4.1%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 4,778	\$ 4,536	\$ 4,763	\$ 4,338
Grants	\$ 264	\$ 418	\$ 253	\$ 284
Miscellaneous	\$ 154	\$ 371	\$ 122	\$ 273
Total Other Income	5,196	5,325	5,138	4,895
% of Total Income	80.7%	79.8%	76.8%	77.7%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>6,439</b>	<b>6,671</b>	<b>6,694</b>	<b>6,296</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Banner	\$ 1,251	\$ 1,234	\$ 1,344	\$ 1,409
FTEs	4	4	4	3
Education	\$ 3,717	\$ 3,487	\$ 3,635	\$ 3,440
FTEs	18	18	17	19
World Literature	\$ 417	\$ 371	\$ 452	\$ 396
FTEs	3	2	2	2
Teacher Training	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 140	\$ 150
FTEs	-	1	1	1
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 5,385	\$ 5,092	\$ 5,571	\$ 5,395
Total Program Service FTEs	25	25	24	25
% of Total \$	88.5%	84.9%	87.0%	86.2%
% of Total FTEs	92.6%	92.6%	92.3%	92.6%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 699	\$ 904	\$ 831	\$ 862
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	699	904	831	862
Total Support Service FTEs	2	2	2	2
% of Total \$	11.5%	15.1%	13.0%	13.8%
% of Total FTEs	7.4%	7.4%	7.7%	7.4%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 6,084</b>	<b>\$ 5,996</b>	<b>\$ 6,402</b>	<b>\$ 6,257</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 355</b>	<b>\$ 675</b>	<b>\$ 292</b>	<b>\$ 39</b>

## Denominational Services

### Operating Budget (000s of U.S.) Fiscal Year 2008-2009

	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Actual	Fiscal 07-08 Budget	Fiscal 08-09 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 2,260	\$ 2,896	\$ 3,086	\$ 3,346
% of Total Income	80.5%	82.2%	85.9%	88.4%
Other Gift Income:	Incls \$379 Sea to Sea			
Above Ministry Share	\$ 422	\$ 91	\$ 20	\$ 20
Estate Gifts	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	423	91	20	20
% of Total Income	15.1%	2.6%	0.6%	0.5%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ 92	\$ -	\$ 20	\$ -
Services & Misc	\$ 31	\$ 536	\$ 467	\$ 421
Total Other Income	123	536	487	421
% of Total Income	4.4%	15.2%	13.6%	11.1%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,806</b>	<b>3,523</b>	<b>3,593</b>	<b>3,787</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Synodical Services & Grants	\$ 1,159	\$ 2,119	\$ 1,418	\$ 1,601
FTEs	5	5	5	5
Communications	\$ 222	\$ 245	\$ 409	\$ 474
FTEs	3	3	4	4
CRCPlan	\$ 141	\$ 136	\$ 139	\$ 151
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Sea to Sea grants	\$ 820			
FTEs	-			
Total Program Service \$	\$ 2,342	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,966	\$ 2,226
Total Program Service FTEs	9	9	10	10
% of Total \$	70.5%	73.1%	57.8%	58.7%
% of Total FTEs	64.3%	64.3%	55.6%	55.6%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 923	\$ 871	\$ 953	\$ 1,023
FTEs	4	4	5	5
D.D.M.			\$ 186	\$ 201
FTEs			1	1
Fund-raising (Foundation)	\$ 55	\$ 50	\$ 297	\$ 342
FTEs	1	1	2	2
Total Support Service \$	978	921	1,436	1,566
Total Support Service FTEs	5	5	8	8
% of Total \$	29.5%	26.9%	42.2%	41.3%
% of Total FTEs	35.7%	35.7%	44.4%	44.4%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 3,320</b>	<b>\$ 3,421</b>	<b>\$ 3,402</b>	<b>\$ 3,792</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (514)</b>	<b>\$ 102</b>	<b>\$ 191</b>	<b>\$ (5)</b>

## Specialized Ministries

### Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2008-2009

	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Actual	Fiscal 07-08 Budget	Fiscal 08-09 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 2,229	\$ 2,744	\$ 3,331	\$ 3,815
% of Total Income	87.4%	86.9%	72.1%	91.7%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 282	\$ 336	\$ 286	\$ 345
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	282	336	286	345
% of Total Income	11.1%	10.6%	6.2%	8.3%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2	\$ -
Grants	\$ 38	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 79	\$ -	\$ 2
Total Other Income	38	79	1,002	2
% of Total Income	1.5%	2.5%	21.7%	0.0%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,549</b>	<b>3,159</b>	<b>4,619</b>	<b>4,162</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Chaplaincy Services	\$ 198	\$ 192	\$ 235	\$ 244
FTEs	2	1	1	1
Race Relations	\$ 274	\$ 338	\$ 347	\$ 491
FTEs	4	3	3	3
Pastor-Church Relations	\$ 515	\$ 525	\$ 555	\$ 689
FTEs	3	3	3	3
Abuse Prevention	\$ 159	\$ 167	\$ 173	\$ 179
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Disability Concerns	\$ 230	\$ 236	\$ 213	\$ 227
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Social & Restorative Justice	289	319	324	409
FTEs	3	4	5	5
Sust. Pastoral & Church Excel.	449	497	1,354	1,262
FTEs	1	2	3	4
Ministries in Canada	\$ 613	\$ 672	\$ 670	\$ 808
FTEs	4	4	4	4
Total Program Service \$	\$ 2,727	\$ 2,946	\$ 3,871	\$ 4,309
Total Program Service FTEs	19	19	21	22
% of Total \$	97.1%	95.2%	97.6%	97.6%
% of Total FTEs	95.0%	95.0%	95.5%	95.7%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 47	\$ 52	\$ 61	\$ 59
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 35	\$ 95	\$ 36	\$ 47
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Total Support Service \$	82	147	97	106
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	2.9%	4.8%	2.4%	2.4%
% of Total FTEs	5.0%	5.0%	4.5%	4.3%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 2,809</b>	<b>\$ 3,093</b>	<b>\$ 3,968</b>	<b>\$ 4,415</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (260)</b>	<b>\$ 66</b>	<b>\$ 651</b>	<b>\$ (253)</b>

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)  
Fiscal Year 2008-2009**

	Fiscal 05-06 Actual	Fiscal 06-07 Actual	Fiscal 07-08 Budget	Fiscal 08-09 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	\$ 1,220	\$ 1,584	\$ 1,679	\$ 2,072
Total Other Income	1,220	1,584	1,679	2,072
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>1,584</b>	<b>1,679</b>	<b>2,072</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Loan Interest	\$ 694	\$ 1,030	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,375
FTEs	1	1	1	1
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 694	\$ 1,030	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,375
Total Program Service FTEs	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	78.5%	83.3%	84.5%	84.3%
% of Total FTEs	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 190	\$ 207	\$ 239	\$ 256
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	190	207	239	256
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	21.5%	16.7%	15.5%	15.7%
% of Total FTEs	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 884</b>	<b>\$ 1,237</b>	<b>\$ 1,539</b>	<b>\$ 1,631</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 336</b>	<b>\$ 347</b>	<b>\$ 140</b>	<b>\$ 441</b>

# Ministers' Pension and Special Assistance Funds – Canada

## Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)

Fiscal Year 2008-2009

	MPF 2006 Actual		MPF 2007 Actual		SAF 2006 Actual		SAF 2007 Actual	
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>								
Ministry Share	\$	-	\$	-	\$	37	\$	39
% of Total Income		0.0%		0.0%		86.0%		84.8%
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	\$	1,804	\$	1,911	\$	-	\$	-
Grants	\$	250	\$	250	\$	-	\$	-
Miscellaneous	\$	3,409	\$	1,671	\$	6	\$	7
Total Other Income		5,463		3,832		6		7
% of Total Income		100.0%		100.0%		14.0%		15.2%
TOTAL ADDITIONS		5,463		3,832		43		46
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>								
Program Services:								
Distributions	\$	1,961	\$	2,061	\$	3	\$	17
FTEs		-		-		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-		-		-
Total Program Service \$	\$	1,961	\$	2,061	\$	3	\$	17
Total Program Service FTEs		-		-		-		-
% of Total \$		84.6%		82.5%		100.0%		100.0%
% of Total FTEs		0.0%		0.0%				
Support Services:								
Management & General	\$	356	\$	436	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		1		1		-		-
Plant Operations	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-		-		-
Fund-raising	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-		-		-
Total Support Service \$		356		436		-		-
Total Support Service FTEs		1		1		-		-
% of Total \$		15.4%		17.5%		0.0%		0.0%
% of Total FTEs		100.0%		100.0%				
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$	2,317	\$	2,497	\$	3	\$	17
TOTAL FTEs		1		1		-		-
NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)	\$	3,146	\$	1,335	\$	40	\$	29

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

## Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)

Fiscal Year 2008-2009

	MPF 2006 Actual	MPF 2007 Actual	SAF 2006 Actual	SAF 2007 Actual
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 94	\$ 91
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	92.2%	91.0%
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	\$ 4,297	\$ 4,559	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 11,821	\$ 5,933	\$ 8	\$ 9
Total Other Income	16,118	10,492	8	9
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	7.8%	9.0%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>16,118</b>	<b>10,492</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Distributions	\$ 6,650	\$ 6,897	\$ 47	\$ 81
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 6,650	\$ 6,897	\$ 47	\$ 81
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	87.4%	88.4%	100.0%	100.0%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%		
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 958	\$ 909	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	1	1	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	958	909	-	-
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	-	-
% of Total \$	12.6%	11.6%	0.0%	0.0%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%		
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 7,608</b>	<b>\$ 7,806</b>	<b>\$ 47</b>	<b>\$ 81</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ 8,510</b>	<b>\$ 2,686</b>	<b>\$ 55</b>	<b>\$ 19</b>

## Employees' Retirement Plan – U.S.

### Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2008-2009

		2006 Actual		2007 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:				
Employer Contributions	\$	1,015	\$	1,117
Grants	\$	-	\$	-
Miscellaneous	\$	1,896	\$	1,635
Total Other Income		2,911		2,752
% of Total Income		100.0%		100.0%
TOTAL ADDITIONS		2,911		2,752
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Distributions	\$	996	\$	943
FTEs		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
Total Program Service \$	\$	996	\$	943
Total Program Service FTEs		-		-
% of Total \$		94.1%		93.6%
% of Total FTEs		0.0%		0.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$	63	\$	65
FTEs		1		1
Plant Operations	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
Fund-raising	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
Total Support Service \$		63		65
Total Support Service FTEs		1		1
% of Total \$		5.9%		6.4%
% of Total FTEs		100.0%		100.0%
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$	1,059	\$	1,008
TOTAL FTEs		1		1
NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)	\$	1,852	\$	1,744



## Consolidated Group Insurance – U.S.

### Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2008-2009

	2006 Actual	2007 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	\$ 8,766	\$ 9,955
Grants	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 209	\$ 276
Total Other Income	8,975	10,231
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>8,975</b>	<b>10,231</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>		
Program Services:		
Claims Expense	\$ 7,840	\$ 8,685
FTEs	-	-
Insurance Premiums	\$ 412	\$ 464
FTEs	-	-
TPA & PPO Fees	\$ 592	\$ 644
FTEs	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 8,844	\$ 9,793
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-
% of Total \$	97.8%	98.0%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%
Support Services:		
Management & General	\$ 198	\$ 202
FTEs	3	3
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-
Total Support Service \$	198	202
Total Support Service FTEs	3	3
% of Total \$	4.3%	4.3%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 9,042</b>	<b>\$ 9,995</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ (67)</b>	<b>\$ 236</b>

# REPORT OF SYNOD 2008

# SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

Sunday, June 15, 2008

3:00 p.m.

Calvin College Chapel

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Convening Church – River Walk Community CRC

\* Gathering Praise . . . . . Praise Team

“Lord, Reign in Me”

“You Shine”

“I Will Not Be Shaken”

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Call to Worship . . . . . Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra  
Executive Director of the CRC

\* Prayer . . . . . Rev. Dykstra

\* Songs of Praise . . . . . Ms. Sheila Ritsema, Pianist

“Shout to the Lord”

“The River Is Here”

Scripture: John 3:1-21 . . . . . Ms. Lisa Colyn

Message . . . . . Rev. Richard Verkaik  
Pastor, River Walk Community CRC

“Our Pivot Point”

Prayer . . . . . Rev. Verkaik

\* Song

“How Firm a Foundation”

Offering for Sea to Sea 2008 Bicycle Tour

Pastoral Prayer . . . . . Rev. Theodore Verseput  
River Walk Community CRC

Communion Liturgy . . . . . Rev. Joel R. Boot, President of Synod 2008  
Rev. Thea N. Leunk, Vice President of Synod 2008

\*Indicates that worshipers, if able, should stand.

Prayer of Preparedness . . . . .	Rev. Verkaik
Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-29 . . . . .	Rev. Verkaik
Presentation and Distribution of the Elements	
Trio: "How Beautiful" . . . . .	Ms. Esther Rayburn, organist
Organ medley	
Prayer. . . . .	Rev. Verkaik
*Our Profession of Faith — The Apostles' Creed	
* Song of Response	
"My Jesus, I Love Thee"	
"I Come With Joy to Meet My Lord"	
* Benediction. . . . .	Rev. Verkaik
* Doxology. . . . .	Signing by children of River Walk Community CRC
"We Receive Your Blessing"	
Postlude. . . . .	Ms. Esther Rayburn, organist

### Participants from River Walk Community CRC

Pastors . . . . .	Rev. Richard Verkaik and Rev. Theodore Verseput
Scripture Reader. . . . .	Ms. Lisa Colyn
Signing. . . . .	Ms. Shanon Childress
Praise Team . . . .	Ms. Ama Baiocchi, Mr. David Despina, Ms. Lauren Ritsema, Ms. Grace Vander Weide, Mr. Pete Vander Weide
Musicians:	
Pianist . . . . .	Ms. Sheila Ritsema
Organist . . . . .	Ms. Esther Rayburn
Drums/sound . . . . .	Mr. Steve Serra
Congas/sound. . . . .	Mr. Chris Colyn
Guitar . . . . .	Mr. Ian Heim
Bass . . . . .	Mr. Mike Sikorski
PowerPoint . . . . .	Ms. Erika Colyn

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\*Indicates that worshipers, if able, should stand.

# MINUTES OF SYNOD 2008

## SATURDAY MORNING, June 14, 2008 First Session

### ARTICLE 1

President pro tem Rev. Richard H. Verkaik, pastor of River Walk Community Christian Reformed Church, Battle Creek, Michigan, the convening church, welcomes the delegates to Synod 2008.

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

The president pro tem leads in opening prayer. He reads from 1 Corinthians 13 and stresses the difference between servitude and servanthood. Rev. Verkaik shares that this is a time to learn—part of that is attitude. The hearts and attitude of delegates will make a difference this week. You need to have a capacity to be a loving individual—servanthood brings love with it, accompanied by God.

Rev. Verkaik leads in prayer. Rev. Verkaik announces *Psalter Hymnal* 288, “Take My Life and Let It Be,” vv. 1, 3, 5, and 6; and *Psalter Hymnal* 545, “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace.”

### ARTICLE 2

The president pro tem 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 2008

Classis	Ministers	Elders
Alberta North	Bruce E. Gritter Raymond A. Blacketer	John Stadt Bertus H. Kamphius
Alberta South/Saskatchewan	S. George Koopmans J. Greg Sinclair	Darryl Darwent John Koning
Arizona	John J. Berends Kenneth J. Vanderploeg	Rodney Hugen Alfred Lindemulder
Atlantic Northeast	Stanley J. Sturing Alvern Gelder	Tobias Lewis Coenraad Bakker
B.C. North-West	Ezra S. Cheung Ng Pieter G. Sinia	Elaine S. Yu William W. Wikkerink
B.C. South-East	Sidney Couperus Andrew G. Vander Leek	Jean Dykshoorn Patricia Storteboom
California South	Ronald I. Chu Mark D. Vermaire	Steven Wunderink Jose F. Munoz
Central California	Paul H. Vander Klay Andrew C. S. Narm	Carol Sue Kuipers Henry E. Brower

Chatham	Ralph S. Wigboldus	Clarence Zantingh
Chicago South	Richard T. Vander Vaart	Heiko Oegema
	Phillip S. Leo	Raymond A. Leerar
Columbia	Peter C. Kelder	Elsa Fennema
	Robert J. Toornstra	Leroy A. Werkhoven
Eastern Canada	William S. Wilton	John C. Lautenbach
	Michael F. Miedema	Sarah H. Cook
Georgetown	Daniel G. Brown	Harmen Boersma
	Terry Scholten	Philip W. Timmer
Grand Rapids East	Joel R. Boot	Donald J. Veltman
	Thea N. Leunk	Victoria Gibbs
Grand Rapids North	Lynn A. Likkel	Carol J. Rottman
	Ronald G. Baker	Larry M. Maat
Grand Rapids South	Lucas Rodenhouse	Wayne Hubers
	Ronald G. Kool	Dan Buist
Grandville	Reginald Smith	Robert Noordeloos
	Calvin D. Compagner	Arnold Morren
Greater Los Angeles	Steven C. Elzinga	David L. Spoelma
	Daniel J. Brink	William S. Postma
Hackensack	Elmer Tandayu	Fatu Auau
	Sheila Holmes	Leticia Vazquez
Hamilton	Joel E. Kok	Karen J. Walker
	Kenneth F. Benjamins	Fred Reitsma
Heartland	James E. Pot	John W.J. Glasbergen
	David L. Heilman	John Kooiker
Holland	Norlyn J. Van Beek	Mark Volkers
	David L. Van Der Wiele	Earl J. Bouwman
Hudson	Chad M. Steenwyk	Calvin J. Hoogstra
	Howard J. Vugteveen	David Dykhous
Huron	Craig E. Broek	Howard Jost
	Jacob (Jack) M. Van de Hoef	Robert Damsma
lakota	Vicki Verhulst Cok	John Van Dorp
	Bruce Leiter	David Schelhaas
Illiana	Mark Verbruggen	Duane E. De Berg
	Henry Reyenga, Jr.	James C. Clousing
Kalamazoo	Laryn G. Zoerhof	James Severa
	Philip D. Kok	Dan De Vries
Lake Erie	Daniel S. Sarkipato	Glenn A. Dyksen
	Kenneth M. Vander Horst	Jane Vander Haagen
Lake Superior	Robert A. Arbogast	Theo Verbeek
	David J. Swinney	Rodger Faber
Minnkota	Jeffrey C. Vanderhooft	Jim Lipscomb
	Bradley A. Meinders	Henry Van Dyke
Muskegon	Joseph Vanden Akker	Wendale P. Vander Broek
	Michael Borgert	Kari L. Bonnema
Niagara	Michael D. Koetje	Gail Hall
	James C. Dekker	Melvin Elzinga
Northcentral Iowa	Gregory A. Fluit	Sylvan E. Gerritsma
	Steven L. Schulz	Wayne Graves
Northern Illinois	Gary Brouwers	Herbert W. Schreur
	Leonard H. Meinema	Frank E. De Boer
Northern Michigan	David R. Armstrong	Kristen J. Van Engen
	Steven J. Datema	Richard A. Huibregtse
Pacific Hanmi	Robert D. Steen	Thomas C. Glass
	Byung Duk Min	Jong Seon Han
Pacific Northwest	Theodore Lim	Peter NakYoung Ryu
	Timothy B. Toeset	Jack Byeman
Pella	Eleanor M. Rietkerk	Don L. Korthuis
	Thomas E. Pettinga	Ron W. Zwiars
	Gilbert J. Kamps	Ron Groenendyk

Quinte	B. Bernard Bakker	Mary Hosmar
Red Mesa	Ed W. Visser	Marten Van Harmelen
	John W. Dykhuis	Lavern Van Klompenberg
Rocky Mountain	W. Keith Bulthuis	N. Theresa Rottschafer
	Robert L. Westenbroek	LaVerne Jordan
Southeast U.S.	B. Joy Engelsman	Russell Groenendyk
	Thomas R. Dykstra	Donald J. Bouwer
Thornapple Valley	Robert R. Broekema	James L. Kelley, Jr.
	Brian L. Ochsner	Ray J. Prins
Toronto	Merlin N. Buwalda	Phyllis J. Moes
	Joan De Vries	Nell DeBoer
Wisconsin	Kenneth R. Rip	Pascal Mpalirwa
	Robert A. Sizemore	Alvin J. Venhuizen
Yellowstone	Leslie J. Kuiper	Henry Perez
	Thomas Vander Ziel	Michael D. Cok
Zeeland	Randall Van Osdol	Vacant
	Timothy Howerzyl	Calvin Scholma
	John G. Aukema	Preston Heyboer

The roll call indicates that the following delegates are absent with notice: S. George Koopmans (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), Stanley J. Sturing (Atlantic Northeast), James E. Pot (Hamilton), and Mark Volkers (Heartland).

### ARTICLE 3

The ED welcomes and individually introduces the faculty advisers who are present: Dr. Henry DeMoor, Dr. Dean B. Deppe, Dr. Mary S. Hulst, Dr. Duane K. Kelderman, Dr. Cornelius Plantinga, Jr., Dr. David M. Rylaarsdam, Rev. Kathleen Smith, and Dr. Calvin P. VanReken.

The ED welcomes and individually introduces to synod the ethnic advisers who are present: Ms. Irene C. Bakker, Ms. Helen Brent, Ms. Shashi De Haan, Ms. Ladan Jennings, Ms. Anne Agosto Severa, Mr. Hernan Zapata-Thomack.

The ED welcomes and individually introduces to synod the women advisers who are present: Ms. Marilyn J. Baker, Ms. Lydia De Ruiter, Ms. Henny Drost, Ms. Maureen Geerlings, Ms. Margaret Hummelman, Ms. Marta Palmer, and Ms. Katherine A. Vander Grift.

### ARTICLE 4

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

President: Rev. Joel R. Boot  
Vice President: Rev. Thea N. Leunk  
First Clerk: Rev. Dr. Leslie J. Kuiper  
Second Clerk: Rev. Laryn G. Zoerhof

### ARTICLE 5

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

Rev. Joel R. Boot expresses the appreciation of synod to Rev. Richard H. Verkaik for his 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 6

The president asks delegates to rise and proceeds with the reading of the Public Declaration of Agreement with the Forms of Unity. The delegates give their assent in unison.

## ARTICLE 7

The president welcomes the CRC chaplains present for the annual conference on the Calvin College campus and welcomes Rev. Herman Keizer, Jr., director of Chaplaincy Ministries, to address synod.

The ED welcomes and individually introduces the fraternal delegates who are present: Pastor Bahago Istifanus Bala from the Christian Reformed Church of Nigeria, Rev. Madalitso Banda from the Reformed Church in Zambia, and Rev. Yakubu Ishaya Tsojon from the Christian Reformed Church of Nigeria.

The ED introduces the synod news office staff, the synod office staff, the prayer coordinator, Calvin College staff, and denominational staff present.

## ARTICLE 8

The following schedule is presented for information: 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 9

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 2008 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 10

The ED presents the report of the Program Committee, which recommends the following advisory committees for Synod 2008:

*Committee 1—Synodical Services I – Polity Matters*

**Chair:** Sidney Couperus; **reporter:** Alvern Gelder; **ministers:** Joan De Vries, David Dykhouse, Gilbert J. Kamps, Sheila Holmes, Michael Koetje, Theodore Lim, Henry Reyenga, Jr., Robert A. Sizemore, Robert J. Toornstra, Randall Van Osdol; **elders:** Donald J. Bouwer, Frank E. De Boer, Sylvan E. Gerritsma, Don L. Korthuis, Ray Prins, Fred Reitsma, Herbert W. Schreur, Jane Vander Haagen, Clarence Zantingh; **advisers:** Irene C. Bakker, Henry De Moor, Katherine A. Vander Grift.

*Committee 2—Synodical Services II – Program Matters*

**Chair:** Ralph S. Wigboldus; **reporter:** Ed W. Visser; **ministers:** Vicki Verhulst Cok, John W. Dykhuis, Bradley A. Meinders, Leonard H. Meinema, Byung Duk Min, Andrew C.S. Narm, Stanley J. Sturing, David L. Van Der Wiele, Robert L. Westenbroek; **elders:** Sarah H. Cook, Duane E. De Berg, Nell DeBoer, John Kooiker, Alfred Lindemulder, Phyllis J. Moes, Philip W. Timmer, Alvin J. Venhuizen, Karen J. Walker, Ron W. Zwiers; **advisers:** Helen Brent, Dean B. Deppe.

*Committee 3—Education*

**Chair:** Andrew G. Vander Leek; **reporter:** Joseph Vanden Akker; **ministers:** John G. Aukema, Ronald G. Baker, Raymond A. Blacketer, Craig E. Broek, Bruce Leiter, Terry Scholten, Steven L. Schulz, David J. Swinney; **elders:** Kari L. Bonnema, Henry E. Brower, Thomas C. Glass, Jong Seon Han, John Koning, Robert Noordeloos, John Van Dorp, Leticia Vasquez, Leroy A. Werkhoven, William W. Wikkerink; **advisers:** Shashi DeHaan, Duane K. Kelderman, Marta Palmer.

