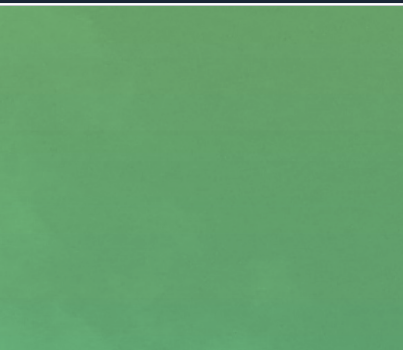


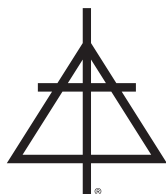
# ACTS OF SYNOD



Christian  
Reformed  
Church

**ACTS  
OF SYNOD**

2015



**Christian  
Reformed  
Church**

June 12-18, 2015  
B. J. Haan Auditorium  
Dordt College  
Sioux Center, Iowa

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Foreword .....	v
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## Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

Board of Trustees Supplement .....	459
Appendix A: <i>Banner</i> Editor Position Description, Revised .....	476
Appendix B: Korean Classes Mentoring Committee .....	478
Appendix C: Ministry Plan Overview .....	484
Appendix D: Curriculum Vitae: Carol Bremer-Bennett .....	486
Appendix E: Summary of Denominational Investments and Compliance with Investment Policy .....	487

## Agency and Institution Supplements

### Faith Formation Stream

Calvin College .....	493
----------------------	-----

### Servant Leadership Stream

Pensions and Insurance .....	497
------------------------------	-----

### Global Missions Stream

Christian Reformed Home Missions .....	499
Christian Reformed World Missions .....	502
Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions .....	507

#### Appendix A: FAQs Regarding Home Mission and

World Missions Forming a Single Mission Agency .....	511
--	-----

#### Appendix B: Stories of Impact .....

### Gospel Proclamation and Worship Stream

Back to God Ministries International .....	519
--	-----

Calvin Theological Seminary .....	520
-----------------------------------	-----

#### Appendix A: Cover Letter and Curriculum Vitae:

Matthew J. Tuininga .....	521
---------------------------	-----

#### Appendix B: Cover Letter and Curriculum Vitae:

Corey B. Willson .....	526
------------------------	-----

## Standing Committees

Candidacy Committee Supplement .....	535
Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Supplement .....	543

**Overtures**

15. Classis Hudson  
Postpone Adoption of Task Force Reviewing Structure  
and Culture Recommendations ..... 549

16. Councils of Bethel CRC, Sioux Center, Iowa; Corsica CRC,  
Corsica, South Dakota; Covenant CRC, Sioux Center, Iowa;  
Faith CRC, Sioux Center, Iowa; First CRC, Rock Valley, Iowa;  
First CRC, Sioux Center, Iowa  
Table the Recommendations of the Task Force Reviewing  
Structure and Culture Until 2016 ..... 553

**Communication**

3. Classis Grand Rapids East ..... 555

**Financial Reports**

Back to God Ministries International ..... 559

Calvin College ..... 560

Calvin Theological Seminary ..... 561

CRC Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. .... 562

Christian Reformed Home Missions..... 563

Christian Reformed World Missions..... 564

Church Support Ministries..... 565

Faith Formation/Faith Alive Christian Resources ..... 566

Synodical Administrative Services ..... 567

World Renew ..... 568

Ministers’ Pension and Special Assistance Funds – Canada ..... 569

Ministers’ Pension and Special Assistance Funds – U.S. .... 570

Employees’ Retirement Plan – Canada..... 571

Employees’ Savings Plan – U.S..... 572

Consolidated Group Insurance – U.S..... 573

**Report of Synod 2015**

Synodical Service of Prayer, Word, and Sacrament ..... 577

Minutes of Synod 2015 ..... 579

Denominational Ministry Shares and Recommended Agencies for 2016 .. 695

Index ..... 703

Synod 2015 was held at Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, June 12-18, 2015. Through worship, prayer, fellowship, and loving effort, the Lord's work was accomplished. The whole church owes a debt of gratitude to the men and women who gathered there—for the leadership they provided and the service they performed.

The *Acts of Synod 2015* 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.
- Overtures and a Communication.
- Financial reports.
- The minutes of Synod 2015.
- An index for both the *Acts of Synod* and the *Agenda for Synod 2015*.

It is necessary for the user of the *Acts of Synod 2015* to keep the *Agenda for Synod 2015* readily available as a reference. The *Agenda* is not reprinted in the *Acts*. The pagination continues from the *Agenda* to the *Acts*. Supplementary materials begin on page 459, following preliminary unnumbered pages. Financial reports begin on page 559. The minutes of synod follow, beginning on page 579. 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 2015.

The Lord has blessed the CRC with many resources, and God calls us to use them with enthusiasm and compassion. While the “Acts of Synod” are a record of official actions taken, they represent the church of Christ at work, demonstrating the desire of the CRC to respond faithfully by the power of the Spirit to God's call upon us in North America and around the world.

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.

(Ps. 90:17)

Steven R. Timmermans, executive director  
Christian Reformed Church in North America



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES





# BOARD OF TRUSTEES SUPPLEMENT

## I. Polity matters

### A. Board of Trustees membership (Committee 1)

1. Trustees whose terms expire as of June 30, 2015, or who have resigned:

Region/Classis	Member
Region 11	Mrs. Joan Flikkema
U.S. at-large	Mr. Mark Charles
U.S. at-large	Dr. Peter Szto
Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan	Rev. Dale Melenberg
Classis B.C. North-West	Rev. Trevor Vanderveen
Classis Niagara	Mr. Bert Witvoet
Classis Quinte	Rev. Jake Kuipers
Canada at-large	Mr. Bruce Dykstra

### 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 the following delegates are completing a second term of service on the Board: Mr. Mark Charles, Mr. Bruce Dykstra, Mrs. Joan Flikkema, Rev. Dale Melenberg, and Rev. Trevor Vanderveen. The Board has received and acknowledged the resignations of Rev. Jake Kuipers (due to health reasons) after one year of service, and Dr. Peter Szto (due to family schedules) and Mr. Bert Witvoet (due to health reasons) after three years of service. We thank God for each of these dedicated servants and for their contributions to the Board and the Christian Reformed Church.

*Note:* The Classis Niagara position will remain vacant until nominees can be identified for appointment in 2016.

### 3. Board of Trustees nominees

- a. To fill the position from Classis Quinte following the recent resignation of Rev. Jake Kuipers, the Board requests that synod appoint the following single nominee to complete the first term (until 2017), renewable for a second term. Rev. Brix appeared on the slate of nominees with Rev. Kuipers in 2014.

*Rev. Shawn R. Brix* serves as the pastor of Living Hope CRC, Peterborough, Ontario. He received a B.A. from Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, and an M.Div. from Calvin Theological Seminary. He has served on the board of governors for Redeemer University College

and on its governor affairs committee. Rev. Brix has served on the classical Renewal and Visioning Task Force, the synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee, and on the Alternate Routes to Ministry Committee. He has been a synodical delegate several times and has served on the CCRCC InterChurch Relations Committee as well as the classis interim committee. Rev. Brix currently serves on the classical ministry leadership team.

- b. To fill the position of *U.S. at-large* following the recent resignation of Dr. Szto, the Board requests that synod appoint the following single nominee to a first term:

*Ms. Susan B. Hoekema*, a member of Second CRC in Grand Haven, Michigan, is a law clerk and legal researcher for the Ottawa County courts. Ms. Hoekema has served on various committees with the CRC, was a member of an ad hoc group regarding a Judicial Code matter, and was a member of the Judicial Code Review Committee in 2013. She has also served on the boards of the Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism and Grand Rapids Christian High School (including service as board president). Ms. Hoekema currently serves as secretary of the Land Conservancy of West Michigan and serves on the stewardship committee and the community outreach grants committee at Second CRC. She has recently completed a term as deacon.

- c. The Board recommends that synod appoint the following single nominee to the *Canada at-large* position:

*Mr. Ralph Luimes*, a member of Ancaster CRC in Ancaster, Ontario, is the chief executive officer of Hald-Nor Community Credit Union, Ltd. He previously served on the Calvin College Board of Trustees, including service on its administrative finance and planned giving committees. Mr. Luimes has also served as president of the board of directors and as council chair of Ancaster CRC, in addition to other various community and professional committee involvements. He currently is serving as a director on the administrative board at Ancaster CRC and serves on the board of directors for Shalom Manor (for Classes Hamilton and Niagara) in Grimsby, Ontario. He also presently serves as chair of the Hamilton Credit Union Managers Association.

4. BOT young adult representative

Following the example set by synod with the young adult representative position, the Board adopted guidelines for appointment and participation of young adult representatives to the Board of Trustees. The Board adopted as one of the denomination's challenges in September that "many in the younger generations are increasingly disconnected from the CRC and are exiting." Engaging this generation in deliberations brings their important perspectives to the table. In addition, these young adults are the future leadership of the Christian Reformed Church—their voices are important for the decisions regarding strategic priorities for the denomination.

The adopted guidelines for appointment and participation of young adult representatives to the Board follow:

The BOT shall appoint two young adult representatives for the purpose of advising the Board of Trustees in all matters brought to the Board by way of its agenda, and shall report it to synod as information. The following guidelines for qualifications and appointment shall apply:

- a. Young adult representatives shall be professing members in good standing within the Christian Reformed Church with demonstrated leadership capabilities within their communities.
- b. They shall represent the voices of the young adult membership (ages 18-26) within the CRC.
- c. One shall be from Canada and one shall be from the United States, appointed by the Board of Trustees from nominees presented by the BOT Nominating Committee, selected from the list of past synod young adult representatives. They shall serve a two-year, nonrenewable term. The terms of the two representatives shall be staggered to better provide continuity in the position.
- d. Young adult representatives shall be nonvoting members of the Board with a voice in all deliberations and shall be present during executive sessions of the Board, with the exception of strict executive sessions.
- e. One young adult representative shall serve on the Servant Leadership and Faith Formation Standing Committee and one shall serve on the Strategic Planning Standing Committee.
- f. The ED is encouraged to utilize these young adult representatives to advise or serve on administrative task forces or teams.

*B. Officers of the Board of Trustees for 2015-16 (Committee 1)*

At its recent meeting the Board members from their respective Corporations and the full BOT elected the following to serve as officers in the coming year:

1. The CRCNA-Canada Corporation

President: Mrs. Katherine M. Vandergrift  
Vice president: Mr. Peter Noteboom  
Secretary: Mr. Michael Wevers

2. The CRCNA-Michigan Corporation

President: Mr. Chris Van Spronsen  
Vice president: Rev. Calvin Hoogendoorn  
Vice-all: Dr. Socorro Woodbury

3. The binational Board of Trustees officers

President: Mrs. Katherine M. Vandergrift  
Vice president: Mr. Chris Van Spronsen  
Vice-all: Rev. Calvin Hoogendoorn

C. *Retirement of Rev. Joel R. Boot* (Committee 1)

The Board paid tribute to Rev. Joel R. Boot at its annual banquet and expressed its gratitude for filling the interim role as executive director for three years and, during 2014-2015, as interim director of ministries and administration. The BOT recommends that synod express its gratitude to Rev. Joel R. Boot for his years of service to the denomination and confer on him the title of *executive director, emeritus*, effective immediately (Rev. Boot is retired as of May 1, 2015).

D. *Response to Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture report* (Committee 1)

After careful consideration and much deliberation, the BOT adopted the following response to the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture report, for synod's information:

We commend the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture (TFRSC) report to synod for its careful consideration.

The TFRSC has served synod by guiding the CRCNA through significant adaptive change these past four years. Since the formation of this task force, one agency was dissolved and two other agencies are moving toward shared ministry. Senior leadership positions are now filled—we are grateful for the stability this brings. Aware of the relationship between structure and culture, we note that the TFRSC has initiated culture change in the denomination and that more is needed.

The Board of Trustees has engaged in significant discussion of the TFRSC report to synod and has been attentive to, for example, (1) the size of the proposed Council of Delegates and the interrelationships with the proposed advisory committees, (2) strengthening binationality, (3) clarity regarding the role of the expanded executive and delegates, (4) ensuring minority voices are enhanced in deliberations, and so forth.

We encourage synod to provide direction and latitude to the proposed Transition Committee if synod decides one should be formed.

E. *RCA-CRC Leadership Proposal* (Committee 3)

The CRCNA has received a grant from the DeVos Foundation in the amount of \$1 million over a two-year period (2015-17) for a collaborative RCA-CRC Leadership Proposal. The project involves creating and supporting six Congregational Leadership Learning Networks (CLLN) in diverse geographical and ministry contexts in North America consistent with our shared vision for leadership development and focus on mission. The purpose of a CLLN will be to create space for participating congregations to learn from and with one another; to share tools and models for leadership development; to implement and reflect on what they learn; to encourage fidelity to the Reformed tradition; and to do this all in relationships of high accountability, creativity, and innovation.

F. *Planning for national gatherings in 2016* (Committee 1)

Progress is being made in the planning for national gatherings—one in Canada and regional “themed” conferences in the United States—to be held in 2016. The Board in 2014 decided that there is value in planning national

gatherings in 2016 and a binational conference in 2017 (see *Acts of Synod 2014*, pp. 440-42).

*G. Banner editor-in-chief position description (Committee 5)*

The Board conducted a review and approved a revision of the position description of the *Banner* editor-in-chief in anticipation of the start-up of a search for the next editor. The Board recommends that synod receive the position description in Appendix A as information.

*H. Korean Classes Mentoring Committee report (Committee 1)*

In response to an overture from Classis Pacific Hanmi, Synod 2014 permitted the classis to divide into two new classes and instructed the ED to appoint a committee to work with the new classes during their formative years. The Korean Classes Mentoring Committee submits, by way of the BOT, a report of its work to Synod 2015 in Appendix B.

*I. Doctrine of Discovery Task Force and the Blanket Exercise (Committee 4)*

To assist in raising awareness of sensitivities to the upcoming address of the Doctrine of Discovery by Synod 2016, the BOT encourages CRC classes and congregations to engage in the Blanket Exercise within their context prior to and following Synod 2016. The CRC Office of Social Justice or the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue can assist in resourcing and personnel for the Blanket Exercise.

*J. Proposal regarding the future of the CRC Yearbook (Committee 1)*

The Board received a report from a team exploring options for making available information currently printed in the *CRC Yearbook*, including web-based access and downloadable reports. The BOT endorsed a direction proposed by the “Online” *Yearbook* Team, which also ensured that information contained within the annual *CRC Yearbook* will continue to be gathered annually. Further reporting and recommendations regarding feasible means of data distribution, including availability in both electronic and printable formats, will be developed to be reviewed by the BOT in September.

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

*A. Program matters*

**1. Draft Ministry Plan (Committee 1)**

The Ministry Plan Development and Implementation Group presented a draft set of “desired futures” and “strategic foci” to the Board for engagement and input. The Board asks that synod endorse the Ministry Plan (a) Desired Futures and (b) Strategic Foci (Appendix C) and asks that synod take time in its schedule to engage with the Ministry Plan Steps (to be distributed at synod) for illustration and input.

**2. World Renew U.S. director (Committee 6)**

The Board was blessed to meet with Ms. Carol Bremer-Bennett as the nominee for the World Renew U.S. director position as recommended by the board of World Renew. The BOT recommends that synod ratify the appointment of Ms. Bremer-Bennett as the U.S. director of World Renew, effective August 3, 2015, and that she be introduced at synod. The curriculum vitae for Ms. Bremer-Bennett is included as Appendix D.

The Board took time during its spring meeting to express gratitude to God and recognize Mr. Andrew Ryskamp for his years of service as the U.S. director of World Renew, and to wish him blessings in his upcoming retirement.

3. Proposal for unification of Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions (Committee 6)

As noted in the Board of Trustees report in the *Agenda for Synod 2015*, p. 37, the boards of Christian Reformed Home Missions (CRHM) and Christian Reformed World Missions (CRWM) have been in conversation about creating a unified ministry, and a proposal to that effect was received and reviewed by the BOT in May. The Board expressed great appreciation to Dr. Moses Chung, director of CRHM, and Dr. Gary J. Bekker, director of CRWM, for the tremendous amount of work on the unification proposal. The Board presents to Synod 2015 the following for action or information as indicated:

a. That Synod 2015 approve the following:

- 1) That Christian Reformed Home Missions (CRHM) and Christian Reformed World Missions (CRWM) become one agency<sup>1</sup> with the following mandate:

**Mandate**

The Christian Reformed Church in North America establishes [this Christian Reformed Mission Agency] and assigns it the responsibility of leading the missions programs of the denomination (cf. Church Order Art. 73-77). [This Christian Reformed Mission Agency], hereinafter referred to as *agency*, shall give leadership to the denomination in its task of bringing the gospel holistically to the people of North America and the world and drawing them into fellowship with Christ and his church.

The mandate of the agency has three aspects. The agency shall

- encourage and assist congregations and classes in their work of evangelism and discipleship.
- initiate, support, and guide new-church development and other evangelistic and discipling ministries.
- develop Christian leaders.

These ministries will be done in partnership with congregations, classes, CRC entities, and other organizations to join with God in his kingdom mission in North America and around the world.

The agency shall administer its work according to the Word of God and the Reformed confessions and in harmony with the regulations of the Church Order and the decisions of synod as interpreted by the Board of Trustees.

<sup>1</sup> An agency name will be proposed during or at the end of the transitional period.

*Grounds:*

- a) A unification has been discussed and encouraged several times by the agencies, the BOT, and others.
  - b) The agencies have indicated a unification would be timely, strategic, and stewardly.
  - c) This mandate represents the continuity of mandates from CRHM and CRWM while expressing them in a unified way consistent with the rationale for unification.
- 2) That the corporate entities of CRHM and CRWM be unified into a new single board in Canada and a new single board in the United States, joined in ministry by a joint venture agreement. For a transitional period, the existing corporations will be constituted as wholly owned subsidiary entities. The form of unification will be amalgamation in Canada and consolidation in the United States.

*Grounds:*

- a) The form of unification (amalgamation in Canada; consolidation in the United States) for the transition period has been recommended by attorneys well acquainted with appropriate law as well as all relevant agency bylaws.
- b) The process being utilized is found in the Synod 2011 report of the Process for Significant Structural Change Task Force (see *Agenda for Synod 2011*, pp. 62-65).
- c) If synod approves the anticipated recommendations coming from the synodical Task Force to Study the Offices of Elder and Deacon (specifically, changes to Church Order Art. 76-77), it will not be necessary to propose changes to the current Article 76 (which constitutes Home Missions) and Article 77 (which constitutes World Missions).

*Note:* If synod adopts the proposal for a Council of Delegates or postpones decisions regarding that proposal for consideration at a subsequent synod, the proposal for CRHM/CRWM will require further revision.

- 3) That the existing CRHM and CRWM boards nominate all non-retiring members to constitute the boards (the boards of the new Canada and U.S.A. corporations, and the existing Canada and U.S.A. corporations, which will become wholly owned subsidiary entities for the transitional period). The various boards are to be constituted in accordance with all legal requirements (in the United States and Canada) and all applicable Church Order regulations. This new “parent” board will govern all the CRWM and CRHM legal entities until the programming, staff, and financial resources of both agencies are successfully and responsibly combined.

In addition, it is recommended that synod approve the following matters<sup>2</sup>—to add to, supersede, or clarify board information in the printed *Agenda for Synod 2015*:

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<sup>2</sup> These additions have been approved by the chairs of both boards and by the agency directors.



- a) That retiring board members be given the opportunity to extend their appointments for one year.
- b) That Rev. Harvey J. Roosma continue per item a), above; he would remain a representative of Region 1 and not serve as a member-at-large (as found in the *Agenda for Synod 2015*, pp. 206-207) for the extended period.
- c) That Rev. Bruce Gritter, who replaced Rev. John Van Sloten mid-term on the CRHM board, continue his service, and that Ms. Henrietta Hielema be approved as board alternate (*Agenda 2015*, p. 207).
- d) That synod select one of the two nominees listed in the *Agenda for Synod 2015* for CRWM Region 8 (*Agenda 2015*, p. 214) because the current board member from Region 8 has decided not to accept reappointment.
- e) That synod elect Rev. Stanley Workman for CRWM Region 12 to fill the remaining two years of the first term of the member elected in 2014. This person was unable to serve and has resigned. Rev. Workman was on the slate of nominees for Region 12 in 2014.

*Grounds:*

- a) Continuity, when possible, will best serve governance and ministry in this time of transition.
  - b) Regional representation should continue.
- b. That Synod 2015 receive the following as information (contingent on adoption of the preceding three recommendations):
- 1) That through the transitional phase (anticipated to be completed within two years) of the new agency, the role of codirectors will be filled by the current agency directors, Dr. Gary J. Bekker and Dr. Moses Chung. The codirectors will be under the joint supervision of the CRCNA executive director and the board(s) of the new agency with the following understandings:
    - a) The codirectors will create a transition executive team that will include at least the current CRWM Canada director.
    - b) Given the desire for increased binational differentiation, a different executive arrangement may be presented to the BOT before the end of the transitional period.
  - 2) That the codirectors be instructed to bring to the unified board(s) and then to the BOT, to its fall 2015 meeting if possible but no later than its winter 2016 meeting, recommended statements of mission, vision, and values for the new agency and a refined statement of mission strategy, as well as legal documents for incorporation of the new agency in both the United States and Canada.
  - 3) That no later than the winter 2016 meeting of the unified board(s) Dr. Gary J. Bekker and Dr. Moses Chung, as codirectors, be instructed to recommend a long-term structure and leadership team for the new agency with the proviso that includes one American

codirector and one Canadian codirector. After approval by the unified board(s), the recommendation will be brought to the BOT.

- 4) That no later than the spring 2016 meeting of the unified board(s) Dr. Gary J. Bekker and Dr. Moses Chung, as codirectors, be instructed to bring, after working with key leaders, experts, and constituents, recommendations regarding the name and advancement/communication plans for the new agency.
  - 5) That Dr. Gary J. Bekker and Dr. Moses Chung, as codirectors and working with others, be instructed to prepare an appropriate celebration of the new agency at Synod 2016 or at such time as they judge will work well.
  - c. That Synod 2015 take note that the BOT has endorsed the initial plans for the primary work of the unified agency and for a three-part strategy that has been developed within the contours of existing financial resources.
4. Faith Formation Ministries Mandate (Committee 3)

The Board of Trustees endorsed a mandate for the office of Faith Formation Ministries (FFM), also approved by the Ministries Leadership Council, which provides clearer direction for the mission of this new office. The Board recommends that synod take note of the following as the mandate for FFM:

Faith Formation Ministries joins and continues God's mission of transforming lives and communities worldwide by encouraging and equipping local CRC congregations and their leaders in their calling to practice intentional, lifelong, intergenerational, holistic, missional discipleship and faith formation with an emphasis upon children, teens, and young adults.

Faith Formation Ministries shall

- participate in assessing and strengthening discipleship and faith formation throughout the CRC and develop supports, workshops, and resources in response to the assessment.
- cooperate in developing regionally distributed ministry that cultivates interpersonal trust relationships with congregational leaders in order to facilitate the tasks of (1) learning from congregations in order to discern ministry patterns and (2) assessing and empowering them in their callings.
- strategically collaborate with CRC ministries and discern where fruitful collaborations are possible outside of the CRCNA.

*Note 1:* To ensure that the third task is carried out consistently and transparently, meetings have been scheduled at least monthly with the most significant collaboration partners. At present these include Home Missions, Worship Ministries, Youth Unlimited, and Ministry Support Services. In addition, four members of the five person CORE team are employed by two different CRCNA ministries, thus embodying collaboration.

*Note 2:* The first task addresses *resources*; however, at this time it is not yet known to what extent FFM will be called to continue the creating and marketing of curricular and study resources previously the responsibility of Faith Alive Christian Resources.

*Note 3:* The mandate will be revisited if the proposal for the merger of Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions is approved by synod.

*B. Finance matters (Committee 7)*

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 Special Assistance Funds of the CRC as presented in the report of the BOT Finance Committee.
2. The Board recommends that synod approve a ministry share of \$339.48 per adult member (age 18 and over) for calendar year 2016 (a 1% increase over the previous year) to partially support the approved unified denominational budget.
3. The Board recommends that synod approve the list of above-ministry share offerings as follows:

a. Denominational agencies recommended for one or more offerings

Back to God Ministries International  
Calvin College  
Calvin Theological Seminary  
Christian Reformed Church Foundation  
CR Home Missions  
CR World Missions

Denominational Ministry Programs

- 1) Chaplaincy and Care Ministry
- 2) Committee for Contact with the Government
- 3) Disability Concerns
- 4) Faith Formation Ministries
- 5) Pastor-Church Relations
- 6) Race Relations
- 7) Safe Church Ministry
- 8) ServiceLink
- 9) Office of Social Justice
- 10) Urban Aboriginal Ministries
- 11) Worship Ministries

World Renew—one offering per quarter because the agency receives no ministry-share support

- b. Denominationally related agencies recommended for one or more offerings

Communities First Association  
Diaconal Ministries Canada

Dynamic Youth Ministries

- 1) GEMS
- 2) Calvinist Cadet Corps
- 3) Youth Unlimited

Friendship Ministries (Friendship Ministries—Canada)  
Partners Worldwide  
Timothy Leadership Training Institute

4. The Board informs synod that it has approved the renewal of the following accredited agencies for offerings in the churches for 2016—year two in a three-year cycle of support (2015-2017). 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. Synod indicated that, in the intervening years, agencies were to submit updated financial information and information regarding any significant programmatic changes. Each nondenominational agency requesting approval submitted the required materials for consideration.

The nondenominational agencies recommended for financial support but not necessarily for one or more offerings are

- a. United States

- 1) Benevolent agencies

Bethany Christian Services  
Cary Christian Center, Inc.  
Hope Haven  
The Luke Society  
Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services  
Quiet Waters Ministries

- 2) Educational agencies

Ascending Leaders  
Christian Schools International  
Christian Schools International Foundation (for textbook development)  
Dordt College  
Elim Christian Services  
Friends of ICS (U.S. Foundation of Institute for Christian Studies)  
Hunting Park Christian Academy  
Kids Hope USA  
The King's University (through the U.S. Foundation)  
Kuyper College  
Langham Partnership  
Redeemer University College (through the U.S. Foundation)

Rehoboth Christian School  
Trinity Christian College  
Worldwide Christian Schools  
Zuni Christian Mission School

3) Miscellaneous agencies

Association for a More Just Society  
Audio Scripture Ministries  
Bible League International  
Care of Creation  
Center for Public Justice  
Crossroad Bible Institute  
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (endorsed for local, specified staff support only)  
Middle East Reformed Fellowship, U.S. (MERF)  
Mission India  
Talking Bibles  
The Tract League  
World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)  
Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc.

b. Canada

1) Benevolent agencies

Beginnings Family Services  
Indwell (formerly Homestead Christian Care)

2) Educational agencies

Dordt College  
Institute for Christian Studies  
The King's University  
Kuyper College  
Redeemer University College  
Trinity Christian College

3) Miscellaneous agencies

A Rocha Canada  
Bible League – Canada  
Canadian Council of Churches  
Cardus (Work Research o/a Cardus)  
Citizens for Public Justice (CJL Foundation)  
Evangelical Fellowship of Canada  
Gideons International – Canada  
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship of Canada  
Middle East Reformed Fellowship, Canada (MERF)  
World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)  
Wycliffe Translators of Canada, Inc.

- In addition, the Board of Trustees recommends the following new request for inclusion on the list of unaffiliated recommended causes:

*Canada*

Shalem Mental Health Network

Shalem Mental Health Network is a provisional organization that supplies mental health services to individuals, communities, and churches. It also provides consultation on abuse, mental illness, and conflict management.

*Ground:* This organization meets the standards for inclusion, both in terms of their mission and scope, as well as their financial viability.

- The denominational salary grid  
The BOT recommends that Synod 2015 adopt the salary grid included below for use in fiscal year 2015-2016. The grid reflects no increase from the 2014-2015 salary amounts.

2015-2016 Salary Grade and Range Structure				
Level	U.S. Range		Canadian Range	
	Minimum	Target	Minimum	Target
20	\$153,763	\$180,898		
19	\$138,976	\$163,501		
18	\$122,431	\$144,037	\$114,256	\$134,418
17	\$108,478	\$127,621	\$99,706	\$117,301
16	\$93,392	\$109,873	\$87,097	\$102,467
15	\$81,357	\$95,714	\$77,518	\$91,198
14	\$72,640	\$85,459	\$70,566	\$83,019
13	\$64,857	\$76,302	\$64,361	\$75,718

- Ministers’ pension assessment  
The BOT endorsed the following decision of the Pension Trustees and includes it in this report for synod’s information:  
  
That the 2016 per-member assessment for the Canadian Plan remain \$42.96 and that the Canadian per-participant assessment remain \$9,840. Similarly, that the 2016 per-member assessment for the U.S. Plan remain \$37.20 and the U.S. per-participant assessment remain \$7,704.
- 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 E.
- Energy conservation award  
During the meeting of the Board of Trustees, a representative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded Mr. John Bolt, director of finance and operations, with the Energy Star for his pioneering efforts in working toward special certification in energy efficiency. The CRCNA office building located at 1700 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, has saved \$900,000 since the implementation of the energy conservation project.

### III. Recommendations

A. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Rev. Dr. R. Scott Greenway, vice president of the Board, when matters pertaining to the Board of Trustees are discussed.

B. That synod by way of the ballot appoint to the Board of Trustees a member from Classis Quinte, an at-large member from the United States, and an at-large member from Canada (BOT Supplement section I, A, 3).

C. That synod take note of the Board's action to include two young adult representatives as advisers to the Board of Trustees (BOT Supplement section I, A, 4).

D. That synod express its gratitude to Rev. Joel R. Boot for his years of service to the denomination and confer on him the title of *executive director, emeritus* (BOT Supplement section I, C).

E. That synod take note of the BOT's response to the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture report as found in section I, D of this supplemental report.

F. That synod receive the revised position description for the Banner editor-in-chief as information (BOT Supplement section I, G).

G. That synod approve the work of the Korean Classes Mentoring Committee as reported by way of an update report in Appendix B to the Board Supplement (BOT Supplement section I, H).

H. That synod take note of the Board's encouragement that CRC classes and congregations engage in the Blanket Exercise within their national context prior to address of the Doctrine of Discovery Task Force report by Synod 2016 (BOT Supplement section I, I).

I. That synod endorse the Ministry Plan (a) Desired Futures and (b) Strategic Foci (as found in Appendix C); and that synod take time in its schedule to engage with the Ministry Plan Steps (to be distributed at synod) for illustration and input (BOT Supplement section II, A, 1).

J. That synod ratify the appointment of Ms. Carol Bremer-Bennett as the U.S. director of World Renew, effective August 3, 2015, and that she be introduced at synod (BOT Supplement section II, A, 2).

K. That synod express gratitude to Mr. Andrew Ryskamp for his years of service as the U.S. director of World Renew (BOT Supplement section II, A, 2).

L. That synod address the following with regard to the proposal for unification of Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions (BOT Supplement section II, A, 3):

1. That synod approve the following:

- a. That Christian Reformed Home Missions (CRHM) and Christian Reformed World Missions (CRWM) become one agency<sup>3</sup> with the following mandate:

**Mandate**

The Christian Reformed Church in North America establishes [this Christian Reformed Mission Agency] and assigns it the responsibility of leading the missions programs of the denomination (cf. Church Order Art. 73-77). [This Christian Reformed Mission Agency], hereinafter referred to as *agency*, shall give leadership to the denomination in its task of bringing the gospel holistically to the people of North America and the world and drawing them into fellowship with Christ and his church.

The mandate of the agency has three aspects. The agency shall

- encourage and assist congregations and classes in their work of evangelism and discipleship.
- initiate, support, and guide new-church development and other evangelistic and discipling ministries.
- develop Christian leaders.

These ministries will be done in partnership with congregations, classes, CRC entities, and other organizations to join with God in his kingdom mission in North America and around the world.

The agency shall administer its work according to the Word of God and the Reformed confessions and in harmony with the regulations of the Church Order and the decisions of synod as interpreted by the Board of Trustees.

*Grounds:*

- 1) A unification has been discussed and encouraged several times by the agencies, the BOT, and others.
  - 2) The agencies have indicated a unification would be timely, strategic, and stewardly.
  - 3) This mandate represents the continuity of mandates from CRHM and CRWM while expressing them in a unified way consistent with the rationale for unification.
- b. That the corporate entities of CRHM and CRWM be unified into a new single board in Canada and a new single board in the United States, joined in ministry by a joint venture agreement. For a transitional period, the existing corporations will be constituted as wholly owned subsidiary entities. The form of unification will be amalgamation in Canada and consolidation in the United States.

*Grounds:*

- 1) The form of unification (amalgamation in Canada; consolidation in the United States) for the transition period has been recommended by attorneys well acquainted with appropriate law as well as all relevant agency bylaws.

<sup>3</sup> An agency name will be proposed during or at the end of the transitional period.



- 2) The process being utilized is found in the Synod 2011 report of the Process for Significant Structural Change Task Force (see *Agenda for Synod 2011*, pp. 62-65).
- 3) If synod approves the anticipated recommendations coming from the synodical Task Force to Study the Offices of Elder and Deacon (specifically, changes to Church Order Art. 76-77), it will not be necessary to propose changes to the current Article 76 (which constitutes Home Missions) and Article 77 (which constitutes World Missions).

*Note:* If synod adopts the proposal for a Council of Delegates or postpones decisions regarding that proposal for consideration at a subsequent synod, the proposal for CRHM/CRWM will require further revision.

- c. That the existing CRHM and CRWM boards nominate all nonretiring members to constitute the boards (the boards of the new Canada and U.S.A. corporations, and the existing Canada and U.S.A. corporations, which will become wholly owned subsidiary entities for the transitional period). The various boards are to be constituted in accordance with all legal requirements (in the United States and Canada) and all applicable Church Order regulations. This new “parent” board will govern all the CRWM and CRHM legal entities until the programming, staff, and financial resources of both agencies are successfully and responsibly combined.

In addition, it is recommended that synod approve the following matters<sup>4</sup>—to add to, supersede, or clarify board information in the printed *Agenda for Synod 2015*:

- 1) That retiring board members be given the opportunity to extend their appointments for one year.
- 2) That Rev. Harvey J. Roosma continue per item 1), above; he would remain a representative of Region 1 and not serve as a member-at-large (as found in the *Agenda for Synod 2015*, pp. 206-207) for the extended period.
- 3) That Rev. Bruce Gritter, who replaced Rev. John Van Sloten mid-term on the CRHM board, continue his service, and that Ms. Henrietta Hielema be approved as board alternate (*Agenda 2015*, p. 207).
- 4) That synod select one of the two nominees listed in the *Agenda for Synod 2015* for CRWM Region 8 (*Agenda 2015*, p. 214) because the current board member from Region 8 has decided not to accept reappointment.
- 5) That synod elect Rev. Stanley Workman for CRWM Region 12 to fill the remaining two years of the first term of the member elected in 2014. This person was unable to serve and has resigned. Rev. Workman was on the slate of nominees for Region 12 in 2014.

<sup>4</sup>These additions have been approved by the chairs of both boards and by the agency directors.

*Grounds:*

- 1) Continuity, when possible, will best serve governance and ministry in this time of transition.
  - 2) Regional representation should continue.
2. That synod receive the following as information (contingent on adoption of the preceding three recommendations):
- a. That through the transitional phase (anticipated to be completed within two years) of the new agency, the role of codirectors will be filled by the current agency directors, Dr. Gary J. Bekker and Dr. Moses Chung. The codirectors will be under the joint supervision of the CRCNA executive director and the board(s) of the new agency with the following understandings:
    - 1) The codirectors will create a transition executive team that will include at least the current CRWM Canada director.
    - 2) Given the desire for increased binational differentiation, a different executive arrangement may be presented to the BOT before the end of the transitional period.
  - b. That the codirectors be instructed to bring to the unified board(s) and then to the BOT, to its fall 2015 meeting if possible but no later than its winter 2016 meeting, recommended statements of mission, vision, and values for the new agency and a refined statement of mission strategy, as well as legal documents for incorporation of the new agency in both the United States and Canada.
  - c. That no later than the winter 2016 meeting of the unified board(s) Dr. Gary J. Bekker and Dr. Moses Chung, as codirectors, be instructed to recommend a long-term structure and leadership team for the new agency with the proviso that includes one American codirector and one Canadian codirector. After approval by the unified board(s), the recommendation will be brought to the BOT.
  - d. That no later than the spring 2016 meeting of the unified board(s) Dr. Gary J. Bekker and Dr. Moses Chung, as codirectors, be instructed to bring, after working with key leaders, experts, and constituents, recommendations regarding the name and advancement/communication plans for the new agency.
  - e. That Dr. Gary J. Bekker and Dr. Moses Chung, as codirectors and working with others, be instructed to prepare an appropriate celebration of the new agency at Synod 2016 or at such time as they judge will work well.
3. That synod take note that the BOT has endorsed the initial plans for the primary work of the unified agency and for a three-part strategy that has been developed within the contours of existing financial resources.

- M. That synod take note of the Faith Formation Ministries Mandate approved by the Ministries Leadership Council and endorsed by the Board of Trustees (BOT Supplement section II, A, 4).
- N. That synod receive the agencies and institutional unified budget as information and approve a ministry share of \$339.48 for calendar year 2016 (BOT Supplement sections II, B, 1-2).
- O. 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 denominationally related ministries, 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 2016 (BOT Supplement section II, B, 4).
  3. That synod accept the following new request for inclusion on the list of accredited nondenominational agencies (BOT Supplement section II, B, 5):

*Canada*

Shalem Mental Health Network

Shalem Mental Health Network is a provisional organization that supplies mental health services to individuals, communities, and churches. It also provides consultation on abuse, mental illness, and conflict management.

*Ground:* This organization meets the standards for inclusion, both in terms of their mission and scope, as well as their financial viability.

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

Board of Trustees of the  
 Christian Reformed Church in North America  
 Steven R. Timmermans, executive director

**Appendix A**  
**Christian Reformed Church in North America**

**Position Description**

**Job Title:** Editor-in-Chief of *The Banner*  
**Department:** Ministry Support Services  
**Reports to:** Ministry Support Services Co-Leader, Banner Advisory Council  
**Status:** 0.5 FTE or greater, exempt  
**Salary Level:** XVII

## **Purpose**

Responsible for the content of *The Banner*

**Essential Duties and Responsibilities** include the following:

1. Ensure that *The Banner* achieves its stated purposes to (1) inform readers about what is happening in the CRC as well as the church at large, (2) provide articles that edify and encourage Christian living, (3) stimulate critical thinking about issues related to the Christian faith and the culture of which we are a part in a way that encourages biblical thinking about these issues and is in line with our confessional heritage, and (4) offer tools to help readers find fresh awareness to seek, learn, worship, and serve as Reformed Christians in contemporary society (cf. mandate for *The Banner* adopted by the CRCNA Board of Trustees, February 2015) by effectively directing or performing the following functions:
  - a. plan issues of *The Banner*
  - b. ensure the development and maintenance of *The Banner's* online presence
  - c. write editorials and other appropriate columns
  - d. make final decisions on all submitted manuscripts
  - e. approve all final copy and layout of each issue
  - f. ensure that all *Banner* correspondence is answered appropriately
  - g. maintain an adequate readership level for both the print edition and online edition (including various digital platforms)
2. Work with the executive director and the director of finance and operations to ensure the continuing financial stability of *The Banner*.
3. Consult regularly with the executive director.
4. Effectively interact with people to promote the interest of *The Banner*.
5. Participate in quarterly meetings with staff to plan future issues.
6. Participate in the annual staff retreat for general planning.

## **Supervisory Responsibilities**

*The Banner* staff

## **Qualifications**

1. A personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord
2. A member in good standing of the Christian Reformed Church
3. In full accord with the doctrinal positions of the Christian Reformed Church
4. Thorough familiarity with the Scriptures and insight into Reformed teachings
5. Insight regarding issues pertaining to the Christian Reformed Church, the church at large, and the world of our day
6. Demonstrated ability to write with clarity and liveliness, and to sensibly edit what others have written
7. Sensitivity and ability to communicate in writing to *The Banner's* diverse reading audience
8. Ability to develop and direct *The Banner's* online presence in a manner suited to effective online engagement

9. Ability to supervise staff in a way that leads to staff growth and development
10. Ability to work effectively with a senior management team, a board, and committees
11. Ability to deal constructively with a variety of opinions and with criticism
12. General knowledge of administrative functions such as finance, planning, etc.

### **Education and Experience**

1. Master of Divinity or Theological Studies preferred
2. At least 8 years CRC ministry experience preferred

### **Physical Demands**

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

### **Work Environment**

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job.

## **Appendix B**

### **Korean Classes Mentoring Committee**

#### **I. Background**

Synod 2014 allowed Classis Pacific Hanmi to divide into two classes with the following understanding (*Acts of Synod 2014*, p. 568):

- a. Both classes will begin to meet separately in September 2014.
- b. A tentative roster of the two classes is available in the *Agenda for Synod 2014* (p. 386), including a few undecided churches (p. 387). The official roster and name of the new classis, along with classis functionaries in the two classes, will be provided to the synodical office in the fall of 2014 by the clerk of each classis after the two classes officially meet. The membership of the new classes will be reported to Synod 2015.
- c. The executive director of the CRCNA will appoint mentoring committees for each classis, and these committees will provide these classes with guidelines to assist in their transition and will offer continuing guidance to enable them to grow into healthy CRC classes.

#### *Grounds:*

- 1) In comparison to other classes, Classis Pacific Hanmi is extremely large—50 congregations as of 2014.
- 2) Requests have been submitted by some of the churches within Classis Pacific Hanmi to form a new classis.
- 3) The classis leadership and classis as a whole have agreed that there is a need to divide into two classes for the sake of better management of classical work and ministry.
- 4) The central goal in forming two classes is for a renewed vision in the classis and in the development of its ministry.
- 5) The classis itself, in Overture 7, has requested mentoring.

## II. Mandate of the committee

The committee was asked to provide the classes with guidelines to assist in their transition and offer continuing guidance to enable them to grow into healthy CRC classes.

## III. Process and plan

The mentoring committee has spent time meeting together as a whole and also dividing into two subcommittees to meet with each classis. The committee has been encouraged by the way both classes organized at their first meetings in September 2014 and by the continued openness to learn and grow in following the Church Order. Both classes participated in a one-day Church Order training event in January 2015 led by Joel Boot and Kathy Smith.

The classes' names are Classis Hanmi and Classis Ko-Am. The churches in each classis are listed in the Appendix to this report.

Listening to and learning from the newly formed classes has led to the formation of the following plan.

The committee plans to continue guiding the classes for the next two years by emphasizing the following:

### Overview

#### A. CRC denominational commitments to the classis

1. Share the rich biblical and theological tradition capable of equipping believers and churches to serve God in the 21st century.
2. Provide a proven structure for organizing individual congregations.
3. Provide a proven structure for organizing regional ministry with other CRCs—namely, the classis. These regional groupings of churches provide
  - a. ongoing collegial relationships with other CRC pastors and churches in the area.
  - b. ongoing ministry partnership in mutually agreed upon work (example: preparing, examining, and ordaining persons for ministry roles).
4. Provide a strong binational ministry partnership with other CRCs—namely, the Christian Reformed Church. This includes
  - a. effective, low-overhead global ministry in missions and poverty alleviation.
  - b. educational/group resources for all ages.
  - c. partial funding for church planters.
  - d. priority access to exceptional institutions of higher learning.
  - e. youth ministry resources and mission trip opportunities.

#### B. CRC classis commitments to the CRC denomination

1. Embrace and teach this rich biblical and theological tradition.
2. Use the congregational governing structure as described in the CRC Church Order.

3. Use the classical governing structure as described in the CRC Church Order.
4. Participate in the national ministry partnership with other CRCs.

### Implementation

#### A. CRC denominational commitments to Classis Hanmi and Classis Ko-Am

*Notes:* One way the denomination aims to keep its commitments is through the work of Korean Ministries Coordinator Charles Kim. Another is by the appointment, by Synod 2014, of a Korean Classes Mentoring Committee to help the two new Korean classes organize and operate according to the CRC Church Order.

#### Action steps by the denomination through the Korean Classes Mentoring Committee

##### 1. Steps taken

- a. Mentoring committee members met with both classes at their September classis meetings
- b. Subcommittees met with newly formed classical leadership teams
- c. The committee sponsored a Church Order training seminar led by Professor Kathy Smith with Rev. Joel Boot in attendance to advise.
- d. The committee developed action steps and a meeting template (see below) to equip the leadership teams of the new classes to lead according to the CRC Church Order.

##### 2. Steps planned

- a. At least one member of the Korean Classes Mentoring Committee and the Korean Ministries Coordinator will meet with the leadership team of each classis twice per year—at the meetings during which they prepare for the fall and spring classis meetings. The members of the mentoring committee will highlight the Church Order mandated action steps described below, give Church Order related feedback from the leadership team based on the mentoring committee's review of previous classis meeting minutes, and be available to assist in setting the classis agenda as desired.
- b. Two Korean speakers from the mentoring committee will attend each classis meeting.
- c. The mentoring committee will have a postclassis meeting (one after the fall meeting, one after the spring meeting) to discuss how the classes are growing in following the Church Order and how the team can continue to encourage and hold them accountable.
- d. Repeat steps a-c for 2015-2016 and then evaluate whether the mentoring committee has fulfilled its mandate.

#### B. CRC classis commitments to the CRC denomination

1. Embrace and teach this rich biblical and theological tradition.

2. Use the congregational governing structure as described in the CRC Church Order.

Action steps to be encouraged by Classical Leadership Team

- a. Each established church will form a functioning church council consisting of at least a pastor and 2 elders and 2 deacons elected by the congregation for terms of service.
  - b. Pastors of churches which cannot form a functioning church council at this time will find an established church to supervise their work.
3. Use the classical governing structure as described in the CRC Church Order.

Action steps for Classical Leadership Team

- a. Ensure that established churches delegate a pastor and an elder to each classis meeting, and that pastors of emerging churches attend.  
Reminder: Retired pastors may serve as delegates to classis or synod only if they are actively serving in their church as elders; they may not serve as ministerial delegates. Note: Ensure that classis meetings are held within a reasonable driving distance for elder delegates.
- b. Enable participation of all delegates by publishing a classis meeting agenda three weeks prior to each classis meeting. This agenda includes reports of all classis committees and all matters to be addressed at the meeting.
- c. Publish classis meeting minutes, which include all matters dealt with, and encourage action steps 1 and 2 by including the following charts:
  - 1) an attendance chart listing (a) established churches and their delegates and (b) emerging churches and their pastors and sponsoring established churches

**Attendance Chart—**

Established Church	Pastor	Elder

Emerging Church	Pastor	Parenting Church

- 2) a contribution chart listing all classis churches and their ministry share contributions for the current ministry year



<b>MINISTRY SHARES RECEIVED IN 201__</b>				
<b>ORGANIZED Church</b>	<b>Contributing Members</b>	<b>Shares Received</b>	<b>Percent Paid</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>
		\$	%	
		\$	%	
		\$	%	
		\$	%	
		\$	%	
<b>Subtotal</b>				
<b>EMERGING Church</b>				
		\$	%	
		\$	%	
		\$	%	
		\$	%	
<b>Subtotal</b>				
<b>TOTAL</b>				

4. Complete a brief checklist (below) to keep major goals clearly in mind, and send to the mentoring committee for their information.
- Classis Meeting Checklist**—to be reviewed by Classical Leadership Team and sent to mentoring committee
- a. Classis meeting agenda sent out at least three weeks before classis meeting.
    - ☐ yes
    - ☐ no
  - b. Dealt only with items on the agenda and referred matters not on the agenda to the appropriate classis committee or team.
    - ☐ yes
    - ☐ no
  - c. Verbally encouraged all established churches who sent elder delegates, and encouraged other churches to do so at a future meeting.
    - ☐ yes
    - ☐ no
  - d. Consulted with mentor committee member Rev. Will Verhoef prior to the meeting on any matters related to joining or leaving the CRC (involving both pastors and congregations).
    - ☐ yes
    - ☐ no

- e. Consulted with mentor committee member Rev. Will Verhoef prior to the meeting on any matters related to special discipline.

\_\_\_ yes

\_\_\_ no

- 5. Participate in the national ministry partnership with other CRCs.

Action steps for Classical Leadership Team

- a. Ensure that each established church submit a brief yearly statistical report as requested by the denominational ministry center.
- b. Schedule spring classis meetings between February 26 and March 15 as requested by the denomination.
- c. Ensure that all matters relating to joining or leaving the CRC (involving both pastors and congregations) be done in consultation with mentoring committee member Rev. Will Verhoef.
- d. Ensure that all matters relating to special discipline be done in consultation with mentoring committee member Rev. Will Verhoef.
- e. Encourage financial support of CRC ministries through denominational ministry shares, including support through the contribution chart described above.
- f. Submit Classical Leadership Team meeting minutes and classis meeting minutes to the Korean Classes Mentoring Committee for review.

**IV. Recommendation**

That synod approve the work of the committee.

Korean Classes Mentoring Committee

Ron Chu

Charles Kim

David Kong

John Seho Oh

Joel Van Soelen, secretary

Will Verhoef

Mark Vermaire, chair

Brent Wassink, vice-chair

## **Appendix C**

### **Ministry Plan Overview**

Initial Revision: April 23, 2015; Subsequent (to BOT) Revision: May 12, 2015

#### **OUR MISSION**

As people called by God . . .

We gather to praise God, listen to him, and respond.

We nurture each other in faith and obedience to Christ.

We love and care for one another as God's people.

We commit ourselves to serve and to tell others about Jesus.

We pursue God's justice and peace in every area of life.

#### **OUR VISION**

The Christian Reformed Church is a diverse family of healthy congregations, assemblies, and ministries expressing the good news of God's kingdom that transforms lives and communities worldwide.

#### **OUR DESIRED FUTURE**

##### **Theme 1: CHURCH AND COMMUNITY**

Congregations of the Christian Reformed Church participate with each other and with their local communities to discern where the Spirit is working and to bear witness to Christ's presence.

##### **STRATEGIC FOCI**

1.1 Congregations discover and discern how God is at work in their churches and communities, bringing renewal and transformation.

1.2 Ministry leaders, both ordained and lay, discover and discern how God is at work in their communities, resulting in the birth of new churches and discipling communities.

##### **Theme 2: DISCIPLESHIP**

Congregations of the Christian Reformed Church are vibrant, grace-shaped communities engaged in lifelong discipleship with those of all generations.

##### **STRATEGIC FOCI**

2.1 Congregations are shaped by grace.

2.2 Congregations are places where all generations find spiritual homes and grow in belonging and maturity.

2.3 Congregations discern God's call within their unique identities and contexts, giving rise to strong and creative discipleship practices and a broad range of resources.

2.4 Congregations engage youth and young adults in the life of the church.

2.5 Congregations are characterized by vibrant worship that engages people of all ages.

##### **Theme 3: LEADERSHIP**

Congregations and ministries of the Christian Reformed Church are places where clergy and lay leaders are developed, trained, and empowered to lead effectively in today's diverse and challenging contexts.

## **STRATEGIC FOCI**

3.1 Congregations and ministries discover, understand, and respond to leadership needs in ways that meet their contexts.

3.2 Congregations and ministries are characterized by Spirit-filled leaders who have the skills to minister in their local contexts, both internal and external.

3.3 Congregations and ministries participate in leadership development efforts with partners throughout the world.

3.4 Congregations and ministries assist women, racial-ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and young adults in discovering and developing their leadership gifts and callings.

### **Theme 4: IDENTITY**

Congregations and members of the Christian Reformed Church understand deeply, embrace fully, and express freely what it means to be a part of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

## **STRATEGIC FOCI**

4.1 Congregations and ministries develop ways to deepen our understanding of our shared identity as the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

4.2 Congregations, ministries, and members of the Christian Reformed Church understand, embrace, and express our identity as part of Christ's church worldwide.

4.3 Congregations, ministries, and members understand, embrace, and express our identity as a diverse church gathered from "every nation, tribe, people and language" (Rev. 7:9).

4.4 Congregations, ministries, and members respond to the call to "act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with God" (Mic. 6:8).

### **Theme 5: COLLABORATION**

Congregations and ministries of the Christian Reformed Church interact together in ways that are effective, efficient, responsive, cross-culturally competent, easily accessible, and sustainable.

## **STRATEGIC FOCI**

5.1 Congregations and ministries of the Christian Reformed Church develop new ways of working together at all levels—local, regional, national, and binational—that are effective, efficient, responsive, clear, and sustainable.

5.2 The Christian Reformed Church develops new ways of connecting congregations with the denominational services they need, as well as increased opportunities to participate in mission outreach, in a way that generates greater efficiency, accessibility, cross-cultural competence, clarity, and sustainability.

## Appendix D

### Curriculum Vitae: Carol Bremer-Bennett

#### Education

1999-2004	Western New Mexico University	Gallup, N. Mex.
	<i>M.A. in Educational Leadership</i>	
1992-1993	Calvin College	Grand Rapids, Mich.
	<i>Secondary Education degree and History minor</i>	
1987-1991	Calvin College	Grand Rapids, Mich.
	<i>B.A. Political Science major and Theology minor</i>	
1983-1987	Grand Rapids Christian High School	Grand Rapids, Mich.

#### Extra-Curricular Activities and Awards

Student Senator, three terms 1988–1991  
Founding member and president of College Association of Political Action, 1987-1991  
President of Thespians, two terms 1989-1991  
Recipient of the Peace and Justice Award, 1991

#### Professional experience

2010-present	Rehoboth Christian School	Rehoboth, N. Mex.
	<i>Superintendent</i>	
2005-2010	Rehoboth Christian School	Rehoboth, N. Mex.
	<i>Middle School Principal and Assistant Superintendent</i>	
2003-2005	Rehoboth Christian School	Rehoboth, N. Mex.
	<i>Middle School Principal and Director of Alumni Relations</i>	
1993-2003	Rehoboth Christian School	Rehoboth, N. Mex.
	<i>Middle School Teacher</i>	
1991-1993	Calvin College	Grand Rapids, Mich.
	<i>Resident Assistant, Entrada Summer Program</i>	
1991-1992	Rehoboth Christian School	Rehoboth, N. Mex.
	<i>Volunteer</i>	

Came to Rehoboth after college graduation with the intent to explore my Navajo heritage. After falling in love with the area and the children of the school, I returned to college to receive an education degree.

