

ACTS OF SYNOD



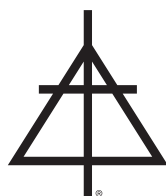
Responding to God's
gracious call.



Christian
Reformed
Church

**ACTS
OF SYNOD**

2018



**Christian
Reformed
Church**

June 7-14, 2018
Covenant Fine Arts Center
Calvin College
Grand Rapids, Michigan

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Synod 2018 was held at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 7-14, 2018. Delegates gathered from across North America to serve the Christian Reformed Church, committing their time to worship and prayer, to discussion and deliberation, trusting that the Holy Spirit was at work in and through their service. Delegates also participated in joint sessions, advisory committees, and workshops with delegates to the Reformed Church in America General Synod 2018. As a record of the work accomplished, the *Acts of Synod 2018* provides another chapter in the Christian Reformed Church's journey of faithfulness for more than 160 years.

The *Acts of Synod 2018* contains the following:

- Supplementary reports of the Council of Delegates of the Christian Reformed Church in North America and those agencies and committees authorized to file them.
- One overture.
- Two communications.
- Financial reports.
- The minutes of Synod 2018.
- An index for both the *Acts of Synod 2018* and the *Agenda for Synod 2018*.

It is necessary for the user of the *Acts of Synod 2018* to keep the *Agenda for Synod 2018* readily available as a reference. The *Agenda* is not reprinted in the *Acts*. The minutes of synod often make reference to reports and overtures in the *Agenda for Synod*. Take note that the pagination continues from the *Agenda* to the *Acts*. Supplementary materials begin on page 355, following preliminary unnumbered pages. Financial reports begin on page 419. The minutes of synod follow, beginning on page 435. 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 2018.

Found within these pages, as well as in the related *Agenda for Synod 2018*, is continuing evidence of service by the Christian Reformed Church in response to a vision adopted by synod more than a dozen years ago: "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." Together we offer this work to the Lord using the petition of Psalm 90:17:

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.

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

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES SUPPLEMENT

I. Polity matters

A. Council of Delegates membership (Committee 1)

1. Council of Delegates members completing service as of June 30, 2018:

Classis	Member
Classis Huron	Darrell J. Bierman
Classis Iakota	Calvin Hoogendoorn
Classis Minnkota	Leland Vanderaa
Classis Pacific Northwest	Bomsu Kim
Classis Wisconsin	Bruce McMurry
Classis Zeeland	Ronald J. Meyer

2. Words of special thanks

The services provided by members of the Council of Delegates 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. The COD has acknowledged that the COD members named above will conclude their service as of June 30, 2018. We thank God for each of these dedicated servants and for their contributions to the Council of Delegates, to one of three denominational boards prior to the COD transition, and to the Christian Reformed Church in North America as a whole.

3. Council of Delegates nominees

The COD presents the following recommendations for appointment from the respective classes:

a. Reappointment as classical delegate

The COD recommends Ms. Beth Fellingner, the current Classis Chatham delegate, for reappointment to a subsequent three-year term (2018-2021).

b. Slate of nominees for classical delegate

The COD recommends that synod elect one member to a first three-year term from the following slate of nominees from Classis Georgetown:

Mr. James Roskam, a member of Georgetown CRC, Hudsonville, Michigan, is a retired CEO of Farmers Co-op Elevator Company. Mr. Roskam has served as a delegate to synod five times in addition to serving on the board of Calvin Theological Seminary. He has served as chair of the Grandville Christian School board, Ivanrest CRC council, Hudsonville Downtown Development Authority, and Hudsonville

Chamber of Commerce. He has also served on the Land O' Lakes executive leadership board. Currently he is serving as classis coordinator for Classis Georgetown.

Mr. David VanRandwyk is a retired CEO of Bursma Electronics. He attends Trinity CRC in Grandville, Michigan. He has served on the boards of Bursma Electronics, Jenison Christian School, and Calvin College and as chair of the Back to God Ministries International advancement board. Currently Mr. VanRandwyk serves on the Visser YMCA board and is vice president of the local homeowner's association board. His local church involvement includes serving as clerk of council and as part of the Renewal Lab team.

c. Single nominees for classical delegate

The COD recommends that synod appoint the following classical nominees to a first term of three years:

Classis Holland

Mr. Wayne Brower is a retired executive from Herman Miller. He is a member of Harderwyk CRC in Holland, Michigan. Mr. Brower has served on the Back to God Ministries International board as well as its advancement board, the Zeeland Christian School board, and the Grand Valley State University board. Currently Mr. Brower is serving on the Global Missions Committee – BTGMI subcommittee and the North Washout Beach Association. Mr. Brower also serves as a Kids Hope mentor and on the Harderwyk prayer ministry team.

Classis Hudson

Rev. George R. Young is a retired missionary to Japan who is currently serving as an elder at Sussex (N.J.) CRC and as a representative of Sussex CRC to Classis Hudson. Rev. Young has served as president of the CCNY InterVarsity chapter, as president of the New York City-wide InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, as a field council member for the Christian Reformed Japan Mission, and as a delegate to Synod 2017. He also serves on the school board of the Christian Academy in Japan (Tokyo) and on the Sussex CRC evangelism committee.

Classis Huron

Rev. Ralph S. Wigboldus is a pastor at Bethel CRC in Listowel, Ontario. Rev. Wigboldus has served on the CRC's Interchurch Relations Committee and the Bible League - Canada. Currently he is serving on the North Perth community of character committee.

Classis Iakota

Rev. John R. Lee is a pastor at Bethel CRC in Sioux Center, Iowa. Rev. Lee has served at the Nehemiah Center with World Renew/Resonate in Nicaragua; on the Calvin College core review committee; on the Calvin Theological Seminary culture, pedagogy, and curriculum committee; and on the Classis Iakota continuing education committee. He has also served as chair of the Classis Iakota classical ministry leadership team and as a board representative on the strategic planning task force for Dordt College. Currently Rev. Lee serves on the Dordt College board of trustees, including its executive committee, and is chair of

the academic affairs committee. In addition, he serves on the Center for Assistance, Service, and Advocacy (immigrant ministry) executive committee.

Classis Minnkota

Rev. Roger W. Sparks is a pastor at Luverne (Minn.) CRC. Rev. Sparks has served on the board of Mid-America Reformed Seminary and the board of Reformed International Theological Education (RITE, Ukraine). Currently Rev. Sparks participates in the Rock County Food Shelf, chairs the classical interim committee, and serves on the safe church team. He also serves as alternate synodical deputy for Classis Minnkota.

Classis Pacific Northwest

Ms. Sherry (Sharon) Fakkema is the principal of Oak Harbor (Wash.) Christian School. She is a member of Anacortes (Wash.) CRC. Ms. Fakkema has many years of experience as a school administrator and has also served on the Oak Harbor Christian School board. As a member of Worldmark, part of the Wyndham Group, she served on the committee to nominate candidates for its board of directors. She has also served on scholarship committees for Lions International and the Washington Association of School Administrators. She is a safe church coordinator for Classis Pacific Northwest and has a passion for safe churches and the programs necessary to help promote a safe church environment. Ms. Fakkema serves on the classis executive committee and is instrumental in a wide array of ministry discussions and decisions.

Classis Wisconsin

Ms. Paula Coldagelli is currently the executive director of ministries at Brookfield (Wis.) CRC, where she is a member. Ms. Coldagelli's previous local experience includes involvement in Camp Calvin and serving as chair of the board of directors for Calvary Pre-School, as an adviser for Lake Ellen Camp, and as a member of the national advisory committee for Distributive Education Clubs of America. She also served on two pastoral search committees. Ms. Coldagelli currently serves on the administrative council of Brookfield CRC and is president of the music booster board for Milwaukee Lutheran High School. She also serves as a volunteer leader in the children and worship ministry.

Classis Zeeland

Rev. Tyler J. Wagenmaker is the pastor of Beaverdam (Mich.) CRC. Rev. Wagenmaker has served on the Classis Zeeland seminarian oversight team and presently serves as a member of the classical interim committee, as a church visitor, and as a member of the classis's leadership development team and fellowship team. He was also part of the classis's 500th Anniversary Reformation Worship Service planning team. Rev. Wagenmaker is a three-time delegate to synod and is an alternate stated clerk. He served as a U.S. Army chaplain for eight years, during which time he spent fifteen months deployed in Baghdad, Iraq, during the Iraq War. Presently he serves on the Grand Rapids area campus ministry board and the Grand Valley State University ministry oversight team. At Beaverdam CRC, Rev. Wagenmaker is a Reformed doctrine leader

for 11th and 12th grades, serves as youth group leader, as chair of council and consistory, and as chair of the worship committee.

B. Corporation officers and executive committee of the Council of Delegates (Committee 1)

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

1. CRCNA Canada Corporation

President: Mr. Andy de Ruyter
Vice president: Rev. Donald G. Draayer
Secretary: Ms. Aaltje van Grootheest
Treasurer: Ms. Verney Kho

2. CRCNA U.S. Corporation

President: Rev. Paul R. De Vries
Vice president: Rev. Emmett A. Harrison
Secretary: Ms. Elsa Fennema
Treasurer: Mr. Timothy Bosscher

3. Back to God Ministries International Canada Corporation

President: Mr. Andy de Ruyter
Vice president: Rev. Donald G. Draayer
Secretary: Rev. B. Bernard Bakker
Treasurer: Ms. Cori Christiaanse

4. Back to God Ministries International U.S. Corporation

President: Rev. Paul R. De Vries
Vice president: Rev. Emmett A. Harrison
Secretary: Ms. Elsa Fennema
Treasurer: Mr. Timothy Bosscher

5. Council of Delegates executive committee and officers

Chair: Rev. Paul R. De Vries
Vice chair: Mr. Andy de Ruyter
Secretary: Ms. Aaltje van Grootheest
Treasurer: Mr. Timothy Bosscher
Rev. B. Bernard Bakker
Ms. Susan B. Hoekema
Rev. Michelle J. Kool
Rev. Tong Kun Park

C. Judicial Code Committee (Committee 1)

The Judicial Code Committee hears appeals from a decision made by a council, a classis, or an agency of the Christian Reformed Church if it is alleged that an action violates the Church Order or the agency's mandate. The procedures followed by the Judicial Code Committee are set forth in Church Order Supplement, Article 30-c. The committee's members from both

Canada and the United States include people with legal expertise, clergy, and nonclergy.

1. The COD, on behalf of the Judicial Code Committee, recommends that synod appoint, from the following slate of three nominees, one member *from Canada with legal expertise* to a first term of three years on the Judicial Code Committee:

Mr. Edward Bosveld is the interim vice-president for Redeemer University College. He attends Immanuel CRC in Hamilton, Ontario. Mr. Bosveld has nearly ten years of full-time employment as a quasi-judicial adjudicator with the government of Canada in which he heard and decided refugee claims and appeals. Previously he was a director of a venture capital fund and a Christian think tank. Mr. Bosveld is currently serving on the St. Clair District Catholic School Board and Municipal Elections Compliance Committee. He has served as an elder, clerk, and chair of the board of administration for Calvary CRC in Chatham, Ontario, and also as a pastoral elder for Immanuel CRC, Hamilton, Ontario.

Ms. Margo Den Haan is presently an office administrator and was formerly a practicing lawyer. She attends Calvin CRC in Ottawa, Ontario, where she has served on the safe church committee and worship team and will begin a first term as a deacon in summer 2018. Ms. Den Haan is currently serving as director of Mothercraft Ottawa and is a member of its personnel committee.

Ms. Eun-Joo Gloria Dykstra is currently a lawyer. She attends Meadowlands Fellowship CRC in Ancaster, Ontario. Ms. Dykstra has served on the Hamilton Early Learning Centre board.

2. The COD, on behalf of the Judicial Code Committee, recommends that synod appoint, from the following slate of three nominees, one member *from the United States ordained as a minister of the Word or commissioned pastor* to a first term of three years on the Judicial Code Committee:

Rev. Cindy de Jong is currently assisting with worship planning and preaching at Second CRC in Fremont, Michigan. Rev. de Jong has served on church councils, the World Council of Reformed Churches worship committee, and the Partnership in the Gospel Committee. She has also served as an elder at Neland Avenue CRC, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and was the pastor at Lakeside CRC in Ludington, Michigan. She is currently on the worship committee at Second CRC.

Rev. Susan LaClear is currently a pastor at Alive Ministries in Jenison, Michigan. Rev. LaClear has served on the Classis Red Mesa ministries leadership team and was president of the council of Maranatha Fellowship CRC in Farmington, New Mexico. She is currently a member of the CRC Candidacy Committee and part of the vision team for Classis Georgetown.

3. The COD recommends the following nominees for election (ratification) to a second term on the Judicial Code Committee: Mr. Orlan Gulker, Rev. Aldon L. Kuiper, Mr. Calvin Rozenboom, Ms. Roberta Vriesema, Rev. Henry Wildeboer.

D. Congregational Revitalization and Transformation Initiative (Committee 6)

In response to the decision of Synod 2017 that the executive director “work with each agency and educational institution to seek out best practices and resources related to church renewal in the CRC and similar denominations and share these with classes and congregations in order to more faithfully carry out our commitment to Church Order Articles 74-76” (*Acts of Synod 2017*, p. 706), a team composed of members of the CRC and RCA prepared a report describing an approach and strategy for church renewal. The report on the work of this Congregational Revitalization and Transformation Initiative, for which a grant proposal has been submitted jointly with the RCA, is included in Appendix A. The COD recommends that synod receive the report as information.

E. Review of Overture 2 to synod (Committee 4)

The COD took time to review Overture 2 on synod’s agenda, considering that this overture makes recommendations that have implications on the work of the denomination’s Safe Church Ministry office. The overture is titled “Address Patterns of Abuse of Power That Violate the Sacred Trust Given to Leaders and Recognize How These Hinder Due Process and Healing.” As a result of considering this overture, the COD recommends that synod reaffirm the action it took in response to the Abuse Victims Task Force Report (*Agenda for Synod 2010*, pp. 475-509; *Acts of Synod 2010*, pp. 862-66) and allocate resources to provide support for pastoral care and healing.

F. Calvin College name change proposed (Committee 3)

The COD, by action of its executive committee on May 11, 2018, presents to synod the actions of the Calvin College Board of Trustees pursuant to an intended change of name for the institution. Article I of the Calvin College Articles of Incorporation states the current name (Calvin College); Article VI states that any amendment of Articles requires approval of synod. The Governance Handbook of the Council of Delegates states that “changes . . . in mandate, constitution, and/or bylaws” for Calvin College (as well as Calvin Theological Seminary and World Renew) “require presentation by the COD as recommendations to synod.”

In response to the Calvin College Board of Trustees action of May 3, 2018 (cited below), the COD recommends that synod (1) endorse the intended change of name from *Calvin College* to *Calvin University*, effective no later than September 1, 2020; and (2) permit the COD to act in approving the name change in Article 1 of the Calvin College Articles of Incorporation when the Calvin College Board of Trustees acts to modify its Articles of Incorporation.

1. Resolution of the Calvin College Board of Trustees, May 3, 2018

The Calvin College Board of Trustees charges the administration to promptly begin developing a plan with the goal to implement the new vision of becoming Calvin University by 2020.

2. Rationale from the Calvin College Board of Trustees’ adopted Vision 2030

A hallmark of Calvin University will be collaboration across the many domains of learning. In becoming a university with global influence, Calvin will expand what it does well and experiment with new directions. It will have a university-wide core grounded in the liberal arts and consist of a

strong college of arts and sciences and thriving schools associated with professional programs, all of which will be structured, governed, and resourced in ways that maximize potential to grow enrollment and sustain Calvin's mission. Renaming the institution as a university will make Calvin more visible to and better understood by international students. A university structure combined with a strong collaborative impulse will drive growth by creating opportunities to innovate within and across disciplinary families, professional programs, and centers and institutes.

Calvin will provide programs that bridge the needs of high school students, undergraduate and graduate students, professionals in the middle of careers, and people interested in unaccredited learning, as in our CALL program. The university will work with partners locally and globally to promote trans-disciplinary learning that fosters intellectual growth and critical reflection and to address the complex problems of the 21st century. At the same time, Calvin will clarify and reaffirm the formative approach to teaching, learning, service, and scholarship that unifies it.

A Christian liberal arts approach to education undergirds all of the work that Calvin does, especially in its undergraduate curriculum and co-curriculum. "Liberal arts" does not refer here to a particular set of disciplines but to a way of learning that integrates distinctive knowledge, methods, and wisdom from programs in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. This way of learning defines Calvin's core curriculum and shapes key aspects of its undergraduate majors and minors. It also animates the trans-disciplinary scholarship, service, and community engagement of Calvin faculty, departments, and centers and institutes. Calvin will continue to be a place "for looking outward" and "equipping" people to understand the world and bring a redemptive message to it.

Opportunities and Context:

- In response to disruptive demographic and market trends in higher education, Calvin has opportunities to create new lifelong learning options (degrees, certificates, badges, CEUs).
- In the context of local, national, and global demand for various kinds of post-secondary education and for partnerships that connect scholarly expertise to the needs of communities, Calvin has the opportunity to develop more options for learning beyond the Knollcrest campus. Our program at the Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia, Michigan, is a current example.
- In the context of growing global competition for international students, not just among schools in the West but also in Asia and Africa, Calvin has the opportunity to develop more global connections (e.g., international students; partnerships with Christian universities, church organizations, local communities, and NGOs).
- In pursuing our calling to promote "the welfare of the city and the healing of the world," Calvin has the opportunity to rethink how to both promote the distinctive methods of the disciplines and integrate them to address 21st century social, ecological, and economic needs.

Note: The complete Vision 2030 rationale can be found in Appendix B.

II. Program and finance matters

A. Program matters

1. Ministry to Indigenous peoples (Committee 4)

In response to a report by the Canadian Aboriginal Ministry Committee, the COD approved initiating a binational study and conversation to continue dialogue begun through the "Hearts Exchanged Report" from 2000 about issues facing Indigenous ministry direction and support.

Staff will be drafting a mandate and suggesting composition of a committee for consideration by the COD executive committee and subsequently the COD in October 2018.

2. Support for Back to God Ministries International and Resonate Global Mission (Committee 6)

The Council of Delegates approved including the following in the offering schedule for CRC churches for calendar year 2019:

- Two offerings for Back to God Ministries International
- Four offerings for Resonate Global Mission (formerly Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions – each on the list for two offerings per year)

B. Finance matters (Committee 7)

1. The COD 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 to the COD Support Services Committee in the report of the COD Budget Review Team.

2. The COD recommends that synod approve a ministry share of \$346.48 per adult member (age 18 and over) for calendar year 2019—a \$7 increase from the level maintained for calendar years 2016-2018, with the increase allocated to Congregational Services ministries.

3. The denominational salary grid

The COD recommends that Synod 2018 adopt the salary grid included below for use in fiscal year 2018-2019. The grid reflects a 2 percent increase in the target salary levels—the first increase since the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

2018-2019 Salary Grade and Range Structure				
Level	U.S. Range		Canadian Range	
	Minimum	Target	Minimum	Target
20	\$156,839	\$184,516		
19	\$141,755	\$166,771		
18	\$124,880	\$146,918	\$116,541	\$137,107
17	\$110,647	\$130,173	\$101,700	\$119,647
16	\$95,260	\$112,070	\$88,839	\$104,516
15	\$82,984	\$97,628	\$79,068	\$93,022
14	\$74,093	\$87,168	\$71,978	\$84,680
13	\$66,154	\$77,828	\$65,648	\$77,233

4. The COD recommends that synod ratify 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

Congregational Services Ministries

- 1) Aboriginal Ministries (Canada)
- 2) *The Banner*
- 3) Centre for Public Dialogue
- 4) Chaplaincy and Care Ministry
- 5) Disability Concerns
- 6) Faith Formation Ministries
- 7) Pastor Church Resources
- 8) Race Relations
- 9) Safe Church Ministry
- 10) Office of Social Justice
- 11) Worship Ministries

Resonate Global Mission

Timothy Leadership Training Institute

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

- b. Denominationally related ministries 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

5. The COD informs synod that it has approved the renewal of the following accredited agencies for offerings in the churches for 2019—year two in a three-year cycle of support (2018-2020). Guidelines adopted by Synod 2002 require an application by nondenominational agencies and synodical approval every three years. Synod indicated that, in the intervening years, agencies are to submit updated financial information and information regarding any significant programmatic changes. Each nondenominational agency requesting approval submitted the required materials for consideration.

The COD recommends that synod ratify the following nondenominational agencies recommended for financial support but not necessarily for one or more offerings:

- a. United States

- 1) Benevolent agencies

Bethany Christian Services

Hope Haven

The Luke Society

Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services

Quiet Waters Ministries

2) Educational agencies

Ascending Leaders
Christian Learning Center (CLC)
Christian Schools International
Christian Schools International Foundation
Dordt College
Elim Christian Services
Friends of ICS (U.S. Foundation of Institute for Christian Studies)
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
Tent Schools International (formerly Worldwide Christian Schools)
Trinity Christian College
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
Crossroads Prison Ministries (formerly Crossroad Bible Institute)
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
Mission India
Mississippi Christian Family Services
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
EduDeo
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)
Dunamis Fellowship Canada
Evangelical Fellowship of Canada
Gideons International – Canada
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship of Canada
OneBook
Shalem Mental Health
World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)
Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada, Inc.

6. New requests for inclusion on the list of nondenominational agencies approved for offerings

The Council of Delegates recommends that synod ratify the following organization for inclusion on the accredited agency list:

United States

ITEM (International Theological Education Ministries, Inc.)

Ground: ITEM's mission is to provide biblically based, Reformed teaching and training worldwide to Indigenous church leaders for ministry. While their purpose is similar to that of Timothy Leadership Training Institute, their geographic focus is Eastern Europe.

7. Ministry share reimagined

The Council of Delegates discussed a preliminary report about reimagining ministry share—as a response to the instruction of Synod 2016 that “the BOT, following ministry evaluation/prioritization . . . reimagine ministry shares using the following guidelines and . . . report to Synod 2019” (*Acts of Synod 2016*, pp. 858-59). The guidelines provided by synod are as follows: (1) fund the prioritized ministries at agreed-upon levels, (2) simplify the calculations, and (3) consider options other than the number of professing members over 18 as a basis of the calculation. Feedback was provided to the team working on this assignment. A report will be submitted to Synod 2019 as noted in the mandate.

8. CRCNA Foundation Board dissolution

The Council of Delegates of the CRCNA (the Members of the CRCNA Foundation) approved the merger of the Christian Reformed Church in North America Foundation with the CRCNA U.S. Corporation, effective June 30, 2018. Any designated and otherwise restricted funds held in the United States by the CRCNA Foundation will be transferred to the custody of the CRCNA U.S. Corporation based in Michigan; in addition, any nonrestricted funds held in the United States not otherwise needed to meet the financial obligations of the CRCNA Foundation will be gifted

to the CRCNA U.S. Corporation based in Michigan—the CRCNA U.S. Corporation will be the successor corporation to the CRCNA Foundation. The CRCNA Canada Corporation directors took a similar action at its meeting on May 2, 2018, to amalgamate the CRCNA-Canada Foundation with the CRCNA Canada Corporation.

The U.S. members *only* of the COD, as the directors of the CRCNA U.S. Corporation, adopted the merger recommendation of the members and directors of the CRCNA Foundation, and present the following recommendations to synod:

- a. That *only* U.S. delegates to synod approve as the members of the CRCNA U.S. Corporation the merger of the CRCNA Foundation (U.S. only) into the CRCNA U.S. Corporation (based in Michigan).
- b. That all delegates to synod approve the merger.

Note: The responsibility of monitoring and championing the various special initiatives not otherwise part of a specific ministry (e.g., Ignite Fund and the Peace Initiative) will be delegated to the COD Support Services Committee.

9. Ministers' pension assessment

The COD recommends that synod take note of the following actions of the Pension Trustees endorsed by the Council of Delegates at its May meeting:

- a. The three-year average salary to be used to determine retirement benefits beginning in 2019 for ministers of the Word in the United States is \$53,147 and in Canada is \$48,763.
- b. That the 2019 per-member assessment for the Canadian Plan remain \$42.96 and that the Canadian per-participant assessment remain \$9,840. Similarly, that the 2019 per-member assessment for the U.S. Plan remain \$37.20 and the U.S. per-participant assessment remain \$7,704.

10. Summary of denominational investments and compliance with investment policy

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

III. Recommendations

A. That synod express appreciation for members of the Council of Delegates who have served the denomination with dedication and have contributed toward the governance of the CRCNA (COD Supplement section I, A, 1-2).

B. That synod by way of the ballot reappoint Ms. Beth Fellingner to a subsequent term and elect classical delegates to the Council of Delegates from the single nominees and slate of nominees as presented (COD Supplement section I, A, 3, a-c).

C. That synod by way of the ballot reappoint to a second term and elect to a first term members to the Judicial Code Committee (COD Supplement section I, C).

D. That synod take note of the response to the request by Synod 2017 by way of the Congregational Revitalization and Transformation Initiative report (COD Supplement section I, D and Appendix A).

E. That synod, with regard to Overture 2, reaffirm the action it took in response to the Abuse Victims Task Force Report (*Agenda for Synod 2010*, pp. 475-509; *Acts of Synod 2010*, pp. 862-66) and allocate resources to provide support for pastoral care and healing (COD Supplement section I, E).

F. That synod, in response to the Calvin College Board of Trustees action of May 3, 2018, (1) endorse the intended change of name from *Calvin College* to *Calvin University*, effective no later than September 1, 2020; and (2) permit the COD to act in approving the name change in Article 1 of the Calvin College Articles of Incorporation when the Calvin College Board of Trustees acts to modify its Articles of Incorporation (COD Supplement section I, F).

G. That synod take note of the COD approval to include the following in the offering schedule for CRC churches for calendar year 2019 (COD Supplement section II, A, 2):

- Two offerings for Back to God Ministries International
- Four offerings for Resonate Global Mission (formerly Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions – each on the list for two offerings per year)

H. That synod receive the agencies and institutional unified budget as information and approve a ministry share of \$346.48 for calendar year 2019 (COD Supplement sections II, B, 1-2).

I. That synod adopt the 2018-2019 denominational salary grid for senior positions as proposed (COD Supplement section II, B, 3).

J. That synod adopt the following recommendations with reference to agencies requesting to be placed on the recommended-for-offerings list:

1. That synod ratify 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 (COD Supplement section II, B, 4).
2. That synod ratify the list of nondenominational agencies, previously accredited, that have been approved for calendar year 2019 (COD Supplement section II, B, 5).
3. That synod approve the following organization for inclusion on the accredited agency list (COD Supplement section II, B, 6):

United States

ITEM (International Theological Education Ministries, Inc.)

Ground: ITEM's mission is to provide biblically based, Reformed teaching and training worldwide to Indigenous church leaders for ministry. While their purpose is similar to that of Timothy Leadership Training Institute, their geographic focus is Eastern Europe.

K. That synod act on the following with regard to the merger of the Christian Reformed Church in North America Foundation (COD Supplement section II, B, 8):

1. That *only* U.S. delegates to synod approve as the members of the CRCNA U.S. Corporation the merger of the CRCNA Foundation (U.S. only) into the CRCNA U.S. Corporation (based in Michigan).

2. That all delegates to synod approve the merger.

L. That synod take note of the COD's endorsement of the following action of the Pension Trustees (COD Supplement section II, B, 9):

That the 2019 per-member assessment for the Canadian Plan remain \$42.96 and that the Canadian per-participant assessment remain \$9,840. Similarly, that the 2019 per-member assessment for the U.S. Plan remain \$37.20 and the U.S. per-participant assessment remain \$7,704.

Council of Delegates of the
Christian Reformed Church in North America
Paul R. De Vries, chair

Appendix A

Congregational Revitalization and Transformation Initiative

I. Introduction

Synod 2017, in response to an overture titled “Discover Cause for CRC Membership Decline; Develop Strategy to Reverse the Trend of Decline through Church Renewal and Planting; Require Annual Reporting of Progress” (*Agenda for Synod 2017*, pp. 429-34), adopted the following recommendations (*Acts of Synod 2017*, p. 706):

1. That synod instruct the executive director to make available a list of current denominational resources related to church renewal, including church planting with emphasis on training for evangelism.
2. That synod instruct the executive director to work with each agency and educational institution to seek out best practices and resources related to church renewal in the CRC and similar denominations and share these with classes and congregations in order to more faithfully carry out our commitment to Church Order Articles 74-76.
3. That synod instruct the executive director to work with each agency and educational institution to collaborate in finding areas of convergence related to church renewal and to develop effective strategies for implementation by classes and churches.

A team of agency and institution representatives has supplied a response to Recommendation 1 above. Presenting an insightful discussion on the religious and biblical context of church renewal with regard to church planting and evangelism, the team included a list of resources and shared its responses with the Council of Delegates (COD) at its February 2018 meeting; the team's report is included in the *Agenda for Synod 2018* (pp. 64-75).

The following report reflects work done in response to Recommendations 2 and 3 above (i.e., seeking out of best practices related to church renewal, as

well as seeking areas of convergence for the development and implementation of new strategies).

II. Best practices in the CRC and other similar denominations (in response to Recommendation 2)

Because the directive from Synod 2017 included instruction to seek out best practices in the CRC and similar denominations, it was decided to engage the Reformed Collaborative Vision Team in pursuing this effort. The Reformed Collaborative Vision Team consists of senior representatives from the Reformed Church in America (RCA) and the CRC committed to living into the spirit of the “Pella Accord” of 2014.¹

The vision team formed a working team (a Congregational Renewal and Transformation Team) to focus on best practices related to church renewal on behalf of both denominations. A planning grant was secured to support the work.

Listening sessions, including participants from three distinct groups, were held by the working team. Participants included church leaders, drawn primarily from vital, mission-shaped congregations; ministry practitioners, primarily regional and denominational staff; and external third parties. Some of our learnings to date include the following:

1. Most RCA and CRC churches desire revitalization and a new approach to achieving their goals.
2. Many vital, mission-shaped congregations have undergone revitalization processes. Many have used external catalysts and coaches to supplement the work of leadership and are eager to equip and assist other congregations.
3. Current needs of some other congregations are not currently being well met, due in part to lack of knowledge about what is available or lack of readiness for change.
4. Current efforts, while good, do not adequately address the vital needs of all congregations (i.e., helping them identify the right resources at the right time with the right implementation support); present processes do not draw on the best of both denominations.
5. There is an opportunity to develop a new approach or capacity—a partnership for church renewal—that complements and enhances existing denominational work and creates better alignment with congregational needs.
6. Congregations and pastors in vital, mission-shaped churches are eager to participate at tables of conversation and collaboration.

¹ The “Pella Accord” is an informal name given to the joint resolution made by the RCA and CRC synods of 2014, which met concurrently in Pella, Iowa. The joint resolution states in part: “Therefore, as the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America and the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, we declare that the principle that guides us, and the intention that motivates us, is to ‘act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel [us] to act separately.’”

7. Denominational and regionally deployed staff are ready to collaborate more fully in order to better serve congregations.

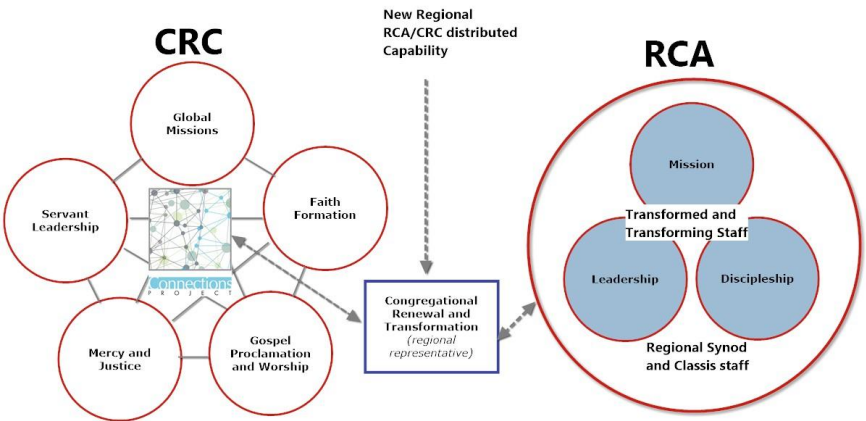
III. Collaborate in finding areas of convergence and develop strategies for implementation (in response to Recommendation 3)

The following vision description and recommendations result from the work done to investigate best practices (including those of other denominations) by way of listening to church leaders and discerning how congregations (specifically in the RCA and CRC) can work together for mutual benefit.