*Committee 4—Publications*

**Chair:** B. Bernard Bakker; **reporter:** Robert A. Arbogast; **ministers:** Gary Brouwers, Merlin N. Buwalda, Ronald I. Chu, Peter C. Kelder, Lucas Rodenhouse, Pieter G. Sinia, Mark Verbruggen, William S. Wilton; **elders:** Coenraad Bakker, James Clousing, Dan De Vries, Melvin Elzinga, Ron Groenendyk,

Richard A. Huibregste, LaVerne Jordan, Carol T. Rottman, John Stadt, Patricia Stortebloom, Peter NakYung Yoo; **advisers:** Ladan Jennings, Mary S. Hulst, Margaret Hummelman.

#### *Committee 5—Missions*

**Chair:** Daniel J. Brink; **reporter:** Joel E. Kok; **ministers:** John J. Berends, Thomas R. Dykstra, B. Joy Engelsman, Michael F. Miedema, Thomas E. Pettinga, Reginald Smith, Paul H. Vander Klay, Thomas Vander Ziel; **elders:** Robert Damsma, Darryl Darwent, Jean Dykshoorn, Gail Hall, Preston Heyboer, Raymond A. Leerar, Arnold Morren, David Schelhaas, Marten Van Harmelen, Lavern Van Klompenberg, Mark Volkers; **advisers:** Jonathan J. Kim, Calvin P. Van Reken, Maureen Geerlings.

#### *Committee 6—Financial Matters*

**Chair:** Wayne Hubers; **reporter:** Calvin D. Compagner; **ministers:** David R. Armstrong, Daniel G. Brown, David L. Heilman, Ronald G. Kool, Phillip S. Leo, Ezra S. Cheung Ng, Daniel S. Sarkipato; **elders:** Jack Byeman, Michael D. Cok, Rodger Faber, John W.J. Glasbergen, Calvin J. Hoogstra, Howard Jost, Sue Kuipers, Heiko Oegema, Calvin Scholma, Theo Verbeek, Steven Wunderink; **advisers:** Calvin P. VanReken, Henny Drost.

#### *Committee 7—Interdenominational Matters*

**Chair:** Mark D. Vermaire; **reporter:** Kenneth R. Rip; **ministers:** Steven J. Datema, Philip D. Kok, Lynn A. Likkel, James E. Pot, J. Greg Sinclair, Jeffrey C. Vanderhooft, Kenneth J. Vanderploeg; **elders:** Harmen Boersma, Earl J. Bouwman, Dan Buist, Elsa Fennema, Wayne Graves, Bertus H. Kamphuis, Tobias Lewis, William Postma, N. Theresa Rottschäfer, Henry Van Dyke; **advisers:** Cornelius Plantinga, Lydia De Ruiter.

#### *Committee 8—Candidacy and Related Church Order Issues*

**Chair:** Kenneth M. Vander Horst; **reporter:** Timothy B. Toeset; **ministers:** Kenneth F. Benjamins, W. Keith Bulthuis, Gregory A. Fluit, Timothy Howerzyl, Robert D. Steen, Chad M. Steenwyk, Jack M. Van de Hoef, Richard T. Vander Vaart, Howard J. Vugteveen; **elders:** Fatu Auau, Victoria Gibbs, Russell Groenendyk, James L. Kelley, John C. Lautenbach, Jim Lipscomb, Henry Perez, David L. Spoelma, Wendale Vander Broek, Elaine S. Yu; **advisers:** Anne Agosto Severa, Kathleen Smith, Marilyn J. Baker.

#### *Committee 9—Faith Formation and Form of Subscription*

**Chair:** James C. Dekker; **reporter:** Michael Borgert; **ministers:** Robert R. Broekema, Steven C. Elzinga, Bruce E. Gritter, S. George Koopmans, Brian L. Ochsner, Eleanor M. Rietkerk, Elmer Tandayu, Norlyn J. VanBeek; **elders:** Glenn Dyksen, Mary Hosmar, Rodney Hugen, Larry M. Maat, Pascal Mparirwa, Jose F. Munoz, James Severa, Kristen Van Engen, Donald J. Veltman; **advisers:** Hernan Zapata-Thomack, David M. Rylaarsdam.

*Recommendation:* That synod adopt the report of the Program Committee, including membership on the advisory committees for Synod 2008.

—Adopted

#### ARTICLE 11

The president of synod, Rev. Joel R. Boot, leads in closing prayer. Synod adjourns at 11:02 a.m. Synod will reconvene Monday at 8:15 a.m.

**MONDAY MORNING, June 16, 2008**  
**Second Session**

**ARTICLE 12**

Rev. Mark D. Vermaire shares with delegates the theme for morning worship throughout the week of synod: "Transforming lives and communities worldwide." He leads in opening prayer and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 234, "Alleluia/Alabaré."

Rev. Paul Mpindi reads from Judges 6:1-18 and leads in prayer. He stresses that "the Lord is with you, mighty warrior . . . go in the strength you have and save America, Canada, and the world."

Elder delegate Jose F. Munoz leads in prayer, in both English and Spanish.

Rev. Lloyd N'gambi, a native of Zambia, performs a native dance accompanied by video.

Rev. Vermaire announces *Psalter Hymnal* 235, "Here from All Nations," and *Sing! A New Creation* 287, "Amen, siakudu misa/Amen, We Praise Your Name, O God."

**ARTICLE 13**

The roll indicates that the following delegates who were absent on Saturday are now present: S. George Koopmans (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), Stanley J. Sturing (Atlantic Northeast), James E. Pot (Hamilton), and Mark Volkers (Heartland). They arise to show their assent with the Forms of Unity. All delegates are present.

**ARTICLE 14**

The officers of synod announce the following appointments:

**Testimonial Banquet Committee:**

Rev. Raymond A. Blacketer  
Rev. Sidney Couperus  
Rev. B. Joy Engelsman  
Rev. Dr. Reginald Smith

**Sergeant at Arms:**

Rev. Daniel S. Sarkipato

**Hospitality Committee:**

Dr. Emily Brink  
Dr. William T. Koopmans  
Rev. Marvin J. Hofman  
Elder delegate Carol J. Rottman

**Worship Planning Committee:**

Rev. Lynn A. Likkel  
Rev. Eleanor M. Rietkerk  
Rev. Richard T. Vander Vaart  
Rev. Mark D. Vermaire

**Minutes-Review Committee:**

Elder delegate Carol J. Rottman  
Rev. Pieter G. Sinia

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 and Rev. Ira-Rimam Matthias Iratsi from the Reformed Church of Christ in Nigeria.

**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.

The president announces that all ballot-related recommendations in the *Agenda for Synod 2008* and the Supplementary Reports (for appointment, reappointment, or ratification of members for denominational boards or committees) have been satisfied upon completion of the ballot.

#### ARTICLE 16

The morning session is adjourned at 9:40 a.m. so that delegates can work in advisory committees. Elder delegate Victoria Gibbs leads in closing prayer.

### MONDAY EVENING, June 16, 2008 Third Session

#### ARTICLE 17

Rev. Thomas E. Pettinga leads in opening prayer.

#### ARTICLE 18

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. Joseph Vanden Akker reporting, presents the following:

#### I. Calvin College

##### A. *Materials*

1. Calvin College Report, pp. 104-8
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 Calvin College are presented.

—*Granted*

2. That synod ratify the following reappointments with tenure (italics indicate promotion to that rank):
  - a. Bruce R. Berglund, Ph.D., *professor* of history
  - b. Keith A. Grasman, Ph.D., *professor* of biology
  - c. Loren D. Haarsma, Ph.D., *associate professor* of physics and astronomy (shared appointment)
  - d. Stephen F. Matheson, Ph.D., *associate professor* of biology
  - e. Diane B. Obenchain, Ph.D., *professor* of religion
  - f. Bertus F. Polman, Ph.D., *professor* of music
  - g. Donald J. Reynolds, D.B.A., *associate professor* of business and accounting
  - h. Thomas L. Scofield, Ph.D., *associate professor* of mathematics and statistics
  - i. Cynthia G. Slagter, Ph.D., *associate professor* of Spanish

- j. James M. Turner, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematics and statistics
- k. Jo-Ann Van Reeuwijk, M.A., *associate professor of art*

—Adopted

- 3. That synod give appropriate recognition to the following individuals for service to Calvin College and the Christian Reformed Church and confer on them the titles listed below, where indicated:

Martin Bolt, Ph.D., professor of psychology, emeritus  
Peter Y. De Jong, Ph.D., professor of social work, emeritus  
Anamarie L. Joosse, Ed.S., counselor, Broene Counseling Center, emerita  
Ellen B. Monsma, Ph.D., director, Off-Campus Programs  
Glen E. Van Andel, Ph.D., professor of recreation, emeritus

—Adopted

- 4. That synod ratify the following faculty reappointment with tenure:

Leonard D. Van Drunen, Ph.D., associate professor of business

—Adopted

- 5. That synod ratify the following faculty reappointment:

KaiLonnice L. Dunsmore, Ph.D., assistant professor of education

—Adopted

## II. Calvin Theological Seminary

A. *Materials*: Calvin Theological Seminary Report including Appendix, pp. 109-12

B. *Recommendations*

- 1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, chair; and Rev. Ruth M. Hofman, secretary, when matters pertaining to Calvin Theological Seminary are presented.

—Granted

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

Dr. Duane K. Kelderman, vice president for administration for an indefinite period of time

—Adopted

- 3. That synod approve the following faculty reappointments:

Mariano Avila, professor of New Testament with tenure  
Darwin K. Glassford, associate professor of educational ministry for two years  
David M. Rylaarsdam, professor of historical theology with tenure  
Pieter C. Tuit, associate professor of missiology for two years

—Adopted

4. That synod ratify the appointment of faculty member Dr. Mary Lynn Vanden Berg (contingent upon a successful interview) as assistant professor of systematic theology for three years, effective July 1, 2008, and that she be interviewed by Rev. Andrew Vander Leek during the Tuesday evening session of synod.

—Adopted

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

—Adopted

### III. Dordt College

- A. *Materials:* Dordt College Report, pp. 193-94

B. *Recommendation:* That synod receive the report from Dordt College, rejoicing in God's continued blessing on the institution. Synod is thankful for the move toward a program that will deepen students' understanding of a Reformed perspective while equipping them to serve Christ. Synod is also thankful for the global community that is gathered in study at Dordt College.

—Adopted

### IV. Institute for Christian Studies

- A. *Materials:* Institute for Christian Studies Report, pp. 195-96

B. *Recommendation:* That Synod 2008 receive the report of the Institute for Christian Studies with great rejoicing. Synod celebrates with the Institute for Christian Studies as they experience forty years of placing graduates in highly influential positions. Whether as professors or in other leadership positions, synod asks God's continued blessings on those who change cultures and transform lives by living out their Christ-centered worldview.

—Adopted

### V. The King's University College

- A. *Materials:* The King's University College Report, p. 197

B. *Recommendation:* That synod celebrate God's blessings on the effort of The King's University College "to provide university education that inspires and equips learning" to live and follow Christ, the saving King. Synod rejoices in the acclaim that The King's University College has received from its students, as well as Dr. Mahaffy's prestigious 3M National Teaching Fellowship. May God continue to prosper the enrollment and ministry of the college.

—Adopted

### VI. Kuyper College

- A. *Materials:* Kuyper College Report, p. 198

B. *Recommendation:* That synod rejoice with Kuyper College for sixty-nine years of educating and training people for service to Christ. The CRC will continue to partner with Kuyper College as they carry on the mission of the college.

—Adopted

## **VII. Redeemer University College**

A. *Materials*: Redeemer University College Report, pp. 199-200

B. *Recommendation*: That synod celebrate with Redeemer University College its 25th anniversary in communicating a biblical worldview to Ontario and the world and its ongoing growth in students and facilities.

—Adopted

## **VIII. Trinity Christian College**

A. *Materials*: Trinity Christian College Report, pp. 201-2

B. *Recommendation*: That Synod 2008 receive the report of Trinity Christian College with gratitude. Synod celebrates Trinity Christian College's record enrollment and the growth of its campus and praises God for Trinity's tremendous work in strengthening local churches, serving local neighborhoods, and speaking to the lives and vocation of business and community leaders, all with a distinctively Reformed voice.

—Adopted

## **IX. Response to Overture 16: Add the Word *Pray* to Church Order Article 12-a**

A. *Materials*: Overture 16, pp. 296-97

B. *Observations*

We commend the desire of Classis Eastern Canada to emphasize the role of prayer in the pastoral ministry of the church. However, the overture does not demonstrate that Church Order Article 12-a is deficient or that amending it would have a positive effect on the pastoral ministry.

C. *Recommendation*: That synod not accede to Overture 16.

*Grounds*:

1. The Church Order does not neglect prayer.
  - a. Article 4-c calls for prayer before the election of officebearers.
  - b. Article 32-a instructs church assemblies to begin and end with prayer.
  - c. Article 51-a includes prayer as an essential element in congregational worship.
  - d. Article 51-b calls on churches to celebrate annual days of prayer with a worship service.
  - e. Article 61-a and -b is dedicated to prayer in the public worship service.
  - f. Article 63 calls on churches to pray for their youth.
  - g. Article 69-b calls for appropriate prayers in the solemnization of a marriage.
  - h. Article 73-b instructs councils to urge members to pray for home and world missions.
2. The forms for ordination and installation of a minister of the Word are very specific about the pastor's ministry of prayer. Since these forms, and not the Church Order, are actually read in the service of ordination

or installation, the pastoral duty of prayer is adequately impressed upon both the pastor and the congregation.

- a. The older form (1971) states the following about the pastor's duty to be devoted to prayer: "For this work [i.e., the ministry of the Word], the minister devotes himself to the ministry of prayer, joining all Christians in confession, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise."
  - b. The newer form (1986) is even more specific and emphatic. "The minister of the Word is called to the service of prayer. In speaking of their calling, the apostles said: 'We will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the Word' (Acts 6:4). So, too, it is the calling of all God's ministers to lead the people of God in 'requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving . . . for everyone—for kings and all those in authority' (1 Tim. 2:1-2)."
3. In the light of grounds 1-2, it is evident that all the duties of the pastoral ministry listed in Church Order Article 12-a—which are representative and not exhaustive—are to be bathed in prayer.
  4. The Church Order should only be modified when necessary, and for substantive reasons. The grounds provided in Overture 16 convincingly demonstrate the crucial nature of prayer in the life of the church, not only for the pastoral ministry, but also for all of God's people; but they do not provide compelling grounds for amending Article 12-a.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 22.)

## ARTICLE 19

Advisory Committee 8, Candidacy and Related Church Order Issues, Rev. Timothy B. Toeset reporting, presents the following:

### **Candidacy Committee**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Candidacy Committee Report, pp. 166-73
2. Candidacy Committee Supplement

#### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Rev. Thea Leunk and Rev. David Koll when the Candidacy Committee report is discussed.

—*Granted*

2. That synod thank retiring committee member Rev. Emmett Harrison for his work.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod approve the change to item 8 in the mandate of the Candidacy Committee so that it reads as follows: "Provide support and accountability throughout the preparatory process for women whose council or classis does not support women in ordained ministry."



*Ground:* In light of the changes to Church Order Article 3 regarding the word *male* approved by Synod 2007, this editorial change to the mandate is necessary.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod note with gratitude the appointment of Rev. David Koll as the director of candidacy.

—*Adopted*

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

Alblas, James  
Armstrong, Peter - EPMC  
Birnbaum, Paul  
Boardman, Martin - EPMC  
Boersma, Steven G.  
Bork, Brian  
Bud, Iona Daniel  
Buist, Keith  
Cassis, Christopher  
Compagner, Darrin J.B.  
DeVries, Scott A.  
De Wit, Stephen  
Dirksen, Eric J.  
Dozeman, Steve  
Eisenga, Adam - EPMC  
Hackett, Paul G. - EPMC  
Harris, William - EPMC  
Hilbelink, Mark  
Hoekema, Craig  
Hogge, Laurie W.  
Hummelman, Margaret - EPMC  
Jenista, Margaret J.  
Jennings, Ladan - EPMC  
Kilbreath, C. Layne - EPMC  
Knochenhauer, James  
Kral, James A.  
Lanser, Matthew

Lee, John R.  
Meadows, Jacob  
Meinen, Henry W.  
Oh, Peter  
Oliveira, Benjamin M.  
Palacios, Dominic J.  
Pedersen, Christian R.  
Reyenga, Henry J.  
Roukema, Daniel - EPMC  
Schreiber, Ryan  
Stockdale, David P.  
Suh, E. Joyce  
Van Beek, Nicholas  
Van Berkel, David  
Vandenberg, Zachary  
Vander Hoek, Grant - EPMC  
Vandermeer, Jeffrey  
Vandervalk, Chad  
Van Drunen, Joshua  
Van Hill, Craig  
Van Noort, Steven - EPMC  
Van Soelen, Joel  
van Stee, Mark W.  
Vos, Bradley - EPMC  
Walters, Aaron - EPMC  
Zylstra, Daniel C. - EPMC

—*Adopted*

6. That synod approve the extensions of candidacy for the following individuals:

Bosch, Mary L.  
Bruxvoort, Micah J.  
Spoelma, David L.  
Willats, Brian

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued in Article 71.)

## ARTICLE 20

Advisory Committee 5, Missions, Rev. Joel E. Kok reporting, presents the following:

### I. The Back to God Hour

#### A. Materials

1. The Back to God Hour Report, pp. 97-103
2. Board of Trustees Supplement, sections I, F-G; and H, 4

#### B. Recommendations

1. That Mr. Sybren Vander Zwaag, president, and Rev. 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

2. That synod approve that the name of The Back to God Hour, as an Illinois nonprofit corporation, be changed to *Back to God Ministries International* and that the Articles of Incorporation of The Back to God Hour be revised as needed to implement this name change. That the president or other elected officer of the corporation of The Back to God Hour be authorized to sign any documents as are required to implement the name change, including an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation.

—Adopted

3. That synod approve that the name of The Back to God Hour, as an Ontario nonprofit corporation, be changed to *Back to God Ministries International* and that the Articles of Incorporation of The Back to God Hour be revised as needed to implement this name change. That the president or other elected officer of the corporation of The Back to God Hour be authorized to sign any documents as are required to implement the name change, including an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation.

#### *Grounds for 2 and 3:*

- a. The present name of the agency grew out of the name of the flagship radio program, “The Back to God Hour.” The identification of the entire ministry with a single English-language broadcast has impeded the agency’s ability to communicate its full mission and vision. This difficulty especially relates to the word *Hour* in the present name.
- b. The proposed name communicates continuity of mission and vision by maintaining the words *Back to God*. This phrase underscores the mission of the agency both to evangelize and disciple. The agency’s mission is to call people everywhere “back to God” and to assist believers to grow in a life centered in Christ.
- c. The inclusion of the word *Ministries* in the proposed name communicates the comprehensive approach the agency uses to evangelize and disciple. The word *Ministries* allows for future growth as the agency responds to new ministry opportunities.
- d. The inclusion of the word *International* communicates the global impact of the agency. The word *International* also sends a key message

to indigenous staff worldwide that they are fully included in the agency's ministry.

—*Adopted*

## **II. Christian Reformed Home Missions**

### *A. Materials*

1. Christian Reformed Home Missions Report, pp. 113-27
2. Christian Reformed Home Missions Supplement

### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Dr. Mary Buteyn, Home Missions board president; and Rev. John Rozeboom, Home Missions director, 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*

3. That synod adopt the following Resolution of Gratitude in recognition of Rev. John A. Rozeboom's service as director of Christian Reformed Home Missions:

### **Resolution of Gratitude for the Service of the Reverend John A. Rozeboom**

The Board of Christian Reformed Home Missions wishes to share with the wider denomination its gratitude to God for the faithful service of Reverend John A. Rozeboom. Rev. Rozeboom has served his entire professional career with Home Missions, first as a local church pastor in Riverside, California, from 1969 to 1976, then as the West Coast Regional Missionary from 1976 to 1986, and, finally, as director of Christian Reformed Home Missions from 1986 until the present. Rev. Rozeboom served to keep "the main thing the main thing." He brought to his years of service a heart impassioned by God's mercy for lost children, a mind that comprehended strategic leadership and planning as God-given tools for the building-up of his church, and a personality shaped by the stories of simple Christians who faithfully worked out their salvation unnoticed by the wise of the world. We give thanks to God for Rev. Rozeboom's humble and God-glorifying service to the Christian Reformed Church, and invite the denomination to join us in this thanksgiving.

—*Adopted*

### **III. Christian Reformed World Missions**

A. *Materials*: Christian Reformed World Missions Report, pp. 128-34

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the president of World Missions-Canada, Rev. Robert Loerts; the president of World Missions-U.S.A., Rev. Archie Vander Hart; and the World Missions director, Dr. Gary J. Bekker, the privilege of 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*

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

A. *Materials*: Christian Reformed World Relief Committee Report, pp. 135-48

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Mr. Chris Van Spronsen, president of CRWRC-U.S.A.; Mr. John Richey, 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*

### **V. Response to Overture 11: Appoint a Committee to Study Both Sides of the Women-in-Office Issue**

A. *Materials*: Overture 11, pp. 275-83

B. *Recommendation*: That synod not accede to Overture 11.

*Grounds*:

1. The overture offers no compelling arguments or new information that would justify the appointment of a study committee.
2. The denomination can discuss issues raised in the overture in many settings.

—*Adopted*

## **VI. Communication 2: Classis Minnkota**

*A. Materials:* Communication 2, p. 315

*B. Observation*

Church Order Supplement, Article 45-b, 1, as adopted by Synod 2007, stipulates that delegates (not classes) may register protests regarding the seating of women delegates to synod. The process entails the following steps:

1. Delegates to synod inform the stated clerk of their classis regarding their protest.
2. The stated clerk notes their protest in the credentials that are sent to the executive director.
3. The executive director passes on the protest to the officers of synod, who respond in the way they see fit.

*C. Recommendation:* That this be synod's response to Communication 2.

—*Adopted*

### **ARTICLE 21**

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services I, Rev. Alvern Gelder reporting, presents the following:

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

*A. Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (Polity sections II, A, 1-7, 9-14, and 16-19), pp. 23-34
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (sections I, A-D and I-J) including Appendices A and B

*B. Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Mr. Keith Oosthoek, chairman of the Board of Trustees; 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 of Trustees to the agency and institution boards (BOT Report section II, A, 1; and BOT Supplement, section I, A).

—*Adopted*

#### **II. Ministerial retirements**

*A. Information*

Synod has received notice of the following ministerial retirements:

Minister	Classis	Effective Date
Robert D. Boertje	Eastern Canada	December 1, 2007
Paul W. Brink	Holland	April 1, 2008
Hendrik De Vries	Kalamazoo	July 15, 2008
Stanley De Vries	Northern Illinois	April 1, 2008
Sidney C.J. DeWaal	Alberta North	October 17, 2007
Ronald W. De Young	Chicago South	January 15, 2008
Gerald W. Frens	Northern Illinois	April 1, 2008
Russell J. Graff	Alberta North	October 31, 2007
Gerrit K. Haagsma	Holland	July 31, 2008
Gerry G. Heyboer	Zeeland	March 1, 2008
Allen J. Hoogewind	Grand Rapids North	October 3, 2007
In Yeol Jeong	Pacific Hanmi	February 12, 2008
Thomas G. Kaastra	Lake Erie	March 23, 2008
Dennis A. Kamper	Rocky Mountain	December 1, 2007
Kenneth D. Koeman	Pacific Northwest	April 1, 2008
Paul Kortenhoven	Lake Superior	June 30, 2008
Bruce Leiter	Iakota	September 1, 2008
George M. McGuire	Northcentral Iowa	April 15, 2008
Alvin J. Machiela	Columbia	September 9, 2008
Graham E. Morbey	Huron	June 30, 2008
George R. Mossel	Grand Rapids South	September 1, 2007
William J. Moxey	Illiana	February 1, 2008
John Postuma	Hamilton	September 24, 2008
Frank E. Pott	Northcentral Iowa	December 31, 2007
Curt G. Roelofs	Lake Erie	February 1, 2008
Anthony Schweitzer	Lake Superior	June 30, 2008
Donald J. Steenhoek	Southeast U.S.	April 1, 2008
John J. Steigenga	Grand Rapids South	February 10, 2008
Raymond C. Swierenga	Holland	January 29, 2008
Robert E. Tigchelaar	Grand Rapids East	February 1, 2008
Charles Uken	Muskegon	February 1, 2008
Siebre A. Van Daalen	Toronto	September 30, 2008
James Vander Schaaf	Grand Rapids East	February 1, 2008
George F. Vander Weit	Grand Rapids East	June 1, 2008
Vernon Vander Zee	Southeast U.S.	February 1, 2008
Peter Van Egmond	Toronto	September 20, 2007
Larry Van Essen	Central California	December 1, 2007
Arthur L. Van Wyhe	Holland	February 1, 2008
Verlyn D. Verbrugge	Grand Rapids East	September 4, 2007
Xay Xue Yang	Wisconsin	September 30, 2007
Robert Zomermaand	Illiana	February 1, 2008

### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod offer a prayer of gratitude for God's servants mentioned above and for the many years of service that they represent.