#### Additional professional activities

2011-2012	Fellow, Van Lunen Center for Executive Management in Christian Schools	
2010	Reader, Gates Millennium Scholarships through the American Indian Graduate Center	
2010-present	Member, Ford Foundation Grant Committee to write Navajo curriculum “Iina: Ways of Life”	
2009-2014	Member, CSI Accreditation Commission	
2008-present	President and board member, New Mexico Association of Non-Public Schools (CAPE Chapter for New Mexico)	
2005-present	Chairperson, School Improvement Team	
2004-2005	Grant Program Manager, Grant for Preserving Native Language from the First Nations Development Institute	

2003-2005 Contributor, NMEH Social Studies Educators Forum  
 1996-1999 President, Southwest Christian Teachers Association  
 June 1995 New Mexico Endowment for the Humanities  
 1992-1993 Middle School Committee to form Rehoboth Christian  
 Middle School

### **Professional memberships**

National Association of Middle Schools  
 Association of Curriculum and School Development  
 International Reading Association

### **Interests and activities**

Gardening, cooking, and traveling

### **Community activities**

2010-present Mentor, Delta Program for High School Students,  
 Lutheran Church of Hope, Des Moines, Iowa  
 2006-present Ambassador, Yezalelem Minch Orphanage, Ethiopia  
 2005-2010 Vice President, Care 66 (Homeless Shelter)  
 1999-2005 Board of Trustees, Calvin College  
 1995-2001 Secretary /Treasurer, Red Mesa Youth Ministry Team  
 1997-2000 Member, Gallup Gardening Group  
 1995-1998 Deacon, Rehoboth Christian Reformed Church  
 1993-1997 Member, Gallup Community Theatre

### **Other information**

United States Citizen  
 Member of Bethany Christian Reformed Church

## **Appendix E**

### **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, 2014, 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, 2014

**Categories Specified by Investment Policy:**

**SHORT TERM**

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS  
Cash, Money-market mutual funds & CDs  
FIXED-INCOME ISSUES  
CRCNA Funds LLC Liquidity Fund (1)  
Other short term

**CRCNA FUNDS LLC BALANCED FUND (2)**

**COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKS**  
Publicly traded common, preferred,  
and convertible preferred stock  
Equity mutual funds

**FIXED-INCOME ISSUES (LONG TERM)**  
U.S. treasuries or Canadian gov't bonds  
Publicly traded bonds and notes  
(investment grade, at least A-rated)  
Bond mutual funds  
CIBC / TAL overdraft accounts

**Interagency Investments (Obligations):**

Loans to CRCNA (Denom. Services)

**Other Investments:**

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

Total

	Back to God Ministries International	Calvin College	Calvin Seminary	Denominational Services	CRC Foundation
\$	1,544,226	\$ 21,800,700	\$ 1,028,555	\$ 3,713,241	(9) \$ 364,722
	318,200	-	-	3,342	-
	81,718	-	-	1,224,944	-
	2,888,194	-	-	13,316	50,126
	689,184	(3) 209,533 (3)	-	-	-
		51,954,933 (10)	29,396,839 (10)	3,816,759	-
	-	47,334,258	-	7,764,524	(9) -
	-	-	-	8,605,024	(9) -
	163,194	(3) 37,315,066	9,954,931 (1)	-	-
	-	-	-	(20,932,885) (9)	-
	-	-	-	(4,000,000)	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	384,512 (4)	-	-
	5,000	34,275,165 (4)	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	384,791	(5) 394,591 (5)	111,531 (5)	-	18,305
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	3,018,478 (7)	-	-	-
	6,000	(8) 1,992,000 (8)	1,104,613 (8)	-	-
\$	6,080,507	\$ 198,294,724	\$ 41,980,981	\$ 208,466	\$ 433,153

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, 2014

	Home Missions	Loan Fund	World Missions	World Relief
<b>Categories Specified by Investment Policy:</b>				
<b>SHORT TERM</b>				
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS				
Cash, Money-market mutual funds & CDs	\$ 1,851,161	\$ 10,506,706	\$ 1,848,885	\$ 15,443,303
<b>FIXED-INCOME ISSUES</b>				
CRCNA Funds LLC Liquidity Fund (1)	673,082	-	193	26,327
Other short term	-	-	237,832	1,724,000
CRCNA FUNDS LLC BALANCED FUND (2)	1,520,558	-	4,076,625	6,942,212
<b>COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKS</b>				
Publicly traded common, preferred, and convertible preferred stock	-	-	-	-
Equity mutual funds	864	-	291,709	(3)
<b>FIXED-INCOME ISSUES (LONG TERM)</b>				
U.S. treasuries or Canadian gov't bonds	-	-	-	-
Publicly traded bonds and notes	-	-	-	-
(investment grade, at least A-rated)	-	-	123,623	(3)
Bond mutual funds	-	-	-	-
CIBC / TAL overdraft accounts	-	-	-	-
<b>Interagency Investments (Obligations):</b>				
Loans to CRCNA (Denom. Services)	-	2,000,000	-	2,000,000
<b>Other Investments:</b>				
Private equity fund	-	-	-	-
Partnerships	-	-	-	-
Land contracts	-	-	-	-
Life insurance cash value	(5)	-	-	35,648
Notes receivable	-	-	-	(5)
Common stock -- non-listed	-	-	-	-
Real estate (non-operating)	281,957	-	12,636	-
<b>Total</b>	\$ 4,327,622	\$ 12,506,706	\$ 6,591,504	\$ 26,171,490

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



### **Footnotes to the December 31, 2014, Investment Summary**

1. CRCNA Funds LLC pooled/unitized fixed income account for agencies.
2. CRCNA Funds LLC pooled/unitized balanced account (fixed income 52%, equities 48%) for agencies.
3. Donated publicly traded stock or mutual funds.
4. Ownership 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.
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. Includes equity, commodity, and hedged equity mutual funds.

# AGENCY AND INSTITUTION SUPPLEMENTS

## Faith Formation Stream

### Calvin College Supplement

#### I. Introduction

The Calvin College Board of Trustees met May 7-9, 2015, and presents to synod this supplemental report. The board had a successful meeting and completed its scheduled work for committee and plenary sessions. During its meetings the board thanked its eight members who are leaving the board—Rev. Dr. Randall D. Engle, Mr. William J. Katt, Mr. Daniel Meester, Ms. Ruth Palma, Mr. Scott A. Spoelhof, Mr. David VanRandwyk, Dr. Laurens Vandergrift, and Mr. Dale H. Venhuizen—for their diligent work on the board and service to Calvin College.

#### II. Faculty matters

The Calvin College Board of Trustees honored the following eight individuals for service to Calvin College and the Christian Reformed Church in North America and conferred on them the titles listed below:

1. Marilyn R. Bierling, Ph.D., professor of Spanish, emerita
2. John H. Brink, Ph.D., professor of psychology, emeritus
3. P. Mark Fackler, Ph.D., professor of communication arts and sciences, emeritus
4. Quentin J. Schultze, Ph.D., professor of communication arts and sciences, emeritus
5. Peter V. Tigchelaar, Ph.D., professor of biology, emeritus
6. Glenn E. Triezenberg, M.S.W., M.B.A., director of Career Development Services, emeritus
7. Gerald K. Van Kooten, Ph.D., professor of geology, emeritus
8. Julie Walton, Ph.D., professor of kinesiology, emerita

#### III. Election of college trustees

##### A. *At-large trustee*

Mr. Scott Spoelhof is concluding his service on the board. The board recommends that synod appoint Dr. Steven J. Triezenberg. A brief biography follows:

*Dr. Steven J. Triezenberg*, B.S. in biology and education, Calvin College; Ph.D. in cellular and molecular biology, University of Michigan; Postdoctoral Fellow, Carnegie Institution of Washington, D.C.

Dr. Triezenberg, a member of Eastern Avenue CRC, Grand Rapids, Michigan, is the director of Van Andel Education Institute, the president and dean of Van Andel Institute Graduate School, and a professor in the Van Andel Research Institute. Dr. Triezenberg received his bachelor's degree in biology and education at Calvin College. His Ph.D. training in cell and molecular biology at the University of Michigan was followed by postdoctoral research at the Carnegie Institution for Science in Washington, D.C. Before joining Van Andel Institute in 2006, Dr. Triezenberg was a faculty member of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Michigan State University (MSU) for more than eighteen years. He also served MSU as associate director of the graduate program in cell and molecular biology. He has served on the Calvin College Regional Advisory Council, and he currently serves on the Aquinas College Science Advisory Board and the Grand Valley State University Professional Science Masters in Biostatistics Advisory Board.

*B. Alumni trustee*

Ms. Ruth Palma is concluding her service on the board. The board recommends that the synod appoint Mr. Jeff DeNooyer. A brief biography follows:

*Mr. Jeff DeNooyer*, B.A. in business, Calvin College.

Mr. DeNooyer is the president and owner of Metro Toyota, where since 1987 he has worked as part of the third generation with his family in the automobile business. He is a member of the Calvin Alumni Association and has previously served on the Alumni Board as president-elect for one year, followed by service as president for one year. He has previously served on the Kalamazoo Community Foundation Board of Trustees—as a member for sixteen years and as its chairperson for five years. He has also served on the boards of Habitat for Humanity and of the Kalamazoo Christian School's Capital Campaign. He is a member of Third CRC in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he has served as a catechism teacher for many years and as an elder and a deacon.

*C. Regional trustees*

1. Region 3: Dr. Laurens Vandergrift is concluding his service on the board. The classes in the region did not submit names for nomination in the fall nomination period. The board recommends that synod appoint Ms. Marsha Vander gaast. A brief biography follows:

*Ms. Marsha Vander gaast*, B.A. in social studies and history, Calvin College; M.A. in teaching, Calvin College; specialist in computers, University of Ottawa; specialist in guidance, University of Toronto; special education, University of Ottawa.

Ms. Vander gaast was born in Sioux Center, Iowa, and grew up in Michigan. She has taught at Knox Christian School in Bowmanville, Ontario; Ottawa Christian School in Ottawa, Ontario; and Durham Christian High School in Bowmanville, Ontario. She received a master's degree in teaching at Calvin College and has a specialist degree in computers and counseling. She and her husband Gary, members of Rehoboth CRC in Bowmanville, Ontario, have two children, both of whom attended Calvin College.

2. Region 5: Mr. Dale H. Venhuizen is concluding his service on the board. The classes in the region did not submit names for nomination in the fall nomination period. The board recommends that synod appoint Mr. Thomas Wybenga. A brief biography follows:

*Mr. Thomas J. Wybenga*, B.A., political science, Calvin College (also awarded Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal from Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam); J.D., Ohio State University College of Law.

Mr. Wybenga is a partner in the Labor and Employment Practice Group of Seyfarth Shaw, a Chicago-based multinational law firm. Prior to beginning his legal career, he spent approximately five years working as a youth ministries director within the Christian Reformed Church. Previous board experience includes The Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Sammamish (Wash.) Christian School, and various youth soccer organizations. He is a member of the Bellevue (Wash.) CRC, where he has taught the freshman/sophomore Heidelberg Catechism class and also has served on the praise and worship team.

#### *D. Regional at-large trustees*

1. Region 9: Mr. William J. Katt is concluding his service on the board. The board recommends that synod appoint Ms. Janice Buikema. A brief biography follows:

*Ms. Janice Buikema*, B.A. in business and economics, Calvin College; M.B.A. in finance, DePaul University; master of science in computer information systems, Bentley University.

Ms. Buikema is a vice president at Northern Trust Corporation, where she has worked for the past 27 years in various roles as an internal business consultant/analyst. She is a member at Faith CRC in Tinley Park, Illinois, where she has previously served as a member of the ministry board (finance committee), as well as serving as a deacon for three years—one year as secretary and two years as church treasurer.

2. Region 10: Mr. David VanRandwyk is concluding his service on the board. The board recommends that synod appoint Mr. Christopher (CJ) Grier. A brief biography follows:

*Mr. Christopher (CJ) Grier*, B.A. in visual and performing arts: concentration in music, Shaw University; master of education in higher education/higher education administration, Ohio University.

Mr. Grier is the assistant to the president for racial initiatives and associate director of admissions at Western Theological Seminary and is a CQ certified facilitator for the Cultural Intelligence Center. He is the chief musician and pastor of worship arts at Maple Avenue Ministries, Holland, Michigan, a union church of the RCA and CRC. His former experience includes pastor of worship at Calvary Reformed Church and gospel choir director for Hope College. He gained staff experience at Shaw University, Ohio University, and Purdue University in multicultural programming, and he served as director of Camp Tall Turf in Western Michigan. He also serves on the board of the Holland Police Community Relations Commission.

3. Region 11: Rev. Dr. Randall D. Engle is concluding his service on the board. The board recommends that synod appoint Ms. Pearl Banks. A brief biography follows:

*Ms. Pearl Banks*, B.S. in film and television, Michigan State University.

Ms. Banks is the ministries coordinator at and a member of Neland Avenue CRC, Grand Rapids, Michigan. She grew up on the shores of Lake Michigan in a farming community. She graduated from Michigan State University and later attended Valley College and UCLA for film and television production. She worked for and learned film and television production in Santa Monica, California. After 27 years in production, Ms. Banks returned to work within a church setting. She serves on the Neland Ministries Committee and the Neland CRC council and is a member of Classis Grand Rapids East's Starting and Strengthening Churches Team. She was an original participant and shaper of the denomination's antiracism teams.

#### **IV. Finance**

The Calvin College Board of Trustees approved tuition, fees, and room and board rates while approving the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. These rates are \$30,660 in tuition (including fees), and \$9,690 in room and board, increases of 3.5 percent in tuition/fees and 2.16 percent in room/board, the second lowest percentage increases since 1970.

#### **V. Recommendations**

A. That synod give appropriate recognition to the following individuals for service to Calvin College and the Christian Reformed Church in North America and ratify the conferral of the titles presented here:

1. Marilyn R. Bierling, Ph.D., professor of Spanish, emerita
2. John H. Brink, Ph.D., professor of psychology, emeritus
3. P. Mark Fackler, Ph.D., professor of communication arts and sciences, emeritus
4. Quentin J. Schultze, Ph.D., professor of communication arts and sciences, emeritus
5. Peter V. Tigchelaar, Ph.D., professor of biology, emeritus
6. Glenn E. Triezenberg, M.S.W., M.B.A., director of career development services, emeritus
7. Gerald K. Van Kooten, Ph.D., professor of geology, emeritus
8. Julie Walton, Ph.D., professor of kinesiology, emerita

B. That synod appoint new members to the Calvin College Board of Trustees, as nominated (sections III, A-D).

Calvin College Board of Trustees  
Christine A. Metzger, secretary

### Pensions and Insurance Supplement

#### I. Background

The trustees of the Christian Reformed Church Retirement Plan for U.S. Ministers and the Retirement Plan for Ministers of the Christian Reformed Church in Canada have traditionally followed the guidelines established by synod for the tenure of synodical boards—namely, that members may serve up to two three-year terms. However, because of the specialized, technical nature of the work of the pension trustees, they request an exemption to the two-term limit for membership and propose that in general the pension trustees be eligible to serve a third term of three years.

#### II. Recommendations

A. That synod approve an exception to the rule governing the tenure of persons serving as trustees of the Christian Reformed Church Retirement Plan for U.S. Ministers and the Retirement Plan for Ministers of the Christian Reformed Church in Canada, enabling them to serve up to three terms on the Ministers' Pension Funds committees: Canadian Pension Trustees and U.S. Board of Pensions.

##### *Grounds:*

1. The work of the pension trustees involves very specialized and technical understanding of retirement plan design and trust fund investment oversight.
2. This specialized knowledge is usually developed during the first term of service on the board.
3. A limit of two terms of service restricts the benefit to the plans from this acquired skill. Serving three terms would provide the plan more effective and grounded oversight.

B. That synod, upon adoption of the above recommendation, reappoint Rev. Kevin te Brake (Canadian Pension Trustees), Mr. Jack Byeman (U.S. Board of Pensions), and Mr. Kurt Knoll (U.S. Board of Pensions) to a third term of three years; and reappoint Mr. Henry Eygenraam (Canadian Pension Trustees), Ms. Mary Ann Kokan-Nyhof (Canadian Pension Trustees), and Mr. Thomas Dykhouse (U.S. Board of Pensions) to a second term.

Pensions and Insurance  
John H. Bolt, director of  
finance and operations





**Christian Reformed Home Missions Supplement**

At its spring meeting, the board of Christian Reformed Home Missions adopted the following communication to Synod 2015 with regard to the report of the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture:

Thank you for your service to the church by giving of your time and wisdom during this important meeting of synod. We are thankful for the many ways that God is moving in our denomination and join you in celebrating the Spirit's life that is at work within us and through us.

We are writing to address several concerns we have about the report you received from the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture (TFRSC). We offer this communication with deep thanks to the many people who have contributed to the conversations and ideas presented in that report and with hope that the denomination will continue to pursue answers to the issues that face us.

One practical concern is that delegates to synod may not have had adequate time or information to distinguish between the TFRSC report and a proposal from the Board of Trustees (BOT) that synod establish a single mission agency of the CRCNA. Both of these reports involve re-organization at the denominational agency level. However, they are quite different, particularly in how long the plans were conceived and how long they have been developing.

The BOT request for establishing a single mission agency was conceived at the ground level and has been considered for some time. Churches, classes, and board delegates of Christian Reformed World Missions (CRWM) and Christian Reformed Home Missions (CRHM) have encouraged cooperative work between these agencies for more than a decade, and the agency directors themselves have spearheaded the proposal toward unification. In comparison, the TFRSC proposal is more recent, was engineered mostly at the binational level, and has had less time to gather support and engagement from the local churches.

We ask that the delegates to synod take careful notice of the distinctions between the TFRSC proposal regarding agency restructuring and the BOT proposal to establish a single mission agency of the CRCNA and treat each proposal on its own merits.

If synod should decide to request more time for the churches to consider and provide input regarding the work of the TFRSC (as has been suggested in *The Banner*), we ask that synod not do the same to the BOT's request for unifying the mission work of the CRCNA into a single agency. We believe that the momentum toward the proposed unification of the work of CRHM and CRWM is healthy and should be maintained at its current pace.

We are grateful that the TFRSC reported updates of their work at our CRHM board meetings. At these same meetings we heard from representatives of the Strategic Planning and Adaptive Change Team (SPACT), which identified thirteen specific *adaptive challenges* facing the denomination. We are concerned that the TFRSC proposal does not

address the adaptive challenges noted by SPACT but instead proposes significant *technical changes* in the form of structural reorganization.

We support the denomination's pursuit of Spirit-led changes that will lead to greater cooperation and more open communication among agencies and institutions and between these binationally organized groups and the Christian Reformed churches and classes scattered across North America. However, while we wholeheartedly support the intent, we are not convinced that the solutions proposed by the TFRSC will bring about the necessary changes.

To that end, we echo the communication to Synod 2015 from the board of Christian Reformed World Missions. In an ongoing spirit of cooperative mission and work between our agencies, we have discovered that we share concerns. We ask you to carefully consider the implications of the proposed changes suggested by the TFRSC.

1. The TFRSC report fails to acknowledge the already existing cooperative work among agencies, particularly between CRWM and CRHM, but also in other areas. Instead it describes a competitive, "silo-like" atmosphere more reflective of previous decades than of current conditions.
2. The TFRSC report is unclear in how to develop better governance and conflict resolution practices than what are currently in place in the CRCNA.
3. The size of the proposed Council of Delegates is not conducive to the current needs of the CRCNA.
  - a. It would be difficult for members of a Council of Delegates to know the work of each agency well enough to offer specific and effective support and governance.
  - b. Many of the agencies have previously had much larger boards and determined that the unwieldy size was counterproductive. The larger the size of the board, the more likely it will simply "rubber stamp" the agency's work instead of engaging in appropriate governance.
  - c. The size of the Council of Delegates would not necessarily enhance better connection between churches, classes, and denominational work.
4. The TFRSC report does not demonstrate a plan for greater cooperation and unity among agencies and institutions that already operate more independently (e.g., World Renew, Calvin College, and Calvin Theological Seminary).

Thank you for your attention to these very important and pivotal matters before you at this synod. We pray for wisdom and discernment for each of you and for ourselves as we strive to live and proclaim the love of Jesus, keep up with God's mission, and follow the Spirit's movement in leading the church. May we all remain faithful.

For the board of Christian Reformed Home Missions

In Christ,

Harv Roosma, president

Joy Engelsman, vice president

Christian Reformed Home Missions

Moses Chung, director

## **Christian Reformed World Missions Supplement**

### **I. Introduction**

The board of Christian Reformed World Missions (CRWM) asks Synod 2015 to take note of its response to and reflections on the report of the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture (TFRSC). The CRWM board via an ad-hoc committee has reviewed the TFRSC report. Following is our response and some accompanying reflections.

### **II. Opening statement**

The CRWM board appreciates the desire to be more responsive to a changing environment and simplify the lines of accountability. However, we are concerned about the proposed increase in centralization that would result with a single 60-member Council of Delegates making decisions, which would in all practicality be made by the 12 people on the Executive Committee.

We are also concerned about the elimination of regional representation from both the United States and Canada that would result on the agency committees and the further reduction of connection that this would cause between agencies and the local churches and classes. As board members, part of our responsibility is to represent the interests of the agency to the congregations at classis, and vice versa. We can only anticipate that this role would be diluted with a single classis delegate on the proposed Council of Delegates.

Moreover, the reduction in Canadian representation on the proposed Council of Delegates (because there are fewer Canadian than American classes) could increase tensions between Canadian congregations and the denomination as a whole.

Further, in light of our own strong efforts to accomplish much of what the task force intends by way of increased collaboration and missional unity through our recommendation that synod join the Christian Reformed Home Missions (CRHM) and Christian Reformed World Missions (CRWM) agencies, we urge synod to postpone for at least one year any action on the TFRSC report. This year would provide time for the church to assess the implications of the proposal to join CRWM and CRHM with regard to the concerns raised in the report of the TFRSC.

### **III. Background information and reflection**

#### **A. Current collaboration**

Part of the reasoning given for the TFRSC proposals is that agencies are currently not working together well. The TFRSC report states that “the culture, structure, and leadership context . . . is often suspicious of anything that has the scent of centralization at the cost of greater collaboration and missional unity” (*Agenda for Synod 2015*, p. 351). This statement may accurately describe situations prominent in the 1970s and 1980s. We judge that this statement does not describe well the ways in which agencies and offices work today. Among the many collaborative efforts between the agencies and offices we note the following:

1. Global Coffee Break—brings a Home Missions (and former Faith Alive Christian Resources) product into use among CRWM partners with some participation by Back to God Ministries International (BTGMI).
2. Timothy Leadership Training Institute—a nonformal pastor training program governed and funded in part by BTGMI, World Renew, CRWM, and Calvin Theological Seminary and used by international partners in at least fifty countries.
3. Congregational Services Coordination Team—brings together representatives from all the agencies and many of the offices to seek ways to serve congregations more effectively.
4. Many joined/shared/collaborative ministries involving BTGMI, World Renew, and CRWM around the world.
5. Involvement of some specialized ministries in agency programs (Office of Social Justice, Office of Race Relations, and Office of Disability Concerns have recently participated in World Missions programs).
6. The recently developed *Mission Montreal* is a collaborative ministry of CRWM, CRHM, Diaconal Ministries Canada, and Classis Eastern Canada.

#### *B. Increased collaboration*

The agencies and offices work cooperatively and even collaboratively within the existing structure under most circumstances. The recent decision by CRWM and CRHM to join their boards and operations is the fruit of extensive consultation over a number of years. Such consultation responded favorably to synodical and Board of Trustees' directives to cooperate. It is unclear to us that a future Council of Delegates governing several agencies would result in their working more collaboratively than has been the case with the current Board of Trustees.

#### *C. Board engagement*

The current agency boards have an opportunity to know the character and work of their respective agencies pretty well, while members of the proposed Council of Delegates would have a much harder time gaining deep knowledge of our denominational ministries as a whole because the size and scope are so great. Knowing well even the work of one agency, World Missions, takes a long time. Knowing the whole well is unlikely to happen even through six years of board service.

#### *D. Connection to the churches*

The recommendations claim to be more responsive to the local church, but the Council of Delegates scenario would have the effect of putting an extra layer or filter between the local church and the agencies.

1. Having a 60-member Council of Delegates (COD) with 48 of the delegates elected by classes might seem to be a way to reconnect to the churches. However, we are concerned that the problems which led CRWM and the other agencies to move to smaller boards would recur. Unless the 48 were pastors, who are normally at classis meetings, they would not have great connectivity to their classes. Also, it seems likely that the percentage of

lay, women, and ethnic minority decision makers would likely decline because just one-fifth of COD members would be at-large.

2. It has been observed that the larger the governing body, the more likely it is that they will “rubber stamp” recommendations brought to them by staff. We are concerned that real influence would be concentrated in the 12-member executive committee of the Council of Delegates.
3. Delegates to the Council of Delegates would have to work through a great variety of reports from agency directors and absorb a large amount of detail if they wished to represent adequately the supervision as classis representatives. The risk of overload lends itself all too readily to an inability to attain a deepened understanding of their tasks, and a failure to act with genuine vision and understanding of the work at hand. The experience of the combined Calvin College and Seminary Board, before its division, in dealing responsibly with the reports of two presidents is an example to keep in mind.
4. There is already considerable frustration among congregations and their leaders with the distance between agencies and local congregations (between “Grand Rapids” and the local church) because past changes have altered the nature of accountability.
5. Accountability via a large Council of Delegates would increase that distance. The council delegates would have too many “hats to wear” and would have to deal with too many details to report adequately back to their classes.
6. Since some of the frustration arises from the binational character of the CRCNA, it is not helpful that the vast majority of the members of the Council of Delegates would be from the United States, since the majority of classes are in the United States. The equality of national representation on the council Executive Committee would serve only as a cynical reminder of the expectation that the real center of authority would be in the Executive Committee.
7. Regional synods could be helpful, providing that it is clear what kind of real authority they would have in relating to the local church and in contributing to governance in the CRCNA as a whole.
8. There is a risk that decisions would be made for the agencies rather than arising out of the agencies working with a vision appropriate to each agency in consultation with local churches.

#### *E. Integration or disintegration*

The TFRSC hopes to bring greater coordination and unity to the ministries of the CRC, but it is unclear whether the structure they propose would actually have that result. It is clear that the CRC values holding Word and deed together. At present World Renew, like the other agencies, has a board that reports to synod via the Board of Trustees. The proposed structure would make World Renew unique. They would be less connected to the proposed Council of Delegates than would other agencies, with the result that World

Renew would be more separate than integrated with the other missions ministries. The question arises whether such a change would lead to greater integration or to greater disintegration. Similar questions could be raised about the proposal's impact on the relationship of Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary with the denomination.

*F. Agency board volume*

Concern has been expressed about the large number of people who are presently serving on the various boards and the resultant expenses for their service. However, that number has already been greatly reduced since 2005. Further, service on agency boards has created a pool of people across the denomination who have significant relationships with other CRC people all over North America. This relational connectivity serves the denomination well in an era when older types of connectivity such as family connection, common educational experience, and the like are less common. Over the past decade CRWM's 18-member board has made a practice of holding meetings in various geographic locations to better connect with and understand the commonalities and differences across the denomination. A 60-member board would find such engagement with the churches next to impossible. The logistics would become overwhelming.

*G. Theological reflection*

Church-created entities, like the agencies, offices, and educational institutions of the Christian Reformed Church, should reflect their origin and the biblically spiritual values on which they are based. While not every aspect of their structure and ministry can be drawn directly from Scripture, and the attempt to do so is sure to lead to proof-texting, theological reflection on the nature of these institutions would benefit them and the church they serve.

Reformed polity has always tried to be sensitive to the organic nature of the church. Agencies work on behalf of the local church, enabling them to act in concert. The proposed structure brings a rational way of thinking from the corporate world, with a strong emphasis on the corporate cultural mantra of efficiency. We need to reflect more deeply on how a scriptural model also reflects the insights that God has granted to others.

*H. A way forward*

By raising these concerns, CRWM is not advocating for the status quo. We are grateful for the opportunity to engage the denomination's process for significant structural change as initiated by the boards of Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions, to be unified into a single agency with both global and local focus, and we appreciate the endorsement of the TFRSC for this important work.

1. We also see a need for a renewed effort on the part of the Board of Trustees and the new executive leadership team to provide a common set of guidelines and measures that will help all the agencies, offices, and educational institutions of the CRC to have common language and goals.
2. The outdated denominational Ministry Plan should be renewed. There should be robust discussion at key leadership meetings that do much more than process urgent agenda items.



3. We also believe that existing efforts at collaborative ministry should continue and be increased, including collaboration involving World Renew, Calvin Theological Seminary, and Calvin College.

Christian Reformed World Missions  
Gary J. Bekker, director

*Note:* The board of Christian Reformed World Missions, in conjunction with the board of Christian Reformed Home Missions, has also submitted a joint supplemental report to Synod 2015.

## **Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions Supplement**

*Following God's Lead: Joining Home Missions and World Missions*

### **I. Introduction**

The boards of Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions ask that Synod 2015 accept recommendations by the Board of Trustees that will result in Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions becoming one agency under a single synodical mandate.

We stand before a new and exciting era for mission through the Christian Reformed Church. We believe God is leading Home Missions and World Missions to become a single mission agency within the CRC. A joined mission agency with a comprehensive local and global vision and mandate will enable the Christian Reformed Church to serve our Lord with greater strategic effectiveness and improved stewardship of resources.

Home Missions and World Missions have a long history of church planting, discipleship, developing Christian leaders, and encouraging and assisting CRC congregations and classes in their work of evangelism, discipleship, and missions. Over time we have continued to adapt to historical and cultural shifts and have contextualized our approach, but the message of the gospel has not changed.

### **II. Historical background**

The first CRC “home missionary” was appointed in 1879. The focus of his work at that time was to start churches in areas with concentrations of Dutch Reformed immigrants. In following years, cross-cultural missionaries were sent to serve among Native Americans and other international communities under the supervision of what is now Christian Reformed World Missions. In 1964 the current division of ministry became established with Christian Reformed Home Missions dealing with Canada and the United States, while World Missions dealt with the rest of the globe. Fifty years ago, that division made sense because the context of ministry in North America was very different from the situations in other countries.

### **III. A changing world**

The world has changed dramatically since the early 20th century, when our current agency structures were developed. In that era, when travel to foreign countries took weeks by ship and returning home happened perhaps once in ten years, people thought of missions as taking the gospel to distant lands and different peoples who lived far from us. Meanwhile, most people living in North America, even if they were not committed Christians, had at least some Christian heritage and some basic concepts about God, the Bible, and the church. Over time the center of Christianity has moved from North America and Europe to Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The vibrant growth and health of the church in the global south are matched by a relative decline in the global north. Nations such as Korea, China, and Brazil, which were once the recipients of missionaries, are now major missionary sending countries.

Today international travel is simple and common. The Internet allows ideas and images to be pervasive. Technology makes talking with someone in St. Petersburg, Russia, just as easy as talking with someone across the hall. North American universities are full of students from every corner of the world. Globalization has led to an unprecedented movement of people. The world has come to our doorstep in North America. The need for missionaries overseas remains very strong; however, the need for ministry in North America is just as pressing.

#### **IV. A mission agency for the 21st century**

We have a unique opportunity and responsibility for the world that has moved into our neighborhood. We need to be able to adapt to and address needs of the globalized world that we are called to serve. We cannot meet the needs of today's world with the structure of yesterday. The boards of Home Missions and World Missions now believe that the division between *Home* and *World* has outlived its usefulness.

#### **V. Breaking**

In today's world, dividing our denominational mission efforts by geographical boundaries causes gaps in ministry. In places where partnership is possible, separate mission, vision, priorities, reporting, and organizational structure decrease ministry effectiveness and prevent complete collaboration.

As one mission agency, joined in mission, vision, strategy, and structure, we will have a seamless integration of local and global mission. One agency will eliminate the logistical barriers that exist with two agencies. One agency will serve a world and a God that is not bound by geography.

#### **VI. A new vision**

Our goal is to create a new joined mission agency that brings the unique strengths and mission strategies of each agency together for greater impact within the Christian Reformed Church in North America and the global church. The joining of Home Missions and World Missions will build on a key strength common to both agencies: their supportive engagement with the church in communities in North America and around the world. A single agency will be able to boldly engage a globalized world.

#### **VII. Rationale**

The leadership, staff, and boards of both Home Missions and World Missions believe it is time to make a strategic change in the way that our agencies are structured and to create a new joined mission agency. Three main reasons for this move are as follows:

##### **A. Effectiveness**

This move will help CRC congregations to engage in effective evangelism in a globalizing world. Our churches are experiencing a new globalized reality; the unification allows for new ways to serve them.

1. Individuals and church groups are traveling and serving globally (not exclusively through World Missions). This new agency, with a globally networked team, will help congregations take the "next steps" and figure

out how to have the best long-term mission impact in those areas of the world in which they feel called to invest.

2. Congregations in North America are surrounded by globally diverse neighbors; this new agency with a globally networked team will be positioned to help congregations create pathways to connect locally with neighbors from a variety of cultural backgrounds.
3. “The current mission structure of the Christian Reformed Church was built around the reality of two solitudes: one focused on those who are nearby, with no language or cultural gaps, no great distances to travel, no visas or passports needed; the other reaching out to those who are far away, with boundaries of language, culture, time and economics. . . . It’s time to close the gap that our structure has unintentionally produced. The world is both far away and nearby—all at the same time.”—Steve Timmermans (<http://network.crcna.org/synod/mind-gap>)

*B. Efficiency: Leveraging decades of combined mission experience and administration*

The new agency will benefit from the combined strengths, knowledge, and experiences of doing mission work in North America and globally over many decades. We will be “better together” in addressing the missional challenges of the 21st century as we build on a collective past.

1. We see this as a tremendous new opportunity to be on the edge of stepping into what the Spirit of God is already doing beyond “our own boxes” and inherited structures. The old/inherited structures of *Home* and *World* geographic boundaries, which have served us for a long time, no longer serve us in this changed context of global realities.
2. Our current structure limits having fully integrated teams that connect North American mission leaders with those working in international mission contexts around key common missional strategies. Both agencies are involved in planting churches and developing leaders. Mutual learning will be more vigorous in a combined agency.
3. This proposal gives us, as agencies and a North American denomination, an opportunity to reimagine, rethink, and remake a new mission agency that participates in the work the Spirit of God is doing in the world today in a new way—not only with each other as two mission agencies with different strengths and cultures, but also with our local congregations that are facing and addressing the challenges of changed everyday realities on the ground.
4. There are already good examples of collaborative projects such as Mission Montreal, Transformational Networks, and Global Coffee Break.
5. We are already networked organizations distributed throughout North America and the world that work primarily through partnerships with local congregations, leaders, and mission organizations.
6. Being mission organizations has pushed us to think creatively and contextually about the ever-increasing challenges of rapid changes all around us.

7. While this move is not financially driven, we believe this move will eventually help to decrease the level of administrative expenses that will be shared centrally, freeing up more funds for direct ministry.

C. *Obedience*

We have sensed God calling us to join these agencies.

1. God has given us leaders who desire increasingly to move toward unity together. In prayer we believe that this is a move God wants us to make.
2. We are preparing for the future. The future is already here, and this is the right and obedient step in following our missionary God, joining him in sharing the gospel in a world that will continue to change.

## VIII. Timing

Upon approval of the three recommendations presented by the Board of Trustees, Dr. Gary J. Bekker and Dr. Moses Chung, as codirectors, will create a transition executive team that will include at least the current CRWM Canada director, Steve Kabetu. The team will develop and approve the following:

*No later than February 2016:*

- Statements of mission, vision, and values, a refined statement of mission strategy; and legal documents for incorporation of the new agency in both the United States and Canada.
- A long-term structure and leadership team for the new agency with the proviso that it include one American codirector and one Canadian codirector.

*No later than May 2016:*

- Agency name, advancement plan, and communications plan.

*Synod 2016*

- A celebration for the new agency.

## IX. Conclusion

For over one hundred and twenty-five years our agencies have assisted members of the CRC to fulfill their calling to be God's witnesses, both domestically and internationally. Churches have been planted; lives have been transformed. As we continue to serve in an ever-changing world, we are excited about the opportunities God is presenting to us. We want to be able to join in what our Lord is already doing in our neighborhoods and communities all around the world.

Christian Reformed Home Missions  
Moses Chung, director  
Christian Reformed World Missions  
Gary J. Bekker, director

## **Appendix A**

### **FAQs Regarding Home Missions and World Missions Forming a Single Mission Agency**

#### **1. Why are Home Missions and World Missions joining to form a single mission agency?**

Home Missions and World Missions have a long history of church planting, discipleship, developing Christian leaders, and encouraging and assisting CRC congregations and classes in their work of evangelism, discipleship, and missions.

In today's world, dividing our denominational mission efforts by geographical boundaries causes gaps in ministry. One agency will eliminate the logistical barriers that exist with two agencies. One agency will serve a world and a God that is not bound by geography. A joined mission agency with a comprehensive local and global vision and mandate will enable the Christian Reformed Church to serve our Lord with greater strategic effectiveness and improved stewardship of resources.

#### **2. What is the vision for a new joined mission agency?**

The goal is to create a new joined mission agency that brings the unique strengths and mission strategies of each agency together for greater impact within the Christian Reformed Church in North America and the global church. The joining of Home Missions and World Missions will build on a key strength common to both agencies: their supportive engagement with the church in communities in North America and around the world. A single agency will be able to boldly engage a globalized world.

#### **3. What benefits, opportunities, and areas for increased effectiveness come with a joined mission agency?**

It is difficult to create a comprehensive list that covers all of the potential benefits of a strategic restructuring like this, but here are a few:

- Shared knowledge, organizational expertise, and programmatic integration related to missional strategy and implementation.
- Opportunity to connect North American immigrant congregations with those in countries of origin.
- Further integration of programs such as
  - campus ministries, with increased efforts to reach international students and specific ethnic groups.
  - Transformational Networks that utilize the strengths of churches and ministries in North America and abroad.
  - efforts to reach people living in urban centers—for example, Mission Montreal.
  - Global Coffee Break.
  - youth volunteer programming both domestic and international.
  - increased networking capacity for church-to-church relationships.
- Raised awareness of new and existing missional opportunities among the CRCNA family.

#### **4. How will this affect local congregations?**

A joined mission agency will serve local congregations for mission and leadership better and with greater impact. Integrating Home Missions and World Missions staff will strengthen their existing partnerships and create opportunities to explore and identify new opportunities for connecting churches and ministries locally and abroad.

#### **5. What does this mean for the existing staff and the projects of the current staff?**

Home Missions and World Missions highly value their staff, projects, and programs that they have stewarded over the years. Pending retirements of key staff in both Home Missions and World Missions will make the present an ideal time for restructuring. Current programs will be evaluated and reviewed for effectiveness and impact to ensure alignment with the joined agency's vision for ministry. It is expected that changes will occur; however, at this point it is too early to confirm specifics pertaining to current programming.

#### **6. Is the motivation for this financial?**

Exploring the creation of a joined mission agency has been purely a missional decision. The goal has been to find ways to do the most effective ministry regardless of geography. By doing this together, Home Missions and World Missions as a joined agency will have the most impact for God's kingdom.

#### **7. What are the financial implications?**

This move will not result in immediate financial efficiencies. Typically, when two organizations seek to join together, they can find a number of redundant staff positions to consolidate. However, because Home Missions and World Missions are denominational agencies, they already share common human resource services, financial services, information technology services, and facilities.

#### **8. Will churches and individuals still be able to designate their gifts for either domestic or foreign ministry?**

Yes. Whether a church or individual is interested in domestic or foreign ministry, there will be a way for them to direct the focus of their gifts toward specific ministries of the new joined mission agency.

#### **9. What does this mean for the Home Missions and World Missions boards of directors?**

If synod approves the recommendation to create a joined mission agency, a single board consisting of current board members from both respective agencies will serve as the new governing board.

#### **10. Who will be leading this new mission agency?**

After synodical approval, Dr. Gary J. Bekker and Dr. Moses Chung as co-directors will create a transition executive team that will include at least the current CRWM Canada director, Steve Kabetu. The directors and executive team will be charged with implementing the BOT- and synod-approved plan

for joining Home Missions and World Missions while ensuring that the vital mission work continues with minimal disruption.

#### **11. Is this part of the CRCNA review of structure and culture?**

No. This is not a new idea. As far back as 2008 there have been conversations about a new global (domestic and foreign) agency. Since then, leaders of the two agencies have met regularly, as directed by their boards, to discuss areas of collaboration. As a result of those discussions, the Home Missions Coffee Break program has been increasingly used and appreciated in many countries around the world, and Mission Montreal has been launched as a way of engaging the Transformational Network model of World Missions in a North American cross-cultural ministry setting. In 2010 a multiday event was held to explore the idea of a new global agency.

#### **12. What about Back to God Ministries International and World Renew? Or Faith Formation Ministries? Or Calvin Theological Seminary?**

This proposal joins together two denominational agencies that share a mutual history and programming. It is impossible to know what the future holds for the structure and organization of denominational ministries in general, but Home Missions and World Missions are excited to be able to collaborate in a much more deliberate way than they have ever been able to before. Collaboration with other CRCNA agencies will not only continue but will remain a priority.

### **Appendix B Stories of Impact**

#### **Serving the City, Uniting the Church**

Some surveys estimate that Montreal has more unreached people than any other city in the world. Less than 4 percent of residents attend church in this city of nearly 2 million people. “The city has dramatically turned from its Christian heritage and undergone intense secularization,” says Adrian Van Giessen, Home Missions Regional Leader for Eastern Canada. The CRCNA as a denomination has limited resources (and only one Christian Reformed Church) in Montreal, but as Van Giessen says, “There’s a spiritual hunger there. The city is ready for God, and God shares our passion to see redemption in this place.”

Montreal is now the home of a brand-new ministry called Mission Montreal, the first of its kind in North America.

Joel Huyser, World Missions director for Transformational Networks, describes Montreal as a global city. “The city has strong local roots, but is also home to immigrants from around the world.” Home Missions and World Missions entered Montreal knowing we’d find God already at work there. What we found there was even more encouraging—partners already on the ground, committed to strengthening the church and fostering unity. Joining together with Diaconal Ministries Canada, Classis Eastern Canada, and our “partner on the ground,” Christian Direction, we’ve seen big increases in our capacity to develop, equip, and work alongside Christians and churches in Montreal.



Glenn Smith, executive director of Christian Direction, stepped into this partnership to assist in linking the Christian Reformed Church with ministry already happening. "This is one of the most fascinating partnerships I've ever been involved with," he says. From Smith's perspective, the biggest asset Home Missions and World Missions have brought to the table is their collaborative spirit. "Christian Direction has been around for nearly 50 years—we've got good roots, but we're a small organization," he says, "We know we can't accomplish our mission without partnerships, and this one is really special."

Mission Montreal has seen God at work in a myriad of ways. Focusing on developing missional communities, equipping Christians to reach their Muslim neighbors, and working alongside ministries at Montreal's universities, Mission Montreal seeks to unite churches to serve the city. "We've taken the concept of church unity and expanded it far beyond our denominational walls," says Van Giessen. "We want to enhance and contribute towards a shared Christian witness in a city that desperately needs God."

Smith can list a host of ways Mission Montreal is seeing real, concrete life transformation. Montreal has more university students per capita than any other city in North America except Boston, yet mission work among this population is minimal. Mission Montreal has sought out these students, involving them in volunteer work, small groups, and telling them about Jesus—some for the first time. One of the biggest areas of focus for Mission Montreal is outreach to their large Muslim immigrant community. Through feeding the hungry, conversation cafes, music lessons, and outreach to single Muslim mothers, the ministry is building relationships and changing lives.

This innovative initiative in Montreal has been spurred on by Home Missions and World Missions' coming together in a way they have not been able to before. In addition to contributing financial support for the project, both organizations have contributed staff members to the board of Mission Montreal, including Adrian Van Giessen, Steve Kabetu, and Joel Huyser. Home Missions and World Missions have also added staff capacity to the project by providing for the hiring of three employees working exclusively with Mission Montreal.

"This is the first time World Missions has ever done a project in North America. It's unprecedented," says Huyser, who is excited about the future of collaboration between Home Missions and World Missions. Both agencies have brought essential resources and experience to Montreal. But Huyser sees this effort as an even bigger opportunity than just serving the city. "From the beginning, we've said we want Montreal to be a laboratory and a classroom for the CRCNA," he says. "Rather than seeing the places that we do mission simply as 'receivers,' we see them as places to learn together." As Home Missions and World Missions seek to become more unified, as we learn more from each other and from the communities we serve, we can join more fully in God's mission.

"Mission Montreal is proof positive that we can embed collaboration and imagination into the work of the CRCNA," says Van Giessen. "Future initiatives and projects will build on groundwork laid here." Home Missions and World Missions are working to use what we've learned in Montreal as a template for new ministry all over the world. As a joined agency, we can refine this method of finding God at work, coming alongside partners who share

our values and passion for ministry, and adding our gifts and resources to the mix. “We’re on the cutting edge of missional practice,” says Smith.

Leaders at both agencies are hearing God’s call to work together through their experience at Mission Montreal. “The collaboration we see here is compelling; it’s exciting,” says Home Missions director Moses Chung. “Imagine what could be on the horizon moving forward as one agency—Mission Toronto? Mission Beijing? God’s ushering in a new reality.” World Missions director Gary Bekker adds, “A joined mission agency is the next step in our calling to bring a Christian witness to the ends of the earth.”

### **Church Planting and Shared Connections**

When Scott and Marcia Geurink felt God calling them back home to the United States in 2014, they returned with more than 20 years of church planting experience.

With the guidance of Christian Reformed World Missions, the Geurinks had used established church planting strategies along with the gifts of the local people to create strong communities of faith in Tijuana, Mexico.

In fact, God’s kingdom in Tijuana has grown from having one church, one congregation, and one mission when the Geurinks arrived in 1993 to twelve churches and missions today.

But this success didn’t happen overnight. The work of developing leaders and strengthening existing believers’ gifts took longer than expected. Still, God used the Geurinks’ struggles and disappointments to help make the church in Tijuana even stronger. With each new church plant came a better-prepared Scott and Marcia and a stronger network of local support to continue the work when they left.

“The vision for the first daughter mission of [our first church plant] actually came from the men and women who wanted to reach out to a neighboring community,” said Marcia. “These same men and women teamed up with us to help start another church.”

Although Scott and Marcia have returned to the United States, their work of strengthening churches has not come to an end. Today they are still using their gifts among the Spanish-speaking population to work alongside Alas de Aguila church plant in Allendale, Michigan. Together with the church plant’s pastor, they lead Bible studies and disciple believers from Alas de Aguila.

The Geurinks, like CRHM and CRWM, have a vision for a global, joined mission. But there is still more potential for shared connections with a joined mission agency.

Alas de Aguila and churches like it face a future full of opportunity to partner with churches around the corner and overseas. Imagine if Alas de Aguila became engaged in the churches where Scott and Marcia recently served. As church plants and missions grow and look to fulfill the Great Commission, imagine if global missionaries and local churches could share their connections and mutually learn from one another.

With a joined mission agency, these connections would be more probable and shared ministry could take place. This is the vision that we as CRHM and CRWM share.

## United in Mission

In 2011 my wife, Chichi, and I [John Eigege], two Nigerian immigrants, received a call from God and New Life Christian Reformed Church to move to Houston, Texas, and explore fulltime ministry. Through Christian Reformed Home Missions, we would explore the possibility of planting a new church.

As Chichi and I explored our passions, our gifting, and the needs in our city, we sensed God calling us toward the inner city and the college campus. In this setting of density and diversity, we would serve young professionals and retired seniors, university students and the working poor. As we continued to learn about ministry, two major movements in the church began to shape our thinking and our practice—movements that are separated by two unique mission agencies but have potential to become even more powerful when combined.

The first movement is called Missional Church. It asks, “What does it mean for the church to be missional?” Is it enough for the church to only have paid staff who are sent to be ambassadors of Christ in our world? Or is the idea of being “called and sent by God” to be embraced by all who confess Jesus Christ as Lord? For the missional church, mission is its life blood, not just one of many programs it runs. The Missional Church brings the gospel to life wherever in society that may be.

Christian Reformed Home Missions has really shaped and challenged us as church planters to be missional in all we do. Through Home Missions, we established a missional community that gathered around rhythms of Scripture study, prayer, community service, and celebration, with the hope that this would eventually develop into a worshiping community.

The second movement is called Transformational Networks. These are diverse communities of service and learning that train people in an integral, biblical worldview. They train and network people to make an impact on their communities with the whole gospel. They ask two basic questions in their approach: What does the good news of Jesus look like here and now? How can we effectively work together to make that vision a reality?

I have been inspired by the work of Transformational Networks that Christian Reformed World Missions establishes in urban centers around the world. From the Nehemiah Center in Nicaragua to the Daniel Center in Nigeria, missionaries are successfully mobilizing gospel networks for the transformation of their cities and societies.

As I surveyed our neighborhood, I knew it needed a missional movement of Christians. But was a traditional church plant the only way to catalyze that movement? I knew the idea of Transformational Networks could radically transform the neighborhood, but could the Christian Reformed Church implement them locally? I was inspired by the idea of a missional church as part of a Transformational Network, a model that would allow both influences to fully flourish.

As I searched for congruence in my ministry experience, leaders of both Home Missions and World Missions were already knee-deep in conversations about joining both agencies. The world is at North America’s doorstep. What kind of posture should the North American church take so that it gives witness to the reconciliation that God gives all in Jesus Christ? Can both agencies learn from each other and apply our collective best practices, no matter the location, to see the gospel of Christ fully expressed in our world?

As I searched for congruence in our neighborhood, many other like-minded leaders from different Christian traditions searched for the same thing. Nine months ago we started getting together to pray for one another and for the transformation of our neighborhood—a place filled with both brokenness and hope.

Out of our joint prayer, along with a collective brainstorming session, our group started to identify some needs for transformation. In order to continue transforming our neighborhood, we felt we strongly needed someone who could network and resource our organizations fulltime. We are early in our church planting journey. But as I think of the needs of our community that will breathe lasting transformation, is this a call to morph my role in the community into a catalyst for transformation?

Home Missions and World Missions are early in the journey to join as well. I wonder at the enormous, vital task in front of them. And I am uplifted to know that our denominational leaders are seeking God's will above all.

The prospect of establishing Transformational Networks in North America, in our own neighborhood, excites me. The vision of our churches and organizations working together for common good inspires me. The hope of the missional community that currently meets in my house joining this bigger network of transformation, hence multiplying our impact, energizes me. I pray for discernment and courage—both for myself and Chichi and for my denominational leadership—to follow God in mission.

Whenever decisions for big changes loom on the horizons of our lives, it is easy for anxiety and fear to creep in. As my family and denominational leadership discern next steps for following God in worldwide mission, God encourages us with these words from the book of Joshua: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go" (Josh. 1:9).

*John Eigege is a church planter from Nigeria working in Houston, Texas. He serves on the Christian Reformed World Missions board.*



**Back to God Ministries International Supplement****I. Introduction**

At the April 23, 2015, meeting of the board of Back to God Ministries International (BTGMI), the board discussed the “Global mission capability and collaboration” section of the report of the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture being considered by Synod 2015. The BTGMI board appreciates the goal of the task force’s report with its recommendation to implement a structure that simplifies and enhances the governance of the CRCNA and its agencies. BTGMI understands and values effective, streamlined governance for enhancing and enabling ministry in the church and around the world.

Nevertheless, the board of BTGMI has several concerns and requests clarification regarding certain aspects of the task force’s recommendations. The board therefore presents the following to Synod 2015:

**II. Concerns**

1. It is unclear how the Canada Revenue Agency requirements for Canadian board authority regarding designation of all funds coming from Canadian sources for BTGMI will be met (presently with the Canadian board of BTGMI).
2. The proposed joining of Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions raises questions about the place and role of BTGMI in global ministries.
3. It is not clear to us what separation of governance and ministry looks like on a board or committee level—in other words, what will be the role of what is now the BTGMI board?
4. It is not clear in the proposed structure who has fiduciary authority over monies designated for BTGMI received from estates and private donors.
5. In donor relations there are concerns about effects to the BTGMI brand in relation to fundraising, especially with regard to donors outside the CRCNA and donors within the CRC who strongly support the vision and mission of BTGMI.

Back to God Ministries International  
Rev. Kurt Selles, director

## Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement

The Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees presents this supplement of additional matters relating to the seminary.

### I. Board of Trustees

At its meeting on May 21-22, 2015, the board elected the following officers for 2015-2016: Mr. Sid Jansma, Jr., chair; Rev. Andrew Vander Leek, vice chair; Ms. Teresa Renkema, secretary.

### II. Academics

#### A. Graduates

Calvin Theological Seminary graduated 106 students at its commencement service on May 23, 2015. Of those students, 36 were the first graduates of the seminary's recently established Hispanic Ministry program and received a Certificate in Hispanic Ministry. Two students were the first to receive the master of divinity degree through the seminary's Distance Learning program, now completing its third year. The Ph.D. program saw the largest number of graduates during its 23-year history, with seven students receiving their degree.

#### B. Distinguished Alumni Awards

Dr. Dale J. Cooper and Rev. Henry De Bolster received the seminary's Distinguished Alumni Awards for 2015.

#### C. Faculty

At its recent meeting, the trustees made the following appointments and renewals:

1. Dr. Matthew J. Tuininga appointed as assistant professor of moral theology for three years. The trustees recommend that, following a successful interview, synod ratify the appointment of Dr. Matthew J. Tuininga as Assistant Professor of Moral Theology for three years, effective July 1, 2016. The curriculum vitae for Dr. Tuininga is found in Appendix A.
2. Mr. Cory B. Willson appointed as the Jake and Betsy Tuls assistant professor of missiology and missional ministry for three years. The trustees recommend that, following a successful interview, synod ratify the appointment of Mr. Cory B. Willson as the Jake and Betsy Tuls Assistant Professor of Missiology and Missional Ministry for three years, effective July 1, 2015. The curriculum vitae for Mr. Willson is found in Appendix B.
3. Dr. Mary VandenBerg reappointed with promotion to the rank of professor of systematic theology with permanent tenure. The trustees recommend that synod ratify this reappointment.
4. Ms. Sarah Chun reappointed as associate dean of students and international student advisor for three years, effective July 1, 2015.
5. Dr. Jeff Sajdak reappointed as dean of students for three years, effective July 1, 2015.

#### D. *Position openings*

At its February meeting, the board declared the opening of the director of mentored ministries position. The board heard an update on the search process in May and continues to request the prayers of the churches for potential nominees and the process of filling this position.

### III. Recommendations

A. That, following a successful interview, synod ratify the appointment of Dr. Matthew J. Tuininga as Assistant Professor of Moral Theology for three years, effective July 1, 2016.

B. That, following a successful interview, synod ratify the appointment of Mr. Cory B. Willson as the Jake and Betsy Tuls Assistant Professor of Missiology and Missional Ministry for three years, effective July 1, 2015.

C. That synod ratify the reappointment of Dr. Mary VandenBerg with promotion to the rank of Professor of Systematic Theology with permanent tenure.

Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees  
Teresa Renkema, secretary

## Appendix A

### Cover Letter and Curriculum Vitae: Matthew J. Tuininga

Professor Lyle Bierma  
Chair, Search Committee for Professor of Moral Theology,  
Calvin Theological Seminary

Dear Professor Bierma and Committee Members,

I am responding to your advertisement for a faculty position in moral theology, or moral and philosophical theology, at Calvin Theological Seminary. I received my Ph.D. in Religion, Ethics, and Society from Emory University in 2014. I wrote my dissertation, titled *Christ's Two Kingdoms: Calvin's Political Theology and the Public Engagement of the Church*, under the direction of John Witte, Jr., Director of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory University School of Law; Timothy P. Jackson, Professor of Christian Ethics, and Steven Tipton, Professor of the Sociology of Religion, both from Emory University's Candler School of Theology; and Elsie Anne McKee, Professor of Reformation Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary.

My abiding scholarly interest is in the moral and social implications of the Christian faith. I am especially interested in what it means for Christians to witness faithfully to the gospel of Christ in contexts characterized by religious, social, and moral pluralism, as individuals and as churches, in word and in deed. I use a broad framework of theological, philosophical, historical, and sociological perspectives to work through practical challenges facing contemporary believers and churches.

My passion lies in service to the church. A licentiate for nearly eight years, I have served four pastoral internships, in one case as the sole pastor of a church for two months. I have preached nearly two hundred times and continue to receive



regular invitations from churches across the United States. In terms of training pastors, I served for several years as a teaching associate in ethics and theology at Candler School of Theology, a seminary of the Methodist Church, and I taught one semester as a contingent professor of moral theology at Sewanee, the University of the South, a seminary of the Episcopal Church. Though I currently teach undergraduates in a liberal arts setting, it is my desire to teach in a Reformed institution dedicated to the service of the church through the training of pastors and teachers.

My ties to the Reformed tradition run deep. My grandfather, father, and uncle are all graduates of Calvin Theological Seminary. As the son of a Christian Reformed pastor, I enjoyed the richness of life as a child in a CRC congregation consisting largely of Dutch immigrants and their children. I also experienced the painful division that led to the formation of the United Reformed Churches, dividing both my family and my circle of friends. I began my affiliation with the Presbyterian Church (PCA) as a student at Covenant College. My wife (who grew up RCA) and children are members of the PCA congregation in which I worship at this time, though my license remains in the URC due to my confessional preference for the Three Forms of Unity. While serving as an Intelligence Analyst for the FBI, where I studied Islam, I came to appreciate the decisive importance of the theology and public witness of the church and decided to go to Westminster Seminary California.

I chose Westminster because I thought it exemplified a confessional, ecumenical, and Christocentric emphasis on church planting. As a mentor and teacher, Michael Horton helped me work through a crisis of faith by showing me that we embrace the authority of Scripture because we believe in *Christ*, and not the other way around. He emphasized that we serve within the Reformed *tradition* but we hold to the Christian *faith*. He spurred me to engage and take seriously the broader world of academic theology. Along with WSC's biblical-theological emphasis and its emphasis on the ministry of the church, these convictions provided the foundation for a significant personal watershed. They prompted me to reprioritize my theological commitments, reconsider my interpretations of Scripture, and rethink the role of the church and believers in the world. I hope to play the same sort of role mentoring and encouraging students—on a personal level—that Horton played for me.

I entered Emory University's program in Religion, Ethics, and Society interested in wrestling with the value of Reformed two kingdoms theology for contemporary Christian ethics. On the one hand, I believed that an eschatologically oriented two kingdoms theology provides a foundation for Christians to witness to the gospel and its social implications in a manner that spurns triumphalism in favor of witness. On the other hand, I found certain "neo-platonic" versions of two kingdoms thought troubling. My professors at Emory helped me to explore the value of Reformed moral theology in light of its broader historical and sociological contexts while placing it in conversation with the social gospel, liberation theology, feminism, black theology, and Neo-Anabaptism. By working with colleagues representing a wide diversity of backgrounds and convictions and by wrestling with questions and problems far beyond the scope of my past experiences, I came to appreciate the "big picture," so to speak, of the contemporary context for Reformed moral theology. Yet these experiences deepened my appreciation of the need for faithful confessional Reformed witness to the gospel.