A. A preferred future for engaging congregations: Vision

Congregations will be served by the RCA and the CRCNA denominations and their denominational representatives in such a way that these congregations engage in prayerful discernment, leading them to identify the right path for their ministry, with the right resources or counsel at the right time (their point of need), and that congregations faithfully implement what they choose.

In addition, since a local church's relationships with other local churches, their classes, and even the extended ministries of the denominations are beneficial to that congregation's ability to do ministry, ample opportunity for such engagement (locally, regionally, and inter-denominationally) must be routinely available.



B. Recommendations

The coleaders, steering committee, and Reformed vision team are unanimous in recommending the creation of a joint RCA-CRC unit to provide congregational renewal and transformation for both denominations.

This new capability will enhance the teamwork between ministries and ministry staff at their point of engagement with congregations. The capability will focus on prayerful discernment of what is needed for each congregation, on collaboration that catalyzes innovation, and on embracing the current capabilities of both denominations involved in this work.

Congregations will be served by the RCA and the CRCNA denominations and their denominational representatives in such a way that these congregations engage in prayerful discernment, leading them to identify the right path for their ministries, with the right resources or counsel at the right time (their point of need), and to faithfully implement what they choose.

The new unit will serve as a new home for *Churches Learning Change* (formerly Ridder Church Renewal), *Church Renewal Lab*, and *Healthy Church*. In this role it will convene the leadership teams for these programs, as well as other initiatives used specifically by each denomination (e.g., *Go Local* from *Resonate Global Mission*) to facilitate collaboration and mutual learning.

The **primary activities** initiated by this new capacity include at least the following:

- mutually developing and employing prayerful congregational self-assessment
- convening tables of conversation leading to intentional collaboration
- collaboratively enhancing existing church renewal resources, and developing new ones²
- shaping a common vocabulary that is widely employed
- curating resources appropriate to a wide variety of congregational contexts and sizes
- stimulating missional imagination and courageous experimentation

In the long term, this new capacity will require funding for executive leadership, administrative support, core financial support for Church Renewal Lab, Churches Learning Change, Healthy Church, and financial capacity to convene multiple tables of conversation that contribute to innovation and implementation. In addition, all processes must recognize other renewal procedures currently used by both the RCA and CRC (e.g., *Go Local*, currently used by *Resonate Global Mission*³).

IV. Local and regionalization implications

Both denominations have a myriad of contact points between denominational staff and congregations. The work afforded by this grant envisions a time when denominational staff from both the CRC and the RCA who are responsible for local and regional support to congregations engage in constant contact with each other, and present themselves as a collaborative team (without competition) to congregations and leaders.

The statement above also implies that all denominational contacts with a church are readily available and transparent to all other denominational team members from both denominations. It therefore assumes effective and immediate communication among all denominational team members assigned to work with the local congregation. In fact, in order to operationalize such a vision, the following would need to be in place:

- close collaboration among all ministries and agencies of the CRCNA or the RCA
- common language regarding the processes of prayerful discernment to be jointly conducted with served congregations
- congregations' ability to discern, understand, and communicate their life stage and to then identify and implement resources or processes appropriate to their situation

² These resources include Church Renewal Lab, Ridder Church Renewal, and Healthy Church but also recognize the importance of other resources (e.g., *Go Local*, currently used by *Resonate Global Mission*).

³ See figure 2.

- local discernment and agreement on what collaborations, resources, services, coaching, or advice is needed
- complete selflessness on the part of staffs of ministries and agencies, for the benefit of congregations

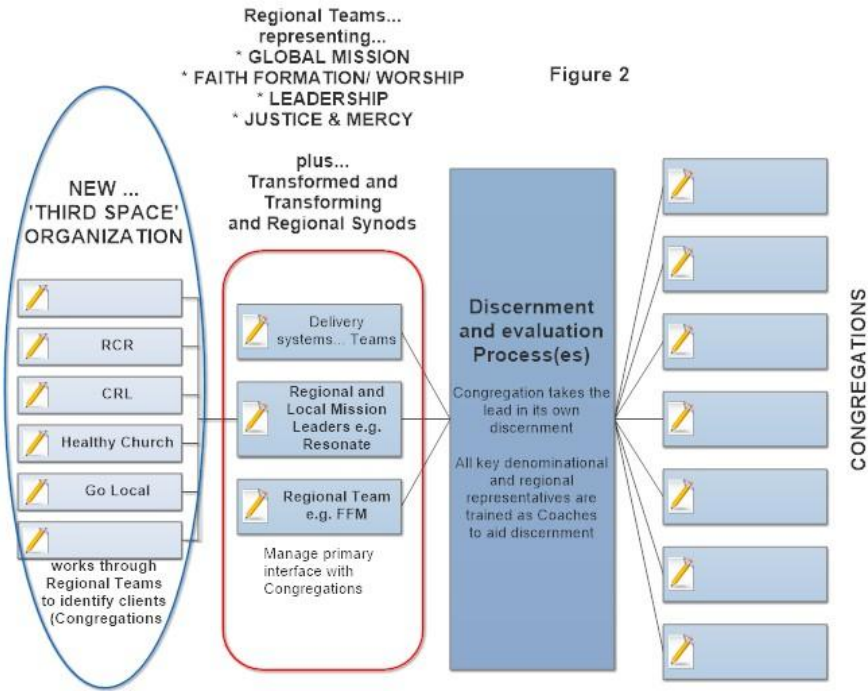


Figure 2 shows that the process of prayerful discernment will be led by local and regional ministry practitioners who are already engaged with congregations (i.e., the Resonate Global Mission ministry leaders—or RCA’s Transformed and Transforming teams—will be engaging congregations and helping them determine the most appropriate renewal path for their congregations, whether that path be Go Local, Church Renewal Lab, Ridder, or something else).

V. Metrics and measurements

Specific goals for the new capability will be developed over the coming months; however, it is our goal that each year at least 10 percent of churches will have a significant conversation with some part of the new entity and that, after three years, at least 30 percent of churches will have made a renewal decision (positive or negative) based on engagement with the new capability.

Also, at the conclusion of the grant (four years), we expect that this effort will continue, sustained by the financial support of the denominations and users.

VI. Conclusion

Though this report does not include information from two additional church leadership listening sessions that took place in April 2018, and

further feedback sessions are scheduled to take place at the joint synods in June 2018, the working team and the Reformed Collaborative Vision Team are confident in the direction being proposed in this report. It is, in many ways, an acceleration of the path of collaboration on which we have already embarked.

VII. Key points

A. Continue to communicate the current opportunities for church renewal available (COD report of February 2018).

B. Develop a new coordinated process of partnering in renewal with congregations (jointly with the RCA) in accordance with the following primary activities.

C. The **primary activities** initiated by this new capacity include at least the following:

- mutually developing and employing prayerful congregational self-assessment
- convening tables of conversation leading to intentional collaboration
- collaboratively enhancing existing church renewal resources, and developing new ones⁴
- shaping a common vocabulary that is widely employed
- curating resources appropriate to a wide variety of congregational contexts and sizes
- stimulating missional imagination and courageous experimentation

Appendix B

Calvin College Vision 2030 Rationale

Disruptive changes in higher education today present major challenges for Calvin College. These changes include a declining number of high school graduates in Michigan and the upper Midwest, the unbundling of higher education, and innovations in digital learning technology. Short-term solutions will not be adequate to deal with these changes. Calvin must think strategically about its future, making choices rather than reacting to changes.

Calvin has exciting opportunities in the next decade to enhance its mission, expand its reach, and serve more people. The Calvin 2030 vision upholds our historic mission and builds on our current distinctive strengths, extending them in new directions. Calvin will continue to have at its center residential undergraduate education. And it will pursue an innovative vision that branches out from these roots: (1) to become a university with a Christian liberal arts approach to learning; (2) to become a trusted partner for learning throughout life and in service; and (3) to promote a Reformed Christian faith that is global, diverse, generous, committed, hospitable, and inspiring.

⁴ These resources include Church Renewal Lab, Ridder Church Renewal, and Healthy Church but also recognize the importance of other resources (e.g., Go Local, currently used by Resonate Global Mission).

Become a University

A hallmark of Calvin University will be collaboration across the many domains of learning. In becoming a university with global influence, Calvin will expand what it does well and experiment with new directions. It will have a university-wide core grounded in the liberal arts and consist of a strong college of arts and sciences and thriving schools associated with professional programs, all of which will be structured, governed, and resourced in ways that maximize potential to grow enrollment and sustain Calvin's mission. Renaming the institution as a university will make Calvin more visible to and better understood by international students. A university structure combined with a strong collaborative impulse will drive growth by creating opportunities to innovate within and across disciplinary families, professional programs, and centers and institutes.

Calvin will provide programs that bridge the needs of high school students, undergraduate and graduate students, professionals in the middle of careers, and people interested in unaccredited learning, as in our CALL program. The university will work with partners locally and globally to promote trans-disciplinary learning that fosters intellectual growth and critical reflection and to address the complex problems of the 21st century. At the same time, Calvin will clarify and reaffirm the formative approach to teaching, learning, service, and scholarship that unifies it.

A Christian liberal arts approach to education undergirds all of the work that Calvin does, especially in its undergraduate curriculum and co-curriculum. "Liberal arts" does not refer here to a particular set of disciplines but to a way of learning that integrates distinctive knowledge, methods, and wisdom from programs in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. This way of learning defines Calvin's core curriculum and shapes key aspects of its undergraduate majors and minors. It also animates the trans-disciplinary scholarship, service, and community engagement of Calvin faculty, departments, and centers and institutes. Calvin will continue to be a place "for looking outward" and "equipping" people to understand the world and bring a redemptive message to it.

Opportunities and Context:

- In response to disruptive demographic and market trends in higher education, Calvin has opportunities to create new lifelong learning options (degrees, certificates, badges, CEUs).
- In the context of local, national, and global demand for various kinds of post-secondary education and for partnerships that connect scholarly expertise to the needs of communities, Calvin has the opportunity to develop more options for learning beyond the Knollcrest campus. Our program at the Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia, Michigan, is a current example.
- In the context of growing global competition for international students, not just among schools in the West but also in Asia and Africa, Calvin has the opportunity to develop more global connections (e.g., international students; partnerships with Christian universities, church organizations, local communities, and NGOs).
- In pursuing our calling to promote "the welfare of the city and the healing of the world," Calvin has the opportunity to rethink how to both promote the distinctive methods of the disciplines and integrate them to address 21st century social, ecological, and economic needs.

Become a Trusted Partner

In the context of distrust of higher education as elitist, politicized, and overpriced, Calvin University will secure a place as a trusted partner that helps address the needs of diverse students and communities in holistic ways. To be recognized as trustworthy, Calvin must ensure that highly qualified faculty and staff continue to be the signature of the new university, and it must enhance and extend its partnerships with communities and institutions locally and globally.

Our city, nation, and world have many needs that Calvin is uniquely equipped to meet. Calvin faculty, staff, and centers and institutes have deep expertise in a variety of areas and believe they are called to promote learning and “the welfare of the city and the healing of the world.” Diverse audiences will view Calvin University not merely as a center or source for scholarly engagement, deep learning, and practical expertise, but more so as a trusted institutional partner that seeks reciprocal, mutually beneficial relationships with church communities, businesses, non-profit organizations, and communities, locally and around the world.

Illustrative possibilities include the following:

- Combining expertise in the Education Department, Kuyers Institute, Nagel Institute, and Calvin Theological Seminary provide curriculum and services related to Christian leadership, in North America and globally.
- Responding to growing interest in Christian associate’s degrees, develop programs in liberal arts studies and in technical education, focusing on areas in which Calvin has expertise.
- Building on faculty expertise across the disciplines, develop a master’s program integrating faith and learning, designed for educators at emerging Christian universities around the world.
- Expanding on the example of the Clean Water Institute, provide sustainability and development services for communities around the world.
- Enhancing the work of Nursing, Speech Pathology and Audiology, Social Work, and the Service-Learning Center, develop a deeper array of local health and social service partnerships.

Opportunities and Context:

- In response to nontraditional competitors in higher education delivering curriculum (often badges and certificates), Calvin has the opportunity to be a multimedia resource for degree and nondegree learning, packaging the knowledge and insights of Calvin faculty and staff.
- In the context of secularization and “culture wars” in the U.S. and other parts of the world affecting Christian education, Calvin has the opportunity to work with partners (e.g., Kaufman Institute) to promote ecumenical and interfaith dialogue among religious communities and in public life (building on resources such as the Service-Learning Center, Henry Institute, and Center for Faith and Writing).
- In becoming a university and a trusted source in the context of financial/market constraints, Calvin has the opportunity to draw in partners compelled by its 2030 vision (new kinds of students and clients; donors; content, service, and learning partners).

Reformed Christian Faith

Success for Calvin depends on enacting a diverse, inclusive, and global vision of the Reformed Christian tradition in a culture that increasingly is post-denominational, post-biblical, and religiously diverse. Calvin University will be countercultural in both keeping faith with its Christian tradition and seeking dialog with people across religious differences.

Reformed Christianity has profoundly shaped the life and work of the college, across the many offices and departments that sustain it, in teaching, scholarship, service, and worship. Calvin has aspired to honor God's sovereignty over all things and to work in and under the broad, covenantal reach of Scripture. Calvin has affirmed its foundational theological commitments, practiced active piety, and engaged in a transformational vision of the world. And Calvin has insisted that curiosity and conviction are mutually enriching, as we seek understanding in all domains of learning and across religious and cultural differences. We must continue to do these things, and do them better, if Calvin is to flourish as a Christian learning community that is generous and inclusive in welcoming diverse students, staff, and faculty and in working with diverse partners around the world.

For Calvin to respond faithfully to its calling, it is critical that Calvin faculty, administrators, and staff are equipped well for their work in higher education. Consequently, Calvin University will aspire to a program of ongoing development of faculty, administrators, and staff that attracts and retains faithful Christians who are eager to engage with and be formed by a global vision of Reformed Christianity and who can bring this vision into all areas of work and life. Such development will encourage authentic commitment to the college's mission, help us meet our goals in diversity, and inspire creative, wise, and redemptive work within the university and in the world.

Opportunities and Context:

- In order to recruit and retain students, staff, and faculty from diverse Christian traditions and cultural backgrounds, and be a trusted partner for local, national, and global audiences, Calvin will promote a distinctive global vision of Reformed Christianity that unifies and animates its work.
- In the context of its covenant relationship with the Christian Reformed Church (CRCNA) and of Christians losing touch with heritages that shape community, piety, and worship, Calvin will enhance its support of the CRCNA and other Reformed denominations and promote a catholicity that is deeply rooted in confessional traditions and Scripture.
- In response to higher education—secular and Christian—having become contentious and polarized, Calvin will position itself as a community that joins in intellectual discussion from a Christian perspective, doing so in a manner that generously and critically engages other worldviews and diverse cultures, taking differences seriously and celebrating catholicity.

Embedded Assumptions

The following are strategic initiatives required to implement the components of Vision 2030 and areas of continuity that we seek to strengthen and improve.

- Providing formative residential undergraduate education that remains central to Calvin’s mission.
- Sustaining advanced research and scholarship in concert with innovative teaching and learning.
- Assembling means such as a digital platform, satellite campuses, programs shared with other institutions, etc., to enact Vision 2030.
- Creating a marketing strategy for Calvin University as a trusted source—for the institution, discrete units (e.g., centers and institutes), and individual faculty and staff.
- Developing an investment model for Vision 2030 that is financially sustainable and allows faculty, staff, and students to flourish.

Historical Context

In response to significant changes in the higher education landscape, institutions can reduce expenses, hire more adjunct faculty, increase tuition, and try to increase traditional enrollment. Such responses are only short-term and lead to ongoing constraints, particularly when trends such as competition for a declining number of students continue (see Addendum B). Calvin has used such consequential measures in the past five years to achieve financial stability. This approach, however, is not sustainable.

Long-term solutions involve identifying the institution’s core mission and distinctive strengths and then choosing a strategic vision that improves on those strengths and invests in new areas that align with the institution’s mission, broaden its reach, and increase its revenue streams. Shifting from short-term tactical responses to a long-term visionary strategy fits with the Calvin 2019 strategic plan, which prepared the college by laying the foundation for a transformative plan with Vision 2030. This strategy promises to be sustainable and allow Calvin University and the people who are part of it to flourish.

The recommendations in this document—become a university and trusted source locally, nationally, and globally, and reimagine how the college promotes its Reformed identity—are a long-term strategy and commensurate with the college’s history of institutional transformations.

“Calvin” did not become a college until its 45th year. It began as a seminary with a preparatory academy, serving a Dutch Reformed immigrant community. It added a junior college in 1906. It turned the junior college into Calvin College only in 1920 (the academy becoming Grand Rapids Christian High). The college and seminary separated in the early 1990s. The college has been categorized as both a liberal arts college and as a “regional” or “comprehensive” college over the past 25 years.

Becoming a university might seem a dramatic change, but it is consistent with Calvin’s history of institutional evolution. In 1970, in conversation with the college and seminary, the synod of the CRC recommended that Calvin develop graduate programs and potentially become a university. College policy documents consistently have affirmed that a Christian integrative mission includes a liberal arts core combined with academic disciplines, professional programs, graduate programs, and service to the church, to the academy, and to public culture. These policies can be found in documents approved by faculty senate dating back to the 1960s:

- *Christian Liberal Arts Education* (1965)
- *Professional Education and the Christian Liberal Arts College* (1973)
- *Expanded Statement of Mission* (1992; rev. 2004)
- Various reports from the college and CRC on graduate studies (Report to Synod in 1970; Calvin College report in 1990; *Report of the Ad Hoc Graduate Studies Committee* in 2015)

Calvin has been a trusted partner of the CRCNA since its founding. In the past 60 years, the college has been a trusted partner for Christian institutions more broadly, notably those in the CCCU, for the academy, and in West Michigan.

Aspiring to be a university and a trusted partner globally—for Christian, religiously diverse, and secular communities—is an ambitious vision. But it is not out of line with the college’s historic values and practices. Vision 2030 builds on current work by faculty and staff in various parts of the college, notably centers and institutes, Off-Campus Programs, and the Service-Learning Center.

A more diverse and inclusive vision of Reformed Christianity, with a new plan for recruiting and developing a world class faculty, builds on Calvin’s evolution from a school that served an immigrant population and church to a vision of Christian service to people from every nation. Our goal, in aspiring to a generous and hospitable way of being Reformed, is to more fully include in the Calvin community the diverse voices shaping Reformed Christianity today, as people from around the world have made their presence felt in concert with those from Europe and North America. This goal is a recognition of who we are as Christians globally and a promise to become more self-consciously so as a community. This exciting vision adds breadth and depth to the vision of being a university and trusted voice and partner for people in North America and around the world.

Comparative Context

Becoming a university, with goals of serving a variety of kinds of students and being a trusted partner for global audiences, requires clarity about what kind of university Calvin should become. A recent AGB white paper outlines five models of small colleges/universities (see Addendum A):

- Traditional: campuses are focused almost exclusively on the undergraduate liberal arts.
- New American College: maintains a liberal arts core, has a breadth of disciplinary offerings and professional and graduate programs, and emphasizes service to the local community.
- Distinctive program: builds its programs and identity around a common student experience.
- Expansion: responds to shifting student demands and develops facilities to pursue them.
- Expansion and separation: extends the expansion model by aggressively adding high-demand programs while also pursuing new markets through a change in educational delivery systems.

Calvin College today includes elements of several of these models but is closest to the New American College model, with our wide range of pro-

grams, our formative approach to learning, and our emphasis on service. To pursue Vision 2030, Calvin should embrace its strengths as a comprehensive institution. It should aspire to expand and grow as a university and a trusted center for learning, with an innovative vision of learning and service. And it will remain rooted in and promote a global Reformed vision that engages with religiously and culturally diverse students, staff, and faculty, as well as community and institutional partners. Success requires all divisions at Calvin to commit to expanding in these new directions.

Conclusion

Vision 2030 requires us to respond boldly to the challenges that higher education faces today. This vision does not require change to Calvin’s mission or core values. It keeps faith with the institution’s Reformed roots, its Christian liberal arts approach to learning, its tradition of residential undergraduate education, its vision of Christian faith shaping all aspects of life and work, and its commitments to diversity and inclusion. At the same time, Vision 2030 is audacious in aspiring to reach new kinds of audiences and to increased global influence.

Addendum A



Mary B. Marcy, *The Small College Imperative: From Survival to Transformation*, an AGB White Paper, May 2017.

ADAPTING TO A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT FOR SMALL COLLEGES: FROM SURVIVAL TO TRANSFORMATION			
	Stewardship	Short-Term Response	Strategic Vision for Long-Term Sustainability
Assumptions about the fiscal reality	Condition stable	Short-term, very serious cyclical challenges	Problems are not short term; long-term solutions sought
ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Build endowment■ Balance budgets■ Clean audit■ Manage deferred maintenance■ Maintain low student/faculty ratio■ Commit to tenure lines■ Successful accreditation(s)■ Meet enrollment targets■ Fundraise for new projects■ New projects are add-ons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Significantly reduce non-personnel expenses■ Hire more part-time faculty■ Increase tuition■ Increase enrollment■ Contract out/collaborate with other institutions on select services■ Ratchet up fundraising■ Refinance debt■ Attend to deferred maintenance	<p>Assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Affirm essential elements of mission■ Identify unique characteristics and strengths of institution■ Evaluate likely student demographic profile <p>Select:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Most promising of small college models■ Strategic vision based on choice <p>Transformation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Align programs and systems■ Develop multi-year sustainable budget models■ Align fundraising and marketing

Mary B. Marcy, *The Small College Imperative: From Survival to Transformation*, an AGB White Paper, May 2017.

Appendix C
Summary of Denominational Investments and Compliance with Investment Policy

Synod 1998 approved a number of measures dealing with investment guidelines and disclosures. Two of these appear on page 440 of the *Acts of Synod 1998* as follows:

- That the [COD] 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 [COD] 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 Council of Delegates’ response to the first of these requests. In response to the second request, the Council of Delegates reports that on December 31, 2017, 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 Council of Delegates' 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 COD 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, 2017

Categories Specified by Investment Policy:

- SHORT TERM
- CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS
- CRICNA Funds: mutual funds, and CDs
- FIXED-INCOME ISSUES
- CRICNA Funds LLC Liquidity Fund (1)
- Other short term
- CRICNA FUNDS LLC BALANCED FUND (2)
- COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKS
- Publicly traded stocks, bonds, 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
- Bond mutual funds
- CRIC / TAL overdraft accounts

Interagency Investments Obligations:

- Loans to CRICNA (Denom. Services)

Other Investments:

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

	Back to God Ministries International	Calvin College	Calvin Theol. Seminary	Denom./Congreg. Services	CRIC Foundation	Loan Fund	Reasonate Global Mission	World Renew
\$	2,991,454	\$ 14,704,404	\$ 250,760	\$ 5,109,814 (9)	\$ 205,005	\$ 5,269,458	\$ 6,124,022	\$ 21,604,455
	325,183	-	-	3,298	-	-	1,191,469	26,889
	56,090	-	-	1,113,408	-	-	252,147	1,594,200
	2,789,626	-	-	16,113	60,653	-	8,499,740	8,400,179
	764,605 (3)	1,431,303 (3) 77,194,781 (10)	35,817,096 (10)	6,154,125	-	-	351,273 (3)	3,000
	-	58,766,581	-	4,449,427 (9)	-	-	-	-
	226,424 (3)	14,800,672 (12)	7,194,292	8,582,670 (9)	-	-	44,984 (3)	-
	-	-	-	(20,032,231) (9)	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	(1,000,000)	-	-	-	1,000,000
	-	-	3,930,586 (4)	-	-	-	-	-
	7,213	32,032,953 (4)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	6,060,256	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	11,540,968 (11)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	478,632 (5)	2,768,480 (7)	-	-	22,297 (5)	-	-	33,894 (5)
	6,000 (8)	39,900 (8)	1,050,000 (8)	-	-	-	50,907	-
Total	\$ 7,645,227	\$ 219,340,298	\$ 48,242,724	\$ 4,396,625	\$ 287,955	\$ 5,269,458	\$ 16,514,541	\$ 32,862,617

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

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

Footnotes to the December 31, 2017, 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. Includes directly owned and donated publicly traded stock or mutual funds.
4. Ownership interest in private equity funds, including unrealized gains and reinvestments. Private equity groups include Venture Capital, Domestic and International Partnerships, Natural Resources, and Distressed Debt.
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 mutual funds.
11. Includes Tactical Tilt Allocation Fund and other alternative private equity funds.
12. Includes hedged mutual funds.

AGENCY AND INSTITUTION SUPPLEMENTS

Faith Formation

Calvin College Supplement

I. Introduction

The Calvin College Board of Trustees met May 3-4, 2018, 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 four members who are leaving the board—Ms. Pearl Banks, Mr. Thomas Geelhoed, Mr. Bradley Haverkamp, and Rev. Michael Koetje—for their diligent work on the board and service to Calvin College.

II. Finance

The Calvin College Board of Trustees approved the 2018-2019 budget proposal, a coffee shop proposal, revisions to the investment committee charter and policy, and a bond reissuance proposal.

III. Academic

The Calvin College Board of Trustees ratified or endorsed a number of faculty appointments and reappointments. They also endorsed revisions of curricular programs, new courses, and course revisions.

IV. Board matters

The Calvin College Board of Trustees recommends that synod elect new members, reappoint for subsequent terms, and ratify the results of elections held in classes for membership on the Calvin College Board of Trustees.

A. *Board membership*

1. New trustees

a. Regional at-large trustees

Region 11 at-large

Ms. Pearl Banks is completing her first term on the board and has chosen not to serve an additional term. Mr. Thomas Geelhoed is completing his second term on the board. The board presents the following single nominees to Synod 2018 for appointment as Region 11 at-large members:

Rev. E. Wayne Coleman was ordained in the CRC in 2012 after receiving his M.Div. from Western Theological Seminary. He served at Imagine Fellowship CRC in Holland, Michigan, and recently was installed

as the first African American pastor at Millbrook CRC in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is the leader behind the Martin Luther King (MLK) celebration hosted by Millbrook CRC each year. Rev. Coleman has also been active with CRC Home Missions and Resonate US.

Ms. Lois Miller is a 1963 literature graduate from Calvin College and received her M.A. in literature from the University of Michigan. She has been a high school teacher and Fulbright Exchange teacher in the Netherlands. She is a member of North Hills CRC in Troy, Michigan. Ms. Miller has served as a deacon and on numerous boards in Detroit, including the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Detroit Gleaners. She also served on Calvin College's first capital campaign.

b. At-large trustee

Mr. Bradley Haverkamp completed his third term on the board. The board presents the following single nominee to Synod 2018 for appointment as an at-large trustee:

Dr. Andrew J. Elliot is professor of psychology at the University of Rochester, where he has taught and conducted research for 24 years. His research focuses on achievement motivation, especially in educational settings. He has published over 200 papers and has given research lectures in 23 countries. Dr. Elliot has served or is serving on several not-for-profit boards, including the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and Verbree International (focused on food production in Burkina Faso). He started and oversees a school library building program for HOPE, a nongovernmental organization in rural Haiti. He has served as a deacon, elder, pastor search team cochair, Sunday school teacher, and small group leader at Rochester CRC, Penfield, New York.

c. Trustee reappointments

The board recommends the following members for reappointment by synod for the terms noted:

Region 3: Ms. Marsha Vandergaast for a second three-year term
Region 5: Mr. Thomas J. Wybenga for a second three-year term
Region 6: Mr. Fernando del Rosario for a second three-year term
Region 9 at-large: Ms. Janice Buikema for a second three-year term
Region 10 at-large: Mr. C.J. Grier for a second three-year term
Alumni: Mr. Jeff De Nooyer for a second three-year term
At-large: Mr. Allan E. Hoekstra for a third three-year term
At-large: Ms. Wendy Hofman for a third three-year term
At-large: Ms. Marjorie Hoogeboom for a third three-year term
At-large: Dr. Steven J. Triezenberg for a second three-year term

B. Board officers

The Calvin College Board of Trustees appointed the following officers of the board for 2018-2019: Mr. Craig Lubben, chair; Ms. Mary C. Bonnema, vice chair; Ms. Janice Buikema, secretary; Ms. Sally Vander Ploeg, treasurer (vice president for finance and administration); and Ms. Sharolyn Christians, assistant secretary (executive assistant to the president).

V. Other

The Calvin College Board of Trustees approved the Vision 2030 statement as commissioned at the May 2017 meeting. As a result, a recommendation will be presented to synod by way of the Council of Delegates Supplement with regard to needed revisions to the Calvin College Articles of Incorporation.

VI. Recommendations

A. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to the chair of the board, Mr. Craig Lubben, and to the provost of Calvin College, Dr. Cheryl K. Brandsen, when matters pertaining to education are discussed (revised from *Agenda for Synod 2018* report).

B. That synod ratify the following faculty promotions and reappointments with tenure, effective September 1, 2018:

Micah J. Watson, Ph.D., professor of political science

Tracy Kuperus, Ph.D., professor of political science (reduced load)

C. That synod elect new members, reappoint for subsequent terms, and ratify the results of elections held in classes for membership on the Calvin College Board of Trustees.

Calvin College Board of Trustees
Michael K. Le Roy, president

World Renew Supplement

I. Board matters

A. *Classical delegate appointments – Canada*

The board of World Renew requests that synod appoint the following as Canadian delegates, both to a first term of three years: Mr. A. Raymond Aema, Classis Hamilton; and Mr. Daniel Mack, Classis Lake Superior (Canada).

B. *Classical delegate appointment – U.S.*

The board of World Renew requests that synod appoint the following as a U.S. delegate to a first term of three years: Ms. Angela Buikema, Classis Northern Illinois.

C. *Appointment of Canada member-at-large*

The board of World Renew requests that synod appoint the following nominee as a Canada member-at-large to a first term of three years:

Mr. Andrew Geisterfer is a member of mosaicHouse Community CRC, Edmonton, Alberta, and is involved in a church plant called Avenue CRC in Edmonton. He previously attended and served a variety of posts in the Ottewell CRC, Edmonton, for many years. Mr. Geisterfer works as a lawyer and has contributed his legal expertise several times for classical discussions. As a gifted servant leader, legal expert, and strong supporter of World Renew, he is eager to serve with the board of World Renew.

D. *Reappointment of U.S. classical member*

The following U.S. delegate is completing a first term on the board and is recommended for reappointment to a second three-year term: Ms. Linda Marcus, Classis Lake Superior (U.S.).

E. *U.S. members completing terms*

The World Renew board would like to recognize and thank the following members who are completing service on the board: Ms. Trena Boonstra, Classis California South; Ms. Morgan Trotter, Calvin College young adult delegate; and Ms. Brianna Enerson, Dordt College young adult delegate.

II. Recommendation

That synod, by way of the ballot, appoint and reappoint members to the World Renew Board of Delegates.

World Renew

Carol Bremer-Bennett, director, World Renew-U.S.

Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo, director, World Renew-Canada

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 17-18, 2018, the board elected the following officers for 2018-2019: Mr. Sidney Jansma, Jr., chair; Rev. Curtis A. Walters, vice chair; Ms. Heather Garretson, secretary.

The following nominee is being submitted to Synod 2018 for appointment:

Region 11 at-large

Mr. David Morren, a member of Covenant CRC in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is the owner of a custom home building firm in Grand Rapids. He has served the local community on the Kent County (Michigan) Commission board for sixteen years and on various other boards and committees associated with Kent County. He received a B.A. from Hope College and an M.B.A. from Western Michigan University. Mr. Morren has previously served the local church as a deacon and elder at Covenant CRC and is presently concluding service as an administrative elder.

II. Academics

A. Graduates

Calvin Theological Seminary graduated sixty students receiving a certificate or degree at its commencement service on May 19, 2018. Six of the students received a Certificate in Family Care through the Spanish-language certificate program. Twelve graduates received their M.A., M.T.S., or M.Div. degree primarily through the seminary's Distance Learning program, which is now completing its sixth year.

In total, twelve countries were represented by this year's graduates: Canada, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, South Korea, and the United States.

B. Distinguished Alumni Awards

Dr. Dennis Hoekstra (former Calvin College professor and leader in various Christian ministries such as Baxter Community Center, Trinity Christian College, Barnabas Foundation, Timothy Leadership Training Institute, and Partners Worldwide) and Rev. Christian Oh (founding pastor at Han-Bit Korean CRC, where he has served for over thirty years; leader in various denominational ministries) received the seminary's Distinguished Alumni Awards for 2018.