*—Adopted*

Rev. Alvern Gelder leads in a prayer of gratitude for the years of service of the retiring ministers of the CRC.

2. That synod instruct the ED to send a letter of appreciation to each of the retirees that have been identified.

*—Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 56.)

## ARTICLE 22

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

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. Joseph Vanden Akker reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Response to Overture 1: Observe Elim Sunday in October 2008**

A. *Materials*: Overture 1, p. 253

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod not accede to Overture 1.

*Grounds*:

- a. The grounds for the denominational policy adopted in 1964 that discourage such Sundays are compelling: "This tends to detract from the fact that it is the Lord's Day and a day for worship since it directs one's attention to a cause or an institution rather than to worship" (*Acts of Synod 1964*, p. 26).
- b. Although Elim Christian Services has ministered to families and individuals across the United States, it is more of a regional than denominational ministry.
- c. Elim Christian Services is free to send 60th anniversary promotional materials to the churches without synod officially designating an Elim Sunday.

—Adopted

2. That synod acknowledge the 60th anniversary of Elim Christian Services with gratitude to God for its mutually beneficial relationship with the CRC and encourage the churches to lift up prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord for its ministry to persons who are mentally and physically challenged.

—Adopted

### **II. Response to Overture 2: Encourage the Practice of an Evening Worship Service**

A. *Materials*: Overture 2, pp. 253-57

B. *Recommendation*: That synod not accede to Overture 2.

*Ground*: Synod 1995 has adequately addressed this issue, as indicated in Church Order Supplement, Article 51-a:

- a. Synod affirms the rich tradition of assembling for worship twice on the Lord's Day and encourages existing congregations to continue and new congregations to embrace this tradition for the building up of the body of Christ.
- b. Where congregations are exploring alternatives to the second service, synod encourages those congregations to ensure that such alternatives are part of a strategic ministry plan with full accountability to their classis.

(*Acts of Synod 1995*, pp. 766-67)

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 41.)

## ARTICLE 23

Rev. Alvern Gelder leads in closing prayer. The evening session is adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

## TUESDAY MORNING, June 17, 2008

### Fourth Session

## ARTICLE 24

Rev. Richard T. Vander Vaart introduces the theme: "Transforming lives and communities worldwide."

Rev. Ronald I. Chu calls delegates to worship in Korean and English and leads in opening prayer. He announces *Sing! A New Creation* 209, "Ososo/ Come Now, O Prince of Peace." Rev. Chu reads from John 1:35-43 in Korean and English. Rev. Vander Vaart addresses delegates regarding: "Follow Me"—What do we pack? What do we need to leave behind? God bids us, "Come, see and follow me." He announces *Psalter Hymnal* 404, "Sing, Choirs of New Jerusalem."

Rev. Chu reads Matthew 22:37-40 in Korean and English. Prayers are offered for the executive, staff, delegates, and for fraternal delegates. Delegates sing *Psalter Hymnal* 624, "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord," and conclude with *Sing! A New Creation* 287, "Amen, siakudu misa/ Amen, We Praise Your Name, O God."

The roll indicates that all are present.

## ARTICLE 25

Advisory Committee 4, Publications, Rev. Robert A. Arbogast reporting, presents the following:

### I. Faith Alive Christian Resources

A. *Materials*: Faith Alive Christian Resources Report, pp. 151-61

B. *Recommendations*

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

For the board

Rev. Kenneth Baker, president

Mr. Gary Mulder, director

For *The Banner*

Rev. Robert De Moor, editor-in-chief

For the Editorial Department

Rev. Leonard Vander Zee, director

Rev. Joyce Borger, music and worship editor

—Granted



2. That synod empower the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA to appoint and on synod's behalf ratify the appointment of a new director of Faith Alive Christian Resources (section II, D), understanding that as part of the normal course of its business Synod 2009 will review and approve the work of the BOT.

*Grounds:*

- a. The search committee, given the task to fill this position, has not yet completed its work in time for Synod 2008.
- b. Because the current incumbent of this position, Mr. Gary Mulder, does not plan to retire until late November 2008, a June 2008 appointment of a replacement would have been premature.

*—Adopted*

## **II. Response to Overture 6: Include the Heidelberg Catechism in the New Hymnal, and to Overture 7: Include the Reformed Confessions in the New Hymnal**

### *A. Materials*

1. Overture 6, pp. 267-68
2. Overture 7, pp. 268-69

### *B. Observation*

In conversation with the advisory committee, Faith Alive Christian Resources reported that (CRC) synodically approved versions of the ecumenical creeds and the Reformed confessions will be included in the new hymnal now under development in cooperation with the Reformed Church in America.

- ### *C. Recommendation:*
- That synod receive this information and declare this to be its response to Overtures 6 and 7.

*—Adopted*

## **III. Response to Overture 8: Instruct the New Hymnal Committee Regarding Placement of the Psalms**

### *A. Materials:*

Overture 8, p. 269

### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod refer the content of Overture 8 to the Board of Trustees to ask that Faith Alive Christian Resources give it serious consideration in the work of producing the new hymnal.

*Grounds:*

- a. The Hymnal Editorial Committee is committed to encouraging psalm-singing.
- b. This committee needs time to do its work before committing itself to a particular structure for the new hymnal.

*—Adopted*

2. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 8.

*—Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued in Article 31.)

## ARTICLE 26

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Kenneth Rip reporting, presents the following:

### I. Historical Committee

A. *Materials*: Historical Committee Report, pp. 174-78

B. *Background information*

The Historical Committee notes that it is running out of room for its archives and has begun a capital campaign to redesign its space and thereby increase its ability to store the denomination's archives.

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Dr. Richard H. Harms when matters pertaining to the Historical Committee come before synod.  
—*Granted*
2. That synod emphasize to local congregations that they diligently produce and keep minutes of council as well as elders' and deacons' meetings. That synod 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 the complete set of all minutes when they begin their terms. The Historical Committee again reports the frequency of individual congregations being unable to locate significant portions of council, elders', and deacons' minutes (all absolutely necessary for both congregational and legal purposes).  
—*Adopted*
3. That synod instruct congregations to send all non-current (former) membership information to the Archives. The Archives receives frequent inquiries about baptismal records, particularly those from discontinued ministries.  
—*Adopted*
4. That synod remind the stated clerks of each classis to send all the records of discontinued ministries to the Archives for safekeeping.  
—*Adopted*
5. That synod instruct the Historical Committee to bring a proposal to Synod 2009 for a records management document for the agencies, classes, and local congregations of the denomination.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. A records management document would facilitate archiving and maintaining the records and documents pertaining to the agencies, classes, and local congregations.
- b. A records management document would raise awareness and educate local congregations as to the needs that necessitate archiving church records and documents.
- c. A records management document would provide a means of continuity in the duties of the clerk in the local church.

—*Adopted*

## **II. Response to Overture 10: Commemorate the 500th Anniversary of John Calvin's Birth**

A. *Materials*: Overture 10, pp. 274-75

B. *Recommendation*: That synod not accede to Overture 10.

*Grounds*:

1. Our denominational calendar already has many special Sundays and does not need to have another added.
2. A celebration of an individual, even one so formative as John Calvin, does not fit with the mission of the church.
3. There are already other opportunities indicated in the overture for celebrating this event.

—*Adopted*

The following negative vote is registered: Randy Blacketer (Alberta North).

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued in Article 44.)

### **ARTICLE 27**

Advisory Committee 6, Financial Matters, Rev. Calvin D. Compagner reporting, presents the following:

#### **Board of Trustees**

A. *Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (section II, B, 3; and C) including Appendix H, pp. 40, 64-94
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (sections I, K; II, A) including Appendix C

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod receive as information the condensed financial statements for the agencies and educational institutions (see BOT Report, Appendix H).

—*Adopted*

2. That synod receive the agencies and institutional budgets as information and approve a ministry share of \$307.53 for calendar year 2009 (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 2009 (BOT Supplement, section II, B, 4).

—*Adopted*

c. The advisory committee reviewed appeals from some nondenominational agencies not included in the BOT supplemental report and recommends:

- 1) That synod approve Providence Christian College for inclusion on the list of accredited nondenominational agencies.

*Grounds:*

- a) Providence Christian College is seeking to establish a Reformed higher educational institution on the west coast.
- b) This inclusion would be consistent with the judgment made by Synod 2007.

—Adopted

- 2) That synod approve International Aid for inclusion on the list of accredited nondenominational agencies with the limitation that it be for medical supplies and equipment.

*Ground:* This inclusion would affirm our partnership with International Aid and minimize the overlap with denominational agencies.

—Adopted

- 3) That synod approve the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (IAPCHE) for inclusion on the list of accredited nondenominational agencies.

*Ground:* While recognizing the scope of their financial need, the committee affirms the organization's broad geographical impact.

—Adopted

- 4) That synod approve the Canadian Christian Education Foundation (CCEF) for inclusion on the list of accredited nondenominational agencies.

*Ground:* The committee recognizes the broad geographical impact of the foundation through Christian Schools International (CSI) for textbook development.

—Adopted

4. That synod receive as information the Board's decision to no longer establish a stated supply compensation amount (BOT Supplement, section II, B, 7).

*Grounds:*

- a. In recent years many churches are contracting directly or through the office of Pastor-Church Relations for the services of an interim pastor.
- b. The time and level of involvement vary from occasional preaching and visitation to full-time work, including significant process consultation. Given the wide diversity of such arrangements, it is no longer reasonable to set a standard remuneration amount.

—Adopted

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

—Adopted

6. That synod receive as information the BOT's confirmation of the matters presented by the Pension Trustees (BOT Supplement, section II, B, 10).

—Adopted

7. That synod receive as information the summary of denominational investments and compliance with investment policy report (BOT Supplement, Appendix C)

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 6 is continued in Article 29.)

## ARTICLE 28

Rev. David Koll, director of candidacy, invites the chair of the Candidacy Committee, Rev. Thea N. Leunk, to present the 2008 candidates for ministry to synod (\* indicates candidates in absentia).

James D. Alblas  
\*Peter B. Armstrong (EPMC)  
\*Paul J. Birnbaum  
Martin H. Boardman (EPMC)  
Steven G. Boersma  
Brian J. Bork  
Iona Daniel Bud  
Keith D. Buist  
Christopher N. Cassis  
Darrin J. Compagner  
Scott A. DeVries  
Stephen A.B. De Wit  
Eric J. Dirksen  
\*Steve J. Dozeman  
Adam T. Eisenga (EPMC)  
\*Paul G. Hackett (EPMC)  
William L. Harris (EPMC)  
Mark W. Hilbelink  
Craig L. Hoekema  
Laurie W. Hogge  
Margaret J. Hummelman (EPMC)  
Margaret J. Jenista  
Ladan A. Jennings (EPMC)  
\*C. Layne Kilbreath (EPMC)  
\*James W. Knochenhauer  
James A. Kralt  
Matthew D. Lanser

John R. Lee  
Jacob L. Meadows  
Henry W. Meinen  
\*Peter H. Oh  
Benjamin M. Oliveira  
Dominic J. Palacios  
\*Christian R. Pedersen  
Henry J. Reyenga  
\*Daniel T. Roukema (EPMC)  
\*Ryan S. Schreiber  
\*David P. Stockdale  
\*E. Joyce Suh  
Nicholas J. Van Beek  
David S. Van Berkel  
\*Zachary E. Vandenberg  
\*Grant W. Vander Hoek (EPMC)  
\*Jeffrey B. Vandermeer  
Chad M. Vandervalk  
Joshua S. Van Drunen  
Craig Van Hill  
\*Steve J. Van Noort (EPMC)  
Joel D. Van Soelen  
Mark W. van Stee  
\*Brad A. Vos (EPMC)  
\*Aaron M. Walters (EPMC)  
Daniel C. Zylstra (EPMC)

Dr. Neal Plantinga addresses the candidates, commending them for their hard work, and encourages them in their ministry. Rev. Leunk leads in prayer for the candidates.

## ARTICLE 29

(The report of Advisory Committee 6 is continued from Article 27.)

Advisory Committee 6, Financial Matters, Rev. Calvin D. Compagner reporting, presents the following:

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

A. *Materials*: CRC Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. Report, pp. 149-50

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*

### II. Pensions

A. *Materials*: Pensions Report, pp. 162-65

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Mr. John H. Bolt, director of finance and administration, when 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 2009 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*

## ARTICLE 30

A delegate presents the following motion:

That synod affirm that Church Order Supplement, Article 45-b, 1, which makes provision for delegates who believe the seating of women delegates is in violation of the Word of God to record their protest on the appropriate credentials does not deprive classes of the right to send a communication to synod expressing its objections to the decision of Synod 2007 to seat women delegates. This opportunity is granted in the Rules for Synodical Procedure, V, A, 2, Communication: "A communication is a document presenting information, ideas, thoughts, opinions, complaints, or objections for consideration of the assemblies. . . . One type of communication is a protest, which expresses a complaint or objection to a decision or course of action followed by an assembly."

*Grounds*:

1. The provision made in Church Order Supplement, Article 45-b, 1, for one or more delegates from a classis to synod to record one's *personal* protest should not deprive a *classis* of its right as a body to send a similar communication to synod; however, synod's response to

Communication 2 – “that delegates (not classes) may register protests” strongly suggests this.

2. In the event that its delegates to synod opt not to record a personal protest, classis has no other appropriate means by which to communicate its objection to the decision and course of action adopted by synod.

—Adopted

## ARTICLE 31

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued from Article 25.)

Advisory Committee 4, Publications, Rev. Robert A. Arbogast reporting, presents the following:

### I. Board of Trustees

#### A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report (section II, A, 8) including Appendix A, pp. 29, 43-49
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (section I, H, 3)

#### B. Recommendations

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Dr. Dean B. Deppe and Dr. William T. Koopmans when the New Living Translation (NLT) Evaluation Committee Report is discussed.
2. That synod designate the New Living Translation (NLT) as one of the versions acceptable for use in CRC worship services with reservations as outlined in the report of the New Living Translation Evaluation Committee (*Agenda for Synod 2008*, pp. 43-49).

—Granted

*Ground:* The NLT generally meets the requirements of the three principles used as criteria for evaluation for designation of versions acceptable for use in CRC worship services, but the church should also be alerted to the limitations illustrated in the committee’s report.

—Adopted

*Note:* The complete list of synodically approved Bible versions is available in the *Manual of Christian Reformed Church Government* in relation to Church Order Article 47 and on the CRC website: [www.crcna.org](http://www.crcna.org).

The following negative votes are registered: Ron Groenendyk (Pella) and Mark Verbruggen (Iakota).

3. That synod express its gratitude to the New Living Translation Evaluation Committee for its work.

—Adopted

4. That synod acknowledge Mr. Gary Mulder for his work of twenty-four years as the director of Faith Alive Christian Resources (formerly CRC Publications) and honor him at the Testimonial Luncheon on Thursday, June 19, 2008.

—Adopted

## II. Dynamic Youth Ministries

### A. Calvinist Cadet Corps

1. *Materials*: Calvinist Cadet Corps Report, p. 203
2. *Recommendation*: That synod commend the Calvinist Cadet Corps for its work, both in North America and Africa, reaching out to boys with the gospel and discipling sons of God through day-to-day ministry and through special events, such as the 2008 International Camporee and the 2009 Cadet Counselor Convention.

—Adopted

### B. GEMS Girls Clubs

1. *Materials*: GEMS Girls Clubs Report, p. 203
2. *Recommendations*
  - a. That synod express gratitude to God for blessing the GEMS Girls Clubs for fifty years, noting in particular the ministry's global expansion, most recently in Africa.
  - b. That synod express appreciation for the time and talent given joyfully by the leaders and volunteers in the GEMS ministry, praying that the Holy Spirit will lead that ministry into the future.

—Adopted

—Adopted

### C. Youth Unlimited

1. *Materials*: Youth Unlimited Report, pp. 204-5
2. *Recommendation*: That synod commend Youth Unlimited as it strives to adapt methods and resources to reach youth within our current culture, giving praise to God for the ministry's impact this decade on over twenty-five thousand youths through conventions and hands-on mission experiences.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued in Article 37.)

## ARTICLE 32

Dr. John Witvliet addresses delegates about today's lunch time discussion to be facilitated by the synodical Faith Formation Committee. He announces the start-up of the Faith Formation Committee website: [www.crcna.org/faitthformation](http://www.crcna.org/faitthformation) and leads in closing prayer. The morning session is adjourned at 11:30 a.m.



**TUESDAY AFTERNOON, June 17, 2008**  
**Fifth Session**

**ARTICLE 33**

Dr. Neal Plantinga announces *Psalter Hymnal* 408, "Rejoice, the Lord Is King," and introduces Mr. John R. Lee, 2008 candidate for ministry and a Calvin Theological Seminary graduate. Dr. Plantinga reads from Revelation 21:9ff. Mr. Lee addresses delegates regarding the *wild* love of God in this universe.

Dr. Plantinga shares with delegates the work being done by Calvin Theological Seminary to equip students for ministry. Mr. Lee reflects on his experience as a student at the seminary. Delegates join in the singing of *Psalter Hymnal* 637, "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow."

**ARTICLE 34**

Dr. Peter Borgdorff, ecumenical officer, shares with delegates that a letter of greeting has been received from the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia. He introduces Dr. Kobus Gerber, general secretary of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, who addresses synod. Dr. Borgdorff leads in prayer for the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa.

Dr. Borgdorff introduces Rev. Madalitso Banda, ecumenical guest from the Reformed Church in Zambia, who addresses synod. Dr. Borgdorff responds and leads in prayer for the Reformed Church in Zambia.

**ARTICLE 35**

Advisory Committee 2, Synodical Services II, Rev. Ed W. Visser reporting, presents the following:

**Board of Trustees**

*A. Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (Program section II, B, 1-2) including Appendices B-G; pp. 34-40, 49-63
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (section I, E; H,1-2)

*B. Recommendations*

1. That synod recognize the faithful service of Rev. Herman Keizer, Jr., as director of Chaplaincy Ministries. Rev. Keizer has served as director of Chaplaincy Ministries from 2002 until the present. Prior to that, Rev. Keizer served faithfully as a chaplain in the United States Army. As the director of Chaplaincy Ministries, Rev. Keizer has served not only the CRCNA but also the broader Christian community through his work with the United States military. As a church, we are grateful for his many years of service and pray for God's blessing in the future. There will be an opportunity to celebrate Rev. Keizer's ministry at the Testimonial Luncheon on Thursday, June 19, 2008 (see BOT Supplement, section H, 1).

—Adopted

*Note:* Synod gives glory to God for seeing fit to arrange matters such that secular institutions hire men and women of faith to serve the religious needs of persons in their institution. The image of God in his human creatures is so transparent that these institutions judge that attention to the spiritual health of a person is worth the expense.

—Adopted

2. That synod gratefully acknowledge the work of Rev. Esteban Lugo, director of Race Relations (see BOT Report, Appendix F).
3. That synod encourage churches, classes, and CRC institutions to celebrate All Nations Heritage Week from September 29 through October 5, 2008, with an invitation to celebrate All Nations Heritage Sunday with special services on October 5, 2008 (see BOT Report, Appendix F).

*Grounds:*

- a. The struggle against prejudice, discrimination, and racism needs to be balanced by celebrating and affirming God's gift of unity in diversity through our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ (cf. Ephesians 2). The congregations that also celebrate World Communion Sunday can find a meaningful Christian Reformed way of celebrating All Nations Heritage Sunday by combining both celebrations.
- b. The financial support our ministry receives from the All Nations Heritage Sunday celebrations dramatically increases Race Relations' ability to award scholarships and grants to promote leadership of people of color in the life of our denomination.

*Note:* We are God's diverse and unified family. We look forward to the day when this becomes a regular expression rather than an annual celebration. As the church is serious about the calling and ministry of reconciliation, it will grow. Since God is a reconciler, we are reconcilers.

—Adopted

4. That synod gratefully acknowledge the work of Rev. Mark Stephenson, director of Disability Concerns (see BOT Report, Appendix D).

*Note:* A partnership agreement between the Reformed Church in America (RCA) and the CRC Office of Disability Concerns has been established. There will be a shared website, shared production of resources for churches, and shared office space. The RCA staff person will have an office in the CRC office in Grand Rapids.

—Adopted

5. That synod gratefully acknowledge the work of Rev. Duane A. Visser, director, and Rev. Norman J. Thomasma, associate director and educational specialist of Pastor-Church Relations (see Appendix E).

—Adopted

6. That synod recognize the faithful service of Rev. Duane A. Visser as director of Pastor-Church Relations. Rev. Visser has served as director of Pastor-Church Relations since 1995 and will pursue other interests after his retirement in January 2009. As a church, we are grateful for Rev. Visser's faithful and fruitful work with pastors and churches. God

has used him to strengthen the church through his efforts as a mentor, adviser, and counselor. His ministry will also be celebrated at the Testimonial Luncheon on Thursday, June 19, 2008 (see BOT Supplement, section H, 2).

—Adopted

7. That synod acknowledge the appointment of Rev. Norman J. Thomasma as director of Pastor-Church Relations. The Board of Trustees met with Rev. Thomasma, nominee for the director of Pastor-Church Relations, and ratified his appointment effective January 1, 2009. Rev. Thomasma has been serving as the education specialist and associate director of the Pastor-Church Relations Office since 2002.

—Adopted

8. That synod gratefully acknowledge the work of Ms. Beth A. Swagman, director of Abuse Prevention (see BOT Report, Appendix B).

—Adopted

9. That synod encourage the churches and classes of the CRCNA to commit to at least one hour of training on abuse prevention in the coming year. There are many resources available to help in this training or to raise awareness, such as the September 28, 2008, Abuse Awareness event, related materials, and seventeen Safe Church Teams who can be contacted for help. Finally, Ms. Beth Swagman can be available in person upon request and as time permits.

—Adopted

10. That synod gratefully acknowledge the work of Rev. Michael Bruinooge, director of ministry planning, and Ms. Lis Van Harten, administrator of Sustaining Congregational Excellence (SCE) and Sustaining Pastoral Excellence (SPE) (see *Agenda for Synod 2008*, pp. 36-38).

—Adopted

11. That synod gratefully acknowledge the work of Mr. Peter Vander Meulen, coordinator of Social Justice and Hunger Action (see BOT Report, Appendix G).

—Adopted

12. That synod gratefully acknowledge the work Rev. Bruce G. Adema, director of Canadian ministries, including Aboriginal Ministries, Committee for Contact with the Government (CCG), and ServiceLink (see *Agenda for Synod 2008*, pp. 34-35, 38).

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 38.)

## ARTICLE 36

The president recognizes Dr. William Spoelhof, former president of Calvin College, who is present and will meet with delegates over coffee this afternoon.

## ARTICLE 37

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued from Article 31.)

Advisory Committee 4, Publications, Rev. Robert A. Arbogast reporting, presents the following:

### Contemporary Testimony Revision Committee

#### A. *Materials*

1. Contemporary Testimony Revision Committee Report, pp. 209-30
2. Overture 28

#### B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Rev. Morris Greidanus, Dr. Clayton Libolt, and Rev. Leonard Vander Zee when the proposed revision of *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony* is discussed on the floor of synod.

—Granted

2. That synod consider the 2008 revision of the Contemporary Testimony as it stands and not engage in further revision or editing on the floor of synod.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. The 2008 revision already reflects extensive editorial input from the churches.
- b. The 2008 revision has been before the churches through the denominational website since early March 2008 and by way of the *Agenda for Synod 2008* since early April 2008.
- c. The 1986 testimony contained some awkward phrasings partly due to on-the-floor editing and insertions.

—Adopted

3. That synod adopt the 2008 revision of *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony*.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. Using the language of our time, the revision summarizes our faith and speaks to the concerns of our day in agreement with Scripture and approved confessions and in harmony with the 1986 Contemporary Testimony.
- b. A provisional revision has been before the churches for a sufficient length of time and has received unprecedented review by many individuals and councils, including the Calvin Theological Seminary faculty and a synodical advisory committee. The revision committee has used these comments in preparing this updated 2008 version of *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony*.
- c. The Scripture references in the 2008 version (which are intended to highlight broader themes rather than to serve as proof texts) are substantially the same as those in the 1986 edition; as well, the full text of the 2008 version, including the Scripture references, has been

before the churches through the denominational website since early March 2008 and by way of the *Agenda for Synod 2008* since early April 2008.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 28.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod express its gratitude to the many councils and individuals and the seminary faculty for their detailed and helpful responses to the committee.

—*Adopted*

6. That synod dismiss the Contemporary Testimony Revision Committee with gratitude for a job very well done.

—*Adopted*

7. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to make the newly adopted version of *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony* available to the churches in print (including in the Korean and Spanish languages) and/or digital formats suitable for use in public worship and for study.

—*Adopted*

## ARTICLE 38

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 35.)