It was in Calvin that I discovered enormous and largely untapped resources for resolving problems in two kingdoms theology. Calvin emphasized the lordship of Christ over all of life, yet he insisted that Christ's kingdom cannot be conflated with the temporal affairs of this world. He stressed obedience to God in every vocation, but he did so in a manner that encouraged self-sacrifice, humility, and hope rather than conquest, arrogance, or worldly success. Calvin helped me grasp how the church exhibits Christ's restoration of the material cosmos by serving the world as the new humanity, through word, sacrament, discipline, and diaconate, and so witnessing to its complete transformation in the future. He showed me how the church might proclaim a vision of kingdom restoration as Christians, individually and collectively, are conformed to Christ's image in their lives and vocations. My work on Calvin and Reformed political theology enables me to contribute to the excellent scholarship on the Reformed tradition spurred by Dr. Richard Muller and others through Calvin Theological Seminary's doctoral program, and to play a role in the ongoing training of doctoral students.

Properly understood, I believe Reformed moral theology is structured by the New Testament's call to believers faithfully to follow Christ and his commandments in obedience, love, service, and suffering—in every area of life—rather than by the Old Testament call to transform society according to the model of Israel. This Christocentric approach to moral theology is desperately needed in Reformed churches that are only beginning to grasp what it means to follow Christ in a post-Christian context. A central part of this task is to show how Christian worship shapes faithful Christian witness.

My study of Calvin also led me to rethink my relationship to the broader Reformed world, including the Christian Reformed Church. Calvin's Christocentric interpretation of Scripture and the law confirmed my inclination to reject the narrow fundamentalism that has come to characterize strands of Reformed Christianity. His emphasis on the distinction between moral/spiritual matters and political/temporal matters, rooted in the New Testament's eschatology, enabled me to discern and embrace biblical grounds for women's ordination to pastoral office. His emphasis on the unity of the church led me to question unnecessary ecclesiastical separation.

I believe my theological training, academic and intellectual trajectory, and passion for the churches of the confessional Reformed tradition make me an excellent fit for the position you are seeking to fill at Calvin Theological Seminary. On my CV you will find contact information for personal and professional references. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Matthew J. Tuininga

**Matthew J. Tuininga, Ph.D.**

#### **Education**

Ph.D., Emory University, Graduate Division of Religion, Ethics and Society, 2014.

M.Div., Westminster Seminary California, 2009.

B.A. (History), *Summa cum laude*, Covenant College, 2004.

### **Current Faculty Appointment**

Adjunct Professor of Politics and Core Studies: Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Georgia.

POL 290, *Religion and American Politics*, Spring 2015

COR 201, *Human Nature and the Social Order I* (two sections), Fall 2013, 2014.

COR 202, *Human Nature and the Social Order II* (two sections), Spring 2014, 2015.

HON 101, *Christianity and the Rise of Science*, Fall 2014.

### **Previous Teaching Experience**

Contingent Professor (sabbatical replacement, Fall 2013): Sewanee, University of the South – School of Theology, Sewanee, Tennessee; Courses: CEMT 522, *Contemporary Moral Issues*, Fall 2013.

Teaching Associate, Dr. Deborah Lipstadt, Emory University: *History of the Holocaust*, Spring 2013. Lectured and graded student work.

Teaching Associate, Dr. Steve Tipton, Emory University – Candler School of Theology: *Morality in America*, Spring 2011. Lectured, led regular seminars, graded student work.

Teaching Assistant, Dr. Joy McDougall, Emory University – Candler School of Theology: *Systematic Theology*, Fall 2010. Led regular seminars, graded student work.

Teaching Assistant, Dr. Timothy Jackson, Emory University – Candler School of Theology: *Introduction to Christian Ethics*, Fall 2009. Led regular seminars, graded student work.

### **Dissertation** (Defended September 18, 2014)

Topic: *Christ's Two Kingdoms: Calvin's Political Theology and the Public Engagement of the Church.*

Committee:

Timothy P. Jackson, Professor of Christian Ethics at Emory University's Candler School of Theology (codirector).

John Witte, Jr., Director of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory University School of Law (codirector).

Steven Tipton, Professor of the Sociology of Religion at Emory University's Candler School of Theology.

Elsie Anne McKee, Professor of Reformation Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary.

### **Research Assistant Experience**

Research Assistant, Prof. John Witte, Jr., Center for the Study of Law and Religion, 2009-2010. Conducted large scale research and report for an ongoing book project on John Calvin's theology of law. Drafted article on Martin Luther's political thought for *Encyclopedia of Political Thought*.

Research Assistant, Dr. David VanDrunen, Westminster Seminary California, 2007-2009. Conducted research and editing on a series of articles and book projects on Reformed political theology and bioethics, including *Natural Law and the Two Kingdoms*, *Living in God's Two Kingdoms*, *Bioethics and the Christian Life*, and *Divine Covenants and Moral Order*.

Research Assistant, Covenant College History Department, 2003-2004.

## **Honors and Awards**

Full Tuition Scholarship and Annual Stipend for Five Years of Doctoral Work,  
Emory University, Graduate Division of Religion, 2009-2014.  
Highest Possible Grades in Comprehensive Exams, Graduate Division of  
Religion, Emory University, 2011.  
D.K. Kim Scholarship, Westminster Seminary California, 2006-2009.  
Van Til Award (best paper in Department of Theological Studies),  
Westminster Seminary California, 2008.  
Van Til Award (best paper in Department of Practical Theology),  
Westminster Seminary California, 2007.  
Brock Scholarship, Covenant College, 2001-2004.  
Presidential Scholarship, Covenant College, 2001-2004.  
Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Honors Program, Oxford  
University, 2003.

## **Relevant Previous Employment**

Intern, Immanuel's Reformed Church, Salem, Oregon; Summer 2012  
Teacher, All Saints Redeemer Church, Atlanta, Georgia; 2009-2010  
Intern, Messiah's Reformed Fellowship, New York, New York; Summer 2008  
Intern, Draper's Valley Presbyterian Church, Draper, Virginia; Summer 2007  
Intern, Escondido United Reformed Church, Escondido, California;  
2007-2008  
Intelligence Analyst, counter-terrorism, Federal Bureau of Investigation;  
2005-2006  
Legislative Correspondent, U.S. Congressman Dave Weldon;  
May-December 2004  
Intern, U.S. Congressman Zach Wamp; Spring 2004

## **Linguistic Competencies**

French (advanced), German (basic), Latin (basic), Hebrew (basic), Greek  
(basic)

## **Professional Organizations**

American Academy of Religion  
Society of Christian Ethics

## **Book Chapters**

"Calvin as Two Kingdoms Theologian: In Theology, In Church, and In State."  
In Anne Eusterschulte, ed., *Anthropological Reformations: Anthropology in  
the Era of Reformation*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, forthcoming.  
"John Calvin and the Redemption of the Cosmos." In W. Bradford Littlejohn  
and Peter Escalante, eds., *For the Healing of the Nations: Essays on Creation,  
Redemption, and Neo-Calvinism. Proceedings of the Second Annual Convivium  
Irenicum*. Moscow, Idaho: The Davenant Press, 2014.

## **Article in Peer Reviewed Journal**

"Good News for the Poor: An Analysis of Calvin's Concept of Poor Relief  
and the Diaconate in Light of His Two Kingdoms Paradigm." *Calvin  
Theological Journal* 49 (2014): 221-247.

### Conference Papers Delivered

- "John Calvin and the Redemption of the Cosmos." Second Annual Convivium Irenicum, Laureldale Cottage, South Carolina, June 6, 2014.
- "Christ or Fuhrer: Luther, Bonhoeffer, and the Two Kingdoms Under Hitler." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, Maryland, November 24, 2013.
- "Calvin as Two Kingdoms Theologian: In Theology, In Church, and In State." Third RefoRC Conference 2013, Freie Universitat, Berlin, Germany, May 18, 2013.
- "Reformulating the Two Kingdoms Paradigm: A Constructive Critique of James Henley Thornwell's Doctrine of the Spirituality of the Church." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia, October 30, 2010.
- "A Common Covenant: Grounding Civil Politics in the Noahic Covenant." Annual Conference of the Abraham Kuyper Center for Public Theology, Princeton Theological Seminary, April 16, 2010.

### Select Published Articles (Non-Peer Reviewed)

- "Review: Christian Political Witness, Edited by George Kalantzis and Gregory W. Lee." *Modern Reformation*, 23.5 (Sept.-Oct. 2014): 51-54.
- "Should Christians Love Their Country?" *Reformation 21* (Sept. 2013).
- "Why Did German Protestants Support Hitler?" *Patheos* (Apr. 15, 2013).
- "Wilson Was a Calvinist, but He Got Calvin Wrong." *Patheos* (Dec. 16, 2012).
- "The Two Kingdoms Doctrine: The Teaching of Scripture." *Reformation 21* (Nov. 2012).
- "The Two Kingdoms Doctrine: John Calvin." *Reformation 21* (Oct. 2012).
- "The Two Kingdoms Doctrine: What's the Fuss All About?" *Reformation 21* (Sept. 2012).
- "How Plato Taught the Church to Tolerate Oppression." *Modern Reformation* (July/Aug. 2010).
- "The Noahic Covenant, Common Grace, and the Character of God." *Modern Reformation* (May/June, 2009).
- "Review: A Defense of Natural Law, by David VanDrunen." *The Outlook* 57.7 (July/Aug. 2007): 9-10.

## Appendix B

### Cover Letter and Curriculum Vitae: Cory B. Willson

February 13, 2015

Dr. Lyle Bierma  
Calvin Theological Seminary

Dear Dr. Bierma,

After conversations with Richard J. Mouw and reviewing the job description for the Institute for Global Church Planting and Renewal (IGCPR), I am eager to apply for the Professor of Missiology and Missional Ministry at Calvin Theological Seminary. My experiences as a university and seminary professor, ethnographic field research in congregations, and years of experience in pastoral ministry have provided the theological and pedagogical

training necessary to equip men and women for a missional encounter with the contexts in which they live and work. I would love to continue this career trajectory as a professor at Calvin Theological Seminary because it values creative, Reformed approaches to discipleship, church planting, and renewal.

I am passionate about enriching the faith and practice of Christians through a sustained engagement with Scripture, theology, and culture. This passion has led me on an interdisciplinary journey as I have sought to bring the Christian faith to bear on every sphere of life. During my tenure as the Director of College Ministries, I pursued an MBA at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. After graduating, I was hired to teach business management courses and to contribute to several publications. Afterwards I pursued two degrees in theology. In each of these contexts I have sought to explore how the work of a theologian helps local churches cultivate disciples to live on mission in their specific cultural and vocational contexts.

In my dissertation, I have approached a theology of work through qualitative research in several evangelical churches. This is essential to my convictions that a theologian is to be a servant of the church and that theology should assist the church in its missional engagement of culture. In order to do this, I have constructed a theology of work in dialogue with the historic and contemporary theologies of work and vocation (e.g., *Rerum Novarum*, *Laborem Exercens*, Herman Bavinck, Miroslav Volf, Lee Hardy, etc.) and drawing on primary ethnographic research that I conducted over a six-month period in three congregations. This qualitative research is set into conversation with the academic debates over work and vocation. Qualitative research raises my awareness of the lived needs, questions, and topics that a theology of work needs to address if it is to serve the work of vocational discipleship in local churches. This approach to theological reflection on qualitative research is an essential methodological counterpart to a missional hermeneutic of culture, rooting the task of a theologian in its proper place of being a servant to the church.

I have cultivated my passion for teaching since completing graduate school in 2002. My involvement in public universities, evangelical seminaries, and local churches in the Netherlands, China, Lebanon, Kenya, Uganda, France, and Italy have deepened my knowledge of the diversity within the global Christian church. These experiences have solidified in me a commitment to pursue a career that seeks to equip Christians to serve both Christ and neighbor in their particular cultural context. The tools of team-based learning, Socratic dialogue, and the experiential learning discipline of “action and reflection” have served me well in my work in the church and academia and have given me confidence that I can make a meaningful contribution to the work taking place in the Church Renewal Learning Labs at IG CPR.

My desire to equip men and women for the manifold ministries of the church grows out of my own story of training and work in a secular university as well as my pastoral concern for the evangelical community. The evangelical heritage is rich in evangelism and commitment to Scripture but sadly has often overlooked the importance of preparing Christian leaders who can embody a missional encounter with their culture. In my studies under Richard Mouw at Fuller Seminary I have integrated insights from theology, missiology, and anthropology into my theological method. These efforts have challenged me to address one of the most pressing issues facing



the world today: the growing religious diversity of society given the immigration patterns from the global south.

Over the past eight years I have been regularly involved in interfaith work and have contributed to a book on Christian and Jewish approaches for social ethics with Rabbi Elliot Dorff. I also teach an interdisciplinary course with Richard Mouw (a philosopher and theologian) and Douglas McConnell (a missiologist and anthropologist) on evangelicals and interfaith engagement. I have served as the cofounding editor of the journal *Evangelical Interfaith Dialogue* since 2010 and have participated with Richard Mouw in an ongoing Mormon-Evangelical dialogue since 2008. In my role as editor I have regular interaction with the scholarship emerging from evangelicals on every continent as the journal provides a platform for indigenous perspectives on interfaith engagement to educate the larger church.

In my local church I serve as an elder, and I have come alongside the worship pastor to create an evangelical liturgy for our urban, increasingly post-Christian context. This effort was subsidized in part by the Worship Renewal Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship awarded to our church in 2010-11. One of the most rewarding ministries for me has been to help lead an annual retreat on the Psalms with a diverse leadership team consisting of therapists, worship leaders, and pastors. These and other multidisciplinary pursuits in the church and academy express my commitment to help Christians remain grounded in the authority of Scripture and the resources of the Christian faith as they seek to know Christ and serve him in this world with conviction and civility.

Over the past twenty years I have come to see that God has gifted me as an educator and given me the desire to serve the body of Christ by equipping men and women for service both in the church and in broader society. I would consider it an honor to join the team of faculty at Calvin Theological Seminary.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my application. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this position and how I might contribute to the mission of the seminary.

Warmly,  
Cory B. Willson

**Cory B. Willson**

#### **CURRENT EMPLOYMENT**

**2010-Present** *Evangelical Interfaith Dialogue* journal, co-founder and editor (at Fuller Theological Seminary)

**2013-Present** Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California  
Adjunct Faculty in the School of Intercultural Studies

#### **EDUCATION**

**July 2015** Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California  
Defense of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) dissertation, Center for Advanced Theological Studies

Supervisors: Richard J. Mouw, Cornelius van der Kooi, and William A. Dyrness; Dissertation: *Shaping the Lenses on Everyday Work: A Neo-Calvinist Understanding of the Poetics of Work and Human Flourishing*

**September 2015 Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, the Netherlands**

Defense of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) dissertation; School of Theology Supervisors: George Harinck, Cornelius van der Kooi, and Richard J. Mouw; Dissertation: *Shaping the Lenses on Everyday Work: A Neo-Calvinist Understanding of the Poetics of Work and Human Flourishing*

**June 2009 Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California**

Master of Divinity (M.Div.)

**June 2002 California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo**

Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)

**June 2000 California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo**

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Business Administration

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**2012-2013** Director of Leadership Development; Max De Pree Center for Leadership at Fuller Theological Seminary

**2007-2012** Course Coordinator and Research Assistant for Richard J. Mouw; Courses: *Perspectives on Christ and Culture & Evangelicals and Interfaith Dialogue*; Research: Christian Approaches to Engaging Culture and Public Theology; Evangelicals, Religious Diversity and Interfaith Engagement; Jewish and Christian Approaches to Social Ethics

**2002-2004** Adjunct Faculty in Business Management, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

**MINISTRY EXPERIENCE**

**2007-Present** Grace Brethren Church of Long Beach; Elder

**2005-2006** Grace Brethren Church of Long Beach; Pastoral Practicum: College Ministry and Young Adults

**2004-2005** Grace Brethren Church of Long Beach; Intern to Senior Pastor

**2000-2001** Grace Church, San Luis Obispo; Director of College Ministries

**1998-2000** Grace Church, San Luis Obispo; Pastoral Intern for College Ministry

**CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS**

- The emanating center of my dissertation, interfaith engagement, writing and teaching, and research with local congregations is a neo-Calvinist interpretation of the biblical teaching concerning the *missio Dei*. The *missio Dei* refers to the manifold purposes of the triune God that began at creation and will reach its culmination in the new creation. This theological framework holds together biblical themes of creation, fall, redemption, and new creation and provides the foundation for a biblical theological anthropology. It also provides practical resources for missiologists, pastors, and lay Christians as they engage in their culture-making vocations.
- As co-founding editor of the *Evangelical Interfaith Dialogue* journal at Fuller Seminary, I have the privileged position of working closely with scholars, pastors, and practitioners from every continent. This affords me regular interaction with non-Western Christian voices on global issues. The selection of authors and geographic locations are purposefully chosen to



provide for the larger evangelical community indigenous perspectives on critical issues arising from these sociocultural contexts. This reverses the traditional flow of exporting Western theology abroad.

- In conjunction with Richard Mouw and several seminary presidents, I have participated with a team of scholars to develop theological and pedagogical resources for integrating interfaith education into the curricula of the core disciplines of theological schools in North America.

## PUBLICATIONS

- “*Simul Humanitas et Peccator: The Talmud’s Contribution to a Dutch Reformed Notion of the Imago Dei*,” in the Kuyper Center Review, Volume 2: Revelation and Common Grace, Eerdmans, 2011.
- *The Jewish Approach to Repairing the World (Tikkun Olam): A Brief Introduction for Christians*, by Elliot N. Dorff and Cory B. Willson (Jewish Lights Publications: October 2008).
- “Should Christians Confront Mormon Missionaries When They Knock on the Door?” a response in *Christianity Today’s* Open Question forum (forthcoming, 2015).
- “A Spirituality Fit for Our Times: Towards a Bavinckian Theology of Work,” in *NeoCalvinism and Roman Catholicism*, eds. James Eglinton and George Harinck (pending).
- “Learning Proper Manners for the Religious Roundtable: Kuyper and Convicted Civility,” in *Comment Magazine*, July 13, 2011.
- “Temple Garments: A Case Study in the Lived Religion of Mormons,” in *On Talking Doctrine: Examining the Mormon-Evangelical Dialogue*, eds. Richard J. Mouw and Robert L. Millet (forthcoming: IVP, 2015).
- “Atoning Grace on Progression’s Highway: Explorations into Latter-day Saint Theological Anthropology Through the Writings of Robert L. Millet” in *Festschrift for Robert L. Millet* (forthcoming, 2015).
- “When Is a Mall Just a Mall? The Complexity of Reading Cultural Practices,” with Robert S. Covolo, *The Other Journal*, February 2, 2012.
- “Why Resurrection People Remember the Dead: Keeping the Memory of Our Deceased Loved Ones Alive,” *Christianity Today* online (April 14, 2014).
- “How Theology Can Ruin Your Prayer Life. How the Psalms Can Help,” *Reformed Worship*, June 2012.
- “Beyond Appreciation and Debate: A Response to Dr. Douglas McConnell’s Missiological Principles and Guidelines for Interfaith Dialogue,” in *Evangelical Interfaith Dialogue*, Issue 1.1, Winter 2010.
- “Putting Business on the Mission Map: How Churches Can Serve Businesspeople,” *Comment Magazine*, October 19, 2012.
- “Reflections on Jewish-Christian Dialogue,” in *Theology News and Notes*, Fall 2010.
- “Whose Islam? Which Christianity? Africa’s Religious Landscape,” in *Evangelical Interfaith Dialogue*, Issue 2.3, Fall 2011.
- *Behavior in Organizations*, 8th Edition, McGraw Hill Publications, 2004 (contributing author).
- *Behavior in Organizations*, 8th Edition, *Teachers Manual*, McGraw Hill Publications, 2004 (contributing author).

- *Collaborative Research in Organizations: Foundations for Learning, Change and Theoretical Development*, Sage Publications, 2003 (contributing author).
- "Between Two Worlds: The Pastoral Role of Integrating Faith and Work," *Leadership Journal* (April 2014).
- "Confronting the 'Exasperating Discontinuity': Max De Pree's Concept of Persons (Part 1 & 2)," *Fieldnotes Magazine* (Sept. 12, 2012).
- "Redeeming What Was Tossed: Fashion, Faith and a California Designer's Creative Calling," *Christianity Today's This Is Our City Project*, June 22, 2012.
- "Cultivating Her Creative Calling," *Comment Magazine*, February 22, 2012.
- "Review of William Dyrness's *Senses of Devotion*," *ARTS Journal*, 25.2, 2014.
- "East Meets East: In the Heartland of Hinduism," in *Evangelical Interfaith Dialogue*, Issue 2.2, Summer 2011.
- "Commentary: Discussion of the Aims of *Evangelical Interfaith Dialogue*," in *Evangelical Interfaith Dialogue*, Issue 1.3, Summer 2010.
- "The Stories We Tell Ourselves and Each Other," in *Evangelical Interfaith Dialogue*, Issue 1.3, Summer 2010.
- "Convicted Civility and Interfaith Dialogue," in *Evangelical Interfaith Dialogue*, Issue 1.3, Summer 2010.

#### GRANTS RECEIVED

**2012-2015** The Henry Luce Foundation Grant (\$190,000 three-year grant)

*Evangelical Interfaith Dialogue journal*

**2013-2015** The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations Grant

(\$50,000 two-year grant)

*Research on evangelical approaches to interfaith education in North American theological schools*

**2010-2011** The Max De Pree Leadership Fellow scholarship award (\$15,000)

**2010-2011** The Henry Luce Foundation Grant (\$25,000)

*Evangelical Interfaith Dialogue journal*

**2010-2011** Calvin Institute of Christian Worship's Worship Renewal Grant (\$15,000)



# STANDING COMMITTEES



# STANDING COMMITTEE SUPPLEMENTS

## Candidacy Committee Supplement

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

#### A. *Candidates for ministry*

Each year it is a privilege to meet and interview the applicants for candidacy. The interviews for these candidates were conducted this year by teams of four persons. The Candidacy Committee is pleased to recommend the following forty-four persons for candidacy to become ministers of the Word in the CRC. These candidates include those who graduated from other than Calvin Theological Seminary through the Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy. Biographical details for each of the candidates can be found in the Candidate Booklet, available for download at [www.crcna.org/candidacy](http://www.crcna.org/candidacy).

The following motion will allow their names to be approved by synod:

That synod declare the following individuals as candidates for ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church, subject to completion of all remaining (if any) requirements (the list of candidates eligible for call is available on the Candidacy Committee website: [www.crcna.org/candidacy](http://www.crcna.org/candidacy)):

Andrea M. Baas  
Nicholas C. Baas  
(Tony) Hyeon Bang  
Jenna L. Brandsen  
Christina L. Brinks-Rea  
Blake I. Campbell  
Jeffrey Chang  
Joshua M. Christoffels  
Bryant M. DeKruyter  
Kendra R. Ettema  
Shelby L. Gemmen  
David Groen  
Robert A. Hoekstra  
Darren S. Hoogendoorn  
Jin Su Hwang  
Edward C. Jiang  
Eric D. Kas  
(Brandon) Yongwan Kim  
Kristy R. Manion  
Elaine G. May  
Janina S. Mobach  
Mark A. Mohrlang

Karis Mpindi  
Joe W. Nasvytis  
Jacob D. Porter  
Barbara A. Sanders  
Hannah R. Smele  
Jason R. Terpstra  
David van Eyk  
Chad N. Van Ginkel  
Charles W. Van Hoffen  
Corey Van Huizen  
Scott J. Van Voorst  
Mary L. Vanden Berg  
Jeremy S. Vandermeer  
Kevin J. VanderVeen  
Mark A. VanderWerf  
Philip J. VanderWindt  
Ben G. VanStraten  
Adam S. Veenstra  
Jesse L. Walhof  
Perrin M. Werner  
Rhonda S. Workman  
David P. Zigterman

## B. Extension of candidacy

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. The Candidacy Committee communicates with such persons in order to determine the validity of the request and to offer words of encouragement. The Candidacy Committee recommends the following thirty-one persons for candidacy extension approval:

Kevin J. Boss	Victor S. Laarman
Yoon Chul (Daniel) Choi	Mark E. Langenbach
Nevada L. DeLapp	Timothy Leferink
Douglas J. De Groot	Daniel Meyer
Kyle Dieleman	Dena E. Meyerink
Richard France-Coe	Cornelius M. Muasa
Tyler Greenway	Kurt C. Schaefer
Robert J. Gruessing	Paula Seales
Patrick N. Guarracino	Juli Stuelpnagel
Gareth P. Harker	Lesli L. van Milligen
Ryan Hoogerbrugge	Richard W. Visser
Joseph Hwang	Kristopher R. Walhof
Daniel B. Jung	Beverly Weeks
Erik W. Kamp	Douglas M. Wood
Lee Khang	Leo H. Yoon
Michelle J. Kool	

## II. Presentation of the candidates to synod

It is recommended that the candidates be presented to Synod 2015 on Tuesday, June 16, at 9:30 a.m. The director of candidacy and the president of Calvin Theological Seminary will formally introduce the candidates for 2015 to synod.

## III. Article 8 candidates approved

Our process for guiding pastors ordained in other denominations who wish to become ordained in the CRC is described in Church Order Article 8. Church Order Supplement, Article 8, F directs the Candidacy Committee to be intimately involved in this process and to submit for synod's review the names of those approved for Article 8. The Candidacy Committee has concurred on *need* for the following persons in the past year. In each case the appropriate documents are on file with the director of candidacy.

Date	Name of applicant	Classis	Former denomination
5-7-14	An, Sang Hyun	Central California	Talbot Korean Church Association
8-7-14	Chiang, James	Central California	San Ramon Valley Gospel Church
9-2-14	Choi, Ilyong "Paul"	Rocky Mountain	Korean Presbyterian Church USA
9-2-14	Kim, Yoon Whan	Kalamazoo	PCA
9-2-14	Oh, Sang Kyu	Hanmi	Presbyterian Church in Korea
9-2-14	Shin, In Chul	Hanmi	Korean Evangelical Church of America
9-4-14	Kim, Myunggi	Hanmi	Presbyterian Church of Korea
9-14-14	Agbuya, Alex	Central Plains	Assemblies of God in the Philippines
2-9-15	Kim, Won Chei	Ko-Am	Pentecostal Assembly of God of Korea
2-9-15	Son, Tae Jung	Ko-Am	Bible Presbyterian Church in America
2-9-15	Yoon, Gyeong Soo	Ko-Am	Presbyterian Church of Korea
5-1-15	Kim, Jong Yup	Southeast U.S.	Korean Presbyterian Church

#### IV. Special Article 8 case

In the Candidacy Committee supplemental report to Synod 2014, mention was made of two special Article 8 cases, involving the reaffiliation of pastors who had served in the CRC earlier in their careers. One was mentioned by name for approval of *need*, and the committee promised to call the attention of synod to other cases as they were approved under the special protocol described in this report.

The committee is pleased to note that the other of these two cases has progressed to completion in the past year. The Zion Chinese CRC of Abbotsford, British Columbia, has worked with Classis B.C. South-East and the Candidacy Committee to call and install Rev. Joseph Chen to service as their pastor, after a period in which he had been away from the CRC. An abbreviated Article 8 process was used for this case. We ask that synod approve the action of the Candidacy Committee relative to the process used for readmission to CRC ministry for Rev. Joseph Chen under Church Order Article 8.

#### V. Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidates review and report

In the Candidacy Committee report to Synod 2015, mention was made of a committee that is working to review the Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidates (EPMC), which is the required program toward candidacy for those who attend seminaries other than Calvin Theological Seminary (the M.Div. program of Calvin Seminary includes the elements of the EPMC). The committee report stated that findings of the committee would be presented to synod via their supplemental report. The following describe the review and modifications for the program.

##### A. Current EPMC requirements

- Five courses at Calvin Theological Seminary: Hermeneutics, Creeds and Confessions, CRC Polity, CRC History, Preaching (10 credit hours)
- A Bible Knowledge exam or course (course is 3 credit hours, if elected)
- A Digital Bible Tools seminar (3 days – no credit given)
- Twelve prerequisite courses that meet admission requirements
- Fifteen hours of required biblical language and exegetical course work
- Six hundred hours of mentored ministry work

##### B. New EPMC requirements

The Admissions and Standards Committee at Calvin Theological Seminary is currently reviewing the list of prerequisite courses, so no recommendations are being made in this area. The assumption is that EPMC students should meet the same admission requirements that are required of M.Div. students at Calvin Theological Seminary. The same assumption applies to the current requirements of fifteen credit hours in the biblical languages and six hundred hours of mentored ministry work.

1. EPMC students must take a minimum of nine credit hours at Calvin Theological Seminary, either as a residential or a nonresidential student. In practice, most students will still end up taking ten or eleven credit hours. The students will now take the digital tools course for credit and will have opportunity to substitute a two-credit elective for preaching if their background in preaching is sufficient. As is currently the case, it is



hoped that students will apply these credits toward their M.Div. in their degree-granting seminary.

2. EPMC students must meet the following requirements at Calvin Theological Seminary, either through residential courses or in the alternative ways listed. Note that course options will be available contingent upon a sufficient number of students being interested in a given semester.

- a. Requirement: Hermeneutics (1 credit hour)

Options:

- Residential course 710 during Gateway in August
- Online course 711 in fall semester (or potentially the J-term)

- b. Requirement: Creeds and Confessions (3 credit hours)

Options:

- Residential course 303 in the fall semester
- Online course 303 in the spring semester or summer

- c. Requirement: CRC Polity (1.5 credit hours)

Options:

- Residential course 773 in the fall semester
- Online course 773 in the spring semester or summer

- d. Requirement: CRC History (1.5 credit hours)

Options:

- Residential course 774 in the fall semester
- Online course 774 in the spring semester or summer

- e. Requirement: Preaching (2 credit hours)

Options:

- Residential course 306 (Preaching Theory and Methods) in the spring semester
- Hybrid distance learning course 306 (Preaching Theory and Methods) in the fall semester
- EPMC Residential course: 435 (Preaching the Word) in the fall semester
- EPMC Distance course: 435X (Preaching the Word) in the fall semester
- Residential course 434 (Preaching Practicum II) in the fall semester

*Note:* EPMC students who have completed at least five credit hours in preaching at another seminary do not need to take one of these preaching courses at Calvin Theological Seminary. Note that for these students some of their sermons will be reviewed as part of the Calvin Theological Seminary Mentored Ministries program. They also will be doing supervised preaching as part of their twenty-four-month mentoring program. Finally, all EPMC students will have a three-hour introduction to the tools offered through the Calvin Center for Excellence in Preaching, presented by the staff of the center.

f. Requirement: Bible Survey (3 credit hours)

Options:

- Pass the Bible Survey Exam
- Residential course 716 in the fall semester
- Online course 716 in the summer

g. Requirement: Digital Tools for Teaching and Preaching (one credit hour)

A self-paced online seminar with a terminal date of no later than December 15 of the year before they become candidates.

*Note:* The December EPMC course in digital Bible tools will no longer exist.

3. EPMC students will choose other courses from the Calvin Seminary curriculum to meet the minimum nine-credit hour requirement if sufficient credit hours are not earned from the list above.

4. Calvin Seminary Faculty Evaluation of EPMC students

The current practice of requiring EPMC students to engage in a successful interview with a panel of Calvin Seminary faculty members will continue, but a variety of enhancements and modifications to the interview process will be implemented in order to lower the frustration level among faculty and students alike.

5. EPMC students who feel they have a special circumstance in any of these matters are invited to contact the director of candidacy.

C. *Final notes*

1. The program adjustments described above maintain many of the current course requirements, but they provide more flexibility for EPMC students. They must still take a minimum of nine credit hours at Calvin Theological Seminary (the old minimum was ten hours), but they now have more options and, in some cases, will be able to fill out their nine hours with a course that is entirely their choice.
2. There is now the potential for EPMC students to take their required course work at Calvin Theological Seminary earlier in their program rather than in the final year, which had been the most common practice in the current system. This timing is advantageous in that it will foster a longer relationship between Calvin Theological Seminary and EPMC students, they may be more likely to integrate their EPMC course work into their M.Div. degree at another seminary, and they may even enjoy Calvin Theological Seminary so much that they elect to take other courses here.
3. All nonresident EPMC students will be *encouraged* to take at least one course at the Calvin Theological Seminary campus. This could be a J-term course, a distance learning hybrid course that includes a one-week “intensive” component on campus, or a summer course. This will potentially fulfill one of the two visits that are required by all nonresident EPMC students.

The Candidacy Committee asks synod to take special note of these developments by approving the following motion:

That synod take note of the developments in the EPMC program and offer its thanks to the committee and the faculty of Calvin Theological Seminary for their effective partnership as they prepare candidates for ordained ministry within the Christian Reformed Church.

## **VI. RCA candidates in the CRC**

### *A. Background*

As a denominational Candidacy Committee in the CRCNA, we have spent significant energy considering the complexity of the routes to ordination as it pertains to candidates and RCA/CRC service. The “Orderly Exchange of Ministers” agreement between the CRC and RCA, approved in 2005 (CRC Church Order Supplement, Article 8, D), specified eleven notes of understanding and did not address the “first call scenario.” Research done in 2010 revealed that for some unknown reason a twelfth statement had been omitted from this list, which indicates, “Such service is not intended for a first call.” This statement was inserted by the CRC Synod 2011, with a coordinate action by the RCA. (It had been a feature of an identical agreement the RCA has with three other denominations.)

Notably the phrasing “is not intended” has not been interpreted in the CRC as “is not allowed.” There have been CRC candidates who have ended up serving in RCA settings as their first call, with the use of the loan provisions of CRC Church Order Article 13-c. In 2014 the Candidacy Committee discussed this practice and offered what it considered to be a balanced set of guidelines for ministries, classes, and synodical deputies as cases are considered (*Agenda for Synod 2014*, pp. 250-52). Synod 2014 approved these guidelines (see *Acts of Synod 2014*, pp. 544-45).

Thus there has been a degree of flexibility found for CRC candidates who wish to serve in the RCA (i.e., they remain closely affiliated to the CRC through a CRC calling church, a mentor in the CRC, and completion of the CRC candidacy requirements).

What has not been considered up to this point in any official way is the question of how an RCA candidate may be allowed to serve a first call in the CRC. No “route by way of exception” has been identified that is parallel to the exception just described for CRC candidates. We have had occasions in which RCA candidates have been asked to become CRC candidates and members of the CRC, but have not effectively found a way for RCA candidates to remain in the RCA and to serve in the CRC for a first call, even in exceptional cases.

One concern from the CRC perspective in this matter is that the candidacy requirements in the CRC differ from the candidacy requirements in the RCA. There is concern that aspiring candidates in the CRC will gravitate toward the RCA process as an “end run” around our EMPC and candidacy process. All along their intention may be to serve in the CRC. These persons would be motivated more by expedience than conviction.

Yet a spirit of collegiality and respect between the CRC and RCA would demand that a “route by way of exception” for RCA candidates (who want to serve in the CRC as a first call) be identified just as it has been identified

for CRC candidates (who want to serve in the RCA as a first call). This document offers such a route. It has been worked out between the CRC director of candidacy, Rev David Koll, and the staff person for Classis Zeeland of the RCA, Rev. Dan Ackerman (a CRC pastor serving in this RCA assignment). The document arises from two specific cases with the anticipation that future exceptional cases are likely.

*B. A route by way of exception*

RCA candidates would be welcomed to serve a first call in the CRC in exceptional cases if the following occurs:

1. The potential candidate and the calling ministry sign an agreement for completion of the requirements of the CRC EPMC program within up to three years of receiving and accepting the call.
2. The potential candidate agrees to the mentorship requirement of the CRC for candidates—that being a CRC appointed mentor for a five-year period (or, in these cases, up to five years, given the fact that such a person may move into an RCA ministry as a second call before the five years are completed).
3. Representatives of the CRC classis involved (that of the calling church) and the RCA classis involved (that of the classis where the RCA candidate was under care of classis) also sign the agreement confirming their support, with such an agreement submitted to the director of candidacy in the CRC.

*Grounds:*

- a. This route brings order to an area of our “Orderly Exchange of Ministers” where confusion has occurred.
- b. This agreement allows an equitable exception for RCA candidates that matches an exceptional route that has developed for CRC candidates.
- c. This agreement maintains the desire of the CRC that the EPMC requirements not be disregarded by those beginning in ministry in the CRC.
- d. This agreement is consistent with the commitment of cooperation approved by both the CRC and RCA synods in 2014.

This understanding and practice is being presented both for the information of synod and the endorsement of synod. The committee asks that synod endorse this direction for an exceptional route for RCA pastors serving a first call in the CRC, and encourage the Candidacy Committee to continue conversations with the appropriate RCA functionaries regarding this matter.

## **VII. Recommendations**

- A. That synod declare those listed in section I, A as candidates for ministry in the Christian Reformed Church.
- B. That synod approve the extensions of candidacy as recommended in section I, B.

C. That synod approve the declaration of *need* for those listed in section III for affiliation under Church Order Article 8.

D. That synod approve the action of the Candidacy Committee relative to the process used for readmission to CRC ministry for Rev. Joseph Chen under Church Order Article 8.

E. That synod take note of the developments in the EPMC program and offer its thanks to the committee and the faculty of Calvin Theological Seminary for their effective partnership as they prepare candidates for ordained ministry within the Christian Reformed Church.

F. That synod endorse the direction (outlined in section VI, B) for an exceptional route for RCA pastors serving a first call in the CRC, and encourage the Candidacy Committee to continue conversations with the appropriate RCA functionaries regarding this matter.

Candidacy Committee

David R. Koll, director of candidacy

The Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee (EIRC) held its spring meeting by conference call April 24, 2015. What follows is a supplement to the report in the printed *Agenda for Synod 2015* (pp. 285-99).

### **I. The classification named *Ecumenical Faith Declaration***

The EIRC discussed the issues surrounding the category of Ecumenical Faith Declaration adopted by Synod 2012 and the placement of the Belhar Confession in this category. As previously reported, many of the CRC's ecumenical partners were consulted about the helpfulness of such a category for the ecumenical community. In short, the designation did not find favor with the vast majority of consulted churches. The EIRC, rather than pressing forward, decided to delay recommending a solution to synod concerning this matter and instead recommends the following:

That synod, by means of a relevant advisory committee, be informed about the problematic nature of the category designated as Ecumenical Faith Declaration.

#### *Grounds:*

1. Ecumenical partners have provided this feedback.
2. The EIRC, while not providing a solution to this problem, continues to struggle with this issue, seeking ways to make the Belhar Confession useful to the churches.

### **II. Incorporation of the Belhar Confession's themes into the discipleship and liturgical life of the CRC**

The EIRC recommends the following regarding the incorporation of the Belhar Confession's themes into the discipleship and liturgical life of the CRC:

A. That synod reaffirm the decision of Synod 2012 to recommend the Belhar Confession to the churches for study and for incorporation of its themes into their discipling and liturgical ministries.

#### *Grounds:*

1. The importance of Synod 2012's decision deserves to be emphasized by a subsequent synod.
2. The lack of attention by churches to the Belhar Confession and the need for further study of the Belhar's themes and incorporation into the discipleship and liturgical life of the CRC call for synod's reaffirmation.

B. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to ensure that denominational Ministry Support Services, Faith Formation Ministries, and Worship Ministries provide consultative Belhar Confession assistance to congregations and make related materials available through their service, marketing efforts, and web-based access.

#### *Grounds:*

1. The listed entities within the denominational offices are in the best position to assist the churches with consultation, advice, and creative

ideas for use of the Belhar Confession in the discipleship and liturgical ministries of the church.

2. Marketing and web access decisions fall within the responsibilities of the Board of Trustees.
3. Effective marketing and web access options enable congregations to obtain these materials more readily.

### **III. World Reformed Fellowship (WRF)**

The EIRC has taken the initiative during the past year to reconnect with some former ecumenical partner churches who terminated their relationship to the CRC, mostly over the ordination of women issue. The committee is grateful to report that these discussions, though only in initial stages, are being well received with encouraging results. Much more work will need to be done, and it is likely that reestablishing formal relations will take time. But that does not mean everything should be at a standstill. Several such churches suggested that one step forward in our relationship with them could occur if the CRC would become a participating denomination in the World Reformed Fellowship (WRF). Subsequently, an invitation from the WRF has been issued to the CRC, and related documentation has been received by the EIRC. It is fair to say that many of the current participating denominations in the WRF are the more conservative Reformed and Presbyterian denominations from around the world. In that regard, and in direct response to the suggestion of Synod 2014, the CRC could be in more direct connection with such churches by affiliating with the WRF since it is a fellowship of churches, individuals, and Reformed-related ministry institutions (e.g., parachurch ministries, theological schools, evangelical movements, etc.). It is the position of the EIRC that this would be a wholesome and hopeful development fully within the spirit of the CRC's ecumenical charter. Therefore, the EIRC recommends

That synod approve of the CRC's affiliation with the World Reformed Fellowship (WRF).

#### *Grounds:*

1. Membership would provide sufficient compatibility and benefits, despite the fact that within the WRF there is diversity of thought about biblical interpretation.
2. As the CRC's ecumenical charter states, "The CRC does not need to endorse every position taken by an ecumenical partner. Rather, the present understanding in ecumenical circles is that churches learn from each other and discuss differing perspectives. Ecumenical relationship can be built on common interests and commitments to the ministry of the gospel and the mission to which that gospel calls the whole church."

### **IV. Response to overtures regarding the Protestant Church in the Netherlands**

The EIRC took note of Overtures 13 and 14 (from Classes Atlantic Northeast and Minnkota) asking Synod 2015 to change the decision of Synod 2014 classifying the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN) as a church in ecclesiastical fellowship upon Synod 2014's approval of the Memorandum

of Understanding with the PCN. It is our understanding that these overtures are being referred to the officers of Synod 2015 to determine whether the overtures are legally on the agenda of synod. The EIRC observes that neither overture raises new grounds that were omitted from the deliberation last year. The EIRC, in the spirit of our ecumenical charter, has taken the position that differences between ecumenical partners are part of the world we live in, and that such differences need not be a hindrance to a relationship acknowledging considerable common history and values. If the officers of synod decide that the overtures will be considered by Synod 2015, the EIRC is prepared to engage synod in a greater in-depth discussion to explain why the action requested by the overtures would make our work extremely difficult and would conflict with the clear understanding of the CRC's ecumenical charter—namely, that unity in the global Reformed community does not require uniformity in the decisions made by various churches.

## **V. Nomination for EIRC membership**

The printed *Agenda for Synod 2015* includes a request that synod appoint Dr. Robert Sweetman to a second term as a member of the EIRC. It is now clear that Dr. Sweetman will not be available for a second term; therefore, the EIRC requests that synod appoint the following nominee:

*Rev. John Tenyenhuus* has been the pastor of Rehoboth Fellowship CRC in Toronto, Ontario, since 1989. He has been a delegate to synod seven times and has broad experience in church matters, having served on advisory committees in the areas of education, missions, synodical services, Church Order, synodical study reports, and publications. He has served the denomination on the board of Christian Reformed World Missions (two separate terms). He has also served on many classical committees and as stated clerk for both Classes Eastern Canada and Toronto. Rev. Tenyenhuus has served, as well, on the interfaith task force for the Canadian Council of Churches for six years.

## **VI. Expression of gratitude**

The EIRC set aside time at its meeting in April to express its sincere gratitude to Dr. Peter Borgdorff for his years of service to the Christian Reformed Church in North America in the name of ecumenicity. His name is recognized with appreciation across North America and worldwide for his contributions. Dr. Borgdorff will conclude his service to the CRCNA and the EIRC after the conclusion of Synod 2015. It is recommended that synod express its gratitude to Dr. Borgdorff for his contributions in the name of ecumenicity.

## **VII. Recommendations**

A. That synod, by means of a relevant advisory committee, be informed about the problematic nature of the category designated as Ecumenical Faith Declaration.

*Grounds:*

1. Ecumenical partners have provided this feedback.
2. The EIRC, while not providing a solution to this problem, continues to struggle with this issue, seeking ways to make the Belhar Confession useful to the churches.



B. That synod reaffirm the decision of Synod 2012 to recommend the Belhar Confession to the churches for study and for incorporation of its themes into their discipleship and liturgical ministries.

*Grounds:*

1. The importance of Synod 2012's decision deserves to be emphasized by a subsequent synod.
2. The lack of attention by churches to the Belhar Confession and the need for further study of the Belhar's themes and incorporation into the discipleship and liturgical life of the CRC call for synod's reaffirmation.

C. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to ensure that denominational Ministry Support Services, Faith Formation Ministries, and Worship Ministries provide consultative Belhar Confession assistance to congregations and make related materials available through their service, marketing efforts, and web-based access.

*Grounds:*

1. The listed entities within the denominational offices are in the best position to assist the churches with consultation, advice, and creative ideas for use of the Belhar Confession in the discipleship and liturgical ministries of the church.
2. Marketing and web access decisions fall within the responsibilities of the Board of Trustees.
3. Effective marketing and web access options enable congregations to obtain these materials more readily.

D. That synod approve of the CRC's affiliation with the World Reformed Fellowship (WRF).

*Grounds:*

1. Membership would provide sufficient compatibility and benefits, despite the fact that within the WRF there is diversity of thought about biblical interpretation.
2. As the CRC's ecumenical charter states, "The CRC does not need to endorse every position taken by an ecumenical partner. Rather, the present understanding in ecumenical circles is that churches learn from each other and discuss differing perspectives. Ecumenical relationship can be built on common interests and commitments to the ministry of the gospel and the mission to which that gospel calls the whole church."

E. That synod appoint Rev. John Tenyenhuis to a first term on the EIRC.

F. That synod express its gratitude to Dr. Peter Borgdorff for his contributions in the name of ecumenicity.

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee  
Peter Borgdorff, ecumenical officer  
Shirley Roels, chair  
Steven R. Timmermans (ex officio)

# OVERTURES AND COMMUNICATION



## Overture 15: Postpone Adoption of Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture Recommendations

### I. Background

The Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture (TFRSC) has been meeting since 2011, and has been charged, among other things, to analyze and address the “dual authority and accountability that currently exists between agency boards and the Board of Trustees, which has at times led to confusion, duplication, suspicion, and tension” (*Agenda for Synod 2015*, p. 356). Currently, agency boards have delegated authority from synod but also must report to and be responsible to the BOT.

The proposal currently before synod this year is to “approve the formation of a Council of Delegates . . . to take the place of the current Board of Trustees” and several agency boards. The report lists a number of possible advantages “for discussion and discernment,” with the clarifying remark that the “collaboration and alignment” which these proposals would achieve “is not, in itself, centralization” (*Agenda 2015*, pp. 359, 361).

Classis Hudson wants to first of all express its appreciation for the significant investment of time and energy the TFRSC has put into this process. The structure and culture of the CRCNA are complex and complicated to unpack, and the committee deserves the appreciation of the denomination for its efforts to chart a way forward. In particular, the contribution of the Five Streams as a unifying feature of the CRC’s ministry is helpful and encouraging.

However, the classis also wishes to express its concerns over the proposals set forth in the TFRSC report. These concerns fall into two broad categories: cultural and structural.

### II. Cultural concerns

A. Though the report insists that “extensive consultations with all levels of stakeholders were held to understand need and examine proposed solutions” (*Agenda 2015*, p. 353), the actual process seems less plain than this statement suggests. The initial proposal for the TFRSC came out of a report brought to Synod 2011 by the BOT in its supplemental materials in response to a consultant’s report (*Agenda for Synod 2011*, p. 702). Thus the whole process has not been a response to the felt needs of the churches, but to the issues perceived by an outside consultant, shared almost as an afterthought with synod. This seems like an odd background for a report which affirms that “the CRC is congregation based” (*Agenda for Synod 2015*, p. 352).

In addition, the feedback sought from the churches themselves throughout this process has been relatively little. To be sure, the TFRSC has sought approval from subsequent synods for its work, and Synod 2014 held a round table discussion on the direction of the task force's work. However, to the knowledge of this classis the TFRSC has never directly sought input from councils and classes after an initial information-gathering request in late 2011.<sup>1</sup> The report brought to Synod 2012 lists the concerns of denominational staff members but not the responses of the churches (*Agenda for Synod 2012*, pp. 679-84). An appeal for church input after Synod 2014 was limited to *The Banner*<sup>2</sup> rather than being sent directly to councils.

Recent *Banner* articles would suggest that such concerns are more widespread than the TFRSC would acknowledge.<sup>3</sup>

B. The very manner in which this report is being brought to synod reflects on the challenges of working in the current CRC culture. Rules for Synodical Procedure require study committee reports to be filed with the executive director by September 15 and distributed to the churches no later than November 1 (*Rules for Synodical Procedure*, section V, B, 9). This is done so that councils and classes may have sufficient opportunity to discuss and respond to the reports through prescribed ecclesiastical channels.

Though Synod 2011 charged the TFRSC to make its recommendations directly to synod rather than having it serve as a "BOT-appointed task force" (*Acts of Synod 2011*, p. 864), the TFRSC has consistently conducted its work as if it were a task force of the BOT. This means that its reports have generally not been publicized until the *Agenda for Synod* is printed (2013, 2014) or, in some cases, in the supplemental materials for synod (2012). This timeline means that the churches have never had significant opportunity to respond to specific, formal proposals of the TFRSC and thus the task force's work has been handled mostly through the BOT. For structural changes of the magnitude proposed by the TFRSC to be handled without significant opportunity for input from the minor assemblies, however, represents a troubling trend in the CRC in departure from the principles of Church Order Article 27.

C. CRC polity requires that substantial alterations to our way of doing things be handled by a subsequent synod (Church Order Art. 47). Though the current proposals of the TFRSC do not fall into the prescribed categories (creeds, Church Order, and principles of worship), they do represent a "substantial alteration" in our denominational structure, which the churches have not had prior opportunity to consider. The TFRSC report envisions broad effects for the future of CRC ministry if its proposals are adopted by synod. Given these facts, it seems only wise for synod to treat the TFRSC proposals for what they are—substantial alterations—and to respond to them in a way consistent with our polity's requirements for substantial alterations.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.thebanner.org/news/2011/11/task-force-on-crc-structure-and-culture-seeks-input>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.crcna.org/news-and-views/task-force-structure-and-culture-requests-feedback>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.thebanner.org/departments/2015/02/bridging-the-denominational-divide>, <http://www.thebanner.org/news/2015/03/board-of-trustees-reviews-structure-task-force-report>, <http://www.thebanner.org/features/2015/04/grand-rapids-dreaming>

### III. Structural concerns

A. It is not clear precisely what the TFRSC proposals aim to accomplish. To be sure, the report lists a number of perceived advantages “for discussion and discernment” (*Agenda for Synod 2015*, p. 359). However, the final recommendations for this sweeping change come to synod without specific grounds. This limits synod’s ability to evaluate whether the proposed changes actually address the specific concerns from which the whole process flows, as well as the ability of this or other overtures to consider whether other models might better address these concerns.

The proposed changes draw heavily from the model of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Surprisingly, though, the report does not indicate whether other models for ministry from denominations similar to ours were considered. How does the Reformed Church in America design its structure? The Evangelical Presbyterian Church? The Presbyterian Church (USA)? The Presbyterian Church in America? Were such models considered and rejected? This would be helpful for the churches and the classes to know as they consider the proposals of the TFRSC.

B. Though the TFRSC report insists that shared governance is not centralization, the very statement indicates recognition that the perception of centralization is a concern in the CRCNA. Consolidating oversight of denominational agencies under the authority of a restructured BOT risks further accentuating this suspicion. Agencies that used to be able to claim a certain degree of independence would now be under common governance, and the BOT risks becoming a lightning rod for every problem in the denomination. The proposed changes demand a significant degree of trust from the churches and classes in the denominational authority, and assume that structural changes have no effects in terms of the agencies’ ability to raise funds or pursue strategic ministry partnerships outside the CRC. Yet recent controversies over the Belhar Confession and over certain publications in *The Banner* indicate a certain level of suspicion in centralized pronouncements from the CRCNA leadership, within the CRC at a very minimum.

The tensions in “shared governance” exist throughout the denomination in the relationship between churches and classes, and classes and synod. Authority in the CRC is always delegated authority. The TFRSC report assumes that overlap of responsibility between the BOT and the agency boards is a bad thing. However, it could also be argued that our denominational structures reflect the same value of independent authority. The agencies report independently to synod, just as local congregations do to their classis. Yes, this overlapping responsibility requires a commitment to clear communication, operation within the larger network, and a team approach to ministry work. These commitments, as the report notes, have not always been in place. But that does not mean that the structure is faulty.

C. The report leaves one fundamental issue unaddressed—namely, What ministry does the CRC actually intend to do in covenant partnership as a denomination in the 21st century? Are the agencies we have today the ones which we intend to have into the indefinite future? How are these agencies funded? With increasing pressure on the ministry-share system that funds the work we do together, as well as the pace and scope of cultural change

around us, synod would do well to ask whether the time and energy to be invested in the proposed structural changes are actually the best way to do ministry ten years from now, or whether they merely represent an improvement to a way of life our denomination could have had twenty years ago.

#### **IV. Summary**

Though our classis appreciates the desire to achieve greater alignment and efficiency across our denomination, we feel that the proposals before synod will make the denomination the driving force for ministry in the CRC rather than the local churches and the agencies. This is a fundamental shift in the culture of the CRC (compare Church Order Art. 27), and should not be underestimated by the TFRSC. We talk about doing ministry “in covenant,” but covenant requires dialogue and discussion, not simply the implanting of a vision crafted by a denominational board.

It is our opinion that the TFRSC should seriously explore some other options and report back to a future synod. A single appointed board would have a huge task to provide oversight for such a wide range of denominational ministries, meaning that day-to-day direction setting would be left increasingly in the hands of denominational staff with less input from the assemblies of the church. In short, we believe that the centralizing tendencies within the CRC would present a distraction from effective ministry by promoting an unnecessary uniformity in the name of efficiency. While we can tinker with the systems involved to try to more effectively address our culture with the gospel, there is a diminishing return involved for the local churches should the current TFRSC proposal be adopted. Ministry can be messy. But that messiness will not go away simply by changing a few structures. What we face as a denomination is primarily a cultural challenge. We would do much better to focus on cultural questions such as our commitment to covenant ministry, and trust that the necessary structures will naturally present themselves as we serve faithfully in the name of Christ.

#### **V. Overture**

To this end, Classis Hudson overtures Synod 2015 to do the following:

A. Delay implementation of the TFRSC proposals (especially Recommendations B, C, and D) until at least a further ratification of this direction by Synod 2016, and seek input from the councils and classes regarding the proposals now before it.

*Grounds:*

1. The proposed changes represent significant alterations in the structure of our denominational life and should be treated in keeping with Church Order Article 47.
2. Because of the timeline of the report’s submission to synod, councils and classes have had limited opportunity to consider formal proposals rather than general trends.
3. Such a delay would give opportunity to build a broader consensus and deeper level of trust from councils and classes across the denomination, especially considering that the initial impetus for this process began with the Board of Trustees rather than the churches.

4. It is not clear, from sources such as *The Banner*,<sup>4</sup> whether the agencies and boards of the CRCNA are entirely in favor of the changes being proposed.

B. Instruct the TFRSC to explore further a vision for covenant ministry in the 21st century, and, in particular, the impact of declining ministry-share receipts on the future of shared denominational ministry.

*Grounds:*

1. Though the report quite properly highlights the perceived advantages of the TFRSC proposals, it would be helpful for synod to be aware of possible implications that the proposed changes might have on the ability of individual agencies to raise funds or form strategic partnerships in order to carry out their historic mandates, or to assess the comparative advantages of other possible options for restructuring.
2. As described in the TFRSC report, the present assortment of agencies came about by an ad-hoc approach rather than a strategic decision, and the increasing pressure on the ministry-share system would seem to indicate that a conversation about our covenant commitment to shared ministry is appropriate.
3. The models for ministry proposed in the TFRSC report draw heavily on traditions outside the CRCNA, without significant interaction with our own tradition and the reasons for it. A theological grounding for our future ministry work as a denomination would be a helpful addition to the practical considerations offered in the report.
4. The stresses on the ministry-share system make it important to consider our commitment to shared ministry before we implement sweeping structural changes.

C. Clarify the standing of future task forces in the Rules for Synodical Procedure, to mandate that such groups issue a final report in the time frame normally assigned to study committees.

*Ground:* The sweeping nature of the proposals in task force reports such as this one, whether appointed by the BOT or answering directly to synod, means that an adequate timeline for consideration by the churches is necessary and important to maintain the cultural commitment to shared ministry in our denomination and to respect the input of the officebearers of the CRCNA.

Classis Hudson

Joel D. Vande Werken, stated clerk

### **Overture 16: Table the Recommendations of the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture Until 2016**

We the undersigned councils within Classis Iakota overture Synod 2015 to table the discussion on the report of the Task Force Reviewing Structure

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.thebanner.org/news/2015/03/board-of-trustees-reviews-structure-task-force-report>



and Culture (*Agenda for Synod 2015*, pp. 351-79; hereafter TFRSC) until Synod 2016.