C. Board appointments and actions

At its two most recent meetings, the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees took the following actions:

1. Reappointed Dr. Cory Willson for two years (July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2020) as Jake and Betsy Tuls *associate* professor of missiology and missional ministry.

2. Reappointed Ms. Sarah Chun for three years (July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2021) as associate dean of students and international student adviser.
3. Reappointed Dr. Jeffrey Sajdak for three years (July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2021) as dean of students.
4. Reappointed Dr. Robert Keeley as visiting professor of discipleship and faith formation (half-time) for one year (July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019).
5. Appointed Dr. Mary Vanden Berg, professor of systematic theology, as Jean and Kenneth Baker professor of systematic theology, effective February 1, 2018. Professor Vanden Berg is the first woman to hold an endowed chair at Calvin Theological Seminary. In addition, Professor Vanden Berg has been granted a 2018-2019 Henry Resident Fellowship at the Carl F. H. Henry Center for Theological Understanding at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. (See henrycenter.tiu.edu/2018/04/2018-19-henry-fellows-announced/.)
6. Appointed Rev. Troy Bierma as Lee S. Huizenga Distinguished Missionary in Residence for a second one-year term (July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019), contingent on continuation of a current funding partnership with Resonate Global Mission.
7. In May 2018 the board approved a new master of arts degree in family care that will be taught in Spanish and based on the existing Spanish-language certificate programs. Before offering this new program, Calvin Theological Seminary needs to request and receive approval from the Association of Theological Schools.

D. Academic and community updates

1. In March 2018 a visiting team from the Association of Theological Schools visited Calvin Theological Seminary as part of a reaccreditation process. We have received the visiting team's draft report, which is positive and encouraging with some suggestions for improvement. Their report and recommendations will be considered by the Board of Commissioners of ATS in June, with a final report to the seminary by early July.
2. The Calvin Prison Initiative held a commencement ceremony on May 21, 2018, for the first cohort of students to receive an associate's degree through the program. This program is part of an ongoing partnership with Calvin College.
3. Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary hosted a Kuyper Conference April 30-May 1 on "The Future of African Public Theology." The conference featured the presentation of the 2018 Kuyper Prize for Excellence in Reformed Theology and Public Life to Daniel Bourdagné, general secretary of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students.
4. Calvin Theological Seminary is hosting a conference July 30-August 1, 2018, on the theme "Loving Your Neighbor: Ministry among Migrants, Immigrants, and Refugees." More information on this conference is available at calvinseminary.edu/neighbor/.

5. The Meeter Center of Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary is planning a two-day conference for September 14-15, 2018, to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Synod of Dort.
6. In fall 2018 and spring 2019, New Testament Professor Dr. Mariano Avila will be leading a completely online course taught in Spanish. Registration is now open for this class, and substantial institutional support is available for students.
7. The seminary piloted a Mosaic Program during the spring 2018 semester to promote a more hospitable learning environment by helping faculty, staff, and students see matters from various points of view and cultural contexts other than their own. A key portion of this program was the use of *Beyond Colorblind: Redeeming Our Ethnic Journey* (IVP, 2017) by Sarah Shin as the Book of the Semester.
8. The seminary introduced a new podcast, *Resound*, which features thoughtful conversations happening at Calvin Theological Seminary about how faith and theology shape our life in the church, in our communities, and in culture. (See [resoundpodcast.com/.](http://resoundpodcast.com/))

III. Recommendation

That synod appoint Mr. David Morren as a Region 11 at-large member of the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees.

Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees
Teresa Renkema, secretary

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 or five persons. The Candidacy Committee is pleased to recommend the following forty-three persons for candidacy to become ministers of the Word in the CRC. These candidates include graduates from Calvin Theological Seminary and from other accredited seminaries. Those attending seminaries other than Calvin Theological Seminary have completed the Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy. Biographical details for each of the candidates can be found in the Candidate Booklet, available for download at crcna.org/candidacy.

The following motion proposes that their names 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: crcna.org/candidacy). Subject to synod's approval, the candidates will be presented to Synod 2018 on Wednesday, June 13, at 9:30 a.m.

Steven Berkenpas
Calvin D. Chen
Daniel Crapo
Jason E. Dahlman
Abigail S. DeZeeuw
Steven T. Dykstra
Benjamin L. Gandy
Benjamin Gresik
Elias R.E. Groenendyk
Chadd M. Huizenga
Steve M. Hull
Albert Y.D. Kae
Timothy Keep
Darren C. Kornelis
Debra J. Koster
Noah J.K. Kruis
Marcel R.J. Kuiper
Todd Kuperus
Benjamin P. Landegent

Christopher S. Lee
Derrick A. Lee
James J. Lee
Anthony Matias
Courtney N. Mooney Saldivar
Scott M. Muilenburg
Jonathan S. Owens
Benjamin J. Petroelje
Hayden W. Regeling
Jason S. Ruis
Brian P. Schouten
Minbo Paul Shim
Matthew M. Slack
Eric P. Snyder
Gale Tien
Rebecca L. Tjapkes
Norman D. Underland
Robert C. Van Zanen
Jenna M.N. Veenbaas

Benjamin C. Verkerk
Christopher A. Walker
Michael Yang

Josiah Youngquist
James Zwier

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 twenty-eight persons for approval of candidacy extension:

Yoon Chul (Daniel) Choi
Elisabeth A. De Vries
Mark De Vos
Bradley Scott Diekema
Kyle Dieleman
Tyler Greenway
Robert J. Gruessing
Ernesto Jose Hernandez
Sarah Kim Hoos
Jeffrey Michael Hoos
Joseph Hwang
JungSeong "Samuel" Kim
Jonathan A. Kool
Hannah Ryou Lee

Sang Myung Lee
Katrina J. Olson
Jennifer L. Palkowski
Kristen J. Pikaart
Janet Arlene Ryzebol
Ivan K. Santoso
Bailey Breanne Sarver
Kelli K. Sexton
Sharon R. Smith
Jason R. Terpstra
Thomas J. Van Wyk
Jantje Fenna (Femke) Visser-Elenbaas
Beverly Weeks
Bradley R. Zwiers

C. Reinstatement of candidacy

Observers of synod and of the work of the Candidacy Committee will recognize that the numbers of our candidates have significantly increased in the past decade in comparison to the previous four decades. A variety of factors are behind this trend, and they have been described in our committee reports to synod in past years.

As the Candidacy Committee has worked with approved candidates who have not received calls, we have recognized that a practice called "reinstatement of candidacy" is a helpful tool. Extended candidates are sometimes hesitant to withdraw from candidacy status because it can seem like the death of a dream or even an act of abandoning a faith commitment. But as assurance is given that the route back into candidacy remains available, some waiting candidates feel freed to withdraw.

Along with this development we are finding an increasing number of "former candidates" who are asking to be reinstated as candidates. Whereas in a typical decade in the past, there may have been only one request for "reinstatement of candidacy," last year we had two requests, and this year we have had two more. The Candidacy Committee has investigated each request and has interviewed each applicant. We are also developing a protocol for this practice to ensure that consistent and wise practice is followed.

This year we present and endorse two requests for reinstatement of candidacy:

Mr. Kevin J. Boss was a candidate from 2013 through 2016. He withdrew from candidacy in large part because he was working in a staff position in a CRC congregation in Oregon. The church initially had been hesitant to move toward ordination for that position, for reasons having nothing to do with Mr. Boss himself. Now, after over two years of partnership, the church is open to ordaining him, and Mr. Boss is desirous of taking this step. We recommend that Synod 2018 approve his request and reinstate the candidacy of Mr. Kevin J. Boss.

Mr. Daniel Meyer was a candidate from 2011 through 2015. His five-year journey has a variety of twists and turns, mostly in his personal life, also in his sense of call. Indeed, we recognize that an extended absence of a call presents real challenges to any individual. Mr. Meyer is now at the point where he has a renewed sense of call, as well as some opportunities to investigate. We recommend that Synod 2018 approve his request and reinstate the candidacy of Mr. Daniel Meyer.

II. 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 process. 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 the Office of Candidacy.

Date	Name of applicant	Classis	Former denomination
7-1-2017	Eubank, Phil	Rocky Mountain	Evergreen Christian Fellowship
9-8-2017	Lee, Jin Young	Northcentral Iowa	Presbyterian Church of Korea
9-8-2017	Choi, Youngjo	Hanmi	Korean Presbyterian Church Abroad
9-8-2017	Cho, David	Hanmi	Korean American Presbyterian Church
9-8-2017	Hup, Siang	Illiana	Covenant Reformed Church of Myanmar
9-11-2017	Jang, Sung Woo	Hanmi	Presbyterian Church of Korea
9-22-2017	Kim, Hong Youn	Lake Erie	Korean Assoc. of Presb. Churches
10-7-2017	Kim, Dae Hoon	California South	Korean Presbyterian Church Abroad
11-18-2017	Cherubin, Obelto	Southeast U.S.	CRC in Haiti
12-20-2017	Orange, Donald	Rocky Mountain	Reformed Church in America
1-11-2018	Kim, Samuel	Hudson	Evangelical Church Alliance
1-22-2018	Kim, Victor	Kalamazoo	Reformed Presbyterian Church of Korea
2-21-2018	Lim, Faith	Greater Los Angeles	Presbyterian Church of Singapore
2-21-2018	Moore, Michael	Northern Illinois	Independent Baptist
2-23-2018	Cho, Chulhan	California South	Presbyterian Church of Korea
2-24-2018	Kim, Man Sub	California South	Bible Presbyterian Synod
4-17-2018	Kim, Jinsik “Enoch”	Greater Los Angeles	Evangelical Church Alliance
4-18-2018	Eng, Jesse	Hudson	Grace Faith Church (Independent)

III. Article 8 process reflections and adjustments

In the past few years the Candidacy Committee has reported to synod the reality of challenges in processing by way of Church Order Article 8 the requests of churches desiring to offer calls to persons ordained in other denominations. The understanding of what meets the threshold of a “sustained and realistic” search within the CRC and RCA (see Church Order Supplement, Art. 8, E, 1) is evolving in the practice of many of our congregations, in comparison to our practice and definition of past decades.

Classes are often supportive of the requirement to put forth a “sustained and realistic” search and will make efforts to aid an individual congregation and a prospective pastor. As a Candidacy Committee, we are electing to work as closely as possible with classes in making such judgments. Thus we are anticipating that we may see an increase in the use of Article 8 among congregations that previously might not have used this provision. We remind synod of our report to Synod 2017 regarding this trend, and we note that we think a helpful tool in managing this trend is the Modified Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy (MEPMC) in partnership with Calvin Theological Seminary. Through this program we can effectively help a new pastor to become more knowledgeable about and connected to the denomination.

IV. Recommendations

- A.* That synod declare the persons 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 reinstate the candidacy of Mr. Kevin J. Boss and Mr. Daniel Meyer as described in section I, C.
- D.* That synod approve the action of the Candidacy Committee in declaration of *need* for the persons listed in section II for affiliation under Church Order Article 8.
- E.* That synod take note of the reflections offered in section III of this report regarding the uses of Church Order Article 8.

Candidacy Committee
David R. Koll, director

The Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee (EIRC) held its spring meeting by conference call April 11, 2018. The following two items, the first for information and the second a report with recommendations, constitutes a supplement to the EIRC report in the printed *Agenda for Synod 2018* (pp. 229-42).

First, one of the two nominees from Eastern Canada for service on the EIRC (*Agenda for Synod 2018*, p. 230), Dr. Joan DeVries, has accepted a position at Trinity Western University and will move to the Vancouver, British Columbia, area this summer. Therefore her nomination is withdrawn, leaving a single nominee for that EIRC position.

Second, the committee offers the following report and recommendations developed by an ad hoc group that has served the EIRC.

I. Introduction to report re relationship categories

In 2016 the Board of Trustees provided synod with background information and advice concerning church planting outside of North America in response to initiatives of Classis Pacific Northwest. As a result, Synod 2016 concluded that congregations and classes considering church planting *and* the affiliation of congregations outside of Canada and the United States “should do so only with utmost caution and care” (*Acts of Synod 2016*, p. 838). Further, in addressing the desire of congregations outside of North America to seek affiliation with the CRCNA, synod pointed to both the requirements of the Church Order and the limits of classis leadership in justifying their caution. Synod then asked if further ecclesiastical relationships with such congregations could be developed, and it tasked an ad hoc committee with this mandate (providing considerations and grounds):

To consider creation of a new category of affiliation by which a (non-Canadian and United States) congregation or groups of congregations could associate with the CRCNA. Composition should include members of the EIRC and staff of the new mission agency.

In addition, if the committee would recommend allowance of such affiliations, their mandate should also include consideration of the role of Church Order Articles 49, 50, 73, and 76.

Grounds:

1. Such a new category may be a hospitable option for such congregations and ministries potentially unable to meet current requirements for affiliation or for whom those described . . . above are culturally inappropriate.
2. Such a relationship could bless both the associating congregation and the CRCNA in ways beyond our anticipation, including a sense of accountability for currently independent congregations and appreciation of global relationships for CRC congregations in North America. This would therefore provide a forum in which global partners and those in the CRC could discuss matters challenging their ministries and assist one another in applying the calls of Scripture.
3. Such an exploration is consistent with the CRC Ministry Plan as follows: ecumenical relationships, when appropriate, give rise to the presence of the CRCNA (or a new category of CRC-partner denominations) in countries other than Canada and the United States.

(*Acts of Synod 2016*, pp. 838-39)

An ad hoc committee was formed, and it presented to Synod 2017, via the EIRC report, the following recommendation, which synod approved:

That synod adopt the following revised mandate of the ad hoc group considering the new category of affiliation, assigned by Synod 2016 (addition provided in bold):

To consider creation of a new category of affiliation **and/or a revision to current ecumenical categories** by which a (non-Canadian and United States) congregation or groups of congregations could associate with the CRCNA.

Ground: Initial work by an ad hoc group has indicated the need to reconsider current categories before consideration of an additional category because our current categories

- a. fail to capture the full range of interactions of CRCNA churches and ministries with ecumenical partners.
- b. are not always responsive to missional initiatives and needs that arise in the ministry of CRCNA congregations and agencies.
- c. are not always immediately meaningful to other denominations.

(*Acts of Synod 2017*, p. 684)

The EIRC and the ad hoc committee have addressed the revised mandate concerning ecumenical categories, identifying a preliminary new direction for these categories. In addition, the result is greater clarity around the shifts that may be needed in the way these categories function so that both our ecumenical relationships and our work and ministry as a denomination through our local churches and agencies may be strengthened.

II. Background

A. *Ecumenical Charter* (see the charter in full at crcna.org/eirc/ecumenical-charter)

The preface of our synodically approved Ecumenical Charter states: “Current discussions are about covenants, agreements, and partnerships—all of which presuppose the existence of churches that are independent of each other, equal to each other, and open to an ecumenical relationship.” It goes on to state that “the EIRC of the CRC has learned that requiring such uniformity [as we have in the past] for ecumenical relationships is no longer a meaningful option” and that “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.”

Later in a section titled “Biblical principles on the unity of the church,” the charter states that the unity that we have in Christ is both a gift and a goal, and that “the ecumenical task is the responsibility of the church at all its organizational levels” (Charter, Section I, C, 3).

In that same section the charter speaks about “diversity in unity,” stating, “Unity does not mean uniformity. Indeed, the manifold wisdom of God is to be made transparent through the church (Eph. 3:10). It is displayed not in the obliteration but in the reconciliation of diversity. The uniqueness of tribes, tongues, customs, and culture is reflected in a rich diversity of worship, confessional forms and formulations, and church structure” (Charter, Section I, D).

Further, in speaking about “unity and truth” the charter notes that “the biblical witness leads us to draw two complementary conclusions”:

- Passion for the truth of Christ impels us to reach out to the people of God everywhere, striving for the visible oneness of the church.
- Passion for the truth of Christ calls us to reject all forms of unity that compromise unequivocal witness to Jesus Christ (see Belgic Confession, Art. 29).
(Charter, Section I, E)

The charter itself recognizes that “the CRC is in a period of transition” and that “some bilateral (church-to-church) relationships remain a challenge for the CRC because the earlier approach to ecumenical relationships has not yet been fully supplanted by the present perspective” (Charter, Preface).

In reflection on the wisdom of the charter, the EIRC has recognized through its “other ecumenical relationships” category that the required “theological affinity” necessary to develop a relationship with another church or entity is fairly basic (“unequivocal witness to Jesus Christ”). We have also articulated a desire and need for expanding our ecclesiastical relationships to visibly reflect the diversity of the global church.

B. Observations

CRC agencies and ministries partner in healthy and fruitful ways with a wide variety of denominations and organizations, many of whom are not recognized ecclesiastically within the CRCNA’s ecumenical categories of church relationships. For example, in El Salvador, Resonate Global Mission partners with Semillas de Nueva Creación. Semillas de Nueva Creación is a network of Evangelical Christians from all of the major denominations in El Salvador—none of whom are in formal ecclesiastical relationships with the CRC.

Similarly, local pastors, churches, and even classes, through ministerial associations (local ecumenical clergy groups) and local/regional ministry agreements are interacting, ministering, witnessing, and worshiping in healthy and fruitful ways with a much more diverse set of denominations and organizations than our own denomination’s ecumenical categories recognize.

As a brief example, Immanuel CRC of Hamilton interacts with a local network of churches “together for the good of the city” called True City. This network includes Baptist, Mennonite, Associated Gospel, and other Evangelical churches. At the same time, Immanuel is also building relationships via Resonate Global Mission and World Renew with three Pentecostal churches in Nicaragua from Missionary Alliance and Church of God backgrounds. Of all of these relationships, only one involves CRC ecumenical approval—the Mennonite Church Canada, a partnership we include in the category of *churches in other ecumenical relationships*. Many other local congregations have similar stories of engagement with diverse ecclesiastical partners based on their local context, ministry goals, and missional opportunities. This level of diversity in relationship is unaccounted for in our current ecumenical categorization system.

Not only is the level of diversity unaccounted for in our system; the correlation between formal mechanisms of approval (i.e., EIRC, synod) and local engagement can sometimes be quite unrelated. Again, an example may help. The Christian Reformed Church in Cuba has a relationship with local congregations (such as LaGrave Avenue CRC, Hillside Community CRC, et al.), with a classis (Classis Alberta North), and with Resonate Global Mission (e.g., leadership development). These relationships have developed and have been maintained over time, and all three types of engagements remain ongoing with the CRC in Cuba. The EIRC lists the CRC in Cuba as being in

ecclesiastical fellowship with the CRCNA but has little contact with it. The irony is that the relationship most formalized and at a denominational level (with EIRC) produces very little interchange, while the relationships less formalized and developed with greater autonomy (no assignment of category, no evaluation of fit) see the greater level of interchange.

These points together reveal a way of working ecumenically with other denominations and organizations which in some ways divides *the ecumenical work sponsored by the denomination* at its various levels from *the fellowship or relationships* that the denomination recognizes. Our *doing* and our *being* with other bodies is disparate in that while CRC churches, classes, and agencies often work locally or globally together with another body, the CRC does not explicitly recognize them ecclesiastically through our current categorization system as fellow members of the body of Christ. Likewise, while the CRC may ecclesiastically recognize other bodies by means of the current categorization system, working together in ministry with them does not always occur. Are there better ways to integrate the reality of the breadth and depth of our current connections ecclesiastically?

Given the above differences in approval processes and the (perhaps necessary) increase in checks and balances for each broader level of church, our current categories are not as responsive as they could be to the missional needs and opportunities that arise here and abroad.

III. Ways forward and invitation for input

Emerging is a new categorization system that does not so much change the three current bilateral ecumenical categories but seeks to reframe them by modifying the way they function, integrating ecclesiastical *being* with practical *doing* and increasing missional responsiveness.

Proposed Categories¹:

Cooperation (more passive)	"Being" - low level	"Doing" - varying levels
Commitment (more active)	"Being" - moderate level	"Doing" - more intentional
Communion (full)	"Being" - pulpit and table	"Doing" - more intentional

For current partnerships that our agencies hold, these categories recognize that doing something together presupposes some level of relationship and recognition of one another. They also recognize that the more we do together, the more we come to know each other. For current ecumenical relationships that the EIRC maintains, these categories invite deeper consideration of the ways to inhabit relationships through actions that reflect our connections.

To continue sharpening the scope and functionality of these categories, the following three questions can help guide discussion at the meeting of the advisory committee focused on interdenominational matters.

1. What kind of permission-granting mechanisms would be required to allow a church/classis to engage ecumenically within these categories?
 - a. What should a *local church* have autonomy to decide upon, and for what might it need classical approval?

¹ Current bilateral categories are Ecclesiastical Fellowship, Churches in Dialogue, and Churches in Other Ecumenical Relationships. The categories Cooperation, Commitment, and Communion are drawn from a paper by Michael Kinnamon but are not bound to his typology.

- b. What should a *classis* have autonomy to decide upon, and for what might it need synodical approval?
2. Theological affinity – We assume that each category has the Apostles’ Creed as the foundation from which it begins to establish the affirmation of a partnership.
 - a. Are there additional levels of theological affinity that may or may not be required to engage in mutual work or witness with a potential ecumenical partner?
 - b. If “yes,” what do you believe should be the different levels of theological affinity required for any of the various categories?
3. Are any additional considerations needed to ensure that this new system of categories remains missionally responsive (and not burdensome) at our various levels of church?

IV. Recommendations

Given the above report with its observations on the CRCNA’s Ecumenical Charter and our reality of relating with other congregations and denominations, along with the report’s considerations for the future framing of new names and functions for our current ecumenical categories, we offer the following recommendations:

A. That synod recognize the current diversity of healthy ecumenical partnership practices by our churches and agencies in various regions and across the world.

Grounds:

1. Our “glocal” realities and familiarity with our own contexts mean that locally we are already engaging fruitfully across denominational lines through ministerial associations and partnerships among other local entities.
2. We recognize the fruit that has come to our work denominationally via good and prudent partnerships.

B. That synod receive a summary of the advisory committee’s discussion (for which the questions mentioned above can be a guide) and any related recommendations.

Ground: Because our work is currently at an early stage, an advisory committee is well suited to hold a discussion on this conceptual shift or broadening of direction and to provide a summary of that discussion, supplementing the content of this report.

C. That synod direct the EIRC and its ad hoc committee formed in 2016 to continue their work for an additional year and report to Synod 2019 using the feedback from Synod 2018’s advisory committee and delegates on the above questions for discussion.

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee
 Jim Payton, chair
 Steven R. Timmermans, executive director (ex officio)

OVERTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Overture 21: Do Not Accede to Recommendations H, 2 and H, 3 of the Council of Delegates Report

I. Background

In 2015 synod instructed the executive director to establish a Classis Renewal Group to continue the work of classis renewal in the CRCNA in order to support and encourage classes to flourish in their work and ministry. Also at that time synod adopted changes to Church Order Article 75 to call on classes to establish formal ministry plans. Since that time the Classis Renewal Group and the Classis Renewal consultant have done much work listening to and dialoguing with classis stated clerks and other leaders regarding their needs for support and the challenges that classes face as they seek to carry out their purpose and work.

This work has been good work, and the efforts of those involved have been done in good faith and out of a sincere desire to better our denomination, our classes, and our churches. Indeed, much of what the Classis Renewal Group has proposed and the resources they already offer classes are useful to the ministry and work of classes.

Yet there are three significant issues with the recommendations addressed by this overture.

First, Recommendations H, 2 and H, 3 (*Agenda for Synod 2018*, p. 41) have not been put before classes for discussion or input before being forwarded to synod. It seems that for all the informal listening and dialogue of the last three years, the Classis Renewal Group has failed to communicate to classes in any way whatsoever regarding these proposed recommendations. These two recommendations are of paramount relevance to the work and ministry of classes; yet not one of the 48 classes has had the opportunity to formally offer feedback regarding the proposed wording of these recommendations or to formally address the concerns and issues addressed by these recommendations.

Second, Recommendation H, 2, in which it is recommended that synod request classes to develop and submit ministry plans, is a recommendation to take oversight and action that is not given by Church Order. Church Order Article 75 gives classes alone the responsibility to develop ministry plans—not synod. Further, Church Order Article 76 provides for synod to “encourage and assist” classes in their work—not make requests of classes.

Third, Recommendation H, 3, which claims to propose “changes that are not substantive” to Church Order Article 39 regarding the nature of a classis, is in fact a proposal to significantly alter the definition of the nature of a classis. The proposed additional text is not merely a clarification of the existing

text; it is an addition of roles and tasks for a classis. While Article 39 as currently written defines the membership of classis (“a group of neighboring churches”) and defines the process for organizing a new or existing classis, the proposed changes offer a new understanding of the roles and tasks of classis to include the following:

- a corporate meeting of churches to seek, discern, and submit to God’s will
- offering support and accountability to other churches
- finding ways to live out a collective calling
- allowing for a healthy and sustained connection to the wider denomination

These are all new roles and tasks for classes that are not identified anywhere else in our creeds and confessions, the Church Order, or the Rules for Synodical Procedure. While the substance of these changes would likely be helpful to our collective calling, it is important that we do not subvert the processes by which we approve changes to the Church Order. Recommendation H, 3 should rightly be categorized a substantive change for which churches have prior opportunity to consider before adoption, as stipulated by Church Order Article 47. To classify this proposed change as nonsubstantive denies classes and churches the opportunity to consider the advisability of these changes and defeats the purpose of the Rules for Synodical Procedure section V, B, 8, which states:

No study reports or recommendations from boards or standing committees which affect doctrinal or ethical statements or Church Order provisions received by the executive director after September 15 or overtures received after March 15 shall be considered by synod, with the exception of overtures which deal with matters relevant to reports found in the printed *Agenda*. . . .

Whereas Recommendation H, 3 offered by the Classis Renewal Group affects the provisions of the Church Order in a substantive manner, has not been presented to churches for prior consideration, and was submitted after September 15, it ought not be placed before Synod 2018 as “recommended for adoption by Synod 2018.”

II. Overture

Palos Heights Christian Reformed Church overtures synod not to accede to Recommendations H, 2 and H, 3 of the report of the Council of Delegates to synod (*Agenda for Synod 2018*, p. 41).

Grounds:

1. The Classis Renewal Group has not formally sought feedback from classes on best practices for encouraging ministry plan development and sharing.
2. The Classis Renewal Group has not formally sought feedback from classes on the proposed Church Order Article 39 changes.
3. Church Order Article 75 provides for ministry plans to be completed only under the direction of classes, not under the direction of synod.
4. Church Order Article 76 provides for synod to only “encourage and assist” classes in their ministry and work, not to request or direct their ministry actions.

5. The proposed change to Church Order Article 39 ought properly to be considered a substantive change, since it introduces new roles and tasks for classes into the article text. According to Church Order Supplement, Article 47-a, "A substantial alteration is any alteration which changes the essential meaning of . . . the articles of the Church Order. . . ."
6. The proposed change to Church Order Article 39 ought not be considered for adoption by Synod 2018, since churches have not had prior opportunity to consider it. According to Church Order Article 47, a substantive proposed change cannot be effected by synod until the churches have had prior opportunity to consider it.
7. The proposed change to Church Order Article 39 is offered after the September 15 deadline stipulated by the Rules for Synodical Procedure section V, B, 8.

Council of Palos Heights CRC
Todd Kuipers, clerk

Note: This overture was submitted to the classical interim committee of Classis Chicago South; however, classis does not hold a spring meeting, and it was judged that there was not sufficient time to arrange a special meeting of classis.

Communication 1: Classis Grand Rapids East

Classis Minnkota has submitted an overture to Synod 2018 to “Allow One Classis to Appeal to Another Classis by Amending Supplement, Article 30-a” (*Agenda for Synod 2018*, pp. 312-14). The overture proposes to do this by adding a new point 5 to Section C, General Rules, as follows: “Official appeals may be made from one classis to another and, if necessary, to synod.”

Since 2015, Classis Minnkota has been corresponding with synod, with member churches of Classis Grand Rapids East, and with Classis Grand Rapids East regarding informal relations with an organization called All One Body. Most recently, on March 17, 2017, Classis Minnkota addressed formal appeals to Classis Grand Rapids East regarding two of its member churches. Classis Grand Rapids East responded to these appeals in a letter dated May 22, 2017, in which it respectfully declined to respond formally to their appeals, citing the following rationale:

1. Church Order Article 30-a defines a process for making appeals “to the assembly next in order.”
2. “The assembly next in order” is from a church member to one’s church council, from the church council to its classis, and from the classis to synod.
3. The Church Order makes no provision for one classis making official appeal to another classis.

Although Overture 9 makes no reference to Classis Minnkota’s 2017 correspondence with Classis Grand Rapids East and its member churches, it is self-evident that this overture is prompted, at least in part, by the above history of correspondence.

In response to Overture 9 and the grounds advanced, Classis Grand Rapids East offers the following considerations in addition to the rationale outlined (above) in its letter of May 22, 2017, to Classis Minnkota:

1. Councils and classes are already free to communicate encouragement, concerns, and even admonition to one another, whether solicited or unsolicited.
2. In CRC polity a communication from one assembly to a parallel assembly (i.e., an assembly that is similar in scope) is by its very nature a communication.
3. Allowing one classis to appeal to/against another as proposed would seriously infringe on the ecclesiastical authority delegated to a classis (Art. 27-a) in relation to its member congregations, and would have high potential for contributing to an increasingly litigious denominational culture for addressing differences in perspective and practice.

Classis Grand Rapids East
Alfred E. Mulder, stated clerk

Communication 2: Council of Kanata Community CRC, Ottawa, Ontario

Members of Kanata Community Christian Reformed Church have taken note of the three overtures relating to the role of churches and church members in the public life of our nations. We offer our experience and reflections for consideration by synod in its deliberations on this important aspect of Christian discipleship.

As a congregation in Canada's national capital, Kanata Community CRC includes members who deliver public services, members who work in public policy development as government officials, and members who engage in the full range of public policy discussions through advocacy groups and all four political parties. While there are a variety of views on any given issue and vigorous dialogue in the hallways, we are in agreement on the importance of integrating our civic roles into our life of discipleship, guided by biblical principles and our calling to do justice as both institutional and organic church. When this aspect of our communal life is exercised with reflection and mutual learning, in the context of humility, prayer, and spiritual discipline, the diversity of roles and views enriches our discernment without threatening our deep unity in Christ. As such, we welcome the call of Overture 12 to foster deeper development of our civic roles as a vital aspect of Christian discipleship.

We take note that Canada has a rich history of engaging churches and faith-based organizations in shaping our public life together. This includes shaping public services and policies that are highly valued and that increase public justice, such as an inclusive health care system and refugee sponsorship. We also learn from situations in which churches became complicit in injustice, such as Indigenous residential schools, rather than calling governments to act justly. Deeper reflection, drawing on biblical teachings, is needed, rather than withdrawal from public life. This involves both the institutional and the organic church, not one or the other. We are concerned about the proposed direction of rigid restrictions and retreat from this area of witness as proposed in Overtures 13 and 14. At this point in history we need more discernment about how we exercise the calling to do justice and care for creation in the countries where we live.

In light of these reflections, we prayerfully communicate the following:

1. Be encouraged by our ongoing experience that it is possible to combine biblical reflection, robust dialogue about social issues, and respect for diversity in healthy congregational life without threatening our deep unity in Christ.
2. Give consideration to the contextual differences between Canada and the United States and allow space for churches and church members in each context to exercise relevant public witness in the life of each nation.
3. Reject equation of our Reformed and Kuyperian roots with the particular concept of separation of church and state rooted in the liberal political theories behind the U.S. Constitution as the only way to apply a Reformed world-and-life view.
4. Consider ways to better equip both churches and church members, at all levels, to more fully exercise our calling to give public witness to the

biblical mandate to do justice and biblical principles for public life, as articulated in Overture 12.

5. Support rather than restrict and reduce the small agencies within the CRCNA who work in this vital area of ministry, as an important complement to the much larger investments in other aspects of ministry, and ensure appropriate governance to hold them accountable within the whole body.

God bless you in all your deliberations.