Advisory Committee 2, Synodical Services II, Rev. Ed W. Visser reporting, presents the following:

### **Response to Overture 9: Develop Guidelines for Environmental Awareness**

A. *Materials:* Overture 9, pp. 269-74

B. *Observations*

Overture 9 is raising an urgent concern—that we become better earthkeepers. It does not ask for a study committee, nor for further analysis regarding the extent and often uncritical use of the finite resources provided by God through the earth. Further, it is clear that we are only beginning to understand the consequences of maintaining the increasing consumption of finite resources and our waste disposal. Through Jesus Christ, we are reconciled not only to the Father, but to our neighbor and to creation. As the Contemporary Testimony states: “By sovereign appointment we are earthkeepers and caretakers: loving our neighbor, tending the creation, and meeting our needs. God uses our skills in the unfolding and well-being of his world” (CT, par. 10). To do these things and do them well, requires that we are given instruction and help in the form of creative ideas, suggestions, and guidelines that keep us on track. We readily confess that we need good advice from knowledgeable people and organizations to be God-honoring earthkeepers.

Overture 9 requests that synod instruct the BOT to arrange for the production and assembling of “a continuing and linked series of concrete guidelines, steps, and suggestions on how to live more simply, with less

damage and impact that can be implemented by individuals, congregations, and agencies" (*Agenda for Synod 2008*, pp. 274).

That we need help is not the question, rather, the question is, Are we going to get it and apply it? We are not convinced that instructing the BOT to provide this guidance or to have the BOT appoint a task force to assemble such guidance is the most stewardly or effective way to proceed. The only advantage to having a task force is that the guidance provided could possibly be more specifically directed and shaped for CRCNA institutions, congregations, and so forth. But that direction and shape is more a matter of applying advice and guidance than it is a matter of producing it.

We are not convinced that producing the guidelines requires the work of the BOT. Both advice and guidance are readily available from both Christian and secular sources.

Furthermore, it seems to us that advice and guidance often is regionally and geographically specific, and so should better be acquired locally and regionally.

While we are in agreement that we must be better caretakers of the earth, we do not believe that it is stewardly or effective for the BOT to produce such guidelines.

### C. Recommendations

#### 1. That synod not accede to Overture 9.

##### *Grounds:*

- a. Excellent and up-to-date resources and guidance, both secular and Christian, are readily available, such as the following:
  - Synod 1997 adopted a recommendation to alert the churches to the report "The Just Stewardship of Land and Creation" published by the Reformed Ecumenical Council of 1996. This report includes guidelines and recommendations that can be used by churches, classes, and institutions (see *Agenda for Synod 1997*, pp. 234-49).
  - The CRC Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action has resources on its website, specifically the Eco-Justice website: [www.crcna.org/pages/osjha\\_ecojustice.cfm](http://www.crcna.org/pages/osjha_ecojustice.cfm).
  - The 2007 revision of *Earth-Wise: A Biblical Response to Environmental Issues* by Calvin B. DeWitt, published by Faith Alive Christian Resources, is a valuable resource.
  - Most public utilities, provincial, and state governments provide regionally specific advice.
- b. Classes and congregations (perhaps through deacons) can better assess local situations and acquire specific local advice.

—Adopted

The following negative vote is registered: Darryl Darwent (Alberta South/Saskatchewan).

#### 2. That synod instruct the BOT to establish and maintain a webpage which offers up-to-date and effective resources regarding eco-justice to individuals, churches, and institutions.

*Ground:* This mandate is consistent with the values of a “kingdom perspective” in the Denominational Ministries Plan and its call to practice justice and mercy and exercise stewardship of God’s resources.

—*Adopted*

The following negative vote is registered: Darryl Darwent (Alberta South/Saskatchewan).

#### ARTICLE 39

The afternoon session is adjourned at 4:45 p.m. Rev. Ezra S. Cheung Ng leads in closing prayer in Chinese and English.

### **TUESDAY EVENING, June 17, 2008**

#### **Sixth Session**

#### ARTICLE 40

Elder delegate Larry M. Maat leads in opening prayer.

#### ARTICLE 41

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 22.)

Synod enters into executive session.

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. Joseph Vanden Akker reporting, presents the following:

#### **Calvin Theological Seminary**

A. *Materials:* Calvin Theological Seminary Report including Appendix, pp. 109-12

Dr. Neal Plantinga introduces Dr. Mary Vanden Berg. Synod proceeds according to the adopted procedure and, following the completed interview, considers the following recommendation:

Prior to the vote, Rev. Andrew G. Vander Leek leads delegates in prayer.

B. *Recommendation:* That synod ratify the appointment of Dr. Mary Vanden Berg as assistant professor of systematic theology for three years, effective July 1, 2008.

—*Adopted*

Synod returns to open session. The president congratulates Dr. Vanden Berg.

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 65.)

#### ARTICLE 42

The evening session is adjourned at 8:59 p.m. Elder delegate Sarah H. Cook leads in closing prayer.

ARTICLE 43

Rev. Lynn A. Likkel calls synod to worship, reading from Psalm 98, and welcomes the Madison Square CRC (Grand Rapids, Michigan) Praise Team, led by Ms. Laura Carpenter. They lead in the singing of *Psalter Hymnal* 637, "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow," and *Psalter Hymnal* 556, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

Ms. Audrey Laninga reads the lyrics to "Every Season" by Nichole Nordenman and Ms. Liz Miller performs a liturgical dance to the score. The praise team leads in the singing of "You Are Alpha and Omega" by Israel Houghton.

Rev. Sheila Holmes reads Proverbs 19:21 and leads in opening prayer. She offers the blessing from Hebrews 13:20-21.

Delegates conclude the time of worship with the singing of *Sing! A New Creation* 287, "Amen, siakudu misa/Amen, We Praise Your Name, O God."

The roll indicates that all are present.

ARTICLE 44

The vice president assumes the chair.

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued from Article 26.)

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Kenneth Rip reporting, presents the following:

**Interchurch Relations Committee  
(majority report)**

*A. Materials*

1. Interchurch Relations Committee Report, pp. 179-89
2. Interchurch Relations Committee Supplement

*B. Recommendations*

1. That Dr. William T. Koopmans (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 Ms. Louisa Bruinsma, Dr. Bertha Mook, and Mr. Abe Vreeke for serving the cause of ecumenicity for the CRC.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod note the approval of the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA to host the Unifying General Council meeting at Calvin College on June 18-28, 2010.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod concur in the Interchurch Relations Committee's judgment that a review of the CRC's membership in WARC is not required at this



time in view of the proposed formation of the World Communion of Reformed Churches that was endorsed by Synod 2006.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod

- a. Declare that the restrictions placed on the ecclesiastical relationship with the Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland (GKN) in 1983 and 1996 became moot when the GKN became part of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN).

*Ground:* Such restrictions are not transferable to the PCN because it is, in effect, a new denomination.

—*Adopted*

- b. Approve a relationship of ecclesiastical fellowship with the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN).

*Grounds:*

- 1) The PCN confesses the Bible to be the authoritative, infallible Word of God in conformity with the Reformed confessions.
- 2) The principles of ecumenicity demand that we relate faithfully to the whole church of Jesus Christ, and especially with those churches with whom we share a common history and confessional heritage; it follows that the CRC can value and benefit from fellowship with the PCN even though, as with every other ecumenical relationship the CRC maintains, there remain differences between the churches involved.
- 3) The CRC has an ecumenical opportunity to be in fellowship with the PCN as it seeks to be a Reformed witness in a radically secular European environment and is also seeking spiritual renewal within its own fellowship.
- 4) The PCN expresses its fervent desire to be in ecclesiastical fellowship with the CRC.
- 5) The historical character of the CRC's relationship to the GKN, which in spirit is continued in the PCN, is important to the ecumenical life of the CRC and lends credibility to our own witness as expressed in the CRC's ecumenical charter.
- 6) It is the expressed wish of the Gereformeerde Bond (Reformed Alliance), an evangelical and more conservative alliance of ministers and congregations within the PCN, that the CRC be in fellowship with the PCN.

According to the Rules of Synodical Procedure, the minority report re the issue of the Protestant Church of the Netherlands (PCN) is presented as information by delegate Rev. James E. Pot:

**Interchurch Relations Committee  
(minority report)**

*A. Materials*

1. Interchurch Relations Committee Report, pp. 179-89
2. Interchurch Relations Committee Supplement

## B. *Observation*

The PCN is a denomination formed in 2004 by the merger of three denominations, one of which was the former Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland (GKN). In 1983 and in 1996 the CRC placed restrictions on our relationship of ecclesiastical fellowship with the GKN because of various questions concerning biblical interpretation.

In 2005, synod instructed the IRC to

Clarify for synod the current position of the PCN in the following areas, making use of their officially published documents:

- a. Scripture and hermeneutics.
- b. Homosexual practice.
- c. Mission to the Jews.
- d. Christology and the Atonement.

(*Acts of Synod 2005*, p. 764)

## C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod not accede to recommendation 2 (*Agenda for Synod 2008*, p. 188) which states: "Approve a relationship of ecclesiastical fellowship with the Protestant Church in the Netherlands."

*Grounds:*

- a. The request of Synod 2005 to clarify the issues with the PCN has not been satisfied, including the PCN's allowance of practicing homosexuals to be ordained into ministry by local option (cf. PCN Church Order and Ordinances, article 5, 4).
  - b. To give the PCN the status of a church in ecclesiastical fellowship would give the impression to the PCN, to our constituency, and to observers both secular and ecclesiastical, that we no longer have any objections to the practice of ordaining homosexuals as officebearers of the church.
2. We recommend that synod instruct the Interchurch Relations Committee to seek a relationship of churches in dialogue with the PCN.

*Grounds:*

- a. This is consistent with the Ecumenical Charter adopted by Synod 2006 which states:

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.

(*Ecumenical Charter 2006*, p. 7)

- b. This communicates to the PCN that we are willing to maintain conversations with the hope of a deepening relationship.
- c. Lifting past restrictions "because the PCN is in effect a new denomination" seems to require that we begin a new and hopeful

relationship as outlined in the Ecumenical Charter's description of churches in dialogue rather than a church in ecclesiastical fellowship.

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

### **Interchurch Relations Committee (majority report)**

A. *Materials*: Interchurch Relations Committee Report, pp. 179-89

B. *Recommendation*: Approve a relationship of ecclesiastical fellowship with the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN).

#### *Grounds:*

1. The PCN confesses the Bible to be the authoritative, infallible Word of God in conformity with the Reformed confessions.
2. The principles of ecumenicity demand that we relate faithfully to the whole church of Jesus Christ, and especially with those churches with whom we share a common history and confessional heritage; it follows that the CRC can value and benefit from fellowship with the PCN even though, as with every other ecumenical relationship the CRC maintains, there remain differences between the churches involved.
3. The CRC has an ecumenical opportunity to be in fellowship with the PCN as it seeks to be a Reformed witness in a radically secular European environment and is also seeking spiritual renewal within its own fellowship.
4. The PCN expresses its fervent desire to be in ecclesiastical fellowship with the CRC.
5. The historical character of the CRC's relationship to the GKN, which in spirit is continued in the PCN, is important to the ecumenical life of the CRC and lends credibility to our own witness as expressed in the CRC's ecumenical charter.
6. It is the expressed wish of the Gereformeerde Bond (Reformed Alliance), an evangelical and more conservative alliance of ministers and congregations within the PCN, that the CRC be in fellowship with the PCN.

Synod spends time discussing the above recommendation and returns to this matter later in the session.

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued in Article 47.)

### **ARTICLE 45**

Advisory Committee 10, Judicial Code Committee, Mr. Robert L. DeJong reporting, presents the following:

#### **I. Procedural history**

A. Mr. Marvin Boonstra of Edmonton, Alberta, filed a letter of appeal dated August 17, 2007, from the decision of Classis Alberta North that refused

to sustain Mr. Boonstra's appeal from a decision of Bethel CRC, a member of classis.

*B.* Mr. Boonstra presents the following issues on appeal in his correspondence dated March 14, 2008:

1. Bethel CRC has violated Church Order and continues in such practices.
2. Mr. Boonstra has not received adequate response to the allegations he raised to Bethel CRC.
3. Believing that violations of Church Order are ongoing, Mr. Boonstra wishes disclosure of those substantiated allegations that remain unremedied.
4. The argument that many churches in the denomination are not strictly following Church Order should not deter synod from making pronouncements on alleged violations.
5. Mr. Boonstra queries why clear directives in Church Order, in his view, are not enforced; those directives are not open for interpretation.

*C.* The materials available to and reviewed by the Judicial Code Committee in considering Mr. Boonstra's appeal are:

1. Mr. Boonstra's letter of appeal dated August 7, 2007, including without limitation the following supporting documents:
  - Hearing request to classis dated August 1, 2007
  - Summary of charges
  - Violation summary
  - Details of the charges and supporting evidence (69 pages)
  - Report of classis dated June 6, 2007, by authors Len Batterink, Jim Rodermond, John Stadt, and Cecil Van Niejenhuis (classis report)
  - Mr. Boonstra's response to the classis report
  - History of interaction 2003-2007
  - Correspondence dated March 21, 2006, from Peter Borgdorff
  - Mr. Boonstra's response to Borgdorff's correspondence (March 2006)
2. Supplementary material filed by Mr. Boonstra on September 30, 2007.
3. Supplementary material filed by Mr. Boonstra on October 12, 2007.

*D.* The Judicial Code Committee met by telephone conference call on October 9, 2007, to discuss these materials and determine how to handle Mr. Boonstra's appeal. The committee found that the material on appeal from the classis report as presented did not meet the minimum standards required to convene a hearing on the appeal. The committee so informed Mr. Boonstra by correspondence dated December 12, 2007.

*E.* Mr. Boonstra filed a response to that correspondence on or about March 14, 2008.

*F.* The committee unanimously endorses this report and recommendation to synod.

## II. Factual summary

A. After review of Mr. Boonstra's appeal and supporting materials and the classis report, the committee categorized the charges as follows:

1. Unsubstantiated alleged violations of Church Order—Form of Subscription not signed by officebearers; no second service; lack of home visitation; Lord's Supper not properly administered; improper procedure for congregational meetings; and disaffiliation of the church from the denomination by not including "Christian Reformed" in its publications.
2. Substantiated alleged violations of Church Order, but practice has been discontinued—Electing officebearers by a process of casting lots without seeking prior congregational approval of nominees; worship team members required to sign a form of submission to the worship team leader; and lack of catechism instruction for youth.
3. Undetermined alleged violations of Church Order—"Management elders" not accountable to full council; persons neither ordained, licensed, or seminary students preaching; and ministry shares not paid.
4. Substantiated alleged violations of Church Order, and practice continues—Officebearers' terms are extended without re-election; unapproved Bible translations used in worship; and non-public profession of faith.

B. The report by classis unanimously recommended to classis that:

The charges are not substantial enough to warrant a Judicial Code hearing by Classis. We encourage Classis to have the Church Visitors follow-up this report by engaging the Bethel Council in conversation re: 1) the use of synodically approved translations of Scripture in worship, 2) the lines of accountability between Management Elders and Full Council, [and] 3) the stipulation that profession of faith of children occur in a public worship setting.

(Classis Report, p. 6)

C. The classis report made this recommendation on the basis that Bethel CRC's violations of Church Order were "judgment calls" about the "spirit" of Church Order (as opposed to the "letter of the law") made in response to "changing [times]" and were not "cavalier" in nature.

D. Classis adopted this recommendation on or after June 6, 2007, and Mr. Boonstra timely appealed the ruling to synod in a timely manner on August 21, 2007 (Judicial Code of Rights and Procedures, Article 10—"A decision by a council or a classis that a charge is not substantial may be appealed"—and Article 21. The appeal was then referred to the Judicial Code Committee pursuant to Article 22).

E. Mr. Boonstra's principal point in his appeal seems to be that in adopting the classis report, classis confirmed that Bethel CRC is violating Church Order but does not hold its council accountable for these violations. Mr. Boonstra argues that classis, by not hearing the matter and instead entering into a "conversation" (the classis report term) with Bethel CRC about its violations of Church Order, is not mandating that "changes [to comply with Church Order] must be made" (Mr. Boonstra's term). Mr. Boonstra argues that only synod can grant waivers of violations of Church Order, not

a classis, and that there is a process that a council can follow to obtain such a waiver from synod.

### III. Conclusion

The challenge facing us as a denomination, at all times, is to be effective in bringing the good news to the world. Finding effective ways of bringing the good news to today's world can lead to disagreements. This is particularly true when past worship practices are adapted or changed entirely. The Church Order itself exists to assure that all things are done decently and in good order and to regulate the ecclesiastical organization of the CRC and its activities. When there are disagreements among us, the Church Order provides avenues to help settle such disagreements. Such avenues include the Judicial Code.

It is true that the allegations Mr. Boonstra presents regarding Church Order have resulted in a disagreement between Mr. Boonstra and Bethel CRC's council regarding the application of Church Order that normally would fall within the purview of the Judicial Code Committee under the Judicial Code. However, the practices that Mr. Boonstra has itemized are very similar to what is occurring in many CRC congregations across North America. (The committee is comprised of members from throughout North America and almost all of us were able to identify such practices at our own churches or at churches in our communities.)

If the committee were to hear Mr. Boonstra's appeal, it would involve the application of Church Order to practices at a single church, while at the same time very similar practices are occurring at other churches that are not under appeal. It is not clear under the Judicial Code whether a recommendation made by the Judicial Code Committee and adopted by synod would be binding on those other churches even though they would not have had an opportunity to be heard. Regardless, hearing an appeal such as this one would simply encourage a multiplicity of appeals to the Judicial Code Committee concerning what the committee believes to be widespread practices within the CRC.

The committee does not think that it is the role of the committee, or of synod acting under the Judicial Code, to debate and attempt to decide in the course of an appeal involving a single church the broad issue of whether practices that are widespread in the CRC violate Church Order. That is the role of synod after appropriate study.

### III. Recommendations

A. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Mr. Robert De Jong, reporter, in order to present the report and recommendations of the Judicial Code Committee and to respond to questions from the delegates.

—*Granted*

B. That synod not sustain the appeal of Mr. Marvin Boonstra.

*Grounds:*

1. Article 10 of the Judicial Code of Rights and Procedures (Church Order Supplement, Article 30-c) requires that the allegations be "substantial enough to warrant a hearing." The appeal does not meet this required

minimum criteria. Some of the allegations are unsubstantiated and some represent past conduct that has since been rectified by Bethel CRC. The substantiated allegations are not substantive enough to warrant further consideration by the committee.

2. Mr. Boonstra's rigid interpretation of the application of Church Order is inconsistent with the committee's understanding of its application. Church Order itself exists to assure that all things are done decently and in good order and to regulate the ecclesiastical organization and its activities. It provides avenues to assure that we work together to bring good news to all people and to minister to the flock that God has entrusted to the church's care. In carrying out the biblical mandate, individual congregations must apply the Church Order in ways that are appropriate to a specific ministry context.
3. The committee does not see its role to adjudicate the broader issue of the interpretation or relevance of the Church Order in guiding local churches in light of contemporary trends within congregations of the Christian Reformed Church, nor is it the role of the committee, acting under the Judicial Code, to debate and attempt to decide in the course of an appeal involving a single church the broad issue of whether practices that are widespread in the denomination violate Church Order.

—*Adopted*

#### ARTICLE 46

A delegate presents the following motion:

That synod remind the churches that the Church Order is part of our covenant with each other and ought to be followed in ways that are appropriate to a specific ministry context and that synod remind the classes to hold their churches accountable to the Church Order, recognizing there is a process for making changes.

*Ground:* Advisory Committee 10, Judicial Code Committee's report, indicates that there may be widespread practices in the CRC that could be in violation of the Church Order.

—*Tabled*

*Note:* The above recommendation was never taken off the table.

#### ARTICLE 47

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued from Article 44.)

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

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Kenneth Rip reporting, presents the following:

#### **Interchurch Relations Committee (majority report)**

*Recommendation:* Approve a relationship of ecclesiastical fellowship with the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN).

*Grounds:*

1. The PCN confesses the Bible to be the authoritative, infallible Word of God in conformity with the Reformed confessions.
2. The principles of ecumenicity demand that we relate faithfully to the whole church of Jesus Christ, and especially with those churches with whom we share a common history and confessional heritage; it follows that the CRC can value and benefit from fellowship with the PCN even though, as with every other ecumenical relationship the CRC maintains, there remain differences between the churches involved.
3. The CRC has an ecumenical opportunity to be in fellowship with the PCN as it seeks to be a Reformed witness in a radically secular European environment and is also seeking spiritual renewal within its own fellowship.
4. The PCN expresses its fervent desire to be in ecclesiastical fellowship with the CRC.
5. The historical character of the CRC's relationship to the GKN, which in spirit is continued in the PCN, is important to the ecumenical life of the CRC and lends credibility to our own witness as expressed in the CRC's ecumenical charter.
6. It is the expressed wish of the Gereformeerde Bond (Reformed Alliance), an evangelical and more conservative alliance of ministers and congregations within the PCN, that the CRC be in fellowship with the PCN.

—*Tabled*

A motion carries to table the majority report recommendation to consider the recommendation of the minority report.

**Interchurch Relations Committee  
(minority report)**

*Recommendation:* That synod not accede to recommendation 2 (*Agenda for Synod 2008*, p. 188) which states: "Approve a relationship of ecclesiastical fellowship with the Protestant Church in the Netherlands."

*Grounds:*

- a. The request of Synod 2005 to clarify the issues with the PCN has not been satisfied, including the PCN's allowance of practicing homosexuals to be ordained into ministry by local option (cf. PCN Church Order and Ordinances, article 5, 4).
- b. To give the PCN the status of a church in ecclesiastical fellowship would give the impression to the PCN, to our constituency, and to observers both secular and ecclesiastical, that we no longer have any objections to the practice of ordaining homosexuals as officebearers of the church.

Synod spends a considerable amount of time discussing the recommendation of the minority report. Continuation of the discussion will be taken up later in the day.

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued in Article 52.)



#### ARTICLE 48

Dr. William T. Koopmans, chair of the Interchurch Relations Committee, leads in prayer. He introduces Rev. Ira-Rimam Matthias Iratsi, fraternal delegate from the Reformed Church of Christ in Nigeria (RCCN), who addresses synod. Dr. Koopmans responds and leads in prayer for Rev. Iratsi and the RCCN.

Dr. Carol Rottman, member of the Interchurch Relations Committee, introduces Rev. Dr. Carol Bechtel, president of the general synod of the Reformed Church in America (RCA), who addresses synod. Dr. Carol Rottman leads in prayer for the RCA.

Dr. Peter Borgdorff introduces Mr. Steven P. Weber, fraternal delegate from the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC), who addresses synod. Dr. Borgdorff responds.

The vice chair expresses gratitude to the ecumenical guests for addressing synod.

#### ARTICLE 49

The morning session is adjourned at 11:48 a.m. Second clerk Laryn G. Zoerhof leads in closing prayer.

### **WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, June 18, 2008**

#### **Eighth Session**

#### ARTICLE 50

Ms. Mary Buteyn, president of Christian Reformed Home Missions, reads from Revelation 5 and leads in opening prayer. She shares with synod the hope that God finds us faithful in transforming lives and communities worldwide. Delegates view a presentation entitled “The River Story.”

Christian Reformed Home Missions director Rev. John Rozeboom, together with Ms. Victoria Gibbs, coordinator of small group ministries, shares the exciting ministry of Christian Reformed Home Missions.

#### ARTICLE 51

The president resumes the chair.

Dr. Emily Brink, member of the Interchurch Relations Committee, introduces Pastor Bahago Istifanus Bala, fraternal delegate from the Christian Reformed Church of Nigeria (CRCN), who addresses synod. Dr. Brink responds and leads in prayer for Rev. Bala and the CRCN.

#### ARTICLE 52

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued from Article 47.)

Synod returns to discussion of the minority report of the Interdenominational Matters advisory committee, Rev. James E. Pot reporting:

## **Interchurch Relations Committee (minority report)**

*Recommendation:* That synod not accede to recommendation 2 (*Agenda for Synod 2008*, p. 188) which states: "Approve a relationship of ecclesiastical fellowship with the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN)."

### *Grounds:*

- a. The request of Synod 2005 to clarify the issues with the PCN has not been satisfied, including the PCN's allowance of practicing homosexuals to be ordained into ministry by local option (cf. PCN Church Order and Ordinances, article 5, 4).
- b. To give the PCN the status of a church in ecclesiastical fellowship would give the impression to the PCN, to our constituency, and to observers both secular and ecclesiastical, that we no longer have any objections to the practice of ordaining homosexuals as officebearers of the church.

—*Defeated*

A motion carries to take the recommendation of the majority report off the table.

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Kenneth Rip reporting, presents the following:

## **Interchurch Relations Committee (majority report)**

*Recommendation:* Approve a relationship of ecclesiastical fellowship with the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN).

### *Grounds:*

1. The PCN confesses the Bible to be the authoritative, infallible Word of God in conformity with the Reformed confessions.
2. The principles of ecumenicity demand that we relate faithfully to the whole church of Jesus Christ, and especially with those churches with whom we share a common history and confessional heritage; it follows that the CRC can value and benefit from fellowship with the PCN even though, as with every other ecumenical relationship the CRC maintains, there remain differences between the churches involved.
3. The CRC has an ecumenical opportunity to be in fellowship with the PCN as it seeks to be a Reformed witness in a radically secular European environment and while also seeking spiritual renewal within its own fellowship.
4. The PCN expresses its fervent desire to be in ecclesiastical fellowship with the CRC.
5. The historical character of the CRC's relationship to the GKN, which in spirit is continued in the PCN, is important to the ecumenical life of the CRC and lends credibility to our own witness as expressed in the CRC's ecumenical charter.
6. It is the expressed wish of the Gereformeerde Bond (Reformed Alliance), an evangelical and more conservative alliance of ministers and

congregations within the PCN, that the CRC be in fellowship with the PCN.