The report of the TFRSC was first made available to the churches of the CRC as part of the *Agenda for Synod 2015*, published in the first week of April. The report proposes sweeping changes to the structure and governance of the CRC, including the creation of a Council of Delegates (COD), providing strategic leadership, and the formation of a Transition Committee given an exceptionally broad mandate. This Transition Committee, yet undefined other than “under the leadership of the executive director,” would not only oversee the transition from our current Board of Trustees model to the Council of Delegates model but would also review and make recommendations for changes to the Church Order, organizational bylaws, and “other key issues that may arise in the implementation of transition.” The Council of Delegates would itself be under the direct leadership of a small, yet undefined executive leadership team.

Our concern is less about the specific plan being offered; rather, it is more about the manner in which it is presented. By delaying presentation of this plan until the publication of the *Agenda for Synod*, the TFRSC bypassed the ability of most churches and classes to respond to its recommendations by way of the proper channels in the proper timeframe. In addition, it places key decisions that would be made for the long-term future of the Christian Reformed Church into the hands of yet undefined groups under the leadership of a small team of people, rather than listening to the congregations and classes of the Christian Reformed Church.

While we recognize the desire of our denominational leadership to be “nimble,” we feel that it would be an unwise decision to move too hastily to implement the recommendations of the TFRSC. In the words of Rev. Clayton Libolt, “For a restructuring of this size and importance, we should ask for more time to consider. If what the TFRSC recommends is good, another year won’t matter; if not, the price will be high” (*The Banner*, “Grand Rapids Dreaming”). Allow this process to work through the proper channels, providing opportunity for congregations and classes to wrestle with and discuss this report before bringing it to the floor of Synod 2016.

The councils of  
Bethel CRC, Sioux Center, Iowa  
Bob Den Ruler, clerk  
Corsica CRC, Corsica, South Dakota  
Richard Bordewyk, clerk  
Covenant CRC, Sioux Center, Iowa  
Andy Landman, clerk  
Faith CRC, Sioux Center, Iowa  
Scott Hulstein, clerk  
First CRC, Rock Valley, Iowa  
Carl Elbers, clerk  
First CRC, Sioux Center, Iowa  
Randy Meyer, clerk

*Note:* Classis Iakota did not meet after the *Agenda for Synod 2015* was published; therefore the councils were unable to process the above overture through classis.

## Communication 3: Classis Grand Rapids East

### I. Background

Classis Grand Rapids East noted with surprise and concern Overture 5 on synod's agenda: "Instruct and Admonish Consistories Concerning Actions of 'All One Body.'" Overture 5 asks synod to instruct two consistories of churches in our classis, Eastern Avenue CRC and Calvin CRC, to exercise discipline with respect to those in their congregations who are members of the group "All One Body," and to admonish these consistories for hosting meetings of this group.

Classis Grand Rapids East offers several observations for consideration of this overture by Classis Minnkota along with the respectful request that Classis Minnkota rescind this overture.

In the event that Classis Minnkota declines this request, Classis Grand Rapids East also offers these observations for the consideration of this overture by Synod 2015. We are not requesting any response from synod. Rather, we hope this communication will help synod respond to Overture 5 with wisdom and discernment.

### II. Absence of due communication

We were surprised, and then we were concerned, to learn

- that neither Eastern Avenue CRC nor Calvin CRC, nor any of the individuals mentioned by name in the overture had received previous communication asking for clarification about these concerns from the congregation in Classis Minnkota which originated the overture;
- that Classis Minnkota endorsed this overture and forwarded it to the Synodical Office knowing that such communication had not taken place; and, further,
- that Classis Minnkota itself did not directly inform or communicate with these two councils or the named individuals regarding this overture.

This seems to lack the required mutuality reflected both in Matthew 18:15-17 and Church Order Article 80.

### III. Nature of church discipline

It is our understanding that the admonition and discipline of members is a matter for the local church elders to deal with (Church Order Art. 37, 78-84, and 85). It is also our understanding that local church elders are advised to maintain strict confidentiality in all matters relating to admonition and

discipline (Guidelines for Confidentiality, Church Order Supplement, Art. 78-84, and *Acts of Synod 1991*, pp. 723, 769). Therefore, it seems most inappropriate, and even hurtful, that individuals have been publicly named in this overture and consequently in the synodical agenda.

#### **IV. Value of public discussion**

We see no reason to admonish these two churches for hosting meetings of the group “All One Body.” Neither Eastern Avenue CRC nor Calvin CRC has endorsed “All One Body.” That these churches provided meeting space for “All One Body” does not indicate, nor should it imply, endorsement of the views this group presented. Allowing for public discussion of these difficult issues recognizes the value of our churches as places where people can honestly and graciously discuss this timely, important, and complicated matter.

#### **V. Conclusion**

We share Classis Minnkota’s desire for both unity and holiness in the church. However, we do not believe acceding to this overture will promote either unity or holiness. Our classis, like many other classes in our denomination, is struggling with how best to provide pastoral care to our homosexual members. We believe patient understanding and compassion are a better way forward than discipline and admonition.

Classis Grand Rapids East  
Alfred E. Mulder, stated clerk

# FINANCIAL REPORTS



## Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2015-2016

	Fiscal 12-13 Actual	Fiscal 13-14 Actual	Fiscal 14-15 Budget	Fiscal 15-16 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 3,548	\$ 3,346	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,000
% of Total Income	37.6%	35.4%	36.4%	33.3%
Other Gift Income:				
Gifts & Offerings	\$ 4,021	\$ 3,732	\$ 4,470	\$ 4,150
Estate Gifts	\$ 1,262	\$ 1,743	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,450
Total Gift Income	5,283	5,475	5,870	5,600
% of Total Income	56.1%	57.9%	61.0%	62.2%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants-Animation/Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 594	\$ 641	\$ 250	\$ 400
Total Other Income	594	641	250	400
% of Total Income	6.3%	6.8%	2.6%	4.4%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>9,425</b>	<b>9,462</b>	<b>9,620</b>	<b>9,000</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
English	\$ 2,471	\$ 2,471	\$ 2,375	\$ 2,375
FTEs	15	15	17	17
International	\$ 4,708	\$ 4,470	\$ 4,455	\$ 4,000
FTEs	17	17	17	17
Education	\$ 129	\$ 161	\$ 190	\$ 190
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Social Media – Cross Ministry Initiatives	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ -
	3	3	2	2
Total Program Service \$	\$ 7,308	\$ 7,102	\$ 7,120	\$ 6,565
Total Program Service FTEs	37	37	38	38
% of Total \$	74.2%	74.4%	74.0%	72.9%
% of Total FTEs	78.7%	78.7%	79.2%	79.2%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 826	\$ 848	\$ 875	\$ 860
FTEs	4	4	4	4
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 1,718	\$ 1,595	\$ 1,625	\$ 1,575
FTEs	6	6	6	6
Total Support Service \$	2,544	2,443	2,500	2,435
Total Support Service FTEs	10	10	10	10
% of Total \$	25.8%	25.6%	26.0%	27.1%
% of Total FTEs	21.3%	21.3%	20.8%	20.8%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 9,852</b>	<b>\$ 9,545</b>	<b>\$ 9,620</b>	<b>\$ 9,000</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (427)</b>	<b>\$ (83)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)  
Fiscal Year 2015-2016**

	Fiscal 12-13 Actual	Fiscal 13-14 Actual	Fiscal 14-15 Budget	Fiscal 15-16 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 2,571	\$ 2,451	\$ 2,411	\$ 2,255
% of Total Income	1.9%	1.7%	1.6%	1.5%
Other Gift Income:				
Gifts & Offerings	\$ 3,190	\$ 3,252	\$ 3,210	\$ 3,274
Estate Gifts	\$ 21	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18
Total Gift Income	3,211	3,270	3,228	3,292
% of Total Income	2.3%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 126,226	\$ 136,051	\$ 139,376	\$ 143,557
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 5,214	\$ 3,854	\$ 3,704	\$ 3,815
Total Other Income	131,440	139,905	143,080	147,372
% of Total Income	95.8%	96.1%	96.2%	96.4%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>137,222</b>	<b>145,626</b>	<b>148,719</b>	<b>152,920</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Education	\$ 118,960	\$ 127,020	\$ 128,895	\$ 132,504
FTEs	597	586	575	575
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 118,960	\$ 127,020	\$ 128,895	\$ 132,504
Total Program Service FTEs	597	586	575	575
% of Total \$	86.7%	87.2%	86.7%	86.7%
% of Total FTEs	77.3%	78.0%	78.9%	78.9%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 7,605	\$ 7,245	\$ 8,332	\$ 8,565
FTEs	63	58	53	53
Plant Operations	\$ 7,419	\$ 7,976	\$ 8,171	\$ 8,400
FTEs	73	70	67	67
Fund-raising	\$ 3,238	\$ 3,385	\$ 3,321	\$ 3,414
FTEs	39	37	34	34
Total Support Service \$	18,262	18,606	19,824	20,379
Total Support Service FTEs	175	165	154	154
% of Total \$	13.3%	12.8%	13.3%	13.3%
% of Total FTEs	22.7%	22.0%	21.1%	21.1%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 137,222</b>	<b>\$ 145,626</b>	<b>\$ 148,719</b>	<b>\$ 152,883</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>729</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 36</b>

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)  
Fiscal Year 2015-2016**

	Fiscal 12-13 Actual	Fiscal 13-14 Actual	Fiscal 14-15 Budget	Fiscal 15-16 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 2,864	\$ 2,701	\$ 2,650	\$ 2,400
% of Total Income	37.6%	37.4%	33.4%	32.1%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 976	\$ 830	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250
Estate Gifts	\$ 277	\$ 52	\$ 100	\$ 80
Total Gift Income	1,253	882	1,350	1,330
% of Total Income	16.5%	12.2%	17.0%	17.8%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 2,420	\$ 2,374	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,350
Grants	\$ 1,020	\$ 1,204	\$ 1,392	\$ 1,325
Miscellaneous	\$ 59	\$ 58	\$ 50	\$ 65
Total Other Income	3,499	3,636	3,942	3,740
% of Total Income	45.9%	50.4%	49.6%	50.1%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>7,616</b>	<b>7,219</b>	<b>7,942</b>	<b>7,470</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Instructional	\$ 2,844	\$ 3,054	\$ 3,412	\$ 3,076
FTEs	30	30	22	22
Public Service	\$ 101	\$ 68	\$ 86	\$ 77
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Academic Support	\$ 1,134	\$ 1,190	\$ 1,288	\$ 1,277
FTEs	5	5	6	6
Student Services	\$ 577	\$ 612	\$ 649	\$ 620
FTEs	5	5	6	5
Student Aid	\$ 346	\$ 400	\$ 421	\$ 370
FTEs	1	1	1	1
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 5,002	\$ 5,324	\$ 5,856	\$ 5,420
Total Program Service FTEs	42	42	36	35
% of Total \$	66.6%	66.0%	71.8%	70.5%
% of Total FTEs	71.2%	71.2%	69.2%	68.6%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 995	\$ 1,096	\$ 990	\$ 924
FTEs	9	9	8	8
Plant Operations	\$ 717	\$ 1,002	\$ 716	\$ 740
FTEs	2	2	3	3
Fund-raising	\$ 793	\$ 650	\$ 598	\$ 609
FTEs	6	6	5	5
Total Support Service \$	2,505	2,748	2,304	2,273
Total Support Service FTEs	17	17	16	16
% of Total \$	33.4%	34.0%	28.2%	29.5%
% of Total FTEs	28.8%	28.8%	30.8%	31.4%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 7,507</b>	<b>\$ 8,072</b>	<b>\$ 8,160</b>	<b>\$ 7,693</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>51</b>
Post-retirement cost other than pension >	583	1,461		
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 692</b>	<b>\$ 608</b>	<b>\$ (218)</b>	<b>\$ (223)</b>



**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)  
Fiscal Year 2015-2016**

	Fiscal 12-13 Actual	Fiscal 13-14 Actual	Fiscal 14-15 Budget	Fiscal 15-16 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Gift Income:				
Gifts & Offerings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	-	-	-	-
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Note Interest	\$ 1,107	\$ 1,016	\$ 1,152	\$ 1,152
Total Other Income	1,107	1,016	1,152	1,152
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>1,152</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Loan Interest	\$ 527	\$ 555	\$ 550	\$ 600
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Provision for loan losses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 527	\$ 555	\$ 550	\$ 600
Total Program Service FTEs	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	63.0%	62.8%	60.3%	61.8%
% of Total FTEs	33.3%	33.3%	50.0%	50.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 310	\$ 329	\$ 362	\$ 371
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	310	329	362	371
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	37.0%	37.2%	39.7%	38.2%
% of Total FTEs	66.7%	66.7%	50.0%	50.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 837</b>	<b>\$ 884</b>	<b>\$ 912</b>	<b>\$ 971</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 270</b>	<b>\$ 132</b>	<b>\$ 240</b>	<b>\$ 181</b>

## Christian Reformed Home Missions

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

Fiscal Year 2015-2016

	Fiscal 12-13 Actual	Fiscal 13-14 Actual	Fiscal 14-15 Budget	Fiscal 15-16 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 3,757	\$ 3,557	\$ 3,643	\$ 3,123
% of Total Income	58.8%	59.7%	60.9%	54.7%
Other Gift Income:				
Gifts & Offerings	\$ 1,856	\$ 1,660	\$ 1,648	\$ 1,877
Estate Gifts	\$ 234	\$ 95	\$ 300	\$ 298
Total Gift Income	2,090	1,755	1,948	2,175
% of Total Income	32.7%	29.5%	32.6%	38.1%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 130	\$ 130
Grants	\$ 309	\$ 353	\$ 127	\$ 107
Miscellaneous	\$ 234	\$ 292	\$ 136	\$ 175
Total Other Income	543	645	393	412
% of Total Income	8.5%	10.8%	6.6%	7.2%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>6,390</b>	<b>5,957</b>	<b>5,984</b>	<b>5,710</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Ministry Teams	\$ 3,795	\$ 4,281	\$ 3,830	\$ 3,871
FTEs	21	20	21	21
Ministry Devel & Planning	\$ 939	\$ 827	\$ 851	\$ 724
FTEs	7	6	6	5
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 4,734	\$ 5,108	\$ 4,681	\$ 4,595
Total Program Service FTEs	28	26	27	26
% of Total \$	75.2%	78.6%	73.6%	74.8%
% of Total FTEs	75.7%	78.8%	79.4%	78.8%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 807	\$ 832	\$ 944	\$ 816
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 751	\$ 560	\$ 736	\$ 729
FTEs	7	5	5	5
Total Support Service \$	1,558	1,392	1,680	1,545
Total Support Service FTEs	9	7	7	7
% of Total \$	24.8%	21.4%	26.4%	25.2%
% of Total FTEs	24.3%	21.2%	20.6%	21.2%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 6,292</b>	<b>\$ 6,500</b>	<b>\$ 6,361</b>	<b>\$ 6,140</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 98</b>	<b>\$ (543)</b>	<b>\$ (377)</b>	<b>\$ (430)</b>

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)**
**Fiscal Year 2015-2016**

	Fiscal 12-13 Actual	Fiscal 13-14 Actual	Fiscal 14-15 Budget	Fiscal 15-16 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 4,848	\$ 4,584	\$ 4,695	\$ 4,020
% of Total Income	34.6%	30.0%	30.9%	28.3%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 7,828	\$ 8,969	\$ 9,125	\$ 8,874
Estate Gifts	\$ 519	\$ 593	\$ 730	\$ 690
Total Gift Income	8,347	9,562	9,855	9,564
% of Total Income	59.6%	62.5%	64.9%	67.2%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 808	\$ 1,149	\$ 644	\$ 639
Total Other Income	808	1,149	644	639
% of Total Income	5.8%	7.5%	4.2%	4.5%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>14,003</b>	<b>15,295</b>	<b>15,194</b>	<b>14,223</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Africa	\$ 3,515	\$ 3,666	\$ 3,753	\$ 2,897
FTEs	24	24	22	21
Eurasia	\$ 3,008	\$ 2,625	\$ 2,495	\$ 2,208
FTEs	17	17	13	14
Latin America	\$ 4,396	\$ 3,902	\$ 3,562	\$ 2,757
FTEs	21	21	20	17
Global/other Int'l program	\$ 1,360	\$ 1,684	\$ 2,179	\$ 3,619
FTEs	11	21	35	41
Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 794	\$ 155
FTEs	-	-	6	3
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 12,279	\$ 11,877	\$ 12,783	\$ 11,636
Total Program Service FTEs	73	83	96	96
% of Total \$	84.1%	83.0%	83.5%	81.8%
% of Total FTEs	83.9%	85.6%	85.0%	85.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 1,144	\$ 1,213	\$ 1,185	\$ 1,085
FTEs	4	4	4	4
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 1,174	\$ 1,220	\$ 1,340	\$ 1,502
FTEs	10	10	13	13
Total Support Service \$	2,318	2,433	2,525	2,587
Total Support Service FTEs	14	14	17	17
% of Total \$	15.9%	17.0%	16.5%	18.2%
% of Total FTEs	16.1%	14.4%	15.0%	15.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 14,597</b>	<b>\$ 14,310</b>	<b>\$ 15,308</b>	<b>\$ 14,223</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (594)</b>	<b>\$ 985</b>	<b>\$ (114)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

## Church Support Ministries

### Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2015-2016

	Fiscal 12-13 Actual	Fiscal 13-14 Actual	Fiscal 14-15 Budget	Fiscal 15-16 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 3,879	\$ 3,712	\$ 6,006	\$ 5,355
% of Total Income	84.2%	83.5%	44.2%	42.8%
Other Gift Income:				
Gifts & Offerings	\$ 483	\$ 434	\$ 813	\$ 1,225
Estate Gifts	\$ 4	\$ 87	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	487	521	813	1,225
% of Total Income	10.6%	11.7%	6.0%	9.8%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,261	\$ 5,506
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 275	\$ 230
Services & Misc	\$ 241	\$ 213	\$ 238	\$ 187
Total Other Income	241	213	6,774	5,923
% of Total Income	5.2%	4.8%	49.8%	47.4%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>4,607</b>	<b>4,446</b>	<b>13,593</b>	<b>12,503</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Lead-Chaplaincy Services	\$ 254	\$ 276	\$ 252	\$ 263
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Lead-Pastor-Church Relations/SCE/SPE	\$ 1,127	\$ 1,173	\$ 1,232	\$ 1,265
FTEs	6	6	7	8
Lead-Candidacy			\$ 194	\$ 236
FTEs			2	2
Lead-Ecumenical Relations			\$ 159	\$ 143
FTEs			-	-
Lead-Network/Healthy Church	\$ 127	\$ 90	\$ -	\$ 41
FTEs	1	1	-	-
Justice-Race Relations	\$ 488	\$ 433	\$ 568	\$ 596
FTEs	4	4	4	5
Justice-Safe Church Ministry	210	228	240	251
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Justice-Disability Concerns	\$ 284	\$ 292	\$ 280	\$ 279
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Justice-Social & Restorative Justice	510	568	677	650
FTEs	5	5	6	7
Justice-Ministries in Canada	1,231	1,226	1,247	1,056
FTEs	5	5	5	5
Faith-Volunteer Services	179	182	192	170
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Faith-Church Resources (FA)			548	615
FTEs			3	4
MSS-Agency services (was Proservices)			3,345	1,954
FTEs			14	10
MSS-Agency services (FA)			1,747	776
FTEs			8	8
MSS-Banner (FA)			1,403	1,412
FTEs			4	4
MSS-World Literature (FA)			523	572
FTEs			3	3
MSS-Faith Alive (FA)				1,461
FTEs				6
MSS-Communications			782	280
FTEs			6	2
Worship-Worship Resources (FA)		\$	608	\$ 464
FTEs			3	3
Total Program Service \$	\$ 4,410	\$ 4,468	\$ 13,997	\$ 12,484
Total Program Service FTEs	29	29	73	75
% of Total \$	99.0%	98.9%	99.7%	99.8%
% of Total FTEs	96.7%	96.7%	98.6%	98.7%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fund-raising	\$ 43	\$ 50	\$ 48	\$ 19
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Total Support Service \$	43	50	48	19
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	1.0%	1.1%	0.3%	0.2%
% of Total FTEs	3.3%	3.3%	1.4%	1.3%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 4,453</b>	<b>\$ 4,518</b>	<b>\$ 14,045</b>	<b>\$ 12,503</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 154</b>	<b>\$ (72)</b>	<b>\$ (452)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

## Faith Formation/Faith Alive Christian Resources

### Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2015-2016

	Fiscal 10-11 Actual	Fiscal 11-12 Actual	Fiscal 12-13 Actual	Fiscal 13-14 Actual
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 1,035	\$ 1,017	\$ 1,173	\$ 1,747
% of Total Income	20.3%	20.3%	22.3%	32.7%
Other Gift Income:				
Gifts & Offerings	\$ 300	\$ 317	\$ 303	\$ 292
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	300	317	303	292
% of Total Income	5.9%	6.3%	5.8%	5.5%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 3,204	\$ 3,363	\$ 3,473	\$ 3,083
Grants	\$ 212	\$ 235	\$ 270	\$ 188
Miscellaneous	\$ 336	\$ 69	\$ 41	\$ 36
Total Other Income	3,752	3,667	3,784	3,307
% of Total Income	73.8%	73.3%	71.9%	61.9%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>5,087</b>	<b>5,001</b>	<b>5,260</b>	<b>5,346</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Banner	\$ 1,275	\$ 1,322	\$ 1,303	\$ 1,297
FTEs	4	4	4	4
Education	\$ 3,578	\$ 3,988	\$ 3,723	\$ 2,805
FTEs	19	19	19	18
World Literature	\$ 415	\$ 465	\$ 507	\$ 473
FTEs	3	3	2	-
Faith Formation / CWG	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 87
FTEs	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	5,268	5,775	5,533	4,662
Total Program Service FTEs	26	26	25	22
% of Total \$	87.2%	87.7%	87.0%	86.1%
% of Total FTEs	92.9%	92.9%	92.7%	91.7%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 773	\$ 808	\$ 828	\$ 753
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	773	808	828	753
Total Support Service FTEs	2	2	2	2
% of Total \$	12.8%	12.3%	13.0%	13.9%
% of Total FTEs	7.1%	7.1%	7.3%	8.3%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 6,041</b>	<b>\$ 6,583</b>	<b>\$ 6,361</b>	<b>\$ 5,415</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (954)</b>	<b>\$ (1,582)</b>	<b>\$ (1,101)</b>	<b>\$ (69)</b>

## Synodical Administrative Services

### Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2015-2016

	Fiscal 12-13 Actual	Fiscal 13-14 Actual	Fiscal 14-15 Budget	Fiscal 15-16 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 2,862	\$ 2,668	\$ 2,477	\$ 2,278
% of Total Income	66.4%	75.3%	87.6%	87.9%
Other Gift Income:				
Gifts & Offerings	\$ 31	\$ 20	\$ 34	\$ 18
Estate Gifts	\$ 23	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	54	20	34	18
% of Total Income	1.3%	0.6%	1.2%	0.7%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30	\$ 43
Grants	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75
Services & Misc	\$ 1,316	\$ 780	\$ 213	\$ 179
Total Other Income	1,391	855	318	297
% of Total Income	32.3%	24.1%	11.2%	11.5%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>4,307</b>	<b>3,543</b>	<b>2,829</b>	<b>2,593</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Synodical Services & Grants	\$ 2,719	\$ 2,794	\$ 1,106	\$ 1,098
FTEs	5	5	5	5
Communications	\$ 677	\$ 626		
FTEs	4	4		
Sea to Sea expenses & grants	\$ 580	\$ 1,150	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Leadership Programs	\$ 18	\$ 37	\$ 120	\$ 100
FTEs	-	-	-	1
Total Program Service \$	\$ 3,994	\$ 4,607	\$ 1,226	\$ 1,198
Total Program Service FTEs	9	9	5	6
% of Total \$	77.7%	79.5%	44.1%	47.1%
% of Total FTEs	56.3%	56.3%	41.7%	46.2%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 856	\$ 860	\$ 1,098	\$ 961
FTEs	4	4	4	4
D.E.D.	\$ 244	\$ 265	\$ 337	\$ 286
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Fund-raising (Foundation & LE)	\$ 48	\$ 63	\$ 119	\$ 99
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Total Support Service \$	1,148	1,188	1,554	1,346
Total Support Service FTEs	7	7	7	7
% of Total \$	22.3%	20.5%	55.9%	52.9%
% of Total FTEs	43.8%	43.8%	58.3%	53.8%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 5,142</b>	<b>\$ 5,795</b>	<b>\$ 2,780</b>	<b>\$ 2,544</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (835)</b>	<b>\$ (2,252)</b>	<b>\$ 49</b>	<b>\$ 49</b>

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)  
Fiscal Year 2015-2016**

	Fiscal 12-13 Actual	Fiscal 13-14 Actual	Fiscal 14-15 Budget	Fiscal 15-16 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
% of Total Income	-	-	-	-
Other Gift Income:				
Gifts & Offerings	\$ 18,161	\$ 20,642	\$ 21,922	\$ 22,922
Estate Gifts	\$ 1,308	\$ 1,768	\$ 1,711	\$ 1,416
Total Gift Income	19,469	22,410	23,633	24,338
% of Total Income	54.7%	56.5%	63.0%	62.6%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ 15,519	\$ 16,082	\$ 13,400	\$ 13,900
Miscellaneous	\$ 626	\$ 1,145	\$ 495	\$ 650
Total Other Income	16,145	17,227	13,895	14,550
% of Total Income	45.3%	43.5%	37.0%	37.4%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>35,614</b>	<b>39,637</b>	<b>37,528</b>	<b>38,888</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Overseas programs	\$ 10,868	\$ 11,248	\$ 12,528	\$ 13,154
FTEs	45	41	41	42
No. America programs	\$ 744	\$ 580	\$ 300	\$ 100
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Disaster relief programs	\$ 1,586	\$ 1,595	\$ 1,762	\$ 1,850
FTEs	16	11	10	10
Above-budget relief costs	\$ 19,770	\$ 15,711	\$ 15,061	\$ 15,814
FTEs	-	5	6	5
Education	\$ 1,127	\$ 1,323	\$ 1,530	\$ 1,607
FTEs	8	10	12	11
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	34,095	30,457	31,181	\$ 32,525
Total Program Service FTEs	69	67	69	68
% of Total \$	89.7%	88.8%	87.1%	87.0%
% of Total FTEs	75.8%	77.0%	76.7%	74.7%
Support Services:				
Management & General	1,775	1,511	1,923	\$ 2,019
FTEs	5	5	6	6
Plant Operations	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	2,135	2,342	2,688	\$ 2,822
FTEs	17	15	15	17
Total Support Service \$	3,910	3,853	4,611	4,842
Total Support Service FTEs	22	20	21	23
% of Total \$	10.3%	11.2%	12.9%	13.0%
% of Total FTEs	24.2%	23.0%	23.3%	25.3%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>38,005</b>	<b>34,310</b>	<b>35,792</b>	<b>\$ 37,367</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>(2,391)</b>	<b>5,327</b>	<b>1,736</b>	<b>\$ 1,521</b>

## Ministers' Pension and Special Assistance Funds - Canada

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

	MPF 2013 Actual	MPF 2014 Actual	SAF 2013 Actual	SAF 2014 Actual
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13	\$ 9
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	86.7%	81.8%
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	\$ 3,650	\$ 3,750	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Investment gains (losses)	\$ 7,252	\$ 5,416	\$ 2	\$ 2
Total Other Income	10,902	9,166	2	2
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	13.3%	18.2%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>10,902</b>	<b>9,166</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Distributions	\$ 2,478	\$ 2,587	\$ 28	\$ 22
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 2,478	\$ 2,587	\$ 28	\$ 22
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	78.9%	78.1%	100.0%	100.0%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%		
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 663	\$ 725	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	1	1	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	663	725	-	-
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	-	-
% of Total \$	21.1%	21.9%	0.0%	0.0%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%		
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 3,141</b>	<b>\$ 3,312</b>	<b>\$ 28</b>	<b>\$ 22</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ 7,761</b>	<b>\$ 5,854</b>	<b>\$ (13)</b>	<b>\$ (11)</b>



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

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

	MPF 2013 Actual	MPF 2014 Actual	SAF 2013 Actual	SAF 2014 Actual
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18	\$ 18
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	14.1%
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	\$ 5,401	\$ 5,390	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 110
Investment gains (losses)	\$ 17,553	\$ 6,902	\$ -	\$ -
Total Other Income	22,954	12,292	-	110
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	85.9%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>22,954</b>	<b>12,292</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Distributions	\$ 9,890	\$ 9,847	\$ 139	\$ 128
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs				
FTEs				
FTEs				
FTEs				
FTEs				
Total Program Service \$	\$ 9,890	\$ 9,847	\$ 139	\$ 128
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	90.1%	89.2%	100.0%	100.0%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%		
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 1,087	\$ 1,192	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	2	2	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	1,087	1,192	-	-
Total Support Service FTEs	2	2	-	-
% of Total \$	9.9%	10.8%	0.0%	0.0%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%		
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 10,977</b>	<b>\$ 11,039</b>	<b>\$ 139</b>	<b>\$ 128</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ 11,977</b>	<b>\$ 1,253</b>	<b>\$ (121)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

## Employees' Retirement Plan - Canada

### Changes in Net Assets (000s )

	2013 Actual	2014 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	\$ 371	\$ 408
Participant Contributions	\$ 35	\$ 63
Investment Earnings	\$ 418	\$ 400
Total Other Income	824	871
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>871</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>		
Program Services:		
Distributions	\$ 174	\$ 645
FTEs	-	-
FTEs	-	-
FTEs	-	-
FTEs	-	-
FTEs	-	-
FTEs	-	-
FTEs	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 174	\$ 645
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-
% of Total \$	97.8%	99.1%
% of Total FTEs		
Support Services:		
Management & General	\$ 4	\$ 6
FTEs	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-
Total Support Service \$	4	6
Total Support Service FTEs	-	-
% of Total \$	2.2%	0.9%
% of Total FTEs		
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 178</b>	<b>\$ 651</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ 646</b>	<b>\$ 220</b>

## Employees' Savings Plan - U.S.

### Changes in Net Assets (000s )

	2013 Actual	2014 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:		
Contributions	\$ 2,112	\$ 2,179
Grants	\$ -	\$ -
Investment gains (losses)	\$ 4,490	\$ 1,900
Total Other Income	6,602	4,079
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>6,602</b>	<b>4,079</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>		
Program Services:		
Distributions	\$ 3,018	\$ 2,520
FTEs	-	-
FTEs	-	-
FTEs	-	-
FTEs	-	-
FTEs	-	-
FTEs	-	-
FTEs	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 3,018	\$ 2,520
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-
% of Total \$	95.7%	95.0%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%
Support Services:		
Management & General	\$ 137	\$ 133
FTEs	1	1
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-
Total Support Service \$	137	133
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1
% of Total \$	4.3%	5.0%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 3,155</b>	<b>\$ 2,653</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ 3,447</b>	<b>\$ 1,426</b>

## Consolidated Group Insurance - U.S.

### Changes in Net Assets (000s)

	2013 Actual	2014 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	\$ 10,248	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -
Investment gains (losses)	\$ 21	\$ 58
Total Other Income	10,269	58
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>10,269</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>		
Program Services:		
Claims Expense	\$ 6,165	\$ 63
FTEs	-	-
Insurance Premiums	\$ 1,566	\$ 1,601
FTEs	-	-
TPA & PPO Fees	\$ 431	\$ -
FTEs	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 8,162	\$ 1,664
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-
% of Total \$	95.2%	98.8%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%
Support Services:		
Management & General	\$ 415	\$ 21
FTEs	3	3
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-
Total Support Service \$	415	21
Total Support Service FTEs	3	3
% of Total \$	4.3%	4.3%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 8,577</b>	<b>\$ 1,685</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ 1,692</b>	<b>\$ (1,627)</b>



# REPORT OF SYNOD 2015



# SYNOD 2015 SERVICE OF PRAYER, WORD, AND SACRAMENT

First Christian Reformed Church, Sioux Center, Iowa

June 14, 2015

4:00 p.m.

## God Calls Us to Worship

Prelude: "Rhosymedre" . . . . . Vaughan Williams, arr. Foster

"Variations on Psalm 150: Praise God!

Earth and Heaven Rejoice!" . . . . . de Vries/Hagen

Entrance Psalm: "Sing, Sing, Sing to the Lord" (vocalists)

Welcome

Mutual greeting

Hymn of Preparation: "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

God's Greeting

Hymn of Praise: "Sing Praise to the Lord, You People of Grace"

## God's People Offer Their Prayers

Psalm 146: A Psalm of Praise to the Creator

Responsive reading of Psalm 146:1-7a

Singing the Psalm: "Praise the Lord! Sing Hallelujah!" (st. 1-2)

Responsive reading of Psalm 146:7b-10

Singing the Psalm: "Praise the Lord! Sing Hallelujah!" (st. 3-4)

Prayers for the World

Prayers for the Church and for Synod

Song of Response: "We Will Extol You, God and King"

## God Comes to Us Through His Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 6:1-7; Luke 18:9-14

Sermon: "Where Do We Stand?"

Hymn of Response: "To the Hills I Lift My Eyes"

## God Comes to Us Through the Sacrament

Reading of the Form

Distribution of the Bread: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Distribution of the Cup: "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" . . . . . J. S. Bach



## **We Respond with Offerings and Dedication**

Offering: World Renew

Offertory: "Psalm 118: Give Thanks to God for All His Goodness" . . . Michel

Benediction

Parting Hymn: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Postlude: "Sihamba: We Are Marching in the Light of God" . . . . . Behnke

Worship leader: Mark Verbruggen

Prayer leaders: Bruce A. Persenaire, President of Synod 2015  
Colin P. Watson, Sr., CRCNA Director of Ministries  
and Administration

Organist: Leendert van Beek

Flutist: Brianna Miedema

Trumpet: Evan Schroeder

Percussionist: Craig Disselkoen

Entrance Psalm singers: Jim Bos, Cathy Feenstra, Kevin Hulstein,  
Janna Wesselius

Friendship Class assistants

String Orchestra composed of members of all six Sioux Center CRC  
congregations, directed by Jill Friend

# MINUTES OF SYNOD 2015

## FRIDAY MORNING, June 12, 2015 First Session

### ARTICLE 1

President pro tem Reverend Mark Verbruggen, pastor of First Christian Reformed Church, Sioux Center, Iowa, the convening church of synod, welcomes the delegates to Synod 2015.

The president pro tem introduces Dr. Erik Hoekstra, president of Dordt College, who welcomes delegates to the Dordt College Campus.

Rev. Mark Verbruggen leads in opening prayer. Delegates are led in singing "All Are Welcome," and all read Psalm 147:1–13 responsively. Delegates join in singing "O Praise the Lord, for It Is Good," led by Ms. Janna Wesselius, Mr. Bradley Miedema, and Ms. Lisa Miedema.

Rev. Mark Verbruggen reads Acts 20:17–38 and, focusing on Acts 20:32, addresses the delegates on "A Word of Grace for a Weird and Wonderful Church." He concludes with prayer.

Delegates sing "Church of God, Elect and Glorious" as a song of response.

### ARTICLE 2

The president pro tem asks the executive director, Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, to call the roll of delegates listed on the credentials of the forty-eight classes:

### DELEGATES TO SYNOD 2015

Classis	Ministers	Elders
Alberta North	Gordon H. Pols Kornelis De Koning	Matt Schoonderwoerd Frank J. Zee
Alberta South/Saskatchewan	H. Charles Kooger Folkert de Boer	Nelly Eyk Jacob D. Appelhof
Arizona	Jonathan Gerstner José Rayas	Merle Den Bleyker Rodney J. Huguen
Atlantic Northeast	Ryan M. Goding Kurt A. Monroe	Tom Cooper Samuel D. Sutter
B.C. North-West	Timothy Sheridan Alan E. van der Woerd	David P. Mayer John A. Buikema
B.C. South-East	Thomas W. Bomhof William C. Veentra	Jack Vaandrager Bart E.C. Vegt
California South	Cornelius Pool Scott Elgersma	Lee A. Johnson Vacant
Central California	Paul H. Vander Klay Bruce A. Persenaire	Maurice Roos Warren B. Wissink
Central Plains	Brian L. Ochsner Gilbert J. Kamps	Leon J. Groenendyk Brent Disselkoe

Chatham	Willemina L. Zwart	Frank Beute
Chicago South	Joshua C. Tuininga	Clarence J. Nywening
Columbia	David C. Ten Clay	John W. Hadley
Eastern Canada	Timothy P. Hoekstra	James C. Bolhuis
Georgetown	Bradley A. Vos	Seth A. Atsma
Grand Rapids East	Robert J. Toornstra	Leroy Werkhoven
Grand Rapids North	David A. Vroege	Cor Dykstra
Grand Rapids South	Paul R. Vanderkooy	Jean J. Lauziere
Grandville	David E. Den Haan	Shelby L. Gemmen
Greater Los Angeles	Gerald A. Koning	Ron J. Koedam
Hackensack	Stedford E. Sims	Darrell L. Delaney
Hamilton	Josiah H. Chung	Judy A. Jongsma
Hanmi	Darrin J.B. Compagner	Kenneth A. Koll
Heartland	John M. Mondt	David L. Weeks
Holland	Stephen A.B. DeWit	Jolene M. DeHeer
Hudson	David A. Struyk	Eric D. Kamstra
Huron	Daniel B. Mouw	Hendrik Porte
Iakota	Dale M. Fopma	Gerrit L. DenHartog
Illiana	Sid Sybenga	Chris T. Choe
Kalamazoo	Bonny S. Mulder-Behnia	Adriana Sybenga
Ko-Am	Margaret J. Jenista	Karen J. Walker
Lake Erie	Gary Roest	Lenore Y. Maine
Lake Superior	Rita S. Klein-Geltink	Martin W. Tigchelaar
Minnkota	Henry P. Kranenburg	Fred Reitsma
Muskegon	Hyung Ju Park	Sang Myeun Moon
Niagara	Paul Im	Chun Sun Lee
Northcentral Iowa	Robert D. Drenten	Bruce D. Lefever
Northern Illinois	John C. Klompier	Ed L. Starkenburg
Northern Michigan	Socheth Na	Mary E. Jellema
Pacific Northwest	Scott A. DeVries	Fronse W. Smith, Sr.
	Michael L. Bentley	Vacant
	Mary B. Stegink	Vacant
	Brian J. Bork	Marguerite E. Ridder
	Henry F. Steenbergen	Richard Van der Wal
	Mark N. Verbruggen	Art Attema
	John Gorter	Orlan Gulker
	Joel W. Zuidema	Henry J. Goesel
	Richard T. Vanderwal	Donald Dykstra
	David L. Van Der Wie	George H. VanderWey
	Ronald De Young	Thomas P. Balkema
	Sung Chang Choi	John Chung Dae Yoon
	Jonathan J. Kim	Jong Keun Lee
	Vacant	Vacant
	Kenneth R. Bieber	Jack O. Kalmink
	Anson Veenstra	Greg J. Kok
	Michael L. Ten Haken	Raymond Vander Zaag
	Jon R. Bushnell	John H. VanderBilt
	C. James den Dulk	Lyle B. TenHaken
	Jeffrey A. Hough	Michael K. Jackson
	Leslie D. Van Dyke	Arie A. Fikse
	Vacant	Daniel S. Baarda
	Robert J. Loerts	Eleanor Boersma
	Russell W. Boersma	Herbert W. Schreur
	Jonathan L. Spronk	Duane C. Vanderploeg
	James T. Petersen	Alexandra Wurpts
	John L. Hoekwater	Adam H. DeHoek
	Wendell D. Davelaar	Paul Hinkelberger
	David J. Prince	Ray Y. Van Sloten
	Ben E. DeRegt	John M. Rozeboom
	Randolph A. Beumer	Mark Wagenaar

Quinte	Nathan Kuperus	Brian D. Bylsma
Red Mesa	Heidi S. De Jonge	Leo Kuiperij
	Stanley W. Jim	Norman Chee
Rocky Mountain	Susan E. LaClear	Denny Van Andel
	Roger DeYoung	Gerald Reinsma
Southeast U.S.	Robert L. Westenbroek	Donn Hansum
	Stanley J. Workman	Karlos E. Palacios
Thornapple Valley	David J. Weemhoff	John R. Eggebeen
	Paul R. DeVries	Chris Van Spronsen
Toronto	Heather Strooboscher	Robert J. Zoerman
	Nick C. Overduin	Rob Datema
Wisconsin	Richard A. Bodini	Michael S. Irshad
	Mark J. Pluimer	Michael G. Tinholt
Yellowstone	David L. Katsma	Bruce R. McMurry
	Timothy B. Toeset	Willis Calhoun
Zeeland	Jerry L. Blom	Dale Venhuizen
	Stephen F. Terpstra	Edward Zylstra
	Steve A. Bussis	Kenneth R. Estelle

The roll indicates that the following delegates are absent with notice: Rev. Jonathan Gerstner (Arizona), Mr. Leroy Werkhoven (Columbia), Rev. David A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), Mr. Sang Myeun Moon (Hanmi), Mr. Gerald Reinsma (Rocky Mountain), and Mr. Leo Kuiperij (Quinte).

The president pro tem declares that a quorum of the membership is present and that the assembly of Synod 2015 is duly constituted.

### ARTICLE 3

The executive director welcomes and individually introduces the faculty advisers who are present: Dr. Lyle D. Bierma, Dr. Ronald J. Feenstra, Rev. Kathleen S. Smith, and Dr. David M. Rylaarsdam.

The executive director welcomes and individually introduces to synod the deacon advisers who are present: Mrs. Trena Boonstra, Ms. Tamara Haveman, Ms. Cora Hoekstra, and Mr. Herm Kloosterman.

The executive director welcomes and individually introduces to synod the ethnic advisers who are present: Mr. Caleb N. Dickson, Pastor Lee Khang, Mr. John S. Lendein, Rev. Carlinda Peoples, and Ms. Janelia D. Smiley.

The executive director welcomes and individually introduces to synod the young adult representatives who are present: Ms. Ashley G. Bootsma, Mr. Adam Heynen, Ms. Youri Lee, Mr. Aren T. Plante, Mr. Corey Van Dyk, Mr. Justin VerWoerd, and Mr. Derick M. Xayasane.

The executive director, on behalf of synod, welcomes ecumenical visitors who are present: Rev. Perline Cooper, ecumenical representative of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM), and fraternal delegates Rev. Dr. Arie Jan (A.J.) Plaisier, Protestant Church in the Netherlands, and Rev. Lisa Vander Wal, Reformed Church in America.

The executive director welcomes Dr. Michael K. Le Roy, president of Calvin College, and Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary.

#### ARTICLE 4

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

President: Rev. Bruce A. Persenaire

Vice President: Rev. William C. Veenstra

First Clerk: Rev. Bonny S. Mulder–Behnia

Second Clerk: Rev. Stanley W. Jim

#### ARTICLE 5

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

Rev. Bruce A. Persenaire expresses the appreciation of synod to Rev. Verbruggen for his participation in the opening of synod.

On behalf of himself and the other officers, Rev. Persenaire 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 proceeds with the reading of the Public Declaration of Agreement with the Beliefs of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The delegates rise to show their assent.

#### ARTICLE 7

The executive director introduces the synod news office staff, *The Banner* staff, synod office staff, prayer coordinators, IT staff, worship coordinators, Dordt College conference coordinator, denominational executive staff, Board of Trustees vice president, and directors of agencies 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.; breaks at 9:45 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

#### ARTICLE 9

The executive director 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 2015 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). Synod 1982 added, “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 recorded. Delegates to synod are informed at the opening session of synod that all the general sessions are being recorded. 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 [executive director] of synod.
- B. Visitor privileges
  - 1. Members of the gallery (visitors) are at liberty to make audiorecordings of the public proceedings of synod provided it is done unobtrusively (i.e., that it in no way inhibits or disturbs 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 [video recording] 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 executive director presents the report of the Program Committee, which recommends the following advisory committees for Synod 2015:

### *Committee 1—Synodical Services*

**Chair:** Cornelius Pool; **reporter:** Rita S. Klein-Geltink; **ministers:** Michael L. Bentley, Scott A. DeVries, Jonathan L. Spronk, Sid Sybenga, Robert J. Toornstra, Joshua C. Tuininga, Richard T. Vanderwal, Mark N. Verbruggen; **elders:** Eleanor Boersma, Tom Cooper, Adam H. DeHoek, Darrell L. Delaney, Shelby L. Gemmen, Paul Hizelberger, Lenore Y. Maine, David P. Mayer, Ed L. Starkenburg; **adviser:** Lee Khang; **young adult representative:** Corey Van Dyk.

### *Committee 2—Church Order and Synodical Matters*

**Chair:** Jean J. Lauziere; **reporter:** Henry F. Steenbergen; **ministers:** Sung Chang Choi, Heidi S. De Jonge, Ben E. DeRegt, Robert D. Drenten, Bonny S. Mulder-Behnia, Hyung Ju Park, James T. Petersen, David J. Prince, Stephen F. Terpstra, David J. Weemhoff, Robert L. Westenbroek; **elders:** Thomas P. Balkema, Willis Calhoun, Rob Datema, Leon J. Groenendyk, Eric D. Kamstra, Greg J. Kok, Denny Van Andel, Warren B. Wissink; **advisers:** Janelia D. Smiley, Kathleen S. Smith; **young adult representative:** Justin Ver Woerd.

### *Committee 3—Education and Candidacy*

**Chair:** Stedford E. Sims; **reporter:** Paul H. Vander Klay; **ministers:** Ronald De Young, Jonathan Gerstner, Stanley W. Jim, Kurt A. Monroe, Mark J. Pluimer; **elders:** Chris T. Choe, Cor Dykstra, John R. Eggebeen, Bruce D. Lefever, Richard Van der Wal, David L. Weeks, Leroy A. Werkhoven, Alexandra Wurpts, Frank J. Zee, Edward Zylstra; **advisers:** Cora Hoekstra, Carlinda Peoples; **young adult representative:** Youri Lee.

### *Committee 4—Congregational Support Ministry I*

**Chair:** Mary B. Stegink; **reporter:** Joel W. Zuidema; **ministers:** Russell W. Boersma, Wendell D. Davelaar, Scott Elgersma, Jonathan J. Kim, Nathan Kuperus, Brian L. Ochsner, William C. Veenstra, Bradley A. Vos; **elders:** Rodney L. Hugen, Michael K. Jackson, Judy A. Jongsma, Jack O. Kalmink, Sang Myeun Moon, Clarence J. Nywening, Fred Reitsma, Matt Schoonderwoerd, Adriana Sybenga, Mark Wagenaar; **advisers:** Caleb N. Dickson, Tamara N. Haveman, David M. Rylaarsdam; **young adult representative:** Adam Heynen.

### *Committee 5—Congregational Support Ministry II*

**Chair:** Thomas W. Bomhof; **reporter:** Daniel B. Mouw; **ministers:** Randolph A. Beumer, Jon R. Bushnell, Ryan M. Goding, Timothy P. Hoekstra, David L. Katsma, Socheth Na, Alan E. van der Woerd; **elders:** Art Attema, Jacob D. Appelhof, Jolene M. DeHeer, Arie A. Fikse, Henry J. Goesel, Cheon S. Lee, Duane C. Vanderploeg, Ray Y. VanSloten, Karen J. Walker; **advisers:** Ronald J. Feenstra, Herm Kloosterman; **young adult representative:** Ashley G. Bootsma.

### *Committee 6—Global Mission and Ministry*

**Chair:** Gary Roest; **reporter:** José Rayas; **ministers:** Josiah H. Chung, Folkert de Boer, Roger De Young, C. James den Dulk, Stephen A.B. DeWit, Bruce A. Persenaire, Timothy Sheridan, Anson Veenstra; **elders:** Brent Disselkoen, Donald Dykstra, Kenneth R. Estelle, John W. Hadley, Mary E. Jellema, Leo Kuiperij, Marguerite E. Ridder, Maurice Roos, Samuel D. Sutter, Bart E.C. Vegt, Robert J. Zoerman; **advisers:** Trena Boonstra, John S. Lendein, John M. Rottman; **young adult representative:** Derick M. Xayasane.

### *Committee 7—Financial Matters*

**Chair:** Stanley J. Workman; **reporter:** Paul R. DeVries; **ministers:** Steve A. Bussis, John C. Klompier, David C. Ten Clay, Michael L. Ten Haken, Leslie D. Van Dyke; **elders:** Frank Beute, John A. Buikema, Nelly Eyk, Michael S. Irshad, Lee A. Johnson, Ron J. Koedam, Kenneth A. Koll, Gerald Reinsma Fronse W. Smith, Sr., Lyle B. TenHaken, Michael G. Tinholt, Dale Venhuizen; **adviser:** Trena Boonstra.

### *Committee 8—Interdenominational Matters*

**Chair:** Kornelis De Koning; **reporter:** Merle Den Bleyker; **ministers:** Kenneth Bieber, Jerry L. Blom, Darrin J.B. Compagner, Jeffrey Hough, H. Charles Kooger, Susan E. LaClear; **elders:** Manuel O. Aguilar, Seth A. Atsma, Daniel S. Baarda, James C. Bolhuis, Brian D. Bylsma, Bruce R. McMurphy, Karlos E. Palacios, Hendrik Porte, Raymond Vander Zaag, George H. VanderWey; **adviser:** Lyle D. Bierma; **young adult representative:** Aren T. Plante.

*Committee 9—Offices of Elder and Deacon*

**Chair:** Robert J. Loerts; **reporter:** Richard A. Bodini; **ministers:** Brian J. Bork, Paul Im, Margaret J. Jenista, John M. Mondt, Heather Strooboscher, David A. Struyk, Timothy B. Toeset, David A. Vroege; **elders:** Norman Chee, Orlan Gulker, Donn Hansum, Jong Kueun Lee, John M. Rozeboom, Herbert W. Schreur, Martin W. Tigchelaar, Jack Vaandrager, John H. Vanderbilt; **advisers:** Tamara N. Haveman, Lee Khang, Kathleen S. Smith; **young adult representative:** Justin Ver Woerd.

*Recommendation:* That synod adopt the report of the Program Committee, including membership on the advisory committees for Synod 2015.

—Adopted

ARTICLE 11

The president of synod, Rev. Bruce A. Persenaire, leads in closing prayer. Synod adjourns at 10:56 a.m. Synod will reconvene Saturday at 8:15 a.m.

**SATURDAY MORNING, June 13, 2015**

**Second Session**

ARTICLE 12

Mr. Darrell L. Delaney, Ms. Tamara Haveman, and accompanists lead delegates in singing “Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading.” Rev. Gordon H. Pols (Alberta North) leads the delegates in a responsive reading. Delegates respond by singing “May the Mind of Christ, My Savior.”

Rev. Pols reads from Psalm 1, and delegates respond intermittently with singing verses of “Trees.”

Rev. David A. Vroege reads Psalm 1 and addresses the delegates on “Being Strong Trees with Roots that Can Handle the Storms of Life.” Delegates respond by singing “God of Grace and God of Glory.”

Rev. Pols leads a responsive prayer for the mission of the church, and delegates respond by singing “Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God.” Rev. Pols concludes with a benediction and blessing.

Worship concludes with the passing of the peace.

The roll indicates that the following delegate(s) are still absent: Mr. Leroy Werkhoven (Columbia), Rev. Sang Myeun Moon (Hanmi), and Leo Kuiperij (Quinte). Rev. Joseph Vanden Akker (Minnkota) replaces Rev. Jon R. Bushnell (Minnkota) for today. The following delegates are not present today: Rev. Sung Chang Choi (Ko-Am) and Mr. John Yoon (Ko-Am).

The executive director acknowledges that Dr. Nelus Niemandt, Moderator of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, is present.



## ARTICLE 13

The officers of synod announce the following appointments:

### Worship Planning Committee:

Elder delegate Darrell L. Delaney  
Deacon adviser Tamara N.  
Haveman  
Rev. David A. Vroege

### Hospitality Committee:

Dr. Peter Borgdorff  
Mr. Eric Forseth  
Mr. Wayne Kobes  
Dr. Jay Shim

### Minutes Review Committee:

Elder delegate Donald Dykstra  
Rev. Henry P. Kranenburg

### Testimonial Banquet Committee:

Rev. Richard A. Bodini  
Elder delegate Jolene M. De Heer  
Elder delegate Rodney J. Hugen  
Elder delegate Michael K. Jackson

### Sergeant at Arms:

Ethnic adviser Caleb N. Dickson

## ARTICLE 14

The president presents the following on behalf of the officers of synod:

A. The president announces that all requests for privilege of the floor by the BOT, CRC agencies, educational institutions, standing committees, and study committees of synod contained within the reports to synod are granted.

B. That synod approve the following requests for special offerings for the agencies, ministries, and educational institutions of the CRC that are contained within the reports to Synod 2015:

1. 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 (*Agenda for Synod 2015*, p. 208).
2. That synod along with the Board of Trustees encourage all Christian Reformed churches to recognize Pentecost Sunday and the third Sunday of September 2015 as significant opportunities to pray for and to receive an offering for Christian Reformed World Missions (*Agenda for Synod 2015*, p. 215).
3. That synod commend the work of mercy carried on by World Renew and urge the churches to take at least four offerings per year in lieu of ministry-share support (*Agenda for Synod 2015*, p. 247).
4. That synod approve two offerings for Calvin Theological Seminary (for the Facing Your Future program and the Distance Education program) (*Agenda for Synod 2015*, p. 265).

—Adopted

C. That synod take note of the following protests submitted by way of the Credentials for Synod:

Classis Minnkota: "The following delegates attend synod but register their protest against the seating of women delegates: Rev. Jon Bushnell, Rev. C. James Den Dulk, and Mr. John Vander Bilt."

D. The officers have ruled that Overtures 13 and 14 received by synod are out of order. No new and sufficient grounds (per Church Order Article 31) have been presented. Supplemental reports with information and recommendations submitted by a standing committee of synod are considered duly ready in time for synod's agenda.

E. The officers have ruled how to process several communications received by synod.

#### ARTICLE 15

The executive director presents the ballot for board and committee elections, and the delegates vote. Voting for agency boards and committee members is done electronically. The ballot results (boards and committees lists) will be ratified by synod prior to adjournment next week.

The president announces that all ballot-related recommendations in the *Agenda for Synod 2015* and in 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 9:06 a.m. so that delegates can work in advisory committees. Rev. Mary B. Stegink (Hudson) leads in closing prayer. Synod will reconvene in the B.J. Haan Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

### **SATURDAY EVENING, June 13, 2015**

#### **Third Session**

#### ARTICLE 17

The evening session convenes at 7:00 p.m., and Rev. Ronald J. Meyer (Christian Reformed World Missions-U.S. board president) leads in opening prayer.

#### ARTICLE 18

The president introduces Rev. R. Scott Greenway, vice president of the Board of Trustees, who addresses delegates on the work of the Board of Trustees and the executive director.

Many changes, some happy and some painful, have happened over the past five years of Rev. Greenway's tenure on the Board of Trustees. Through all of these events, Rev. Greenway has seen how God has provided over and over again. "We can see hope for the future and move forward with confidence."

The president responds.

## ARTICLE 19

Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director, addresses the delegates on the “State of the Church.” There are misconceptions about shrinking membership and declining ministry-share support, yet from data in the 2015 *Yearbook* we can see that growth in the church is going upward and ministry-share support is stable. God is indeed blessing us in this growth. God is also blessing us with other gifts and offerings to assist in ministry needs.

The RCA and CRC are working together in a variety of areas. New churches are being planted, and other areas of collaboration are emerging.

Despite some challenges, we must be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer as stated in Romans 12:12. Being grounded in the Word of God, we will have hope, be patient during difficult situations, and be faithful in prayer. God is working among us.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Rom. 15:13).

The president responds.

## ARTICLE 20

Delegates view a Spirit and Truth Fellowship CRC video of several church plants in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the work of Rev. Manny Ortiz.

## ARTICLE 21

Dr. Steven R. Timmermans shares information on the Emerging Ministry Plan of the CRCNA, showing its desired futures and strategic foci.

The praise team leads the delegates in singing “Speak, O Lord,” and Dr. Syd Hielema, team leader of Faith Formation Ministries, leads in a prayer time followed by the singing of “Your Will Be Done.”

Delegates conclude the worship time by singing “Father I Adore You.”

Dr. Timmermans explains the Emerging Ministry Plan of the CRCNA and shares the priorities that need to be addressed: (1) Church and Community, (2) Discipleship, (3) Leadership, (4) Identity, and (5) Collaboration.

The delegates gather in groups to give suggestions on the strategic foci of the desired futures.

## ARTICLE 22

The evening session is adjourned at 8:51 p.m. Synod will resume meeting on Monday morning, June 15, at 8:15 a.m. Dr. Syd Hielema leads in closing prayer.

## MONDAY MORNING, June 15, 2015

### Fourth Session

## ARTICLE 23

Rev. Leslie D. Van Dyke opens with a call to worship, and the praise team leads delegates in singing “The Lord Is My Light.”