Council of Kanata Community CRC
Reg Harris, clerk

Note: The above communication was not submitted to Classis Eastern Canada for consideration of adoption because the classis met in March 2018 and will not meet again until October 2018.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2018-2019

	Fiscal 15-16 Actual	Fiscal 16-17 Actual	Fiscal 17-18 Budget	Fiscal 18-19 Proposed @ .7500
INCOME:				
Ministry Share	\$ 3,050	\$ 2,962	\$ 2,898	\$ 2,815
% of Total Income	32.6%	36.0%	33.1%	30.9%
Other Gift Income:				
Gifts & Offerings	\$ 3,125	\$ 3,575	\$ 3,982	\$ 4,405
Estate Gifts	\$ 2,980	\$ 1,161	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600
Total Gift Income	6,105	4,736	5,582	6,005
% of Total Income	65.3%	57.6%	63.7%	66.0%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants-Animation/Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 188	\$ 530	\$ 280	\$ 280
Total Other Income	188	530	280	280
% of Total Income	2.0%	6.4%	3.2%	3.1%
TOTAL INCOME	9,343	8,228	8,760	9,100
EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
English	\$ 2,214	\$ 2,167	\$ 2,475	\$ 2,575
FTEs	16	16	16	16
International	\$ 3,642	\$ 3,246	\$ 3,658	\$ 3,825
FTEs	8	8	8	6
Education	\$ 150	\$ 155	\$ 172	\$ 180
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Total Program Service \$	\$ 6,006	\$ 5,568	\$ 6,305	\$ 6,580
Total Program Service FTEs	26	26	26	24
% of Total \$	71.1%	70.6%	72.0%	72.3%
% of Total FTEs	72.2%	72.2%	72.2%	75.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 929	\$ 931	\$ 925	\$ 970
FTEs	4	4	4	3
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 1,513	\$ 1,392	\$ 1,530	\$ 1,550
FTEs	6	6	6	5
Total Support Service \$	2,442	2,323	2,455	2,520
Total Support Service FTEs	10	10	10	8
% of Total \$	28.9%	29.4%	28.0%	27.7%
% of Total FTEs	27.8%	27.8%	27.8%	25.0%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 8,448	\$ 7,891	\$ 8,760	\$ 9,100
TOTAL FTEs	36	36	36	32
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)	\$ 895	\$ 337	\$ -	\$ -

Operating Budget (000s of U.S.)
Fiscal Year 2018-2019

	Fiscal 15-16 Actual	Fiscal 16-17 Actual	Fiscal 17-18 Budget	Fiscal 18-19 Proposed @ .7500
INCOME:				
Ministry Share	\$ 2,367	\$ 2,324	\$ 2,249	\$ 2,208
% of Total Income	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%	1.4%
Other Gift Income:				
Gifts & Offerings	\$ 3,603	\$ 3,518	\$ 3,362	\$ 3,412
Estate Gifts	\$ 55	\$ 45	\$ 38	\$ 38
Total Gift Income	3,658	3,563	3,400	3,450
% of Total Income	2.4%	2.4%	2.2%	2.2%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 139,630	\$ 140,396	\$ 143,039	\$ 147,069
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 4,217	\$ 4,700	\$ 5,642	\$ 5,642
Total Other Income	143,847	145,096	148,681	152,711
% of Total Income	96.0%	96.1%	96.3%	96.4%
TOTAL INCOME	149,872	150,983	154,330	158,369
EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Education	\$ 131,204	\$ 131,690	\$ 134,596	\$ 138,119
FTEs	572	558	536	536
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 131,204	\$ 131,690	\$ 134,596	\$ 138,119
Total Program Service FTEs	572	558	536	536
% of Total \$	87.5%	87.2%	87.2%	87.2%
% of Total FTEs	79.0%	77.7%	79.2%	79.2%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 7,600	\$ 8,383	\$ 8,911	\$ 9,144
FTEs	55	59	43	43
Plant Operations	\$ 8,055	\$ 8,119	\$ 7,699	\$ 7,900
FTEs	66	69	68	68
Fund-raising	\$ 3,013	\$ 2,791	\$ 3,124	\$ 3,206
FTEs	31	32	30	30
Total Support Service \$	18,668	19,293	19,734	20,250
Total Support Service FTEs	152	160	141	141
% of Total \$	12.5%	12.8%	12.8%	12.8%
% of Total FTEs	21.0%	22.3%	20.8%	20.8%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 149,872	\$ 150,983	\$ 154,330	\$ 158,369
TOTAL FTEs	724	718	677	677
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)
Fiscal Year 2018-2019**

	Fiscal 15-16 Actual	Fiscal 16-17 Actual	Fiscal 17-18 Budget	Fiscal 18-19 Proposed @ .7500
INCOME:				
Ministry Share	\$ 2,449	\$ 2,379	\$ 2,327	\$ 2,283
% of Total Income	32.0%	32.2%	31.6%	31.0%
Other Gift Income:				
Gifts & Offerings	\$ 1,215	\$ 1,261	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,300
Estate Gifts	\$ 140	\$ 198	\$ 200	\$ 200
Total Gift Income	1,355	1,459	1,500	1,500
% of Total Income	17.7%	19.7%	20.4%	20.4%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 2,440	\$ 2,266	\$ 2,240	\$ 2,280
Grants	\$ 1,342	\$ 1,204	\$ 1,213	\$ 1,194
Miscellaneous	\$ 69	\$ 90	\$ 85	\$ 100
Total Other Income	3,851	3,560	3,538	3,574
% of Total Income	50.3%	48.1%	48.0%	48.6%
TOTAL INCOME	7,655	7,398	7,365	7,357
EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Instructional	\$ 3,031	\$ 2,881	\$ 2,832	\$ 2,711
FTEs	22	22	20	19
Public Service	\$ 104	\$ 79	\$ 87	\$ 90
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Academic Support	\$ 1,262	\$ 1,232	\$ 1,302	\$ 1,291
FTEs	5	5	6	6
Student Services	\$ 577	\$ 628	\$ 666	\$ 710
FTEs	5	5	5	5
Student Aid	\$ 329	\$ 314	\$ 225	\$ 259
FTEs	1	1	1	1
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 5,303	\$ 5,134	\$ 5,112	\$ 5,061
Total Program Service FTEs	34	34	33	32
% of Total \$	69.2%	70.1%	69.4%	69.4%
% of Total FTEs	68.0%	68.0%	67.3%	66.7%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 872	\$ 896	\$ 918	\$ 906
FTEs	9	9	8	8
Plant Operations	\$ 910	\$ 691	\$ 691	\$ 662
FTEs	2	2	3	3
Fund-raising	\$ 582	\$ 606	\$ 640	\$ 660
FTEs	5	5	5	5
Total Support Service \$	2,364	2,193	2,249	2,228
Total Support Service FTEs	16	16	16	16
% of Total \$	30.8%	29.9%	30.6%	30.6%
% of Total FTEs	32.0%	32.0%	32.7%	33.3%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 7,667	\$ 7,327	\$ 7,361	\$ 7,289
TOTAL FTEs	50	50	49	48
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)	\$ (12)	\$ 71	\$ 4	\$ 68

Congregational Services Ministries

Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2018-2019

	Fiscal 15-16 Actual	Fiscal 16-17 Actual	Fiscal 17-18 Budget	Fiscal 18-19 Proposed @ .7500
INCOME:				
Ministry Share	\$ 5,474	\$ 5,395	\$ 4,977	\$ 4,783
% of Total Income	40.7%	41.8%	44.1%	40.4%
Other Gift Income:				
Gifts & Offerings	\$ 940	\$ 929	\$ 1,130	\$ 2,025
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	940	929	1,130	2,025
% of Total Income	7.0%	7.2%	10.0%	17.1%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 5,872	\$ 5,195	\$ 4,806	\$ 4,654
Grants	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 156	\$ 157
Services & Misc	\$ 149	\$ 373	\$ 207	\$ 207
Total Other Income	7,021	6,568	5,169	5,018
% of Total Income	52.3%	50.9%	45.8%	42.4%
TOTAL INCOME	13,435	12,892	11,276	11,826
EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Lead-Chaplaincy Services	\$ 266	\$ 293	\$ 261	\$ 291
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Lead-Pastor-Church Relations/SCE	\$ 982	\$ 959	\$ 1,048	\$ 941
FTEs	6	6	6	5
Lead-Candidacy	\$ 235	\$ 207	\$ 240	\$ 234
FTEs	2	2	2	1
Lead-Ecumenical Relations	\$ 150	\$ 131	\$ 115	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Lead-Network/Healthy Church	26	9	-	-
FTEs	1	-	-	-
Lead-Women & Minority Leadership	-	-	-	\$ 159
FTEs	-	-	-	1
Justice-Race Relations	\$ 654	\$ 463	\$ 542	\$ 553
FTEs	4	4	5	4
Justice-Safe Church Ministry	\$ 244	\$ 236	\$ 287	\$ 280
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Justice-Disability Concerns	\$ 265	\$ 284	\$ 276	\$ 268
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Justice-Social & Restorative Justice	\$ 727	\$ 727	\$ 519	\$ 592
FTEs	5	5	7	6
Justice-Ministries in Canada	\$ 1,088	\$ 1,009	\$ 1,022	\$ 1,051
FTEs	5	5	6	6
Faith-ChurchLink	\$ 153	\$ 120	\$ 105	\$ 148
FTEs	2	2	2	1
Faith-Church Resources (FA)	\$ 538	\$ 635	\$ 599	\$ 790
FTEs	4	4	5	6
MSS-Agency services	\$ 4,859	\$ 4,138	\$ 3,287	\$ 3,426
FTEs	24	24	14	13
MSS-Faith Alive (FA)	\$ 841	\$ 721	\$ 1,237	\$ 1,040
FTEs	6	6	4	4
MSS-Banner (FA)	\$ 1,221	\$ 1,172	\$ 1,233	\$ 1,312
FTEs	4	4	4	4
MSS-Libros Desafio (FA)	\$ 556	\$ 358	\$ 184	\$ 186
FTEs	3	3	3	1
MSS-Communications	\$ 198	\$ 200	\$ 188	\$ -
FTEs	3	3	2	-
Worship-Worship Resources (FA)	404	410	483	509
FTEs	3	3	3	3
Grant Programs - Leadership Init., Con	121	458	950	951
FTEs	-	-	400.0%	400.0%
Total Program Service \$	1352800.0%	1253000.0%	1257600.0%	1271100.0%
Total Program Service FTEs	78	77	75	65
% of Total \$	1	1	1	1
% of Total FTEs	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 1
Support Services:				
Management & General	-	-	-	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
D.D.M.	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	17	22	20	17
FTEs	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Total Support Service \$	1700.0%	2200.0%	2000.0%	1700.0%
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
% of Total FTEs	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 13,545	\$ 12,552	\$ 12,596	\$ 12,728

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)
Fiscal Year 2018-2019**

	Fiscal 15-16 Actual	Fiscal 16-17 Actual	Fiscal 17-18 Budget	Fiscal 18-19 Proposed @ .7500
INCOME:				
Ministry Share	\$ 7,444	\$ 7,215	\$ 7,073	\$ 6,855
% of Total Income	34.4%	33.8%	35.2%	33.1%
Other Gift Income:				
Gifts & Offerings	\$ 10,209	\$ 10,046	\$ 11,652	\$ 12,271
Estate Gifts	\$ 3,189	\$ 1,429	\$ 936	\$ 963
Total Gift Income	13,398	11,475	12,588	13,234
% of Total Income	61.8%	53.7%	62.6%	64.0%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 134	\$ 252	\$ 49	\$ 10
Grants	\$ 57	\$ -	\$ 20	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 633	\$ 2,422	\$ 392	\$ 594
Total Other Income	824	2,674	461	604
% of Total Income	3.8%	12.5%	2.3%	2.9%
TOTAL INCOME	21,666	21,364	20,122	20,693
EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Ministry Teams - N. America	\$ 3,086	\$ 2,970	\$ 2,911	\$ 3,199
FTEs	18	18	18	15
Ministry Devel - Mission Innovation	\$ 559	\$ 751	\$ 2,308	\$ 2,241
FTEs	5	5	14	13
Africa & Europe	\$ 3,631	\$ 3,845	\$ 3,324	\$ 3,448
FTEs	18	18	18	19
Eurasia-reclassified 17-18	\$ 2,546	\$ -		
FTEs	14	14		-
Latin America & Asia	\$ 4,017	\$ 6,015	\$ 4,609	\$ 5,057
FTEs	19	19	23	26
Global/other Int'l program	\$ 1,461	\$ 1,327	\$ 2,098	\$ 2,146
FTEs	40	40	-	2
Mission Educ Engagement/Vol	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,060	\$ 1,075
FTEs	2	2	3	3
Total Program Service \$	\$ 15,300	\$ 14,908	\$ 16,310	\$ 17,166
Total Program Service FTEs	116	116	76	77
% of Total \$	78.5%	78.5%	78.2%	80.0%
% of Total FTEs	85.9%	85.9%	73.1%	75.3%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 2,132	\$ 2,117	\$ 1,303	\$ 1,312
FTEs	6	6	7	3
Operations and Logistics/PLC	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Mission Support & Fund-raising	\$ 2,051	\$ 1,954	\$ 3,232	\$ 2,967
FTEs	13	13	21	22
Total Support Service \$	4,183	4,071	4,535	4,279
Total Support Service FTEs	19	19	28	25
% of Total \$	21.5%	21.5%	21.8%	20.0%
% of Total FTEs	14.1%	14.1%	26.9%	24.7%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 19,483	\$ 18,979	\$ 20,845	\$ 21,444
TOTAL FTEs**	135	135	104	103
**Ptnr & Vol fte est. incl above	30	30	30	30
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)	\$ 2,183	\$ 2,385	\$ (723)	\$ (751)

Synodical Administrative Services

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

Fiscal Year 2018-2019

	Fiscal 15-16 Actual	Fiscal 16-17 Actual	Fiscal 17-18 Budget	Fiscal 18-19 Proposed @ .7500
INCOME:				
Ministry Share	\$ 2,296	\$ 2,355	\$ 2,395	\$ 2,750
% of Total Income	49.1%	53.3%	84.7%	83.1%
Other Gift Income:				
Gifts & Offerings	\$ 602	\$ 85	\$ 258	\$ 388
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	602	85	258	388
% of Total Income	12.9%	1.9%	9.1%	11.7%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10	\$ 10
Grants / Debt forgiven	\$ -	\$ 1,948	\$ 50	\$ 50
Services & Misc	\$ 1,779	\$ 33	\$ 113	\$ 113
Total Other Income	1,779	1,981	173	173
% of Total Income	38.0%	44.8%	6.1%	5.2%
TOTAL INCOME	4,677	4,421	2,826	3,311
EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Synodical Services & Grants	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,534	\$ 1,310	\$ 1,246
FTEs	5	5	5	5
Communications				\$ 253
FTEs				2
Sea to Sea expenses & grants				
FTEs				
Leadership Programs	\$ 17	\$ 81		
FTEs	-	-		
Total Program Service \$	\$ 2,417	\$ 1,615	\$ 1,310	\$ 1,499
Total Program Service FTEs	5	5	5	7
% of Total \$	64.7%	53.6%	46.4%	46.1%
% of Total FTEs	41.7%	41.7%	35.7%	46.7%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 1,203	\$ 1,144	\$ 978	\$ 1,010
FTEs	4	4	5	4
D.M.A.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 278	\$ 394
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Fund-raising (incls Foundation)	\$ 116	\$ 253	\$ 260	\$ 352
FTEs	1	1	2	2
Total Support Service \$	1,319	1,397	1,516	1,756
Total Support Service FTEs	7	7	9	8
% of Total \$	35.3%	46.4%	53.6%	53.9%
% of Total FTEs	58.3%	58.3%	64.3%	53.3%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 3,736	\$ 3,012	\$ 2,826	\$ 3,255
TOTAL FTEs	12	12	14	15
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)	\$ 941	\$ 1,409	\$ -	\$ 56

Operating Budget (000s of U.S.)
Fiscal Year 2018-2019

	Fiscal 15-16 Actual	Fiscal 16-17 Actual	Fiscal 17-18 Budget	Fiscal 18-19 Proposed @ .7500
INCOME:				
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
% of Total Income	-	-	-	-
Other Gift Income:				
Gifts & Offerings	\$ 17,416	\$ 18,615	\$ 17,588	\$ 17,339
Estate Gifts	\$ 5,871	\$ 2,817	\$ 2,305	\$ 2,300
Total Gift Income	23,287	21,432	19,893	19,639
% of Total Income	65.9%	61.2%	67.0%	67.2%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ 11,758	\$ 12,597	\$ 9,350	\$ 9,125
Miscellaneous	\$ 311	\$ 1,004	\$ 450	\$ 450
Total Other Income	12,069	13,601	9,800	9,575
% of Total Income	34.1%	38.8%	33.0%	32.8%
TOTAL INCOME	35,356	35,033	29,693	29,214
EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Overseas programs	\$ 11,078	\$ 11,734	\$ 12,237	\$ 11,806
FTEs	38	40	45	45
No. America programs	\$ 415	\$ 125	\$ 100	\$ 104
FTEs				
Disaster relief programs	\$ 1,521	\$ 1,596	\$ 1,696	\$ 1,507
FTEs	13	13	10	10
Above-budget relief costs	\$ 12,796	\$ 12,413	\$ 11,844	\$ 10,813
FTEs	3	3	2	2
Education	\$ 1,603	\$ 1,578	\$ 1,860	\$ 1,628
FTEs	12	12	12	12
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	27,413	27,446	27,737	\$ 25,858
Total Program Service FTEs	66	68	69	69
% of Total \$	86.6%	86.2%	83.7%	82.5%
% of Total FTEs	70.2%	70.8%	70.4%	65.7%
Support Services:				
Management & General	1,641	1,608	2,274	\$ 2,213
FTEs	7	7	7	7
Plant Operations	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	2,593	2,791	3,143	\$ 3,255
FTEs	21	21	22	29
Total Support Service \$	4,234	4,399	5,417	5,468
Total Support Service FTEs	28	28	29	36
% of Total \$	13.4%	13.8%	16.3%	17.5%
% of Total FTEs	29.8%	29.2%	29.6%	34.3%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	31,647	31,845	33,154	\$ 31,326
TOTAL FTEs	94	96	98	105
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)	3,709	3,188	(3,461)	\$ (2,112)

Ministers' Pension and Special Assistance Funds – Canada

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

	MPF 2016 Actual	MPF 2017 Actual	SAF 2016 Actual	SAF 2017 Actual
ADDITIONS:				
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 93
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	97.1%	95.9%
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	\$ 3,170	\$ 3,167	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Investment Earnings/(Losses)	\$ 3,209	\$ 7,231	\$ 3	\$ 4
Total Other Income	6,379	10,398	3	4
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	2.9%	4.1%
TOTAL ADDITIONS	6,379	10,398	103	97
DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Distributions	\$ 2,618	\$ 2,890	\$ 15	\$ 7
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 2,618	\$ 2,890	\$ 15	\$ 7
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	74.8%	77.9%	100.0%	100.0%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%		
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 882	\$ 818	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	1	1	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	882	818	-	-
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	-	-
% of Total \$	25.2%	22.1%	0.0%	0.0%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%		
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,708	\$ 15	\$ 7
TOTAL FTEs	1	1	-	-
NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)	\$ 2,879	\$ 6,690	\$ 88	\$ 90

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

Changes in Net Assets (000s)

	MPF 2016 Actual	MPF 2017 Actual	SAF 2016 Actual	SAF 2017 Actual
ADDITIONS:				
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 179	\$ 174
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	99.4%
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	\$ 5,384	\$ 5,296	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Investment Earnings	\$ 4,921	\$ 18,179	\$ -	\$ 1
Total Other Income	10,305	23,475	-	1
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.6%
TOTAL ADDITIONS	10,305	23,475	179	175
DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Distributions	\$ 9,905	\$ 9,865	\$ 152	\$ 132
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 9,905	\$ 9,865	\$ 152	\$ 132
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	90.6%	88.8%	100.0%	100.0%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%		
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 1,023	\$ 1,245	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	2	2	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	1,023	1,245	-	-
Total Support Service FTEs	2	2	-	-
% of Total \$	9.4%	11.2%	0.0%	0.0%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%		
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$ 10,928	\$ 11,110	\$ 152	\$ 132
TOTAL FTEs	2	2	-	-
NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)	\$ (623)	\$ 12,365	\$ 27	\$ 43

Employees' Retirement Plan – Canada

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

		2016 Actual		2017 Actual
ADDITIONS:				
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	\$	450	\$	462
Participant Contributions	\$	58	\$	57
Investment Earnings	\$	313	\$	330
Total Other Income		821		849
% of Total Income		100.0%		100.0%
TOTAL ADDITIONS		821		849
DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Distributions	\$	434	\$	519
FTEs		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
Total Program Service \$	\$	434	\$	519
Total Program Service FTEs		-		-
% of Total \$		97.7%		97.2%
% of Total FTEs				
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$	10	\$	15
FTEs		-		-
Plant Operations	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
Fund-raising	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
Total Support Service \$		10		15
Total Support Service FTEs		-		-
% of Total \$		2.3%		2.8%
% of Total FTEs				
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$	444	\$	534
TOTAL FTEs		-		-
NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)	\$	377	\$	315

Employees' Savings Plan – U.S.

Changes in Net Assets (000s)

		2016 Actual		2017 Actual
ADDITIONS:				
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	\$	2,352	\$	2,487
Grants	\$	-	\$	-
Investment Income	\$	1,787	\$	5,493
Total Other Income		4,139		7,980
% of Total Income		100.0%		100.0%
TOTAL ADDITIONS		4,139		7,980
DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Distributions	\$	1,330	\$	3,846
FTEs		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
Total Program Service \$	\$	1,330	\$	3,846
Total Program Service FTEs		-		-
% of Total \$		90.7%		96.4%
% of Total FTEs		0.0%		0.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$	136	\$	144
FTEs		1		1
Plant Operations	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
Fund-raising	\$	-	\$	-
FTEs		-		-
Total Support Service \$		136		144
Total Support Service FTEs		1		1
% of Total \$		9.3%		3.6%
% of Total FTEs		100.0%		100.0%
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$	1,466	\$	3,990
TOTAL FTEs		1		1
NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)	\$	2,673	\$	3,990

REPORT OF SYNOD 2018

SYNOD 2018 **RCA/CRC JOINT COMMUNITY** **WORSHIP SERVICE**

DeVos Center for Arts and Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan
 June 10, 2018
 7:00 p.m.

(Asterisk [] indicates worshipers may rise in body or in spirit.)*

God Calls Us to Worship

Welcome

*Call to Worship

"O Worship the King"

Grant/Tomlin

*Greeting

*Opening Praise

"Father, Let Your Kingdom Come"

Porter's Gate

"Loving Spirit, Loving Spirit"

Murray

God Calls Us to Confession

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

"Father, Only in Your Power"

Hicks

Assurance of Pardon

*Doxology

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Ken

God Comes to Us through His Word

Global Prayer for Brazil

"Pelas dores deste mundo/For the Troubles"

Neto

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon: "All for the Sake of the Gospel"

Text: 1 Corinthians 9:22-23

Prayer of Response

Reflecting on the Word

"For Your Glory"

Cobbs

God Comes to Us through the Sacrament

Partaking of Communion

Prayer

We Respond with Offerings and Dedication

Offering for Back to God Ministries International/
Words of Hope Arabic Ministry

*Sending Song

“Father, Let Your Kingdom Come”

Porter’s Gate

*Benediction

Preacher	Dr. A.K. Lama
Liturgist	Rev. Ruth Boven
Communion officiants	Dr. Carol Bechtel, Dr. Micah McCreary
Pastoral prayer	Mr. Lee DeYoung
Praise dance	Dr. Michelle Loyd-Paige
Scripture reader	Ms. Susanah Wade
Piano	Rev. Jeremy Simpson
Bass	Rev. Andy Kadzban
Percussion	Rev. Noah Livingston
Electric guitar	Mr. Andy Bast
Acoustic guitar/vocals	Rev. Jonathan Gabhart
Clarinet	Ms. Anna Langholz
Vocals	Ms. Johanna Mason, Mrs. Anna Gabhart

THURSDAY EVENING, June 7, 2018

First Session

ARTICLE 1

The General Synod 2018 of the Reformed Church in America and Synod 2018 of the Christian Reformed Church in North America meet in a joint opening worship service in the Calvin College Chapel, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. Lee DeYoung, president of the RCA General Synod, and Rev. Jonathan Brown, pastor of Pillar Church, Holland, Michigan, and serving as the president pro-tem of Synod 2018, welcome the delegates to worship as one body. Following the call to worship and God's greeting by Rev. Liz Testa, delegates sing "The Church's One Foundation," "Holy, Holy, Holy," and "Jesus at the Center."

Rev. Liz Testa gives the call to confession, prayer of confession, and assurance of pardon, and delegates sing "Father in Heaven, Have Mercy / Ish-woro" (Bengali).

Delegates and guests share the passing of the peace.

Delegates sing "We Are Listening" in preparation for the preaching of the Word. Rev. Jenna Brandsen and Rev. Jonathan Brown lead in a prayer for Illumination.

Revs. Brandsen and Brown preach the sermon, "United for the Sake of the Gospel," based on Ephesians 4:4-6: "There is one body and one Spirit," even as we are called to one hope; "one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all."

Rev. Brandsen and Rev. Brown officiate communion. During the serving of the bread and cup, delegates sing "Let Us Break Bread Together" and "The Lamb Has Overcome."

Delegates sing a song of thanksgiving, "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven," followed by prayers of the people led by Rev. Wayne Coleman. An offering is taken for the CRCNA and RCA Disability Concerns project.

Rev. Liz Testa gives the blessing, and delegates close the service with singing "All Glory Be to Christ."

Worship Participants

Dance Team:	Ms. Lydia Brown, Ms. Miriah Brown, Ms. Tabitha Brown, Ms. Lana Anne Langelier, and Ms. Ahava Lefabre (led by Jaunine Hackmon)
Music Ensemble:	Ms. Miranda Craig, Rev. Jonathan Gebhart, Mr. Rob Housman, Ms. Melissa Johnson, and Ms. Johanna Mason
Organist:	Ms. Sheryl Beerens
Pianist:	Ms. Angela Wagenveld

ARTICLE 2

The delegates to the RCA General Synod 2018 and the CRC Synod 2018 gather together in the Van Noord Arena for morning worship.

Rev. John Tenyenhuis welcomes the CRC and RCA to worship.

The praise team (Ms. Anna Gebhart, Rev. Jonathan Gebhart, and Mr. Noah McLaren) lead delegates in singing “Behold Our God,” followed by a responsive reading led by Rev. Tenyenhuis. Delegates sing “Jesus Shall Reign.”

Ms. Evelyn Bennally reads Philippians 1:20-26, and Rev. Anna Jackson focuses on being “Selfless for the Sake of the Gospel.”

Rev. Jackson opens with prayer and shares the story of Paul, who, though writing from prison, knows that God is yet with him. Paul has remained faithful to God, even in prison, since the time of his life-changing experience on the way to Damascus. Similarly, we know we belong in life and death to Jesus Christ our Lord. Our purpose is all about Jesus and serving him so that the world may know Christ. Rev. Jackson closes in prayer.

Delegates respond with singing “We Labor unto Glory,” and Mr. Lee DeYoung introduces a video of Korean Christians who are praying for synod. Table prayers are offered for the Korean Christian community. Delegates sing “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me.” Rev. Tenyenhuis gives a blessing, and delegates conclude by singing again the first verse of “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me.”

Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director of the CRCNA, introduces Dr. Cheryl Brandsen, provost of Calvin College, who welcomes delegates to the Calvin College campus.

ARTICLE 3

President pro tem Rev. Jonathan Brown welcomes delegates and advisers and gives thanks to all who have worked to prepare for Synod 2018. Rev. Brown leads in an opening prayer for the gathering of synodical delegates and advisers in the Covenant Fine Arts Center at Calvin College.

ARTICLE 4

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 2018

Classis	Delegates
Alberta North	
Minister	Dayna Vreeken
Elder	Gary W. Duthler
Deacon	Jennifer Snaterse
Other	Arthur L. Verboon
Alberta South/Saskatchewan	
Minister	Brian D. Kuyper
Elder	Jack A. Beeksm
Deacon	Randy J. Dekens
Other	Rafik Kamel

Arizona	
Minister	Vacant
Elder	Rodney J. Hugen
Deacon	Vacant
Other	Samuel Estala-Aranda
Atlantic Northeast	
Minister	Derek M. Zeyl
Elder	Cornelis Van Barneveldt
Deacon	Lillian E. Hackathorn
Other	Nicholas W. Monsma
B.C. North-West	
Minister	Mary-Lee Bouma
Elder	Lori A. Fieber
Deacon	Melissa Van Dyk
Other	Dena Nicolai
B.C. South-East	
Minister	Jana L. Vander Laan
Elder	Pam Marissen
Deacon	Charles J. Dykman
Other	Thomas J. Bomhof
California South	
Minister	Mirtha M. Villafane
Elder	Ron L. Glass
Deacon	Rudy R. Manrique
Other	Andrew T. Hanson
Central California	
Minister	James J. Chiang
Elder	Sandra L. Griffin-Baerwald
Deacon	Cynthia J. Fair
Other	Jeffrey T. Hoek
Central Plains	
Minister	George Den Oudsten
Elder	Russell R. Van Hemert
Deacon	Robert J. Rus
Other	Brad Bierma
Chatham	
Minister	Timothy R. Luimes
Elder	Diane Plug
Deacon	Lynette Van De Hoef
Other	Gregory A. Fluit
Chicago South	
Minister	Michael J. Kooy
Elder	Emily Bosscher
Deacon	Roger DeGroot
Other	Timothy B. Toeset
Columbia	
Minister	Robert J. Toornstra
Elder	David A. Van Dyke
Deacon	Vacant
Other	Jelmer P. Groenewold
Eastern Canada	
Minister	Daniel Meinema
Elder	Richard Smit
Deacon	Joyce J. Luimes
Other	Jacob M. Van de Hoef

Georgetown	Mark D. Bennink
Minister	Raymond Dennis
Elder	Kathy Jelsema
Deacon	Jeffery W. Scripps
Other	
Grand Rapids East	Elizabeth A. Vander Haagen
Minister	George N. Monsma, Jr.
Elder	Claire A. Knight
Deacon	Darrell L. Delaney
Other	
Grand Rapids North	Elaine G. May
Minister	Karen D. VanderMeulen
Elder	Russell L. Slendebroek
Deacon	Jeanne F. Maher
Other	
Grand Rapids South	Ruth Boven
Minister	Jacque Bolt
Elder	Vacant
Deacon	Curtis A. Walters
Other	
Grandville	Anthony J. Meyer
Minister	Larry Klein
Elder	Carole TenHaaf
Deacon	Joy Witte
Other	
Greater Los Angeles	Chris T. Choe
Minister	James A. Grasmeyer
Elder	Annette L. Biggs
Deacon	Erick D. Westra
Other	
Hackensack	Petr Kornilov
Minister	Lenore Maine
Elder	Amy Vander Vliet
Deacon	Efren S. Echipare
Other	
Hamilton	Joel Bootsma
Minister	Mark Vandervliet
Elder	John B. Dekker
Deacon	Anthony D. Elenbaas
Other	
Hanmi	Jahng Soo Jeong
Minister	Vacant
Elder	Vacant
Deacon	Sun Il Kim
Other	
Heartland	Nathan Kuperus
Minister	Harvey G. Obbink
Elder	Keith E. Boersma
Deacon	Loren J. Kotman
Other	
Holland	David L. Spoelma
Minister	Gerrit K. Haagsma
Elder	Jack MacDonald
Deacon	Jenna L. Brandsen
Other	

Hudson	In Chul Choeh
Minister	Roy G. Heerema
Elder	Vacant
Deacon	Kendall A. Everett
Other	
Huron	John C. Medendorp
Minister	Rick DeGraaf
Elder	James Vanderleeuw
Deacon	Kevin J. teBrake
Other	
Iakota	Calvin Hoogendoorn
Minister	Sanneke C. Kok
Elder	David Kuipers
Deacon	Daniel S. De Graff
Other	
Illiana	Mark A. Bonnes
Minister	Paul J. Epley
Elder	Vacant
Deacon	Joel W. Zuidema
Other	
Kalamazoo	Michael D. Koetje
Minister	Roger L. Klok
Elder	Esther Korzilius
Deacon	Anthony J. Gretz
Other	
Ko-Am	Edward W. Yoon
Minister	Sang W. Park
Elder	Jenny U. Yoon
Deacon	Won Ki Kim
Other	
Lake Erie	Matthew T. Ackerman
Minister	Larry D. Gruppen
Elder	Mary A. Rupke
Deacon	Christopher B. Lanham
Other	
Lake Superior	Anson Veenstra
Minister	Michael J. Wiersma
Elder	Teda J. Heerema
Deacon	Jeffrey C. Vanderhooft
Other	
Minnkota	Joshua M. Christoffels
Minister	John W. Byl
Elder	Vacant
Deacon	Roger W. Sparks
Other	
Muskegon	Douglas M. MacLeod
Minister	Steve Breuker
Elder	Louise Breuker
Deacon	Kenneth T. Krause
Other	
Niagara	Michael J. Vandyk
Minister	Hilbert Bokma
Elder	Karen Van Dyk
Deacon	George Sportel
Other	

Northcentral Iowa	
Minister	Russell W. Boersma
Elder	Herb Schruer
Deacon	Vacant
Other	Jason T. Semans
Northern Illinois	
Minister	Fred A. De Jong
Elder	Sharon Buma
Deacon	Claire E. McWilliams
Other	Mark K. Brouwer
Northern Michigan	
Minister	Kenneth D. Koning
Elder	Alan L. Diemer
Deacon	Vacant
Other	Adam M. Barton
Pacific Northwest	
Minister	John C. Knoester
Elder	Greg Boon
Deacon	Linda W. Grace
Other	Jennifer Geelhood
Quinte	
Minister	Benjamin G. vanStraten
Elder	Cathy Vink
Deacon	Hilda Van Drunen
Other	Shawn R. Brix
Red Mesa	
Minister	Stanley W. Jim
Elder	Caleb Dickson
Deacon	Tyler Eelkema
Other	Willie Bennally
Rocky Mountain	
Minister	W. Dean Dyk
Elder	Russell R. Center
Deacon	DeLinda N. Baker
Other	Roger De Young
Southeast U.S.	
Minister	Stanley J. Workman
Elder	Sandy L. Wagner
Deacon	Irma N. Rodriguez
Other	Christopher N. Cassis
Thornapple Valley	
Minister	Roger S. Greenway
Elder	Casey Jen
Deacon	Kathy A. VanderLaan
Other	Edward W. Coleman
Toronto	
Minister	Richard A. Bodini
Elder	Henry Eygenraam
Deacon	Alida Kloet
Other	John Tenyenhuis
Wisconsin	
Minister	Craig Van Hill
Elder	David Katsma
Deacon	Charles C. Adams
Other	Keith D. Buist

Yellowstone
Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Steve Bussis
Cornelius W. Kroon
George DenHartigh
Clair Vander Neut

Zeeland
Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Mark D. Neymeiyer
Steve Schrottenboer
Angie Ploegstra
Stephen F. Terpstra

The roll indicates that elder delegate Mr. John W. Byl (Minnkota) is absent with notice and will be in attendance on Monday.