—*Defeated*

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued in Article 64.)

#### ARTICLE 53

The afternoon session is adjourned at 5:03 p.m. Rev. Dr. Reginald Smith leads in closing prayer.

### WEDNESDAY EVENING, June 18, 2008 Ninth Session

#### ARTICLE 54

Elder delegate N. Theresa Rottschafer reads from Psalm 62 and leads in opening prayer in English and Navajo.

#### ARTICLE 55

Advisory Committee 9, Faith Formation and Form of Subscription, Rev. Michael Borgert reporting, presents the following:

##### **I. Faith Formation Committee**

A. *Materials*: Faith Formation Committee Report, pp. 231-42

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Dr. John Witvliet, Dr. Howard Vanderwell, and Dr. H. David Schuringa when the Faith Formation Committee Report is discussed.

—*Granted*

2. That synod encourage the churches and classes to engage in earnest prayer and discussion on key faith formation matters and communicate with the committee as requested. That the Faith Formation Committee consider a process of discussion and feedback similar to the model used to promote dialogue regarding the Belhar Confession.

—*Adopted*

*Note*: The Faith Formation Committee encourages responses from congregations, Councils, and individuals regarding its work. Please email responses to Rev. Howard Vanderwell at hv22@calvinseminary.edu and check the committee's website for updates on its work: [www.crcna.org/faitthformation](http://www.crcna.org/faitthformation).

##### **II. Form of Subscription Revision Committee**

A. *Materials*

1. Form of Subscription Revision Committee Report, pp. 243-50
2. Overtures 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23; pp. 297-311
3. Communication 1, pp. 313-15
4. Overtures 24, 25, 26; Supplemental materials

## B. Background

In 2003, Fleetwood CRC in Surrey, British Columbia (Classis B.C. South-East), overtured Synod 2004 to study the efficacy of the Form of Subscription (FOS) on the grounds that many churches in that classis no longer used the FOS because many individuals had difficulty signing it. Classis B.C. South-East wrote, "When a tool such as the Form of Subscription becomes ineffective in our culture and time, a study into the reasons and attempts to once again make it effective are justified" (*Agenda for Synod 2004*, p. 435). Synod 2004 did not accede to the overture but, in response to Overture 21, requested that synod instruct the Board of Trustees (BOT) to inquire as to the methods by which the churches comply with the provisions of Church Order Article 5 and refer the results of such inquiry to Synod 2005 for appropriate action.

In late 2004, the general secretary's office sent out a survey concerning the current use of the FOS to all of the churches. The BOT referred the results of the survey to Synod 2005, and, based on its review of the survey data, made several recommendations. In response to the BOT's report and recommendations, Synod 2005 adopted the following recommendations:

That synod adopt the following recommendations with reference to the Form of Subscription (BOT Supplement, section I, H):

1. That a revised edition of the Form of Subscription be presented to Synod 2007 for consideration and possible adoption, with the understanding that the purpose of the revision is to clarify the meaning of the Form of Subscription.
2. That the proposed revision of the Form of Subscription be drafted by a committee appointed by the Board of Trustees.
3. In their work, we encourage the committee to take note of the guidelines as to the meaning of subscription in the Church Order Supplements (2004 edition, p.26).
4. That the draft of a proposed revision be sent to the churches no later than January 1, 2007.

### *Grounds:*

- a. The survey conducted among the churches indicates that a substantial number of churches believe [sic] that an update is desirable.
- b. The present Form of Subscription contains statements that are subject to misinterpretation.
- c. A more contemporary expression of agreement will make the requirements more meaningful.

(*Acts of Synod 2005*, p. 735)

In response to synod, the BOT appointed a committee and mandated it to clarify the FOS. The advisory committee now responds to that report found in the *Agenda for Synod 2008*.

The advisory committee wishes to commend the work of the study committee in several ways. First, the Form of Subscription Revision Committee rightly came to realize that the mandated clarification of the FOS required a more thorough restatement rather than a minor update of the language. The resulting proposed Doctrinal Covenant for Officebearers in the CRCNA was the committee's contribution toward faithfully and thoroughly carrying out its assigned mandate. As such, we are grateful for their courage and hard work in drafting such a document and offering it to the church. Moreover, we believe their proposed Doctrinal Covenant for Officebearers in the CRCNA has raised critical questions and produced vigorous conversations,

not only about the FOS, but also about the role of the confessions in our denomination.

Second, the FOS Revision Committee astutely observed that one of the issues at stake in clarifying the FOS was the issue of encouraging rather than discouraging significant theological discussion. In its report, the committee wrote that “any regulatory instrument that is adopted by the church ought to be regarded as an invitation to the officebearers of the church to participate in this ongoing reflection rather than a document that precludes or hinders such reflection” (*Agenda for Synod 2008*, p. 247). The advisory committee endorses this view because it reflects both the will of previous synodical decisions (see *Acts of Synod 1976* and *Acts of Synod 2005*) and what we believe is the purpose of the FOS.

Third, the FOS Committee’s work highlighted the need to address how the FOS functions within our increasingly diverse church family. A FOS, no matter how well crafted, is useful only if it functions to enhance the faithful ministry of the local church. As such, the FOS committee rightly perceived that a FOS, in whatever form, must offer a clear and compelling statement of Reformed Christianity, to which officebearers can submit, as well as bridge barriers of language and ethnicity. This is an especially relevant concern for our emerging and ethnic minority churches and their leaders.

Despite these strengths of the Form of Subscription Revision Committee’s work, the advisory committee has the following concerns.

First, several overtures, communications, and discussions raised questions about the clarity of language in the proposed Doctrinal Covenant for Officebearers.

1. The phrase *in their time* too easily suggests that the Forms of Unity were true *only* in their historical contexts and limits or even eliminates their contemporary relevance.
2. Is the term *believe* stronger or more appropriate than the term *accept*?
3. Is the phrase *governed by* clear enough? Could it be elaborated further, with, for example, the addition of “conforming our preaching, teaching, writing, and serving to them?”
4. Can paragraphs 3 and 4 of the proposed Doctrinal Covenant for Officebearers be stated in simpler, shorter sentences? Would this also help translation of the document into other languages?
5. Is it clear how the Contemporary Testimony fits into the sentence in paragraph 3; and more generally, how it fits into the framework of this document?
6. Since the confessions are masterful expressions of the Christian faith, we need more inviting language in the new document.
7. What title communicates most clearly the purpose of this document? The Form of Subscription? Doctrinal Covenant? Affirmation of Faith? Other possibilities?

Second, the advisory committee believes that the process of renewing the FOS must include an educational strategy designed to engage both the local church and denominational agencies. Because a document such as the

FOS must live and function well across the various constituencies of our denomination, the advisory committee believes that the process of change is as important as its product. Believing this is a unique opportunity to educate our denomination as to the importance and usefulness of the confessions in the life of the church, we advise a more comprehensive approach than was originally mandated to the Form of Subscription Revision Committee.

Third, the advisory committee believes that a more comprehensive process of consultation and communication must take place between the study committee and the churches. Since what is at stake is nothing less than the relationship between our Reformed identity and local church ministry, we believe a more extensive process is warranted. Indeed, the advisory committee found it striking that members of the Form of Subscription Revision Committee themselves indicated a lack of response especially from emerging and ethnic minority churches.

We do not believe that our advisory committee or synod can adequately address all these concerns.

### *C. Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Revs. John Van Schepen and Mark Davies when matters pertaining to the Form of Subscription Revision Committee Report and the related overtures and Communication 1 are discussed.

*—Granted*

2. That synod recommit the mandate of Synod 2005 as well as the work done thus far by the Form of Subscription Revision Committee, including the proposed Doctrinal Covenant for Officebearers and its study committee report, to an expanded study committee, namely:
  - a. That a revised version of the Form of Subscription be presented to Synod 2011 for consideration and possible adoption, with the understanding that the purpose of the revision is to clarify the meaning of the Form of Subscription.
  - b. That the proposed revision of the Form of Subscription be drafted by a committee appointed by Synod 2008.
  - c. In their work, we encourage the committee to take note of the guidelines as to the meaning of subscription found in the Church Order Supplement, Article 5, A.
  - d. That the draft of a proposed revision be sent to the churches no later than January 1, 2010.
  - e. That the newly constituted committee present to Synods 2009 and 2010 a progress report.

#### *Grounds:*

- 1) Since the FOS is of confessional significance and has a direct impact on the ministry of the churches, the numerous concerns highlighted above need to be addressed by an expanded study committee. Neither our advisory committee nor synod can adequately address all these concerns.

- 2) An expanded committee would allow for continued discussion of a crucial doctrinal matter of concern for the entire denomination. Such discussion has not yet occurred on a widespread basis but is absolutely necessary for broader acceptance of whatever document emerges from this process.

—Adopted

3. That synod mandate the study committee to develop an educational strategy designed to engage both local churches and denominational agencies and educational institutions in discussion of the issues at the heart of the Form of Subscription revision and the role of the Reformed confessions in the life of the church.

—Adopted

4. That synod compose an eleven-member study committee with the following representation: at least two from emerging churches, at least two from ethnic minority churches, established churches, various denominational agencies, up to three members from the previous Form of Subscription Revision Committee, and one seminary professor.

*Grounds:*

- a. It is essential that emerging and ethnic minority churches be included in this discussion in order to be fully representative of the diversity of our denomination.
- b. Currently the FOS is misunderstood and underutilized in some emerging and ethnic minority churches.
- c. Including representatives from the previous Form of Subscription Revision Committee will provide a degree of continuity with the work already begun.

—Adopted

5. That synod request that the study committee, in carrying out its mandate, consider but not be limited by the following:
- a. Communication 1 from Classis Northcentral Iowa (*Agenda for Synod 2008*, p. 313-15) because of its explicit mention of the ecumenical creeds, the tone of its language, and its clear flow of thought.
  - b. Concerns regarding the clarity of language of the proposed revision of the FOS.
  - c. Creative models of denomination-wide education and discussion such as those employed by the Faith Formation Committee and the Belhar Confession focus groups.

—Adopted

6. That these recommendations be considered synod's response to Overtures 17-26, and Communication 1 from Classis Northcentral Iowa.

—Adopted

7. That Synod 2008 express its thanks to the members of the Form of Subscription Revision Committee.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 9 is continued in Article 66.)

## ARTICLE 56

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 21.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services I, Rev. Alvern Gelder reporting, presents the following:

### **Board of Trustees**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (Polity sections II, A, 1-7, 9-14, and 16-19), pp. 23-34
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (sections I, A-D and I-J) including Appendices A and B
3. Overture 27, Supplementary materials

#### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod request the BOT and denominational boards and committees to maintain the current practice of presenting a slate of nominees for denominational board and committee positions (Polity section II, A, 5).

#### *Grounds:*

- a. While the culture of volunteerism is changing, the experience of some classes is that there are a substantial number of nominees willing to be placed in the pool of nominees. There are creative ways that can be explored to increase the pool of nominees from the classes.
- b. The recommendation of the Board of Trustees leaves the perception of further centralized authority instead of involving classes or regions in the ministry of the denomination.
- c. The recommendation of the Board of Trustees would foster the appearance of self-perpetuating boards.

—*Adopted*

The following negative vote is registered: B. Joy Engelsman (Rocky Mountain).

2. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 27.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod approve that the Board of Trustees no longer be required to appoint alternate members (II, A, 5).

#### *Grounds:*

- a. The elimination of alternate positions makes it possible for thirty additional people to serve on other boards and committees without conflict of time or interest.



- b. Alternates who only occasionally attend Board of Trustees meetings are often unfamiliar with issues and procedures.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod, subject to the approval of recommendation 3 above, declare that all BOT alternate positions be discontinued following Synod 2008 (II, A, 5).

—*Adopted*

5. That synod, recognizing the blessings of the full participation of God's children of both genders and all races in the work of the church, encourages congregations and classes to consider this in their nominations and appointments, including delegates to synod.

—*Adopted*

The following negative votes are registered: Raymond A. Blacketer (Alberta North), Thomas R. Dykstra (Southeast U.S.), B. Joy Engelsman (Rocky Mountain), Ronald E. Groenendyk (Pella), S. George Koopmans (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), Bradley A. Meinders (Minnkota), Herbert W. Schreur (Northcentral Iowa), Chad M. Steenwyk (Holland), Stanley J. Sturing (Atlantic Northeast), Joseph Vanden Akker (Minnkota), Richard T. Vander Vaart (Chatham), Mark Volkers (Heartland), Ralph S. Wigboldus (Chatham), Ron W. Zwiers (Pella).

6. That synod, rejoicing in the steps we have taken on the path toward full participation, thankful for the women delegates present this year, and trusting that congregations and classes will continue along this path, discontinue the appointment of women advisers beginning in 2009.

*Ground:* Women advisers are no longer needed when we have women delegates who can fully participate instead of only advising.

—*Defeated*

A delegate presents the following motion:

That beginning with Synod 2009 that women advisers to synod no longer be appointed.

*Ground:* Synod 2007 approved the appointment of women delegates.

—*Adopted*

The following negative votes are registered: Chad M. Steenwyk (Holland), William S. Wilton (Columbia).

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

#### ARTICLE 57

The evening session is adjourned at 9:25 p.m. Ethnic adviser Jonathan J. Kim leads in closing prayer in English and Korean.

ARTICLE 58

Rev. Eleanor Rietkerk announces *Psalter Hymnal* 249, “Holy, Holy, Holy,” and reads from Mark 2:17, reflecting upon the need to see ourselves as one with all God’s people. Synod spends time in reflective prayer.

Rev. Mark Vermaire reads from a litany of confession from the 2008 *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony* and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 501, “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing,” vv. 1, 4, 6, and 7. He announces “In Christ Alone” by Keith Getty Stuart Townsend.

Miss Analeis Engelsman, daughter of Rev. B. Joy Engelsman, leads in opening prayer. Worship concludes with the singing of *Sing! A New Creation* 287, “Amen, siakudu misa/ Amen, We Praise Your Name, O God.”

The roll indicates that all are present.

ARTICLE 59

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 56.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services I, Rev. Alvern Gelder reporting, presents the following:

**I. Board of Trustees**

*A. Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (Polity sections II, A, 1-7, 9-14, and 16-19), pp. 23-34
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (sections I, A-D and I-J) including Appendices A and B

*B. Recommendations*

1. That synod adopt the following recommendations regarding the Abuse Victims Task Force Report (BOT Supplement section I, I):
  - a. That synod give the privilege of the floor to Rev. Jerry Van Groningen and Ms. Laura Triezenberg as representatives of the Abuse Victims Task Force.
- b. That synod, with thanks to the task force for excellent work, refer the Abuse Victims Task Force Report back to the Board of Trustees for further refinement and to report to Synod 2010, with distribution to the churches by Fall 2009.

—Granted

*Grounds:*

- 1) There has not been adequate time for councils, existing safe church teams, and other stakeholders to process this significant report.
- 2) There are issues that need more clarification (such as but not limited to insurance issues, legal language, legal representation,

more focus on healing, relationship of ecclesiastical process and judicial review, how and at what point restorative justice can be implemented, cultural considerations).

- 3) The report must be carefully reviewed by people with expertise in several fields before it comes to the churches.

—Adopted

- c. That synod encourage the Board of Trustees to continue to use the expertise of the Abuse Victims Task Force and the Office of Abuse Prevention in refining the report.

—Adopted

2. That synod note with gratitude the seven members of the Board of Trustees who are completing six years of service on the Board: Mr. Dan Cooke, Mr. Jack Geschiere, Rev. Jake Kuipers, Mrs. N. Theresa Rottschäfer, Rev. William C. Tuininga, Mr. Marion D. Van Soelen, and Mrs. Beverly A. Weeks, as well as Rev. John Huizenga, who is moving from the Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan area. We thank God for each of these dedicated servants and for their contributions to the Board and to the Christian Reformed Church.

—Adopted

3. That synod refer the proposed model Articles of Incorporation to the BOT for further refinement and presentation to Synod 2009.

—Adopted

## **II. Sermons for Reading Services Committee**

A. *Materials*: Sermons for Reading Services Committee Report, p. 190

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

—Adopted

## **III. Response to Overture 3: Ensure That Synodical Delegates Can Receive the Elements of Holy Communion from a Male Elder at Synodical Worship Services**

A. *Materials*: Overture 3, pp. 257-58

B. *Recommendation*

1. That synod not accede to Overture 3.

*Grounds*:

- a. It is the responsibility of the convening church council in consultation with the executive director of the CRCNA to structure a service that honors God and edifies the worshipers.
- b. This deeply felt issue calls for wisdom and sensitivity rather than synodical fiat.

—Tabled

2. That synod instruct the executive director and the convening church of synod to show sensitivity for both views held in the denomination on women in office as they plan the synodical worship service, including arrangements for the serving of Holy Communion.

—Adopted

3. That this will be synod's response to Overture 3.

—Adopted

Synod enters into executive session.

#### IV. Work of synodical deputies

##### A. *Deposition of a minister of the Word under Church Order Articles 82-83*

Synodical deputies J.J. Berends (Arizona), J.P. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain), and K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), having heard the grounds submitted by the council of Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the discussion of Classis Red Mesa, in session on September 15, 2007, **do not concur** in the decision of classis to approve, in accordance with Church Order Articles 82 and 83, the deposition of **Rev. Albert J. Veltkamp** from the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

##### B. *Recommendations*

Prior to the vote the chair leads in prayer for all parties involved.

1. That synod not approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

The following negative vote is registered: John Kooiker (Heartland).

2. That synod inform Classis Red Mesa that in the case of a retired minister, the appropriate procedure is to remove the honor and title of a minister of the Word, (cf. Church Order Article 18), as a parallel to the process of deposition (cf. Church Order Articles 82 and 83).

—Adopted

The following negative vote is registered: John Kooiker (Heartland).

3. That synod state that the council of the church holding the credentials is not obligated to proceed with special discipline but is permitted to do so.

—Adopted

The following negative votes are registered: Ronald G. Baker (Grand Rapids North), John J. Berends (Arizona), W. Keith Bulthuis (Red Mesa), Steven J. Datema (Northern Michigan), B. Joy Engelsman (Rocky Mountain), Ron Groenendyk (Pella), LaVerne K. Jordan (Rocky Mountain), John Kooiker (Heartland), Robert Westenbroek (Rocky Mountain).

Daniel J. Brink (Greater Los Angeles) registers his negative vote with the following ground: Synod was given no basis in fact for either supporting or opposing the judgment of its advisory committee or that of the synodical deputies.

Synod returns to open session.

## V. Response to Overture 5: Revise Guidelines for the Advisory Panel Process

A. *Materials*: Overture 5, pp. 264-67

B. *Recommendation*: That synod not accede to Overture 5.

*Grounds*:

1. The substantive material in the overture has been dealt with by previous synods.
2. The whole process of how to respond to allegations of abuse by church leaders is being reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

—*Adopted*

The following negative vote is registered: Pieter G. Sinia (B.C. North-West).

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 62.)

### ARTICLE 60

Participants of the 2008 Sea to Sea Bicycle Tour are welcomed, and synod receives a brief overview of the tour by Ms. Claire Elgersma, tour director. Dr. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, general secretary of the Reformed Church in America, reads from Philippians 3. Rev. Gerard Dystra leads in prayer for the tour and its message in making a difference in the fight against poverty.

The morning session is adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON, June 19, 2008 Eleventh Session

### ARTICLE 61

Elder delegate James L. Kelley leads in opening prayer.

### ARTICLE 62

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

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services I, Rev. Alvern Gelder reporting, presents the following:

#### I. Work of synodical deputies

A. *Classical examinations via Church Order Article 7*

1. Synodical deputies H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), H. Numan (B.C. North-West), and K. Van Schelven (Columbia), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on March 5, 2008, to admit **Mr. Jeffrey Scott Roberts** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), W.D. Vis (Minnkota), and R.J. Timmer (Iakota), having heard the examination for ordination in

accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Heartland, in session on December 4, 2007, to admit **Mr. Tom VanEngen** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

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

—*Adopted*

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

1. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), G.M. Stevens (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on May 6, 2008, that a **need** has been demonstrated by a congregation (Faith Church) to call a minister (**Rev. Joonghan Chung**) from another denomination to serve as senior pastor.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for an indigenous pastor.

2. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), and G. Veenstra (Illiana), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Enyas deSilva Freitas**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Wisconsin, in session on February 26, 2008, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Brookfield CRC.
3. Synodical deputies J.M. Gray (Pella), S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), and R.D. Engel (Lake Erie), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the declaration of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 18, 2007, that a **need** has been demonstrated by a congregation to call a minister (**Rev. Mark Gornik**) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church of America) to serve as professor and president of City Seminary of New York (CSNY) and minister of the Word.

*Statement of need:* A need exists for new church leadership development and extraordinary gifts (Church Order Supplement, Article 8-e, 4, a, c).

4. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), B.A. Persenaire (Central California), and J. Van Schepen (Pacific Northwest), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 11, 2007, that a **need** has been demonstrated by a congregation (Austin Lord's Church) to call a minister (**Rev. Sun Hyun Hur**) from another denomination (Korean American Presbyterian Church) to serve as senior pastor.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership.

5. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), G.M. Stevens (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Sung Hyun Hur**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on May 6, 2008, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is The Lord's Church in Austin, Texas.
6. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and J. Van Schepen (Pacific Northwest), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Sung Yong Jin**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 11, 2007, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Dallas Samil CRC.
7. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and J. Van Schepen (Pacific Northwest), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Joon Suk Kang**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 11, 2007, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Fort Worth First Korean Church.
8. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), G.M. Stevens (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Joe Young Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on May 6, 2008, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Southern California Kyung Shin Church.
9. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), G.M. Stevens (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on May 6, 2008, that a **need** has been demonstrated by a congregation (Beside Stillwater) to call a minister (**Rev. HeeSoo Lee**) from another denomination to serve as senior pastor.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for an indigenous pastor.

10. Synodical deputies G.G. Heyboer (Zeeland) and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Bret McAfee**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Erie, in session on March 1, 2008, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Charlotte CRC.

*Note:* The third synodical deputy was unable to attend due to severe weather.

11. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), T.N. Leunk (Grand Rapids East), and D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the declaration of Classis Kalamazoo, in session on January 22, 2008, that a **need** has been demonstrated by a congregation (Korean Christian Reformed Church) to call a minister (**Rev. Dongwon Na**) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church in Korea) to serve as sole pastor.
12. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), and G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Dongwon Na**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Kalamazoo, in session on May 13, 2008, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is the Korean Christian Reformed Church of Kalamazoo.
13. Synodical deputies R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), B.A. Persenaire (Central California), and B.D. Min (Pacific Hanmi), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the declaration of Classis California South, in session on May 8, 2008, that a **need** has been demonstrated by a congregation (Korean Christian Reformed Church of Orange County) to call a minister (**Rev. Seong Soo Nam**) from another denomination (The American Presbyterian in the United States of America of the Korean Presbyterian Church) to serve as pastor.
14. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), B.D. Min (Pacific Hanmi), and R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Seong Soo Nam**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on May 8, 2008, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is the Korean Christian Reformed Church of Orange County.
15. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), B.A. Persenaire (Central California), and J. Van Schepen (Pacific Northwest), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 11, 2007, that a **need** has been demonstrated by a congregation (All Nations Church) to call a minister (**Rev. Han Deok Park**) from another denomination (Korean Presbyterian Church in Korea) to serve as pastor of a church plant in San Antonio, Texas.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership.



16. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), G.M. Stevens (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Han Deok Park**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on May 6, 2008, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is San Antonio All Nations Church.
17. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), B.A. Persenaire (Central California), and J. Van Schepen (Pacific Northwest), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 11, 2007, that a **need** has been demonstrated by a congregation (San Bernardino Korean CRC) to call a minister (**Rev. Peter Nakyoung Ryu**) from another denomination (Korean Presbyterian Church) to serve as senior pastor.
18. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), G.M. Stevens (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Peter Nakyoung Ryu**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on May 6, 2008, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is San Bernardino Spiritual Eyes CRC.
19. Synodical deputies N.F. Brown (Hudson), C. Vander Neut (Hackensack), and R.D. Engel (Lake Erie), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the declaration of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on October 4, 2007, that a **need** has been demonstrated by a congregation (New Covenant Christian Reformed Church) to call a minister (**Rev. Greg Selmon**) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church of America) to serve as minister.
20. Synodical deputies C. Vander Neut (Hackensack), E.W. Visser (Quinte), and R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Greg Selmon**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on March 6, 2008, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is New Covenant CRC.
21. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and J. Van Schepen (Pacific Northwest), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Jeong Ho Seo**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 11, 2007, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Dallas Lighthouse Church.

22. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and J. Van Schepen (Pacific Northwest), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Sung Il Sohn** in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 11, 2007, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Green Field Church.
23. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and J. Van Schepen (Pacific Northwest), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Won-Joon Sohng**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 11, 2007, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Highland Community Church.
24. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and J. Van Schepen (Pacific Northwest), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. DongEun Woo**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 11, 2007, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is San Jose Church of God's Love.
25. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), G.M. Stevens (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on May 6, 2008, that a **need** has been demonstrated by a congregation (Shim Community) to call a minister (**Rev. Peter ChulGui Yi**) from another denomination to serve as senior pastor.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for an indigenous pastor.

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

*—Adopted*

#### *C. Classical examination of candidates, Church Order Article 10*

1. Synodical deputies R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), and C. Vander Neut (Hackensack), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Hudson, in session March 4, 2008, to admit candidate **Kenneth Bieber** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies T.J. Ouwinga (Heartland), G.M. McGuire (Northcentral Iowa), and L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Iakota, in session November 3, 2007, to admit

candidate **Troy W. Bierma** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

3. Synodical deputies T.J. Ouwinga (Heartland), L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota), and F.E. Pott (North Central Iowa), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Iakota, in session September 18, 2007, to admit candidate **Shawn L. Bootsma** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies D.J. Roeda (Wisconsin), P.A. Hansen (Heartland), and G.P. Van Smeerdyk (Niagara), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Superior, in session September 18, 2007, to admit candidate **John A. Bothof** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
5. Synodical deputies H. De Vries (Kalamazoo), J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), and D.J. Roeda (Wisconsin), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Illiana, in session October 30, 2007, to admit candidate **Jeffrey R. Bulthuis** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
6. Synodical deputies J. Kerssies (Huron), E.W. Visser (Quinte), and J. Kerkhof (Toronto), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Eastern Canada, in session October 26, 2007, to admit candidate **Bradley W. Close** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
7. Synodical deputies F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), R. Timmer (Iakota), and L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Heartland, in session October 23, 2007, to admit candidate **Nicholas R. Davelaar** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
8. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), T. Vander Ziel (Yellowstone), and W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session September 25, 2007, to admit candidate **B. Joy Engelsman** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
9. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), H. De Vries (Kalamazoo), and R.J. De Young (Zeeland), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Zeeland, in session September 20, 2007, to admit candidate **Tobin S. Gruppen** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
10. Synodical deputies D.J. Roeda (Wisconsin), P.A. Hansen (Heartland), and G.P. Van Smeerdyk (Niagara), having heard the examination for

ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Superior, in session September 18, 2007, to admit candidate **Todd H. Hilkemann** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

11. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), T.N. Leunk (Grand Rapids East), and D.M. Stravers (Holland), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Erie, in session November 3, 2007, to admit candidate **William Jensen** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
12. Synodical deputies A. Joosse (Alberta South/Saskatchewan) and D. Kwantes (B.C. North-West), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis B.C. South-East, in session October 24, 2007, to admit candidate **Leon H. Johnston** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Note:* The deputy from Classis Pacific Northwest was not able to attend this session of classis.

13. Synodical deputies K. Van Schelven (Columbia), H. Numan (B.C. North-West), and H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session October 11, 2007, to admit candidate **Benjamin R.T. Katt** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
14. Synodical deputies H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), H. Numan (B.C. North-West), and K. Van Schelven (Columbia), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session March 5, 2008, to admit candidate **James Kim** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
15. Synodical deputies D. Miedema (Chatham), H. Katerberg (Hamilton), and J. Kerkhof (Toronto), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Huron, in session January 9, 2008, to admit candidate **Rita S. Klein-Geltink** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
16. Synodical deputies H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), T.J. Kok (Pacific Northwest), and H. Vriend (Alberta North), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session January 11, 2008, to admit candidate **Brian D. Kuyper** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
17. Synodical deputies B.D. Min (Pacific Hanmi), A. Helder (Central California), and N.L. Koch (California South), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session June 26, 2007, to admit

candidate **Hyuk Soo Kwon** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

18. Synodical deputies R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), and K. Van Schelven (Columbia), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Central California, in session September 18, 2007, to admit candidate **Zeke R. Nelson** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
19. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), T. Vander Ziel (Yellowstone), and W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session September 25, 2007, to admit candidate **Samuel L. Perry** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
20. Synodical deputies L.J. Hofman (Grand Rapids East), D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), and D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session September 4, 2007, to admit candidate **Richard L. Pinckney** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
21. Synodical deputies D.J. Roeda (Wisconsin), P.A. Hansen (Heartland), and G.P. Van Smeedyk (Niagara), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Superior, in session September 18, 2007, to admit candidate **Robert L. Pollema, Jr.**, to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
22. Synodical deputies T.J. Ouwinga (Heartland), G.M. McGuire (North-central Iowa), and L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Iakota, in session November 3, 2007, to admit candidate **David J. Prince** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
23. Synodical deputies G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session July 12, 2007, to admit candidate **Michael L. Ribbens** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
24. Synodical deputies R.D. De Young (Zeeland), J.P. Douma (Grandville), and A. Petroelje (Muskegon), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Holland, in session March 4, 2008, to admit candidate **Daniel J. Roels** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
25. Synodical deputies J.M. Gray (Pella), S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), and R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), having heard the examination for

ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session September 18, 2007, to admit candidate **Benjamin Spalink** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

26. Synodical deputies D.M. Stravers (Holland), G.A. Koning (Georgetown), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session September 20, 2007, to admit candidate **Drew Sweetman** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
27. Synodical deputies H. Vriend (Alberta North), H. Numan (B.C. North-West), and K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis B.C. South-East, in session July 25, 2007, to admit candidate **Michael J. Vander Kwaak** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
28. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session September 20, 2007, to admit candidate **Jana L. Vander Laan** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
29. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), and R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Yellowstone, in session September 14, 2007, to admit candidate **Maurice Vander Veen** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
30. Synodical deputies L.J. Hofman (Grand Rapids East), D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), and D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session September 4, 2007, to admit candidate **David Westra** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

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

—Adopted

*D. Ministers in specialized services, Church Order Article 12-c*

1. Synodical deputies R.H. Verkaik (Kalamazoo), R.D. De Young (Zeeland), and D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of South Bend Christian Reformed Church of South Bend, Indiana, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Holland, in session on May 15, 2008, to approve the position of diversity educator for Hospice of Hope Inc. as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Philip A. Apol**.



2. Synodical deputies W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), and B.A. Persenaire (Central California), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Crossroads Christian Reformed Church of San Marcos, California, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on October 11, 2007, to approve the position of executive director of Souleader Resources as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Michael G. Bischof**.
3. Synodical deputies T.J. Ouwinga (Heartland), F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), and W.D. Vis (Minnkota), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Inwood Christian Reformed Church of Inwood, Iowa, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Iakota, in session on May 30, 2007, to approve the position of Bible instructor at Alpha-Omega Academy as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Roger A. Bouwman**.
4. Synodical deputies T.J. Ouwinga (Heartland), F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), and W.D. Vis (Minnkota), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Heartland Community Christian Reformed Church of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Iakota, in session on May 30, 2007, to approve the position of ministry to the immigrant and refugee community of Sioux Falls as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Carl H. Bruxvoort**.
5. Synodical deputies T.J. Kok (Pacific Northwest), K. Van Schelven (Columbia), and H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Christ Community Church Christian Reformed Church of Nanaimo, British Columbia, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis B.C. North-West, in session on March 4 and 5, 2008, to approve the position of hospital chaplain as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Darren G. Colyn**.
6. Synodical deputies J.M. Gray (Pella), S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic North-east), and R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Spirit and Truth Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 18, 2007, to approve the position of teacher of theology as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Mark Gornik**.
7. Synodical deputies F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), T.J. Ouwinga (Heartland), and L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Faith Christian Reformed Church of Sioux

Center, Iowa, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Iakota, in session on September 18, 2007, to approve the position of dean of chapel of Dordt College as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Rod D. Gorter**.

8. Synodical deputies D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), L.J. Hofman (Grand Rapids East), and D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Ridgewood 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 February 21, 2008, to approve the position of chaplain of Sunset Association as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. James A. Molenbeek**.
9. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), 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 on September 20, 2007, to approve the position of teacher/facilitator/coach with Pastoral Care as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Chris J. Schroeder**.
10. Synodical deputies J.M. Vande Hoef (Huron), B.B. Bakker (Quinte), and H. Katerberg (Hamilton), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Toronto, 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 Toronto, in session on January 17, 2008, to approve the position of president of the Institute for Christian Studies as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. John D. Suk**.
11. Synodical deputies R.H. Verkaik (Kalamazoo), R.D. De Young (Zeeland), and D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of South Bend Christian Reformed Church of South Bend, Indiana, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Holland, in session on May 15, 2008, to approve the position of senior director of Indian Ministries for Mission India as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Ronald Vander Griend**.
12. Synodical deputies D.J. Roeda (Wisconsin), P.A. Hansen (Heartland), and L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Emo Christian Reformed Church of Emo, 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 Lake Superior, in session on March 4, 2008, to approve the



position of military chaplain as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Gerald P. Van Smeerdyk**.

13. Synodical deputies J. Kerssies (Huron), B.B. Bakker (Quinte), and H. Katerberg (Hamilton), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Willowdale Christian Reformed Church of Toronto, 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 Toronto, in session on May 15, 2008, to approve the position of country consultant with CRWRC in Kenya as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Frederick J. Witteveen**.
14. Synodical deputies D.M. Stravers (Holland), G. Koning (Georgetown), and D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of First Allendale Christian Reformed Church of Allendale, 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 Zeeland, in session on September 19, 2007, to approve the position of teacher of theology and Chaplain of Kosin University, South Korea, as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Paul K. Yu**.

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

—Adopted

*E. Loaning a minister to another denomination according to Church Order Article 13-c*

1. Synodical deputies B.D. Min (Pacific Hanmi), A. Helder (Central California), and N.L. Koch (California South), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on June 26, 2007, to approve loaning **Rev. Moses Chung** to serve Sooyoungro Presbyterian of Busan, South Korea.
2. Synodical deputies J. Kerkhof (Toronto), H. Katerberg (Hamilton), and D. Miedema (Chatham), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Huron, in session on October 29, 2007, to approve loaning **Rev. Jacob De Vries** to serve the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia.
3. Synodical deputies J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), G. Veenstra (Illiana), and D.J. Roeda (Wisconsin), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on September 19, 2007, to approve loaning **Rev. Philip Stel** to serve Ebenezer Reformed Church of Morrison, Illinois.
4. Synodical deputies W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), and B. Persenaire (Central California), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session

on October 11, 2007, to approve loaning **Rev. Randall K. Young** to serve New Community Chapel of Northridge, California.

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

—*Adopted*

*F. Release from the ministry under Church Order Article 14-b*

1. Synodical deputies R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), K.D. Koe-man (Pacific Northwest), and K. Van Schelven (Columbia), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. John Jon Sen Liu** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Central California in session on September 18, 2007, to declare that **Rev. John Jon Sen Liu** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), K. Van Schelven (Columbia), and T.J. Kok (Pacific Northwest), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. John Jon Sen Liu** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Central California in session on March 11, 2008, to declare that **Rev. John Jon Sen Liu** is in the status of one deposed from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies D.M. Stravers (Holland), D.J. Roeda (Wisconsin), and J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. James H. McCune** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Illiana in session on March 4, 2008, to declare that **Rev. James H. McCune** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), and J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Pedro L. Toledo** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Southeast U.S. in session on March 7, 2008, to declare that **Rev. Pedro L. Toledo** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
5. Synodical deputies L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota), R.J. Timmer (Iakota), and T.J. Ouwinga (Heartland), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Timothy L. Van Lant** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Pella in session on February 23, 2008, to declare that **Rev. Timothy L. Van Lant** 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*

*G. Release from office to enter a nonministerial vocation under Church Order Article 14-c*

1. Synodical deputies H. Numan (B.C. North-West), H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), and J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), having heard the discussion of Classis Alberta North, in session on March 4, 2008, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Tony Maan** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a non-ministerial vocation.
2. Synodical deputies H. Numan (B.C. North-West), H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), and J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), having heard the discussion of Classis Alberta North, in session on October 16, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Kirk MacNeil** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a non-ministerial vocation.
3. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 20, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Ryan W. Veeneman** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a non-ministerial vocation.
4. Synodical deputies H. Numan (B.C. North-West), H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), and J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), having heard the discussion of Classis Alberta North, in session on March 4, 2008, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Colin Ward** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a non-ministerial vocation.

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

—*Adopted*

*H. Release from ministry in a congregation under Church Order Article 17-a*

1. Synodical deputies J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), G. Veenstra (Illiana), and H. De Vries (Kalamazoo), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on December 6, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Chul Sup Bang** is released from ministerial service in Korean Christian Reformed Church of Wheeling, Illinois.
2. Synodical deputies J. Keressies (Huron), H. Katerberg (Hamilton), and B.B. Bakker (Quinte), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Toronto, in session on May 15, 2008, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Martin A. Benckhuysen** is released from

ministerial service in Willowdale Christian Reformed Church of Toronto, Ontario.

3. Synodical deputies H. Katerberg (Hamilton), J.M. Van de Hoef (Huron), and J. Kerkof (Toronto), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Chatham, in session on September 25, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Robert J. Haven** is released from ministerial service in Good News Christian Reformed Church of London, Ontario.
4. Synodical deputies C. Vander Neut (Hackensack), E.W. Visser (Quinte), and R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on March 6, 2008, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Kenneth J. Nydam** is released from ministerial service in Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church of Whitinsville, Massachusetts.
5. Synodical deputies T.J. Ouwinga (Heartland), F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), and W.D. Vis (Minnkota), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Iakota, in session on May 30, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Stephen K. Rhoda** is released from ministerial service in Bethel Christian Reformed Church of Sioux Center, Iowa.
6. Synodical deputies D. Miedema (Chatham), H. Kranenburg (Hamilton), and J. Kerkof (Toronto), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Huron, in session on September 19, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Elzo Tenyenhuus** is released from ministerial service in Kincardine Christian Reformed Church of Kincardine, Ontario.
7. Synodical deputies K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), K. Van Schelven (Columbia), and A. Beukema (B.C. South-East), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis B.C. North-West, in session on September 25, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Peter L. VanderBeek** is released from ministerial service in Mundy Park Christian Reformed Church of Coquitlam, British Columbia.
8. Synodical deputies K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), K. Van Schelven (Columbia), 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 September 25, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Alan E. van der Woerd** is released from ministerial service in Nelson Avenue Community Christian Reformed Church of Burnaby, British Columbia, as his calling church for his work as a missionary to Mexico with Christian Refomed World Missions.
9. Synodical deputies D.M. Stravers (Holland), G. Koning (Georgetown), and D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Zeeland, in session on September

19, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Jeffrey D. Voorhees** is released from ministerial service in Pine Creek Christian Reformed Church of Holland, Michigan.

10. Synodical deputies J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), G. Veenstra (Illiana), and H. De Vries (Kalamazoo), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on December 6, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. William D. Weber** is released from ministerial service in Western Springs Christian Reformed Church of Western Springs, Illinois.

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

—Adopted

*1. Extension of eligibility for call under Church Order Article 17-c*

1. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 20, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Glandion Carney's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
2. Synodical deputies H. Katerberg (Hamilton), B.B. Bakker (Quinte), and J. Kerssies (Huron), having heard the discussion of Classis Toronto, in session on May 15, 2008, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Timothy K. Chan's** ordination status is reinstated and that his eligibility for call is extended for one year until May 2009.
3. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 20, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Daniel S. Dykstra's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
4. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 20, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Henry Eising's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
5. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 20, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Ruth M. Hofman's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.

6. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 20, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Cindy Holtrop's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
7. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 20, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Mary S. Hulst's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
8. Synodical deputies K. Van Schelven (Columbia), H. Numan (B.C. North-West), and H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), having heard the discussion of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on October 11, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Stanley D. Kruis's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
9. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), R.D. De Young (Zeeland), and J.P. Douma (Grandville), having heard the discussion of Classis Muskegon, in session on March 6, 2008, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Richard W. Loerop's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
10. Synodical deputies G. Koning (Georgetown), D.M. Stravers (Holland), and D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), having heard the discussion of Classis Zeeland, in session on September 19, 2007, 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.
11. Synodical deputies D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), L.J. Hofman (Grand Rapids East), and D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), having heard the discussion of Classis Georgetown, in session on February 21, 2008, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Steven R. Sytsma's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
12. Synodical deputies W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), J.J. Berends (Arizona), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the discussion of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 4, 2008, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Mark L. Tidd's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
13. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 20, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Robert E. Tigchelaar's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.



14. Synodical deputies D.J. Roeda (Wisconsin), P.A. Hansen (Heartland), and G.P. Van Smeerdyk (Niagara), having heard the discussion of Classis Lake Superior, in session on September 18, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Tom Van Engen's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
15. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 20, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Steven Venhuisen's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
16. Synodical deputies W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), J.J. Berends (Arizona), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the discussion of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 4, 2008, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Raymond Yeo's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.

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

*—Adopted*

*J. Release from the office of minister of the Word under Church Order Article 17-c*

1. Synodical deputies J.M. Van de Hoef (Huron), B.B. Bakker (Quinte), and H. Katerberg (Hamilton), having heard the discussion of Classis Toronto, in session on January 17, 2008, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Timothy K. Chan** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Note:* This action was reversed in May 2008 under Church Order Article 17-c, Extension of eligibility for call.

2. Synodical deputies A. Joosse (Alberta South/Saskatchewan) and D. Kwantes (B.C. North-West), having heard the discussion of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on October 24, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. John Kemper** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Note:* The synodical deputy from Classis Pacific Northwest could not be present at this session of classis.

3. Synodical deputies R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), and N.F. Brown (Hudson), having heard the discussion of Classis Hackensack, in session on March 6, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Ricardo E. Orellana** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies J.M. Gray (Pella), S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), and R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), having heard the discussion of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 18, 2007, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev.**

**Peter L. Padro** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

5. Synodical deputies J. Kerkof (Toronto), H. Katerberg (Hamilton), and R.J. deLange (Chatham), having heard the discussion of Classis Huron, in session on May 14, 2008, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Andrew Van Muyen** 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

*K. Declaration that a ministry associate's position fits synodical guidelines under Church Order Article 23-a*

1. Synodical deputies R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), and D.P. Wisse (Hudson), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Covenant Christian Reformed Church of North Haledon, New Jersey, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on March 5, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Johnny Acevedo** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
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 Hope in Christ Christian Reformed Church of Bellingham, Washington, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on May 15, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Matt Atkins** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is evangelist with a focus of church planting—Mosaic Church in Bellingham, Washington.
3. Synodical deputies W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), B.A. Persenaire (Central California), and W. Verhoef (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Grace Filipino Christian Reformed Church of Carson, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on April 23, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Heriberto Barremeda** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is church planter in West Corina, California.
4. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.A. Struyk (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 synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on January 17, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by



**Ms. Joy Bonnema** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.

5. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), and G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Westwood Christian Reformed Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Kalamazoo, in session on May 13, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Ben Bowater** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
6. Synodical deputies H. Katerberg (Hamilton), B.B. Bakker (Quinte), and J. Kerssies (Huron), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Grace Christian Reformed Church of Scarborough, Ontario, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, **do not concur** with the decision of Classis Toronto, in session on May 15, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Daniel Brandsma** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is transition program coordinator.
7. Synodical deputies D.J. Roeda (Wisconsin), P.A. Hansen (Heartland), and G. Van Smeerdijk (Niagara), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Bethel Christian Reformed Church of Princeton, Minnesota, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Lake Superior, in session on September 18, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Robert Braun** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
8. Synodical deputies D. Miedema (Chatham), J. Kerkhof (Toronto), and J.M. Van de Hoef (Huron), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Covenant Christian Reformed Church of Saint Catharines, Ontario, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Niagara, in session on October 17, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Mike Collins** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is church planter.
9. Synodical deputies N.F. Brown (Hudson), C. Vander Neut (Hackensack), and R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of New England Chapel Christian Reformed Church of Franklin, Massachusetts, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on October 4, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Ms. Wendy Dahl** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is director of pastoral care.
10. Synodical deputies D.M. Stravers (Holland), G.A. Koning (Georgetown), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Covenant Life Christian Reformed

Church of Grand Haven, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Muskegon, in session on September 20, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Bob De Vries** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.

11. Synodical deputies R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), B.D. Min (Pacific Hanmi), and B.A. Persenaire (Central California), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Crosspoint Christian Reformed Church of Chino, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis California South, in session on May 10, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Phil Du Bois** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
12. Synodical deputies R.J. Timmer (Iakota), T.J. Ouwinga (Heartland), and L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Sully Christian Reformed Church of Sully, Iowa, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Pella, in session on February 22, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Frank Ede** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
13. Synodical deputies A. Joosse (Alberta South/Saskatchewan) and D. Kwantes (B.C. North-West), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Sahili Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Kamloops, British Columbia, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on October 24, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Ms. Kelli Gill** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.

*Note:* The synodical deputy from Classis Pacific Northwest was not able to attend.

14. Synodical deputies N.F. Brown (Hudson), C. Vander Neut (Hackensack), and R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of New Covenant Christian Reformed Church of North Hampton, New Hampshire, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on October 4, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Ryan Goding** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
15. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), and D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), 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 synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on January 17, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Cisco Gonzales** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.

16. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), and D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), 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 synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on January 17, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Elton Hardy** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
17. Synodical deputies D.M. Stravers (Holland), G.A. Koning (Georgetown), and D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Second Allendale Christian Reformed Church of Allendale, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Zeeland, in session on September 19, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Ron Hassell** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
18. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), and J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Principe de Paz Christian Reformed Church of Bayamon, Puerto Rico, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on March 7, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Antonio Illas** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is chaplain.
19. Synodical deputies H. De Vries (Kalamazoo), R.D. De Young (Zeeland), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Lao Christian Reformed Church of Holland, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Holland, in session on September 20, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Somsay Inthisorn** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
20. Synodical deputies R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), B.A. Persenaire (Central California), and W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of The River Christian Reformed Church of Redlands, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis California South, in session on February 7, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Nick In't Hout** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
21. Synodical deputies K. Van Schelven (Columbia), H. Numan (B.C. North-West), and H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Crosspoint Christian Reformed Church of Anchorage, Alaska, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of

Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on October 11, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Joel S. Kiekintveld** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.

22. Synodical deputies R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), and K. Van Schelven (Columbia), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Christ Community Christian Reformed Church of Hayward, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Central California, in session on September 18, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Ms. Sue Kuipers** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
23. Synodical deputies J.M. Gray (Pella), S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), and R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of The Christian Reformed Church of Washington, D.C., and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 18, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Morris Ledbetter** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
24. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Oakdale Park Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 20, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. James Lee** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
25. Synodical deputies L.J. Hofman (Grand Rapids East), D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), and D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Westend Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session on September 4, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Ms. Anne Mallekoote** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
26. Synodical deputies W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), and B.A. Persenaire (Central California), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of The River Christian Reformed Church of Redlands, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis California South, in session on October 11, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Ben Mulder** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is minister to community youth.

27. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), and R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Oasis Community Christian Reformed Church of Winter Garden, Florida, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on March 7, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Carlos Palacios** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is church planter.
28. Synodical deputies W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), B.A. Persenaire (Central California), and W. Verhoef (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Grace Filipino Christian Reformed Church of Carson, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on April 23, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Zacharias Pattimukay** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is church planter in Montclair, California.
29. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), and G. Veenstra (Illiana), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Kenosha Christian Reformed Church of Kenosha, Wisconsin, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Wisconsin, in session on February 26, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Henry Perez** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
30. Synodical deputies R.D. De Young (Zeeland), J.P. Douma (Grandville), and A. Petroelje (Muskegon), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Faith Christian Reformed Church of Holland, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Holland, in session on March 4, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Ms. Angela Taylor Perry** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
31. Synodical deputies N.F. Brown (Hudson), C. Vander Neut (Hackensack), and R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of New England Chapel Christian Reformed Church of Franklin, Massachusetts, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on October 4, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Marc Pitts** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is director of student ministries.
32. Synodical deputies R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), K. Van Schelven (Columbia), and T.J. Kok (Pacific Northwest), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Granite Springs Christian Reformed Church of Lincoln, California, and having compared

them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Central California, in session on March 11, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Stan Plooy** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is ministry associate at The Gathering Christian Reformed Church of Sacramento, California.

33. Synodical deputies R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), B.A. Persenaire (Central California), and W.K. Bulthuis (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of San Diego Christian Reformed Church of San Diego, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis California South, in session on February 7, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Rick Roeda** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
34. Synodical deputies R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), and D.P. Wisse (Hudson), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of The Christian Reformed Church of Washington, D.C., and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on March 5, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Ms. Katie Roelofs** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
35. Synodical deputies R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), B.D. Min (Pacific Hanmi), and B.A. Persenaire (Central California), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Oasis Community Christian Reformed Church of Moreno Valley, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis California South, in session on May 10, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Mike Sarkissan** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
36. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), and D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Sherman Street Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on January 17, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Stedford Sims** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
37. Synodical deputies G.A. Koning (Georgetown), L.J. Hofman (Grand Rapids East), and D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Sunshine Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session on January 13, 2008, that the



ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Dean Sinclair** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.