Rev. Susan E. LaClear and Rev. Leslie Van Dyke read Psalm 37, and delegates respond by intermittently singing verses of “Wait for the Lord,” each followed by a period of silence. Rev. LaClear offers a prayer of confession, and delegates respond with singing “We Need the Power of the Holy Spirit.”

Mr. Darrell Delaney reads Psalm 27 and presents a meditation on “Our Confidence.” The Lord is our light and our salvation, and we must wait patiently for the Lord and trust him in the midst of our trouble. Our God is great and will be with us always. Mr. Delaney closes in prayer, and delegates respond by singing “I Surrender All.”

Rev. Van Dyke offers prayer for the work of synod, and delegates sing “God Is Here.”

Rev. La Clear gives a benediction, and delegates respond by singing “How Firm a Foundation.”

Worship concludes with the passing of the peace.

Roll call indicates that the following are not present: Rev. Cheon Sun Lee (Hanmi), and Mr. Donn Hansum (Rocky Mountain).

## ARTICLE 24

Advisory Committee 3, Education and Candidacy, Rev. Paul H. Vander Klay reporting, presents the following:

### I. Board of Trustees

#### A. *Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (section II, B, 6), p. 37
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (sections I, E; II, A, 4)

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. R. Scott Greenway, vice president of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

#### C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod allow time to receive an oral report from Dr. Syd Hielema regarding Faith Formation Ministries (II, B, 6).  
—*Granted*
2. That synod take note of the Faith Formation Ministries Mandate approved by the Ministries Leadership Council and endorsed by the Board of Trustees (BOT Supplement section II, A, 4).  
—*Adopted*

### II. Calvin College

#### A. *Materials*

1. Calvin College Report, pp. 169-73
2. Calvin College Supplement

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Mr. Scott A. Spoelhof, chair of the board, and Dr. Michael K. Le Roy, president of the college

### C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod ratify the follow faculty appointments with tenure, effective September 1, 2015:

- a. Brian D. Cawley, Ph.D., associate professor of business
- b. Vicki L. De Vries, Ph.D., associate professor of French
- c. Peter J. Snyder, Ph.D., associate professor of business
- d. Jason M. Stansbury, Ph.D., associate professor of business
- e. Julie E. Yonker, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology

—*Adopted*

2. That synod give appropriate recognition to the following individuals for service to Calvin College and the Christian Reformed Church in North America and ratify the conferral of the titles presented here:

- a. Marilyn R. Bierling, Ph.D., professor of Spanish, emerita
- b. John H. Brink, Ph.D., professor of psychology, emeritus
- c. P. Mark Fackler, Ph.D., professor of communication arts and sciences, emeritus
- d. Quentin J. Schultze, Ph.D., professor of communication arts and sciences, emeritus
- e. Peter V. Tigchelaar, Ph.D., professor of biology, emeritus
- f. Glenn E. Triezenberg, M.S.W., M.B.A., director of career development services, emeritus
- g. Gerald K. Van Kooten, Ph.D., professor of geology, emeritus
- h. Julie Walton, Ph.D., professor of kinesiology, emerita

—*Adopted*

Dr. Michael K. Le Roy, Calvin College president, addresses the delegates, shares an update on Calvin, and gives thanks for the work of synod.

### III. **Candidacy Committee**

#### A. *Materials*

1. Candidacy Committee Report (including Appendix), pp. 274-84
2. Candidacy Committee Supplement

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. David R. Koll (director of Candidacy), and an additional member of the Candidacy Committee, if one is present

#### C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod approve the following with regard to the candidacy process:
  - a. That beginning with Synod 2018, each candidate presented to synod be required to have had three interviews with a classis or classis committee—an initial interview, and then an annual interview over the next two years.
  - b. That beginning with Synod 2018, each candidate presented to synod be required to have had an approved mentor relationship with a trained leader in the CRC for at least 24 months, in partnership with a local

church mentoring committee that meets with the student three times during each of those two years.

- c. That synod encourage the Candidacy Committee to implement this plan in the coming months by providing orientation to students early in their seminary training, by providing assistance to students and to the designated partners in each classis, and by working in respectful partnership with the Mentored Ministries Office of Calvin Theological Seminary.

*—Adopted*

2. That synod take note of the various initiatives and challenges identified by the Candidacy Committee as noted in this report.

*—Granted*

### 3. Candidates for ministry

- a. That synod declare the following as candidates for Ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church subject to completion of all remaining (if any) requirements:

Andrea M. Baas	Joe W. Nasvytis
Nicholas C. Baas	Jacob D. Porter
(Tony) Hyeon Bang	Christina L. Rea
Jenna L. Brandsen	Barbara A. Sanders
Blake I. Campbell	Hannah R. Smele
Jeffrey Chang	Jason R. Terpstra
Joshua M. Christoffels	David van Eyk
Bryant M. DeKruyter	Chad N. Van Ginkel
Kendra R. Ettema	Charles W. Van Hoffen
Shelby L. Gemmen	Corey Van Huizen
David Groen	Scott J. Van Voorst
Robert A. Hoekstra	Mary L. Vanden Berg
Darren S. Hoogendoorn	Jeremy S. Vandermeer
Jin Su Hwang	Kevin J. VanderVeen
Edward C. Jiang	Mark A. VanderWerf
Eric D. Kas	Philip J. VanderWindt
(Brandon) Yongwan Kim	Ben G. VanStraten
Kristy R. Manion	Adam S. Veenstra
Elaine G. May	Jesse L. Walhof
Janina S. Mobach	Perrin M. Werner
Mark A. Mohrlang	Rhonda S. Workman
Karis Mpindi	David P. Zigterman

*—Adopted*

- b. That these candidates be presented at Synod 2015 on Tuesday, June 16, at 9:30 a.m.

*—Adopted*

4. That synod approve the following extensions of candidacy:

Kevin J. Boss	Lee Khang
Yoon Chul (Daniel) Choi	Michelle J. Kool
Nevada L. DeLapp	Victor S. Laarman
Douglas J. De Groot	Mark E. Langenbach
Kyle Dieleman	Daniel Meyer
Richard France-Coe	Dena E. Meyerink
Tyler Greenway	Cornelius M. Muasa
Robert J. Gruessing	Kurt C. Schaefer
Patrick N. Guarracino	Paula Seales
Gareth P. Harker	Juli Stuelpnagel
Ryan Hoogerbrugge	Lesli L. van Milligen
Joseph Hwang	Richard W. Visser
Sang Jin	Kristopher R. Walhof
Daniel B. Jung	Beverly A. Weeks
Erik W. Kamp	Leo H. Yoon

—Adopted

5. That synod concur on the declaration of *need* for the following persons for affiliation under Church Order Article 8:

Date	Name of applicant	Classis	Former denomination
5-7-14	An, Sang Hyun	Central California	Talbot Korean Church Association
8-7-14	Chiang, James	Central California	San Ramon Valley Gospel Church
9-2-14	Choi, Ilyong "Paul"	Rocky Mountain	Korean Presbyterian Church USA
9-2-14	Kim, Yoon Whan	Kalamazoo	PCA
9-2-14	Oh, Sang Kyu	Hanmi	Presbyterian Church in Korea
9-2-14	Shin, In Chul	Hanmi	Korean Evangelical Church of America
9-4-14	Kim, Myunggil	Hanmi	Presbyterian Church of Korea
9-14-14	Agbuya, Alex	Central Plains	Assemblies of God in the Philippines
2-9-15	Kim, Won Chei	Ko-Am	Pentecostal Assembly of God of Korea
2-9-15	Son, Tae Jung	Ko-Am	Bible Presbyterian Church in America
2-9-15	Yoon, Gyeong Soo	Ko-Am	Presbyterian Church of Korea
5-1-15	Kim, Jong Yup	Southeast U.S.	Korean Presbyterian Church

—Adopted

6. That synod approve the action of the Candidacy Committee relative to the process used for readmission to CRC ministry for Rev. Joseph Chen under Church Order Article 8.

—Adopted

7. That synod take note of the developments in the EPMC program and offer its thanks to the committee and the faculty of Calvin Theological Seminary for their effective partnership as they prepare candidates for ordained ministry within the Christian Reformed Church.

—Adopted

8. That synod endorse the direction (outlined in the Candidacy Committee Supplement section VI, B) for an exceptional route for RCA pastors serving a first call in the CRC, and encourage the Candidacy Committee to continue conversations with the appropriate RCA functionaries regarding this matter.

*Grounds:*

- a. This route brings order to an area of our “Orderly Exchange of Ministers” where confusion has occurred.
- b. This agreement allows an equitable exception for RCA candidates that matches an exceptional route that has developed for CRC candidates.
- c. This agreement maintains the desire of the CRC that the EPMC requirements not be disregarded by those beginning in ministry in the CRC.
- d. This agreement is consistent with the commitment of cooperation approved by both the CRC and RCA synods in 2014.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 31.)

## ARTICLE 25

Advisory Committee 2, Church Order and Synodical Matters, Rev. Henry Steenbergen reporting, presents the following:

### Sermons for Reading Services

A. *Materials:* Sermons for Reading Services Report, pp. 309-10

B. *Privilege of the floor:* Rev. Kory L. Plockmeyer, member of the Sermons for Reading Services Committee

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod dissolve the Sermons for Reading Services Committee with thanks—effective immediately.

*Grounds:*

- a. It is difficult to find ministers willing to submit manuscript sermons that meet the requirements of the ministry of the Sermons for Reading Services Committee.
- b. Among vacant churches there is not enough usage of the committee’s available sermons to warrant continuing this ministry.
- c. There are other Reformed sermons available, especially online.
- d. This change will encourage churches to develop lay gifts for proclamation to support the preaching ministry of the church, especially in times of vacancy.

—Adopted

2. That synod instruct the executive director to ensure that Ministry Support Services maintain the Sermons for Reading Services website for the foreseeable future and encourage vacant churches to make use of its resources.

—Adopted

3. That synod instruct the executive director to ensure that Calvin Theological Seminary and the Center for Excellence in Preaching submit quality sermons to the website and/or make other sermon resources available to the churches.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 30.)



## ARTICLE 26

Rev. Joyce Berger, director of Worship Ministries, Rev. Syd Hielema, team leader for Faith Formation Ministries, and the following staff share the ministry vision of Faith Formation and Worship Ministries: Mr. Derek Atkins, Ms. Diane Dykgraaf, and Rev. Shannon Jammal-Hollemans. This ministry is about networking, strengthening, and resourcing. Delegates also view a short video introducing Ms. Laura Meyering of Worship Ministries and Ms. Karen De Boer of Faith Formation Ministries, who are not able to be present at synod.

A group of local children close the presentation by singing “We Praise You, Father” with delegates joining in on the refrain.

Rev. Bonny Mulder-Behnia offers a prayer for the work of Faith Formation Ministries.

## ARTICLE 27

Synod enters into strict executive session.

### **Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Synod 2014 Judicial Code Committee Report**

#### **I. Background**

The Judicial Code Committee (JCC) brought a report to Synod 2014 that provided a brief statement of facts concerning a situation that began March 3, 2010, with subsequent actions involving the appellants, the consistory, and Classis Pacific Northwest. The report also provided a procedural history of events that led up to the case coming before the Judicial Code Committee. The JCC report to synod concluded with two sections, titled “Recommendations” and “Pastoral Observations.”

Instead of appearing on the agenda, the report was forwarded to an ad hoc committee charged with the following tasks: (1) consider how synod should deal with the JCC’s recommendations and observations, and (2) bring its findings to Synod 2015.

Following the composition suggested by synod, the ad hoc committee reviewed the JCC report and the record on which they relied, and the committee now presents the following recommendations concerning the report, in much the same way an advisory committee brings recommendations to synod. Before introducing the recommendations, the ad hoc committee notes with sadness the history of hurts that have taken place among the various parties involved in the case. There is no easy fix to these tangled issues. The ad hoc committee recognizes that a clear and final decision is likely only the first step in the healing process.

#### **II. Recommendations**

A. That Synod 2015 not accede to the request of the parties to address synod for the reasons stated in the Judicial Code Committee report to Synod 2014: “The committee makes this recommendation pursuant to Article 25-b, which states that the Judicial Code Committee ‘shall make recommendation concerning this request to synod.’ The grounds for this recommendation are that permitting the parties to further address matters in plenary session

would not be helpful to synod, would likely result in matters not relevant to the appeal being brought before the synod, and would not be otherwise productive.”

—*Adopted*

B. That synod adopt the following conclusions contained in the report of the JCC regarding the processes examined by the JCC and the scope of its work:

1. That the hearing at classis did not provide sufficient time, did not request witnesses to appear at the hearing as requested by the appellants, and did not give clear instructions regarding all of the terms used on the ballot at the hearing.
2. That there is no need for an additional hearing on these matters. The facts surrounding the substantive issues at root of this matter are clear and established upon the record.

—*Adopted*

C. That synod take the following actions on the basis of the record in lieu of a further hearing:

1. Adopt the finding that the consistory failed to follow the Church Order with regard to lapsing of the membership of the appellants and remind the consistory to follow Church Order Supplement, Article 67. Failure to follow Supplement, Article 67 in a situation affecting a family with whom the consistory was in dispute evidenced poor judgment.
2. Adopt the finding that, while the consistory engaged in a process that was thoughtful and biblically guided, there is no evidence in the record that the consistory utilized the special discipline procedures outlined in Church Order Supplement, Articles 82-84. Use of the special discipline procedures, including the suspension process and advice from a neighboring congregation, would have provided additional accountability and wisdom.

—*Adopted*

D. That synod, based on the adoption of these findings, instruct the Board of Trustees to direct the Office of Pastor-Church Relations, in consultation with the classis, to appoint a small group of wise and impartial people, including a pastor from the region and one or more people from a neighboring congregation, to meet separately with the pastor and consistory who are the subjects of this appeal, as well as the appellant. The goal of these meetings is to communicate the decisions of synod to the pastor and consistory and to address continuing concerns related to this matter.

—*Adopted*

E. That synod instruct the ED to communicate its decisions made in executive session regarding this matter and pertaining to the appellants, the consistory, and Classis Pacific Northwest with the small group identified above.

—*Adopted*

F. That synod discharge the ad hoc committee.

—*Adopted*

*Note:* Upon adoption of the above recommendations, there is no further mechanism of appeal.

Synod concludes strict executive session.

#### ARTICLE 28

The morning session adjourns at 11:43 a.m. Elder delegate Mr. Rodney J. Hugen (Arizona) leads in closing prayer.

### MONDAY AFTERNOON, June 15, 2015

#### Fifth Session

#### ARTICLE 29

The afternoon session convenes at 1:07 p.m. Mr. Michael K. Jackson (Muskegon) leads in opening prayer.

#### ARTICLE 30

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 25.)

Advisory Committee 2, Church Order and Synodical Matters, Rev. Henry Steenberg reporting, presents the following:

#### I. Historical Committee

A. *Materials:* Historical Committee Report, pp. 300-308

B. *Privilege of the floor:* Dr. Richard H. Harms, CRC Archivist

C. *Observations*

The advisory committee heard a wonderful report by Richard Harms, the archivist of Calvin College, and appreciated the good work by the committee staff on recent historical materials and matters related to the early life of the CRC.

D. *Recommendations*

1. That synod recognize the significant anniversaries of retired pastors as well as churches celebrating such milestones.

—Adopted

2. That synod instruct the executive director to encourage all churches and classes to send duplicates (photocopies, faxes, or email attachments) of their constitutions and articles of incorporation to the archives. Copies can be sent to Archives, Calvin College, 1855 Knollcrest Circle SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546-4402; or by fax: 616-526-7689; or by email: [crcarchives@calvin.edu](mailto:crcarchives@calvin.edu).

—Adopted

3. That synod instruct the executive director to encourage the 40 classes whose 175 member churches more than ten years old have not had their minutes duplicated to contact the archives to have this done.  
—*Adopted*
4. That synod thank the Historical Committee for the important work they are doing on behalf of the denomination.  
—*Adopted*

## **II. Response to Overtures 2 and 3: Approve the Transfer of Chelwood CRC from Classis Rocky Mountain to Classis Red Mesa**

A. *Materials*: Overture 2, pp. 418-19; Overture 3, p. 419

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod approve the transfer of membership of Chelwood CRC from Classis Rocky Mountain to Classis Red Mesa.  
—*Adopted*
2. That this be synod's response to Overtures 2 and 3.  
—*Adopted*

## **III. Ministerial retirements**

A. *Information*: Synod has received notice of the following ministerial retirements:

Minister	Classis	Effective date
Brent A. Averill	Atlantic Northeast	June 30, 2015
Joel R. Boot	Georgetown	June 1, 2015
Joseph A. Brinks	lakota	January 16, 2015
Martin J. Contant	B.C. South-East	June 30, 2015
Jerry A. Holleman	Rocky Mountain	September 25, 2015
George W. Holthof	Alberta North	August 1, 2015
Timothy R. Hull	Wisconsin	December 31, 2014
Paul M. Ingeneri	Hudson	September 16, 2014
Duane K. Kelderman	Grand Rapids East	October 1, 2014
Jacob (Jack) Kerkhof	Chatham	May 26, 2015
Paul Soomyung Kim	Pacific Northwest	May 25, 2014
Jake Kuipers	Quinte	November 15, 2014
Edward J. Laarman	Heartland	July 31, 2015
Petrus (Peter) (Lim) Onggomuljono	B.C. North-West	March 1, 2014
Jimmy Tai On Lin	Chicago South	July 1, 2015
John W. Medendorp	Lake Erie	March 7, 2015
Robert A. Pohler	Muskegon	May 1, 2015
John W. Rop, Jr.	Muskegon	August 1, 2015
Merwin E. Rylaarsdam	Central Plains	July 1, 2015
Paul D. Sikkema	Lake Erie	July 31, 2015
Leonard P. Troast	Muskegon	December 15, 2014
Craig E. Van Gelder	Lake Superior	June 30, 2014
Ed W. Visser	Quinte	November 15, 2015
Pieter Albert Westerhuis	B.C. North-West	May 31, 2015
Jonathan D. Westra	Pacific Northwest	October 31, 2014

## B. Recommendations

1. That synod take note of the above list of ministerial retirements.  
—*Adopted*
2. That synod instruct the executive director to send a letter of appreciation to each of the retirees listed above.  
—*Adopted*
3. That synod offer a prayer of gratitude for these servants of God, and for the many years of service they represent.  
—*Adopted*

Rev. Henry Steenberg offers prayer for pastors on the above list of ministerial retirements.

## IV. Work of the synodical deputies

### A. Ministers from other denominations, Church Order Article 8

1. Synodical deputies T.J. Niehof (Northcentral Iowa), A.L. Kuiper (Iakota), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Alexander O. Agubya**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Central Plains, in session on September 20, 2014, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Second CRC of Pella, Iowa.
2. Synodical deputies R.J. DeRuiter (Pacific Northwest), L.M. Korf (Columbia), and E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Sang Hyu An**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Central California, in session on July 1, 2014, 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 CRC of San Jose, California.
3. Synodical deputies G.H. Pols (Alberta North), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and R.J. DeRuiter (Pacific Northwest), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Joseph Chen**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on November 21, 2014, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Zion Chinese CRC of Abbotsford, British Columbia.
4. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), W. Verhoef (California South), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend James Chiang**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the

favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Central California, in session on October 7, 2014, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Christ's Community CRC of Hayward, California.

5. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), A.L. Kuiper (Iakota), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend IYong Choi**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on October 10, 2014, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Sunrise Community Church CRC of Austin, Texas.
6. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), P.A. Hansen (Greater Los Angeles), and B.A. Persenaire (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Myung Gil Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Hanmi, in session on September 9, 2014, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is First Korean Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth CRC of Fort Worth, Texas.
7. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California) and M. Den Bleyker (Arizona), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Won Chei Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Ko-Am, in session on February 17, 2015, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Good Shepherd CRC of Anaheim, California.

*Deputies' comments:* Synodical deputy Rev. Draayer was unable to be present because of illness.

8. Synodical deputies R.L. Boersma (Grand Rapids South), H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), and M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Yoon Whan Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Kalamazoo, in session on September 9, 2014, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Korean CRC of Vicksburg, Michigan.
9. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), P.A. Hansen (Greater Los Angeles), and B.A. Persenaire (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Sang Kyu Oh**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the

decision of Classis Hanmi, in session on September 9, 2014, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Abundant Life Korean Church CRC of Los Angeles, California.

10. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), P.A. Hansen (Greater Los Angeles), and B.A. Persenaire (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend In Chul Shin**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Hanmi, in session on September 9, 2014, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Springing Fountain CRC of Anaheim, California.
11. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California) and M. Den Bleyker (Arizona), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Tae Jung Son**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Ko-Am, in session on February 17, 2015, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Good Shepherd CRC of Anaheim, California.

*Deputies' comments:* Synodical deputy Rev. Draayer was unable to be present because of illness.

12. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California) and M. Den Bleyker (Arizona), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Gyeong Soo Yoon**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Ko-Am, in session on February 17, 2015, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Faith Korean Church of Santa Maria CRC of Santa Maria, California.

*Deputies' comments:* Synodical deputy Rev. Draayer was unable to be present because of illness.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

*—Adopted*

*B. Receipt of credentials of former CRC minister, Church Order Article 8*

Synodical deputies J. Rop (Muskegon) and T. Howerzyl (Zeeland), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Peter Van Drunen**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Grandville, in session on September 18, 2014, to receive him as an emeritus minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. Dorr Christian Reformed Church will hold his ministerial credentials.



*Note:* Rev. Van Drunen transferred back into the CRC from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

*Deputies' comments:* The third synodical deputy was unable to be present—he had to attend to a family emergency.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—*Adopted*

*C. Classical examination of candidates, Church Order Article 10*

1. Synodical deputies W.C. De Vries (Grand Rapids East), M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Thornapple Valley, in session October 21, 2014, to admit candidate **Bernard T. Ayoola** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies R. Koops (Hamilton), J. Kerkhof (Chatham), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Huron, in session September 17, 2014, to admit candidate **Amanda Bakale** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies T.J. Niehof (Northcentral Iowa), A.L. Kuiper (Iakota), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Central Plains, in session September 20, 2014, to admit candidate **Brad Bierma** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), J.F. Schuurman (Northern Illinois), and B.F. Tol (Illiana), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Wisconsin, in session September 23, 2014, to admit candidate **Richard C. Boomsma** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
5. Synodical deputies G.H. Pols (Alberta North), J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), and B. Slofstra (B.C. South-East), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session March 13, 2015, to admit candidate **Richard J. Braaksma** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
6. Synodical deputies R.J. DeRuiter (Pacific Northwest), L.M. Korf (Columbia), and E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Central California, in session July 1, 2014, to admit candidate **Kyle Brooks** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
7. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), W. Verhoef (California South), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having heard the



examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Central California, in session October 7, 2014, to admit candidate **Matthew D. Burns** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

8. Synodical deputies T.J. Niehof (Northcentral Iowa), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and T.J. Brown (Minnkota), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Iakota, in session December 13, 2014, to admit candidate **Daniel De Graff** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
9. Synodical deputies S. Draayer (Grand Rapids North), M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), and T. Howerzyl (Zeeland), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Muskegon, in session October 2, 2014, to admit candidate **Cynthia R. Baron de Jong** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
10. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), A.L. Kuiper (Iakota), and J.J. Greydanus (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 October 10, 2014, to admit candidate **Adrian R. de Lange** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
11. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), and G.D. Postema (Muskegon), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Holland, in session January 15, 2015, to admit candidate **Jonathan DeRuiter** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
12. Synodical deputies H.P. Kranenburg (Hamilton), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and J. Kerkhof (Chatham), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Huron, in session February 11, 2015, to admit candidate **Paul D. DeWeerd** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
13. Synodical deputies R.G. Fisher (Huron), R. Koops (Hamilton), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Niagara, in session August 6, 2014, to admit candidate **Woodrow Dixon** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
14. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), M.N. Buwalda (Thornapple Valley), and M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grandville, in session January 15, 2015, to admit candidate **Jun Kyoung Eo** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

15. Synodical deputies H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), R.G. Fisher (Huron), and B.B. Bakker (Quinte), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Eastern Canada, in session October 24, 2014, to admit candidate **Joseph M. Groeneveld** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
16. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session October 30, 2014, to admit candidate **Paul Han** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
17. Synodical deputies M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), M.N. Buwalda (Thornapple Valley), and S. Draayer (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 August 28, 2014, to admit candidate **Katherine M. Hirschberg** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
18. Synodical deputies J. Rop (Muskegon) and T. Howerzyl (Zeeland), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grandville, in session September 18, 2014, to admit candidate **Thomas Brent Kladder, Jr.** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.  
  
*Deputies' comments:* The third synodical deputy had an emergency that prevented him from attending the meeting.
19. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Central California, in session December 2, 2014, to admit candidate **Joel Klingenberg** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
20. Synodical deputies T. Howerzyl (Zeeland), P.V. De Jonge (Grand Rapids East), and R.A. Blacketer (Grand Rapids South), 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 16, 2014, to admit candidate **Jeremy Kreuze** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. **Note:** After the September 2014 meeting of classis Grand Rapids North, Rev. Kreuze decided to keep his ordination in the Reformed Church in America instead of in the CRC.
21. Synodical deputies R. Koops (Hamilton), R.G. Fisher (Huron), and J.M. Van de Hoef (Eastern Canada), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Quinte, in session September 23, 2014, to admit candidate **Charles Gregg Lawson** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

22. Synodical deputies W.C. De Vries (Grand Rapids East), M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Thornapple Valley, in session October 21, 2014, to admit candidate **Dae Jong Lee** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
23. Synodical deputies M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown) and S. Draayer (Grand Rapids North), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session January 15, 2015, to admit candidate **Ezra Lee** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.  
  
*Deputies' comments:* About one hour before our meeting, Rev. Hank Vlaardingebroek informed us he would not be able to attend because of health reasons. Classis proceeded with only two synodical deputies.
24. Synodical deputies G.H. Pols (Alberta North), R.J. DeRuiter (Pacific Northwest), and B. Slofstra (B.C. South-East), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis B.C. North-West, in session October 7, 2014, to admit candidate **Samuel Lee** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
25. Synodical deputies J. Kerkhof (Chatham), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and R. Kooops (Hamilton), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Huron, in session May 13, 2015, to admit candidate **Timothy Leferink** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
26. Synodical deputies J. Kerkhof (Chatham), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and R. Kooops (Hamilton), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Huron, in session May 13, 2015, to admit candidate **John C. Medendorp** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
27. Synodical deputies T.J. Brown (Minnkota), A.L. Kuiper (Iakota), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Superior, in session December 2, 2014, to admit candidate **Brady Mulder** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
28. Synodical deputies G.H. Pols (Alberta North), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and R.J. DeRuiter (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 October 21, 2014, to admit candidate **Michael Nanninga** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

29. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), J. Rop (Muskegon), and M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Holland, in session September 11, 2014, to admit candidate **Brent Pollema** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
30. Synodical deputies J. Kerkhof (Chatham), R.G. Fisher (Huron), and R. Koops (Hamilton), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Toronto, in session June 5, 2014, to admit candidate **Jane E. Porter** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
31. Synodical deputies M.N. Buwalda (Thornapple Valley), M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), and S. Draayer (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 August 28, 2014, to admit candidate **Matthew Postma** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
32. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), J. Huttinga (Yellowstone), and W. Verhof (California South), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Arizona, in session September 20, 2014, to admit candidate **David A. Reynolds** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
33. Synodical deputies M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), J.R. Huizinga (Northern Illinois), and M. Winnowski (Wisconsin), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Illiana, in session September 17, 2014, to admit candidate **Kyle Sanford** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
34. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session October 30, 2014, to admit candidate **Sarah Schreiber** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
35. Synodical deputies J.P. Groenewold (Columbia) and H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), 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, 2015, to admit candidate **Jay Stringer** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Note:* The third synodical deputy had a funeral during the time of the classis meeting; hence, given the nature of the work required, the deputies agreed that two could serve.

36. Synodical deputies T.J. Brown (Minnkota), F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Iakota, in session September 16, 2014, to admit candidate **Cory L. Van Sloten** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
37. Synodical deputies S. Draayer (Grand Rapids North), M.N. Buwalda (Thornapple Valley), and M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session August 28, 2014, to admit candidate **Caitlin R. Visser** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
38. Synodical deputies J.C. Fraser (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), and B. Slofstra (B.C. South-East), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta North, in session March 11, 2015, to admit candidate **Dayna Vreeken** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
39. Synodical deputies W.C. De Vries (Grand Rapids East), R.A. Blacketer (Grand Rapids South), and G.D. Postema (Muskegon), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Georgetown, in session September 18, 2014, to admit candidate **Caleb Walcott** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
40. Synodical deputies G.H. Pols (Alberta North), R.J. DeRuiter (Pacific Northwest), and B. Slofstra (B.C. South-East), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis B.C. North-West, in session October 7, 2014, to admit candidate **Albert Wu** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
41. Synodical deputies C.D. Hoekstra (Iakota), F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), and J. Van Marion (Lake Superior), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Heartland, in session March 17, 2015, to admit candidate **Luke Wynja** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
42. Synodical deputies F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), J.F. Schuurman (Northern Illinois), and B.F. Tol (Illiana), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Wisconsin, in session September 23, 2014, to admit candidate **Andrew Zylstra** 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 D.R. Fauble (Grandville), W.C. De Vries (Grand Rapids East), and M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Brookside 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 Thornapple Valley, in session on October 21, 2014, to approve the position of Executive Director of the African Resource Center as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Bernard T. Ayoola**.
2. Synodical deputies R.L. Westenbroek (Rocky Mountain), B.A. Persenaire (Central California), and W. Verhoef (California South), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Rehoboth Christian Reformed Church of Rehoboth, New Mexico, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Red Mesa, in session on May 9, 2015, to approve the position of Program Coordinator/Year One and Two Instructor of the Leadership Development of Classis Red Mesa as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Lora A. Copley**.
3. Synodical deputies J.R. Huizinga (Northern Illinois), G.R. Erffmeyer (Chicago South), and C.J. Aardsma (Illiana), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of South Kendall Community Christian Reformed Church of Miami, Florida, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on September 17, 2014, to approve the position of Bible Teacher as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Randall J. Dieleman**.
4. Synodical deputies G.H. Pols (Alberta North), B. Slofstra (B.C. South-East), and D. Cheung (B.C. North-West), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Lantern Community Christian Reformed Church of Calgary, Alberta, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session on October 31, 2014, to approve the position of School Chaplain as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Layne Kilbreath**.
5. Synodical deputies G.R. Erffmeyer (Chicago South), J.R. Huizinga (Northern Illinois), and C.J. Aardsma (Illiana), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of South Kendall Community Christian Reformed Church of Miami, Florida, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on March 6, 2015, to approve the position of Chaplain: Vitas Healthcare as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Raidel Leon Martinez**.



*Note:* Positions approved by the CRC Chaplaincy Office (Church Order Article 12-b) do not require the concurrence of synodical deputies.

6. Synodical deputies W.C. De Vries (Grand Rapids East), H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), and M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Alger Park 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 South, in session on May 15, 2014, to approve the position of Associate Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Suzanne McDonald**.
7. Synodical deputies C.D. Hoekstra (Iakota), F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), and J. Van Marion (Lake Superior), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Ireton Christian Reformed Church of Ireton, 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 Heartland, in session on March 7, 2015, to approve the position of Executive Director, Inspiration Hills Camp and Retreat Center as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Norlyn J. Van Beek**.
8. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), S. Draayer (Grand Rapids North), and M.N. Buwalda (Thornapple Valley), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Church of the Servant 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 April 28, 2015, to approve the position of Chaplain with LCC International University in Lithuania as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Adam J. Van Gelder**.
9. Synodical deputies W.C. De Vries (Grand Rapids East), R.A. Blacketer (Grand Rapids South), and G.D. Postema (Muskegon), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of EverGreen Ministries Christian Reformed Church of Hudsonville, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Georgetown, in session on September 18, 2014, to approve the position of Hospice Chaplain as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Caleb Walcott**.
10. Synodical deputies C.J. De Vos (Holland), M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), and H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Kelloggsville Christian Reformed Church of Kentwood, 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 South, in session on

August 21, 2014, to approve the position of Co-Director of Dock Ministries as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Laurie L. Zuverink**.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*E. Loaning a minister to another denomination according to Church Article 13-c*

1. Synodical deputies J. Kerkhof (Chatham), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and R. Koops (Hamilton), 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 May 13, 2015, to approve loaning **Reverend Jacob De Vries** to serve the CRC of Australia Church of Brisbane, Queensland.
2. Synodical deputies C.A. Fluit (Atlantic Northeast), R.D. Gorter (Hudson), and S.A. Vander Ploeg (Southeast U.S.), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 16, 2014, to approve loaning **Reverend Charles L. Geschiere** to serve Vienna Presbyterian Church of Vienna, Virginia.
3. Synodical deputies M.N. Buwalda (Thornapple Valley), M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), and S. Draayer (Grand Rapids North), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on August 28, 2014, to approve loaning **Reverend Katherine M. Hirschberg** to serve Mosaic Church of Fremont, Michigan.
4. Synodical deputies R. Koops (Hamilton), R.G. Fisher (Huron), and B.B. Bakker (Quinte), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Toronto, in session on October 7, 2014, to approve loaning **Reverend Philip F. Reinders** to serve Knox Presbyterian Church of Toronto, Ontario.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*F. Release from office to enter a ministry outside the Christian Reformed Church under Church Article 14-b*

1. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), and J. Rop (Muskegon), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Tobin S. Gruppen** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Holland in session on November 6, 2014, to declare that **Rev. Tobin S. Gruppen** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies G.P. Timmer (Kalamazoo), W.C. De Vries (Grand Rapids East), and R.A. Blacketer (Grand Rapids South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Lee Chul Jeong** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of



Classis Lake Erie in session on October 4, 2014, to declare that **Rev. Lee Chul Jeong** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

3. Synodical deputies J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Boo Sik Kong** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Central California in session on October 7, 2014, to declare that **Rev. Boo Sik Kong** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), A.L. Kuiper (Iakota), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Philip Landers** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Minnkota in session on March 5, 2015, to declare that **Rev. Philip Landers** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
5. Synodical deputies B. Slofstra (B.C. South-East), G.H. Pols (Alberta North), and R.J. DeRuiter (Pacific Northwest), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Vinh Paul Le** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis B.C. North-West in session on March 3, 2015, to declare that **Rev. Vinh Paul Le** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
6. Synodical deputies J.C. Dekker (Niagara), R.G. Fisher (Huron), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. James E. Pot** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Hamilton in session on May 26, 2015, to declare that **Rev. James E. Pot** 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 S. Draayer (Grand Rapids North), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and G.D. Postema (Muskegon), in response to the action of Classis Georgetown, in session on February 19, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Humberto Casanova** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation.
2. Synodical deputies B. Slofstra (B.C. South-East), J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), and H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), having heard the discussion of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on October 9, 2014, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Simon E. Cunningham** is honorably released from the

office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation.

3. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), C.J. De Vos (Holland), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on May 21, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Henry Persenaire-Hogeterp** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*H. Release from office of one whose vocation is judged to be nonministerial under Church Order Article 14-d*

1. Synodical deputies W.C. De Vries (Grand Rapids East), H.F. Vlaardingerbroek (Grandville), and S. Draayer (Grand Rapids North), having heard the discussion of Classis Thornapple Valley, in session on August 26, 2014, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-d, that **Rev. Gene De Jong**, having entered a vocation that is judged to be nonministerial, is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies D.W. Visser (Central Plains), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and T.J. Ouwinga (Minnkota), having heard the discussion of Classis Iakota, in session on March 3, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-d, that **Rev. Arturo J. Gomez**, having entered a vocation that is judged to be nonministerial, 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

*I. Release from ministry in a congregation under Church Order Article 17-a*

1. Synodical deputies W.C. De Vries (Grand Rapids East), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Northern Michigan, in session on June 26, 2014, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Jaclyn Busch** is released from ministerial service in McBain Christian Reformed Church of McBain, Michigan.
2. Synodical deputies S. Draayer (Grand Rapids North) and M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on January 15, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Pablo Canche** is released from ministerial service in Roosevelt Park Community Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

*Deputies' comments:* About one hour before our meeting, Hank Vlaardingerbroek informed us he would not be able to attend because of health reasons. Classis proceeded with only two synodical deputies.

3. Synodical deputies D.W. Visser (Central Plains), A.L. Kuiper (Iakota), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Northcentral Iowa, in session on November 6, 2014, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Nathan de Vries** is released from ministerial service in Rolling Acres Christian Reformed Church of Mason City, Iowa.
4. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), G.J. Kamps (Central Plains), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 10, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Ruth Febriana Folkerts** is released from ministerial service in Hillcrest Christian Reformed Church of Denver, Colorado.
5. Synodical deputies T.J. Brown (Minnkota), F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Iakota, in session on September 16, 2014, do not concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Arturo Gomez** is released from ministerial service in Covenant Christian Reformed Church of Sioux Center, Iowa.
6. Synodical deputies H.P. Bruinsma (Toronto), J.C. Dekker (Niagara), and J. Kerkhof (Chatham), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Hamilton, in session on February 24, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Peter J. Janssens** is released from ministerial service in Faith Christian Reformed Church of Burlington, Ontario.
7. Synodical deputies R.L. Westenbroek (Rocky Mountain), B.A. Persenaire (Central California), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Red Mesa, in session on May 9, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. William J. Kempkes** is released from ministerial service in Window Rock Christian Reformed Church of Window Rock, Arizona.
8. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), J. Rop (Muskegon), and M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Holland, in session on July 24, 2014, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Gary L. Luurtsema** is released from ministerial service in East Saugatuck Christian Reformed Church of Holland, Michigan.
9. Synodical deputies J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and B. Slofstra (B.C. South-East), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Pacific Northwest, in

session on October 9, 2014, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Dr. Gregory A. Selmon** is released from ministerial service in First Christian Reformed Church of Seattle, Washington.

10. Synodical deputies J. Huttinga (Yellowstone), A.G. Vander Leek (B.C. South-East), and K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Columbia, in session on June 28, 2014, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Randall J. Simon** is released from ministerial service in New Hope Christian Reformed Church of Spokane, Washington.
11. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis California South, in session on October 19, 2014, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Timothy A. Spykstra** is released from ministerial service in CrossPoint Christian Reformed Church of Chino, California.
12. Synodical deputies W.C. De Vries (Grand Rapids East), S. Draayer (Grand Rapids North), and H.F. Vlaardingerbroek (Grandville), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Thornapple Valley, in session on August 26, 2014, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Bruce J. Vaandrager** is released from ministerial service in Ada Christian Reformed Church of Ada, Michigan.
13. Synodical deputies R. Koops (Hamilton), J.C. Dekker (Niagara), and R. Vander Kooij (Huron), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Chatham, in session on January 24, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Richard T. Vander Vaart** is released from ministerial service in Living Hope Christian Reformed Church of Sarnia, Ontario.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—*Adopted*

*J. Extension of eligibility for call under Church Order Article 17-c*

1. Synodical deputies R.L. Boersma (Grand Rapids South), S. Draayer (Grand Rapids North), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having heard the recommendation to Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 18, 2014, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Lora A. Copley's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
2. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), G.J. Kamps (Central Plains), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having heard the discussion of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 10, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Joy Engelsman's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.

3. Synodical deputies J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), and W. Verhoef (California South), having been informed by Classis Central California, in session on March 3, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Frank C. Guter's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
4. Synodical deputies D.H. Bratt (Hackensack), C.A. Fluit (Atlantic Northeast), and C.J. Aardsma (Illiana), having heard the discussion of Classis Hudson, in session on May 7, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. John M. Kuperus's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
5. Synodical deputies H. Bruinsma (Toronto), R. Koops (Hamilton), and R. Vander Kooij (Huron), having heard the discussion of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on March 6, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Michael F. Miedema's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
6. Synodical deputies J. Kerkhof (Chatham), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and R. Koops (Hamilton), having heard the discussion of Classis Huron, in session on May 13, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Christopher B. Pool's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
7. Synodical deputies J.C. Dekker (Niagara), J. Kerkhof (Chatham), and H. Bruinsma (Toronto), having heard the discussion of Classis Hamilton, in session on February 24, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. James E. Pot's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
8. Synodical deputies M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), J.R. Huizinga (Northern Illinois), and M. Winnowski (Wisconsin), having heard the discussion of Classis Illiana, in session on September 17, 2014, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Jesse E. Powell's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
9. Synodical deputies J. Kerkhof (Chatham), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and R. Koops (Hamilton), having heard the discussion of Classis Huron, in session on May 13, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Siemen Speelman's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
10. Synodical deputies D.H. Bratt (Hackensack), J. Kuipers (Quinte), and J.M. Van de Hoef (Eastern Canada), having heard the discussion of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on March 5, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Stanley J. Sturing's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
11. Synodical deputies J.R. Huizinga (Northern Illinois), M. Winnowski (Wisconsin), and C.J. Aardsma (Illiana), having heard the discussion of Classis Chicago South, in session on September 17, 2014, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Gerry G. Van Dam's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.

12. Synodical deputies R.G. Fisher (Huron), R. Koops (Hamilton), and J.M. Van de Hoef (Eastern Canada), having heard the discussion of Classis Quinte, in session on January 27, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Lisa R. Vander Leek's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
13. Synodical deputies J. Kerkhof (Chatham), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and R. Koops (Hamilton), having heard the discussion of Classis Huron, in session on May 13, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Thomas van Milligen's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
14. Synodical deputies M. Winnowski (Wisconsin), J.R. Huizinga (Northern Illinois), and C.J. Aardsma (Illiana), having heard the discussion of Classis Chicago South, in session on September 17, 2014, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. John Wilczewski's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*K. Release from the office of minister of the Word under Church Order Article 17-c*

1. Synodical deputies H.P. Bruinsma (Toronto), R. Koops (Hamilton), and R. Vander Kooij (Huron), having heard the discussion of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on March 6, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Bradley W. Close** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies R. Walter (Arizona), W. Verhoef (California South), and T.D. Draayer (Rocky Mountain), having been informed by Classis Red Mesa, in session on May 10, 2014, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Daniel J. Kruis** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies T. Howerzyl (Zeeland), P.V. De Jonge (Grand Rapids East), and R.A. Blacketer (Grand Rapids South), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session on September 16, 2014, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Paul C. Worster** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*L. Release from the office of minister of the Word under Church Order Article 17-d*

Synodical deputies D. Cheung (B.C. North-West), B. Slofstra (B.C. South-East), and G.H. Pols (Alberta North), having heard the discussion of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session on October 31, 2014, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-d, that **Rev. Kevin L. Jordan** 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

*M. Declaration that a commissioned pastor position fits synodical guidelines under Church Order Article 23-a*

1. Synodical deputies S. Draayer (Grand Rapids North), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and M.N. Buwalda (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 regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on February 19, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Steven Agler** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Congregational Pastor with Celebration Fellowship.
2. Synodical deputies J.F. Schuurman (Northern Illinois), M. Winnowski (Wisconsin), and C.J. Aardsma (Illiana), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Orland Park Christian Reformed Church of Orland Park, Illinois, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Chicago South, in session on February 21, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Jerry An** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Chinese Language Ministry Leader of Back to God Ministries International.
3. Synodical deputies B. Slofstra (B.C. South-East), J.C. Fraser (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), and J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Mosaic House Community Christian Reformed Church of Edmonton, Alberta, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Alberta North, in session on October 15, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Aaron Au** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Lead Pastor/Church Planter.
4. Synodical deputies R. Vander Kooij (Huron), H.P. Bruinsma (Toronto), and J.J. Hoytema (Niagara), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Forest City Community Christian Reformed Church of London, Ontario, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Chatham, in session on February 11, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Ron Baker** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Associate Pastor.
5. Synodical deputies J.C. Dekker (Niagara), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and R.G. Fisher (Huron), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Immanuel Christian Reformed Church of Simcoe, Ontario, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis

Hamilton, in session on May 26, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Ms. Theresa Bakker** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Pastoral Care Worker for Parkview Meadows.

6. Synodical deputies R.D. De Young (Zeeland), M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of East Saugatuck Christian Reformed Church of Holland, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Holland, in session on September 11, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Wayne Bakker** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Worship Pastor.
7. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), and J. Rop (Muskegon), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Haven Christian Reformed Church of Zeeland, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Zeeland, in session on November 20, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Ronald Boersema** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Chaplain, Beautifulgate, Lesotho.
8. Synodical deputies R.L. Boersma (Grand Rapids South), S. Draayer (Grand Rapids North), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), 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 regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 18, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Jason Botbyl** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Commissioned Pastor for the Madison Preaching Team.
9. Synodical deputies T.J. Brown (Minnkota), A.L. Kuiper (Iakota), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), 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 regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Lake Superior, in session on December 2, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Rob Braun** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
10. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), R.L. Westenbroek (Rocky Mountain), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Sunshine Community Christian Reformed Church of El Paso, Texas, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Arizona, in session on March 7, 2015,



that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Wally De La Fuente** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.

11. Synodical deputies M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), M.N. Buwalda (Thornapple Valley), and S. Draayer (Grand Rapids North), 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 regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on August 28, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Darrell L. Delaney** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Campus Pastor at the Square campus.
12. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), and J. Rop (Muskegon), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Harderwyk Ministries Christian Reformed Church of Holland, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Holland, in session on October 10, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Ms. Mary Dewitt** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Pastor for Community Life and Discipleship.
13. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), M. Den Bleyker (Arizona), and E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Hope Community Christian Reformed Church of Riverside, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis California South, in session on March 1, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Phil du Bois** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
14. Synodical deputies J.P. Groenewold (Columbia) and H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Olympia Christian Reformed Church of Olympia, Washington, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on March 5, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Tom Dykstra** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Youth and Worship Pastor.
15. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), J. Huttinga (Yellowstone), and W. Verhoef (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Christ's Community Christian Reformed Church of Chandler, Arizona, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Arizona, in session on September 20, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. John Eisenring**

is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.

16. Synodical deputies B. Slofstra (B.C. South-East), J.C. Fraser (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), and J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Red Deer, Alberta, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Alberta North, in session on March 11, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Joshua Friend** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
17. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), A.L. Kuiper (Iakota), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Sunrise Community Christian Reformed Church of Austin, Texas, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on October 10, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Ms. Diana Gaggero** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Church Planter.
18. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), and J. Rop (Muskegon), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Rusk Christian Reformed Church of Allendale, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Zeeland, in session on May 21, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Scott Geurink** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Hispanic Ministry Developer.
19. Synodical deputies C.A. Fluit (Atlantic Northeast), R.D. Gorter (Hudson), and S.A. Vander Ploeg (Southeast U.S.), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of The New Horizon Christian Reformed Church of Paterson, New Jersey, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 16, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Pedro Luis Gomez** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Associate Pastor of Spanish Language Ministries.
20. Synodical deputies J. Rop (Muskegon) and T. Howerzyl (Zeeland), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Calvary Christian Reformed Church of Wyoming, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grandville, in session on September 18, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Cisco Gonzalez** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.

*Deputies' comments:* The third synodical deputy had an emergency that prevented him from attending the meeting.

21. Synodical deputies J.P. Groenewold (Columbia) and H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Anacortes Christian Reformed Church of Anacortes, Washington, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on March 5, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Ms. Linda Grace** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Prison Ministry Director.
22. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Ripon, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Central California, in session on December 2, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Eric Graef** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
23. Synodical deputies M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), M. Winnowski (Wisconsin), and C.J. Aardsma (Illiana), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Fox Valley Christian Reformed Church of Crystal Lake, Illinois, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on September 17, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Daniel Gregory** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
24. Synodical deputies H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), J.C. Dekker (Niagara), and R.G. Fisher (Huron), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Meadowlands Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Ancaster, Ontario, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Hamilton, in session on October 21, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Dr. Syd Hielema** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Team Leader, Faith Formation Ministries of the CRCNA.
25. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), A.L. Kuiper (Iakota), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Peace Community Christian Reformed Church of Houston, Texas, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on October 10, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Ms. Camila Hiriart** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Church Planter.

26. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), A.L. Kuiper (Iakota), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Peace Community Christian Reformed Church of Houston, Texas, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on October 10, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Diego Hiriart** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Church Planter.
27. Synodical deputies R. Koops (Hamilton), R.G. Fisher (Huron), and J.M. Van de Hoef (Eastern Canada), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Hebron Christian Reformed Church of Whitby, Ontario, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Quinte, in session on September 23, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Darren Hoogendoorn** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
28. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), W. Verhoef (California South), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Gateway Community Christian Reformed Church of Merced, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Central California, in session on October 7, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Mark C. Humphreys** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Adult Ministries and Administration Leader.
29. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), J. Huttinga (Yellowstone), and W. Verhoef (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Christ's Community Christian Reformed Church of Chandler, Arizona, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Arizona, in session on September 20, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Frank Meneses** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
30. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), 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 regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis California South, in session on October 19, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Robert Moore** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.

31. Synodical deputies G.R. Erffmeyer (Chicago South), J.R. Huizinga (Northern Illinois), and C.J. Aardsma (Illiana), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Geneva Campus Christian Reformed Church of Madison, Wisconsin, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Wisconsin, in session on February 24, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Jeremy Pool** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Chaplain at Wesley Willow Continuing Care Retirement Community.
32. Synodical deputies B.A. Persenaire (Central California), M. Den Bleyker (Arizona), and E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Iglesia Cristiana El Sembrador Christian Reformed Church of Fontana, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis California South, in session on March 1, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Luis R. Quinonez** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Church Planter.
33. Synodical deputies B. Slofstra (B.C. South-East), G.H. Pols (Alberta North), and R.J. DeRuiter (Pacific Northwest), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Maple Ridge Christian Reformed Church of Maple Ridge, British Columbia, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis B.C. North-West, in session on March 3, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Shane Rozeveld** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Youth Pastor.
34. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), C.J. De Vos (Holland), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Monroe Community Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on May 21, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Ms. Amy Schenkel** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Regional Team Leader, Christian Reformed Home Missions.
35. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), A.L. Kuiper (Iakota), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Cragmor Christian Reformed Church of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on October 10, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Ms. Taylor Shade** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Youth Pastor.

36. Synodical deputies R. Koops (Hamilton), R.G. Fisher (Huron), and J.C. Dekker (Niagara), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Grace Christian Reformed Church of Chatham, Ontario, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Chatham, in session on May 26, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Jake Snieder** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Youth and Education Director.
37. Synodical deputies J.P. Groenewold (Columbia) and H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Seattle, Washington, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on March 5, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Rev. Keemun Sung** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Seoul Ministry Pastor.
38. Synodical deputies H.P. Kranenburg (Hamilton), J.F. Schuurmann (Northern Illinois), and D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on January 15, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Dr. Steven R. Timmermans** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Executive Director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
39. Synodical deputies B. Slofstra (B.C. South-East), G.H. Pols (Alberta North), and R.J. DeRuiter (Pacific Northwest), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Duncan Christian Reformed Church of Duncan, British Columbia, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis B.C. North-West, in session on March 3, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Henry Vanderschaaf** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Leader of Congregational Life.
40. Synodical deputies F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), A.L. Kuiper (Iakota), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Bethel Christian Reformed Church of Edgerton, Minnesota, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Minnkota, in session on March 5, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Marlin Van Schepen** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
41. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), W.C. De Vries (Grand Rapids East), and T. Howerzyl (Zeeland), having examined the written



materials submitted by the council of River Rock Christian Reformed Church of Rockford, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session on January 20, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Jonathan Vugteveen** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Church Planter in Greenville, Michigan.

42. Synodical deputies D.L. Heilman (Heartland), A.L. Kuiper (Iakota), and T.J. Brown (Minnkota), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Faith Christian Reformed Church of New Brighton, Minnesota, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Lake Superior, in session on March 3, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Perrin M. Werner** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Army National Guard Chaplain.
43. Synodical deputies M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), and C.J. De Vos (Holland), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Hillside Community Christian Reformed Church of Cutlerville, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on August 21, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Daniel F. Wierenga** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Marketplace Ministries Chaplain.
44. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), C.J. De Vos (Holland), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Hillside Community Christian Reformed Church of Cutlerville, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on May 21, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Daniel F. Wierenga** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Corporate Care Partners Chaplain.
45. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), and W.C. De Vries (Grand Rapids East), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Ada Christian Reformed Church of Ada, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Thornapple Valley, in session on May 19, 2015, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Robert Zoerman** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Pastor of Outreach and Discipleship.
46. Synodical deputies M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), J.R. Huizinga (Northern Illinois), and M. Winnowski (Wisconsin), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Family of Faith Christian Reformed Church of Monee, Illinois, and having compared them with

the synodical guidelines regarding office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Illiana, in session on September 17, 2014, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Marc V. Zumhagen** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastor. The position title is Chaplain.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.  
—Adopted

*N. Article 23-a commissioned pastors, filling previously approved positions*

The following commissioned pastors have been examined by the classes indicated for positions previously approved by synodical deputies (in addition to those listed above in the synodical deputy reports for Church Order Article 23-a):

Name	Classis	Date
Jerry An	Chicago South	April 16, 2015
Jason Botbyl	Grand Rapids East	May 21, 2015
Darrell L. Delaney	Grand Rapids East	August 28, 2014
Tom Dykstra	Pacific Northwest	May 21, 2015
John Eisenring	Arizona	March 6, 2015
Linda Grace	Pacific Northwest	May 21, 2015
Jeanne Maher	Grand Rapids North	June 24, 2014
Charles Post	Kalamazoo	May 12, 2015
Jaehun Shim	Pacific Northwest	October 9, 2014
Keemun Sung	Pacific Northwest	May 21, 2015
Natasha Vedder	B.C. South-East	October 21, 2014
Jonathan Vugteveen	Grand Rapids North	May 19, 2015

*Recommendation:* That synod take note of the above-named persons ordained as commissioned pastors within the classes indicated.  
—Adopted

*O. Declaration that a commissioned pastor position fits synodical guidelines under Church Order Article 23-a, Exception for service in all CRC classes*

Synodical deputies D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), J.F. Schuurman (Northern Illinois), and H.P. Kranenburg (Hamilton), having examined the request submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on May 21, 2015, that **Dr. Steven R. Timmermans** be approved for ordination as commissioned pastor, and concur with the overture requesting synod to encourage the classes of the CRC to receive and use his services as such.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.  
—Adopted

*P. Service of a commissioned pastor in an organized church as solo pastor under Church Order Article 23-b or -c*

Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), and R.L. Boersma (Grand Rapids South), having examined the request submitted by the council of Northern Heights Christian Reformed Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan, concur with the decision of



Classis Kalamazoo, in session on September 9, 2014, that **Mr. Charlie Post** (commissioned pastor) may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.  
—Adopted

*Q. Calling a commissioned pastor to serve in an organized church as solo pastor under Church Order Article 23-d*

1. Synodical deputies D.H. Bratt (Hackensack), J. Kuipers (Quinte), and J.M. Van de Hoef (Eastern Canada), having examined the materials submitted by the council of Summit Faith Community Christian Reformed Church of Farmington, Maine, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines for calling a commissioned pastor to an organized congregation, concur with the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on March 5, 2015, that a commissioned pastor, **Mr. Ryan Goding**, may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.
2. Synodical deputies M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), M. Winnowski (Wisconsin), and C.J. Aardsma (Illiana), having examined the materials submitted by the council of Fox Valley Christian Reformed Church of Crystal Lake, Illinois, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines for calling a commissioned pastor to an organized congregation, concur with the decision of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on September 17, 2014, that a commissioned pastor, **Mr. Daniel Gregory**, may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.  
—Adopted

*R. Commissioned pastors concluding service under Church Order Article 23*

The following commissioned pastors have concluded service in the classes indicated in the positions to which they were appointed:

Name	Classis	Classis Meeting Date
LeeVale Butler	California South	October 19, 2014
Robert Dusek	Rocky Mountain	March 11, 2015
Kellie Gill	B.C. South-East	March 3, 2015
Steven M. Hull	Rocky Mountain	October 10, 2014
Jodi Koeman	Atlantic Northeast	September 26, 2014
Paula Triezenberg	Holland	October 2, 2014
Ken Vis	Alberta North	October 15, 2014
C. Bryan Wiegers	Atlantic Northeast	March 4, 2015

*Recommendation:* That synod take note of the above-named persons who have concluded service as commissioned pastors in the classes indicated.  
—Adopted

## V. Board of Trustees

*A. Materials:* Board of Trustees Report (sections II, A, 1, 14-16, 18-20, 21b, 22, 25, including Appendices I and K), pp. 23, 29-34, 104-11

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. R. Scott Greenway, vice president of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod accept the invitation of North Hills CRC in Troy, Michigan, as the convening church of Synod 2016 scheduled to meet on the campus of Calvin College (section II, A, p. 18).

—Adopted

2. That synod adopt the revised guidelines for executive and strict executive sessions of synod (Rules for Synodical Procedure VIII, A) as found in Appendix I of the Board of Trustees report (*Agenda for Synod 2015*, pp. 104-106).

—Adopted

3. That synod adopt the proposed changes for the Judicial Code (Church Order Article 30-c and its Supplement) as found in Appendix K of the Board of Trustees report (*Agenda for Synod 2015*, pp. 107-11).