Alternate elder delegate Mr. Calvin J. Hoogstra (Holland) is present in place of Mr. Gerrit K. Haagsma.

The president pro tem declares that a quorum of the membership is present and that the assembly of Synod 2018 is duly constituted.

ARTICLE 5

The executive director welcomes and individually introduces the faculty advisers who are present: Dr. Mariano Avila, Dr. Ronald J. Feenstra, Rev. Kathy S. Smith, Dr. Mary L. Vanden Berg, and Dr. Cory B. Willson.

The executive director also welcomes and individually introduces to synod the young adult representatives who are present: Mr. Izhar Alvarez, Mr. Benjamin Boersma, Ms. Kristy Bootsma, Ms. Jenna Rodermond, Ms. Robyn Stegink, Mr. Benjamin VanderWindt, and Ms. Lydia Verstrate.

The executive director welcomes Dr. Cheryl K. Brandsen, provost of Calvin College, and Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary.

The executive director, on behalf of synod, welcomes ecumenical guests in attendance: Dr. Tshililo Liphadzi from the Reformed Churches in South Africa (Soutpansberg Synod), Dr. Monica Schaap Pierce from the Reformed Church in America, and Dr. Lisa VanderWal from the World Communion of Reformed Churches.

The executive director introduces the synod news office staff, *Banner* staff, synod office staff, prayer mobilizer, IT staff, Calvin College events coordinator, denominational executive staff, Council of Delegates chair and vice chair, and CRC ministry leaders present.

ARTICLE 6

The executive director calls the attention of delegates and visitors to the following matters:

I. Confidentiality of the executive sessions of synod

The Council of Delegates calls the matter of confidentiality to the attention of Synod 2018 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 audio recordings 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 7

Synod recesses at 10:09 a.m. to meet in advisory committees. Synod will reconvene at 11:15 a.m. to continue the plenary session.

ARTICLE 8

The following schedule is presented for information: 8:00-8:30 a.m., joint worship with the RCA general synod; morning session, 9:00-11:15 a.m.; CRC Advisory Committees, 11:15 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; joint session with the RCA, 7:00-8:30 p.m.; breaks at 12:15 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

ARTICLE 9

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

President: Dr. Roger S. Greenway
Vice President: Rev. Elizabeth A. Vander Haagen
First Clerk: Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma
Second Clerk: Dr. Calvin Hoogendoorn

ARTICLE 10

Rev. Jonathan Brown welcomes the officers to the podium and congratulates them.

Dr. Greenway expresses the appreciation of synod to Rev. Brown for his participation in the opening of synod.

On behalf of himself and the other officers, Dr. Greenway thanks synod for the confidence it has placed in them to lead synod, and he requests prayer for the officers in the coming week.

ARTICLE 11

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 12

The executive director presents the report of the Program Committee, which recommends the following advisory committees for Synod 2018:

Committee 1—Synodical Services

Chair: Gary W. Duthler; **reporter:** Amy Vander Vliet; **ministers:** Richard A. Bodini, James J. Chiang, Daniel S. De Graff, Roger S. Greenway, Michael D. Koetje, Christopher B. Lanham, John C. Medendorp, Anthony J. Meyer, Stephen F. Terpstra, Clair Vander Neut, Erick D. Westra; **elders:** John W. Byl, Raymond D. Dennis, Jennifer Geelhood, Lenore Maine, Herbert W. Scheur, George Sportel; **deacons:** Charles C. Adams, Rudy R. Manrique, Russell L. Slendebroek, Lynette van de Hoef; **young adult representative:** Benjamin VanderWindt.

Committee 2—Church Order and Synodical Matters

Chair: Melissa Van Dyk; **reporter:** Timothy B. Toeset; **ministers:** Russell W. Boersma, In Chul Choeh, Andrew T. Hanson, Jahngsoo Jeong, John C. Knoester, Kenneth D. Koning, Nicholas W. Monsma, Kevin J. teBrake, Robert J. Toornstra, Jana L. Vander Laan, Michael J. Vandyk; **elders:** Sharon Buma, David L. Katsma, Harvey G. Obbink, Sang W. Park, Steven J. Schrottenboer, Karen D. Vander Meulen, Cathy L. Wink; **deacons:** Tyler J. Eelkema, Joyce J. Luimes, Jack MacDonald, Kathy A. VanderLaan; **adviser:** Kathy S. Smith; **young adult representative:** Jenna Rodermond.

Committee 3—Education and Candidacy

Chair: Jeffery W. Scripps; **reporter:** Curtis A. Walters; **ministers:** George Den Oudsten, Anthony D. Elenbaas, Kendall A. Everett, Calvin Hoogenboom, Petr Kornilov, Kenneth T. Krause, Timothy R. Luimes, Jeffery W. Scripps, Elizabeth A. Vander Haagen, Dayna Vreeken; **elders:** Jack A. Beeksma, Emily S. Bosscher, Paul J. Epley, Lori A. Fieber, Casey Jen, David A. Van Dyke, Joy A. Witte; **deacons:** Robert M. Byl, Linda W. Grace, Irma N. Rodriguez, Hilda Van Drunen, Jenny U. Yoon; **young adult representative:** Benjamin Boersma.

Committee 4—Congregational Services I

Chair: Brian D. Kuyper; **reporter:** Shawn R. Brix; **ministers:** Brad Bierma, Ruth A. Boven, Anthony J. Gretz, Stanley W. Jim, Elaine G. May, Mark D. Neymeiyer, John Tenyenhuis, Craig Van Hill, Anson Veenstra, Mirtha

M. Villafane; **elders:** Larry D. Gruppen, Gerrit K. Haagsma, Cornelius W. Kroon, Dena Nicolai, Cornelis Van Barneveldt, Mark Vandervliet; **deacons:** Louise A. Breuker, Roger D. DeGroot, Jeffrey T. Hoek, Sooho Lee, Claire E. McWilliams, James Vanderleeuw; **adviser:** Ronald J. Feenstra; **young adult representative:** Robyn Stegink.

Committee 5—Congregational Services II

Chair: Thomas J. Bomhof; **reporter:** Douglas M. MacCleod; **ministers:** Jenna L. Brandsen, Mark K. Brouwer, Keith D. Buist, Edward W. Coleman, Roger De Young, Roger W. Sparks, Arthur L. Verboon, Derek M. Zeyl, Joel W. Zuidema; **elders:** Hilbert Bokma, Caleb N. Dickson, Ron L. Glass, Sandra L. Griffin-Baerwald, Rodney J. Huguen, Larry A. Klein, Diane Plug; **deacons:** Annette L. Biggs, Keith E. Boersma, Randy J. Dekens, Teda J. Heerema, Claire A. Knight, Esther I. Korzilius; **adviser:** Mary L. Vanden Berg; **young adult representative:** Lydia Verstrate.

Committee 6—Global Mission and Ministry

Chair: Roy G. Heerema; **reporter:** Matthew Ackerman; **ministers:** Mark A. Bonnes, Mary-Lee Bouma, Christopher Cassis, Darrell Delaney, Greg A. Fluit, Jelmer P. Groenewold, Nathan Kuperus, David L. Spoelma, Benjamin G. vanStraten, Edward W. Yoon; **elders:** Steve J. Breuker, Russell R. Center, James A. Grasmeyer, Rene Riverly, Richard J. Smith, Russell R. Van Hemert; **deacons:** Charles J. Dykman, Cynthia J. Fair, Kathy Jelsema, Alida Kloet, Carole L. TenHaaf; **adviser:** Mariano Avila; **young adult representative:** Izhar Alvarez.

Committee 7—Financial Matters

Chair: Stanley J. Workman; **reporter:** Henry Eygenraam; **ministers:** Mark D. Bennink, Steve Bussis, Chris T. Choe, Fred A. De Jong, Rafik K. Kamel, Loren J. Kotman, Jeffrey C. Vanderhooft; **elders:** Rick DeGraaf, Alan L. Diemer, Efren S. Echipare, Roger L. Klok; **deacons:** DeLinda N. Baker, John B. Dekker, David Kuipers, Angie M. Ploegstra, Robert J. Rus, Jennifer M. C. Snaterse.

Committee 8—Interdenominational Matters

Chair: Jacob M. Van de Hoef; **reporter:** Sandy L. Wagner; **ministers:** Adam M. Barton, Joel T. Bootsma, Joshua M. Christoffels, W. Dean Dyk, Sun Il Kim, Won Ki Kim, Michael J. Kooy, Daniel Meinema, Jason T. Semans; **elders:** Willie J. Bennally, Jacque K. Bolt, Greg Boon, Sanneke C. Kok, Jeanne F. Maher, Pam Marissen, George N. Monsma, Jr., Michael J. Wiersma; **deacons:** George DenHartigh, Lillian E. Hackathorn, Mary A. Rupke, Karen K. Van Dyk; **adviser:** Cory B. Willson; **young adult representative:** Kristy Bootsma.

ARTICLE 13

The president of synod, Dr. Greenway, leads in closing prayer. Synod recesses at 12:45 p.m. so that the advisory committees may do their work. Synod will reconvene at 7:00 p.m. in joint session.

ARTICLE 14

The delegates to the RCA General Synod 2018 and the CRC Synod 2018 convene together at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Scott Greenway calls the meeting to order, welcomes the delegates, and leads in opening prayer.

ARTICLE 15

Mr. Lee DeYoung introduces Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, RCA general secretary emeritus, who reflects on the significant loss, in recent weeks leading up to synod, in the deaths of Dr. Edwin G. Mulder, RCA general secretary emeritus, and Dr. Peter Borgdorff, CRC executive director emeritus. Rev. Granberg-Michaelson shares that both were humble servants of God, both were deeply affected by the Belhar Confession, and both worked tirelessly for unity in the denominations.

ARTICLE 16

Dr. Greenway introduces Rev. Denise Posie, director for leadership development and women's and ethnic ministry for the CRCNA, who shares that our togetherness as denominations goes back a long way. In 2011 our synods met together on the Calvin College campus, though we overlapped schedules for only one joint session and a shared worship service. In 2014 our synods both met in Pella, Iowa.

Rev. Posie introduces Mr. Randy Weener (RCA) and Mr. Kevin Schutte (CRC), who share how the CRC and RCA have been working together to plant churches and bring the lost to Christ in North America since 2011. Together our denominations are looking to collaborate more in church planting, in seeking the holistic health of church planters, and in refining our core systems and structures.

Rev. Posie introduces Ms. Carol Bremer-Bennett, U.S. codirector of World Renew (CRC) and counterparts of Global Missions (RCA), who focus on efforts and places where both denominations are working and partnering together.

Ms. Carol Bremer-Bennett shares a glimpse of how God's churches are working together to change the story of people in the midst of transition and crisis. God calls us to welcome the stranger, and together we are welcoming, loving, and working alongside strangers.

Rev. Kate Kooyman of the CRC Office of Social Justice and Mr. Scott Engelsman of the RCA's Global Mission and Engagement share stories about the refugee crisis and how our two denominations are working together to equip churches to respond.

Ms. Stephanie Soderstrom, working with RCA volunteers, and Ms. Kellie Scholma of World Renew share about disaster response and the greater impact this makes for the work of the Lord. Through the collaboration of our denominations, we are able to help more people.

Rev. Liz Testa (RCA) shares about the RCA's 40th anniversary of women in ministry. Rev. Denise Posie (CRC) shares by way of a video the history of women in ministry in the CRC. We praise God for the ways we are doing mission together, and we celebrate the gifts of the women in our two

denominations whom God has gifted and called to ministry. God needs all of us to build his church and bring his mission to the world.

ARTICLE 17

Ms. Emily Brink introduces the hymn “For Such a Time as This,” and delegates join in singing. Ms. Carol Bechtel leads in closing prayer. Synod adjourns at 8:50 p.m. and will reconvene on Saturday at 8:00 a.m. for joint worship in the Van Noord Arena.

SATURDAY MORNING, June 9, 2018

Fourth Session

ARTICLE 18

The delegates of the general synod of the RCA and the synod of the CRCNA convene for opening worship in the Van Noord Arena.

Dr. Patricia Singletary welcomes the delegates with a call to worship and greeting. The praise team (Ms. Anna Gebhart, Rev. Jonathan Gebhart, Mr. Noah Livingston, and Mr. Andy Kadztan) leads delegates in singing “Come, Holy Spirit” and “O Sing to the Lord.”

In preparation for the meditation, delegates sing “Out of the Depths,” and Ms. Leonor Caballero reads 2 Timothy 1:8-12.

Rev. Tom Bomhof preaches on “Suffering for the Sake of the Gospel,” challenging delegates with the question “Are you and I really suffering for the gospel?” He suggests that we have not suffered like Paul, who went to prison. Our core task, like Paul’s, is to effectively preach the gospel and be a teacher of faith as we share God’s message of grace. Do not be ashamed of the gospel, but let the message of God’s grace ring out. Stay true to the faith and keep pointing to Christ.

Delegates respond by singing “I Know That My Redeemer Lives.” Mr. Lee DeYoung, RCA general synod president, shares that a team in India is praying for our synod meetings. He introduces Dr. A.K. Lama, director of South Asia ministries, who requests table prayers for God’s wisdom to stop the work of the devil and for courage for the community of all Christians in South Asia.

Delegates conclude worship with singing “Father, Let Your Kingdom Come,” and Dr. Singletary gives the blessing.

ARTICLE 19

The morning session adjourns at 8:45 a.m. RCA and CRC delegates meet in joint advisory committees to discuss one of the following topics in each group: Collaboration, New Creation, Congregational Renewal and Transformation Initiative, or Interfaith Engagement.

Synod will reconvene on Monday morning at 8:00 a.m. in the Van Noord Arena for worship.

MONDAY MORNING, June 11, 2018
Fifth Session

ARTICLE 20

The praise team (Rev. Jenna Brandsen, Rev. Jonathan Gebhart, Mr. Noah McLaren) welcomes the delegates to the Van Noord Arena during the singing of “We Are Listening.” Rev. Nick Miles leads delegates in singing “Ojibwa Creator Song,” and the praise team leads delegates in singing “God, You Call Us to This Place.” Rev. Dayna Vreeken reads Psalm 46:1-7, followed by the singing of “Come and Fill Our Hearts” in response.

ARTICLE 21

Dr. Scott Greenway, president of the CRC synod, calls the session to order and invites Dr. Jacob Nyenhuis, provost emeritus of Hope College and secretary of the Dutch-American Historical Commission, to read a brief statement from Joost Taverne, Cultural Attaché of the Netherlands, who is unable to attend.

ARTICLE 22

Mr. Lee DeYoung expresses thanks to Dr. Nyenhuis and invites the moderators of the joint advisory committees to share the four reports of the joint advisory topics.

Dr. Scott Greenway notes that all will have time to share thoughts or feedback around the tables after the presentation of each report.

1. Collaboration—Dustyn Keepers and Richard Bodini present the report.
2. New Creation—Noah Livingston and Daniel Meinema present the report.
3. Congregational Renewal—Elaine May and Petr Kornilov present the report.
4. Interfaith Engagement—Norma Coleman-James and Caleb Dickson present the report.

Mr. Lee DeYoung thanks the moderators for their work and commends all of the CRC and RCA delegates and advisers for the sincere engagement they put into doing joint discernment work in their advisory committee assignments.

Dr. Scott Greenway expresses appreciation to the joint CRC-RCA worship team and invites them to lead in closing the final joint RCA-CRC session.

Rev. Dayna Vreeken reads Psalm 46:8-11, and the praise team leads delegates in singing “Come and See What the Lord Has Done.” Mr. Lee DeYoung shares that the Christians in the country of Niger are praying for our joint synod; he offers prayer for the Christians in Niger as they labor in spreading the gospel. Rev. Vreeken gives the blessing, and delegates conclude worship by singing “We Labor unto Glory.”

The joint session concludes at 9:40 a.m. The CRC and RCA synods will reconvene in their respective sessions at 10:00 a.m.

ARTICLE 23

CRC delegates convene in the Covenant Fine Arts Center at 10:00 a.m. The roll indicates that the following delegate(s) are absent: Ms. Lenore Maine (Hackensack) and Ms. Jenny Yoon (Ko-Am).

ARTICLE 24

The officers of synod announce the following appointments:

Testimonial Banquet Committee:

Minister delegate Richard A. Bodini, chair

Elder delegate Rodney J. Huguen, adviser

Minister delegate John C. Medendorp

Elder delegate Sandy L. Wagner

Hospitality Committee:

Executive director Steven R. Timmermans

Sergeant at Arms:

Deacon delegate Annette L. Biggs

Worship Planning Committee:

Deacon delegate Rudy R. Manrique

Minister delegate Stephen F. Terpstra

Minister delegate Jana L. Vander Laan

Minutes Review Committee:

Elder delegate George N. Monsma, Jr.

Minister delegate John Tenyenhuis

ARTICLE 25

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

A. That all requests for privilege of the floor by the Council of Delegates, the CRC agencies and institutions, and the standing committees of synod contained within the reports to synod are granted.

B. That synod approve the following request for special offerings contained within the report to Synod 2018:

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 2018*, p. 186).

—Adopted

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

Classis Minnkota: "The following delegates request that their conscientious objection to the seating of women delegates be recorded: Joshua M. Christoffels, Roger Sparks, John Byl, and Robert Byl. Their objection is based on scriptural conviction and not on any lack of appreciation of the dignity and gifts of women. A more complete explanation of this conviction is explained in the communication sent to Synod 2017 by Classis Minnkota."

D. The officers have ruled that if requests to record a negative vote are received, the name only will be read by the clerks, and only the name will be included in the minutes.

ARTICLE 26

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 will be presented for ratification by synod prior to the adjournment of synod.

The president announces that all ballot-related recommendations in the *Agenda for Synod 2018* 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 27

Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director, addresses the delegates on the state of the church: “A Gallery of Numbers and What They Are Telling Us.” Numbers are important; they help us understand ourselves better and can serve to remind us of what God calls us to do.

To begin, two important considerations:

1. Are our numbers trustworthy? Our numbers reflect a range of sources, from diligent counters to procrastinators to estimators whose numbers only minimally relate to statistical accuracy.
2. Next, we have some numbers that we tend to look at, but we need to remember that looking at one number—such as total members—provides only one window into the state of the church.

Dr. Timmermans shares two stories about two different churches, one in Canada and one in the United States—both in metropolitan areas. One recently experienced the joy of two adult baptisms. The first person baptized came in through Coffee Break; the second person came in through familiarity with the congregation given its visibility in the neighborhood. Church number two: Looking at professing members, this congregation has grown by 25 percent in the past five years, though it had reached its highest number of members back in the 1960s. The recent growth came in part through evangelism and in part through young families’ and young adults’ joining. Both stories suggest that it is not our grandparent’s church any longer. It is God’s church. It always has been and always will be.

Delegates view three snapshots: (1) the closing and opening of churches, (2) examples of classes and their congregations in specific regions bucking the trends while maintaining and even growing vibrant witnesses and ministries, and (3) two quick stories of churches flowing into their communities, gathering God’s diverse and unified family.

Dr. Timmermans concludes with the words of Psalm 25:4-5: “Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.”

ARTICLE 28

The president introduces Rev. Paul De Vries, president of the Council of Delegates (COD), who addresses delegates on the work of the COD.

Rev. De Vries gives thanks for synod and for “you” (we are you and you are us). The COD draws strength and its mandate from synod. He shares that “[COD members] are not silos; we are all together in the Council of Delegates. We do the same kind of work that synod does; we are you and you are us and we are for you.”

COD meets three times per year and includes a representative from each classis. The COD has the same structure and staff as synod and has committees that help during its meetings. The COD is for synod because the COD is so similar to synod.

There is one very important distinction: the COD only has the authority that the body of synod gives to it. All matters are determined by synod and mandated to the COD through synod.

In conclusion, he explains, “We need you to be for us to help us do our work. We are brand-new, and we need your help in the things we are doing. We are changing rapidly and need you to be for us, because we are for you.”

Dr. Greenway gives thanks for Rev. De Vries, the COD, and the work that they do.

ARTICLE 29

Advisory Committee 4, Congregational Services I, Rev. Shawn R. Brix reporting, presents the following:

I. Council of Delegates

A. *Materials*

1. Council of Delegates Report (sections II, A, 5-6; B, 8), pp. 25-26, 33-34
2. Council of Delegates Supplement (section II, A, 1)

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. Paul R. De Vries, chair of the Council of Delegates; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod receive with thanks the work of the Council of Delegates as reported in sections II, A, 5-6; B, 8 of the *Agenda for Synod 2018*, and section II, A, 1 of the *Agenda Supplement*.

—Adopted

2. That synod instruct the executive director to request the Office of Race Relations to re-examine the most appropriate language to employ when reporting on ethnic and gender diversity in denominational reports.

Grounds:

- a. Concerns were raised in the committee that terms like “people of color” were not appropriately sensitive or inclusive.
- b. Descriptive terms that identify people groups change with time and geographical context.

—Adopted

II. Congregational Services of the Christian Reformed Church

A. Aboriginal Ministries (Canada)

1. Materials: Aboriginal Ministries (Canada) Report, pp. 151-52

2. Recommendation

That synod receive with thanks the work of Aboriginal Ministries (Canada) as reported in the *Agenda for Synod* and commend their work to the churches.

—Adopted

B. Committee for Contact with the Government/Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue

1. Materials: Committee for Contact with the Government/Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue, pp. 153-54

2. Recommendation

That synod receive with thanks the work of the Committee for Contact with the Government/Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue as reported in the *Agenda for Synod* and commend their work to the churches.

—Adopted

C. Race Relations

1. Materials: Race Relations Report, pp. 160-61

2. Recommendation

That synod receive with thanks the work of the Office of Race Relations as reported in the *Agenda for Synod* and commend their work to the churches.

—Adopted

D. Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action

1. Materials: Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action Report, pp. 164-67

2. Recommendation

That synod receive with thanks the work of the Office of Social Justice as reported in the *Agenda for Synod* and commend their work to the churches.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued in Article 45.)

ARTICLE 30

Advisory Committee 5, Congregational Services II, Rev. Douglas M. MacLeod reporting, presents the following:

I. Congregational Services of the Christian Reformed Church

A. Faith Formation Ministries

1. Materials: Faith Formation Ministries Report, pp. 108-10

2. Recommendation

That synod thank and commend our Faith Formation Ministries and Dr. Syd Hielema in its initial three years of fostering intentional lifelong faith formation among our congregations.

—*Adopted*

B. Pastor Church Resources

1. Materials: Pastor Church Resources Report, pp. 117-23

2. Recommendation

That synod thank Pastor Church Resources for spiritually appropriate initiatives in diagnosing, supporting, funding, and working toward the well-being of pastors and churches.

—*Adopted*

II. Response to Overture 1: Establish a Standing Translation Committee that Reports to Synod regarding Bible Translations

A. Materials: Overture 1, pp. 279-82

B. Recommendations

1. That synod instruct the Council of Delegates to determine the means for synod to address its responsibility of approving Bible translations for our congregations to use in worship (see Church Order Art. 47 and 52-b).

Grounds:

- a. Overture 1 identifies a valid need in our churches, which at present synod does not have a means of addressing.
- b. The COD can evaluate means and costs for best addressing this situation.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 1.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued in Article 36.)

ARTICLE 31

The morning session adjourns at 11:45 a.m. Ms. Lynette van de Hoef (Chatham) closes in prayer. Synod will resume at 1:15 p.m.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, June 11, 2018 Sixth Session

ARTICLE 32

The afternoon session convenes at 1:15 p.m., and Rev. Benjamin G. vanStraten (Quinte) leads in opening prayer.

ARTICLE 33

Advisory Committee 2, Church Order and Synodical Matters, Rev. Timothy B. Toeset reporting, presents the following:

I. Response to Overtures 3 and 4: Approve Transfer of Stephenville (Texas) CRC from Classis Central Plains to Classis Rocky Mountain

A. *Materials:* Overture 3 and Overture 4, pp. 307-308

B. Recommendation

That synod accede to Overtures 3 and 4 to approve the transfer of Stephenville (Tex.) CRC from Classis Central Plains to Classis Rocky Mountain.

Grounds:

1. Both classes agree to the transfer.
2. The geographical distance makes participation for this congregation in Classis Central Plains more difficult.
3. Church Order Article 39 allows for such transfers, and previous synods have also approved them.

—*Adopted*

II. Response to Overtures 5 and 6: Permit Transfer of Hope Community CRC, Indianapolis, Indiana, from Classis Illiana to Classis Kalamazoo

A. *Materials:* Overtures 5 and 6, pp. 308-10

B. Recommendation

That synod accede to Overtures 5 and 6 and permit the transfer of Hope Community CRC, Indianapolis, Indiana, from Classis Illiana to Classis Kalamazoo.

Grounds:

1. Both classes agree to the transfer.
2. Church Order Article 39 and its supplement allows for this transfer.

—*Adopted*

III. Response to Overtures 7 and 8: Permit the Transfer of Peace CRC, Menno, South Dakota, from Classis Iakota to Classis Minnkota

A. *Materials:* Overtures 7 and 8, pp. 310-12

B. Recommendation

That synod accede to Overtures 7 and 8 and permit the transfer of Peace CRC, Menno, South Dakota, from Classis Iakota to Classis Minnkota.

Grounds:

1. The congregation and Classis Minnkota have requested this transfer.
2. Church Order Article 39 and its supplement allows for this transfer.
3. Due process has taken place prior to this request.

—*Adopted*

The following negative votes are registered: Mr. Charles Adams and Rev. Anthony Elenbaas.

IV. Response to Overture 10: Change the Title *Classis* to *Regional Assembly*

A. Materials: Overture 10, pp. 314-15

B. Recommendations

1. That synod instruct the Council of Delegates to refer Overture 10 to the Classis Renewal Advisory Team or another appropriate body for analysis, including potential costs involved in a change.

Grounds:

- a. The financial and legal ramifications involved in making this change are unclear.
- b. More conversation needs to happen about what terminology would communicate clearly and effectively while remaining sensitive to our history.
- c. The phrase *regional assembly* may not be the most appropriate title given current developments such as the proposed definition of a classis and the movement of congregations to classes that are not in their geographical region.

—*Adopted*

2. That this be synod's response to Overture 10.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 62.)

ARTICLE 34

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services, Ms. Amy Vander Vliet reporting, presents the following:

I. Council of Delegates

A. Materials

1. Council of Delegates Report (sections I, A-B; II, A, 1-4, 7-8, 10-11, 13; B, 1-4, including Appendix C), pp. 21-32, 51-64
2. Council of Delegates Supplement (sections I, A-C)

B. Privilege of the floor: Rev. Paul R. De Vries, chair of the Council of Delegates; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. Recommendations

1. That synod designate Faith Community CRC, Wyoming, Michigan, as the convening church of Synod 2019, meeting on the campus of Calvin College (II, A, 1).

—*Adopted*

2. That synod approve the interim appointments made by the COD for synodical deputies and alternate synodical deputies (II, A, 3).

—*Adopted*

3. That synod thank Rev. Henry Kranenburg and Mr. Joel Vos for their service to the Judicial Code Committee (II, A, 10).

—Adopted

4. That synod address the following with regard to the Prioritization and Evaluation Report found in Appendix C (II, B, 4):
 - a. That synod instruct the Council of Delegates to continue to be attentive to possibilities for combining program functions and infrastructure within and beyond the denomination and, in so doing, to continue working toward optimum ministry programming for our denominational infrastructure.
 - b. That synod instruct the Council of Delegates to continue pursuing opportunities for rearrangement (see Appendix C, section IV, C, 3), particularly as opportunities are presented in upper-level positions and by way of retirements.
 - c. That synod take note that the COD instructed the executive director to find ways to significantly curtail physical plant costs in Grand Rapids, Michigan, by exploring alternatives such as (1) alternative energy sources, (2) renting existing space to other nonprofit organizations, (3) encouraging remote/home office work, (4) significant reductions of building square footage, and the like. The executive director will provide a report and recommendations to the COD (for eventual presentation to synod) in October 2018.
 - d. That synod instruct the Council of Delegates and the executive director to continue the important work of evaluation and prioritization by working together to implement a robust evaluation strategy whereby in a five-year cycle all agencies and ministries will be continually evaluated through the framework of the five ministry priorities.

Ground: The Council of Delegates has begun work on an emerging evaluation process (inspired in part by the work that resulted in the Prioritization and Evaluation Report) that merits synod's support and input.

- e. That synod receive the Prioritization and Evaluation Report in Appendix C as fulfillment of Synod 2016's instruction concerning prioritization and evaluation and offer thanks to the executive director and the Council of Delegates for their work.

—Adopted

5. That synod express appreciation for members of the Council of Delegates who have served the denomination with dedication and have contributed toward the governance of the CRCNA (COD Supplement section I, A, 1-2).

—Adopted

II. Historical Committee

A. *Materials*: Historical Committee Report, p. 243-49

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Members of the Historical Committee

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod recognize Dr. Robert Schoone-Jongen, who is completing his second term, and express gratitude for his contributions and service.

—Adopted

2. That synod instruct 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 via surface mail, fax, or email to Archives, Calvin College, 1855 Knollcrest Circle SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546-4402; fax: 616-526-7689; or crcarchives@calvin.edu.

—Adopted

3. That synod encourage the following classes, all of which have at least one member congregation more than ten years old that has not had its minutes duplicated, to contact the archives to have this done: Alberta North, Alberta South/Saskatchewan, Atlantic Northeast, B.C. North-West, B.C. South-East, California South, Central California, Central Plains, Chatham, Chicago South, Columbia, Georgetown, Grand Rapids North, Grand Rapids South, Grandville, Greater Los Angeles, Hackensack, Hanmi, Heartland, Holland, Hudson, Huron, Iakota, Illiana, Kalamazoo, Ko-Am, Lake Erie, Lake Superior, Minnkota, Muskegon, Northcentral Iowa, Northern Illinois, Northern Michigan, Pacific Northwest, Quinte, Red Mesa, Rocky Mountain, Southeast U.S., Toronto, Wisconsin, and Yellowstone.