38. 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 Sanctuary Christian Reformed Church of Seattle, Washington, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on March 5, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Tim Sorens** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
39. Synodical deputies H. Numan (B.C. North-West), H. Vriend (Alberta North), and K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Willoughby Christian Reformed Church of Langley, British Columbia, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on July 25, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Ms. Liz Tolkamp** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is pastor of children's ministry.
40. Synodical deputies H. De Vries (Kalamazoo), J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), and D.J. Roeda (Wisconsin), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Community Christian Reformed Church of Roselawn, Indiana, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Illiana, in session on October 30, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Bryan Vander Tuig** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.
41. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), B.D. Min (Pacific Hanmi), and R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Grace Valley Christian Reformed Church of Las Vegas, Nevada, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis California South, in session on May 8, 2008, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Ms. Francene Wunderink** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is minister of education.
42. Synodical deputies M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Family of Faith Christian Reformed Church of Wyoming, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grandville, in session on September 20, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Marc Zumhagen** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.

43. Synodical deputies A. Joosse (Alberta South/Saskatchewan) and D. Kwantes (B.C. North-West), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Gateway Christian Reformed Church of Abbotsford, British Columbia, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on October 23, 2007, that the ministry associate position to be filled by an individual to be determined at a subsequent meeting is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates.

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

—*Adopted*

*L. Service of a ministry associate in an organized church as solo pastor under Church Order Article 23-b or -c*

Synodical deputies J.M. Gray (Pella), S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic North-east), and R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), having examined the request submitted by the council of Good Shepherd Christian Reformed Church of Prospect Park, New Jersey, concur with the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 18, 2007, that **Mr. Hernan Zapata-Thomack** (ministry associate) may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.

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

—*Adopted*

Rev. Sid Couperus leads in 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.

## ARTICLE 63

The executive director presents the following motion on behalf of the officers of synod:

### I. Background

The CRCNA through its Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action has acted twice in the past year on behalf of those suffering in Zimbabwe.

In March 2007 we initiated a discussion within Micah Challenge International that resulted in a strong public statement from the Association of Evangelicals in Africa and Micah Challenge International. The published statement picked up by many news outlets spoke directly to Robert Mugabe when it said:

We acknowledge your sacrifice to fight against colonial rule and for having provided leadership in liberating Zimbabwe. However, we are **grieved** by the brutal injustices being perpetrated by your regime on your own people.

As leader of your great nation, you have a responsibility to ensure that all people, irrespective of their political, religious, race, or ethnic affiliation, have the right to protection from every form of abuse, ill treatment, torture, sexual abuse, and discrimination. We call upon you to make sure that these rights are respected so that all Zimbabweans can participate in using their God-given gifts to their full potential, for their benefit and for the good of the nation.



The two organizations also spoke forcefully to leaders of the Southern African Development Community, saying:

We are shocked, by your apparent silence about the situation on your doorsteps. During the liberation struggle, the then leaders of independent Southern African countries saw it as an obligation to seek justice, human rights, and freedom for the African people of Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa, and Angola. Don't change the response today! Your approach must be the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow—seeking justice and human rights for others, including the Zimbabweans who are being oppressed and tortured.

In March of 2008 the Association of Evangelicals in Africa made a second statement on the occasion of the elections. Although this was not a joint Micah Challenge statement, the CRC again endorsed and publicized this statement.

## II. Recommendations

### A. That synod adopt the following Synodical Resolution on Zimbabwe:

The synod of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, meeting June 19, 2008, in Grand Rapids Michigan, notes with growing alarm the rapidly deteriorating human security situation in Zimbabwe—particularly the sharp increase in officially sanctioned attacks on churches and the arrest of church leaders—and urges the governments of Canada and the United States to take emergency diplomatic action to resolve this crisis and avoid the violence and bloodshed that threatens to engulf Zimbabwe.

We wish also to express our solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe, and in particular those Christian leaders who, in obedience to God, are risking their lives by standing for justice in the face of raw power, caring for those who suffer in the face of oppression, and living by the gospel of love in the face of hatred and violence.

Finally, we have heard the urgent and well documented message of our brother, Dr. Kobus Gerber, General Secretary of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, concerning the depth of the suffering, the urgency of action, and the steps already taken by our sister churches in South Africa to compel regional political leaders to act. We wish to not only support the actions already taken by the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa and the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa but, in addition, we urge you to increase your activity in this regard.

*—Adopted*

### B. That synod instruct the executive director to expedite the communication of this resolution to the appropriate government officials in the United States and Canada, to the Uniting Reformed Church of Southern Africa, the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, the Reformed Church in Zambia, church leaders in Zimbabwe and South Africa, the members of the CRCNA, and other bodies or institutions who should be aware of our views.

*—Adopted*

## ARTICLE 64

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued from Article 52.)

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Kenneth R. Rip reporting, presents the following:

### **Interchurch Relations Committee**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Interchurch Relations Committee Report, pp. 179-89
2. Interchurch Relations Committee Supplement

#### *B. Background*

From 1974 to 2004 the CRC was in ecclesiastical fellowship with the Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland (GKN). That fellowship was restricted in 1983 and 1996 due to issues concerning scriptural interpretations, ethical pronouncements, and lifestyle practices, especially as that relates to practicing homosexuals in ecclesiastical office. The merger that occurred in 2004, absorbing the GKN into the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN), shifts the discussion to ecclesiastical fellowship between the CRC and the PCN.

Synod 2006 decided to “maintain a relationship of ecclesiastical fellowship with the newly formed Protestant Church in the Netherlands with continuing restrictions on table and pulpit fellowship.” This occurred while our denomination adopted a new Ecumenical Charter that has significant implications for our ecumenical relationships. Synod 2008 recognized that the restrictions placed upon the GKN in essence became moot with the merger in 2004. Nevertheless, Synod 2008 also declined to enter into ecclesiastical fellowship with the PCN.

#### *C. Recommendations*

1. That synod declare that it is the desire of the CRC to develop and maintain a relationship with the PCN that:
  - a. Is in the spirit of our Ecumenical Charter.
  - b. Does not obscure the seriousness of the issues that led to restrictions placed on the GKN prior to the formation of the PCN—issues that appear to continue today in the PCN.

*—Adopted*

The following negative votes are registered: Richard T. Vander Vaart (Chatham), Mark Verbruggen (Iakota), Ralph S. Wigboldus (Chatham), William S. Wilton (Columbia).

2. That synod direct the IRC to attempt to develop a mutually acceptable process to work with the PCN toward a long-term relationship between the CRC and the PCN and report the progress to synod annually.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. The PCN confesses the Bible to be the authoritative, infallible Word of God in conformity with the Reformed confessions.

- b. The principles of ecumenicity demand that we relate faithfully to the whole church of Jesus Christ, and especially with those churches with whom we share a common history and confessional heritage; it follows that the CRC can value and benefit from fellowship with the PCN even though, as with every other ecumenical relationship the CRC maintains, there remain differences between the churches involved.
- c. The CRC has an ecumenical opportunity to be in fellowship with the PCN as it seeks to be a Reformed witness in a radically secular European environment and is also seeking spiritual renewal within its own fellowship.
- d. The PCN expresses its fervent desire to be in ecclesiastical fellowship with the CRC.
- e. The historical character of the CRC's relationship to the GKN, which in spirit is continued in the PCN, is important to the ecumenical life of the CRC and lends credibility to our own witness as expressed in the CRC's Ecumenical Charter.
- f. It is the expressed wish of the Gereformeerde Bond (Reformed Alliance), an evangelical and more conservative alliance of ministers and congregations within the PCN, that the CRC be in fellowship with the PCN.

*—Adopted*

The following negative vote is registered: Chad M. Steenwyk (Holland), Richard T. Vander Vaart (Chatham), William S. Wilton (Columbia).

## ARTICLE 65

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 41.)

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. Joseph Vanden Akker reporting, presents the following:

### **Response to Overture 4: Establish Guidelines for Former Pastors**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Overture 4, pp. 258-64
2. Communication 3

#### *B. Comments*

Overture 4 helps to identify the very real issues that may arise at the time when a pastor leaves a congregation to accept a call, to enter another area of ministry, or to retire. The committee wishes to express its gratitude for the extensive background work found in Overture 4. It also was very helpful to reference the manner in which other denominations are dealing with these issues. We are particularly grateful to the Reformed Church in America for the framework on which our recommendations are based.

We do believe that the intent of Overture 4 has merit and that synod would serve the churches well by adopting guidelines that will help former pastors and their congregations define the relationship that exists after their separation. This would both honor the work of the former pastor and facilitate the transition of leadership, strengthening the congregation's

relationship to a new pastor. It would also recognize and show respect for the special relationships that develop between a pastor and the congregation.

*C. Recommendation:* That synod urge churches to adopt guidelines for councils and ministers who retire or leave their former ministerial role in a congregation to enter other areas of Christian service and that they sign an Agreement for Future Relationships. The signed agreement will be distributed to members of the congregation so that all parties are made aware of the agreement. The agreement will also be signed by a representative of the Classical Interim Committee (CIC) or Classical Ministries Committee (CMC). The CIC or CMC is responsible to ensure that the agreement is completed by the time of the processing of the ministerial credentials or by the date of separation, whichever comes first.

*Grounds:*

1. A written, formal agreement between the former pastor and the council will make all parties aware of the nature of the future relationship between the former pastor and the congregation.
2. A written, formal agreement brings possible concerns about the relationship between a former pastor and the congregation to the attention of the council.

The following is a model to help form the agreement:

### **Guidelines for Future Relationships Between a Congregation and Former Pastor**

#### **Introduction**

When pastors, for whatever reason, leave their formal ministerial role in their congregation, there is a time of adjustment for both the former pastor and the congregation. Having shared moments of joy, grief, struggle, birth, life, and death, they are united with a unique and sacred bond. But the pastoral dimensions of this relationship change when a new pastor arrives. For the benefit of the new pastor and the health of the congregation, it is important for the former pastor to distinguish between pastoral bonds and friendships which have developed during his/her tenure. It is also important for the congregation to understand this change in relationship. Given these dynamics, it is generally advisable for a former pastor to transfer his/her membership and credentials to another congregation when the pastor continues to live in the community where he/she has served.

For example, a former pastor or interim pastor should officiate at weddings, funerals, baptisms, or services of the congregation only upon the express approval of the council. He/she should refrain from continuing to counsel members of the congregation, visiting that has a pastoral character, and publicly contradicting the decisions and direction of the council.

#### **Responsibilities**

*Council:* The council shall oversee any ongoing formal relationship between a former pastor, the present pastor, and the congregation.

They can facilitate the transition by informing the congregation clearly about the “Agreement for Future Relationships” and the reasons for it and encouraging members to request pastoral ministry from the present pastor.

*Pastor:* The former pastor can help to implement this policy by announcing the agreement and emphasizing the reasons for it. He or she should also identify to the present pastor close friends within the congregation with whom continuing contact will be maintained and should refer invitations to perform official pastoral ministries to the council. Open communication between the former and present pastors can honor and strengthen the ministries of both.

*Congregation:* The congregation, having been informed of the agreement, is encouraged to honor its terms. If a member has compelling reasons to have the former pastor perform a formal act of ministry, the request should be made through the council.

*Classis:* The classis, through the Classical Interim Committee or Classical Ministries Committee, will ensure that pastors and elders create a document that explicitly outlines any ongoing formal relationship. This document should be signed by a representative of the council, the former pastor, and the classis. The signed document should be distributed to all parties so that they each understand the nature of the new relationships.

### **Sample Agreement for Future Relationships**

This agreement will guide the future relationship between Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ and the congregation of \_\_\_\_\_.

It is intended to honor the work of the former pastor and to strengthen the relationships with the new pastor(s). It is undertaken by the pastor and the council on behalf of the congregation, out of deep gratitude and respect for the special relationships that develop between pastor and people.

Effective \_\_\_\_\_ (date), Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ relinquishes all pastoral and administrative duties for this congregation. She/he will only officiate in formal acts of ministry with the express approval of the council.

Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ pledges to support the future pastor(s) and leadership of the church. She/he will encourage open and constructive communication with the new pastoral staff. She/he will not engage in any conversations or activities which might undermine any program or person of the church.

Any future contact which may occur between Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ and the members of the congregation will be as friends, and not in an official capacity, except as requested by the council. Calls of a pastoral nature and conversations about congregational concerns will be referred to the new pastor.

We, the undersigned, make this agreement as stated above:

For the Council: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For the Classis: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

—*Recommitted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 72.)

## ARTICLE 66

(The report of Advisory Committee 9 is continued from Article 55.)

Advisory Committee 9, Faith Formation and Form of Subscription, Rev. Michael Borgert reporting, presents the following:

### **Form of Subscription Revision Committee**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Form of Subscription Revision Committee Report, pp. 243-50
2. Overtures 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23; pp.297-311
3. Communication 1, pp.313-315
4. Overtures 24, 25, 26; supplemental materials

#### *B. Background*

Along with the criteria approved by synod, the advisory committee considered, in no particular order, the following issues for contacting and selecting people for this committee: expertise in confessional history, gender, ethnicity, geography, experience in emerging and established churches, continuity with the original committee and continuity with the advisory committee. In as many cases as possible, we attempted to find persons who fit multiple criteria.

Following an initial review of the names submitted, we contacted more than thirty nominees to inquire as to their willingness to serve. The list of names below (with specific alternate listed for one person not yet confirmed) are the committee's recommendations for the membership to the Form of Subscription Revision Committee II. With one exception all have confirmed their willingness to serve.

*C. Recommendation:* That synod appoint the following individuals to serve on the Form of Subscription Revision Committee II:

Michael Borgert  
Mark A. Davies  
James C. Dekker, convener  
Gerard L. Dykstra (*ex officio*)  
Eduardo A. Gonzalez  
Sheila Holmes  
Byung Duk Min  
Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.  
Kristen Van Engen

John Van Schepen  
Wilma Vander Leek  
Uko Zylstra

—*Adopted*

#### ARTICLE 67

The vice president assumes the chair. She welcomes Dr. John Witvliet, Jr., who addresses synod regarding the input received by delegates and advisers to synod at the Faith Formation roundtable earlier this week.

#### ARTICLE 68

The executive director presents a report regarding his work and the vision for the Christian Reformed Church. He responds to questions.

#### ARTICLE 69

The afternoon session is adjourned at 5:11 p.m. Elder delegate Sue Kuipers leads in closing prayer.

### **THURSDAY EVENING, June 19, 2008**

#### **Twelfth Session**

#### ARTICLE 70

Elder delegate James L. Kelley leads in opening prayer.

#### ARTICLE 71

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 19.)

The president resumes the chair.

Advisory Committee 8, Candidacy and Related Church Order Issues, Rev. Timothy B. Toeset reporting, presents the following:

#### **I. Introduction**

Synod 2004 established the Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee (SMCC) which was recently renamed the Candidacy Committee. The committee was composed of nine individuals who met together three times per year with two ex officio members. They were served by Dr. Paul Bremer on a part-time basis. Because of the increasing work, it was recognized that a full-time staff person was needed; therefore, on February 1, 2008, Rev. David Koll began his work as the director of candidacy.

Synod 2006 approved the Candidacy Committee mandate under which it has been functioning for only two years. In fact, because of a decision made by Synod 2007, the mandate has been addressed again at this synod. The mandate indicates that part of the rationale for the Candidacy Committee is that there will be “consistency, fairness, and justice in applying the denomination’s requirements” for entering the offices of minister of the Word and ministry associate. The work of the Candidacy Committee and the tasks of the director of candidacy continue to be under development and refinement.

The Candidacy Committee partners with classes to guide individuals who desire to become ministers of the Word in the CRC by way of Church Order Articles 6, 7, and 8 and those who desire to be ministry associates by way of Church Order Article 23. There are matters for this synod to deal with regarding Church Order Articles 8 and 23.

## II. Church Order Article 8

### A. *Materials*

1. Overture 12, pp. 283-85
2. Overture 13, pp. 285-88

### B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod not accede to Overture 12.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. Synod 2006 mandated the Candidacy Committee to work in partnership with the classes in the recruitment and development of leaders as reflected in the mandate and Church Order Supplement, Article 8. The mandate for the Candidacy Committee includes phrases such as “Helping and encouraging the classes, assist the classes in the development of CMLT as they encourage individuals, maintain regular contact with the classes, assist them” (*Agenda for Synod 2008*, p. 166). The Church Order Supplement says, “A council shall not nominate a minister from another denomination for a call without the approval of its classis and the Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee” (Church Order 2007, p. 36).
- b. The Candidacy Committee has been mandated to establish and uphold standards that will result in consistency, fairness, and justice and to apply those standards in partnership with the classes in service to the denomination.
- c. The establishment of the full-time position of director of candidacy should help to ensure that the mandate is carried out in a way that respects the classes and is best for the denomination. Time is needed to allow the director and committee to carry out their work and develop effective partnerships with classes.

—Adopted

2. That synod not accede to Overture 13.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. The decision of Synod 2006 in requiring participation in a modified EPMC program said the opportunity may be granted “to complete the program through a number of alternative means, including, for example, on-line courses, mentor-supported learning contracts, regional educational strategies, and contextually shaped learning opportunities” (*Acts of Synod 2006*, p. 663).
- b. The instructions of Synod 2007 require flexibility in the application of Article 8-c in partnership with classes. “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" (*Acts of Synod 2007*, p. 665).

- c. A partnership of the Candidacy Committee and Classical Ministerial Leadership Teams (or their equivalent) will ensure that agreed-upon synodical standards for ministry are upheld.
- d. It is in the denomination's interest to involve the Candidacy Committee in the process regarding Article 8, in partnership with the classes, to ensure "consistency, fairness, and justice in applying the denomination's requirements."

—Adopted

### III. Church Order Article 23

#### A. Materials

1. Overture 14, pp. 288-92
2. Overture 15, pp. 293-96

#### B. Recommendation: That synod not accede to Overtures 14 and 15.

##### *Grounds:*

1. Ministry associate experience by itself does not necessarily prepare an individual to be a minister of the Word.
2. There is no provision in either Overture 14 or 15 for ongoing mentoring or accountable training which could prepare a person for ordination as minister of the Word.
3. The Candidacy Committee must be involved in the process of a ministry associate becoming an ordained minister of the Word. The overtures make no reference to the involvement of the Candidacy Committee.

—Adopted

### IV. Candidacy Committee

#### A. Materials

1. Candidacy Committee Report, pp. 166-73
2. Candidacy Committee Supplement
3. Board of Trustees Report (section II, A, 15), p. 31

#### B. Recommendations

1. That synod take note of the Candidacy Committee discussion regarding the position of ministry associates (*Agenda for Synod 2008*, pp. 169-70) and encourage the committee to continue the discussion with the churches.

—Adopted

2. That synod approve the following actions relative to Church Order Article 23:

- a. That synod adopt the Synod 2007 proposed change to Church Order Article 23-d below reflecting the deletion of the phrase "have economic need and" so that the adopted decision would read as follows:

## Article 23-d

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 in a ministry context where the standards for pastoral preparation required by Articles 6, 7, or 8 are not presently practical.*

*Grounds:*

- 1) Economic need is one aspect of ministry context and should be considered as a part of the broader consideration of ministry context.
- 2) This change would retain synod's intent to include a consideration of economic need without linking "economic need" with ministry contexts other than the dominant culture.
- 3) This change is not substantive and would not delay synodical adoption of this recommendation for another year.

*Note:* Grounds for the original recommendation are unchanged.

*—Adopted*

- b. That synod adopt the following guideline for congregations, classes, and synodical deputies in deciding whether it is appropriate to call a ministry associate to a particular organized congregation:

The ministry context is ordinarily one in which cultural differences (e.g., ethnic, social, economic, educational, language) between the congregation and its ministry context on the one hand, and the dominant culture of the denomination as expressed in the seminary, other leadership development entities, and broader denominational life on the other hand (a) present significant obstacles to raising up indigenous leadership in ways that are sustainable by the respective congregations and communities, and (b) have resulted in limited- or non-availability of competent indigenous leaders trained for ministry via one of the prescribed routes for ministry of the Word.

*Grounds:*

- 1) This guideline clarifies the points of reference in the overture that guided the advisory committee and synod in its decision.
- 2) Congregations, classes, and synodical deputies need this guideline to implement this synodical decision with consistency and fairness.

*—Adopted*

- c. That synod place these guidelines in the Church Order Supplement, Article 23-d.

*—Adopted*

Vice president Thea N. Leunk leads in prayer for the ministry associates present and the work they do to further God's kingdom.

## ARTICLE 72

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 65.)

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. Rev. Joseph Vanden Akker reporting, presents the following:

### **Response to Overture 4: Establish Guidelines for Former Pastors**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Overture 4, pp. 258-64
2. Communication 3

#### *B. Comments*

Overture 4 has identified significant problems that may arise after ministers retire and/or end their formal ministerial role in a congregation. At the same time the recommendations of Overture 4 do not adequately address the following issues:

1. The jurisdiction of synod in matters of local church membership.
2. The multiple factors—both pros and cons—to be considered in discerning where a former minister's membership will reside.
3. The balancing of the legitimate interest of the denomination and the prerogatives of the local congregation in matters of pastor-church relations.

#### *C. Recommendations*

1. That synod not accede to Overture 4.

*Ground:* Overture 4 does not adequately address the following issues: The jurisdiction of synod in matters of local church membership, the multiple factors—both pros and cons—to be considered in discerning where a former minister's membership will reside, and the balancing of the legitimate interest of the denomination and the prerogatives of the local congregation in matters of pastor-church relations.

—Adopted

2. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to instruct the Office of Pastor-Church Relations to develop guidelines to assist congregations and ministers as they discern their future relationship upon a minister's retirement and/or ending of his/her formal ministerial role in a congregation.

*Grounds:*

- a. Overture 4 has identified significant problems that may arise after ministers retire and/or end their formal ministerial role in a congregation.
- b. The Office of Pastor-Church Relations concurs that there are significant concerns in this area.
- c. The Office of Pastor-Church Relations is in the best position to develop appropriate guidelines that address these concerns.