—Adopted

*Note*: The amendment to Article 30-c involves clarification of procedure and is not deemed to be a substantial alteration; thus synod was asked to adopt rather than propose to a subsequent synod. In addition, because changes to the Supplement do not require approval of a subsequent synod, it is noted that these changes will take effect upon adoption.

## **VI. Response to Overture 6: Encourage All CRC Classes and Congregations to Recognize the Ordination of the Executive Director as a Commissioned Pastor**

A. *Materials*: Overture 6, pp. 430-34

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod declare by way of exception that the ordination of the executive director, Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, as a commissioned pastor will apply to the whole denomination.

*Grounds*:

- a. Ordination as a commissioned pastor is an appropriate response to the expectation expressed by Synod 2013 that the executive director “is or becomes an officebearer in the CRC” (*Acts of Synod 2013*, p. 576).
- b. While this action admittedly goes beyond the generally agreed parameter of a commissioned pastor serving only within one classis, it is important for the executive director to be seen as serving the whole denomination and not only in those classes that choose to recognize him as a commissioned pastor.
- c. This action is by way of exception only to the prevailing practice of commissioned pastors serving within the boundaries of the classis that ordains them and is not to be considered a new normal for the commissioned pastor position.

—Adopted

2. That this be synod's response to Overture 6.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 65.)

## ARTICLE 31

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 24.)

Advisory Committee 3, Education and Candidacy, Rev. Paul Vander Klay reporting, presents the following:

### I. Faith Formation Ministries

A. *Materials*: Faith Formation Ministries Report, pp. 174-76

B. *Recommendation*

That synod receive the report as information. We recognize this is a newly formed ministry. We are excited about the plan laid out in the report and look forward to subsequent reports from the team leader.

—Received as information

### II. Worship Ministries

A. *Materials*: Worship Ministries Report, pp. 266-68

B. *Recommendation*

That synod receive the report as information. The committee notes Worship Ministries' seven overarching values engaging the five streams. We appreciate how they connect with local churches and other partners.

—Received as information

### III. Dordt College

A. *Materials*: Dordt College Report, p. 313

B. *Recommendation*

That synod recognize with appreciation the work of Dordt College. Dordt deeply appreciates the continued support from across the denomination as it strives to provide students with the insights they need to live as Christians in today's world. It also offers opportunities for church leaders and members to grow through sponsoring workshops and conferences on such issues as youth ministry and other denominational incentives.

Dordt College has experienced record enrollments in the past year, has opened a newly expanded Center for Science and Technology, and has received a great deal of federal grant funding allowing for more research programs for both students and professors at Dordt. The college has recently launched an online magazine, which offers to help readers think together about how to live beside people with different viewpoints.

Synod notes that God has been gracious to Dordt College and wishes it God's blessings in the coming school year.

—Received as information

#### **IV. Institute for Christian Studies**

A. *Materials*: Institute for Christian Studies Report, pp. 314-15

B. *Recommendation*

That synod recognize with appreciation the work of the Institute for Christian Studies, which will celebrate 50 years in 2017. The institute currently has twenty-seven students enrolled. In an attempt to broaden enrollment and increase revenue, they are implementing a hybrid of online courses with intensive residential schools. The Centre for Philosophy, Religion, and Social Ethics (CPRSE) has been a successful means of community outreach. One example is the creation of a one-act play titled “Just Faith” as part of the centre’s Justice and Faith research. To find out more, link to [www.icscanada.edu/cprse/justice-and-faith](http://www.icscanada.edu/cprse/justice-and-faith).

—Received as information

#### **V. The King’s University**

A. *Materials*: The King’s University Report, pp. 316-17

B. *Recommendation*

That synod recognize with appreciation the work of The King’s University while making particular note of the institution’s name change and its elevation to university status as it celebrates its 35th anniversary. We also celebrate the launch of the Leder School of Business at this highly accredited institution.

—Received as information

#### **VI. Kuyper College**

A. *Materials*: Kuyper College Report, p. 318

B. *Recommendation*

That synod recognize with appreciation the work of Kuyper College and God’s faithfulness as the college faces challenges and begins to clarify a new strategic plan. Through “Envisioning 2025,” Kuyper seeks to clarify its focus on ministry and service-related vocations in order to provide deeper and richer educational experiences for students called to kingdom service.

—Received as information

#### **VII. Redeemer University College**

A. *Materials*: Redeemer University College Report, pp. 319-20

B. *Recommendation*

That synod recognize with appreciation the work of Redeemer University College and receive its report as information with the following notes. Redeemer experienced a significant downturn in enrollment in the past year. However, a new strategic plan developed in July 2014 will aim to achieve Redeemer’s mission in today’s post-secondary environment. Redeemer launched several new initiatives—for example, a Centre for Christian Scholarship, a centre for Experiential Learning and Career Development (Fall 2015), and a B.A. program in media and communications. Two new faculty

members joined as well. Faculty continue to give lectures and presentations to the broader community.

—Received as information

### **VIII. Trinity Christian College**

A. *Materials*: Trinity Christian College Report, pp. 321-22

B. *Recommendation*

That synod recognize with appreciation the work of Trinity Christian College. Trinity is completing a transition year under the able leadership of interim president Liz Rudenga. During this past year students have excelled in education and service. Faculty and staff have excelled as teachers and scholars. Alumni continue to use their education for the renewal of God's world. We rejoice with the Trinity community as they welcome Kurt Dykstra as their new president and look forward to seeing what God will do in the next chapter of the college's future.

—Received as information

### **IX. Calvinist Cadet Corps**

A. *Materials*: Calvinist Cadet Corps Report, p. 326

B. *Recommendation*

That synod recognize with appreciation the work of the Calvinist Cadet Corps. More than 1,100 men and boys participated in the 2014 International Camporee held in central Alberta. In addition, after more than 31 years as the Cadets executive director, Mr. Dick Broene announced his retirement last year. His replacement is Mr. Steve Bootsma from Kitchener, Ontario.

—Received as information

### **X. GEMS Girls' Clubs**

A. *Materials*: GEMS Girls' Clubs Report, pp. 327-28

B. *Recommendation*

That synod recognize with appreciation the work of GEMS. GEMS is experiencing growth across North America and is continuing to invest in and grow women closer to God and closer to each other by equipping and training them to show girls how to live God-honoring lives. A highlight of this ministry is The Esther School in Zambia, which offers a Christian education to young girls. The building and operation of The Esther School is made possible through the work of women and girls who are part of GEMS. Please pray for the appointment of a principal, an elementary teacher, and an operations/finance director for The Esther School in the coming year.

—Received as information

### **XI. Youth Unlimited**

A. *Materials*: Youth Unlimited Report, pp. 328-29

B. *Recommendation*

That synod recognize with appreciation the work of Youth Unlimited. Youth Unlimited engaged teens from 25 percent of the CRC's congregations

(1,600 teens) in 43,750 hours of service in one-week “Serve” mission experiences in summer 2014. The theme of this year’s ministry experiences is “The Other 51,” encouraging teens to take their experience of one week of service and to apply what God says and does with them during that week to the other 51 weeks of the year.

—Received as information

## **XII. Calvin Theological Seminary**

### *A. Materials*

1. Calvin Theological Seminary Report, pp. 258-65
2. Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement

*B. Privilege of the floor:* Mr. Sid Jansma, Jr., chair; and Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, president of the seminary

### *C. Recommendations*

1. That synod, with gratitude to God, acknowledge the years of faithful service of Dr. Richard Muller and note the new title conferred on him by the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees: Professor of Historical Theology, *emeritus*, effective July 1, 2015.

—Adopted

2. That, following a successful interview, synod ratify the appointment of Dr. Matthew J. Tuininga as Assistant Professor of Moral Theology for three years, effective July 1, 2016.

—Adopted

3. That synod appoint Rev. Stedford Sims to interview Dr. Tuininga for 30 minutes, and that delegates, advisers, and young adult representatives of synod be permitted to ask questions for 20 minutes after the main interview.

—Adopted

4. That, following a successful interview, synod ratify the appointment of Mr. Cory B. Willson as the Jake and Betsy Tuls Assistant Professor of Missiology and Missional Ministry for three years, effective July 1, 2015.

—Adopted

5. That synod appoint Rev. David Den Haan to interview Mr. Willson for 30 minutes, and that delegates, advisers, and young adult representatives of synod be permitted to ask questions for 20 minutes after the main interview.

—Adopted

6. That synod ratify the reappointment of Dr. Mary Vandenberg with promotion to the rank of Professor of Systematic Theology with permanent tenure.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 39.)

## ARTICLE 32

Advisory Committee 7, Financial Matters, Rev. Paul R. DeVries reporting, presents the following:

### I. Board of Trustees

#### A. *Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (sections I, C; II, C-D, including Appendices L-M), pp. 22-23, 38, 112-66, 181-82, 187-91
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (section II, B, including Appendix E)

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. R. Scott Greenway, vice president of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

#### C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod ratify the revised bylaws for the CRCNA-Canada Foundation as found in Appendix L (II, D).

—Adopted

2. 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 denominationally related ministries, 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 2016 (BOT Supplement section II, B, 4).

—Adopted

- c. That synod accept the following new request for inclusion on the list of accredited nondenominational agencies (BOT Supplement section II, B, 5):

#### *Canada*

##### Shalem Mental Health Network

Shalem Mental Health Network is a provisional organization that supplies mental health services to individuals, communities, and churches. It also provides consultation on abuse, mental illness, and conflict management.

*Ground*: This organization meets the standards for inclusion, both in terms of their mission and scope, as well as their financial viability.

—Adopted

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

—Adopted

## II. Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S.

A. *Materials*: Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. Report, pp. 181-82

B. *Privilege of the floor*: the Loan Fund director or any members of the Board of Directors of the Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S.

C. *Observations*: We are thankful for this fund, which greatly benefits the church.

## III. Pensions and Insurance

A. *Materials*

1. Pensions and Insurance Report, pp. 187-91
2. Pensions and Insurance Supplement

B. *Privilege of the floor*: members of the Canadian Board of Pensions and the U.S. Board of Pensions, and Mr. John H. Bolt, director of finance and operations

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod designate up to 100 percent of a minister's early or normal retirement pension or disability pension for 2016 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

2. That synod approve an exception to the rule governing the tenure of persons serving as trustees of the Christian Reformed Church Retirement Plan for U.S. Ministers and the Retirement Plan for Ministers of the Christian Reformed Church in Canada, enabling them to serve up to three terms on the Ministers' Pension Funds committees: Canadian Pension Trustees and U.S. Board of Pensions.

*Grounds*:

- a. The work of the pension trustees involves very specialized and technical understanding of retirement plan design and trust fund investment oversight.
- b. This specialized knowledge is usually developed during the first term of service on the board.
- c. A limit of two terms of service restricts the benefit to the plans from this acquired skill. Serving three terms would provide the plan more effective and grounded oversight.

—Adopted

3. That synod, upon adoption of the above recommendation, reappoint Rev. Kevin te Brake (Canadian Pension Trustees), Mr. Jack Byeman (U.S. Board of Pensions), and Mr. Kurt Knoll (U.S. Board of Pensions) to a third term of three years; and reappoint Mr. Henry Eygenraam (Canadian Pension Trustees), Ms. Mary Ann Kokan-Nyhof (Canadian Pension Trustees), and Mr. Thomas Dykhous (U.S. Board of Pensions) to a second term.

—Adopted



IV. Ministry shares

A. *Materials*: Board of Trustees Supplement (sections II, B, 1-2)

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. R. Scott Greenway, vice president of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. *Background*

Advisory Committee 7 spent significant time discussing how ministry shares are understood by our local congregations. We rejoice in the blessings and faithfulness of our churches. Over the past fifteen years, we have consistently received close to \$24-25 million annually through ministry-share giving. Praise God for this highly successful communal endeavor! Even as we are rejoicing, we also recognize the challenges our local congregations face regarding ministry-share giving and understanding. Each year at synod the advisory committee dealing with financial matters receives valuable information about ministry shares. However, often these clarifications, concerns, and challenges are not brought to the floor of synod; nor do the local churches hear them. We think the churches would be helped by being made aware of the following.

1. Statistical information

The chart below shows the percentages of giving during 2014 from each congregation, based on church membership (number of active professing members over age 18).

Percent Contribution of Requested Ministry Shares

Membership size	0	1-24	25-49	50-74	75-99	100	100+
0-99	36.3%	20.4%	11.4%	10.5%	6.3%	4.2%	10.8%
100-199	8.9%	22.6%	13.6%	17.0%	14.0%	1.7%	22.1%
200-299	4.5%	16.2%	18.8%	20.8%	22.1%	13.0%	4.5%
300-399	4.1%	12.3%	11.0%	23.3%	16.4%	19.2%	13.7%
400-499	9.1%	13.6%	18.2%	31.8%	13.6%	13.6%	0.0%
500+	4.0%	8.0%	36.0%	20.0%	12.0%	20.0%	0.0%
Total	18.4%	19.0%	14.3%	16.2%	12.6%	7.1%	12.5%

*Note*: Although many churches of all sizes pay less than 100 percent of ministry shares, many churches of all sizes, including very small churches, pay more than 100 percent.

2. Synodical decisions

- a. With regard to the payment of ministry shares, synod determined that when a church believes it is unable to pay its share (100%), as determined by specific guidelines adopted by synod, that church is to present its position to classis with the percentage that it feels is attainable, seeking the confirmation of classis (*Acts of Synod 1986*, p. 709). Further, synod stated that “when a classis is convinced that a member church is unable to pay [ministry shares], the churches within a classis, if possible, through a combined effort [should] be requested to assist a church to meet its denominational obligations” (*Acts of Synod 1970*, p. 81).

While this may not be the common practice, it underlines the historical understanding that our denominational ministries are a communal ministry in which all the churches participate.

- b. In the same regard, in seeking to understand the direction synod has given to these matters in the past, we note that synod has requested churches to “pay denominational causes before making gifts to non-denominational organizations on the synod-approved accredited list. . . . Our denominational causes should have priority in our giving” (*Acts of Synod 1970*, p. 81).

Again, while this may not be the common practice, it is a reminder of the communal ministry of which we are part through our ministry-share giving.

### 3. Additional notes

- a. Ministry shares comprise only a part of the budget of any agency. The ministry-share amount is only designated to be that part of the budget that is met by ministry shares. Agencies need to find other ways to raise the balance of their budget, including the amounts budgeted for but not met by ministry shares. Our committee was informed that in a typical year it only costs about \$50,000 to obtain the full ministry-share amount. By comparison, when about \$17 million of ministry shares is not received (as was the case in 2014) about \$4 million is spent to raise that amount. This is not a wise investment. Moreover, it also means that churches are actually costing the CRC ministries money when they give less than 100 percent.
- b. While ministry shares have gone up in actual dollar amount, it was noted that, adjusting for inflation, the ministry-share per-member rate is roughly the same as it was in 1993.
- c. Some churches, when they have chosen not to support an agency, have indicated they would not pay ministry shares to that agency or that they would withhold ministry shares altogether. The CRC Finance Office honors the requests of churches that send in ministry shares and identify how they desire to have them allocated.

### D. Recommendations

1. That synod receive the agencies and institutional unified budget as information and approve a ministry share of \$339.48 for calendar year 2016.  
—Adopted
2. That synod take note of this section on ministry shares (IV, C) and request the BOT to forward these clarifications, concerns, and challenges to the Task Force on Financial Sustainability.  
—Adopted
3. That synod request the BOT to instruct the executive director to send a letter to our congregations communicating the information in this section on ministry shares (IV, C) and challenge them to be thoughtful and prayerful about their ministry-share gifts.  
—Adopted

## ARTICLE 33

Advisory Committee 8, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Merle Den Bleyker reporting, presents the following:

### I. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee

#### A. *Materials*

1. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Report, including Appendix A, pp. 285-99
2. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Supplement
3. Board of Trustees Report (section II, A, 17), pp. 29-30

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Dr. Steven R. Timmermans and Dr. Peter Borgdorff, ecumenical officers

#### C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod express its gratitude to Dr. Shirley Roels for serving the cause of ecumenicity for the CRC.  
—*Adopted*
2. That synod designate the United Reformed Church in the Congo as a church in dialogue with the CRC.  
—*Adopted*
3. That synod designate the Sudanese Reformed Churches as a church in dialogue with the CRC.  
—*Adopted*
4. That synod note that the EIRC has learned through feedback from ecumenical partners of the problematic nature of the category designated as Ecumenical Faith Declaration.  
—*Granted*
5. That synod note the decision of Synod 2012 regarding the Belhar Confession and encourage the churches to study and incorporate its themes into their discipling and liturgical ministries.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. The lack of attention by churches to the Belhar Confession and the need for further study of the Belhar's themes and incorporation into the discipleship and liturgical life of the CRC call for synod's reaffirmation.
- b. The importance of Synod 2012's decision deserves to be emphasized by a subsequent synod.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued in Article 52.)

## ARTICLE 34

Rev. Darren Roorda, Canadian ministries director, shares with delegates his excitement about a change of focus regarding the CRC's various ministries in Canada. The CRC is seeing ministry in Canada in the context of a binational church, showcasing the uniqueness of ministry in Canada as an integral part of the CRC denomination.

The president responds.

## ARTICLE 35

Rev. Rolf Bouma, chair of the synodically appointed Committee to Provide Pastoral Guidance re Same-sex Marriage, introduces a listening session, calling attention to the committee's mandate as well as to the changing situation with regard to same-sex marriage during the past decade in Canada and the United States. Delegates discuss in small groups four questions to offer feedback to the committee as it prepares its final report.

## ARTICLE 36

Advisory Committee 5, Congregational Support Ministry II, Rev. Daniel Mouw reporting, presents the following:

### I. Board of Trustees

#### A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report (section II, A, 3, including Appendices C-F), pp. 24, 46-54
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (section I, G, including Appendix A)

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. R. Scott Greenway, vice president of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

#### C. Recommendations

1. That synod appoint Rev. Leonard J. Vander Zee as interim *Banner* editor-in-chief, effective September 1, 2015 (BOT report II, A, 3, a).

—Adopted

Rev. Vander Zee is introduced, and he expresses his excitement and thankfulness for a dedicated and competent *Banner* staff. He shares that he will do his best to lead *The Banner* during this year of transition. He thanks synod for the confidence they have placed in him.

The president responds.

2. That synod recognize the significant contributions of Rev. Robert De Moor, *Banner* editor-in-chief, to the denominational magazine, thank him for his years of service, and permit time in synod's schedule to hear from him (BOT report II, A, 3, a). Furthermore, that synod acknowledge with gratitude to God Rev. De Moor's deep love for the Christian Reformed Church, his willingness to address difficult issues with biblical insight and pastoral sensitivity, and his warm sense of humor. During his tenure as editor, Rev. De Moor led the implementation of the Every Household *Banner* and created accessibility to *The Banner* online. Synod thanks him for his energetic leadership for more than a decade of faithful service as *Banner* editor.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued in Article 43.)

## ARTICLE 37

The afternoon session adjourns at 4:43 p.m. Elder delegate Ms. Adriana Sybenga (Greater Los Angeles) leads in closing prayer.

## **MONDAY EVENING, June 15, 2015**

### **Sixth Session**

#### **ARTICLE 38**

The vice president assumes the chair.

The evening session convenes at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Russell W. Boersma (Northcentral Iowa) leads in opening prayer.

#### **ARTICLE 39**

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 31.)

### **Calvin Theological Seminary**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Calvin Theological Seminary Report, pp. 258-65
2. Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement

#### *B. Recommendations*

Synod proceeds according to the adopted procedure (in Article 31, section XII) and, following the completed interviews, considers the following recommendations:

1. That synod ratify the appointment of Dr. Matthew J. Tuininga as Assistant Professor of Moral Theology for three years, effective July 1, 2016.

—*Adopted*

The vice president of synod congratulates Dr. Tuininga on his appointment.

2. That synod ratify the appointment of Mr. Cory B. Willson as the Jake and Betsy Tuls Assistant Professor of Missiology and Missional Ministry for three years, effective July 1, 2015.

—*Adopted*

The vice president of synod congratulates Mr. Willson on his appointment.

#### **ARTICLE 40**

The evening session adjourns at 9:45 p.m. Mr. Caleb N. Dickson (ethnic advisor) leads in closing prayer.

## **TUESDAY MORNING, June 16, 2015**

### **Seventh Session**

#### **ARTICLE 41**

Rev. Heidi S. De Jong leads delegates in a call to worship from Psalm 95:6, and the praise team leads in singing “Give Us Clean Hands.”

Rev. José Rayas leads in a responsive reading, “The Unity of the Body,” from the Belhar Confession and leads in a prayer for peace and justice. Delegates respond by singing “For the Troubles.”

Rev. Perline Cooper, ecumenical representative of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar, leads a responsive prayer. Delegates respond with singing “Kyrie Eleison.”

Ms. Jenna Brandsen and Rev. Heidi De Jong read Psalm 13, and Rev. DeJong reflects on “Confessing Our Sins and Lamenting Our Losses to God.”

Ms. Brandsen and Rev. De Jong sing the first two verses of “Jesus, Lover of My Soul,” and delegates join in singing stanzas 3 and 4.

Rev. De Jong closes with a prayer of confession and assurance of pardon, and delegates respond with a statement of assurance and sing “My Jesus, I Love Thee.” Rev. De Jong offers a benediction.

Worship concludes with the passing of the peace.

Roll call indicates that Rev. David A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South) and Mr. Gerald Reinsma (Rocky Mountain) are absent with notice.

## ARTICLE 42

Advisory Committee 4, Congregational Support Ministry, Rev. Joel W. Zuidema reporting, presents the following:

### I. Board of Trustees

#### A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report (sections II, A, 23; B, 7), pp. 33, 37
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (section I, I)

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. R. Scott Greenway, vice president of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

#### C. Recommendations

1. That synod encourage CRC churches, classes, and educational institutions to sponsor events to celebrate Disability Awareness Week, October 12-18, 2015 (II, B, 7).

#### *Grounds:*

- a. Specific and intentional events that recognize the importance of breaking down barriers and including people with disabilities will remind God’s people of the welcome our Lord gives to all of his people (Luke 14:15-24) and will encourage them to press on toward becoming a community in which every member knows that he or she is indispensable (1 Cor. 12:12-27).
- b. The Bible calls God’s people to be a caring community as the covenant people of God. In 1985, the CRC committed itself as a denomination to eliminate barriers of architecture, communication, and attitude “in order to use the gifts of all people in our life together as God’s family.” Although our Lord Jesus calls all of his people to ministry in his church, the church has not always made it possible for people with disabilities to participate fully and sometimes has isolated them and their families.

- c. The dates of Disability Week coincide with the CRC denominational schedule for offerings, which assigns the third Sunday in October to Disability Concerns.
- d. The RCA celebrates Disability Awareness Sunday on the second Sunday in October. Having similar dates for this celebration facilitates and enhances deeper collaboration between the Disability Concerns offices of the RCA and CRC. Further, this date aligns our celebration with numerous organizations and agencies that highlight disability awareness in October.

—Adopted

2. That synod instruct the BOT to encourage classes and congregations to engage in the Blanket Exercise. This will be done prior to Synod 2016 and the address of the Doctrine of Discovery Task Force report (BOT Supplement section I, I). Trained Christian Reformed Church teams are available throughout the United States and Canada. The Blanket Exercise is adapted to each nation's history with Native Peoples. Teams can be contacted through the Office of Social Justice or the Centre for Public Dialogue.

*Grounds:*

- a. The Blanket Exercise is a practical, powerful, experiential way to understand Native Peoples' history in the Canadian and American contexts, allowing participants to experience the dynamics of power without a voice.
- b. In obedience to Hebrews 12:14 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 to be reconciled, the Blanket Exercise is a proven method to enter into Native Peoples' experience of inequality.
- c. The Blanket Exercise helps us to live into other peoples' story no matter where we live. The Lord calls us to walk *together* as we experience the hurtfulness done to people groups, in a way as God in Christ walked among us and experienced our pain.

—Adopted

3. That synod advise the BOT to advise the Synod 2016 program committee to include the Blanket Exercise at Synod 2016 for all delegates to participate in.

*Ground:* This will prepare delegates for the Doctrine of Discovery Task Force report.

—Adopted

## **II. Response to Overture 7: Provide Clarification Regarding Church Order Article 23**

A. *Materials:* Overture 7, pp. 434-36

B. *Background*

The current office of commissioned pastor has evolved both in title and role over the past forty years. Formerly the position was titled *ordained evangelist*, then *ministry associate*. In addition, the limiting of the Article 7 entrance into ministry has resulted in many more additional pastors coming in through Article 23 into a variety of roles. The advisory committee agrees

with Classis Hamilton that much confusion now exists over classis approval, supervision, termination, transfer, and the movement of credentials from one calling church to another.

### C. *Recommendation*

That synod instruct the executive director to work with the Board of Trustees and the Office of Candidacy, including Rev. David Koll, to provide clarification regarding Article 23 and report to Synod 2016 with recommendations.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued in Article 64.)

## ARTICLE 43

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued from Article 36.)

Advisory Committee 5, Congregational Support Ministry II, Rev. Daniel B. Mouw reporting, presents the following:

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

#### A. *Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (section II, A, 3, including Appendices C-F), pp. 24, 46-54
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (section I, G, including Appendix A)

*B. Privilege of the floor:* Rev. R. Scott Greenway, vice president of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

#### C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod adopt the *Banner* Editor Search Committee mandate, composition, and process as found in Appendix D (BOT report section II, A, 3, a).  
—Adopted
2. That synod adopt the changes to the *Banner* mandate as found in Appendix E (BOT report section II, A, 3, b).  
—Adopted
3. That synod take note of the updated *Banner* Advisory Council mandate as found in Appendix F (BOT report section II, A, 3, c), and that synod instruct the Board of Trustees to clarify the conflict resolution procedure by noting that the *Banner* editor retains the right of appeal to synod should he/she disagree with a Board of Trustees decision.  
—Adopted
4. That synod receive as information the revised position description for the *Banner* editor-in-chief as found in BOT Supplement Appendix A (BOT Supplement section I, G).  
—Adopted

### II. **Specialized Ministries of the Christian Reformed Church**

#### A. *Chaplaincy and Care Ministry*

1. Materials: Chaplaincy and Care Ministry Report, pp. 177-80



## 2. Recommendation

That synod receive the report with gratitude, noting especially the following:

- a. A growing number of chaplains in diverse situations “from the prison to the Pentagon.”
- b. Our relatively small denomination continues to have a significant influence in God’s world through our chaplains, and many organizations have high appreciation for the ministry our chaplains provide.
- c. The trend toward a greater representation of female and ethnic minorities is expected to continue.
- d. Rev. Ronald A. Klimp faithfully provides meaningful support for our 133 chaplains, who provide \$8-10 million worth of ministry and whose salaries are paid by other organizations.

—*Adopted*

### B. *Pastor-Church Relations*

#### 1. Materials: Pastor-Church Relations Report, pp. 183-86

#### 2. Recommendations

- a. That synod commend the Office of Pastor-Church Relations for its far-ranging work despite a small staff. In particular, synod notes with appreciation the following initiatives: Sustaining Congregational Excellence, Sustaining Pastoral Excellence, ongoing development of a web-based approach to the Ministerial Information Service, relationship building with candidates and newly ordained pastors, a vocational assessment for pastors, and closer connections with church visitors and regional pastors through the Better Together initiative.

—*Adopted*

- b. That synod instruct the executive director and Board of Trustees to continue implementation of the initiatives mentioned in 2, a above and to consider expanding their reach to more congregations as resources may allow, in order to increase capacity for ministry to address the need for earlier intervention in helping to resolve conflict within churches.

—*Adopted*

- c. That synod encourage the executive director and Board of Trustees to ensure that congregations served by actions noted in 2, a and b above reflect the full and rich diversity of the CRCNA congregational family.

—*Adopted*

## ARTICLE 44

The president of synod welcomes the candidates to Synod 2015. Rev. David R. Koll, director of candidacy, presents the 2015 candidates for ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church. (Names in bold print indicate those present at Synod 2015.)

Andrea M. Baas  
 Nicholas C. Baas  
 (Tony) Hyeon Bang  
**Jenna L. Brandsen**  
 Blake I. Campbell  
 Jeffrey Chang  
**Joshua M. Christoffels**  
 Bryant M. DeKruyter  
 Kendra R. Ettema  
**Shelby L. Gemmen**  
 David Groen  
**Robert A. Hoekstra**  
 Darren S. Hoogendoorn  
 Jin Su Hwang  
 Edward C. Jiang  
 Eric D. Kas  
 (Brandon) Yongwan Kim  
 Kristy R. Manion  
 Elaine G. May  
 Janina S. Mobach  
 Mark A. Mohrlang  
 Karis Mpindi

Joe W. Nasvytis  
 Jacob D. Porter  
 Christina L. Rea  
 Barbara A. Sanders  
 Hannah R. Smele  
 Jason R. Terpstra  
 David van Eyk  
**Chad N. Van Ginkel**  
 Charles W. Van Hoffen  
 Corey Van Huizen  
**Scott J. Van Voorst**  
 Mary L. Vanden Berg  
 Jeremy S. Vandermeer  
**Kevin J. VanderVeen**  
 Mark A. VanderWerf  
 Philip J. VanderWindt  
 Ben G. VanStraten  
 Adam S. Veenstra  
**Jesse L. Walhof**  
 Perrin M. Werner  
 Rhonda S. Workman  
**David P. Zigterman**

Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary, addresses delegates and candidates on the theme “Called to Be a Witness.” This is a time of love, support, and encouragement as these candidates seek ordination. God is calling the candidates as leaders. Rev. Medenblik encourages them to be strong and courageous, adding the following commission from Christ: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Rev. Koll acknowledges guests and delegates who are relatives of the candidates. Candidates and delegates respond by singing “In Christ Alone,” followed by a litany of celebration and dedication.

Delegates and candidates sing “Day by Day,” and Rev. Bruce A. Persenaire, president of synod, responds and leads in a prayer of blessing. Delegates and candidates respond by singing “Go, My Children, with My Blessing.”

## ARTICLE 45

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued from Article 43.)

Advisory Committee 5, Congregational Support Ministry II, Rev. Daniel B. Mouw reporting, presents the following:

## **I. Response to Overture 8: Amend Church Order Supplement, Article 84 to Include Address of Sexual Abuse**

A. *Materials:* Overture 8, pp. 436-40

B. *Observations*

1. Overture 8 has merit in distinguishing between sexual misconduct and sexual abuse as well as in highlighting issues of power differential between officebearers and others.
2. The current Supplement to Church Order Article 84 is not as clear as it could be.
3. The current supplement does not address issues regarding when officebearers shall be suspended or deposed.
4. Overture 8 appears to be more focused on ministers of the Word than on other officebearers by its use of the phrase "pastoral relationship."
5. Churches, officebearers, and especially victims have not been adequately served and supported by the current Church Order Articles 83-84 and their Supplements.

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to ask Safe Church Ministry, in concert with other denominational entities (Pastor-Church Relations, Calvin Theological Seminary, Calvin College, and a Church Order expert), to review and to recommend revisions, if needed, to Church Order Articles 83-84 and their Supplements regarding suspension, deposition, and reinstatement to office in cases of sexual misconduct and sexual abuse.  
—*Adopted*
2. That the committee, formed by the BOT in response to Recommendation 1 above, be mandated to do as follows:
  - a. Differentiate sexual misconduct from sexual abuse.
  - b. Provide guidelines for how gradations in severity and victim impact would affect decisions regarding reinstatement.
  - c. Clarify the imbalance of power and how it affects the issue of sexual misconduct and sexual abuse.
  - d. Consult with other denominations and agencies regarding their policies.
  - e. Consult with legal counsel.
  - f. Address matters of resignation of officebearers in situations of abuse.
  - g. Report to Synod 2016 with proposals and potential polity changes to Church Order Articles 82-84 and their Supplements.  
—*Adopted*

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

*Grounds:*

- a. Current Church Order Articles 83-84 and their Supplements are not adequate to serve the churches in these disciplinary situations.
- b. The current Supplement to Church Order Articles 82-84 does not adequately provide guidelines for suspension and deposition in relation to sexual misconduct and/or abuse.
- c. Lack of clarity regarding these Church Order Articles and their Supplements has led to inconsistency in discipline and reinstatement of officebearers in cases of sexual misconduct and sexual abuse.
- d. The gravity of these issues and their implications for officebearers, churches, and victims require further careful study and legal review.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued in Article 72.)

ARTICLE 46

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services, Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink reporting, presents the following:

**Board of Trustees**

A. *Materials:* Board of Trustees Report (section II, A, 2, including Appendices A and B), pp. 23, 41-45

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod take note of the appointment of Mr. Colin P. Watson, Sr., as the director of ministries and administration.
2. That synod congratulate Mr. Watson on his appointment and grant him the privilege of the floor to share about his new role as director of ministries and administration.

—*Adopted*

—*Adopted*

Mr. Watson addresses delegates and thanks them for their warm welcome.

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 54.)

ARTICLE 47

Dr. Nelus Niemandt, moderator of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, addresses delegates. The vice president of synod responds and offers prayer.

Dr. Arie Jan Plaisier, general secretary of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands, addresses delegates. The vice president of synod responds and offers prayer.

ARTICLE 48

The morning session adjourns at 11:45 a.m. Elder delegate Mr. Fred Reitsma (Hamilton) leads in closing prayer, including petitions for Dr. Raymond Vander Zaag, who has returned home following the death of his

mother-in-law; Rev. William C. Veenstra (B.C. South-East) as he leaves for the funeral of his brother; and Mr. Colin Watson as he begins his work as director of ministries and administration.

The president expresses the gratitude of synod to Rev. Veenstra for his service as vice president and wishes him God's blessing and safety as he returns home for the funeral.

## **TUESDAY AFTERNOON, June 16, 2015**

### **Eighth Session**

#### **ARTICLE 49**

The afternoon session convenes at 1:15 p.m. Rev. Scott Elgersma (California South) leads in opening prayer.

#### **ARTICLE 50**

Delegates watch the "Entertaining Angels" video—one of a series of short videos featuring the Christian Reformed Church and its people at work in the world. This video shows how one family is making a difference in the lives of refugees.

#### **ARTICLE 51**

Rev. Perline Cooper, ecumenical representative of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar, addresses synod.

The president of synod responds and offers prayer.

Rev. Lisa Vander Wal, fraternal delegate from the Reformed Church in America, addresses synod.

The president responds and offers prayer.

#### **ARTICLE 52**

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 33.)

Advisory Committee 8, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Merle Den Bleyker reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee**

#### **A. Materials**

1. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Report, including Appendix A, pp. 285-99
2. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Supplement
3. Board of Trustees Report (section II, A, 17), pp. 29-30

**B. Privilege of the floor:** Dr. Steven R. Timmermans and Dr. Peter Borgdorff, ecumenical officers

### C. Recommendations

1. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to ensure that denominational Ministry Support Services, Faith Formation Ministries, and Worship Ministries provide consultative Belhar Confession assistance to congregations and make related materials available through their service, marketing efforts, and web-based access.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. The listed entities within the denominational offices are in the best position to assist the churches with consultation, advice, and creative ideas for use of the Belhar Confession in the discipleship and liturgical ministries of the church.
- b. Marketing and web access decisions fall within the responsibilities of the Board of Trustees.
- c. Effective marketing and web access options enable congregations to obtain these materials more readily.

—Adopted

2. That synod approve of the CRC's affiliation with the World Reformed Fellowship (WRF).

#### *Grounds:*

- a. Membership would provide sufficient compatibility and benefits, despite the fact that within the WRF there is diversity of thought about biblical interpretation.
- b. As the CRC's ecumenical charter states, "The CRC does not need to endorse every position taken by an ecumenical partner. Rather, the present understanding in ecumenical circles is that churches learn from each other and discuss differing perspectives. Ecumenical relationship can be built on common interests and commitments to the ministry of the gospel and the mission to which that gospel calls the whole church."

—Adopted

3. That synod note the "Resolution on the Relationship between the Reformed Church in America and the Christian Reformed Church in North America" (adopted by Synod 2014) and encourage the churches to incorporate its themes into their joint ministries.

—Adopted

4. That synod express its gratitude to Dr. Peter Borgdorff for his contributions in the name of ecumenicity.

—Adopted

The president of synod responds.

## II. Interfaith dialogue

### A. Background

The goal of interfaith dialogue is to foster better understanding between persons of different faiths and to enhance channels of communication that build community cooperation and peacemaking.

Synod 2009 wisely named understanding, not evangelism, as the purpose of interfaith dialogue. While the Christian church should never lose its confession that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, and should joyfully proclaim that there is no other name given under heaven by which people may be saved, interfaith dialogue must not be a pretext for evangelism. However, it is hoped that when people of other faiths have an accurate understanding of Christian teachings and values and get to know Christian people, they will be intrigued by the Christian worldview and testimony and begin a journey that leads to true reconciliation with God.

(*Agenda for Synod 2010*, p. 449; see *Acts of Synod 2009*, p. 611)

In this light, synod provided an interfaith expansion to the EIRC mandate “while noting that the interfaith mandate should be maintained as a document distinct from the Ecumenical Charter” (*Acts of Synod 2010*, p. 827).

#### B. Recommendations

1. That synod approve the interfaith mandate component of the EIRC’s work as separate and distinct, requiring a subcommittee of the EIRC to pursue the following four responsibilities provided by Synod 2010 (see *Acts of Synod 2010*, pp. 827-28):
  - a. Compile resources for the Christian Reformed Church that will guide interfaith encounters.
  - b. Monitor and facilitate interfaith encounters that come through ecumenical activities and within the context of the ministries of the CRC.
  - c. Provide advice and perspectives for the CRC as requested.
  - d. When appropriate and opportune, represent the CRC in interfaith dialogues.

—Adopted

2. That synod approve the protocol that the EIRC shall ensure that it maintains a standing subcommittee of at least four persons (two or more members of the EIRC and two non-EIRC members, one of whom shall be administrative staff) that pursues the interfaith mandate and reports to the EIRC on its activities and accomplishments.

—Adopted

### III. Response to Overture 4: Add a New Subsection to Church Order Article 38 regarding Multiaffiliated Churches

#### A. Materials: Overture 4, pp. 420-23

#### B. Background

Recognizing and celebrating the unifying achievement of Pillar Church and the joint efforts of Classis Holland of the CRC and the Holland Classis of the RCA, we are grateful for their desire to extend the benefits of these efforts to the whole denomination.

#### C. Recommendations

1. That synod accede to Overture 4 with the following amendments to the wording of the proposed Church Order Article 38-h and its Supplement:

- a. Add “with the concurrence of the synodical deputies” to the end of the proposed Church Order Article 38-h.
- b. Substitute the phrase “Church Order/Constitution” for the word “constitution” wherever referenced in the proposed Supplement, Article 38-h.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod consider this change to Church Order Article 38 nonsubstantial in nature, thus not requiring adoption by a subsequent synod for adoption.

*Ground:* The proposed Article 38-h has many similarities to Article 38-g.

—*Adopted*

## ARTICLE 53

Advisory Committee 6, Global Mission and Ministry, Rev. José Rayas reporting, presents the following:

### I. Board of Trustees

A. *Materials:* Board of Trustees Supplement (section II, A, 2, including Appendix D)

B. *Privilege of the floor:* Rev. R. Scott Greenway, vice president of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod ratify the appointment of Ms. Carol Bremer-Bennett as the U.S. director of World Renew, effective August 3, 2015, and that she be introduced at synod (BOT Supplement section II, A, 2).

—*Adopted*

2. That synod express gratitude to Mr. Andrew Ryskamp for his years of service as the U.S. director of World Renew (BOT Supplement section II, A, 2).

—*Adopted*

### II. Back to God Ministries International

A. *Materials:* Back to God Ministries International Report, pp. 249-57

B. *Privilege of the floor:* Rev. Kurt Selles, director of Back to God Ministries International, and Rev. Reginald Smith, board president

C. *Recommendation*

That synod accept, with gratitude, the report from Back to God Ministries International.

—*Adopted*



### **III. Christian Reformed Home Missions**

A. *Materials*: Christian Reformed Home Missions Report, pp. 195-208

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. Moses Chung, director of Christian Reformed Home Missions, and Rev. Harvey J. Roosma, board president

C. *Recommendation*

That synod accept, with gratitude, the report from Christian Reformed Home Missions.

—Adopted

### **IV. Christian Reformed World Missions**

A. *Materials*: Christian Reformed World Missions Report, pp. 209-15

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. Ronald Meyer, president of CRWM-USA; Ms. Andrea Bootsma, president of CRWM-Canada; and Dr. Gary J. Bekker, director of CRWM

C. *Recommendation*

That synod accept, with gratitude, the report from Christian Reformed World Missions.

—Adopted

### **V. Joining of Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions**

A. *Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (section II, B, 5), p. 37
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (section II, A, 3)
3. Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions Joint Supplement Report (including Appendices A-B)

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. R. Scott Greenway, vice president of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; Colin Watson, director of ministries and administration; members of the executive staff as needed; Rev. Moses Chung, director of Christian Reformed Home Missions; Rev. Harvey J. Roosma, CRHM board president; Rev. Ronald Meyer, president of CRWM-USA; Ms. Andrea Bootsma, president of CRWM-Canada; and Dr. Gary J. Bekker, director of CRWM

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod address the following with regard to the proposal for unification of Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions (BOT Supplement section II, A, 3):

a. That synod approve the following:

- 1) That Christian Reformed Home Missions (CRHM) and Christian Reformed World Missions (CRWM) become one agency<sup>1</sup> with the following mandate:

**Mandate**

The Christian Reformed Church in North America establishes [this Christian Reformed Mission Agency] and assigns it the responsibility of leading the missions programs of the denomination (cf. Church Order Art. 73-77). [This Christian Reformed Mission Agency], hereinafter referred to as *agency*, shall give leadership to the denomination in its task of bringing the gospel holistically to the people of North America and the world and drawing them into fellowship with Christ and his church.

The mandate of the agency has three aspects. The agency shall

- encourage and assist congregations and classes in their work of evangelism and discipleship.
- initiate, support, and guide new-church development and other evangelistic and discipling ministries.
- develop Christian leaders.

These ministries will be done in partnership with congregations, classes, CRC entities, and other organizations to join with God in his kingdom mission in North America and around the world.

The agency shall administer its work according to the Word of God and the Reformed confessions and in harmony with the regulations of the Church Order and the decisions of synod as interpreted by the Board of Trustees.

*Grounds:*

- a) A unification has been discussed and encouraged several times by the agencies, the BOT, and others.
- b) The agencies have indicated a unification would be timely, strategic, and stewardly.
- c) This mandate represents the continuity of mandates from CRHM and CRWM while expressing them in a unified way consistent with the rationale for unification.

*—Adopted*

- 2) That the corporate entities of CRHM and CRWM be unified into a new single board in Canada and a new single board in the United States, joined in ministry by a joint venture agreement. For a transitional period, the existing corporations will be constituted as wholly owned subsidiary entities. The form of unification will be amalgamation in Canada and consolidation in the United States.

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<sup>1</sup> An agency name will be proposed during or at the end of the transitional period.

*Grounds:*

- a) The form of unification (amalgamation in Canada; consolidation in the United States) for the transition period has been recommended by attorneys well acquainted with appropriate law as well as all relevant agency bylaws.
- b) The process being utilized is found in the Synod 2011 report of the Process for Significant Structural Change Task Force (see *Agenda for Synod 2011*, pp. 62-65).

*Note:* If synod adopts the proposal for a Council of Delegates or postpones decisions regarding that proposal for consideration at a subsequent synod, the proposal for CRHM/CRWM will require further revision. If synod approves the anticipated recommendations coming from the synodical Task Force to Study the Offices of Elder and Deacon (specifically, changes to Church Order Articles 76-77), it will not be necessary to propose changes to the current Article 76 (which constitutes Home Missions) and Article 77 (which constitutes World Missions).

—Adopted

- 3) That the existing CRHM and CRWM boards nominate all non-retiring members to constitute the boards (the boards of the new Canada and U.S.A. corporations, and the existing Canada and U.S.A. corporations, which will become wholly owned subsidiary entities for the transitional period). The various boards are to be constituted in accordance with all legal requirements (in the United States and Canada) and all applicable Church Order regulations. This new “parent” board will govern all the CRWM and CRHM legal entities until the programming, staff, and financial resources of both agencies are successfully and responsibly combined.

—Adopted

In addition, it is recommended that synod approve the following matters<sup>2</sup>—to add to, supersede, or clarify board information in the printed *Agenda for Synod 2015*:

- a) That retiring board members be given the opportunity to extend their appointments for one year.
- b) That Rev. Harvey J. Roosma continue per item a), above; he would remain a representative of Region 1 and not serve as a member-at-large (as found in the *Agenda for Synod 2015*, pp. 206-207) for the extended period.
- c) That synod elect Rev. Stanley Workman for CRWM Region 12 to fill the remaining two years of the first term of the member elected in 2014. This person was unable to serve and has resigned. Rev. Workman was on the slate of nominees for Region 12 in 2014.

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<sup>2</sup>These additions have been approved by the chairs of both boards and by the agency directors.

*Grounds:*

- i) Continuity, when possible, will best serve governance and ministry in this time of transition.
- ii) Regional representation should continue.

*—Adopted*

b. That synod receive the following as information (contingent on adoption of the preceding three recommendations):

1) That through the transitional phase (anticipated to be completed within two years) of the new agency, the role of codirectors will be filled by the current agency directors, Dr. Gary J. Bekker and Dr. Moses Chung. The codirectors will be under the joint supervision of the CRCNA executive director and the board(s) of the new agency with the following understandings:

- a) The codirectors will create a transition executive team that will include at least the current CRWM Canada director.
- b) Given the desire for increased binational differentiation, a different executive arrangement may be presented to the BOT before the end of the transitional period.

*—Received as information*

2) That the codirectors be instructed to bring to the unified board(s) and then to the BOT, to its fall 2015 meeting if possible but no later than its winter 2016 meeting, recommended statements of mission, vision, and values for the new agency and a refined statement of mission strategy, as well as legal documents for incorporation of the new agency in both the United States and Canada.

*—Received as information*

3) That no later than the winter 2016 meeting of the unified board(s) Dr. Gary J. Bekker and Dr. Moses Chung, as codirectors, be instructed to recommend a long-term structure and leadership team for the new agency with the proviso that it include one American codirector and one Canadian codirector. After approval by the unified board(s), the recommendation will be brought to the BOT.

*—Received as information*

4) That no later than the spring 2016 meeting of the unified board(s) Dr. Gary J. Bekker and Dr. Moses Chung, as codirectors, be instructed to bring, after working with key leaders, experts, and constituents, recommendations regarding the name and advancement/communication plans for the new agency.

*—Received as information*

5) That Dr. Gary J. Bekker and Dr. Moses Chung, as codirectors and working with others, be instructed to prepare an appropriate celebration of the new agency at Synod 2016 or at such time as they judge will work well.

*—Received as information*

- c. That synod take note that the BOT has endorsed the initial plans for the primary work of the unified agency and for a three-part strategy that has been developed within the contours of existing financial resources.

—*Granted*

The president of synod responds with thanks and appreciation, and Dr. Steven R. Timmermans offers prayer for Dr. Moses Chung and Dr. Gary J. Bekker as they lead during this time of transition.

## **VI. World Renew**

A. *Materials*: World Renew Report, pp. 230-47

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Ms. Jodi Cole Meyer, president of World Renew-U.S.; Mr. John DeGroot, president of World Renew-Canada; Mr. Andrew Ryskamp, director of World Renew-U.S.; and Ms. Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo, director of World Renew-Canada

C. *Recommendation*

That synod accept, with gratitude, the report from World Renew.

—*Adopted*

## **VII. Communities First Association**

A. *Materials*: Communities First Association Report, pp. 323-24

B. *Recommendation*

That synod accept, with gratitude, the report from Communities First Association.

—*Adopted*

## **VIII. Diaconal Ministries Canada**

A. *Materials*: Diaconal Ministries Canada Report, p. 325

B. *Recommendation*

That synod accept, with gratitude, the report from Diaconal Ministries Canada.

—*Adopted*

## **IX. Partners Worldwide**

A. *Materials*: Christian Reformed Partners Worldwide Report, pp. 331-32

B. *Recommendation*

That synod accept, with gratitude, the report from Partners Worldwide.

—*Adopted*

## **X. Timothy Leadership Training Institute**

A. *Materials*: Timothy Leadership Training Institute Report, pp. 333-34

B. *Recommendation*

That synod accept, with gratitude, the report from Timothy Leadership Training Institute.

—*Adopted*

## ARTICLE 54

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 46.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services, Rev. Rita S. Klein-Geltink reporting, presents the following:

### Board of Trustees

#### A. *Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (sections II, A, 7-8; B, 3; including Appendix G) pp. 27, 36, 55-81
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (sections I, A, 4; C; H; II, A, 1; including Appendices B and C)

#### B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod endorse the Ministry Plan (a) Desired Futures and (b) Strategic Foci; and that synod take time in its schedule to engage with the Ministry Plan Steps (to be distributed at synod) for illustration and input.  
—*Adopted*
2. That synod receive the CRCNA-Canada Corporation bylaws as information.  
—*Received as information*

3. That synod adopt an amendment to Article IV, B of the Constitution of the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA to bring it into harmony with the CRCNA-Canada Corporation bylaws to read as follows:

*Ex officio members of the Board and ex officio members and guests of the corporate entities*

By virtue of the office, the executive director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America shall be a nonvoting member of the Board, and for legal purposes shall be a guest of the CRCNA-Canada Corporation and a voting director of the CRCNA-Michigan Corporation.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod take note of the agency boards' compliance with Canadian charity regulations as found in the updated bylaws of each of the Canadian charities.

—*Granted*

5. That synod express its gratitude to Rev. Joel R. Boot for his years of service to the denomination and confer on him the title of *executive director, emeritus*.

—*Adopted*

6. That synod approve the work of the Korean Classes Mentoring Committee as reported.

—*Approved*

7. That synod take note of the Board's action to include two young adult representatives as advisers to the Board of Trustees.

—*Granted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 74.)

#### ARTICLE 55

Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary, addresses delegates on "Engaging, Equipping, Empowering Together" at the seminary. Mr. Chad Van Ginkel shares how the seminary engages students with learning through a Distance Master of Arts Program. The seminary also equips students by offering the certificate in Hispanic Ministry Program. Dr. John M. Rottman shares how the seminary empowers students through the Calvin Prison Initiative (CPI).

The president of synod responds.

#### ARTICLE 56

The afternoon session adjourns at 4:41 p.m. Rev. Paul R. Vanderkooy (Eastern Canada) leads in closing prayer.

### TUESDAY EVENING, June 16, 2015

#### Ninth Session

#### ARTICLE 57

The evening session convenes at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Wilhelmina L. Zwart (Chatham) leads in opening prayer.

#### ARTICLE 58

Advisory Committee 9, Offices of Elder and Deacon, Rev. Richard A. Bodini reporting, presents the following:

#### I. Board of Trustees

A. *Materials*: Board of Trustees Report (section II, A, 21, a, including Appendix J) pp. 30, 106-107

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. R. Scott Greenway, vice president of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

#### C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod adopt the changes to Church Order Article 40 as proposed by Synod 2013 (BOT Report section II, A, 21, a, and Appendix J) and the proposed supplement, including the following amendment to Church Order Supplement, Article 40-a.

*Note*: **Boldface text** indicates changes from the current Church Order.

Proposed Article 40

a. The council of each church shall delegate a minister, an elder, **and a deacon** to the classis. If a church is without a minister, or the minister is prevented from attending, **another elder** shall be delegated **in place of the minister**. Officebearers who are not delegated may also attend classis and may be given an advisory voice.

Proposed Supplement, Article 40-a

Proposed amendment to the above proposed Church Order Supplement, Article 40-a

a) **When great distances or other weighty reasons** make it impractical for a church to send three delegates to the classis, a council may opt to send two delegates.

b) **The gender of delegates** to a classis shall be consistent with the decisions of that classis concerning the supplement to Article 3-a of the Church Order. Delegates who believe the seating of women delegates is in violation of the Word of God may record their protest on the appropriate credentials. Their names, along with their protests, shall be included in the official record of each classis meeting. If a classis so desires, it may also invite emerging churches to delegate **three** officebearers to the meetings of classis.

(Acts of Synod 1997, p. 621)

(Amended Acts of Synod 2007, p. 612)

(Amended Acts of Synod 2009, p. 613)

**(Amended Acts of Synod 2015, p. 657)**

—Adopted

Proposed Supplement, Article 40-a and -c

Modification for Churches of Classis Red Mesa

a. The council of each church shall delegate a minister, **an elder, and a deacon** to the classis. If a church is without a minister, or a minister, **elder, or deacon delegate** is prevented from attending, **any combination of three officebearers may be delegated**. Officebearers who are not delegated also may attend classis and may be given an advisory voice.

c. The presiding officers of classis shall be selected from officebearers within the classis. **Ordinarily** the same presiding officers shall not be chosen twice in succession.

(Acts of Synod 1981, p. 16)

**(Amended Acts of Synod 2015, p. 657)**

*Grounds:*

- a. Numerous requests over the years have asked that the major assemblies seat deacons in order to have full representation and participation in carrying out the mission of the church.
- b. Previous synodical reports have said that the Bible and the confessions do not prohibit the seating of deacons at major assemblies.

—Adopted



2. That synod adopt the following changes to Church Order Article 45 with full implementation (delegation of a deacon) at Synod 2016.

—Adopted

*Proposed Article 45*

**Synod** is the assembly representing the churches of all the classes. Each classis shall delegate **one minister, one elder, one deacon, and one other officebearer** to synod.

*Grounds:*

- a. Numerous requests over the years have asked that the major assemblies seat deacons in order to have full representation and participation in carrying out the mission of the church.
- b. Previous synodical reports have said that the Bible and the confessions do not prohibit the seating of deacons at major assemblies.

—Adopted

## II. Task Force to Study the Offices of Elder and Deacon

A. *Materials:* Task Force to Study the Offices of Elder and Deacon (including Appendices A-B), pp. 380-410

B. *Privilege of the floor:* Mr. Terry Woodnorth, chair; Dr. Chris Ganski, reporter; and task force members Mr. Andrew Ryskamp (staff adviser) and Dr. Mick Vanden Bosch

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod adopt the following changes to the Church Order and Its Supplements as indicated:

*Note: Italicized text indicates changes from the current Church Order.*

*Current Article 1-a*

- a. The Christian Reformed Church, confessing its complete subjection to the Word of God and the Reformed creeds as a true interpretation of this Word, acknowledging Christ as the only head of his church, and desiring to honor the apostolic injunction that in the churches “everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way” (1 Cor. 14:40), regulates its ecclesiastical organization and activities in the following articles.

*Proposed Article 1-a*

- a. The Christian Reformed Church, confessing its complete subjection to the Word of God and the Reformed creeds as a true interpretation of this Word, acknowledging Christ as the only head of his church, and desiring to honor the apostolic injunction that *officebearers are “to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” (Eph. 4:12), and to do so “in a fitting and orderly way” (1 Cor. 14:40),* regulates its ecclesiastical organization and activities in the following articles.”

*Grounds:*

- a. Adding the quotation from Ephesians 4:12 clarifies that the church has a Church Order not merely for the sake of orderliness but for the sake of ministry.
- b. The added change from Overture 9 will help prioritize the ultimate task of officebearers, which is not primarily to do things “in a fitting and orderly way” (regulation) but to build up the saints for works of service (engagement).

—Adopted

*Current Articles 4-a and -b*

- a. In calling and electing to an office, the council shall ordinarily present to the congregation a nomination of at least twice the number to be elected. When the council submits a nomination which totals less than twice the number to be elected, it shall give reasons for doing so.
- b. Prior to making nominations the council may give the congregation an opportunity to direct attention to suitable persons.

*Proposed Articles 4-a and -b*

- a. In calling and electing to an office, the council shall ordinarily present to the congregation a nomination of at least twice the number to be elected. When the council submits a nomination which totals less than twice the number to be elected, it shall give reasons for doing so.
- b. Prior to making nominations the council may give the congregation an opportunity to direct attention to *suitably gifted* persons.

*Ground:* Adding the phrase *suitably gifted* clarifies that suitability for office is a matter of spiritual giftedness.

—Adopted

*Current Article 11*

The calling of a minister of the Word is to proclaim, explain, and apply Holy Scripture in order to gather in and build up the members of the church of Jesus Christ.

*Proposed Article 11*

The calling of a minister of the Word is to proclaim, explain, and apply Holy Scripture in order to gather in and *equip* the members *so that* the church of Jesus Christ *may be built up*.

*Ground:* According to Ephesians 4, it is God who builds up the church through the equipping ministry of those called to office. These changes bring the Church Order in line with the biblical text.

—Adopted

*Current Article 12-a*

- a. A minister of the Word serving as pastor of a congregation shall preach the Word, administer the sacraments, conduct public worship services, catechize the youth, and train members for Christian service. The minister, with the elders, shall supervise the congregation and fellow officebearers, exercise admonition and discipline,

and see to it that everything is done decently and in order. The minister, with the elders, shall exercise pastoral care over the congregation, and engage in and promote the work of evangelism.