—Adopted

III. Synod Review Task Force

A. *Materials*: Synod Review Task Force Report, p. 275

B. *Recommendation*

That synod receive the task force's interim report as evidence that their work continues and is on target to complete its work by September 15, 2018, so that its report can be distributed for discussion in advance of Synod 2019.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 41.)

ARTICLE 35

Advisory Committee 7, Financial Matters, Mr. Henry Eygenraam reporting, presents the following:

I. Council of Delegates

A. *Materials*

1. Council of Delegates Report (sections I, C; II, C-D, including Appendix E), pp. 24, 38-39, 76-100
2. Council of Delegates Supplement (section II, B, including Appendix C)

B. Privilege of the floor: Rev. Paul R. De Vries, chair of the Council of Delegates; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. Recommendations

1. That synod receive as information the condensed financial statements of the agencies and educational institutions (Appendix E).

—*Adopted*

2. That synod receive the agencies and institutional unified budget as information and approve a ministry share of \$346.48 for calendar year 2019 (COD Supplement sections II, B, 1-2).

Grounds:

- a. The \$7.00 ministry-share increase for 2019 is the first increase since January 2016.
- b. This recommendation recognizes the declining income trend in ministry shares. This occurs with the realization that there is a “Reimagining Ministry Shares” initiative mandated by Synod 2016 currently in process and exploring the priority of ministry shares and the ability of the church to continue certain ministry activities. The report, which is due this coming year, will present options for the COD to distill and bring to Synod 2019 for discussion and for possible implementation.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod adopt the 2018-2019 denominational salary grid for senior positions as proposed (COD Supplement section II, B, 3).

—*Adopted*

4. That synod adopt the following recommendations with reference to agencies requesting to be placed on the recommended-for-offerings list:

- a. That synod ratify 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 (COD Supplement section II, B, 4).
- b. That synod ratify the list of nondenominational agencies, previously accredited, that have been approved for calendar year 2019 (COD Supplement section II, B, 5).
- c. That synod approve the following organization for inclusion on the accredited agency list (COD Supplement section II, B, 6):

United States: ITEM (International Theological Education Ministries, Inc.)

Ground: ITEM’s mission is to provide biblically based, Reformed teaching and training worldwide to Indigenous church leaders for ministry. While their purpose is similar to that of Timothy Leadership Training Institute, their geographic focus is Eastern Europe.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod act on the following with regard to the merger of the Christian Reformed Church in North America Foundation (COD Supplement section II, B, 8):

- a. That *only* U.S. delegates to synod approve as the members of the CRCNA Michigan Corporation the merger of the CRCNA Foundation (U.S. only) into the CRCNA Michigan Corporation.
- b. That all delegates to synod approve the merger, as Synod originally established the foundation.

Ground: The Foundation is being merged to save the costs of \$25,000 annually related to annual tax filing.

—Adopted

6. That synod take note of the COD's endorsement of the following action of the Pension Trustees (COD Supplement section II, B, 9):

That the 2019 per-member assessment for the Canadian Plan remain \$42.96 and that the Canadian per-participant assessment remain \$9,840. Similarly, that the 2019 per-member assessment for the U.S. Plan remain \$37.20 and the U.S. per-participant assessment remain \$7,704.

—Adopted

7. That synod take note of the Christian Reformed Church Financial Shalom Project available to assist ministers of the Word and commissioned pastors. The Financial Shalom Project provides training and resources to improve the financial literacy of pastors and congregations. It also provides grants to help pastors meet immediate critical financial needs. Further information and applications are available on the CRCNA website (crcna.org).

—Adopted

8. That synod designate a time in its schedule to view a video that highlights the Financial Shalom Project.

—Adopted

II. Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S.

A. *Materials:* Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. Report, pp. 115-16

B. *Privilege of the floor:* Mr. David E. Veen, director, or any members of the board of directors of the Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S.

C. *Recommendation*

That synod note with gratitude the work of the Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund and encourage all the U.S. churches to consider using the Loan Fund for their building projects.

—Adopted

III. Pensions and Insurance

A. Materials: Pensions and Insurance Report, pp. 124-29

B. Privilege of the floor: members of the Canadian Pension Trustees and the U.S. Board of Pensions, and Mr. John H. Bolt, director of finance and operations

C. Recommendation

That synod designate up to 100 percent of a minister's early or normal retirement pension or disability pension for 2019 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*

IV. Response to Overtures 16 and 17: Establish a Fund to Assist Immigrant Churches Affiliating with the CRC

A. Materials: Overtures 16 and 17, pp. 333-34

B. Recommendations

1. That synod instruct the executive director to work with the appropriate agencies and ministries to explore the potential processes and resources necessary to facilitate enfolding immigrant churches into the CRCNA.

Grounds:

- a. The current church planting initiatives need to be coordinated.
- b. The long-term costs of such a program require further research and consideration.

—*Adopted*

The following negative vote is registered: Rev. Christopher B. Lanham.

2. That this be synod's response to Overtures 16 and 17.

A delegate presents the following grounds for the above response:

Grounds:

- a. The Financial Shalom project has been identified as a potential source of assistance.
- b. Synod has been made aware of the need for the denomination to support these efforts.

—*Adopted*

V. Response to Overture 19: Establish an Annual Compensation Survey for Commissioned Pastors

A. Materials: Overture 19, pp. 351-52

B. Recommendation

That synod not accede to Overture 19.

Grounds:

1. The role of commissioned pastor encompasses many diverse roles and responsibilities that limit the validity of any survey within the CRCNA.

2. The churches can access resources such as the *2018 Compensation Handbook for Church Staff* by Richard Hammar, which provides detailed compensation analyses for most ministry positions.

—*Adopted*

VI. Response to Overture 20: Establish a Defined-Contribution Pension Plan for Commissioned Pastors

A. *Materials*: Overture 20, p. 352

B. *Recommendation*

While we affirm the intent and need to establish defined contribution pension plans for commissioned pastors, it is recommended that synod not accede to this overture.

Grounds:

1. Centralized administration of multiemployer defined contribution plans require a level of uniformity and coordination not available within our denominational structure.
2. For churches that decide to provide such a plan, the denomination's pension office has information and resources available to local congregations to assist in establishing individual plans.
3. Assistance in meeting the cost of establishing such plans is available through the Financial Shalom Project.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued in Article 40.)

ARTICLE 36

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued from Article 30.)

Advisory Committee 5, Congregational Services II, Rev. Douglas M. MacLeod reporting, presents the following:

I. Council of Delegates

A. *Materials*: Council of Delegates Report (sections II, B, 6, 9-10), pp. 33, 34-38

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. Paul R. De Vries, chair of the Council of Delegates; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod take note of the shift in programming from the former Service-Link function to the new Connections approach as described in section II, B, 9 of the COD report.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod take note with thanks that a wide support system of essential and professional services for our denomination and ministries is provided by Ministry Support Services.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod recognize with appreciation the quality work of *The Banner* staff in providing rich and spiritually valuable content in the print edition and the on-line news articles now also available through *The Banner* app.
—Adopted

II. Congregational Services of the Christian Reformed Church

A. Chaplaincy and Care Ministry

1. Materials: Chaplaincy and Care Ministry Report, pp. 111-14

2. Recommendation

That synod acclaim with gratitude the varied and vital spiritual work of our chaplains through the Chaplaincy and Care Ministry.

—Adopted

B. Worship Ministries

1. Materials: Worship Ministries Report, pp. 196-99

2. Recommendation

That synod commend Worship Ministries for its three years of assisting our congregations in faith formation through our appreciation of the riches of Reformed worship in its varied expressions.

—Adopted

III. Dynamic Youth Ministries

A. Materials

1. Calvinist Cadet Corps Report, p. 268
2. GEMS Girls' Club Report, pp. 269-70
3. Youth Unlimited Report, p. 270

B. Recommendation

That synod declare its appreciation for the spiritually valuable contributions that the Calvinist Cadet Corps, GEMS, and Youth Unlimited make toward the evangelism and faith formation of youth.

—Adopted

IV. Response to Overture 15: Approve Funding for New Curriculum Development and Clarify Mandate of Faith Formation Ministries

- ### A. Materials: Overture 15, pp. 330-33

B. Recommendations

1. That synod instruct the COD to clarify expectations for the denominational funding of Reformed curricula in the future.

Grounds:

- a. Faith formation is a priority within the denomination. *Dwell* is an excellent curriculum worth our continued investment.
- b. Faith Formation Ministries identified \$150,000 as the estimated cost of implementing the regular refreshing of the curriculum.

- c. Clarifying the mandate of Faith Formation Ministries and the financial commitment of the denomination will demonstrate that the development of Reformed curricula is central to our calling as the CRCNA.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 15.

—*Adopted*

ARTICLE 37

Advisory Committee 6, Global Mission and Ministry, Rev. Matthew T. Ackerman reporting, presents the following:

I. Timothy Leadership Training Institute/Combined Training Unit

A. Materials: Timothy Leadership Training Institute/Combined Training Unit Report, pp. 130-32

B. Recommendations

1. That synod commend the Timothy Leadership Training Institute/Combined Training Unit in their work of equipping and empowering leaders in the church worldwide, encourage continued financial support, and encourage prayer for direction, focus, and patience as Timothy Leadership Training Institute, Global Coffee Break, and Educational Care are integrated under combined leadership.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod encourage congregations to use Timothy Leadership Training Institute materials for leadership development.

—*Adopted*

II. Back to God Ministries International

A. Materials: Back to God Ministries International Report, pp. 133-41

B. Privilege of the floor: Rev. Kurt Selles, director of Back to God Ministries International

C. Recommendation

That synod commend the work of Back to God Ministries International (BTGMI) and encourage congregations to use BTGMI media materials to support their own local ministries and outreach.

—*Adopted*

III. Council of Delegates

A. Materials

1. Council of Delegates (sections II, B, 5 and 7, including Appendix D), pp. 33, 64-75
2. Council of Delegates Supplement (sections I, D, including Appendix A; II, A, 2)

B. Privilege of the floor: Rev. Paul R. De Vries, chair of the Council of Delegates; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. Recommendations

1. That synod receive the List of Resources re Church Renewal, Church Planting, and Evangelism Training Report in Appendix D as fulfillment of Synod 2017's request for such a list (II, B, 7, a).

—*Adopted*

2. That synod take note of the response to the request by Synod 2017 by way of the Congregational Revitalization and Transformation Initiative report (COD Supplement section I, D and Appendix A).

—*Adopted*

3. That synod take note of the COD's approval to include the following in the offering schedule for CRC churches for calendar year 2019 (COD Supplement section II, A, 2):

- Two offerings for Back to God Ministries International
- Four offerings for Resonate Global Mission (formerly Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions – each on the list for two offerings per year)

—*Adopted*

IV. Resonate Global Mission

A. Materials: Resonate Global Mission Report, pp. 142-49

B. Privilege of the floor: Dr. Zachary J King, director of Resonate Global Mission

C. Recommendation

1. That synod congratulate Resonate Global Mission for completing the work of becoming a combined mission agency, and encourage its continued reimagination of mission at the local and global levels.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod encourage congregations to support and pray for Resonate Global Mission with the same faithfulness in which they supported Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 6 is continued in Article 39.)

ARTICLE 38

Advisory Committee 3, Education and Candidacy, Rev. Curt Walters reporting, presents the following:

I. Council of Delegates

A. Materials: Council of Delegates Supplement (section I, F, including Appendix B)

B. Privilege of the floor: Rev. Paul R. De Vries, chair of the Council of Delegates; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. Recommendation

That synod, in response to the Calvin College Board of Trustees action of May 3, 2018, (1) endorse the intended change of name from *Calvin College* to *Calvin University*, effective no later than September 1, 2020; and (2) permit the COD to act in approving the name change in Article 1 of the Calvin College Articles of Incorporation when the Calvin College Board of Trustees acts to modify its Articles of Incorporation (COD Supplement section I, F).

—*Adopted*

II. Calvin College

A. Materials

1. Calvin College Report, pp. 103-107
2. Calvin College Supplement

B. Privilege of the floor: Mr. Craig Lubben, chair of the Calvin College Board of Trustees; and Dr. Cheryl Brandsen, provost of Calvin College

C. Recommendation

That synod ratify the following faculty promotions and reappointments with tenure, effective September 1, 2018:

Kristine E. Johnson, Ph.D., associate professor of English
Yoon G. Kim, Ph.D., professor of engineering
Heather K. Koole, Ph.D., associate professor of speech pathology
and audiology
Tracy Kuperus, Ph.D., professor of political science (reduced load)
Kara C. Sevensma, Ph.D., associate professor of education
Micah J. Watson, Ph.D., professor of political science
Stacey M.B. Wieland, Ph.D., associate professor of communication arts
and sciences

—*Adopted*

III. Calvin Theological Seminary

A. Materials

1. Calvin Theological Seminary Report, pp. 187-95
2. Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement

B. Privilege of the floor: Mr. Sidney Jansma, Jr., chair of the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees; and Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary

C. *Recommendation*

That synod, with gratitude to God, acknowledge the years of faithful service of Dr. Michael Williams and note the new title conferred on him by the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees: Martin J. Wyngaarden Senior Professor in Old Testament Studies, *emeritus*, effective upon his retirement on July 1, 2018.

—Adopted

IV. Candidacy Committee

A. *Materials*

1. Candidacy Committee Report (including Appendix), pp. 203-28
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 adopt the following recommendations concerning Church Order Articles 8, 23-24, and 82-84 and their Supplements (see Appendix):
 - a. That synod propose the newly formatted Church Order Articles 23-24, as presented in section III of the Appendix to Synod 2019 for adoption.
 - b. That synod acknowledge the initial draft of the newly formatted Supplements to Church Order Articles 23-24, as presented in section V of the Appendix, and invite comments and suggestions to be shared with the Candidacy Committee by September 15, 2018. The final draft will be presented to Synod 2019 for approval.
 - c. That synod instruct the Candidacy Committee to reformat the Commissioned Pastor Handbook to reflect the proposed changes to Church Order Articles 23-24 and their Supplements and to present the updated handbook to Synod 2019 for approval.
 - d. That synod refer the revisions of Church Order Supplement, Articles 82-84, sections e and f, to the Candidacy Committee for potential revisions and presentation for approval to Synod 2019.
 - e. That synod instruct the Candidacy Committee to include notice of a criminal background check and a psychological assessment as requirements in the learning plans for commissioned pastors serving in a senior or solo pastor role.
 - f. That Synod 2018 propose the newly formatted Church Order Supplement, Article 8, sections E and F, as presented in section IX of the Appendix, to Synod 2019 for adoption. The Candidacy Committee anticipates presenting the required modifications to the "Journey Toward Ordination" document as described in sections VIII and IX of the Appendix for approval by Synod 2019.
 - g. That Synod 2018 call the churches to take note of and pray for wisdom amid the tensions and challenges related to expectations and processes

required for ordained ministry, and that synod invite classes and congregations to offer their own suggestions and thoughts regarding these matters either through communications with the Candidacy Committee or through overtures to synod.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod declare the following persons as candidates for ministry in the Christian Reformed Church:

Steven Berkenpas
Calvin D. Chen
Daniel Crapo
Jason E. Dahlman
Abigail S. DeZeeuw
Steven T. Dykstra
Benjamin L. Gandy
Benjamin Gresik
Elias R.E. Groenendyk
Chadd M. Huizenga
Steve M. Hull
Albert Y.D. Kae
Timothy Keep
Darren C. Kornelis
Debra J. Koster
Noah J.K. Kruis
Marcel R.J. Kuiper
Todd Kuperus
Benjamin P. Landegent
Christopher S. Lee
Derrick A. Lee
James J. Lee

Anthony Matias
Courtney N. Mooney Saldivar
Scott M. Muilenburg
Jonathan S. Owens
Benjamin J. Petroelje
Hayden W. Regeling
Jason S. Ruis
Brian P. Schouten
Minbo Paul Shim
Matthew M. Slack
Eric P. Snyder
Gale Tien
Rebecca L. Tjapkes
Norman D. Underland
Robert C. Van Zanen
Jenna M.N. Veenbaas
Benjamin C. Verkerk
Christopher A. Walker
Michael Yang
Josiah Youngquist
James Zwier

—*Adopted*

3. That synod approve the extensions of candidacy for the following persons:

Yoon Chul (Daniel) Choi
Elisabeth A. De Vries
Mark De Vos
Bradley Scott Diekema
Kyle Dieleman
Tyler Greenway
Robert J. Gruessing
Ernesto Jose Hernandez
Sarah Kim Hoos
Jeffrey Michael Hoos
Joseph Hwang
JungSeong “Samuel” Kim
Jonathan A. Kool
Hannah Ryou Lee

Sang Myung Lee
Katrina J. Olson
Jennifer L. Palkowski
Kristen J. Pikaart
Janet Arlene Ryzebol
Ivan K. Santos
Bailey Breanne Sarver
Kelli K. Sexton
Sharon R. Smith
Jason R. Terpstra
Thomas J. Van Wyk
Jantje Fenna (Femke) Visser-Elenbaas
Beverly Weeks
Bradley R. Zwiers

—*Adopted*

4. That synod reinstate the candidacy of Mr. Kevin J. Boss and Mr. Daniel Meyer as described in the Candidacy Committee Supplement, section I, C.
—*Adopted*
5. That synod approve the action of the Candidacy Committee in declaration of *need* for the following persons for affiliation under Church Order Article 8:

Date	Name of applicant	Classis	Former denomination
7-1-2017	Eubank, Phil	Rocky Mountain	Evergreen Christian Fellowship
9-8-2017	Lee, Jin Young	Northcentral Iowa	Presbyterian Church of Korea
9-8-2017	Choi, Youngjo	Hanmi	Korean Presbyterian Church Abroad
9-8-2017	Cho, David	Hanmi	Korean American Presbyterian Church
9-8-2017	Hup, Siang	Illiana	Covenant Reformed Church of Myanmar
9-11-2017	Jang, Sung Woo	Hanmi	Presbyterian Church of Korea
9-22-2017	Kim, Hong Youn	Lake Erie	Korean Assoc. of Presb. Churches
10-7-2017	Kim, Dae Hoon	California South	Korean Presbyterian Church Abroad
11-18-2017	Cherubin, Obelto	Southeast U.S.	CRC in Haiti
12-20-2017	Orange, Donald	Rocky Mountain	Reformed Church in America
1-11-2018	Kim, Samuel	Hudson	Evangelical Church Alliance
1-22-2018	Kim, Victor	Kalamazoo	Reformed Presbyterian Church of Korea
2-21-2018	Lim, Faith	Greater Los Angeles	Presbyterian Church of Singapore
2-21-2018	Moore, Michael	Northern Illinois	Independent Baptist
2-23-2018	Cho, Chulhan	California South	Presbyterian Church of Korea
2-24-2018	Kim, Man Sub	California South	Bible Presbyterian Synod
4-17-2018	Kim, Jinsik "Enoch"	Greater Los Angeles	Evangelical Church Alliance
4-18-2018	Eng, Jesse	Hudson	Grace Faith Church (Independent)

—*Adopted*

6. That synod take note of the reflections offered in section III of the Candidacy Committee Supplement regarding the uses of Church Order Article 8.
—*Adopted*
7. That synod take note of the various initiatives and challenges identified by the Candidacy Committee in its report.

—*Adopted*

V. Dordt College

A. *Materials*: Dordt College Report, pp. 253-54

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod recognize with appreciation the work of Dordt College in training kingdom citizens equipped for all callings, especially the introduction of the new Pro-Tech program offering vocational training along with the on-campus experience, and through the Center for the Advancement of Christian Education. The college appreciates the support of the CRCNA and asks for continued prayer as it seeks to remain faithful in its kingdom work.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod take note that as of May 2019, Dordt College will become Dordt University.

—*Adopted*

VI. Institute for Christian Studies

A. Materials: Institute for Christian Studies Report, pp. 255-57

B. Recommendation

That synod note the work of God at the Institute of Christian Studies for the past fifty years. We celebrate their commitment to graduate-level Christian scholarship and to equipping the church in North America and around the world. We pray for the ongoing collaboration between the Institute of Christian Studies and The King's University.

—*Adopted*

VII. The King's University

A. Materials: The King's University Report, pp. 258-59

B. Recommendation

That synod recognize the ways in which God is at work at The King's University. With enrollment at an all-time high and new bachelor's programs on offer or awaiting approval, King's continues to journey forward in its strategic planning. We celebrate the recognition their faculty has received through a Canada Research Chair and a National Teaching Fellowship, and we appreciate the gift of the faculty's scholarly work to the broader community. We also give thanks to God for the memorandum of understanding signed between King's and the Institute for Christian Studies, and we pray for the two institutions as they continue to explore how best to partner in pursuing a joint mission in Christian education.

—*Adopted*

VIII. Kuyper College

A. Materials: Kuyper College Report, p. 260

B. Recommendation

That synod take note of the blessings of a strong partnership between the CRCNA and Kuyper College. Kuyper remains dedicated to providing a rigorous academic program to equip students to grow and adapt to new opportunities and to share the gifts of the Reformed worldview in service in God's world. The college is thankful to God for providing the leadership of their new president, Dr. Patricia R. Harris, who is faithfully leading the college forward into new challenges and growth.

—*Adopted*

IX. Redeemer University College

A. Materials: Redeemer University College Report, pp. 261-62

B. Recommendation

That synod celebrate with Redeemer University College in their continued commitment to invest in their programs and students. Not only have they continued the good work they have been doing, but they also began a new Urban and Intercultural Ministry program, implemented all the initiatives in the Redeemer 2020 Strategic Plan, and are planning to expand and

renew their health and life sciences lab. We pray for them as they continue the process of searching for a new college president.

—*Adopted*

X. Trinity Christian College

A. *Materials:* Trinity Christian College Report, pp. 263-64

B. Recommendation

That synod celebrate with Trinity Christian College that while in the midst of the current challenges of higher education, they have been blessed with thriving programs, the gift of additional space on campus, and an eager desire to revise curriculum to meet the needs of students. We pray for Trinity as they revise both the core curriculum and the strategic plan and continue to seek a robust enrollment of students that allows them an ongoing witness to God's faithfulness in his kingdom.

—*Adopted*

Rev. Richard A. Bodini (Toronto) offers prayer for these colleges and universities in the work they are doing in training young people.

XI. Response to Overture 11: Honor the Synod of Dort and Teach Its Five Main Points of Doctrine throughout the CRCNA in 2019

A. *Materials:* Overture 11, pp. 315-16

B. Background

The request to honor the 400th anniversary of the Canons of Dort was appreciated by the committee. However, the committee felt that the requests were overly specific and may not align with the ongoing and contextually specific work of various denominational ministries. While the committee does not believe synod can accede to the overture, the committee proposes the following recommendations as a means of honoring the spirit of Overture 11:

C. Recommendations

1. That synod encourage denominational ministries (particularly Calvin Theological Seminary, Faith Formation Ministries, Resonate Global Mission, Back to God Ministries International, *The Banner*, and Worship Ministries) and Synod 2019 to honor the 400th anniversary of the Synod of Dort with particular attention to its history and the doctrines of grace set forth in the Canons of Dort.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod encourage classes to recognize the 400th anniversary of the Synod of Dort at one of their 2018-2019 meetings.

—*Adopted*

3. In light of Synod 2018's joint meeting with the RCA, that Synod invite local CRC congregations to explore joint initiatives with RCA and other Reformed congregations highlighting the 400th anniversary of the Synod of Dort.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod take note of the number of initiatives already being planned in regard to the 400th anniversary of the Synod of Dort and encourage the participation of individuals, churches, and classes.

Grounds:

- a. Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary are planning a conference on the 400th anniversary of the Synod of Dort on September 14-15, 2018.
- b. Back to God Ministries International will commemorate this anniversary as a theme in an issue of the *Today* devotions in 2019.
- c. Dordt College's Andreas Center and the Lilly Fellows Network are hosting a conference on the 400th anniversary of the Synod of Dort, April 4-6, 2019.
- d. *The Banner*, in its *Faith Matters* section, will focus on the observance of the anniversary in its December 2018 issue.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod instruct the ED to communicate with the denominational agencies, classes, and congregations to implement recommendations 1 through 4 above.

—*Adopted*

6. That synod declare the above to be its response to Overture 11.

Grounds:

- a. The 400th anniversary of the Canons of Dort is a significant milestone in the life of the CRCNA.
- b. The doctrines of the Canons of Dort have been and are influential in our denomination.
- c. This response gives greater flexibility and latitude to the denominational agencies to appropriately commemorate this anniversary.
- d. We believe that Synod 2016 effectively addressed the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by inviting local congregations and classes to commemorate the anniversary, and we believe it would be appropriate to do something similar for the 400th anniversary of the Canons of Dort.

—*Adopted*

ARTICLE 39

(The report of Advisory Committee 6 is continued from Article 37.)

Advisory Committee 6, Global Mission and Ministry, Rev. Matthew T. Ackerman reporting, presents the following:

I. Communities First Association

A. Materials: Communities First Association Report, pp. 265-66

B. Recommendation

That synod commend the Communities First Association for their work of training faith leaders in asset-based community development as a means of seeking God's shalom.

—*Adopted*

II. Diaconal Ministries Canada

A. Materials: Diaconal Ministries Canada Report, p. 267

B. Recommendation

That synod commend Diaconal Ministries Canada for their work of helping deacons fulfill their calling to administer mercy and Christian love to all people.

—*Adopted*

III. Partners Worldwide

A. Materials: Christian Reformed Partners Worldwide Report, p. 272

B. Recommendation

That synod commend Partners Worldwide for their work of sustainably lifting families out of poverty through business partnerships that create jobs and economic opportunities.

—*Adopted*

ARTICLE 40

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued from Article 35.)

Advisory Committee 7, Financial Matters, Mr. Henry Eygenraam reporting, presents the following:

I. Friendship Ministries

A. Materials: Friendship Ministries Report, p. 271

B. Recommendation

That synod express its appreciation for the leadership of Mr. Tom VanWingerden and the valuable and important services provided by this ministry to individuals with special needs in many of our churches.

—*Adopted*

II. Congregational Services of the Christian Reformed Church – Disability Concerns

A. Materials: Disability Concerns Report, pp. 155-59

B. Recommendation

That synod express appreciation to Rev. Mark Stephenson for the breadth of the ministry provided by the Office of Disability Concerns.

—*Adopted*

ARTICLE 41

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 34.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services, Ms. Amy Vander Vliet reporting, presents the following:

Response to Overture 18: Address Membership Decline and Unresolved Conflict in the CRCNA

A. Materials: Overture 18, pp. 334-51

B. Observations

In Overture 18, Classis Pacific Northwest continues the discussion about the decline of membership in the CRCNA addressed by Synod 2017. It highlights one factor in that decline—namely, unresolved conflict and the need to reconcile past hurts within the CRCNA and among people who have left the denomination.

The committee affirms the desire to understand church membership decline and intentionally encourage the churches to seek reconciliation. While we appreciate the careful research carried out by Classis Pacific Northwest in analyzing membership statistics over many years, we were unable to address declining church membership because the recommendations in Overture 18 (*Agenda for Synod 2018*, p. 336) do not specifically address it. We have followed the lead of the classis by relating our recommendations to the issue of unresolved conflict and the need for reconciliation.

C. Recommendations

1. That Synod 2018 encourage the process of reconciliation with the following actions:
 - a. That synod urge the executive director to continue the good work noted by Synod 2017 with a purposeful and consistent call to the entire denomination to be intentional in prayer for reconciled relationships among the members of the CRCNA, with special focus toward our brothers and sisters who have left the CRCNA for various reasons.
—*Adopted*
 - b. That synod urge all church members and assemblies to use Matthew 5:23-25 as a model, recognizing where hurt has been given and actively seeking to reconcile strained and broken relationships.
—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 44.)

ARTICLE 42

The afternoon session adjourns at 4:50 p.m., and Ms. Amy Vander Vliet (Hackensack) leads in closing prayer. Synod will reconvene at 7:00 p.m.

MONDAY EVENING, June 11, 2018 Seventh Session

ARTICLE 43

The evening session convenes at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Mark A. Bonnes (Illiana) leads in opening prayer.

Note: Rev. Wayne Edward Coleman (Thornapple Valley) is absent for the evening session.

ARTICLE 44

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 41.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services, Ms. Amy Vander Vliet reporting, presents the following:

Response to Overture 18: Address Membership Decline and Unresolved Conflict in the CRCNA

A. *Materials*: Overture 18, pp. 334-51

B. *Recommendations* (continued)

1. That Synod 2018 encourage the process of reconciliation with the following actions:

c. That synod urge the executive director to work with the appropriate agencies and ministries to publicize existing resources addressing unresolved conflict in our history and the need for reconciliation.

—*Adopted*

d. That synod urge the Council of Delegates and the executive director to include a focus on reconciliation in the CRCNA's next ministry plan cycle. For instance, emerging efforts related to congregational revitalization could be one avenue through which individuals, churches, and classes can identify and implement resources for local reconciliation efforts.

Ground: Overture 18 highlights polarization and divisions, as well as personal hurts, which are real and ongoing challenges in the life of individuals, churches, classes, and synod.

—*Adopted*

e. That Synod 2018 observe a time of reflection beginning with a reading of Matthew 5:23-25, followed by a time of prayer for reconciliation in our lives, churches, communities, and denomination.

—*Adopted*

Ms. Amy Vander Vliet reads Matthew 5:23-25, and delegates gather with members around their tables to pray for reconciliation in our lives, churches, communities, and denomination. Rev. Elizabeth A. Vander Haagen closes the time of prayer.

2. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 18.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 58.)

ARTICLE 45

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued from Article 29.)

Advisory Committee 4, Congregational Services I, Rev. Shawn R. Brix reporting, presents the following:

Rev. Shawn R. Brix begins this discussion in prayer for the sake of sensitivity: “God, make your church be a place of healing the hurt.”

I. Congregational Services of the Christian Reformed Church

A. Safe Church Ministry

B. Materials: Safe Church Ministry Report, pp. 162-63

C. Recommendation

That synod receive with thanks the work of Safe Church Ministry as reported in the agenda and commend their work to the churches.

—*Adopted*

II. Response to Overture 2: Address Patterns of Abuse of Power That Violate the Sacred Trust Given to Leaders and Recognize How These Hinder Due Process and Healing

A. Materials

1. Overture 2, pp. 282-307

2. Council of Delegates Supplement (section I, E)

B. Recommendations

1. That synod grant Bonnie Nicholas, director of Safe Church Ministry, the privilege of the floor while Overture 2 is discussed.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod receive with thanks the work done by the author of Overture 2.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod reaffirm the action Synod 2010 took in response to the Abuse Victims Task Force Report (*Agenda for Synod 2010*, pp. 475-509; *Acts of Synod 2010*, pp. 862-66) and instruct the executive director to continue allocating resources to provide support for pastoral care and healing.

—*Adopted*

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

ARTICLE 46

The evening session adjourns at 9:10 p.m. Ms. DeLinda N. Baker (Rocky Mountain) leads in closing prayer. Synod will reconvene Tuesday morning at 8:15 a.m.

TUESDAY MORNING, June 12, 2018

Eighth Session

ARTICLE 47

The worship team (Rudy Manrique, Anthony Elenbaas, Jennifer Geelhood, Darrell Delaney, Jenna Rodemond, Claire McWilliams, Efran

Echipqre, and Diane Dykgraaf) lead in opening worship, and delegates join in singing “I Am Not My Own” and “Oceans (Where Feet May Fail).”

Rev. Elaine G. May leads in the call to worship from Psalm 36:5-9, and delegates respond in singing “Your Grace Is Enough.”

Rev. Derek M. Zeyl reads Acts 2:22-39. Rev. Stephen F. Terpstra opens with prayer and speaks on the topic “Made Alive by the Gospel: The Promise Is for You.” He shares that we, as church leaders, live as though the gospel is for other people but not for us. Acts 2:39 says the promise is “for you,” including your own life and ministry. Jesus Christ died for you and was raised to life for you. Jesus is the perfect deacon, elder, minister, and you do not need to be Jesus—just reflect Jesus to other people to produce more seeds and fruit. We need the nourishment of the Word to feed us. Jesus is for you and invites you to come to him, with your brokenness, pain, problems, and many other things you wished you would have done better.