—Adopted

3. That the BOT present these guidelines for approval to Synod 2009.

—Adopted

## ARTICLE 73

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 2009

#### 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 2009: Ms. Kara Bruxvoort, director of conference and campus events at Trinity Christian College

#### C. Convening church

Convening church for Synod 2009: Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church, Elmhurst, Illinois

### 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		2011(2)
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 L. Koch	2010(2)
Central California	Rev. Bruce A. Persenaire	Rev. Al Helder	2010(2)
Chatham	Rev. Dirk Miedema	Rev. Richard J. deLange	2011(2)
Chicago South	Rev. Michael J. Kooy	Rev. Gerald R. Erffmeyer	2011(1)
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 A. Koning	2010(2)
Grand Rapids East	Rev. Thea N. Leunk	Rev. Leonard J. Hofman	2009(1)
Grand Rapids North	Rev. Henry Admiraal	Rev. Terry D. Slachter	2010(1)
Grand Rapids South	Rev. David A. Struyk	Rev. Robert L. Boersma	2010(1)
Grandville	Rev. John P. Douma	Rev. Douglas A. Kamstra	2010(1)
Greater Los Angeles	Rev. Ronald D. Goudzwaard	Rev. Gary M. Stevens	2009(1)
Hackensack	Rev. Clair Vander Neut	Rev. Douglas H. Bratt	2009(2)
Hamilton	Rev. Henry Katerberg	Rev. Henry P. Kranenburg	2010(1)
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 P. Wisse	Rev. Norman F. Brown	2010(1)
Huron	Rev. John Kerssies	Rev. Jacob M. Van de Hoef	2009(1)
Iakota	Rev. Robert J. Timmer	Rev. Aldon L. Kuiper	2009(2)
Illiana	Rev. Gerrit Veenstra	Rev. Calvin J. Aardsma	2010(2)
Kalamazoo	Rev. Kenneth A. Baker	Rev. Richard H. Verkaik	2011(1)
Lake Erie	Rev. Robert A. Arbogast	Rev. Kenneth M. Vander Horst	2011(1)
Lake Superior	Rev. Jack Van Marion	Rev. David L. Smit	2011(2)
Minnkota	Rev. LeRoy G. Christoffels	Rev. William D. Vis	2010(2)
Muskegon	Rev. Edward C. Visser	Rev. Gerald D. Postema	2011(1)
Niagara	Rev. Jerry J. Hoytema	Rev. Rudy W. Ouwehand	2011(1)
Northcentral Iowa	Rev. Frank E. Pott	Rev. Thomas J. Niehof	2010(2)
Northern Illinois	Rev. Merle Den Bleyker	Rev. John F. 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. Thomas J. Kok	Rev. Kenneth D. Koeman	2010(1)
Pella	Rev. Jack M. Gray	Rev. Dale W. Visser	2010(2)
Quinte	Rev. B. Bernard Bakker	Rev. Ed W. Visser	2009(2)
Red Mesa	Rev. W. Keith Bulthuis	Rev. John W. Dykhuis	2009(1)
Rocky Mountain	Rev. Merwin Rylaarsdam	Rev. Thomas D. Draayer	2010(1)
Southeast U.S.	Rev. Vernon Vander Zee	Rev. Scott Vander Ploeg	2010(1)
Thornapple Valley	Rev. David D. Poolman	Rev. Gerard Bouma	2010(2)
Toronto	Rev. Jack Kerkhof	Rev. C. Nick Overduin	2010(1)
Wisconsin	Rev. Daniel J. Roeda	Rev. Michael Winnowski	2011(2)
Yellowstone	Vacant	Vacant	2011(1)
Zeeland	Rev. Ronald D. De Young	Rev. Timothy Howerzyl	2011(2)

### III. Boards and committees

*Note:* Members of the regional boards (Board of Trustees of the CRCNA, the boards of Back to God Ministries International, 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	Term Expires
<i>Canadian members</i>		
Alberta North	Rev. John Pasma	2009(2)
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Rev. Kevin J. Vryhof	2010(1)
B.C. North-West	Mr. William Crofton	2009(2)
B.C. South-East	Rev. Kenneth D. Boonstra	2009(1)
Chatham	Mrs. Grace Miedema	2011(1)
Eastern Canada	Rev. Paul R. Vanderkooy	2010(2)
Hamilton	Rev. Arie G. Van Eek	2010(2)
Huron	Mr. Gary VanArragon	2011(2)
Lake Superior	Ms. Jeanette Bax	2011(1)
Niagara	Rev. Andrew E. Beunk	2009(2)
Quinte	Mr. Wybe Bylsma	2011(1)
Toronto	Mr. Marten Mol	2010(1)

<i>At-large</i>	Ms. Gayle Monsma	2011(2)
	Mr. Keith Oosthoek	2009(2)
	Mrs. Patricia Storteboom	2010(2)
<i>U.S. members</i>		
Region 5	Rev. Rod Vander Ley	2010(2)
Region 6	Rev. Mark D. Vermaire	2011(2)
Region 7	Rev. John Terpstra	2011(1)
Region 8	Mr. Gary Van Engelenhoven	2010(1)
	Mr. Loren J. Veldhuizen	2011(1)
Region 9	Rev. Robert A. Lyzenga	2009(1)
Region 10	Rev. John Rop, Jr.	2009(1)
	Ms. Suzanne Van Engen	2010(1)
Region 11	Mrs. JoAnn Liefers Swart	2010(1)
	Rev. Daniel B. Mouw	2010(2)
	Mr. Roy Stallworth	2011(1)
Region 12	Rev. Sheila Holmes	2011(1)
<i>At-large</i>	Mr. James Clousing	2010(2)
	Rev. Eleanor M. Rietkerk	2009(1)
	Ms. Sari Mills	2010(2)
<i>Ex officio</i>	Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra, executive director	

### *B. Back to God Ministries International*

Region	Member	Term Expires
Region 1	Rev. Ezra Sui Cheung Ng	2010(2)
Region 2	Rev. Gerrit Bomhof	2011(1)
Region 3	Mr. Sybren VanderZwaag	2009(2)
Region 4	Ms. Alice Klamer	2010(1)
Region 5	Mr. Stanley Vander Pol	2011(1)
Region 6	Rev. Bruce Persenaire	2009(1)
Region 7	Rev. Bobby Boyd	2011(1)
Region 8	Rev. Timothy Brown	2010(1)
Region 9	Ms. Ellen Hamilton	2010(2)
Region 10	Rev. Marvin J. Hofman	2011(2)
	Mrs. Carol Woltjer	2011(2)
Region 11	Mr. Lorin Bossenbroek	2009(1)
	Mr. Arnold Morren	2011(2)
Region 12	Mr. Jim Putt	2009(1)
<i>At-large</i>	Mr. Harry Boessenkool	2009(1)
	Ms. Karyl Groeneveld	2011(1)

### *C. Calvin College Board of Trustees*

Region	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
Regions 1 and 2	Dr. Alyce Oosterhuis		2011(2)
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	2011(2)
Region 8	Rev. David A. Zylstra		2010(2)
Region 9	Dr. Richard Vanden Berg		2011(1)
	Rev. Gerald L. Hoek	Mr. Perry D. Recker	2009(2)
Region 10	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. Thomas J. Nobel, Jr.		2011(1)
	Mr. James Haagsma		2009(2)
	Mr. Craig B. Klamer	Mr. Max B. Van Wyk	2010(2)
Region 12	Dr. Jack R. Van Der Slik		2011(1)

Alumni	Mr. Ronald E. Baylor Mr. Ralph Luimes Mrs. Ruth J. Vis	2011(2) 2010(1) 2009(2)
At-large	Mr. Bastian A. Knoppers Rev. Harry W. Lew Ms. Christine A. Metzger Mr. Scott A. Spoelhof Mr. Terry L. Vander Aa Mr. David Vander Ploeg Ms. Michelle L. Van Dyke Mrs. Janice K. Van Dyke-Zeilstra Dr. Jack Veltkamp Ms. Thelma Venema Rev. Norberto E. Wolf Rev. Jin Soo Yoo	2009(2) 2009(2) 2011(1) 2009(1) 2010(1) 2011(3) 2011(2) 2011(3) 2011(1) 2010(1) 2009(3) 2010(1)

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

Region	Member	Term Expires
Region 1	Mr. Curt Gesch	2010(2)
Region 2	Dr. Henk Van Andel	2011(2)
Region 3	Rev. Joan De Vries	2010(2)
Region 4	Rev. Frederick Heslinga Rev. James Poelman	2009(2) 2011(2)
Region 5	Ms. Sue Imig	2009(2)
Region 6	Rev. Kevin J. Adams	2010(2)
Region 7	Dr. John Ratmeyer	2009(1)
Region 8	Rev. Greg Dyk Mr. Byron Noordewier	2009(1) 2009(1)
Region 9	Rev. Julius T. Medenblik	2010(2)
Region 10	Rev. Richard Hamstra Rev. William Renkema	2011(2) 2010(1)
Region 11	Rev. Paul R. De Vries Ms. Doris Rikkers	2011(1) 2009(1)
Region 12	Rev. Andrew K. Chun	2011(1)
At-large	Ms. Jinny Bult De Jong Ms. Susan Keesen Mr. Douglas L. Kool	2010(1) 2010(1) 2009(2)

#### *E. Christian Reformed Home Missions Board*

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	Mr. David Harlow	Ms. Jane Porter	2011(1)
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	2011(2)
Region 8	Ms. Marcia Allspach		2010(2)
Region 9	Dr. Harley Ver Beek	Rev. Joel Zuidema	2009(1)
Region 10	Rev. Paul Bakker	Rev. Larry Baar	2011(1)
Region 11	Dr. Mary Buteyn	Rev. Jerome Burton	2010(2)
Region 12	Ms. Beth Fylstra	Rev. Al Gelder	2010(1)
At-large	Ms. Shashi DeHaan Mr. James Jones Mr. David Koetje Ms. Rosetta Polk-Pugh Rev. Roger Ryu		2010(1) 2011(1) 2010(1) 2010(1) 2011(1)
At-large – young adult	Mr. Silas Krabbe Ms. Aeri Paek		2011(1) 2011(1)

## F. Christian Reformed World Missions Board

Region	Member	Term Expires
Region 1	Ms. Jacoba (Ko) Spyksma	2011(2)
Region 2	Rev. Edward Jager	2010(1)
Region 3	Rev. John Tenyenhuis	2009(2)
Region 4	Rev. Derek Bouma	2011(1)
At-large	Ms. Patsy Orkar-Sagara Ms. Jocelyn Langendoen	2011(1) 2009(1)
Region 5	Rev. Loren Swier	2009(2)
Region 6	Mr. Jay Sankey	2010(1)
Region 7	Mr. Chuck Powell	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	Dr. Kojo A. Quartey	2011(1)
Region 12	Ms. Lauren Yoon	2011(1)
At-large	Mr. Craig Pollington Ms. Evelyn Huttinga Rev. Manny Bersach Mr. Colin Watson	2010(1) 2010(2) 2011(2) 2009(1)

## G. Christian Reformed World Relief Committee

Classis	Member	Term Expires
Alberta North	Mr. Quentin Nanninga	2011(2)
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(2)
California South	Ms. Susan Lim	2009(1)
Central California	Mr. Albert Veldstra	2011(2)
Chatham	Mr. Ed deJong	2009(1)
Chicago South	Ms. Debbie Turrisi	2010(2)
Columbia	Mr. Jack Jansons	2009(1)
Eastern Canada	Vacant	
Georgetown	Mr. Bernard Potgeter	2010(2)
Grand Rapids East	Mr. William Haverkamp*	2010(1)
Grand Rapids North	Vacant	
Grand Rapids South	Mr. Randy Ledeboer	2011(2)
Grandville	Mr. Lawrence Hoogerhyde, Sr.*	2010(2)
Greater Los Angeles	Ms. Joyce Vander Vis	2009(2)
Hackensack	Ms. Sonia Estrella	2011(1)
Hamilton	Mr. Bert Hofland	2011(1)
Heartland	Mr. Harvey Verbrugge	2011(2)
Holland	Rev. Anthony Louwerse	2009(1)
Hudson	Mr. Steve Eichhorn	2010(1)
Huron	Ms. Mary Both*	2011(1)
Iakota	Ms. Nancy Visser*	2011(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	2011(2)
Lake Superior (U.S.)	Mr. Willis Wubben	2009(1)
Minnkota	Mr. John Vander Haar	2011(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	2011(2)
Northern Michigan	Mr. Ken Vander Heide	2011(2)
Pacific Hanmi	Vacant	2011(1)



Pacific Northwest	Mr. Pieter Kroon	2009(2)
Pella	Mr. Randy Nugteren	2009(1)
Quinte	Mr. Andy Hiemstra	2010(1)
Red Mesa	Ms. Mitzie Begay	2009(1)
Rocky Mountain	Mrs. Carol Ackerman	2009(1)
Southeast U.S.	Mr. Don Bouwer	2010(1)
Thornapple Valley	Mr. Chris Van Spronsen*	2010(2)
Toronto	Mr. Dennis Jurjens*	2011(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*	2011(2)
Pastoral adviser (Canada)	Rev. Roy Berkenbosch*	2011(2)
At-large Canada	Mr. José Francisco Angulo	2011(1)
	Mr. Bany Castellanos*	2009(2)
	Mr. Ulrich Haasdyk	2009(2)
	Ms. Gerda Kits*	2011(2)
	Rev. Paul Lomavatu	2011(1)
	Mr. Chris Pullenayegem	2011(1)
	Ms. Rebecca TeBrake	2010(1)
	Mr. Bill Van Geest	2010(1)
At-large U.S.	Mr. Vincent Bivens	2011(3)
	Ms. Martha Carey	2009(1)
	Mr. Stan Cole*	2011(2)
	Mr. Marvin DeBoer	2011(2)
	Mr. Lawrence DeRuiter	2011(2)
	Mr. Paul Wassink	2011(1)
* Also a member of the Board of Directors Joint Ministry Council = 7 members from each national board		

## H. Faith Alive Christian Resources

Region	Member	Term Expires
Region 1	Rev. Joel Ringma	2010(1)
Region 2	Rev. William Nieuwenhuis	2011(2)
Region 3	Mrs. Irene Bakker	2010(2)
Region 4	Rev. Pieter Pereboom	2009(1)
Region 5	Mrs. Beverly Vander Beek	2009(1)
Region 6	Ms. Ruth Palma	2009(2)
Region 7	Ms. Wilma Wiersma	2009(1)
Region 8	Mr. Jim Lipscomb	2009(2)
Region 9	Ms. Mae Cooper	2011(2)
Region 10	Rev. Kenneth Baker	2011(2)
Region 11	Ms. Donna Huisjen	2011(1)
Region 12	Ms. JoMae Spoelhof	2009(2)
At-large	Mr. Cal Jen	2010(1)
	Mr. Tom Prince	2009(1)
At-large – Korean community	Rev. Ron Chu	2011(1)
At-large – Reformed Church in America	Rev. George Brown	Rev. Tom Grabill
	Rev. Brown Hardeman	(for the three RCA
	Rev. Jim O'Connell	at-large members)
		2011(2)
		2010(1)
		2011(2)

## IV. Service committees

### A. Candidacy Committee

Mr. Rudy Gonzalez (2009/2), Dr. Annalee Ward (2009/2), Dr. Albert Wolters (2009/1), Rev. Thea N. Leunk (chair) (2010/2), Dr. Jay J. Shim

(2010/2), Rev. Peter Choi (2011/1), Rev. Henry Jonker (2011/2), Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra (ex officio as the ED), Dr. Duane K. Kelderman (ex officio as the Calvin Seminary representative), Dr. David R. Koll (staff).

*B. Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. Committee*

Mr. Ronald Baylor (2009/2), Mr. Donald Koopman (2009/1), Ms. Christina Bouwer (2010/1), Rev. Chad M. Steenwyk (2010/1), Mr. Calvin Jen (2011/1), Mr. Ronald Haan (2011/2); ex officio member: Mr. Carl A. Gronsman.

*C. Historical Committee*

Dr. James A. DeJong (2009/1), Mrs. Angie Ploegstra (2010/1), Mr. William Sytsma (2010/1), Rev. Lugene Schemper (2011/2), secretary (ex officio)  
Dr. Richard Harms.

*D. Interchurch Relations Committee*

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), Rev. Carel Geleynse (2011/2), Rev. Marvin J. Hofman (2011/2), Ms. Rebecca Warren (2011/1), ex officio members: Rev. Bruce G. Adema, Dr. Peter Borgdorff, Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra.

*E. Judicial Code Committee*

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), Rev. Leslie Kuiper (2011/1), Mr. James Mutoigo (2011/1).

*F. Ministers' Pension Funds committees*

*Canadian Pension Trustees*

Mr. Gregory Kist (2009/1), Rev. Jake Kuipers (2009/3), Mr. Ary de Jong (2010/2), Mr. Harry Schep (2011/2), Ms. Claire Veenstra (2011/2).

*U.S. Board of Pensions*

Mr. Ray Vander Weele (2009/2), Mr. Alan Van Noord (2009/1), Mr. William Terpstra (2010/2), Rev. William G. Vis (2010/1), Mr. James Clousing (2011/2).

*G. Sermons for Reading Services Committee*

Rev. Richard J. deLange (2009/1), chairman/secretary; Rev. John Kerssies (2011/2), Rev. Paul Stadt (2011/2), Rev. Kenneth F. Benjamins (2011/1).

**V. Study committees**

*A. Committee to Study Third Wave Pentecostalism II (scheduled to report in 2009)*

Rev. Amanda J. Benckhuysen, Rev. Timothy J. Brown, Dr. Jeff Stam, Dr. Paul Tameling, Rev. Ray Vander Kooij, Dr. Al Wolters, Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra (ex officio).

*B. Committee to Study the Migration of Workers (scheduled to report in 2010)*

Dr. Joel Carpenter, Ms. Rose Dekker, Rev. Andrew Narm, Rev. Ramon Orostizaga, Mr. Duane Postma, Mr. Chris Pullenayegem, Ms. Teresa Renkema, Mr. Daniel Vink, Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra (ex officio), Dr. Scott Hoezee (adviser).

C. *Form of Subscription Revision Committee II (scheduled to report in 2011)*

Rev. Michael Borgert; Rev. Mark A. Davies; Rev. James C. Dekker; Rev. Eduardo A. Gonzalez; Rev. Sheila Holmes; Rev. Byung Duk Min; Dr. Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.; Ms. Kristen Van Engen; Dr. John Van Schepen; Ms. Wilma Vander Leek; Mr. Uko Zylstra; Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra (*ex officio*).

D. *Faith Formation Committee (scheduled to report in 2012)*

Ms. Irene Bakker, Rev. Andrew Chun, Rev. Gerard Dykstra, Ms. Jill Friend, Dr. Syd Hielema, Ms. Pat Nederveld, Dr. H. David Schuringa, Dr. Howard Vanderwell, Dr. John Witvliet.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the list of the boards and committees.

—Adopted

ARTICLE 74

The president of synod, Rev. Joel R. Boot, expresses thanks to his fellow officers—Rev. Thea N. Leunk, vice president; Rev. Dr. Leslie J. Kuiper, first clerk; and Rev. Laryn G. Zoerhof, second clerk—for all the hard work and support they have given during the past week. He thanks Dr. Gaylen Byker and the Calvin College staff for their hospitality in hosting synod. He expresses gratitude to the synod prayer coordinator, the organist and pianist, the synod office staff, the technology support staff, the synod news office staff, and *The Banner* staff. He also expresses appreciation to the faculty advisers, ethnic advisers, women advisers, executive staff advisers, and the director of synodical services for their participation throughout the week. The president gives special recognition to Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra, executive director, for his contribution to synod and the work that now lies ahead of him.

The vice president, Rev. Thea N. Leunk, expresses thanks on behalf of synod to the president for his leadership during Synod 2008.

The executive director expresses the gratitude of synod to the four officers and presents them with gifts.

ARTICLE 75

The president reads from Ephesians 3:20-21 and shares that “as the church continues to grow, move, and develop, may we continue to get on our knees. . . . How long and wide and high is the love of Christ—we experienced it this week.” He leads in prayer and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 267, “And Can It Be.”

ARTICLE 76

Rev. Richard T. Vander Vaart invites synod to a time of quiet reflection and reads from 1 John 2:1-2; and 1:9. He, along with Rev. Ralph S. Wigboldus and woman adviser Ms. Lydia De Ruiter, lead in a time of prayer, reflection (readings from Eph. 6:10-12; Heb. 10:24-25; Rom. 12:1-2; 11:33-36), and the singing of *Sing! A New Creation* 43, “In My Life, Lord.” Rev. Vander Vaart announces *Psalter Hymnal* 438, “When Morning Gilds the Sky,” vv. 1, 4, and 5, and offers the parting blessing. The time of worship concludes with the singing of *Sing! A New Creation* 287, “Amen, siakudu misa/Amen, We Praise Your Name, O God.”

Synod is adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

# DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES AND RECOMMENDED AGENCIES FOR 2009

# DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES AND RECOMMENDED AGENCIES FOR 2009

## 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	275.93	275.93	275.93	275.93	275.93	275.93	275.93	275.93
Calvin College*	75.50	49.40	41.00	5.50	47.70	19.40	10.00	4.90
Total ministry-share per member	351.43	325.33	316.93	281.43	323.63	295.33	285.93	280.83

\*Areas which benefit from a ministry-share reduction should employ the following monies saved to finance their area colleges:  
Per professing member      -      10.52      18.92      54.42      12.22      40.52      49.92      55.02

### 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	Central Plains (formerly Pella); Heartland; Iakota; Lake Superior; Minnkota; Northcentral Iowa
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

Note: Synod 2008 received as information the decision of the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA to no longer establish a stated supply compensation amount.

**Denominational ministry-share allocation  
effective January 1 of each year.**

	<b>2008 ministry-share allocation effective 1/01/08</b>	<b>2009 ministry-share allocation effective 1/01/09</b>
<b>BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL</b>	\$ 44.11	\$ 43.97
<b>CALVIN COLLEGE*</b>	29.75	31.60
<b>CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY</b>	35.56	35.91
<b>FAITH ALIVE CHRISTIAN RESOURCES</b>	13.74	12.49
<b>HOME MISSIONS</b>	44.00	44.24
<b>WORLD MISSIONS</b>	55.16	59.93
<b>WORLD RELIEF</b>	-	-
<b>DENOMINATIONAL SERVICES</b>		
Synod assembly, BOT, and general administration	34.00	36.46
<b>SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES</b>	40.90	41.57
Abuse Prevention		
Chaplaincy Ministries		
Disability Concerns		
Ministries in Canada		
Pastor-Church Relations		
Race Relations		
Social Justice and Hunger Action		
Sustaining Congregational Excellence		
<b>SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND</b>	1.36	1.36
	<u>\$ 298.58</u>	<u>\$ 307.53</u>

\*Represents the composite rate. Actual rate varies by area.

## II. Agencies recommended for financial support in 2009

### A. Denominational agencies recommended for one or more offerings

Canadian Business Number

1. Back to God Ministries International—  
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. CR Home Missions—above-ministry-share needs . . . . . 10691 9640 RR0001
6. CR World Missions—above-ministry-share needs . . . . . 11881 2643 RR0001
7. CR World Relief—one offering per quarter because CRWRC  
receives no ministry-share support . . . . . 118857366 RR0001
8. 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
  - g. ServiceLink Canada . . . . . 856901285 RR0002
  - h. Social Justice and Hunger Action . . . . . 856901285 RR0002
  - i. Urban Aboriginal Ministries . . . . . 856901285 RR0002
9. Faith Alive Christian Resources

### 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 . . . . . 88992 0799 RR0001
2. Friendship Ministries (Friendship Groups - Canada). . . . . 11893 2375 RR0001
3. 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. Cary Christian Center, Inc.
3. Elim Christian Services

4. The Genesis Center for Recovery
  5. Hope Haven
  6. International Aid, Inc. (medical supplies and equipment 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. IDEA Ministries
  5. IN Network
  6. InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (endorsed for local specified staff support only)
  7. Middle East Reformed Fellowship, U.S.
  8. Mission India
  9. The Tract League
  10. Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc.

## 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.<br>(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. *Miscellaneous agencies*

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. Gideons International - Canada . . . . .	10808 2991 RR0001
5. IN Network . . . . .	12994 3072 RR0001
6. InterVarsity Christian Fellowship of Canada . . . . .	10751 3160 RR0001
7. Middle East Reformed Fellowship, Canada . . . . .	89085 1058 RR0001
8. Work Research Foundation . . . . .	11892 9207 RR0001
9. 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.)

## Acronyms and abbreviations from the *Agenda* and *Acts of Synod 2008*

ACRE – Association of Christian Reformed Educators  
 ACT – Action by Churches Together  
 AERDO – Association for Evangelical Relief and Development Organizations  
 ANH – All Nations Heritage  
 APCE – Association of Presbyterian Church Educators  
 ARPC – Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church  
 BOT – Board of Trustees  
 CANAAC – Caribbean and North American Area Council  
 CCA – Canadian Churches in Action  
 CCC – Canadian Council of Churches  
 CCG – Committee for Contact with the Government  
 CCIT – Church Connection Initiative at Trinity  
 CCRDA – Canadian Christian Relief and Development Association  
 CCT-USA – Christian Churches Together in the U.S.A.  
 CEP – Center for Excellence in Preaching  
 CFGB – Canadian Foodgrains Bank  
 CIC – Classical Interim Committee  
 CIDA – Canadian International Development Agency  
 CMC – Classical Ministries Committee  
 CMLT – Classis Ministerial Leadership Team  
 CRC – Christian Reformed Church  
 CRCMA – Christian Reformed Campus Ministry Association  
 CRCNA – Christian Reformed Church in North America  
 CRHM – Christian Reformed Home Missions  
 CRMT – Classis Renewal Ministry Team  
 CRWM – Christian Reformed World Missions  
 CRWRC – Christian Reformed World Relief Committee  
 CRWRC-DRS – CRWRC Disaster Response Services  
 CSI – Christian Schools International  
 CT – Contemporary Testimony  
 CTS – Calvin Theological Seminary  
 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

DRS – Disaster Response Services  
 DYM – Dynamic Youth Ministries  
 ECD – Established Church Development  
 ED – Executive Director  
 EFC – Evangelical Fellowship of Canada  
 EPC – Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
 EPMC – Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy  
 ESV – English Standard Version  
 FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency  
 FOS – Form of Subscription  
 FRB – Foods Resource Bank  
 FTE – Full Time Employee, Full Time Equivalent  
 GEMS – Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior  
 GKI – Indonesia Reformed Church  
 GKN – Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland  
 ICS – Institute for Christian Studies  
 IDA – Individual Development Account  
 IDP – Internally Displaced Persons  
 IRC – Interchurch Relations Committee  
 LDN – Leadership Development Networks  
 MC – Ministry Council  
 MDGs – Millennial Development Goals  
 MEPMC – Modified Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy  
 MERF – Middle East Reformed Fellowship  
 MOPS – Mothers of Preschoolers  
 MPS – Ministries Plan Scorecard  
 NAE – National Association of Evangelicals  
 NAPARC – North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council  
 NCC – National Council of Churches  
 NCD – New Church Development  
 NCMAF – National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces  
 NHK – Nederlands Hervormde Kerk  
 NIV – New International Version  
 NLT – New Living Translation  
 NRC – Netherlands Reformed Churches  
 OSJHA – Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action  
 PCC – Presbyterian Church in Canada  
 PCN – Protestant Church in the Netherlands  
 PCR – Pastor-Church Relations  
 PCUSA – Presbyterian Church in the USA  
 RCA – Reformed Church in America  
 RCC – Roman Catholic Church  
 RCJ – Reformed Church in Japan  
 REC – Reformed Ecumenical Council  
 RSV – Revised Standard Version  
 SALT – Senior Academy of Learning at Trinity  
 SCE – Sustaining Congregational Excellence  
 SMC – Staff Ministry Committee  
 SMCC – Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee  
 SMP – Summer Mission Program

SPE – Sustaining Pastoral Excellence  
TBN – Trinity Business Network  
TNIV – Today’s New International Version  
UMCOR – United Methodist Committee On Relief  
USAID – United States Agency for International Development  
VOAD –Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters  
WARC – World Alliance of Reformed Churches  
WCRC – World Communion of Reformed Churches  
WRC – World Reformed Communion  
WTC – Widening the Circle

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