*Proposed Article 12-a*

a. A minister of the Word serving as pastor of a congregation shall preach the Word, administer the sacraments, conduct public worship services, catechize the youth, and train members for Christian service. The minister, *with other officebearers*, shall supervise the congregation and fellow officebearers, exercise admonition and discipline, see to it that everything is done decently and in order, exercise pastoral care over the congregation, and engage in and promote the work of evangelism *and diaconal outreach*.

*Ground:* According to Article 30 of the Belgic Confession, ministers of the Word are called to common tasks with elders *and* deacons in equipping the church. Likewise, the second half of Church Order Article 12-a is intended to give an illustrative list of those tasks that the minister is called to do with other officebearers. Making reference in the article to elders alone is confusing, since some of the tasks belong to other officebearers as well, such as supervising fellow officebearers (see Church Order Art. 82-84 and Supplement, Art. 82-84) and exercising pastoral care (see Art. 65). The proposed language removes this confusion by making a generic reference to other officebearers and including diaconal outreach in the tasks that the minister does in common with other officebearers.

—Adopted

*Current Article 25-a*

a. The elders and deacons shall serve for a limited time as designated by the council. As a rule a specified number of them shall retire from office each year. The retiring officebearers shall be succeeded by others unless the circumstances and the profit of the church make immediate eligibility for reelection advisable. Elders and deacons who are thus reelected shall be reinstalled.

*Proposed Article 25-a*

a. The elders and deacons shall serve for a limited time as designated by the council. *The length of term should be appropriate for continuity and succession of ministry leadership.* Retiring officebearers shall be succeeded by others unless the circumstances and the profit of the church make immediate eligibility for reelection advisable. Elders and deacons who are thus reelected shall be reinstalled.

*Ground:* While this article was written to give councils flexibility in the length of terms of office, the “as a rule” language has suggested that flexibility is discouraged, and this has hindered the equipping work of some officebearers in some contexts. The proposed revision does not change the meaning of the article—terms should still be limited to a specified period of time—but it does better emphasize flexibility and the purpose for which that flexibility should be employed.

—Adopted

*Current Article 25-b*

b. The elders, with the minister(s), shall oversee the doctrine and life of the members of the congregation and fellow officebearers, shall exercise admonition and discipline along with pastoral care in the congregation, shall participate in and promote evangelism, and shall defend the faith. The elders also shall nurture in the congregation grateful and obedient participation in the Lord's Supper through encouragement, instruction, and accountability.

*Proposed Article 25-b*

b. The elders, with the minister(s), shall oversee the doctrine and life of the members of the congregation and fellow officebearers, shall *provide counsel* and discipline along with pastoral care in the congregation, shall participate in and promote evangelism, and shall defend the faith. *As shepherds of the church, they shall encourage and support the members in their Christian life.* The elders also shall nurture in the congregation grateful and obedient participation in the Lord's Supper through encouragement, instruction, and accountability.

*Ground:* The proposed revision adds a clearer expression of the elders' calling as shepherds to positively build up the church of Christ.

—*Adopted*

*Current Article 25-c*

c. The deacons shall represent and administer the mercy of Christ to all people, especially to those who belong to the community of believers, and shall stimulate the members of Christ's church to faithful, obedient stewardship of their resources on behalf of the needy—all with words of biblical encouragement and testimony which assure the unity of word and deed.

*Proposed Article 25-c*

c. The deacons shall represent and administer the mercy of Christ to all people, especially to those who belong to the community of believers. *Deacons shall lead the members in ways that inspire faithful stewardship of their time, talents, and resources and so give life in this world the shape of God's kingdom. Thus deacons shall create and encourage participation in structures and ministries of mercy, justice, and reconciliation, both locally and globally. All of this shall be done* with words of biblical encouragement and testimony, which assure the unity of word and deed.

*Ground:* The proposed revision gives a more comprehensive description of the mandate for deacons as understood and practiced by many diaconates and described in various deacon handbooks and other resources and in the Form for the Ordination of Elders and Deacons.

—*Adopted*

*Current Article 34*

The major assemblies are composed of officebearers who are delegated by their constituent minor assemblies. The minor assemblies shall provide their delegates with proper credentials

which authorize them to deliberate and vote on matters brought before the major assemblies. A delegate shall not vote on any matter in which the delegate or the church of which the delegate is a member is particularly involved.

*Proposed Article 34*

The major assemblies are composed of officebearers who are delegated by their constituent minor assemblies. The minor assemblies shall provide their delegates with proper credentials which authorize them to deliberate and vote on matters brought before the major assemblies. *In any matter that lies almost exclusively within the mandate(s) of one or two of the offices, the delegates shall exercise due deference in deliberation.* A delegate shall not vote on any matter in which the delegate or the church of which the delegate is a member is particularly involved.

*Ground:* The proposed language addresses the concern that when all offices are seated in major assemblies, some matters brought to the floor will lie largely outside the calling of one or two of the offices. Likewise, the article should instruct all delegates to be mindful of their gifts and mandate and defer in deliberation to those most competent.

—*Defeated*

(The report of Advisory Committee 9 is continued in Article 62.)

ARTICLE 59

The evening session adjourns at 9:25 p.m. Elder delegate Ms. Marguerite E. Ridder (Huron) leads in closing prayer.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING, June 17, 2015**  
**Tenth Session**

ARTICLE 60

Rev. Josiah Chung leads the call to worship from Psalm 33, and delegates respond by singing “Holy, Holy, Holy” and “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing.”

Rev. Chung invites the delegates to participate in a service of Scripture and song. The worship team leads in singing “Total Praise.”

Ms. Denise Posie and Mr. John Lendein lead the delegates in several responsive litanies from Psalm 62:1-2, 3-8, and Romans 8. Delegates respond by singing “Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand,” “I Cry Out,” and “My Soul Finds Rest.”

Ms. Denise Posie and Mr. John Lendein lead delegates in the reading of Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1, and delegates respond with “I Will Rise.” The liturgists lead delegates in further litany, and delegates sing “Let Justice Flow Down.”

Delegates sing “All People That on Earth Do Dwell” and “Praise God.” Rev. Chung leads in Korean and English the benediction from Romans 15:13. Worship concludes with the passing of the peace.

The roll indicates that Rev. David A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South) and Mr. Gerald Reinsma (Rocky Mountain) are absent with notice.

#### ARTICLE 61

A delegate presents the following motion:

That whenever synod meets outside of Grand Rapids, the Office of the Executive Director, in conjunction with the Candidacy Committee and Calvin Theological Seminary, work to provide transportation and accommodation at synod for as many of the candidates as possible.

*Ground:* It is a shame that synod could not celebrate with the majority of the new candidates for ministry.

—Received as information

#### ARTICLE 62

(The report of Advisory Committee 9 is continued from Article 58.)

Advisory Committee 9, Offices of Elder and Deacon, Rev. Richard Bodini reporting, presents the following:

##### **Task Force to Study the Offices of Elder and Deacon**

A. *Materials:* Task Force to Study the Offices of Elder and Deacon (including Appendices A-B), pp. 380-410

B. *Privilege of the floor:* Mr. Terry Woodnorth, chair; Dr. Chris Ganski, reporter; and task force members Mr. Andrew Ryskamp and Dr. Mick Vanden Bosch

##### C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod adopt the following changes to the Church Order and Its Supplements as indicated:

*Note: Italicized text indicates changes from the current Church Order.*

##### *Current Article 35-a*

a. In every church there shall be a council composed of the minister(s), the elders, and the deacons. Those tasks which belong to the common administration of the church, such as the calling of a pastor, the approval of nominations for church office, mutual censure, meeting with church visitors, and other matters of common concern, are the responsibility of the council.

##### *Proposed Article 35-a*

a. In every church there shall be a council composed of the minister(s), the elders, and the deacons. Those tasks which belong to the common administration of the church, such as *promoting its mission*, calling a pastor, *approving* nominations for church office, mutual censure, meeting with church visitors, and other matters of common concern, are the responsibility of the council.

*Ground:* Since the article gives only an illustrative list of matters of common concern, there is no need for the article to be comprehensive. However, the proposed language recognizes that the promotion of the church's mission should be preeminent in the common administration of the church.

—Adopted

*Current Article 35-b*

b. In every church there shall be a consistory composed of the elders and the minister(s) of the Word. Those tasks which belong distinctively to the office of elder are the responsibility of the consistory.

*Proposed Article 35-b*

b. In every church there shall be a consistory composed of the elders and the minister(s) of the Word. Those tasks which belong distinctively to the office of elder are the responsibility of the consistory. *The consistory shall give an account of its work to the council.*

*Ground:* The proposed language codifies a common practice: that of elders reporting on their work to the council, just as deacons do (Art. 35-c). This parallel practice between the diaconate and the consistory follows from the principle of the parity of office and from Belgic Confession, Article 30, in which we confess that the governance of the church belongs to the council. A report from the elders to the council also facilitates council oversight of the activities of the elders, as required by the practices of mutual censure and special discipline, both of which are the tasks of the council (Art. 35-a; Supplement, Art. 82-84).

—Adopted

*Current Article 42-b*

The church visitors shall consist of one or more teams of officebearers chosen for their experience and counsel, with teams composed of two ministers or one minister and one elder. Their task shall be to ascertain whether the officebearers of the church faithfully perform their duties, adhere to sound doctrine, observe the provisions of the Church Order, and promote the building up of the body of Christ and the extension of God's kingdom. Churches are free to call on the church visitors whenever serious challenges arise that would benefit from their advice. The church visitors shall provide classis a written report of their work.

*Proposed Article 42-b*

The church visitors shall consist of one or more teams of officebearers chosen for their experience and counsel. *Team composition shall include a minister of the Word and at least one other officebearer.* Their task shall be to ascertain whether the officebearers of the church faithfully perform their duties, adhere to sound doctrine, observe the provisions of the Church Order, and promote the building up of the body of Christ and the extension of God's kingdom. Churches are free to call on the church visitors whenever

serious challenges arise that would benefit from their advice. The church visitors shall provide classis a written report of their work.

*Grounds:*

- a. Oversight of officebearers belongs in the hands of ministers, elders, and deacons at the congregational level (see Art. 35-b and Supplement, Art. 82-84), and the same should be true at the classical level, especially when all three offices are delegated to the classis.
- b. Some matters for which church visitors may be required are matters that lie primarily within the mandate of the office of deacon, and the churches would benefit from having an experienced deacon as one of the church visitors, which the proposed article allows, but does not require.

—Adopted

#### *Current Article 62*

Offerings for benevolence shall be received regularly in the worship services. Offerings also shall be received for other ministries of the congregation and the joint ministries of the churches.

#### *Proposed Article 62*

*Opportunity shall be given regularly, as part of worship, to offer gifts, both financial and otherwise, to develop and sustain ministries of the congregation, locally within its own community, the shared ministries of the denomination globally, and other causes that the church supports.*

*Ground:* The proposed language offers a more comprehensive description of the nature of offerings and promotes meeting the needs of the poor in a variety of ways—through more than just offerings of benevolence.

—Adopted

#### *Current Article 64-a*

- a. Each church shall minister to its adult members so as to increase their knowledge of the Lord Jesus, to nurture a mature faith in Christ, and to encourage and sustain them in the fellowship of believers.

#### *Proposed Article 64-a*

- a. Each church shall minister to its adult members so as to increase their knowledge of the Lord Jesus, to nurture a mature faith in Christ, to encourage and sustain them in the fellowship of believers, *and to equip them to fulfill their calling in the church and in the world.*

*Ground:* The proposed language gives a more comprehensive and missional description of the purpose of nurturing faith in adults, in line with the meaning of Ephesians 4:12.

—Adopted



*Current Articles 73-a and -b*

- a. In obedience to Christ's Great Commission, the churches must bring the gospel to all people at home and abroad, in order to lead them into fellowship with Christ and his church.
- b. In fulfilling this mandate, each council shall stimulate the members of the congregation to be witnesses for Christ in word and deed and to support the work of home and world missions by their interest, prayers, and gifts.

*Current Articles 74-a and -b*

- a. Each church shall bring the gospel to unbelievers in its own community. This task shall be sponsored and governed by the council. This task may be executed, when conditions warrant, in cooperation with one or more neighboring churches.
- b. Each church shall carry on a ministry of mercy. The deacons shall enable the needy under their care to make use of Christian institutions of mercy. They shall confer and cooperate with diaconates of neighboring churches when this is desirable for the proper performance of their task. They may also seek mutual understandings with agencies in their community which are caring for the needy, so that the gifts may be distributed properly.

*Current Articles 75-a and -b*

- a. The classes shall, whenever necessary, assist the churches in their local evangelistic programs. The classes themselves may perform this work of evangelism when it is beyond the scope and resources of the local churches. To administer these tasks, each classis shall have a classical home missions committee.
- b. The classes shall, whenever necessary, assist the churches in their ministry of mercy. The classes themselves may perform this ministry when it is beyond the scope and resources of the local churches. To administer this task, each classis shall have a classical diaconal committee.

*Current Articles 76-a and -b*

- a. Synod shall encourage and assist congregations and classes in their work of evangelism, and shall also carry on such home missions activities as are beyond their scope and resources. To administer these activities synod shall appoint a denominational home missions committee, whose work shall be governed by synodical regulations.
- b. Synod shall encourage and assist congregations and classes in their ministry of mercy, and shall carry on such work as is beyond their scope and resources. Synod shall appoint a diaconal committee to administer the denominational ministry of mercy. The work of this committee shall be governed by synodical regulations.

*Current Supplement, Article 76-a*

The synodical regulations referred to in Article 76 may be found in the Mission Order of the Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions (*Acts of Synod 1992*, pp. 741-46 and subsequent revisions thereof).

*Current Articles 77-a and -b*

a. Synod shall encourage and assist the joint world mission work of the churches by regulating the manner in which this task is to be performed, providing for its support, and encouraging the congregations to call and support missionaries. To administer these activities, synod shall appoint a denominational world missions committee, whose work shall be governed by synodical regulations.

b. The denominational diaconal committee shall extend the ministry of mercy of the congregations and classes worldwide.

*Current Supplement, Article 77-a*

Synod regulates the work of the world missions committee by way of the Constitution and decisions of the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA.

*Proposed Article 73: The Church's Mandate to Ministry*

In joyful obedience to the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations, the church is called to bear witness to Jesus Christ and his kingdom through word and deed.

*Proposed Articles 74-a through -d: The Ministry of the Congregation*

a. Each church shall proclaim the gospel to its community. The local church is to announce and demonstrate, through word and deed, that God's reign has come; to live as an exhibit of God's healing and reconciling grace; and to extend to all the invitation to experience new life in Christ through repentance and faith.

b. The council shall be responsible to develop a vision and provide training and leadership to equip the church to fulfill its unique evangelistic and diaconal calling. Churches are encouraged to work with neighboring churches, appropriate community resources, classical and denominational resources, and other gifts the Lord has provided to help accomplish their tasks.

c. Each council shall encourage the members of the congregation to support denominational and classical ministries by their interest, prayers, and gifts.

d. Each church shall ensure that deacons and elders are incorporated into the structure and plans for ministry in a manner consistent with their respective mandates.

*Proposed Articles 75-a and -b: The Ministry of the Classis*

a. The classes shall implement a ministry plan that advances evangelistic and diaconal witness to Christ and his kingdom in its specific region and, when necessary, assist those churches needing support to fulfill their mission.

b. Each classis shall ensure that deacons and elders are incorporated into the structure and plans for ministry in a manner consistent with their respective mandates.

*Proposed Article 76: The Ministry of the Denomination*

a. Synod shall encourage and assist congregations and classes in their work of word and deed witness to Christ and his kingdom. Synod shall also appoint denominational ministries that engage churches and classes in ministries that are local, national, binational, and global.

b. Synod shall ensure that deacons and elders are incorporated into the structure and plans for ministry in a manner consistent with their respective mandates.

It is recommended that the following Supplement, Article 76-a be removed:

~~The synodical regulations referred to in Article 76 may be found in the Mission Order of the Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions (Acts of Synod 1992, pp. 741-46 and subsequent revisions thereof).~~

*Proposed Article 77: Synodical Governance of Ministries*

*Synod shall regulate the work of denominational ministries by way of the Constitution and decisions of the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA.*

It is recommended that the following Supplement, Article 77-a be removed:

~~Synod regulates the work of the world missions committee by way of the Constitution and decisions of the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA.~~

*Grounds for proposed changes to Articles 73-77:*

- a. These changes grow out of the belief that the whole church is called to diakonia.
- b. The new language is inclusive of all the denominational ministries, not just select ministries.
- c. The changes reflect a more holistic and comprehensive understanding of the church's ministry.
- d. Article 77 incorporates the existing Supplement, Articles 76-a and 77-a, applies it to all denominational ministries, and brings the Church Order into alignment with the governance realities of the denomination.
- e. These changes integrate the roles and mandates of the offices into the mission of the church.
- f. The changes recognize the continuities between local and global ministries and the growing collaborations between ministries.

—Adopted

*Current section heading: D. Missions*

*Proposed section heading: D. Ministries of the Church*

—Adopted

*Note:* The following recommendation was presented by the advisory committee and *withdrawn* following discussion:

2. That synod, upon adoption of the proposed Church Order changes above (with respect to the offices of elder and deacon), adopt the following changes to the Rules for Synodical Procedure:

*Note:* The change to Church Order Article 34 that calls for delegates to “exercise due deference in deliberation” calls for an accompanying change in the Rules for Synodical Procedure. The following change specifies how the president and delegates to synod will ensure that “due deference” is actually extended. The following are additions to the duties of the president of synod and the delegates to synod when issues are discussed (changes indicated by *italics*).

*Proposed new section II, A, 4*

*4. The president shall ensure that the minister, elder, or deacon delegates exercise due deference when matters arise that lie almost exclusively within the mandate(s) of one or two of the offices.*

*Note:* The present section II, A, 4 and subsequent sections would then be renumbered 5, 6, 7, and so forth.

*Proposed new section VIII, J, 2*

*2. All delegates participate in the deliberations. If matters arise that lie almost exclusively within the mandate(s) of one or two of the offices, the delegates representing the other office(s) shall exercise due deference.*

*Note:* The present section VIII, J, 2 and subsequent sections would then be renumbered 3, 4, 5, and so forth.

—*Withdrawn*

3. That synod instruct the ED to commend the task force’s proposed revision of the Form for the Ordination of Elders and Deacons (*Agenda for Synod 2015*, pp. 397-400) and Overture 10 (*Agenda*, pp. 442-43) to the Liturgy Forms Consultation of the CRCNA for consideration as an additional version for inclusion in their report to Synod 2016.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod instruct the ED to make the necessary updates to the “Guide for Conducting Church Visiting” resulting from the adoption of the above Church Order revisions.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod, in order to provide for the ongoing revitalization of the offices of elder and deacon, mandate the executive director of the CRCNA to task appropriate agencies and ministries with the development of strategies for the revitalization of the offices of elder and deacon, including
  - a. A cataloging of all resources offered by our denominational agencies that support the vision of reinvigorated offices of elder and deacon, as well as other appropriate resources offered by other sources (see Appendix A, *Agenda for Synod 2015*, pp. 401-404).

- b. The development of an approach, whether by way of conferences, staff, materials, or other means, that gives energy to initiatives of deacons and elders in churches, classes, and the denomination.

The executive director of the CRCNA shall report to synod on the annual progress of the above efforts of denominational agencies and ministries as all seek to work together for the revitalization of the offices of elder and deacon.

*Ground:* This is important for the revitalization of the offices of deacon and elder.

—Adopted

6. That synod thank the task force for the good work in Appendices A and B and commend them to the churches as excellent resources.

—Adopted

7. That synod accept this report as fulfilling the mandate of the Task Force to Study the Offices of Elder and Deacon and dismiss the task force with thanks.

—Adopted

8. That this be synod's response to Overtures 9-12 and Communication 2.

—Adopted

Upon completion of this report of the Offices of Elder and Deacon Advisory Committee, delegates sing "We Are Called."

## ARTICLE 63

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued from Article 42.)

Advisory Committee 4, Congregational Support Ministry, Rev. Joel W. Zuidema reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Specialized Ministries of the Christian Reformed Church**

#### *A. Safe Church Ministry*

1. Materials: Safe Church Ministry Report, pp. 192-93
2. Recommendations
  - a. That synod commend the work of Safe Church Ministry.
  - b. That synod remind the churches again of the importance of developing and implementing a safe church policy and remind the classes in the denomination of the importance of a safe church team. One-third of the churches do *not* have safe church plans.

—Received as information

#### *B. Committee for Contact with the Government*

1. Materials: Committee for Contact with the Government Report, pp. 217-18

## 2. Recommendation

That synod commend the work of the Centre for Public Dialogue, the public arm of the Committee for Contact with the Government, and the Office of Social Justice in their work along with aboriginal partners in Canada for reconciliation action plans to be implemented in the years ahead as a result of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

—Received as information

### C. Disability Concerns

#### 1. Materials: Disability Concerns Report, pp. 219-22

#### 2. Recommendations

- a. That synod commend the work of the Office of Disability Concerns.
- b. That synod note the tremendous resources available on the Disability Concerns website. The website includes advice on Bibles that is truly helpful for persons with sight disabilities. Simply purchasing large print Bibles is not enough. The website also has advice on projecting words and images on screen for persons with sight disabilities. Also included is advice on sound systems to help the hearing impaired. These are just some of the important topics covered.

—Received as information

### D. Race Relations

#### 1. Materials: Race Relations Report, pp. 223-24

#### 2. Observation: Dominant culture churches want to minister *to* rather than minister *with*. When we all begin to minister *with* each other, we will have bridged a great divide.

#### 3. Recommendations

- a. That synod recognize a new resource, *African Americans: We've Come This Far by Faith*. Additional resources are planned in the coming year to help the church understand the distinctiveness of First Nations Peoples and Asians.
- b. That synod commend the work of the Office of Race Relations.

—Received as information

### E. Social Justice and Hunger Action

#### 1. Materials: Social Justice and Hunger Action Report, pp. 225-28

#### 2. Recommendation

That synod commend the work of the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action in connecting with many organizations to raise awareness, identify, encourage, and raise a voice of advocacy about the issues of immigration reform, creation care, peacemaking, indigenous justice, and restorative justice.

—Received as information

## *F. Urban Aboriginal Ministries*

1. Materials: Urban Aboriginal Ministries Report, p. 229
2. Recommendation: That synod commend the work of Urban Aboriginal Ministries in Canada as they bring healing, reconciliation, and restored relationships between Aboriginal peoples and non-Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

—Received as information

*Note:* The advisory committee recommended that the above-mentioned ministries be commended by synod.

## **II. Friendship Ministries**

- A. *Materials:* Friendship Ministries Report, pp. 330
- B. *Recommendation*  
That synod commend the work of Friendship Ministries.

—Adopted

## **III. Committee to Study Religious Persecution and Liberty**

- A. *Materials:* Committee to Study Religious Persecution and Liberty Report, pp. 343-50

### *B. Background*

In 2016 the study committee will present its full report. An outline of the report and preliminary conclusions have been provided to Synod 2015 for feedback.

### *C. Recommendation*

That synod advise the executive director to inform the committee of the following:

1. The depth and scope of the report are broad in accordance with the mandate given.
2. The content is grounded in Scripture and Reformed thought, using the overarching biblical theme of *shalom* as the key concept to organize a Reformed response to religious persecution and liberty.
3. The two key concepts that (1) since God saves, human coercion of religion is necessarily futile, and (2) it is the duty and calling of Christians to advocate freedom of religion as fundamental to the sovereignty of God, are compelling.
4. The report has the potential to awaken the North American church—and should be written as such. Stories and illustrations are effective in stirring hearts and triggering action, so the preview would benefit from such.

### *Grounds:*

- a. As the preview report notes, this topic has not been covered by many North American denominations. The church needs a great report.

- b. This report will shape Christian and non-Christian thought on perhaps one of the most important topics of our time; much more than an academic work, this report will need to influence with heart, passion, practicality, and clarity to motivate the church.
- c. The preliminary report by the committee was submitted to elicit synod's feedback. The above provides feedback.

—Adopted

## ARTICLE 64

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 30.)

Advisory Committee 2, Church Order and Synodical Matters, Rev. Henry Steenbergen reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Response to Overture 1: Reinstate the Practice of Appointing Women Advisers to Synod and Review the Formula Adopted by Synod 2014 for Ethnic Advisers**

A. *Materials*: Overture 1, pp. 415-18

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod reinstate the practice of including women advisers to synod in a way that parallels the guidelines established for ethnic advisers to synod (see *Acts of Synod 2014*, pp. 537-38, 576), including that twenty-five women delegates be set as the minimum representation for synod to achieve the goal of gender diversity.

—Adopted

2. That synod note that Synod 2014 adopted guidelines for ethnic advisors as it reinstated the process.

—Received as information

3. That this be synod's response to Overture 1.

—Adopted

### **II. Committee to Provide Pastoral Guidance re Same-sex Marriage**

A. *Materials*: Committee to Provide Pastoral Guidance re Same-sex Marriage Report, pp. 337-42

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. Rolf T. Bouma, chair; and Ms. Julia Smith, reporter

C. *Recommendation*

That synod receive the interim report by the Committee to Provide Pastoral Guidance re Same-sex Marriage as information.

—Received as information

### **III. Response to Communication 1**

A. *Materials*: Communication 1, p. 455

B. *Recommendation*

That synod receive Communication 1 as information.

—Received as information



#### IV. Response to Overture 5: Instruct and Admonish Consistories Concerning Actions of “All One Body”

A. *Materials*: Overture 5, pp. 423-30

B. *Observations*

The committee wrestled intensely and thought deeply about these issues. Profound love was expressed for the church and its members, and mutual respect was shown by all within the committee. The CRCNA has spoken on the issue of homosexuality (Synods 1973, 1994, 1999, 2002, 2011, and 2013), and our churches are called to live in and under that truth as we minister to one another and to those around us. We trust that synod can accept these recommendations in the spirit in which they were intended—that they may promote unity, holiness, and love in this part of the bride of Christ.

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod not accede to Overture 5.

*Grounds:*

- a. Synod cannot instruct a classis or a council to exercise discipline, except upon appeal (one consistory cannot ask another consistory to act as its proxy in matters of discipline, as indicated in decisions of Synod 1988, *Acts of Synod 1988*, p. 613). The discipline of church members is the responsibility of the local council (see Church Order Articles 37, 78-81, 85).
- b. Classis Minnkota did not consult with the two consistories, nor with the members named in the overture (see Communication 3).

—Adopted

2. That synod take note of the struggle of Classes Minnkota and Grand Rapids East, and many other classes and congregations in our denomination, surrounding how best to provide pastoral care to our same-sex oriented members.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 70.)

#### ARTICLE 65

The morning session adjourns at 11:50 a.m. Ms. Mary E. Jellema (Holland) leads in closing prayer, including petitions for Rev. Perline Cooper, ecumenical representative from the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar, who is leaving to be with her mother who is very weak and near death, and for Dr. Arie Jan Plaisier, general secretary of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands, who will also be leaving this afternoon.

**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, June 17, 2015**  
**Eleventh Session**

**ARTICLE 66**

The afternoon session convenes at 2:10 p.m., following the synodical Testimonial Banquet.

Delegates view the video “The Body of Christ.” We are all part of one body in Christ; we can do more for Christ by working together.

**ARTICLE 67**

Rev. Joel R. Boot, executive director emeritus, is provided opportunity to give parting words to synod. Having just completed 43 years of service, he shares with characteristic humor about his *interim* service to the church: “After not being good enough twice, now they ask me to leave since they found someone else.” Rev. Boot reminds delegates that the Lord is still in control and that his everlasting arms are holding us up. He also encourages delegates to continue in service to the Lord, to remember to hold off on your criticism, hold out your hand to help, hold up one another in prayer, and hold on to God’s dream. Dream big, but obey even bigger—God can do everything.

The president of synod responds.

**ARTICLE 68**

Mrs. Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo, director of World Renew-Canada, introduces Mr. Andrew Ryskamp and Mr. Ken Kim, along with the mission of World Renew, its programs, and church partnerships. World Renew recently completed a three-year strategic plan process. Multiple video presentations are shown to highlight the three strategic foci: engage, equip, empower. Mr. Kim shares statistics for the World Renew Disaster Response Team.

Mr. Andrew Ryskamp shares parting words with delegates, highlighting how God has equipped him to serve and work on his mental, spiritual, and emotional growth through serving as codirector of World Renew. Mr. Ryskamp states that when one is willing to be equipped, God will open doors for you. God has given World Renew a tremendous ability to help build community across the globe. It is his prayer that God continue to lead the CRCNA as we continue to serve and work with others.

Elder delegate Mr. Chris Van Spronsen (Thornapple Valley) leads in prayer for Mr. Ryskamp.

**ARTICLE 69**

Mr. Andy Ryskamp introduces Ms. Carol Bremer-Bennett, newly appointed codirector of World Renew-U.S. Ms. Bremer-Bennett shares her story with delegates.

Rev. Stanley Jim, second clerk, leads in prayer for Ms. Bremer-Bennett.

**ARTICLE 70**

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 64.)

Advisory Committee 2, Church Order and Synodical Matters, Rev. Henry Steenbergen reporting, presents the following:

## Response to Overture 5: Instruct and Admonish Consistories Concerning Actions of “All One Body”

A. *Materials*: Overture 5, pp. 423-30

B. *Observations*

The committee wrestled intensely and thought deeply about these issues. Profound love was expressed for the church and its members, and mutual respect was shown by all within the committee. The CRCNA has spoken on the issue of homosexuality (Synods 1973, 1994, 1999, 2002, 2011, and 2013), and our churches are called to live in and under that truth as we minister to one another and to those around us. We trust that synod can accept these recommendations in the spirit in which they were intended—that they may promote unity, holiness, and love in this part of the bride of Christ.

*Note*: Recommendations 1 and 2 of the advisory committee’s report were adopted (see *Acts of Synod 2015*, p. 674). Following a time of deliberation, the following recommendations from the advisory committee’s report were recommitted to the advisory committee:

3. That synod affirm that while we are all sinners, the public advocacy of any sinful behavior is sin, and therefore, without repentance, is worthy of discipline in the church.

*Grounds*:

- a. The Heidelberg Catechism teaches that “those who, though called Christians, profess unchristian teachings . . . and who . . . fail to respond also to the church’s admonitions—such persons the church excludes from the Christian community by withholding the sacraments from them” (Q&A 85).
- b. Contrary to how the world discerns and applies truth, we have a prescribed method for altering the positions of the church, which all our members are called to use if they differ with current teaching.

—Recommitted

4. That synod affirm the need for compassion and ongoing discussion regarding pastoral care for all those who struggle with their sexuality and sexual temptation.

*Grounds*:

- a. Unity and holiness come by ever-increasing conformity to God’s grace and truth, which are revealed in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- b. Sexuality is a good gift from God, yet is broken by sin and therefore a struggle which every Christian must deal with. This issue is not confined to one group or gathering, but must be confronted by every member of the church. We are all called to sexual purity in whatever context God has placed us, and we are all called to help one another grow in grace and obedience as the church together.
- c. Our church has already acknowledged this need by appointing a study committee, and we look forward to the report from the committee to provide pastoral guidance re same-sex marriage to advance this conversation.

—Recommitted

5. That this be synod's response to Overture 5 and Communication 3.

—*Recommitted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 79.)

## ARTICLE 71

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued from Article 45.)

Advisory Committee 5, Congregational Support Ministry II, Rev. Daniel B. Mouw reporting, presents the following:

### **Composition of Search Committee for the *Banner* Editor**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (section II, A, 3, including Appendices C-F), pp. 24, 46-54
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (section I, G, including Appendix A)

*B. Privilege of the floor:* Rev. R. Scott Greenway, vice president of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

#### *C. Background*

The Rules for Synodical Procedure refer (in section VI, D, 1) to the appointment process for study committees and can be considered guidelines for appointment to search committees:

"The reporter of the advisory committee shall present the nominations on the floor of synod. If additional time is necessary to complete the appointment of a study committee, a two-week extension will be granted and responsibility to do so will be entrusted to the officers of synod, the chair and reporter of the advisory committee, and one additional person chosen by the advisory committee from among its members."

The recommendation adopted by synod earlier in the week regarding the *Banner* Editor Search Committee Mandate, Composition, and Process (see *Agenda for Synod 2015*, p. 48, and *Acts of Synod 2015*, p. 641) suggests the following composition for the *Banner* editor search committee:

- Two at-large members
- One member of *The Banner* staff
- One member of *The Banner* Advisory Committee
- One member of the Board of Trustees
- Either the Canadian ministries director or the director of ministries and administration
- Director of synodical services

#### *D. Recommendation*

That synod instruct the officers and three members of the advisory committee (including its chair and reporter) to appoint from the following pool of nominees, ensuring that the committee reflects synod's instruction to achieve diversity goals, that at least one young adult be included, and that U.S./Canadian balance be achieved.

*Note:* We anticipate that in order to meet the diversity/age/nationality goals, as many as four at-large members may be required (thereby also allowing inclusion of a senior/retired person and at least one active CRC pastor).

At-large

Mike Abma  
Ashley Bootsma  
Laura Pritchard  
Ron Chu  
Josiah Chung  
Tamara Haveman  
Thea Leunk  
Keith Mannes  
Jack Roeda  
Quentin Schultz  
Bert Slofstra  
Tim Soerens  
Steve Vos  
Rick Williams  
Frank Zee

Banner staff

Judy Hardy  
Gayla Postma

Banner Advisory Council

Deb Flaherty  
Stan Mast

Board of Trustees

One member

Senior Leadership Team

Either the Canadian ministries director or the director of ministries and administration

Director of synodical services

Dee Recker

—*Adopted*

ARTICLE 72

The afternoon session adjourns at 4:55 p.m. Rev. Stephen F. Terpstra (Zeeland) leads in closing prayer.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING, June 17, 2015**

**Twelfth Session**

ARTICLE 73

The evening session convenes at 7:01 p.m. Rev. Heather Strooboscher (Thornapple Valley) leads in opening prayer.

ARTICLE 74

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 54.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services, Rev. Rita Klein-Geltink reporting, presents the following:

**I. Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture**

*A. Materials*

1. Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture Report (including appendices A-C), pp. 351-79
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (section I, D)
3. Back to God Ministries International Supplement
4. Christian Reformed Home Missions Supplement
5. Christian Reformed World Missions Supplement

*B. Privilege of the floor*

1. For the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture: Rev. Joel R. Boot, chair; Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, reporter; and any other member of the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture present
2. For the Board of Trustees: Rev. R. Scott Greenway, vice president of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed
3. For Back to God Ministries International: Rev. Kurt Selles, director of Back to God Ministries International; and Rev. Reginald Smith, board president
4. For Christian Reformed Home Missions: Rev. Moses Chung, director of Christian Reformed Home Missions, and Rev. Harvey J. Roosma, board president
5. For Christian Reformed World Missions: Rev. Ronald Meyer, president of CRWM-USA; Ms. Andrea Bootsma, president of CRWM-Canada; and Dr. Gary J. Bekker, director of Christian Reformed World Missions

*C. Recommendations*

1. That synod approve the formation of a Council of Delegates (with an Executive Committee, Ministry Collaboration Committees, Agency Committees, and Policy Committees) to take the place of the current Board of Trustees of the CRCNA and the boards of Christian Reformed Home Missions, Christian Reformed World Missions, and Back to God Ministries International.

*—Adopted*
2. That synod direct the current Board of Trustees to form a Transition Committee, under the leadership of the executive director, with agency and ministry representation, to facilitate the transition from the Board of Trustees to the Council of Delegates by Synod 2018 or sooner, including
  - presentation of annual reports to synod on the steps and timeline for implementation.
  - review of and possible recommendations for changes to the Church Order, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA, and the various organizational bylaws (for the United States and Canada) relating to Christian Reformed World Missions, Christian Reformed Home Missions, and Back to God Ministries International.
  - address of other key issues that may arise in the implementation of transition, including the proposed size of the Council of Delegates, the binational character of the CRCNA, and the impact on agencies.

*Grounds:*

- a. This allows for the Transition Committee to exercise some latitude in discerning the composition of and in refining the structure of the Council of Delegates.
- b. This addresses concerns raised by various mission agencies, classes, and congregations (regarding size of the council and binational character).

c. This is consistent with the feedback from Synod 2014 regarding the three “ways in which we might move forward together in a new era of ministry” (*Agenda for Synod 2014*, pp. 356, 361-63; see *Acts of Synod 2014*, p. 563; *Agenda for Synod 2015*, pp. 356-57).

—Adopted

3. That synod, having adopted the proposal for unification of Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions, instruct the executive director to (a) follow the implementation plans approved for the unification project, while keeping Back to God Ministries International and World Renew well informed along the way and (b) report to synod as part of the annual report on structural transition.

—Adopted

4. That synod endorse the Five Streams functions as ministry priorities to strategically focus and adaptively organize the work of the Christian Reformed Church in North America while respecting and building on our previous mission efforts, history, and legacy of relationships and member support.

—Adopted

5. That synod instruct the executive director to provide an annual update to synod’s authorized governing board, including recommendations, on how the Five Streams are being used and developed.

—Adopted

6. That synod instruct the executive director to appoint and resource a working group (Classis Renewal Group) to build on the work of the existing Classis Renewal Ministry Team, including an examination of the nature, scope, and purpose of classes, with the objective of boldly exploring and innovatively addressing revisions to structures and to the Church Order that will enable classes to flourish.

—Adopted

7. That synod instruct the executive director to present an interim report on the Classis Renewal Group to synod’s authorized governing board in May 2016 and a final report to the same group in 2017.

—Adopted

8. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to bring to Synod 2016 a proposed mandate, parameters of composition, and a timeline for a task force to review the practices and functions of synod.

—Adopted

9. That synod dismiss the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture, with gratitude to the members of the task force for their work.

—Adopted

10. That synod take note of the BOT’s response to the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture report as found in section I, D of its supplemental report.

—Received as information

## **II. Response to Overture 15: Postpone Adoption of Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture Recommendations**

### **A. Materials:** Overture 15

### **B. Recommendations**

1. That recommendation I, C, 2 above (revised) of the TFRSC report be synod's response to Overture 15, sections A and B.

—Adopted

2. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to clarify the role of *synodical task forces* and come back with suggested amendments to the Rules for Synodical Procedure for the Christian Reformed Church.

—Adopted

3. That this be synod's response to Overture 15, section C.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. The Rules for Synodical Procedure for the Christian Reformed Church do not include mandates for synodical *task forces*.
- b. It would be beneficial for task forces to issue final reports in the same time frame normally assigned to study committees.

—Adopted

## **III. Response to Overture 16: Table the Recommendations of the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture Until 2016**

### **A. Materials:** Overture 16

### **B. Recommendation**

That synod not accede to Overture 16.

—Adopted

## **ARTICLE 75**

The evening session adjourns at 8:53 p.m. Rev. Hyung Ju Park (Hanmi) leads in closing prayer.

## **THURSDAY MORNING, June 18, 2015**

### **Thirteenth Session**

## **ARTICLE 76**

The morning session convenes at 8:15 a.m.

Delegates sing "Kyrie Eleison/Lord, Have Mercy," spend a few moments in silent prayer, and then sing this song again. Rev. Stedford E. Sims (Grand Rapids East) leads in prayer with regard to the tragic killings at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

Roll call indicates that Mr. Jean J. Lauziere (Eastern Canada), Mr. Robert Brenton (Lake Superior), and Rev. John L. Hoekwater (Northern Illinois) are absent with notice.



ARTICLE 77

The officers present the following resolution for adoption:

By this resolution, Synod 2015 of the CRCNA declares its abhorrence regarding the tragic killings in the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, on June 17, 2015; its solidarity with the families, the church, and others affected by this event; and its hope that even in this tragedy the power of the gospel of grace in Jesus Christ can be displayed.

—Adopted

Rev. Bruce A. Persenaire, president, leads delegates in prayer for our Haitian brothers and sisters who are being deported from the Dominican Republic.

ARTICLE 78

I. Officers, functionaries, and convening church for Synod 2016

A. Officers

- 1. Executive director: Dr. Steven R. Timmermans
- 2. Canadian ministries director: Rev. Dr. Darren C. Roorda
- 3. Director of ministries and administration: Mr. Colin P. Watson, Sr.
- 4. Director of finance and operations: Mr. John H. Bolt
- 5. Director of synodical services: Ms. Diane S. Recker

B. Functionaries

Arrangements for Synod 2016: Mr. Rick Zomer, Calvin College director of event services.

C. Convening church

Convening church for Synod 2016: North Hills CRC, Troy, Michigan.

II. Synodical deputies

Classis	Deputy	Alternate	Term Expires
Alberta North	Dr. Thomas J. Oosterhuis	Rev. Kornelis (Neil) De Koning	2018(1)
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Rev. J. Cameron Fraser	Rev. H. Charles Kooger	2016(2)
Arizona	Rev. Merle Den Bleyker	Rev. Robert Walter, Jr.	2017(1)
Atlantic Northeast	Rev. Christopher A. Fluit	Rev. Brent A. Pennings	2018(2)
B.C. North-West	Rev. David Cheung	Rev. Henry Jonker	2018(2)
B.C. South-East	Rev. Bert Slofstra	Rev. Andrew G. Vander Leek	2016(2)
California South	Rev. William Verhoef	Mr. Steve Wunderink	2016(2)
Central California	Rev. Mark E. Hofman	Rev. Kenneth D. Boonstra	2018(1)
Central Plains	Rev. Sheldon Starkenburg	Rev. Bradley A. Meinders	2018(1)
Chatham	Rev. Jacob Kerkhof	Rev. Richard T. Vander Vaart	2017(2)
Chicago South	Rev. Gerald R. Erffmeyer	Rev. Michael J. Kooy	2017(1)
Columbia	Rev. Jelmer P. Groenwold	Rev. Louis P. Korf	2017(2)
Eastern Canada	Rev. Daniel Meinema	Rev. Jacob M. Van de Hoef	2018(1)
Georgetown	Rev. Matthew A. Palsrok	Rev. Mark D. Bennink	2016(1)
Grand Rapids East	Rev. Philip V. De Jonge	Dr. Peter Borgdorff	2018(1)
Grand Rapids North	Rev. Sidney Draayer	Rev. Henry Admiraal	2016(1)
Grand Rapids South	Dr. Raymond A. Blacketer	Rev. Robert L. Boersma	2016(1)
Grandville	Rev. Douglas R. Fauble	Rev. Hank F. Vlaardingerbroek	2016(1)
Greater Los Angeles	Rev. Erick D. Westra	Rev. Paul A. Hansen	2018(2)

Hackensack	Rev. Paul J. Van Dyken	Rev. Douglas H. Bratt	2018(1)
Hamilton	Rev. Ralph Koops	Rev. Henry P. Kransenburg	2016(2)
Hanmi	Rev. Roger Y. Ryu	Rev. Tong Kun Park	2017(1)
Heartland	Rev. Todd M. Zuidema	Rev. David L. Heilman	2018(2)
Holland	Rev. Stanley Scripps	Rev. Christopher J. De Vos	2017(1)
Hudson	Rev. Rod D. Gorter	Rev. Norman F. Brown	2016(1)
Huron	Rev. Ronald G. Fisher	Rev. Ray Vander Kooij	2016(2)
Iakota	Rev. Daniel W. De Groot	Rev. Clifford Hoekstra	2018(1)
Illiana	Rev. Calvin J. Aardsma	Rev. Bernard F. Tol	2016(1)
Kalamazoo	Rev. Gregory P. Timmer	Rev. Timothy L. Raakman	2017(1)
Ko-Am	Rev. Peter N. Ryu	Rev. Taekuk Ko	2017(1)
Lake Erie	Rev. David L. Spoelma	Rev. Randall D. Engle	2017(1)
Lake Superior	Rev. Jack Van Marion	Rev. Henry G. Gunnink	2018(2)
Minnkota	Rev. Timothy J. Brown	Rev. Timothy J. Ouwinga	2016(2)
Muskegon	Rev. John Rop, Jr.	Rev. Gerald D. Postema	2016(1)
Niagara	Rev. James C. Dekker	Rev. Benjamin J. Ponsen	2017(1)
Northcentral Iowa	Rev. Thomas J. Niehof	Rev. Frank E. Pott	2016(2)
Northern Illinois	Rev. John R. Huizinga	Rev. Gregory D. Schuringa	2017(1)
Northern Michigan	Rev. Chris A. Kostelansky	Rev. Alex D. Snider	2018(1)
Pacific Northwest	Rev. Richard J. DeRuiter	Rev. Kenneth D. Koeman	2016(1)
Quinte	Rev. Jake Kuipers	Rev. B. Bernard Bakker	2016(2)
Red Mesa	Rev. John J. Greydanus	Rev. John W. Dykhuis	2018(2)
Rocky Mountain	Rev. Robert L. Westenbroek	Rev. Thomas D. Draayer	2016(1)
Southeast U.S.	Rev. Scott A. Vander Ploeg	Rev. Vernon G. Vander Zee	2016(1)
Thornapple Valley	Rev. Merlin N. Buwalda	Rev. Gerard Bouma	2016(2)
Toronto	Rev. Herman D. Praamsma	Rev. Hendrik P. Bruinsma	2016(1)
Wisconsin	Rev. Michael Winnowski	Rev. Daniel J. Roeda	2017(2)
Yellowstone	Rev. Jack Huttinga	Rev. Jerry L. Blom	2016(2)
Zeeland	Rev. Timothy Howerzyl	Rev. Stephen F. Terpstra	2017(1)

### III. Denominational boards

*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, and Christian Reformed World Missions) 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 California South, Central California, Greater Los Angeles, Hanmi, and Ko-Am

*Region 7*—Classes Arizona, Red Mesa, and Rocky Mountain

*Region 8*—Classes Central Plains, Heartland, Iakota, Lake Superior (U.S. congregations), Minnkota, and Northcentral Iowa

*Region 9*—Classes Chicago South, Illiana, Northern Illinois, and Wisconsin

*Region 10*—Classes Georgetown, Holland, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Northern Michigan, and Zeeland

*Region 11*—Classes 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	Mr. Michael Wevers	2017(2)
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Mr. Peter DeBoer	2018(1)
B.C. North-West	Mr. Andy deRuyter	2018(1)
B.C. South-East	Ms. Gavrielle (Gavy) Tran	2017(2)
Chatham	Rev. Norman J. Visser	2017(1)
Eastern Canada	Mrs. Katherine M. Vandergrift	2016(2)
Hamilton	Mr. Garry Sytsma	2016(1)
Huron	Rev. Darrell Bierman	2018(1)
Lake Superior	Rev. Donald Draayer	2017(1)
Niagara	Vacant	
Quinte	Rev. Shawn R. Brix	2017(1)
Toronto	Mr. Peter Noteboom	2016(2)
At-large	Mrs. Verney Kho	2016(1)
	Mr. Ralph Luimes	2018(1)
	Rev. William C. Veenstra	2016(2)
<i>U.S. members</i>		
Region 5	Rev. Peter J. DeVries	2016(2)
Region 6	Mr. Kyu Paek	2017(2)
Region 7	Mr. David De Ridder	2016(1)
Region 8	Rev. Calvin Hoogendoorn	2016(1)
	Dr. Socorro Woodbury	2017(1)
Region 9	Ms. Elizabeth Rudenga	2017(1)
Region 10	Rev. Kenneth Baker	2018(2)
	Ms. Angela Taylor Perry	2016(2)
Region 11	Dr. R. Scott Greenway	2016(2)
	Rev. Emmett A. Harrison	2018(1)
	Mr. Chris Van Spronsen	2017(2)
Region 12	Mr. Jose Tagle	2017(1)
At-large	Mr. Randy L. Freeland	2018(1)
	Ms. Susan B. Hoekema	2018(1)
	Rev. Christian Y. Oh	2016(2)
Ex officio	Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director	

*B. Back to God Ministries International Board*

Region	Member	Term Expires
Region 1	Mr. John Vegt	2017(2)
Region 2	Mrs. Evelyn Bakker	2017(1)
Region 3	Dr. Raymond Postuma	2018(1)
Region 4	Rev. Gregory A. Fluit	2016(1)
Region 5	Rev. Gregory Selmon	2017(1)
Region 6	Mrs. Alison Libolt Renkema	2016(1)
Region 7	Mrs. Xiuyn (Sherry) Shen	2017(1)
Region 8	Mr. Leland Vanderaa	2016(1)
Region 9	Rev. Dr. Calvin J. Aardsma	2016(2)
Region 10	Mr. Wayne Brower	2018(2)
	Ms. Cynthia (Cindi) Veenstra	2017(2)
Region 11	Mr. Edwin de Jong	2018(2)
	Rev. Dr. Reginald Smith	2017(2)
Region 12	Rev. Joel Vande Werken	2018(2)
At-large	Mr. Mark Van Beveren	2016(1)
	Mr. Mark Volkers	2017(1)

### *C. Calvin College Board of Trustees*

Region	Member	Term Expires
Regions 1 and 2	Ms. Margaret Verboon (Pan Zhang)	2017(2)
Region 3	Ms. Marsha Vander gaast	2018(1)
Region 4	Dr. Wytse van Dijk	2016(2)
Region 5	Mr. Thomas J. Wybenga	2018(1)
Region 6	Mr. Fernando del Rosario	2018(2)
Region 7	Mr. Michael K. DenBleyker	2016(1)
Region 8	Ms. Andrea (Harms) Van Kooten	2016(2)
Region 9	Rev. Pedro Aviles	2017(1)
Region 10	Mr. R. Scott Boot	2015(1)
Region 11	Mr. Ray Vander Kooi	2017(1)
Region 12	Dr. David Cok	2017(1)
Regional at-large		
Region 9	Ms. Janice Buikema	2018(1)
Region 10	Mr. Christopher (CJ) Grier	2018(1)
	Rev. Michael D. Koetje	2016(2)
Region 11	Ms. Pearl Banks	2018(1)
	Mr. Thomas A. Geelhoed	2018(2)
Alumni	Ms. Mary Bonnema	2016(1)
	Mr. Jeff DeNooyer	2018(1)
	Ms. Paula Wigboldy	2017(2)
At-large	Mr. William J. Boer	2017(1)
	Dr. Philip J. Brondsema	2017(2)
	Mr. Bradley Haverkamp	2018(3)
	Mr. Allen E. Hoekstra	2018(2)
	Ms. Wendy Granger Hofman	2018(2)
	Ms. Marjorie Hage Hoogeboom	2018(2)
	Mr. Craig H. Lubben	2017(2)
	Ms. Christine A. Metzger	2017(3)
	Mr. Thomas J. Nobel, Jr.	2017(3)
	Mr. David Schutt	2016(1)
	Dr. Steven J. Triesenberg	2018(1)
	Dr. Jack Veltkamp	2017(3)

### *D. Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees*

Region	Member	Term Expires
Region 1	Rev. Andrew Vander Leek	2016(2)
Region 2	Rev. Victor Y. Ko	2017(2)
Region 3	Ms. Wendy Gritter	2016(2)
Region 4	Rev. M. Jeffery Klingenberg	2017(2)
	Mr. Keith Oosthoek	2018(1)
Region 5	Pastor Sergio Castillo	2018(1)
Region 6	Rev. Scott Elgersma	2018(1)
Region 7	Rev. John Dykhuis	2018(2)
Region 8	Rev. Timothy Ouwinga	2018(2)
Region 9	Rev. William R. Sytsma	2017(2)
Region 10	Rev. Timothy Howerzyl	2018(1)
Region 11	Rev. Curtis A. Walters	2017(1)
Region 12	Dr. Donald G. Belanus	2016(2)
Regional at-large		
Region 8	Dr. Karen De Mol	2018(2)
Region 10	Mr. Myles Kuperus	2017(2)
Region 11	Mrs. Teresa Renkema	2018(2)
At-large	Mr. Sidney Jansma, Jr.	2016(2)
	Ms. Susan Keesen	2016(3)
	Dr. Yudha Thianto	2016(1)

### *E. Christian Reformed Unified Missions Board*

Region	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
Region 1	Ms. Jenny Siebring-deGroot		2018(2)
	Rev. Ronald A. Vanden Brink	Ms. Jean Dykshoorn Hooge	2018(1)
Region 2	Rev. Bruce Gritter	Ms. Henrietta Hielema	2018(2)
	Ms. Cora Rempel		2016(1)
Region 3	Rev. Jacob Boer		2016(2)
	Ms. Jennifer Young		2017(1)
Region 4	Rev. A. Carel Geleynse		2017(1)
	Mr. Gerald Klein-Geltink	Ms. Beth Fellingner	2018(2)
Region 5	Rev. Bomsu Kim		2018(2)
	Pastor Gerry Muller		2018(2)
Region 6	Rev. Daniel Brink	Rev. Doug Bouws	2016(2)
	Rev. Elmer Tandayu		2016(1)
Region 7	Rev. John Eigege		2016(1)
	Rev. B. Joy Engelsman		2018(2)
Region 8	Mr. Dennis Kroll		2018(1)
	Mr. Kevin Schutte	Rev. Kory L. Plockmeyer	2017(1)
Region 9	Mr. Bruce McMurtry		2018(2)
	Ms. Lois Ooms		2016(2)
Region 10	Rev. Jeffrey Hough	Rev. James Halstead	2017(1)
	Rev. Ronald J. Meyer		2018(2)
Region 11	Mr. Timothy Bosscher		2017(1)
	Rev. Dirk VanEyck	Rev. Nicholas D. Hopkins	2017(1)
Region 12	Dr. Peter Steensma	Ms. Ruth Kuder	2016(1)
	Rev. Stanley J. Workman		2017(1)
At-large	Ms. Sara De Moor		2016(1)
	Ms. Jenna Huitink		2016(1)
	Mr. John Hwang		2016(1)
	Mr. Allan Kramer		2016(2)
	Mr. Ricardo Tavaréz		2016(1)
	Mr. Adam Veenstra		2018(2)
Canada at-large	Ms. Andrea Bootsma		2016(2)
	Rev. Thomas Oosterhuis		2016(2)
U.S. at-large	Rev. Eduardo A. Gonzalez		2017(2)
	Rev. Joseph Kamphuis		2016(2)
	Rev. Harvey J. Roosma		2016(2)
	Dr. William (Bill) Svelmoe		2016(2)
	Ms. Lisa Thomson		2016(1)

### *F. World Renew Board*

Region	Member	Term Expires
Alberta North	Mr. Ray Prins*	2017(1)
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Ms. George Lubberts	2018(1)
Arizona	Mr. Dennis Preston	2018(2)
Atlantic Northeast	Ms. Hyacinth Douglas-Bailey*	2016(1)
B.C. North-West	Vacant	
B.C. South-East	Mr. Rob Aukema	2017(1)
California South	Ms. Trena Boonstra	2018(1)
Central California	Rev. Daniel J. Hutt	2017(2)
Central Plains	Ms. Marilyn Harms	2018(2)
Chatham	Mr. John DeGroot*	2018(2)
Chicago South	Rev. Roger Nelson	2017(2)
Columbia	Ms. Joy Anema*	2018(2)
Eastern Canada	Mr. Richard Smit	2018(1)
Georgetown	Ms. Jodi Cole Meyer*	2017(2)
Grand Rapids East	Ms. Gail Hanson	2016(1)
Grand Rapids North	Mr. Barry Haven	2018(1)

Grand Rapids North	Mr. Barry Haven	2018(1)
Grand Rapids South	Vacant	
Grandville	Mr. Steve Westra*	2016(2)
Greater Los Angeles	Vacant	
Hackensack	Rev. John Algera	2016(2)
Hanmi	Vacant	
Hamilton	Ed Scharringa	2017(1)
Heartland	Dr. Harlan VanderGriend	2017(2)
Holland	Ms. Rachel Brink	2017(1)
Hudson	Mr. Roy Heerema	2016(1)
Huron	Ms. Eve Mazereeuw	2017(1)
Iakota	Rev. Carl H. Bruxvoort	2017(2)
Illiana	Mr. James L. Groen	2017(2)
Kalamazoo	Ms. Cheri Dykstra	2016(1)
Ko-Am	Vacant	
Lake Erie	Ms. Mary Rupke	2016(1)
Lake Superior (Canada)	Mr. Don Miedema	2016(1)
Lake Superior (U.S.)	Ms. Linda Markus	2018(1)
Minnkota	Mr. Richard Vander Ziel	2018(1)
Muskegon	Mr. Cornelius Van Tol	2016(2)
Niagara	Mr. Lawrence DeGraaf	2017(1)
Northcentral Iowa	Mr. William Janssen	2016(2)
Northern Illinois	Ms. Beth Rinsema	2018(1)
Northern Michigan	Mr. Dennis Anderson	2017(2)
Pacific Northwest	Ms. Kendra Bengelink	2016(1)
Quinte	Mr. Hans Vink	2016(1)
Red Mesa	Mr. Caleb Dickson	2017(2)
Rocky Mountain	Ms. Shirley Van Heukelem	2018(1)
Southeast U.S.	Ms. Erika Izquierdo*	2016(1)
Thornapple Valley	Mr. Nathan Terbeek	2016(1)
Toronto	Ms. Suzanne Christie	2018(2)
Wisconsin	Vacant	
Yellowstone	Mr. Howard Walhof	2017(1)
Zeeland	Mr. Donald Kloosterhouse	2017(2)
Pastoral adviser (U.S.)	Rev. Thea Leunk*	2016(2)
Pastoral adviser (Can.)	Rev. Rita S. Klein-Geltink*	2018(2)
At-large Canada	Mr. Jason De Boer*	2018(1)
	Mr. John DeWilde*	2016(2)
	Mr. Thomas Gnanayudam	2018(1)
	Mr. Al Hummel	2018(2)
	Mr. James Joosse*	2017(2)
	Ms. Marguerite Ridder*	2016(1)
At-large U.S.	Ms. Rebecca Warren*	2017(1)
	Mr. Lyman Howell*	2018(2)
	Ms. Sarah B. Rinsema-Sybenga	2016(1)
	Ms. Mary VanBuren	2016(1)
Young Adult at-large U.S.	Rev. Andrew Woja Henry	2018(2)
	(Calvin College)	Vacant
	(Dordt College)	Mr. Tyler Couperus
	(Trinity Christian College)	Vacant
Young Adult at-large: Canada		
	(Redeemer University College)	Vacant

\* Also a member of the Board of Directors

Joint Ministry Council = 7 members from U.S. Board, 8 members from Canada Board

#### IV. Service committees

##### A. Candidacy Committee

Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma (2016/2), Dr. LaVerne Jordan (2016/1), Rev. Ken Koeman (2016/2), Rev. Fernando Valencia (2016/1), Dr. Amanda Benckhuysen (2017/2), Rev. Chang Guk (Joseph) Byun (2017/1), Mr. James Jones (2018/1), Rev. Joel Kok (2018/2), Rev. Susan LaClear (2018/1), Rev. David R. Koll (staff), Dr. Steven R. Timmermans (*ex officio* as ED), Rev. Julius T. Medenblik (*ex officio* as Calvin Theological Seminary representative).