Rev. Terpstra leads in prayer, and delegates respond with singing “Just as I Am.” Rev. Edward W. Yoon offers prayer. Rev. Elaine May leads delegates in a responsive reading of Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 1, and delegates sing “Before the Throne of God.” Rev. May closes in prayer and gives the blessing.

Roll call indicates all delegates are present.

ARTICLE 48

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued from Article 45.)

Advisory Committee 4, Congregational Services I, Rev. Shawn R. Brix reporting, presents the following:

Response to Overture 2: Address Patterns of Abuse of Power That Violate the Sacred Trust Given to Leaders and Recognize How These Hinder Due Process and Healing

Recommendations (continued)

4. That synod also reaffirm the five goals that were approved by Synod 2014 (*Agenda for Synod 2014*, p. 237; *Acts of Synod 2014*, pp. 559-60) to guide the Safe Church Ministry, namely:
 - a. Each church has implemented a written Safe Church/abuse prevention policy.
 - b. Each church includes abuse prevention in its church school and youth education. Programs such as Circle of Grace, which teach positive respect in relationships, are recommended.
 - c. Each church has protocols in place for responding to misconduct and is aware of the recommended “Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations against a Church Leader” approved by Synod 2010.
 - d. Abuse is acknowledged as an important issue and can be freely discussed.
 - e. Leadership at all levels is supportive of Safe Church Ministry, and each church is represented on a classis Safe Church team.

—Adopted

5. That synod instruct the executive director to have Safe Church Ministry report annually through the Council of Delegates to synod regarding the number and names of classes with and without Safe Church teams, and the number of congregations with and without Safe Church teams and policies.
—*Adopted*
6. That synod lament the ongoing failure of some classes and congregations to implement safe church practices, and encourage all classes and congregations to learn from the best practices of others and to utilize the resources available through Safe Church Ministry.
—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued in Article 66.)

ARTICLE 49

Synod enters into executive session to address the report of the Judicial Code Committee. See Article 52 for a report on the action taken during executive session.

ARTICLE 50

The morning session adjourns at 12:00 noon. Rev. Chris T. Choe (Greater Los Angeles) leads in closing prayer.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, June 12, 2018

Ninth Session

ARTICLE 51

The afternoon session convenes at 1:15 p.m. Rev. Thomas J. Bomhof (B.C. South-East) leads in opening prayer.

Synod continues in its executive session.

ARTICLE 52

Regular session resumes at 4:00 p.m.

The vice president assumes the chair.

Rev. Elizabeth A. Vander Haagen, vice president of synod, announces the following action summary adopted during synod's executive session:

The Judicial Code Committee brought a series of recommendations in executive session (one set from a majority of its members and one from a minority of its members) as a result of an original judicial code hearing concerning a decision of a classis to release a minister in the status of one deposed. Synod did not adopt the recommendations, leaving the original decision of the classis in effect.

Synod also adopted the following from the Judicial Code Committee (JCC) in executive session:

The Judicial Code of Rights and Procedures (Church Order Supplement, Article 30-c) was rewritten four years ago. Thankfully, there have been very few occasions to utilize the amended Judicial Code and the processes it suggests. Yet, recent use of the code has identified a few areas where clarity is needed. Therefore, the JCC's recommendation is as follows:

Recommendation: To instruct the executive director, working with the Judicial Code Committee and Church Order experts, to bring to Synod 2019 recommendations for improving the clarity of the Judicial Code as found in the Supplements to Church Order and as illustrated by the following points:

1. The Judicial Code states that "either party to the dispute may request the opportunity to address synod." While the code provides the opportunity for either party to make a *request*, the code would serve us better if it provided criteria upon which decisions about such requests are made and by whom.
2. The Judicial Code (Supplement, Article 30-c) requires that "charges involving physical, emotional, or sexual abuse . . . should be dealt with . . . by way of the Advisory Panel Process." The first of five footnotes in the Advisory Panel Process includes this statement: "These are suggested guidelines. The circumstances of abuse may dictate that church officials deviate from them. In addition, state and provincial law vary somewhat in terms of the manner in which abuse is defined and how it should be reported." The statement continues, saying that "the presumption should be in favor of following the guidelines in the case of each allegation of abuse; however, the church is best served by retaining legal counsel with expertise in the area to define the legal standards relevant to a particular jurisdiction." Additional clarification and examples may help the church—at each level of assembly—know when deviation is permissible. Additional clarification of the definitions of sexual misconduct and physical misconduct would also assist the church in determining what conduct falls within the Advisory Panel Process.

—Adopted

ARTICLE 53

The vice president introduces Rev. Joyce Borger and Mr. James J. Lee, who share the vision for Worship Ministries. This vision represents the basis of our unity and the foundation on which worship should be built in the Christian Reformed Church. While all worshiping communities sound and look very different, it's necessary that every worship leader in our church have a supportive network of colleagues and be fully equipped for their calling. All should have the needed resources to do their work. Aiming for opportunities to get worship leaders together for mutual encouragement in person and online, Worship Ministries offers peer-learning groups and publishes the quarterly journal *Reformed Worship*.

One of the CRC's desired futures, described in the ministry plan *Our Journey 2020*, is that all congregations are marked by "vibrant worship." Delegates spend time in table discussion regarding vibrant worship.

Rev. Thomas J. Bomhof offers prayer for the staff of Worship Ministries.

ARTICLE 54

Dr. Jim Payton, chair of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee, introduces Dr. Lisa Vander Wal from the World Communion of Reformed Churches, who addresses synod. The vice president of synod responds.

Dr. Jim Payton introduces Dr. Tshililo Liphadzi from the Reformed Churches in South Africa (Soutpansberg Synod), who addresses synod.

Dr. Jim Payton responds, and Rev. Jacob M. Van de Hoef offers prayer.

Dr. Payton also introduces Dr. Monica Schaap Pierce from the Reformed Church in America (RCA) and Rev. Carlos Malave from Christian Churches Together in the U.S.A.

ARTICLE 55

The afternoon session adjourns at 5:00 p.m. Rev. Mark D. Bennink (Georgetown) leads in closing prayer.

TUESDAY EVENING, June 12, 2018

Tenth Session

ARTICLE 56

The evening session convenes at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Dayna Vreeken (Alberta North) leads in opening prayer.

ARTICLE 57

Rev. Timothy R. Luimes shares with the assembly about *Inspire 2019*, scheduled to be held in Windsor, Ontario, August 1-3, 2019. A video invitation is presented. Delegates are asked to encourage their church and classis to join them in attending *Inspire 2019*.

ARTICLE 58

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 44.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services, Ms. Amy Vander Vliet reporting, presents the following:

Historical Committee

A. *Materials*: Historical Committee Report, pp. 243-49

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Members of the Historical Committee

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod recognize twelve churches, all of whom have previously celebrated their 150th anniversary, by honoring them with a plaque that has been prepared for each:

Classis Central Plains
Classis Grand Rapids East
Classis Holland

Classis Illiana
Classis Muskegon
Classis Northern Illinois

Classis North Central Iowa
Classis Wisconsin

First CRC of Pella
First CRC of Grand Rapids
Central Avenue CRC, Graafschap CRC,
Niekerk CRC, Noordeloos CRC
Lafayette CRC, First CRC of South Holland
First CRC of Grand Haven
Ebenezer CRC of Berwyn,
Grace Valley CRC of German Valley
First CRC of Wellsburg
First CRC of Oostburg

—Adopted

2. That synod instruct the executive director to work with the Historical Committee to institute a new practice by which we honor each congregation celebrating 150 years of ministry with a commemorative plaque.

—Adopted

ARTICLE 59

Advisory Committee 8, Interdenominational Matters, Mrs. Sandy L. Wagner reporting, presents the following:

I. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee

A. Materials

1. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Report (including Appendices A-B), pp. 229-42
2. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Supplement

B. Privilege of the floor: Dr. Jim Payton, chair; and Dr. Steven R. Timmermans (*ex officio*)

C. Recommendations

1. That synod express its gratitude to Rev. Karen Norris and Dr. Jim Payton for serving the cause of ecumenicity for the CRC, noting in particular Dr. Payton's service as chair and as representative to the RCA's Commission on Christian Unity.

—Adopted

2. That synod designate the Christian Reformed Church in the Dominican Republic as a church in dialogue with the CRC (see Appendix A).

Grounds:

- a. The CRC in the Dominican Republic made this request to the CRCNA.
- b. The CRC-DR began as an indigenous church in response to *Back to God Hour* Spanish broadcasts and has continued to develop in partnership with Resonate Global Mission (formerly Christian Reformed World Missions) over the past four decades.
- c. The accompanying Memorandum of Understanding is an appropriate guide for partnership via the *church in dialogue* category.

—Adopted

3. That synod take note of the completion of the assignment “to include footnoted comments with the Belhar Confession” (*Acts of Synod 2017*, p. 708) and express its gratitude to those who provided assistance.

—Adopted

4. That synod take note of the EIRC’s decision to use the term *ecumenical delegate* in place of *fraternal delegate* in the future.

—Adopted

5. That synod recognize the current diversity of healthy ecumenical partnership practices by our churches and agencies in various regions and across the world. These partnerships do not all fit our current ecumenical categories.

Grounds:

- a. Our “glocal” realities and familiarity with our own contexts mean that locally we are already engaging fruitfully across denominational lines through ministerial associations and partnerships among other local entities.
- b. We recognize the fruit that has come to our work denominationally via good and prudent partnerships.

—Adopted

6. That synod take note that the advisory committee discussed a possible new categorization system for ecumenical partnerships being considered by the EIRC (Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Supplement) and provided a summary report of the discussion to the EIRC.

Ground: Because this work is currently at an early stage, an advisory committee was well suited to hold a discussion on this conceptual shift or broadening of direction and to provide a summary of that discussion.

—Adopted

7. That synod direct the EIRC and its ad hoc committee formed in 2016 to continue their work on this possible new categorization system for an additional year and report to Synod 2019 using the feedback from Synod 2018’s advisory committee.

—Adopted

8. That synod take note of the completion of Round Eight of the Roman Catholic-Reformed Dialogue of the United States, on ecclesiology (see *Agenda for Synod 2018*, pp. 239-42).

—Adopted

9. That synod instruct the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee to make the report of this round, *The One Body of Christ: Ministry in Service to the Church and the World*, accessible to the churches, along with study materials.

Grounds:

- a. The report can help us to appreciate the gift we have been given by the work of the triune God through the church (see *Agenda*, p. 240).

- b. There is precedent for this; the report of Round Seven was made available to the churches through the *Agenda for Synod 2011*, pp. 357-510.

—*Adopted*

10. That synod instruct the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee to consider the recommendations in the report *The One Body of Christ: Ministry in Service to the Church and the World*, for their applicability to the CRCNA and report its conclusions to Synod 2019.

Ground: The report contains recommendations (see *Agenda*, p. 242) that may be useful to our churches in their understanding of the church and our relationships with the Roman Catholic Church.

—*Adopted*

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee (majority report)

Recommendations

1. That synod accede to the RCA's request for the CRC to participate in a joint committee focused on interreligious/interfaith work.
2. That synod instruct the executive director to work with RCA leaders in order to merge our current Interfaith subcommittee into a new joint committee and to work with the EIRC to address implications of such a joining for our current subcommittee mandate and composition, and to report back to Synod 2019, including any necessary recommendations.

Grounds:

- a. This action is consistent with our commitments made in the 2014 "Pella Accord."
- b. This action of working together in interfaith/interreligious efforts will help us more successfully attain our goal of interfaith dialogue "to foster better understanding between persons of different faiths and to enhance channels of communication that build community cooperation and peacemaking" (*Acts of Synod 2015*, p. 647).

According to the Rules of Synodical Procedure, the minority report re the RCA's request for the CRC to participate in a joint committee focused on interreligious/interfaith work is presented as information by delegate Rev. Joshua M. Christoffels.

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee (minority report)

Recommendation

That synod not accede to the RCA's request for the CRC to participate in a joint committee focused on interreligious/interfaith work.

Grounds:

- a. The recommendation did not originate from the churches of the CRC or any classis but from the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee (EIRC).
- b. The recommendations were not printed in the *Agenda for Synod 2018* or the *Agenda Supplement*, as originally promised in the *Agenda* (p. 235), but only provided to the advisory committee. More time is needed for the churches to study this proposal.
- c. It is unclear whether the mandates of the RCA and the CRC's interfaith subcommittee agree with one another.
- d. The RCA proposal says that the joint committee will be funded for a period of five years (RCA Workbook, p. 92). It is unclear where the CRC's portion of the funding would come from, how much it would cost, and how it reaches Synod 2016's goal of reducing our institutional footprint (*Acts of Synod 2016*, p. 858).
- e. The "Pella Accord" between the RCA and the CRC agreed "to act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel [us] to act separately" (*Acts of Synod 2014*, p. 504). A joint interfaith committee would qualify for this exception because it would involve deep differences of conviction. The RCA has been willing to have close ecumenical relationships with churches that have largely abandoned the gospel and morality, which proves that the CRCNA has different priorities and standards when it pertains to interfaith and ecumenical relationships (note the Formula of Agreement of full communion between the RCA, the ELCA, the PCUSA, and the United Church of Christ). Wisdom would have us pause when such joint activities would have us ignore our foundational beliefs.

Following the rules of procedure, synod returns to consideration of the recommendation of the advisory committee's majority report.

**Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee
(majority report)**

Recommendations

1. That synod accede to the RCA's request for the CRC to participate in a joint committee focused on interreligious/interfaith work.
—Adopted
2. That synod instruct the executive director to work with RCA leaders in order to merge our current Interfaith subcommittee into a new joint committee and to work with the EIRC to address implications of such a joining for our current subcommittee mandate and composition, and to report back to Synod 2019, including any necessary recommendations.

Grounds:

- a. This action is consistent with our commitments made in the 2014 "Pella Accord."
- b. This action of working together in interfaith/interreligious efforts will help us more successfully attain our goal of interfaith dialogue "to foster better understanding between persons of different faiths

and to enhance channels of communication that build community cooperation and peacemaking” (*Acts of Synod 2015*, p. 647).

—*Adopted*

The following delegate registers a negative vote: Mr. Herbert W. Schreur.

ARTICLE 60

The evening session adjourns at 8:15 p.m. Rev. Anthony D. Elenbaas (Hamilton) leads in closing prayer. Synod will reconvene at 8:15 a.m. on Wednesday morning, June 13.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, June 13, 2018 Eleventh Session

ARTICLE 61

The synod worship team leads delegates in singing “Koinonia” and “We Praise You, O God.”

Rev. Nathan Kuperus leads in the call to worship and offers the greeting. Delegates respond by singing “God, You Call Us to This Place.”

Ms. Lenore Maine reads 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, and Rev. Jana L. Vander Laan reflects on “Together for the Gospel.” She shares that, like Adam and Eve being created by God to be together, we as delegates need each other here at synod. The body of Christ is made up of many parts, and each one is important to the other parts. It is not the *what* that brings us together but the *who*. We are the body of Jesus Christ, planted together, in a garden, and we share in Christ and all his treasures.

Young adult representative Izhar Alvarez leads in prayer. Delegates respond by singing “How Can I Say that I Love the Lord” and recite the Apostles’ Creed. Delegates close with singing “We Are One in Christ Jesus” in English and Spanish. Rev. Nathan Kuperus offers the blessing.

The vice president of synod, Rev. Elizabeth A. Vander Haagen, calls the session to order. Roll call indicates all delegates are present.

ARTICLE 62

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 33.)

Advisory Committee 2, Church Order and Synodical Matters, Rev. Timothy B. Toeset reporting, presents the following:

I. Ministerial retirements

A. *Information:* Synod has received notice of the following ministerial retirements:

Minister	Classis	Effective Date
David Adams	Grand Rapids South	August 1, 2017
Douglas L. Aldrink	Wisconsin	September 24, 2017
John A. Algera	Hackensack	October 1, 2018
Kenneth A. Baker	Kalamazoo	February 28, 2018

Bruce T. Ballast	Muskegon	February 1, 2018
Andre F. Basson	Niagara	May 31, 2018
Marius A. (Roy) Berkenbosch	Alberta North	December 31, 2017
John Bolt	Grand Rapids East	January 1, 2018
Roger L. Bouma	Northern Illinois	December 31, 2017
Donald E. Byker	Muskegon	February 1, 2018
Charles R. Cornelisse	Grand Rapids East	August 9, 2018
Dean B. Deppe	Grand Rapids East	June 30, 2017
Thomas J. De Vries	Thornapple Valley	January 31, 2018
Roger De Young	Rocky Mountain	January 31, 2018
Donald G. Draayer	Lake Superior	June 30, 2018
W. Dean Dyk	Rocky Mountain	October 16, 2017
Thomas R. Dykstra	Central California	August 26, 2017
Douglas J. Einfeld	Muskegon	June 14, 2017
Dale D. Ellens	Iakota	April 1, 2015
Joseph D. Fox	Muskegon	April 27, 2017
Dan A. Gritter	Georgetown	April 7, 2018
Gerald L. Hoek	Illiana	September 2, 2018
Marvin J. Hofman	Holland	June 1, 2018
David J. Jun	Greater Los Angeles	September 30, 2017
Douglas A. Kamstra	Grandville	July 1, 2018
Il Yong Kang	Greater Los Angeles	September 30, 2017
John T. (Yohn) Kim	Holland	February 1, 2018
Marvin J. Leese	Heartland	October 29, 2017
Virgil L. Michael	Columbia	August 5, 2018
Martin T. Mobach	Alberta North	June 30, 2018
Carol S. Muller	Grand Rapids East	December 31, 2017
Timothy P. Palmer	Grand Rapids East	June 30, 2017
William J. Renkema	Grand Rapids South	April 23, 2018
Wayne A. Ten Harmsel	Pacific Northwest	November 30, 2016
Norman J. Thomasma	Grand Rapids East	March 24, 2018
Hilbrent Vander Heide	Toronto	May 31, 2018
J. William Van Der Heide	Heartland	August 31, 2018
Walter H. Vanderwerf	B.C. North-West	February 22, 2018
Jan Van Ee	Heartland	March 3, 2018
Peter Van Elderen, Jr.	Rocky Mountain	April 30, 2018
Michael H. Van Hofwegen	Central California	October 15, 2017
William G. Vis	Pacific Northwest	June 1, 2018
John Visser	Quinte	November 30, 2017
Stephen Whatley	Pacific Northwest	June 6, 2017
— <i>Adopted</i>		
B. Synod has received notice of the following commissioned pastor retirements:		
Commissioned Pastor	Classis	Effective Date
Ernst de Vries	B.C. South-East	November 16, 2017
Angela Taylor Perry	Kalamazoo	September 12, 2017
C. <i>Recommendations</i>		
1. That synod take note of the above list of ministerial and commissioned pastor retirements.		
— <i>Adopted</i>		
2. That synod instruct the executive director to send a letter of appreciation to each of the retirees listed above.		
— <i>Adopted</i>		

3. That synod offer a prayer of gratitude for these servants of God, and for the many years of service they represent.

—*Adopted*

Ms. Melissa Van Dyke leads in prayer.

II. Work of the synodical deputies

A. *Ministers from other denominations, Church Order Article 8*

1. Synodical deputies T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Obelto Cherubin**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on March 2, 2018, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Haitian CRC of Orlando, Florida.
2. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), K.D. Boonstra (Central California), and T.K. Park (Hanmi), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Chulhan Cho**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on March 1, 2018, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Yung Kwang CRC of Las Vegas, Nevada.
3. Synodical deputies P.J. DeVries (Yellowstone), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend David Cho**, 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 12, 2017, 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 New Hope CRC of Santa Clara, California.
4. Synodical deputies P.J. DeVries (Yellowstone), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Young Cho (Mickey) Choi**, 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 12, 2017, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is All Nations Church - SA CRC of San Antonio, Texas.
5. Synodical deputies B.A. Pennings (Atlantic Northeast), D.H. Bratt (Hackensack), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Jesse Eng**,

in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Hudson, in session on May 10, 2018, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is City Grace CRC of New York, New York.

6. Synodical deputies J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Phil Eubank**, 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 13, 2017, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Eastern Hills Community CRC of Aurora, Colorado.
7. Synodical deputies T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), D.J. Van Essen (Wisconsin), and D.J. Roeda (Chicago South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Siang Lian Hup**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Illiana, in session on September 19, 2017, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Pathway CRC of St. John, Indiana.
8. Synodical deputies P.J. DeVries (Yellowstone), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Sung Woo Jang**, 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 12, 2017, 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 New Hope CRC of Santa Clara, California.
9. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), M.E. Hofman (California Central), and J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Dae Hoon Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on October 12, 2017, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is CrossPoint CRC of Chino, California.
10. Synodical deputies G.P. Timmer (Kalamazoo), P. Borgdorff (Grand Rapids East), and R.D. Goudzwaard (Thornapple Valley), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Hong Youn (Daniel) Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Erie, in session on

November 9, 2017, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Cleveland Zion Community CRC of Parma, Ohio.

11. Synodical deputies M.E. Hofman (Central California), W. Verhoef (California South), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Jinsik (Enoch) Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on May 8, 2018, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is All Nations CRC of Lake View Terrace, California.
12. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), K.D. Boonstra (Central California), and T.K. Park (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Man Sub (Lewis) Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on March 1, 2018, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Grace Valley CRC of Las Vegas, Nevada.
13. Synodical deputies P.J. Van Dyken (Hackensack) and B.A. Pennings (Atlantic Northeast), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Samuel Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Hudson, in session on January 25, 2018, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is City Grace CRC of New York, New York.
14. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), and S. Scripps (Holland), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Yoojeung 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 January 25, 2018, 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.
15. Synodical deputies S. Starkenburg (Central Plains), D.W. De Groot (Iakota), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Jin Young Lee**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Northcentral Iowa, in session on September 12, 2017, 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 Ames, Iowa.

16. Synodical deputies J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), R.J. Toornstra (Columbia), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Geok Keng (Faith) Lim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on February 27, 2018, to declare her eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Hope International CRC of Arcadia, California.
17. Synodical deputies J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), D.J. Van Essen (Wisconsin), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Michael Moore**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on March 14, 2018, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Many Peoples CRC of Chicago, Illinois.
18. Synodical deputies D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), R.D. Gorter (Hudson), and B.A. Pennings (Atlantic Northeast), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Paul Nam**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 19, 2017, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Grace Community Chapel - Central CRC of Iselin, New Jersey.
19. Synodical deputies P.J. DeVries (Yellowstone), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Donald R. Orange**, 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 March 13, 2018, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Fellowship CRC of Greeley, Colorado.

Recommendations:

1. That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies. —Adopted
2. That synod instruct the Candidacy Committee to provide guidelines for exams done by video and to clarify how Article 8 may be used for receiving an individual ordained by an independent congregation. —Adopted

B. Classical examination of candidates, Church Order Article 10

1. Synodical deputies J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the examination for ordination

in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Central California, in session October 3, 2017, to admit candidate **Patrick D. Anthony** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

2. Synodical deputies J.C. Dekker (Niagara), H.P. Bruinsma (Toronto), and R. Vander Kooij (Huron), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Hamilton, in session October 25, 2017, to admit candidate **Josiah Bokma** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), S. Scripps (Holland), and A.D. Snider (Northern Michigan), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Muskegon, in session August 8, 2017, to admit candidate **Laura de Jong** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies P.R. De Vries (Thornapple Valley), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and M.A. Palsrok (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 September 21, 2017, to admit candidate **Darrell L. Delaney** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
5. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and H.C. Kooger (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta North, in session October 11, 2017, to admit candidate **Brian R. Dunn** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
6. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), and G.D. Postema (Muskegon), 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 12, 2017, to admit candidate **Trent M. Elders** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
7. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), J.C. Dekker (Niagara), and R.D. Goudzwaard (Thornapple Valley), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Erie, in session October 7, 2017, to admit candidate **Kendra Ettema** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
8. Synodical deputies P.J. Van Dyken (Hackensack) and B.A. Pennings (Atlantic Northeast), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Hudson, in session January 25, 2018, to admit candidate **Kendall Everett** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

9. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), and S. Scripps (Holland), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Muskegon, in session February 22, 2018, to admit candidate **Tara Foreman** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
10. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and H.C. Kooger (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta North, in session October 11, 2017, to admit candidate **Joshua K. Friend** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
11. Synodical deputies H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), and T.J. Oosterhuis (Alberta North), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session March 9, 2018, to admit candidate **Cari Fydirchuk** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
12. Synodical deputies S. Starkenburg (Central Plains), T.J. Ouwinga (Minnkota), 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 19, 2017, to admit candidate **Ryan K. Hoekstra** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
13. Synodical deputies D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), R.D. Gorter (Hudson), and B.A. Pennings (Atlantic Northeast), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session September 19, 2017, to admit candidate **Grant Hofman** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
14. Synodical deputies T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), D.J. Van Essen (Wisconsin), and D.J. Roeda (Chicago South), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Illiana, in session September 19, 2017, to admit candidate **James Hollendoner** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
15. Synodical deputies S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), J.C. Dekker (Niagara), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Quinte, in session on May 23, 2017, to admit **Darren Hoogendorn** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
16. Synodical deputies J. Van Marion (Lake Superior), T.J. Ouwinga (Minnkota), 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 May 8, 2018, to admit candi-

date **Sarah Hoogendoorn** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

17. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and H.C. Kooger (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta North, in session October 11, 2017, to admit candidate **Ryan Hoogerbrugge** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
18. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), M.E. Hofman (California Central), and J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session October 12, 2017, to admit candidate **Eunjun Jeong** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
19. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and T.J. Oosterhuis (Alberta North), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session October 27, 2017, to admit candidate **Rafik Kamel** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
20. Synodical deputies R.L. Boersma (Grand Rapids South), H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), and M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grandville, in session September 21, 2017, to admit candidate **Moses Kang** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
21. Synodical deputies R.J. DeRuiter (Pacific Northwest), H.C. Kooger (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), 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 B.C. South-East, in session March 6, 2018, to admit candidate **George Keulen** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
22. Synodical deputies J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session October 13, 2017, to admit candidate **Hope G. Lee** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
23. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and F.M. Bultman (Muskegon), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session March 15, 2018, to admit candidate **Sheryl Leisman** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
24. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and H.C. Kooger (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), having

heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta North, in session October 11, 2017, to admit candidate **Michael R. McGowan** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

25. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), and G.D. Postema (Muskegon), 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 12, 2017, to admit candidate **Kyle J. Meyard-Schaap** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
26. Synodical deputies D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), R.D. Gorter (Hudson), and B.A. Pennings (Atlantic Northeast), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session September 19, 2017, to admit candidate **Brian J. Na** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
27. Synodical deputies S. Scripps (Holland), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and P.R. De Vries (Thornapple Valley), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Muskegon, in session October 5, 2017, to admit candidate **Cory J. Nederveld** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
28. Synodical deputies 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 South, in session October 12, 2017, to admit candidate **Arek E. O'Connell** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
29. Synodical deputies S.F. Terpstra (Zeeland), F.M. Bultman (Muskegon), 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 North, in session June 27, 2017, to admit candidate **Matthew A. Pearce** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
30. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and H.C. Kooger (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta North, in session October 11, 2017, to admit candidate **Ryan T. Pedde** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
31. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), R.L. Boersma (Grand Rapids South), and M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grandville, in session November 16, 2017, to admit candidate **Allen Pontarelli** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

32. Synodical deputies T.J. Ouwinga (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 Lake Superior, in session March 6, 2018, to admit candidate **Margaret Rekman** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
33. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and F.M. Bultman (Muskegon), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session March 15, 2018, to admit candidate **Eunchong (David) Shin** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
34. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), J.C. Dekker (Niagara), and R.D. Goudzwaard (Thornapple Valley), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Erie, in session October 7, 2017, to admit candidate **Juli Stuelpnagel** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
35. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), and F.M. Bultman (Muskegon), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session January 18, 2018, to admit candidate **Ricardo R. Tavarez** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
36. Synodical deputies G.P. Timmer (Kalamazoo), R.D. Goudzwaard (Thornapple Valley), and P. Borgdorff (Grand Rapids East), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Erie, in session November 9, 2017, to admit candidate **Mark Van Andel** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
37. Synodical deputies J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session October 13, 2017, to admit candidate **Michelle R. VanDenBerg** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
38. Synodical deputies S. Scripps (Holland), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and P.R. De Vries (Thornapple Valley), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Muskegon, in session October 5, 2017, to admit candidate **Greg VanderHorn** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
39. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), and T.D. Slachter (Zeeland), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Muskegon, in session November 9, 2017, to admit

candidate **Michael A. Westerveld** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

40. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), and G.D. Postema (Muskegon), 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 12, 2017, to admit candidate **Brian D. White** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
41. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and F.M. Bultman (Muskegon), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session March 15, 2018, to admit candidate **Joanna Wigboldy** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
42. Synodical deputies J.A. DeBoer (Northcentral Iowa), D.W. De Groot (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 15, 2017, to admit candidate **Jianlou (John) Xu** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
43. Synodical deputies H.F. Vlaardingerbroek (Grandville), A.D. Snider (Northern Michigan), and S. Scripps (Holland), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Georgetown, in session June 15, 2017, to admit candidate **Cody Zuiderveen** 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*

C. Ministers in specialized services, Church Order Article 12-c

1. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Comstock Christian Reformed Church of Kalamazoo, 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 Kalamazoo, in session on September 12, 2017, to approve the position of Missionary Jail Chaplain as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Joshua O. Amaezechi**.
2. Synodical deputies M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and P.V. De Jonge (Grand Rapids East), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Pillar Christian Reformed Church of Holland, 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 Holland, in session on October 5, 2017, to approve the position of Manager of Church Partnerships and Care at

the Colossian Forum as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Christopher J. De Vos**.

3. Synodical deputies S.F. Terpstra (Zeeland), M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), and H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Faith Christian Reformed Church of Holland, 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 Holland, in session on May 3, 2018, to approve the position of CRCNA Connections Manager as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Scott A. De Vries**.
4. Synodical deputies P.J. DeVries (Yellowstone), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and C. Pool (California South), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Horizon Community Christian Reformed Church of Highlands Ranch, Colorado, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 13, 2018, to approve the position of Missionary Pastor as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Joy Engelsman**.
5. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), and R.L. Westenbroek (Rocky Mountain), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Creation Christian Reformed Church of Chandler, Arizona, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Arizona, in session on January 27, 2018, to approve the position of President of Yucatan International Academy as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Jonathan Gerstner**.
6. Synodical deputies T.J. Ouwinga (Minnkota), F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), and D.W. De Groot (Iakota), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Calvary Christian Reformed Church of Orange City, 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 September 9, 2017, to approve the position of Advancement Coordinator at Inspiration Hills as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend David L. Heilman**.
7. Synodical deputies J. Van Marion (Lake Superior), T.J. Ouwinga (Minnkota), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Iakota, in session on May 8, 2018, to approve the position of Chaplain, VA Medical Center, St. Cloud, Minnesota, as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Sarah Hoogendoorn**.

8. Synodical deputies J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and W. Brouwer (B.C. South-East), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Sanctuary Christian Reformed Church of Seattle, Washington, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on March 2, 2017, to approve the position of Professor of Theology and Culture at Fuller Theological Seminary as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Matthew J. Kaemingk**.
9. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), S. Scripps (Holland), and R.L. Boersma (Grand Rapids South), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Ellsworth Christian Reformed Church of Ellsworth, 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 Northern Michigan, in session on September 26, 2017, to approve the position of Good Samaritan Family Services: Chaplain/Food Pantry Supervisor as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend David G. Kroon**.
10. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), and F.M. Bultman (Muskegon), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Madison Square Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on January 18, 2018, to approve the position of Chaplain with Baruch Ministries as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Sheryl Leisman**.
11. Synodical deputies T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), J.J. Sheeres (Illiana), and S. Scripps (Holland), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Calvin Christian Reformed Church of Oak Lawn, Illinois, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Chicago South, in session on February 24, 2018, to approve the position of Church Communications Director at Barnabas Foundation as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Philip S. Leo**.
12. Synodical deputies T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), 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 October 31, 2017, to approve the position of Air Force Chaplain as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Raidel R. Leon-Martinez**.
13. Synodical deputies P.R. De Vries (Thornapple Valley), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), having reviewed the

evidence supplied by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 21, 2017, to approve the position of Director of Outreach for Evangelical Environmental Network as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Kyle J. Meyard-Schaap**.