##### B. Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. Committee

Ms. Chery De Boer (2016/1), Mr. Kenneth J. Stienstra (2016/1), Ms. Andrea P. Kaarsten (2017/2), Mr. Thomas J. Sinke (2017/2), Mr. James Brewer (2018/1), Mr. Scott K. Ritsema (2018/2), Mr. David E. Veen (*ex officio* member).

##### C. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee

Rev. Emmett Harrison (2016/1), Mr. Anthony Elenbaas (2016/1), Ms. Debra Vasquez (2016/2), Rev. Jay Shim (2017/2), Rev. Andrew E. Beunk (2017/1), Ms. Sharon Jim (2017/1), Rev. Karen Norris (2018/2), Dr. James Payton (2018/2), Rev. Kathleen Smith (2018/1), Rev. John Tenyenhuis (2018/1), Dr. Steven R. Timmermans (*ex officio* member), Dr. Darren C. Roorda (*ex officio* member).

##### D. Historical Committee

Rev. Paul Bremer (2016/1), Dr. Kristin Kobes DuMez (2016/1), Dr. Lyle Bierma (2017/2), Dr. Robert Schoone-Jongen (2018/2), Dr. Richard Harms, secretary (*ex officio*).

##### E. Judicial Code Committee

Mr. Charles C. Adams (2016/2), Ms. Rita Buitendorp (2016/1), Mr. Ron Nightingale (2016/1), Dr. John Van Schepen (2016/2), Mr. Joel D. Vos (2016/1), Ms. Laura B. Bakker (2017/2), Rev. Henry P. Kranenburg (2017/1), Mr. Orlan Gulker (2018/1), Rev. Aldon L. Kuiper (2018/1), Mr. Calvin Rozenboom (2018/1), Ms. Roberta Vriesema (2018/1), Rev. Henry Wildeboer (2018/1).

##### F. Ministers' Pension Funds committees

###### Canadian Pension Trustees

Mr. Keith Oosthoek (2016/2), Ms. Cynthia Stutski (2016/1), Mr. Henry Eygenraam (2018/2), Ms. MaryAnn Kokan-Nyhof (2018/2), Rev. Kevin te Brake (2018/3).

###### U.S. Board of Pensions

Rev. Joel Sheeres (2016/1), Mr. Howard Van Mersbergen (2016/2), Mr. Thomas Dykhouse (2018/2), Mr. Jack Byeman (2018/3), Mr. Kurt Knoll (2018/3).

#### V. Synodical study committees and task forces

##### A. Committee to Study Religious Persecution and Liberty (scheduled to report in 2016)

Prof. Jane Bruin, Dr. Kevin den Dulk, Dr. Rob Joustra, Rev. Jonathan Kim, Ms. Cele Mereness, Dr. James Payton, Jr., Mr. Stephen Snow, Rev. Naji Umran, Rev. Ken Van De Griend, Ms. Ruth Veltkamp.

B. *Committee to Provide Pastoral Guidance re Same-sex Marriage* (scheduled to report in 2016)

Mr. Dan Borst, Rev. Rolf Bouma, Ms. Jessica Driesenga, Ms. Wendy Gritter, Dr. John M. Rottman, Ms. Julia Smith, Mr. Ryan Struyk, Dr. Karl J. Van Harn, Rev. David A. Vroege.

C. *Doctrine of Discovery Task Force* (scheduled to report in 2016)

Ms. Carissa Bakker-Johnson, Mr. Mark Charles, Mr. Mike Hogeterp (chair), Mr. Steve Kabetu, Mr. Harold Roscher, Ms. Susie Silversmith, Mr. Peter Vander Meulen.

## VI. Recommendation

That synod approve the list of boards and committees.

—Adopted

### ARTICLE 79

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 70.)

Advisory Committee 2, Church Order and Synodical Matters, Rev. Henry Steenberg reporting, presents the following:

#### **Response to Overture 5: Instruct and Admonish Consistories Concerning Actions of “All One Body”**

*Materials:* Overture 5, pp. 423-30

Advisory Committee 2 reports that it has decided to withdraw the recommendations from its original report that were recommitted during the Wednesday afternoon session (see *Acts of Synod 2015*, pp. 676-77).

Rev. Timothy P. Hoekstra (Chicago South) offers prayer.

### ARTICLE 80

Young adult representatives Ms. Ashley G. Bootsma, Mr. Adam Heynen, Ms. Yuri Lee, Mr. Aren T. Plante, Mr. Corey Van Dyk, Mr. Justin Ver Woerd, and Mr. Derick M. Xayasane share their highlights of synod with appreciation for the opportunity of listening and learning.

The president of synod responds.

Deacon advisers Ms. Trena Boonstra, Ms. Tamara N. Haveman, Ms. Cora Hoekstra, and Mr. Herm Kloosterman share their highlights of synod—they have gained a new appreciation as they go about their work as deacons.

The president responds.

Ethnic advisers Mr. Caleb N. Dickson, Pastor Lee Khang, Mr. John S. Lendein, Rev. Carlinda Peoples, and Ms. Janella D. Smiley share highlights of their week at synod. They express appreciation of the worship, discussions, and learning—an experience of a lifetime for which they give thanks.

The president responds.



## ARTICLE 81

Rev. Robert De Moor is provided with the opportunity to express final words with delegates to synod as he concludes service as editor of *The Banner*. He reflects on “Catching Up with the Holy Spirit in Cyberspace.”

The president responds.

## ARTICLE 82

The president of synod, Rev. Bruce A. Persenaire, expresses thanks to fellow officers Rev. William Veenstra (*in absentia*), Rev. Bonny Mulder-Behnia, and Rev. Stanley Jim. He thanks the Dordt College staff for the arrangements: President Erik and Ms. Barb Hoekstra, Ms. Sharla Gradert, Mr. Ralph Goemaat, Ms. Mindi Sneller, Ms. Cindy Groeneweg . . . and so many others! He also thanks the prayer coordinator, Ms. Rachel Raih.

The president of synod expresses gratitude to the synod office staff: Ms. Theona Cooke, Ms. Kim De Vries, Ms. Karen Kusters, Ms. Maegan Pulley, Ms. Maribeth Stech, Ms. Rebekah VandenAkker, Ms. Dorothy Vandersteen, and Ms. Dorothy Wallinga. He expresses thanks to the IT staff: Mr. Jim Boldenow, Ms. Kathy Boldenow, Ms. Shirley De Vries, Mr. Austin Rivet, Mr. Lee Schiebel, and Mr. Ben Stephenson; the news office staff: Mr. Henry Hess and Mr. Tim Postuma; and the *Banner* staff: Rev. Bob De Moor, Ms. Julie Jansen, Dr. Clayton Libolt, Ms. Karen Huttenga, Ms. Gayla Postma, Ms. Roxanne Van Farowe, and Rev. George Vink.

The president expresses appreciation for the following:

Worship Planning Committee—Mr. Darrell L. Delaney, Ms. Tamara N. Haveman, Rev. David A. Vroege, with wonderful assistance by Joyce Borger and Diane Dykgraaf (Worship Ministries)  
Minutes Review Committee—Mr. Donald Dykstra and Rev. Henry P. Kranenburg  
Sergeant at Arms—Mr. Caleb N. Dickson  
Hospitality Committee (for ecumenical guests)—Dr. Peter Borgdorff, Mr. Eric Forseth, Mr. Wayne Kobes, Dr. Jay Shim  
Testimonial Banquet Committee—Rev. Richard A. Bodini, Ms. Jolene M. De Heer, Pastor Rodney J. Hugen, Mr. Michael K. Jackson

In addition, the president expresses appreciation for the following:

Faculty advisers—Dr. Lyle D. Bierma, Dr. Ronald J. Feenstra, Dr. John M. Rottman, Dr. David M. Rylaarsdam, and Rev. Kathleen S. Smith  
Ethnic advisers—Mr. Caleb N. Dickson, Pastor Lee Khang, Mr. John S. Lendein, Rev. Carlinda Peoples, and Ms. Janelia D. Smiley  
Young adult representatives—Ms. Ashley G. Bootsma, Mr. Adam Heynen, Ms. Youri Lee, Mr. Aren T. Plante, Mr. Corey Van Dyk, Mr. Justin Ver Woerd, Mr. Derick M. Xayasane  
Deacon advisers—Ms. Trena Boonstra, Ms. Tamara N. Haveman, Ms. Cora Hoekstra, Mr. Herm Kloosterman, Mr. Matthew J. Vande Burgt  
Ecumenical visitors—Rev. Perline Cooper from the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar, Dr. Arie Jan Plaisier from the Protestant Church in the Netherlands, Rev. Lisa Vander Wal from the Reformed Church in America, and Dr. Nelus Niemandt from the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa

Presidents of Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary—  
Dr. Michael Le Roy and Rev. Jul Medenblik  
Staff consultants—Mr. John Bolt, Dr. Peter Borgdorff, Rev. David Koll,  
Dr. Darren Roorda, and Mr. Colin Watson, Sr.

The president expresses special thanks to the director of synodical services, Ms. Dee Recker, for the coordination and planning of synod, and he expresses the gratitude of synodical delegates and attendees, as well as of the denomination, to the executive director, Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, for his leadership.

The first clerk expresses appreciation and thanks on behalf of synod to the president, Rev. Bruce A. Persenaire, for his leadership as president on behalf of Synod 2015.

The executive director expresses the gratitude of synod to the three officers present and presents them with gifts.

#### ARTICLE 83

Synod 2015 concludes its business and spends time in closing worship. Delegates sing “Your Will Be Done on Earth, O Lord” and “Come, All You People,” as a call to worship, and “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.”

Ms. Heather Strooboscher leads in prayer for the CRC from Psalm 67, and delegates respond. Delegates sing “God, We Sing Your Glorious Praises.”

Rev. Bruce A. Persenaire, president of synod, reads 2 Peter 3:18 and reflects on the theme “My Friends, May You Grow in the Grace of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to God Be All Glory.” Delegates sing “I Love to Tell the Story” as a song of response, and Ms. Strooboscher leads in closing prayer. Delegates respond by singing “The Lord’s Prayer.”

Rev. Persenaire offers a benediction from Philippians 4:7, and delegates close the time of worship by singing “My Friends, May You Grow in Grace.”

#### ARTICLE 84

Synod is adjourned at 11:00 a.m.



# DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES AND RECOMMENDED AGENCIES FOR 2016



# DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES AND RECOMMENDED AGENCIES FOR 2016

## I. Denominational Ministry Shares for 2016

AGENCY	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8
Base amount per member	307.56	307.56	307.56	307.56	307.56	307.56	307.56	307.56
Calvin College*	89.20	56.10	35.60	7.90	48.10	14.10	7.50	3.40
Total ministry shares per member	396.76	363.66	343.16	315.46	355.66	321.66	315.06	310.96

\*Areas which benefit from a ministry shares reduction should employ the following monies saved to finance their area colleges:

Per professing member	-	12.76	33.26	60.96	20.76	54.76	61.36	65.46
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### Classis Area Table for Calvin College amount:

AREA 1	Grand Rapids East; Grand Rapids North; Grand Rapids South; Grandville; Thornapple Valley
AREA 2	Georgetown; Holland; Kalamazoo; Lake Erie; Muskegon; Northern Michigan; Zeeland
AREA 3	Chicago South; Illiana; Northern Illinois; Southeast U.S.; Wisconsin
AREA 4	Central Plains; Heartland; Iakota; Lake Superior; Minnkota; Northcentral Iowa
AREA 5	Atlantic Northeast; Hackensack; Hudson
AREA 6	Arizona; Columbia; California South; Central California; Greater Los Angeles; Hanmi; Ko-Am; 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

## Denominational ministry shares allocation

	2015 ministry shares allocation eff. 1/01/2015	2016 ministry shares allocation eff. 1/01/2016
BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL	\$ 43.97	\$ 44.41
CALVIN COLLEGE*	31.60	31.92
CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY	35.91	36.27
HOME MISSIONS	46.88	47.35
WORLD MISSIONS	60.56	61.17
WORLD RENEW	-	-
SYNODICAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES: General Administration Synodical Services Board of Trustees	32.28	35.68
CHURCH SUPPORT MINISTRIES: <i>The Banner</i> Candidacy Chaplaincy and Care Ministry Church Resources Committee for Contact with the Government Communications Disability Concerns Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Faith Formation Ministries Pastor-Church Relations Race Relations Safe Church Ministry Social Justice and Hunger Action Urban Aboriginal Ministries Volunteer Services Worship Ministries	81.23	78.95
SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND	3.69	3.73
	<u>\$ 336.12</u>	<u>\$ 339.48</u>

\*Represents the composite rate. Actual rate varies by area.

Note: Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions retain individual budgets while the unification approved by Synod 2015 is implemented.

## II. Agencies recommended for financial support in 2016

### 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. Distance Education program
4. Christian Reformed Church 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. Faith Formation and Church Support Ministries—above-ministry-share needs
  - a. Chaplaincy and Care Ministry ..... 856901285 RR0002
  - b. Committee for Contact with the Government ..... 856901285 RR0002
  - c. Disability Concerns ..... 856901285 RR0002
  - d. Faith Formation Ministries ..... 856901285 RR0002
  - e. Pastor-Church Relations ..... 856901285 RR0002
  - f. Race Relations ..... 856901285 RR0002
  - g. Safe Church Ministry ..... 856901285 RR0002
  - h. ServiceLink ..... 856901285 RR0002
  - i. Social Justice and Hunger Action ..... 856901285 RR0002
  - j. Urban Aboriginal Ministries ..... 856901285 RR0002
  - k. Worship Ministries ..... 856901285 RR0002
8. World Renew—one offering per quarter because World Renew  
receives no ministry-share support ..... 118857366 RR0001

### B. Denominationally related or affiliated agencies recommended for one or more offerings

1. Communities First Association ..... NA
2. Diaconal Ministries Canada ..... 89309 3377 RR0001
3. Dynamic Youth Ministries
  - a. GEMS ..... 88992 0799 RR0001
  - b. Calvinist Cadet Corps ..... 88992 0799 RR0001
  - c. Youth Unlimited ..... 88992 0799 RR0001
4. Friendship Ministries (Friendship Ministries - Canada) ..... 11893 2375 RR0001
5. Partners Worldwide ..... 83675 7807 RR0001
6. Timothy Leadership Training Institute ..... 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. Hope Haven
  - 4. The Luke Society
  - 5. Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services
  - 6. Quiet Waters Ministries
- B. *Educational agencies*
  - 1. Ascending Leaders
  - 2. Christian Schools International
  - 3. Christian Schools International Foundation (for textbook development)
  - 4. Dordt College
  - 5. Elim Christian Services
  - 6. Friends of ICS (U.S. Foundation of Institute for Christian Studies)
  - 7. Hunting Park Christian Academy
  - 8. Kids Hope USA
  - 9. The King’s University (through the U.S. Foundation)
  - 10. Kuyper College
  - 11. Langham Partnership
  - 12. Redeemer University College (through the U.S. Foundation)
  - 13. Rehoboth Christian School
  - 14. Trinity Christian College
  - 15. Worldwide Christian Schools
  - 16. Zuni Christian Mission School
- C. *Miscellaneous agencies*
  - 1. Association for a More Just Society
  - 2. Audio Scripture Ministries
  - 3. Bible League International
  - 4. Care of Creation
  - 5. Center for Public Justice
  - 6. Crossroad Bible Institute
  - 7. InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (endorsed for local, specified staff support only)
  - 8. Middle East Reformed Fellowship, U.S. (MERF)
  - 9. Mission India
  - 10. Talking Bibles
  - 11. The Tract League
  - 12. World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)
  - 13. Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc.

**Canadian agencies**

A. <i>Benevolent agencies</i>	Canadian Business Number
1. Beginnings Family Services .....	11880 2388 RR0001
2. Indwell (formerly Homestead Christian Care) .....	13129 5198 RR0001
B. <i>Educational agencies</i>	
1. Dordt College .....	(per Schedule VIII)
2. Institute for Christian Studies .....	10750 8434 RR0001
3. The King’s University .....	10808 5911 RR0001
4. Kuyper College .....	(per Schedule VIII)
5. Redeemer University College .....	12331 3660 RR0001
6. Trinity Christian College .....	(per Schedule VIII)

C. *Miscellaneous agencies*

1. A Rocha Canada . . . . .	86663 8943 RR0001
2. Bible League – Canada . . . . .	10822 2084 RR0001
3. Canadian Council of Churches . . . . .	11883 0512 RR0001
4. Cardus (Work Research o/a Cardus) . . . . .	11892 9207 RR0001
5. Citizens for Public Justice (CJL Foundation) . . . . .	89438 3512 RR0001
6. Evangelical Fellowship of Canada . . . . .	10735 3922 RR0001
7. Gideons International – Canada . . . . .	10808 2991 RR0001
8. InterVarsity Christian Fellowship of Canada . . . . .	10751 3160 RR0001
9. Middle East Reformed Fellowship, Canada (MERF) . . . . .	89085 1058 RR0001
10. Shalem Mental Health Network . . . . .	13056 6011 RR0001
11. World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) . . . . .	13056 6011 RR0001
12. 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 the agenda and supplementary materials.)

## Abbreviations and acronyms in the *Agenda* and *Acts of Synod 2015*

ABCD – Asset-Based Community Development  
 ATC– Area Training Center  
 BAC – Banner Advisory Council  
 BOT – Board of Trustees  
 BTGMI – Back to God Ministries International  
 CAMC – Canadian Aboriginal Ministry Committee  
 CCC – Canadian Council of Churches  
 CCRCC – Council of Christian Reformed Churches in Canada  
 CCT-USA – Christian Churches Together in the U.S.A.  
 CFA – Communities First Association  
 CJM – Congregation Justice Mobilization  
 CLLN – Congregational Leadership Learning Networks  
 CMD – Canadian Ministries Director  
 CMI – Church Multiplication Initiative  
 CMLT – Classical Ministerial Leadership Team  
 CMT – Canadian Ministries Team  
 COD– Council of Delegates  
 CPE – Clinical Pastoral Education  
 CRC – Christian Reformed Church  
 CRCNA – Christian Reformed Church in North America  
 CRHM – Christian Reformed Home Missions  
 CRWM – Christian Reformed World Missions  
 CRWRC – Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (now World Renew)  
 CTS – Calvin Theological Seminary  
 CWG – Collaborative Work Group  
 DA – Diversity Agent  
 DC – Disability Concerns  
 DED – Deputy Executive Director  
 DFFM – Discipleship and Faith Formation Ministries  
 DFO – Director of Finance and Operations  
 DIWG – Diversity and Inclusion Working Group  
 DLPG – Diversity in Leadership Planning Group  
 DMA – Director of Ministries and Administration  
 DMC– Diaconal Ministries Canada  
 DORR – Dance of Racial Reconciliation  
 DRS – Disaster Response Services  
 DSS – Director of Synodical Services

ECO – Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians  
 ED – Executive Director  
 EFC – Evangelical Fellowship of Canada  
 EFD – Ecumenical Faith Declaration  
 EFICOR – Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief  
 EIRC – Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee  
 EPMC – Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy  
 FTE – Full-time equivalent  
 GEMS – Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior  
 GCF – Global Christian Forum  
 GKN – Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland  
 GSC – General Synod Council  
 HR – Human Resources  
 ICS – Institute for Christian Studies  
 IGCPR – Institute for Global Church Planting and Renewal  
 JCC – Judicial Code Committee  
 JIMA – Justice, Inclusion, Mercy, and Advocacy  
 KEZ – Kingdom Enterprise Zone  
 KIM – Korean Institute for Ministry  
 LDN – Leadership Development Network  
 LEAP – Linked Engagement Action Programs  
 MCC – Ministry Collaboration Committee  
 MERF – Middle East Reformed Fellowship  
 MLC – Ministries Leadership Council  
 NAE – National Association of Evangelicals  
 NIV – New International Version  
 OSJ – Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action  
 PCN – Protestant Church in the Netherlands  
 PCR – Pastor-Church Relations  
 PCUSA – Presbyterian Church in the USA  
 PFR – Partners for Racism-Free Community  
 PLC – Placement, Learning, and Care  
 RBA – Reformed Benefits Association  
 RCA – Reformed Church in America  
 RCJ – Reformed Church in Japan  
 SCE – Sustaining Congregational Excellence  
 SCORR – Synodical Committee on Race Relations  
 SPACT – Strategic Planning and Adaptive Change Team  
 SPE – Sustaining Pastoral Excellence  
 STM – Specialized Transitional Ministry  
 TFRSC – Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture  
 TLT – Timothy Leadership Training  
 TLTI – Timothy Leadership Training Institute  
 WCRC – World Communion of Reformed Churches  
 WR – World Renew  
 WRF – World Reformed Fellowship  
 WTC – Widening the Circle  
 YU – Youth Unlimited

## A

Aboriginal Ministries. *See* Urban Aboriginal Ministries.

Abuse Prevention. *See* Safe Church Ministry; Overture 8.

*Acts of Synod*, 34

Addresses to synod

Boot, Rev. Joel R., 675

Bremer-Bennett, Ms. Carol, 675

Cooper, Rev. Perline, 646

De Moor, Rev. Robert, 690

Greenway, Rev. R. Scott, 587

Le Roy, Dr. Michael K., 590

Medenblik, Rev. Julius T., 643, 656

Niemandt, Dr. Nelus, 645

Plaisier, Dr. Arie Jan, 645

Roorda, Rev. Darren, 636

Ryskamp, Mr. Andrew, 675

Timmermans, Dr. Steven R., 588

Vander Wal, Rev. Lisa, 646

Watson, Mr. Colin P., Sr., 645

Advisers to synod. *See also* Overture 1, Young Adult Representatives.

Deacon advisers, 29, 581, 586, 689-90

Ethnic advisers, 29, 581, 586, 638, 689-90

Faculty advisers, 581, 690

Women advisers, 673

Advisory committees, 583-85

Agencies. *See* Recommended agencies/causes.

*Agenda for Synod*, 34

All Nations Heritage celebrations, 223

"All One Body." *See* Overture 5.

Antiracism. *See* Race Relations.

Appeal, Ad hoc committee regarding, 411, 594-96

Appointments. *See also* Synodical appointments.

Interim. *See* Board of Trustees, Polity matters.

To CRC ministries. *See* Board of Trustees.

Archives. *See* Historical Committee.

Audio recording of synod, 9-10, 583

## B

Back to God Ministries International, 249-57, 519, 649, 678-80, 684

Board matters, 256-57, 587, 684

Concerns regarding recommendations of the Task Force Reviewing

Structure and Culture, 519, 678-80

Finances, 257. *See also* Financial statements.

Five Streams, integration with, 249-56

Mission, 249

Partnerships, 254

Salary disclosure, 257

*Banner, The*, 24, 39, 46-54, 101, 425-26, 463, 472, 476-78, 499, 550-54, 582, 637,

641, 677-78, 690. *See also* Board of Trustees, Polity matters.



Belhar Confession. *See* Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee.  
 “Better Together” Initiative, 185, 368. *See also* Pastor-Church Relations.

Binationality discussion and developments, 27, 462-63, 466, 475, 479, 485, 504, 636, 653, 668, 679. *See also* Overture 9; Study committees, Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture.

Blanket Exercise. *See* Board of Trustees, Polity matters.

Board governance. *See* Study committees, Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture.

Board of Trustees, 21-166, 459-92, 581, 583-85, 586-89, 594-96, 623, 625, 627, 632, 634-37, 639-41, 645-47, 649-58, 675, 677-79, 680-684, 687-90, 695-99. *See also* Study committees, Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture; Overture 15.

Board membership, 22, 39, 459-61, 587, 684

Finance matters, 38, 41, 468-71, 476. *See also* Recommended agencies/causes.

Christian Reformed Church Foundation, 38

CRCNA-Canada Foundation bylaws, 38, 41, 112-35, 632

Condensed financial statements, 41, 136-56, 559-73, 635

Energy conservation award, 471

Investments, 471, 487-92

Ministry share, 35, 38, 468, 476, 634-35, 695-99

Salary disclosure, 22-23, 471, 476, 632

Task Force on Financial Sustainability, 38, 635

Polity matters

Agency presentations, 30, 636, 656, 675

*Banner, The*

Advisory council mandate, 24, 39, 53-54, 641

Editor, 24, 39, 46-54, 463, 472, 476-78, 637, 641, 690

Interim appointment, 24, 39, 46-47, 637

Position description, 463, 472, 476-78, 641

Retirement, 24, 39, 637, 690

Search committee, 24, 39, 48, 641, 677-78

Mandate, 24, 39, 48-53, 641

Binationality discussion and developments, 27, 462-63, 466, 475, 479, 485, 653, 679

Blanket Exercise, 463, 472, 640

Board development and training, 28

Board nominating practice review, 27

Board nominations, 25-27, 459-60, 472, 587, 684

Church Order, proposed changes, 30, 40, 106-107, 656-58. *See also* Church Order, Discussion, study, revision; Overture 8.

Classes that have declared women officebearers may not be delegated to classis, 25, 586

Constitution of Board of Trustees, proposed change, 27, 39-40, 655

Convening church of Synod 2016: 30, 40, 627, 682

CRCNA-Canada Corporation bylaws, 27, 39, 55-81, 655

Deacon advisers, 29, 581, 586, 689-90. *See also* Study committees, Task Force to Study the Offices of Elder and Deacon.

Director of ministries and administration appointment, 23, 39, 41-45, 645-46, 677-78

Diversity efforts reports, 28-29, 81-104  
     Diversity in Leadership Planning Group implementation of directives, 28, 81-104  
 Doctrine of Discovery Task Force, 33, 463, 472, **640, 689**  
 Ethnic advisers, 29, **581, 689-90**. *See also* Overture 1.  
 Executive director, ordination as commissioned pastor, 23, 39, **623, 625, 627**. *See also* Overture 6.  
 Executive sessions of synod, proposed revised guidelines for, 30, 40, 104-106, **627**  
 Interim appointments, 24, 39, **683, 687**  
 Judicial Code Committee, 30-33, 40, **587, 688**  
     Ad hoc committee review of appeal and 2014 report, 411, **594-96**  
 Judicial Code, proposed changes, 30, 40, 107-11, **627**  
 Korean Classes Mentoring Committee report, 463, 472, 478-83, **655**  
 Leadership development, 462, 485  
 National and binational gatherings, 27, 462-63  
 Nominating committee and practice review, 27  
 Publications and services, 33-34  
 RCA/CRC joint resolution implementation, 29-30, **588, 647**  
 RCA/CRC leadership proposal, 462  
 Retirement of Rev. Joel R. Boot, 462, 472, **655, 675**  
 Rules for Synodical Procedure  
     Instruction to clarify, **681**  
     Proposed changes re executive session, 104-106, **627**  
 Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture, 28, 33, 462, 472, **678, 680**.  
     *See also* Study committees, Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture.  
 Task forces, synodical; clarify role of, **681**  
*Yearbook* review, 463  
 Young adult representatives  
     To BOT, 460-61, 472, **656**  
     To synod, 29, **581, 583-85, 689-90**  
 Program matters  
     Agency, institution, and specialized ministry reports, 36, 167-268, 493-531  
     Canadian charities, updated bylaws, 36, 40, **655**  
     Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions conversation, proposal for unification, 37, 464-67, 472-75, 507-17, **650-54**  
     Collaborative Work Groups, 36  
     Faith Formation Ministries  
         Presentation, 37, 40, **589, 594**  
         Mandate, 467-68, 476, **589**  
     Disability Concerns recommendations, 37, 40-41, **639-40**  
     Ministry Plan of the Christian Reformed Church, 35-36  
     Ministry Plan Development and Implementation Group, 463, 472, 484-85, **588, 655**  
     World Renew director (U.S.) retirement, new appointment, 463-64, 472, 486-87, **649, 675**  
 Boards and committees, **683-89**

## C

- Calvin College, 169-73, 493-96, **581, 587, 589-90, 685**
  - Board of trustees, 170-72, 493-96, **587, 685**
  - Faculty, 173, 493, 496, **590**
    - Appointments/reappointments, 173, **590**
    - Retirements, 493, 496, **590**
  - Finance, 172-73, 496. *See also* Financial statements.
  - Five Streams, integration with, 169-70
  - Mission, 169
  - Science and theology, resources on relationship of, 172-73
- Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 267-68, 531
- Calvin Theological Seminary, 258-65, 520-31, **581, 586-87, 631, 638, 643, 656, 663, 685**
  - Administration, 259
  - Board of trustees, 258-59, 520, **587, 685**
  - Candidates. *See* Candidacy Committee.
  - Distinguished alumni, 520
  - Faculty, 259-60, 263, 265, 520-21, **631, 638**
    - Appointments/reappointments, 260, 263, 520-21, **631, 638**
    - Retirement, 260, 265, **631**
  - Finance, 265. *See also* Financial statements.
  - Five Streams overview, 260-62
  - Graduates, 520
  - Offerings for, 265, **586**
  - Position openings, 521
  - Presentation at synod, **656**
  - Program highlights, 262-64
  - Science and theology, resources on relationship of, 264
  - Students, 264-65
- Calvinist Cadet Corps, 326, **630**
- Campus ministry. *See* Christian Reformed Home Missions.
- Canadian Council of Churches, 285, 287-88, 299
- Canadian Ministries, 27, 35-36, 38-41, 48, 54-81, 98-99, 112-35, 159, 217-18, 223-24, 226, 229, 238, 287-88, 314, 325, 462-63, 466, 472, 475, 479, 485, 503-504, 513, **632, 636, 640, 653, 655, 668, 670-72, 677-79, 682**
- Binationality discussion and developments, 27, 462-63, 466, 475, 479, 485, 504, **636, 653-54, 668, 679**. *See also* Overture 9; Study committees, Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture.
- Blanket Exercise, 463, 472, **640**
- Canadian charities, updated bylaws, 36, 40, **655**
- Christian Stewardship Services, 38
- Committee for Contact with the Government (Centre for Public Dialogue), 217-18, 223-24, 226, 229, 238, **670-71**
- CRCNA-Canada Corporation bylaws, 27, 39, 55-81, **655**
- CRCNA-Canada Foundation bylaws, 38, 41, 112-35, **632**
- Diaconal Ministries Canada, 325, 503, 513, **654**
- Director, 35, 48, 54, 59, **636, 677-78, 682**
- Ecumenical relations, 287-88. *See also* Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee.
- Finances, 159. *See also* Financial statements.

KAIROS, participation in, 288  
 Presentation at synod, **636**  
 ServiceLink. *See* ServiceLink.  
 Team (subcommittee of MLC), 35, 98-99  
 Urban Aboriginal Ministries, 229, **672**  
 Candidacy Committee, 271-84, 535-42, **591-93**, **641-43**, **663**, **688**.  
     *See also* Overture 7.  
 Candidates, 535-37, 541-42, **591-93**, **642-43**  
     Two-year relationship process proposal, 272-75, 277, **590-91**  
     Motion re provision for candidates when synod meets outside of  
         Grand Rapids, **663**  
     RCA candidates serving a first call in the CRC, 540-42, **592-93**  
 Church Order Article 8, special case regarding, 537, **592**  
 Commissioned pastors, clarification re Church Order Article 23, **641**.  
     *See also* Overture 7.  
 Continuing education for pastors, 275  
 EPMC program developments, 272, 537-40, 542, **592**  
 Mandate, 271  
 Membership, 271-72, 277, **587**, **688**  
 Pastor-Church Relations, ministry “fit” project with, 275-76  
 Training and orientation, 276  
 Candidates. *See* Candidacy Committee, Candidates.  
 Causes recommended for financial support. *See* Recommended  
     agencies/causes.  
 Centre for Public Dialogue. *See* Canadian Ministries, Committee for Contact  
     with the Government.  
 Chaplaincy and Care Ministry, Office of, 177-80, **641-42**  
 Christian Churches Together in the U.S.A., 285, 287, 289, 299  
 Christian Reformed Church Foundation, 38  
 Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S., 181-82, **633**, **688**  
 Christian Reformed Home Missions, 195-208, 464-67, 472-75, 499-501, 507-17,  
     **586-87**, **650-54**, **678-80**, **686**. *See also* Board of Trustees, Program matters.  
 Board matters, 207-208, **587**, **686**  
 Collaborative efforts, 198, 201-205  
 Concerns about report of Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture,  
     499-501, **678-80**  
 Connecting with churches, 197-206  
 Developing disciples, leaders, and campus ministries, 201-203  
 Engaging with clusters, classes, communities, 203-206  
 Five Streams, integration with, 195-96  
 Finances, 207-208. *See also* Financial statements.  
 Mission, 195-97  
 Ministries, 197-206  
 Offerings for, 208, **586**  
 Regional leadership, 199-200  
 Salary disclosure, 207  
 Starting and strengthening missional churches, 196-201  
 Unification with World Missions proposal, 464-67, 472-75, 507-17, **650-54**.  
     *See also* Board of Trustees, Program matters.

Christian Reformed World Missions, 209-15, 464-67, 472-75, 502-517, **586-87**,  
**650-54**, **678-80**, **686**. *See also* Board of Trustees, Program matters.  
 Board matters, 213-15, **587**, **686**  
 Concerns about report of Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture,  
 502-506, **678-80**  
 Connecting with churches, 212-13  
 Finances, 215. *See also* Financial statements.  
 Five Streams, integration with, 209-12  
 Ministries, 209-13  
 Offerings for, 215, **586**  
 Salary disclosure, 215  
 Unification with Home Missions proposal, 464-67, 472-75, 507-17, **650-54**.  
*See also* Board of Trustees, Program matters.  
 Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar. *See* Ecumenical representatives  
 and observers.  
*Church Order and Its Supplements*, 34. *See also* Church Order; Church  
 Order Supplement.  
 Church Order deliberation and use at synod  
   Administrative actions according to  
     Article 8: **598-601**. *See also* Candidacy Committee.  
     Article 10: **601-606**  
     Article 12-c: **607-609**  
     Article 13-c: **609**  
     Article 14-b: **609-10**  
     Article 14-c: **610-11**  
     Article 14-d: **611**  
     Article 17-a: **611-13**  
     Article 17-c: **613-15**  
     Article 17-d: **615-16**  
     Article 23: **626**  
     Article 23-a: **616-25**  
     Article 23-b or -c: **625-26**  
     Article 23-d: **626**  
   Discussion, study, revision. *See also* Church Order Supplement; Overtures  
     4, 7-9, 12; Study committees, Task Force to Study the Offices of Elder  
     and Deacon.  
     Article 1-a: 388-89, **658-59**  
     Articles 4-a and -b: 389, **659**  
     Article 11: 389, **659**  
     Article 12-a: 389-90, **659-60**  
     Article 23: **640-41**  
     Article 25-a: 390, **660**  
     Article 25-b: 390-91, **661**  
     Article 25-c: 391, **661**  
     Article 30-c: 107-111, **627**  
     Article 34: 391-92, **661-62**  
     Article 35-a: 392, **663-64**  
     Article 35-b: 392, **664**  
     Article 38-h: **648-49**  
     Article 40-a: 106, **656-57**

Article 42-b: 393, **664-65**  
 Article 45: 107, **658**  
 Article 62: 393, **665**  
 Article 64-a: 394, **665**  
 Articles 73-77: 394-97, **666-68**  
 Articles 82-84: **644-45**  
 Church Order Supplement, discussion, study, revision.  
     Article 30-c: 107-11, **627**  
     Article 38-h: **648-49**  
     Article 40-a and -c: 106-107, **657**  
     Article 76-a: 395-96, **667-68**  
     Article 77-a: 395, 397, **667-68**  
     Articles 82-84: **644-45**  
 Classical examinations. *See* Ministers; Synodical deputies, Work of.  
 Classical matters. *See also* Synodical deputies, Work of.  
     Classes declaring that women officebearers may not be delegated to  
         classis, 25, **586**  
 Collaborative Work Groups. *See* Board of Trustees, Program matters.  
 Commissioned pastors, **616-28**. *See also* Candidacy Committee; Overtures 6-7.  
 Committee for Contact with the Government. *See* Canadian Ministries.  
 Committees. *See* Advisory committees; Service committees; Study  
     committees; Synodical committees.  
 Communications  
     1: Classis Hamilton, 455, **673**  
     2: Classis Heartland, 456, **670**  
     3: Classis Grand Rapids East, 555-56, **674, 677**. *See also* Overture 5.  
 Communities First Association, 323-24, **654**  
 Confidentiality of executive sessions. *See* Executive sessions.  
 Consolidated Group Insurance. *See* Pensions and Insurance.  
 Convening churches of synod, 7, 30, 40, **579, 627, 682**  
 Council of Delegates, 28, 356-57, 359-62, 367, 371-79, 462, 465, 474, 500,  
     502-504, 549, 554, **652, 679**  
 Creation care, 225, 227, 230, 238, 267, **671**  
 Creation, sin, and other doctrinal teachings, resources on. *See* Calvin College  
     and Calvin Theological Seminary, Science and theology, resources on  
     relationship of.  
 Culture, Task Force Reviewing Structure and. *See* Study committees.

## D

Deacon advisers. *See* Advisers to synod.  
 Deacon, Office of. *See* Study committees; Overtures 9-12.  
 Deacons, charge to. *See* Overture 10.  
 Deacons, delegation to synod. *See* Overtures 11-12.  
 Declaration of Agreement, Public. *See* Public Declaration of Agreement.  
 Delegates to Synod 2015: 13-17, **579-81**  
 Diaconal Ministries Canada, 325, 503, 513, **654**  
 Director of Ministries and Administration. *See* Board of Trustees,  
     Polity matters.  
 Disability Concerns, Office of, 37, 40-41, 219-22, **639-40, 671**

Disaster Response. *See* World Renew.  
 Diversity efforts. *See* Board of Trustees, Polity matters.  
 Doctrine of Discovery Task Force. *See* Board of Trustees, Polity matters.  
 Dordt College, 7, 313, **579, 582, 628, 690**  
 Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa. *See* Fraternal delegates.  
 Dynamic Youth Ministries, 326-39, **630-31**

## E

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee, 285-99, 543-46, **581, 587, 636, 646-48, 688, 690**. *See also* Overtures 13-14.  
 Anniversaries of the Reformation and Canons of Dort, 297  
 Belhar Confession, 291, 543-46, **636, 647**  
 Bilateral relationships, 289-90, 297, 299, **636**  
 Christian-Muslim dialogue, 290  
 Ecclesiastical fellowship, 292-97, 298-99, 544-45  
 Ecumenical Faith Declaration discussion, 291-92, 543, 545, **636**  
 Ecumenical relations, 287-88, 298-99, 544, **581, 647, 690**. *See also* Ecumenical representatives and observers; Fraternal delegates.  
 Expressions of gratitude, 286, 297, 545-46, **636, 647**  
 Formal dialogue, 289-90, 299  
 Fraternal delegates, 287, **581, 690**. *See also* Ecumenical representatives and observers; Fraternal delegates.  
 Hospitality Committee. *See* Hospitality Committee.  
 Interfaith dialogue, 290-91, **647-48**  
 Interfaith mandate, **648**  
 Membership, 286, 297, 545-46, **587, 688**  
 Multilateral relationships, 288-89, 299  
 Reformed Church in America, 287, 291-97, **647**. *See also* Reformed Church in America.  
 Cooperative efforts with, 292-97, **647**  
 Protestant Church in the Netherlands, 289, 544-45. *See also* Overtures 13-14.  
 United Reformed Church in the Congo, proposed dialogue with, 289-90, 297, **636**  
 United States Roman Catholic-Reformed Dialogue, 288, 290  
 Sudanese Reformed Churches, proposed dialogue with, 290, 297, **636**  
 World Reformed Fellowship, proposed affiliation with, 544, 546, **647**  
 Ecumenical Faith Declaration. *See* Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee.  
 Ecumenical representatives and observers. *See also* Fraternal delegates.  
 From the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar, Rev. Perline Cooper, **581, 639, 646, 674, 690**  
 To ecumenical organizations  
 Canadian Council of Churches, Dr. William T. Koopmans and Rev. Anthony Elenbaas, 287  
 Christian Churches Together in the U.S.A. (CCT-USA), Dr. Steven Timmermans and Dr. Peter Borgdorff, 287  
 Commission for Christian Unity (RCA), Dr. James Payton, 287  
 Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Dr. Darren Roorda, 287



Global Christian Forum, Dr. Steven Timmermans (CRCNA representative) and Dr. Peter Borgdorff (member of North America Foundation of GCF), 287

National Association of Evangelicals, Dr. Peter Borgdorff, 287

National Council of Churches in the U.S.A., Dr. Matthew Lundberg, 287

Sojourners, Dr. Peter Borgdorff (board member), 287

United States Roman Catholic-Reformed Dialogue, Dr. John Choi, Dr. Ronald Feenstra, and Dr. Susan Rozeboom (CRCNA representatives), 288

World Communion of Reformed Churches, Dr. Peter Borgdorff (member of executive committee) and Dr. William T. Koopmans (adviser), 287

Elder and deacon study. *See* Study committees; Overtures 9-12.

Employee benefit programs. *See* Pensions and Insurance.

Ethnic advisers. *See* Advisers to synod.

Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, 287-288, 299

Executive director. *See* Board of Trustees, Polity matters; *see also* Overture 6.

Executive sessions of synod, 9, **582-83**, **594-96**, **627**. *See also* Board of Trustees, Polity matters, Rules for Synodical Procedure.

## F

Faculty advisers. *See* Advisers to synod.

Faith Alive Christian Resources, 174-75, 184, 193, 223, 294, 403, 468, 503

Faith Formation Ministries, 37, 40, 174-76, 467-68, 476, 543, 546, **589**, **594**, **628**, **647**. *See also* Faith Formation stream.

Presentation at synod, **594**

Faith Formation Stream, 169-76, 493-96. *See also* Five Streams ministry priorities.

Financial statements, 136-66, 559-73, **635**. *See also* Board of Trustees, Financial matters; Ministry share; Pensions and Insurance; Recommended agencies/causes.

Five Streams ministry priorities, 167-268, 493-531, **680**. *See also* Study committees, Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture.

Faith Formation Stream, 169-76, 493-96

Servant Leadership Stream, 177-93, 497

Global Missions Stream, 195-215, 499-517

Loving Mercy and Doing Justice Stream, 217-47

Gospel Proclamation and Worship Stream, 249-68, 519-31

Forms of Unity. *See* Public Declaration of Agreement with the Beliefs of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

Form for Ordination of Elders and Deacons. *See* Study Committees, Task Force to Study the Offices of Elder and Deacon.

Fraternal delegates. *See also* Ecumenical representatives and observers.

From churches, organizations

Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, Dr. Nelus Niemandt, **585**, **645**, **690**

Protestant Church in the Netherlands, Dr. Arie Jan Plaisier, **581**, **645**, **674**, **690**

Reformed Church in America, Rev. Lisa Vander Wal, **581**, **646**, **690**



To churches, organizations

Reformed Church in South Africa (GKSA), Dr. Peter Borgdorff, 287

Reformed Church in Japan, Rev. Lawrence Spalink, 287

Canadian Council of Churches, Dr. William T. Koopmans and Rev.

Anthony Elenbaas, 287

Friendship Ministries, 330, **672**

## G

Gay marriage. *See* Study committees.

GEMS Girls' Clubs, 228, 327-38, **630**

Global Christian Forum, 287, 289, 299

Global Missions Stream, 195-215, 499-517. *See also* Five Streams ministry priorities.

Gospel Proclamation and Worship Stream, 249-68, 519-31. *See also* Five Streams ministry priorities.

"Guide for Conducting Church Visiting," 400, **669**

## H

Historical Committee, 300-308, **587**, **596-97**, **688**

Joint meeting with RCA's Historical Commission, 308

Members and staff, 300, 308, **587**, **688**

Publications, 301

Recognition of individuals, 301-306

Recognition of ministries, 301-307

Homosexuality. *See* Study committees.

Hospitality Committee, **586**, **690**

## I

Immigration awareness, 225-26, 228, 289

Institute for Christian Studies, 314-15, **629**

Insurance. *See* Pensions and Insurance.

Intellectual disability. *See* Friendship Ministries.

Interfaith dialogue and mandate, **647-48**. *See also* Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee.

Interim appointments. *See* Board of Trustees, Polity matters.

Investments. *See* Board of Trustees, Financial matters; *see also* Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund.

## J

Judicial Code Committee. *See* Board of Trustees, Polity matters.

Judicial Code, proposed changes. *See* Board of Trustees, Polity matters.

Justice efforts, 28, 81-104, 110-11, 170, 178, 192, 196, 204, 211, 254-55, 261, 267, 288, 314, 325, 343-50, 391, 398-99, 463, 503, **629**, **638**, **640**, **671**. *See also* Loving Mercy and Doing Justice Stream.

## K

KAIROS – Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, 288

King's University, The, 316-17, **629**

Korean Classes Mentoring Committee. *See* Board of Trustees, Polity matters.

Kuyper College, 318, **629**

## L

Leadership development, 36, 81-104, 170, 195-96, 198-202, 209-10, 214, 220-21, 223-24, 226, 228, 232-35, 241, 251-52, 254, 261, 267, 325, 333-34, 462, 485, **607**. *See also* Servant Leadership Stream.

Leadership Planning Group, Diversity in. *See* Board of Trustees, Polity matters, Diversity efforts reports.

Loan Fund. *See* Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund.

Loving Mercy and Doing Justice Stream, 217-47. *See also* Five Streams ministry priorities.

## M

Madagascar, Church of Jesus Christ in. *See* Ecumenical representatives and observers.

*Manual for Synodical Deputies*, 34

Mental (intellectual) disability. *See* Friendship Ministries.

Mercy. *See* Loving Mercy and Doing Justice Stream.

Ministerial Information Service. *See* Pastor-Church Relations.

Ministers. *See also* Candidacy Committee, Candidates; Commissioned pastors; Synodical deputies, Work of.

Admitted via classical examination of candidates, **601-606**

Approved for specialized service, **607-609**

Approved from other denominations, **598-601**

Granted extension of eligibility for call, **613-15**

Loaned to another denomination, **609**

Released from ministerial service, **611-13**

Released from office, **609-11, 615-16**

Retirements, **597-98**

Ministers' Pension. *See* Pensions and Insurance.

Ministries Leadership Council, 35, 467, 476, **589**

Ministry Plan of the Christian Reformed Church. *See* Board of Trustees, Program matters.

Ministry share, 35, 38, 468, 476, **588, 634-35, 695-96**. *See also* Financial statements.

Ministry Support Services, 467, 476, 543, 546, **593, 647**

Minutes Review Committee, **586, 690**

Missions. *See* Global Missions Stream.

Multiaffiliated churches. *See* Overture 4.

## N

National Association of Evangelicals, 287, 289, 299

Nominating committee. *See* Board of Trustees, Polity matters;  
Study committees, Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture.

## O

Officers and functionaries for Synod 2016: **682**

Offices of elder and deacon study. *See* Study committees.

### Overtures

1. Reinstate the Practice of Appointing Women Advisers to Synod and Review the Formula Adopted by Synod 2014 for Ethnic Advisers, 415-18, **673**
2. Approve the Transfer of Chelwood CRC from Classis Rocky Mountain to Classis Red Mesa, 418-19, **597**
3. Permit Transfer of Membership of Chelwood CRC from Classis Rocky Mountain to Classis Red Mesa, 419, **597**
4. Add a New Subsection to Church Order Article 38 Regarding Multiaffiliated Churches, 420-23, **648-49**
5. Instruct and Admonish Consistories Concerning Actions of "All One Body," 423-30, **674, 676-77, 689**
6. Encourage All CRC Classes and Congregations to Recognize the Ordination of the Executive Director as a Commissioned Pastor, 430-34, **627-28**
7. Provide Clarification Regarding Church Order Article 23: 434-36, **640-41**
8. Amend Church Order Supplement, Article 84 to Include Address of Sexual Abuse, 436-40, **644-45**
9. Adopt Proposed Church Order Changes by the Task Force to Study the Offices of Elder and Deacon, with Revisions, 440-42, **659, 670**
10. Adopt a Modified Version of the Charge to Deacons, 442-43, **669, 670**
11. Delay Decision on Allowing the Seating of Deacons at Classical and Synodical Meetings, 443-44, **670**
12. Do Not Adopt Church Order Changes Requiring the Delegation of Deacons to Classes and Synod, 444-47, **670**
13. Classify the Ecumenical Relationship with the Protestant Church in the Netherlands as That of a Church in Dialogue, 447-48, **587**
14. Return the Protestant Church in the Netherlands to the Ecumenical Relationship of a Church in Dialogue, 448-53, **587**
15. Postpone Adoption of Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture Recommendations, 549-53, **681**
16. Table the Recommendations of the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture Until 2016, 553-54, **681**

## P

Partners Worldwide, 331-32, **654**

Pastor-Church Relations, Office of, 183-86, 275-76, 368, **595, 642**

"Better Together" Initiative, 185-86, 368, **642**

Ministerial Information Service, 184, **642**

Sustaining Congregational Excellence, 184, **642**

Sustaining Pastoral Excellence, 185, **642**

Pensions and Insurance, 187-91, 497, **587, 633, 688**

Board matters, 187, 497, **587, 633, 688**

Consolidated Group Insurance, 190

Employees' retirement plans, 189-90

Financial disclosures, 191. *See also* Financial statements.

Ministers' pension plans, 187-89, 191, **633**  
Reformed Benefits Association, 190  
Persecution, religious. *See* Study committees.  
Protestant Church in the Netherlands. *See* Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee; Fraternal delegates; Overtures 13-14.  
Public Declaration of Agreement with the Beliefs of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, **582**

## R

Race Relations, Office of, 28, 223-24, 503, **671**  
Recommended agencies/causes, 468-71, 476, **632, 697-99**  
Recordings of synod, 9-10, **583**  
Redeemer University College, 319-20, **629-30**  
Reformed Benefits Association. *See* Pensions and Insurance.  
Reformed Church in America, 29-30, 179, 190, 198, 204-205, 217, 219-20, 223, 234, 239, 252, 287, 292-97, 299, 308, 401, 420-23, **603, 646-47**. *See also* Fraternal delegates.  
Religious persecution and liberty. *See* Study committees.  
Restorative justice, 110-11, 226, 228, **671**. *See also* Justice efforts.  
Retirements, ministerial. *See* Ministers.  
Rules for Synodical Procedure, 34, 397, **669, 677**. *See also* Board of Trustees, Polity matters.

## S

Safe Church Ministry, 111, 192-93, **644, 670**. *See also* Overture 8.  
Salary disclosure. *See* Board of Trustees, Finance matters.  
Same-sex marriage. *See* Study committees.  
Science and theology resources. *See* Calvin College; Calvin Theological Seminary.  
Sergeant at Arms, **586, 690**  
Sermons for Reading Services Committee, 309-10, **593**  
Proposal to dissolve, 310, **593**  
Servant Leadership Stream, 177-93, 497. *See also* Five Streams ministry priorities.  
Service committees, **688**  
ServiceLink, 363  
Sexual abuse, address of. *See* Overture 8. *See also* Safe Church Ministry.  
Social Justice and Hunger Action, Office of, 217-18, 223-29, 239, 463, 503, **640, 671**. *See also* Justice efforts.  
South Africa, Dutch Reformed Church in. *See* Fraternal delegates.  
Specialized Ministries, 36, 377, 503, **641-42, 670-72**  
Structure and Culture, Task Force Reviewing. *See* Study committees.  
Study committees  
Committee to Provide Pastoral Guidance re Same-sex Marriage, 337-42, **637, 673, 689**. *See also* Overture 5; Communications 1, 3.  
Committee to Study Religious Persecution and Liberty, 339, 341, 343-50, **672-73, 688**

Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture, 351-79, **678-80**. *See also* Back to God Ministries International, Concerns; Board of Trustees, Polity matters; Christian Reformed Home Missions, Concerns; Christian Reformed World Missions, Concerns; Overtures 15-16.

Task Force to Study the Offices of Elder and Deacon, 380-410, **658-70**.  
*See also* Overtures 9-12; Communication 2.

To report to future synods, **688-89**

Sudanese Reformed Churches. *See* Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee.

Sustaining Congregational Excellence. *See* Pastor-Church Relations.

Sustaining Pastoral Excellence. *See* Pastor-Church Relations.

Synodical

- Addresses. *See* Addresses to synod.
- Advisers. *See* Advisers to synod.
- Advisory committees, **583-85**
- Appointments, **586, 682-89**
- Boards, **683-87**
- Committees, **688-89**
- Convening churches, 7, 30, 40, **579, 627, 682**
- Delegates, 13-17, **579-81**. *See also* Fraternal delegates; Ecumenical representatives and observers.
- Deputies, 24, 34, 39, 432-33, 435-36, **682-83**
- Work of, **598-626**
- Executive sessions, 9, **582-83, 594-96, 627**. *See also* Board of Trustees, Polity matters, Rules for Synodical Procedure.
- Functionaries, **682**
- Officers, **582, 682**
- Procedure. *See* Rules for Synodical Procedure.
- Resources, 33-34
- Service of Prayer, Word, and Sacrament, 577-78

## T

Task forces, **689**. *See also* Study committees; Overture 15.

Testimonial Banquet Committee, **586**

Timothy Leadership Training Institute, 224, 241, 252, 333-34, 503, **654**

Trinity Christian College, 321-22, **630**

## U

Urban Aboriginal Ministries, 229, **672**

United Reformed Church in the Congo. *See* Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee.

## V

Video recording of synod, 9-10, **583**

## W

Women advisers. *See* Overture 1; *see also* Advisers to synod.

World Communion of Reformed Churches, 287-88, 299

World Literature Ministries, 254

World Reformed Fellowship. *See* Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee.

World Renew, 24, 30, 38, 230-47, 463-64, 472, 486-87, **586-87**, **649**, **654**, **675**, **680**, **686-87**

Board matters, 244-46, **587**, **686-87**

Community development, 235-36, 240-41, 243-44, 247

Connecting with churches, 242-44

Director (U.S.) retirement, new appointment, 463-64, 472, 486-87, **649**, **675**

Disaster response, 233-34, 236-37, 241-43

Finance, 246. *See also* Financial statements.

Five Streams, integration with, 231-41

HIV and AIDS response, 235, 242

Human resources management, 246-47

Justice efforts, 238-40

Mandate, mission, ministry, 230

Presentation at synod, **675**

Refugee support, 237-38

Offerings for, 247, **586**

Resource development, 247

Salary disclosure, 246

Volunteer programs and participation, 232-34, 242-43

Worship at synod, 577-78, **579**, **585**, **588-89**, **638-39**, **662**, **681**, **691**

Worship Ministries, presentation at synod, 467, 543, 546, **594**, **628**, **647**, **690**.

*See also* Gospel Proclamation and Worship Stream.

Worship Planning Committee, **586**, **690**

## Y

*Yearbook*, 33-34

Review, 463

Young adult representatives, 29, **581**, **583-85**, **689-90**. *See also* Advisers to synod; Board of Trustees, Polity matters.

Youth Unlimited, 328-29, **630-31**