14. Synodical deputies H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), and H.C. Kooger (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Rimbey Christian Reformed Church of Rimbey, 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 North, in session on March 15, 2018, to approve the position of Youth Ministry Consultant as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend William D. Nieuwenhuis**.
15. Synodical deputies J.C. Dekker (Niagara), H.P. Bruinsma (Toronto), and R. Vander Kooij (Huron), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Faith Christian Reformed Church of Burlington, Ontario, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Hamilton, in session on October 25, 2017, to approve the position of National Director of Diaconal Ministries Canada as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Ronald A. Vanden Brink**.
16. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and T.J. Oosterhuis (Alberta North), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of River Park 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 27, 2017, to approve the position of Development Workshops, Writing, Mentoring, Pastoring as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend John Van Sloten**.
17. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), and F.M. Bultman (Muskegon), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Sherman Street 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 January 18, 2018, to approve the position of Program Manager at Calvin Institute for Christian Worship as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Joanna Wigboldy**.

Recommendation: That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—*Adopted*

D. Loaning a minister to another denomination according to Church Order Article 13-c

1. Synodical deputies P.J. DeVries (Yellowstone), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and C. Pool (California South), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 13, 2018, to approve loaning **Reverend Ruth Febriana Folkerts** to serve Celebration Community Church of Denver, Colorado.
2. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), R.L. Boersma (Grand Rapids South), and M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grandville, in session on September 21, 2017, to approve loaning **Reverend Moses Kang** to serve Kingsway-Lambton United Church of Canada of Etobicoke, Ontario.
3. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and F.M. Bultman (Muskegon), 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 March 5, 2018, to approve loaning **Reverend Eunchong (David) Shin** to serve Central Korean Church of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Recommendation: That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

E. Extension of loan of a minister to another denomination according to Church Order Article 13-c

1. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), and S. Scripps (Holland), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Kalamazoo, in session on March 13, 2018, to approve loaning **Reverend Karis Mpindi** to serve St. John's Reformed Church of Montreal, Quebec.
2. Synodical deputies J.C. Dekker (Niagara), S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), and D. Miedema (Chatham), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Huron, in session on September 20, 2017, to approve the extension of loaning **Reverend Jacob De Vries** to serve the Christian Reformed Church of Australia in Brisbane, Queensland.
3. Synodical deputies R.D. Gorter (Hudson), S.A. Vander Ploeg (Southeast U.S.), and P.J. Van Dyken (Hackensack), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on April 18, 2018, to approve the extension of loaning **Reverend Christopher A. Fluit** to serve the Genesee Valley Presbytery (PCUSA) of Rochester, New York.
4. Synodical deputies P.R. De Vries (Thornapple Valley), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), 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 September 21, 2017, to approve the extension of loaning **Reverend Ellen Van Tongeren** to serve Iglesia Hispana Emanuel (PCUSA) Church of Durham, North Carolina.

5. Synodical deputies T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), D.J. Van Essen (Wisconsin), and D.J. Roeda (Chicago South), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Illiana, in session on September 19, 2017, to approve the extension of loaning **Reverend Ferenc (Frank) Varga** to serve the American Hungarian Reformed Church of Allen Park, Michigan.
6. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), K.D. Boonstra (Central California), and T.K. Park (Hanmi), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on March 1, 2018, to approve the extension of loaning **Reverend Mark D. Vermaire** to serve the American Protestant Church of the Hague in the Netherlands.

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 Order Article 14-b

1. Synodical deputies D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), R.D. Gorter (Hudson), and B.A. Pennings (Atlantic Northeast), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Bryan D. Berghoef** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 19, 2017, to declare that **Rev. Bryan D. Berghoef** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), P. Borgdorff (Grand Rapids East), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Peter Y. Choi** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Erie, in session on March 3, 2018, to declare that **Rev. Peter Y. Choi** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Paul G. Hackett** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on March 2, 2018, to declare that **Rev. Paul G. Hackett** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), M.E. Hofman (Central California), and J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Jimmy Han** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis California

South, in session on October 12, 2017, to declare that **Rev. Jimmy Han** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

5. Synodical deputies P.J. De Vries (Yellowstone), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Pil Hwan Hwang** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Hanmi, in session on September 12, 2017, to declare that **Rev. Pil Hwan Hwang** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
6. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), K.D. Boonstra (Central California), and T.K. Park (Hanmi), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Edward Y. Kim** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on March 1, 2018, to declare that **Rev. Edward Y. Kim** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
7. Synodical deputies D.J. Van Essen (Wisconsin), J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), and D.J. Roeda (Chicago South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. InHwan Kim** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on September 19, 2017, to declare that **Rev. InHwan Kim** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
8. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), K.D. Boonstra (Central California), and T.K. Park (Hanmi), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Matthew C. Kim** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on March 1, 2018, to declare that **Rev. Matthew C. Kim** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
9. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), J.C. Dekker (Niagara), and R.D. Goudzwaard (Thornapple Valley), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Abe K. Koh** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Erie, in session on October 7, 2017, to declare that **Rev. Abe K. Koh** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
10. Synodical deputies J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Braden L. Kok** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Central California, in session on October 3, 2017, to declare that **Rev. Braden L. Kok** is in the status of one deposed from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

11. Synodical deputies C.J. De Vos (Holland), P.R. De Vries (Thornapple Valley), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Esteban Lugo** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on September 19, 2017, to declare that **Rev. Esteban Lugo** is in the status of one deposed from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
12. Synodical deputies P.J. De Vries (Yellowstone), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Ilhyeon Nam** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Hanmi, in session on September 12, 2017, to declare that **Rev. Ilhyeon Nam** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
13. Synodical deputies P.J. De Vries (Yellowstone), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Peter N. Ryu** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Hanmi, in session on September 12, 2017, to declare that **Rev. Peter N. Ryu** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
14. Synodical deputies P.J. De Vries (Yellowstone), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Seongchul Yoon** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Hanmi, in session on September 12, 2017, to declare that **Rev. Seongchul Yoon** 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

G. Release from office to enter a nonministerial vocation under Church Article 14-c

1. Synodical deputies S.F. Terpstra (Zeeland), H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), and M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), having heard the discussion of Classis Holland, in session on May 3, 2018, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. John P. Douma** is dismissed from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation.
2. Synodical deputies T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), having heard the discussion of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on October 31, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Hector Garcia** 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 W. Brouwer (B. C. South-East), J. Huttinga (Yellowstone), and L.M. Korf (Columbia), having heard the discussion of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on October 12, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Erik W. Kamp** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation.
4. Synodical deputies P.R. De Vries (Thornapple Valley), C.J. De Vos (Holland), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on January 18, 2018, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. John M. Matias** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation.
5. Synodical deputies S.F. Terpstra (Zeeland), H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), and M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), having heard the discussion of Classis Holland, in session on May 3, 2018, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Steven D. Pearson** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation.
6. Synodical deputies P.R. De Vries (Thornapple Valley), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and C.J. Vos (Holland), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on May 17, 2018, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Dongo Pewee** is 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

Synodical deputies W. Brouwer (B.C. South-East), J. Huttinga (Yellowstone), and L.M. Korf (Columbia), having heard the discussion of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on October 12, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-d, that **Rev. Michael S. Boerkoel**, having entered a vocation that is judged to be nonministerial, 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

I. Return to office of one who was released to enter a nonministerial vocation under Church Order Article 14-e

1. Synodical deputies H.P. Bruinsma (Toronto), S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), and C.A. Fluit (Atlantic Northeast), having heard the interview of

the applicant and the discussion of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on October 20, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-e, that **Rev. Bradley W. Close** is eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

2. Synodical deputies J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), R.J. Toornstra (Columbia), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the interview of the applicant and the discussion of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on February 27, 2018, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-e, that **Rev. Heu Gyu (Dave) Park** is eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies D.W. De Groot (Iakota), F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having heard the interview of the applicant and the discussion of Classis Central Plains, in session on March 22, 2018, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-e, that **Rev. John A. Ritsema** is eligible for call 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

J. Release from ministry in a congregation under Church Order Article 17-a

1. Synodical deputies D.J. Van Essen (Wisconsin), J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), and D.J. Roeda (Chicago South), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on September 19, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Phil Covert** is released from ministerial service in Christ Community Christian Reformed Church of Plainfield, Illinois.
2. Synodical deputies H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), and T.J. Oosterhuis (Alberta North), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session on March 9, 2018, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Folkert (Frank) de Boer** is released from ministerial service in Iron Springs Christian Reformed Church of Iron Springs, Alberta.
3. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), K.D. Boonstra (Central California), and T.K. Park (Hanmi), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis California South, in session on March 1, 2018, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Charles M. Hong** is released from ministerial service in Poongsunghan Church (non-CRC) of Los Angeles, California.
4. Synodical deputies S.F. Terpstra (Zeeland), H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), and M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Holland, in session on

May 3, 2018, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Mark Kamper** is released from ministerial service in Holland Heights Christian Reformed Church of Holland, Michigan.

5. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), K.D. Boonstra (Central California), and T.K. Park (Hanmi), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis California South, in session on March 1, 2018, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Yi-Ming Kao** is released from ministerial service in CrossPoint Chinese Christian Reformed Church of Chino, California.
6. Synodical deputies R.L. Westenbroek (Rocky Mountain), J. Huttinga (Yellowstone), and K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Columbia, in session on September 23, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. David P. Loew** is released from ministerial service in Zillah Christian Reformed Church of Zillah, Washington.
7. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), K.D. Boonstra (Central California), and T.K. Park (Hanmi), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis California South, in session on March 1, 2018, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Joseph W. Nasvytis** is released from ministerial service in Living Faith Community Christian Reformed Church of San Diego, California.
8. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Central California, in session on March 6, 2018, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Maurice Vander Veen** is released from ministerial service in Community Christian Reformed Church of Oakdale, California.
9. Synodical deputies D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), R.D. Gorter (Hudson), and B.A. Pennings (Atlantic Northeast), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 19, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Robert S. Wafula** is released from ministerial service in African Christian Ministry of Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania.
10. Synodical deputies S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), J.C. Dekker (Niagara), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Huron, in session on February 14, 2018, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Andrew Zantingh** is released from ministerial service in The Journey Christian Reformed Church of Kitchener, Ontario.

11. Synodical deputies M.D. Bennink (Georgetown) and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on October 12, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Laurie L. Zuverink** is released from ministerial service in Kelloggsville Christian Reformed Church of Kentwood, Michigan.

Recommendation: That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

K. Extension of eligibility for call under Church Order Article 17-c

1. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having heard the discussion of Classis Kalamazoo, in session on September 12, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Joshua O. Amaezechi's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
2. Synodical deputies P.R. De Vries (Thornapple Valley), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 21, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Aminah Al-Attas Bradford's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
3. Synodical deputies P.R. De Vries (Thornapple Valley), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 21, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Nathaniel M. Al-Attas Bradford's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
4. Synodical deputies P.J. DeVries (Yellowstone), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the discussion of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 13, 2018, 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.
5. Synodical deputies J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), R.J. Toornstra (Columbia), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the discussion of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on February 27, 2018, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Alison Jones's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
6. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), S. Scripps (Holland), and R.L. Boersma (Grand Rapids South), having heard the discussion of Classis Northern Michigan, in session on September 26, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. David G. Kroon's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.

7. Synodical deputies S.F. Terpstra (Zeeland), M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having heard the discussion of Classis Holland, in session on October 5, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Gary L. Luurtsema's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
8. Synodical deputies P.R. De Vries (Thornapple Valley), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 21, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Katrina M. Schaafsma's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
9. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and T.J. Oosterhuis (Alberta North), having heard the discussion of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session on October 27, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Ronald J. Smeding's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
10. Synodical deputies S. A. Van Houten (Hamilton), H.P. Bruinsma (Toronto), and C.A. Fluit (Atlantic Northeast), having heard the discussion of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on October 20, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Siemen A. Speelman's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
11. Synodical deputies P.R. De Vries (Thornapple Valley), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 21, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Bruce J. Vaandrager's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
12. Synodical deputies T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), D.J. Van Essen (Wisconsin), and J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), having heard the discussion of Classis Chicago South, in session on September 19, 2017, 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.
13. Synodical deputies R. Vander Kooij (Huron), H. Wildeboer (Quinte), and S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), having heard the discussion of Classis Toronto, in session on February 22, 2018, 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.

Recommendation: That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

L. Release from the office of minister of the Word under Church Article 17-c

1. Synodical deputies D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), R.D. Gorter (Hudson), and B.A. Pennings (Atlantic Northeast), having heard the discussion of Classis

Hackensack, in session on September 19, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Joseph Y. Chung** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

2. Synodical deputies D.J. Van Essen (Wisconsin), J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), and D.J. Roeda (Chicago South), having heard the discussion of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on September 19, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. George A. Cooper** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), R.L. Westenbroek (Rocky Mountain), and M. Den Bleyker (Arizona), having heard the discussion of Classis Red Mesa, in session on May 13, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. William J. Kempkes** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), J.C. Dekker (Niagara), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having heard the discussion of Classis Huron, in session on May 5, 2018, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Christopher B. Pool** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
5. Synodical deputies T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), D.J. Van Essen (Wisconsin), and D.J. Roeda (Chicago South), having heard the discussion of Classis Illiana, in session on September 19, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Edward D. Rockett** 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 F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), T.J. Ouwinga (Minnesota), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of City Reformed Christian Reformed Church of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Wisconsin, in session on September 26, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Philip Anderas** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Pastor of Missional Outreach and Community Life.
2. Synodical deputies J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), and C. Pool (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Visalia Christian Reformed Church of Visalia, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Central

California, in session on October 3, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Cisco Bergen** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Commissioned Pastor of Evangelism.

3. Synodical deputies J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), M.E. Hofman (Central California), and W. Verhoef (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Hope International Christian Reformed Church of Arcadia, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on October 31, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Randy Boer** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is English Speaking Ministry.
4. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and T.J. Oosterhuis (Alberta North), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of The Road Christian Reformed Church of Calgary, Alberta, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session on October 27, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Ms. Jaqueline Bonk Mignault** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
5. Synodical deputies P.J. DeVries (Yellowstone), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and C. Pool (California South), 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 re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 13, 2018, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Ms. Emily Grace Clark** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Associate Pastor.
6. Synodical deputies P.J. DeVries (Yellowstone), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and C. Pool (California South), 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 re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 13, 2018, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Harry L. Conner** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Chaplain.
7. Synodical deputies J.C. Dekker (Niagara), S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), and D. Miedema (Chatham), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Bethel Christian Reformed Church of Listowel, Ontario, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Huron, in session on September 20, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Ms. Sara DeMoor** is in keeping with synodical guidelines

for commissioned pastors. The position title is Chaplain, University of Guelph.

8. Synodical deputies J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), and C. Pool (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Almond Valley Christian Reformed Church of Ripon, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Central California, in session on October 3, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Zachary Dewey** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Pastor of Youth.
9. Synodical deputies M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), S.F. Terpstra (Zeeland), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Cambodian Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Holland, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Holland, in session on August 17, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Sophat Duch** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Associate Pastor.
10. Synodical deputies J.C. Dekker (Niagara), S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), and D. Miedema (Chatham), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Bethel Christian Reformed Church of Listowel, Ontario, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Huron, in session on September 20, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Bart Eisen** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Youth Director.
11. Synodical deputies T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), T.W. Zuidema (Illiana), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Iglesia Cristiana Reformada Vida Nueva of Miami, Florida, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on February 3, 2018, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Enrique Esber** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Ministry Coordinator for Congregational Life.
12. Synodical deputies H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), and J.C. Dekker (Niagara), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Ebenezer Christian Reformed Church of Trenton, Ontario, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Quinte, in session on January 27, 2018, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Marc Hoogstad** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Faith Formation and Congregational Care Coordinator.

13. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), and F.M. Bultman (Muskegon), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Madison Square Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on January 18, 2018, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Joel Huyser** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is International Director for Asia and Latin America.
14. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), K.D. Boonstra (Central California), and T.K. Park (Hanmi), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of The River Christian Reformed Church of Redlands, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis California South, in session on March 1, 2018, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Nick In't Hout** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Pastor of Church Mission and Community Engagement.
15. Synodical deputies S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), J.C. Dekker (Niagara), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), 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 re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Quinte, in session on May 23, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Mark Jallim** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
16. Synodical deputies D. Cheung (B.C. North-West), T.J. Oosterhuis (Alberta North), and R.J. DeRuiter (Pacific Northwest), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Gateway Community Christian Reformed Church of Abbotsford, British Columbia, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on October 18, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Anthony Jansen** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Youth Pastor.
17. Synodical deputies J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and C. Pool (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of The Journey Christian Reformed Church of Longmont, Colorado, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on October 13, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Ms. Adie Johnson** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Chaplain.
18. Synodical deputies S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), J.C. Dekker (Niagara), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), 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 re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Quinte, in session on May 23, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Daniel Le Forestier** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Worship Pastor.

19. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), K.D. Boonstra (Central California), and T.K. Park (Hanmi), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of CrossPoint Christian Reformed Church of Chino, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis California South, in session on March 1, 2018, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Jeffrey Liou** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Protestant Chaplain for the Claremont Colleges.
20. Synodical deputies J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and C. Pool (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of New Life Christian Reformed Church of Spring, Texas, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on October 13, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Ronnie Lopez** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Chaplain.
21. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), and C. Pool (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Christ Church of Davis Christian Reformed Church of Davis, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Central California, in session on March 6, 2018, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Philip Majorins** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Minister of Worship and Spiritual Formation.
22. Synodical deputies L.M. Korf (Columbia), W. Brouwer (B.C. South-East), and J. Huttinga (Yellowstone), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Tacoma Community Christian Reformed Church of Tacoma, Washington, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on October 12, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Nick Rosas** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Worship and Youth Director.
23. Synodical deputies P.J. DeVries (Yellowstone), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and C. Pool (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Luctor Christian Reformed Church of Prairie View, Kansas, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 13, 2018, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Aaron Rust** is in keeping

with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.

24. Synodical deputies M.E. Hofman (Central California), W. Verhoef (California South), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Bellflower, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on May 8, 2018, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Aaron Solomon-Mills** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Ministry Coordinator.
25. Synodical deputies S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), H. Wildeboer (Quinte), and R. Vander Kooij (Huron), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Grace Christian Reformed Church of Scarborough, Ontario, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Toronto, in session on May 5, 2018, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Jason Taff** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Church Planter/Evangelist.
26. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), and C. Pool (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Granite Springs Church Christian Reformed Church of Lincoln, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Central California, in session on March 6, 2018, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Matthew Timms** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Associate Pastor of Catechesis and Administration.
27. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), K.D. Boonstra (Central California), and T.K. Park (Hanmi), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of CrossPoint Christian Reformed Church of Chino, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis California South, in session on March 1, 2018, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Bryan Vander Tuig** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Pastor of Ministry Support.
28. Synodical deputies H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), and H.C. Kooger (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Edmonton, Alberta, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Alberta North, in session on March 14, 2018, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Richard P. Van Manen** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position title is Commissioned Pastor at Kosin University.

Recommendation: That synod take note of the above-named persons ordained as commissioned pastors within the classes indicated.

—Adopted

O. Calling a commissioned pastor to serve in an organized church as solo pastor under Church Order Article 23-d

1. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), R.L. Westenbroek (Rocky Mountain), and M. Den Bleyker (Arizona), having examined the materials submitted by the council of Fort Wingate Christian Reformed Church of Fort Wingate, New Mexico, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines for calling a commissioned pastor to an organized congregation, concur with the decision of Classis Red Mesa, in session on September 16, 2017, that a commissioned pastor, **Mrs. Debra Chee**, may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.
2. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), M. Den Blyker (Arizona), and R.L. Westenbroek (Rocky Mountain), having examined the materials submitted by the council of Red Valley Christian Reformed Church of Red Valley, Arizona, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines for calling a commissioned pastor to an organized congregation, concur with the decision of Classis Red Mesa, in session on January 20, 2018, that a commissioned pastor, **Mr. Caleb Dickson**, may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.
3. Synodical deputies T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), D.J. Roeda (Chicago South), and D.J. Van Essen (Wisconsin), having examined the materials submitted by the council of Cottage Grove Christian Reformed Church of South Holland, Illinois, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines for calling a commissioned pastor to an organized congregation, concur with the decision of Classis Illiana, in session on September 19, 2017, that a commissioned pastor, **Mr. Cary Gephart**, may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.
4. Synodical deputies T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), D.J. Roeda (Chicago South), and D.J. Van Essen (Wisconsin), having examined the materials submitted by the council of Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church of Sauk Village, Illinois, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines for calling a commissioned pastor to an organized congregation, concur with the decision of Classis Illiana, in session on September 19, 2017, that a commissioned pastor, **Dr. Jeffrey Hale**, may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.
5. Synodical deputies P.J. DeVries (Yellowstone), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and C. Pool (California South), having examined the materials submitted by the council of New Life Christian Reformed Church of Houston, Texas, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines for calling a commissioned pastor to an organized congregation, concur with the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 13, 2018, that a commissioned pastor, **Ms. Camila Hiriart**, may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.

6. Synodical deputies P.J. DeVries (Yellowstone), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and C. Pool (California South), having examined the materials submitted by the council of New Life Christian Reformed Church of Houston, Texas, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines for calling a commissioned pastor to an organized congregation, concur with the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 13, 2018, that a commissioned pastor, **Mr. Diego Hiriart**, may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.
7. Synodical deputies P.J. Van Dyken (Hackensack) and B.A. Pennings (Atlantic Northeast), having examined the materials submitted by the council of Restore Christian Reformed Church of North Haledon, New Jersey, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines for calling a commissioned pastor to an organized congregation, **do not concur** with the decision of Classis Hudson, in session on January 25, 2018, that a commissioned pastor, **Mr. Jeremy Mulder**, may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.
8. Synodical deputies P.J. DeVries (Yellowstone), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and C. Pool (California South), having examined the materials submitted by the council of Luctor Christian Reformed Church of Prairie View, Kansas, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines for calling a commissioned pastor to an organized congregation, concur with the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 13, 2018, that a commissioned pastor, **Mr. Aaron Rust**, may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.
9. Synodical deputies R.D. Gorter (Hudson), S.A. Vander Ploeg (Southeast U.S.), and P.J. Van Dyken (Hackensack), having examined the materials submitted by the council of Rochester Christian Reformed Church of Penfield, New York, 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 April 19, 2018, that a commissioned pastor, **Mr. Anthony T. Selvaggio**, may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.

Recommendation: That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.
—Adopted

P. 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:

Drew Angus	Hackensack	October 30, 2017
Russel Gabel	Muskegon	August 8, 2017
Lucas Seinen	Alberta North	October 11, 2017
David Stewart	Columbia	September 23, 2017
Neeodoi (Ed) Thompson	Rocky Mountain	October 14, 2017
Richard Van Manen	Alberta North	December 31, 2017
Aaron Visser	Chicago South	September 19, 2017
Charles Woodward	Southeast U.S.	October 31, 2017

Recommendation: That synod take note that these commissioned pastors have concluded service in the classes indicated.
—Adopted

Q. Deposition of a minister of the Word under Church Order Articles 82 and 83

1. Synodical deputies H.P. Bruinsma (Toronto), C.A. Fluit (Atlantic North-east), and S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), having heard the grounds submitted by the council of Athens Christian Reformed Church of Athens, Ontario, and the discussion of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on October 20, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to approve, in accordance with Church Order Articles 82 and 83, the deposition of **Rev. Nicolaas Cornelisse** from the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), J.J. Sheeres (Illiana), and S. Scripps (Holland), having heard the grounds submitted by the council of New Life Christian Reformed Church of New Lenox, Illinois, and the discussion of Classis Chicago South, in session on February 24, 2018, concur in the decision of classis to approve, in accordance with Church Order Articles 82 and 83, the deposition of **Rev. Timothy A. De Vries** from the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

Recommendation: That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—*Adopted*

Rev. Timothy B. Toeset offers prayer for the persons named in the above deposition actions.

III. Response to Overture 9: Allow One Classis to Appeal to Another Classis by Amending Supplement, Article 30-a

A. Materials

1. Overture 9, pp. 312-14
2. Communication 1

B. Recommendation

That synod not accede to Overture 9.

Grounds:

1. Church Order Article 30-a defines a process for making appeals “to the assembly next in order.” The overture is asking for a supplement addition that is contrary to the Church Order Article 30-a.
2. Councils and classes are already free to communicate matters of common concern with one another.

—*Adopted*

The following negative vote is registered: Rev. Joshua M. Christoffels.

IV. Council of Delegates

A. Materials

1. Council of Delegates Report (sections II, A, 9 and 12, including Appendices A-B), pp. 27, 28, 42-50
2. Overture 21

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. Paul R. De Vries, chair of the Council of Delegates; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod propose the following revisions to Church Order Article 42 and its Supplement (changes indicated by strikethrough and *italics*) to Synod 2019 for adoption:

Article 42-a

a. The classis shall be responsible for appointing persons to provide counsel ~~and advice~~ to churches ~~and to pastors~~. The classis shall appoint church visitors to visit each church in classis on a yearly basis. The classis shall appoint classical counselors to provide advice to any church in the process of calling a minister of the Word. *The classis shall appoint regional pastors to support ministers of the Word and commissioned pastors.*

Proposed Article 42-d

d. *The regional pastor's task is to support and encourage all who are pastors and to ensure that newly ordained pastors in the CRC are engaged in a mentoring relationship.*

Proposed Supplement, Article 42-d

1. *Regional pastors shall be appointed for a specified term of service.*
2. *Regional pastors shall be appointed in collaboration with Pastor Church Resources.*
3. *Regional pastor expenses shall ordinarily be borne by the classis.*
4. *Annual written reports of the regional pastor shall be provided to classis and copied to Pastor Church Resources.*
5. *General oversight of the regional pastor program, including development of resource materials and training, will be coordinated by Pastor Church Resources.*
6. *Regional pastors assist newly ordained pastors in the selection of a mentor, according to the decision of synod:*
 - a. *All candidates for ministry will upon ordination engage with a mentor. Each newly ordained minister will be served by a mentor for the first five years of ministry.*
 - b. *For the first five years of ministry of each person who enters the Christian Reformed Church ministry by way of Church Order Articles 7, 8, or 14-e, engaging with a mentor will be required.*
 - c. *A mentor will be provided for any minister of the Word who desires a mentor.*

(Adapted from Acts of Synod 1982, p. 78)

—Adopted

Alternate reporter, Rev. Michael J. Vandyk, presents the report for sections IV, C, 2 and 3 that follow.

2. That synod address the following with regard to the Classis Renewal Group Report found in the COD Report to synod, Appendix B (II, A, 12):
 - a. That synod take note of the establishment of a new Classis Renewal Advisory Team coordinated by the classis renewal consultant and composed

of a diverse regional representation of volunteers from classes and a smaller number of denominational staff, who will do the following:

- 1) Continue to explore and address the challenges and opportunities facing classes in an ongoing and adaptive way.
- 2) Assist classes in developing and implementing a ministry plan (as described in Church Order Article 75).

—Adopted

- b. That synod encourage all classes to develop and share their ministry plan (cf. Church Order Art. 75, adopted by Synod 2015) with the Classis Renewal Advisory Team so that the team can provide the COD with a summary of the plans (to be forwarded to Synod 2020).

—Adopted

- c. That synod propose that Synod 2019 adopt the following revision to Church Order Article 39 (new text indicated by *italics*):

Article 39

A classis is a group of Christian Reformed churches that come together to seek, discern, and submit to God's will; offer one another mutual support and accountability; find ways to live out a collective calling within their region; and allow for a healthy and sustained connection to the wider denomination. A classis shall consist of a group of neighboring churches. The organization of a new classis and the redistricting of classes require the approval of synod.

Ground: The above changes are substantive and should be proposed to Synod 2019 for adoption.

—Adopted

3. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 21.

—Adopted

ARTICLE 63

Appointments, officers, and functionaries that follow are presented for review and ratification. This listing reflects the results of the synodical elections and appointments and includes current study committees synodically approved.

I. Officers, functionaries, and convening church for Synod 2019

A. Officers

1. Executive director: Dr. Steven R. Timmermans
2. Canadian ministries director: 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 2019: Ms. Connie Porte, senior event planner, Calvin College Conference and Events Services.

C. *Convening church*

Convening church for Synod 2019: Faith Community CRC, Wyoming, Michigan.

II. **Synodical deputies**

Classis	Deputy	Alternate	Term Expires
Alberta North	Dr. Thomas J. Oosterhuis	Rev. Kornelis (Neil) De Koning	2021(2)
Arizona	Rev. Merle Den Bleyker	Rev. Robert Walter, Jr.	2020(2)
Atlantic Northeast	Rev. Joel D. Vande Werken	Rev. Christopher A. Fluit	2021(1)
B.C. North-West	Rev. Henry Jonker	Rev. Andrew E. Beunk	2021(1)
California South	Rev. Cornelius Pool	Rev. Scott Elgersma	2019(1)
Central California	Rev. Paul H. Vander Klay	Rev. Lambert J. Sikkema	2021(1)
Central Plains	Rev. Bradley A. Meinders	Rev. Sheldon Starkenburg	2021(1)
Chatham	Rev. Dirk Miedema	Rev. Eric Groot-Nibbelink	2020(1)
Eastern Canada	Rev. Daniel Meinema	Rev. Jacob (Jack) M. Van de Hoef	2021(2)
Grand Rapids East	Rev. Alvern Gelder	Rev. Thea N. Leunk	2021(1)
Grand Rapids South	Rev. George G. Vink	Rev. Robert L. Boersma	2020(1)
Hackensack	Rev. Paul J. Van Dyken	Rev. Douglas H. Bratt	2021(2)
Heartland	Rev. Robert D. Drenton	Rev. Todd M. Zuidema	2021(1)
Holland	Rev. David L. Spoelma	Rev. Christopher J. De Vos	2021(1)
Iakota	Rev. Daniel W. De Groot	Rev. Gideon E. Wamala	2021(2)
Kalamazoo	Rev. Gregory P. Timmer	Rev. Timothy L. Raakman	2020(2)
Lake Erie	Rev. Randall D. Engle	Rev. Christopher B. Lanham	2020(1)
Lake Superior	Rev. Donald G. Draayer	Rev. Harrison A. Newhouse	2021(1)
Muskegon	Rev. Fred M. Bultman	Rev. Gerald D. Postema	2021(2)
Northcentral Iowa	Rev. Russell W. Boersma	Rev. Wendell Davelaar	2021(1)
Northern Michigan	Rev. Adam M. Barton	Rev. Gregory J. Kett	2020(1)
Red Mesa	Rev. Timothy Howerzyl	Rev. John J. Greydanus	2021(1)
Rocky Mountain	Rev. Robert L. Westenbroek	Rev. Roger De Young	2019(2)
Yellowstone	Rev. Peter J. DeVries	Rev. Clair Vander Neut	2019(1)

III. **Denominational boards**

Note: Members of the regional boards (Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary) 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. Council of Delegates of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

Classis	Member	Term Expires
Chatham	Mrs. Beth Fellingner	2021(2)
Georgetown	Mr. James Roskam	2021(1)
Holland	Mr. Wayne Brower	2021(1)
Hudson	Rev. George R. Young	2021(1)
Huron	Rev. Ralph S. Wigboldus	2021(1)
lakota	Rev. John R. Lee	2021(1)
Minnkota	Rev. Roger W. Sparks	2021(1)
Pacific Northwest	Ms. Sherry Fakkema	2021(1)
Wisconsin	Ms. Paula Coldagelli	2021(1)
Zeeland	Rev. Tyler J. Wagenmaker	2021(1)

B. Calvin College Board of Trustees

Region	Member	Term Expires
Region 3	Ms. Marsha Vander gaast	2019(2)
Region 4	Rev. Willemina L. Zwart	2019(1)
Region 5	Mr. Thomas J. Wybenga	2021(2)
Region 6	Mr. Fernando del Rosario	2021(2)
Region 10	Rev. Chad Pierce	2021(1)
Regional at-large		
Region 9	Ms. Janice Buikema	2021(2)
Region 10	Mr. Christopher (CJ) Grier	2021(2)
Region 11	Rev. E. Wayne Coleman	2021(1)
	Ms. Lois Miller	2021(1)
Alumni	Mr. Jeff DeNooyer	2020(2)
At-large	Dr. Andrew J. Elliot	2021(1)
	Mr. Allan E. Hoekstra	2020(3)
	Ms. Wendy Hofman	2021(3)
	Ms. Marjorie Hoogeboom	2021(3)
	Dr. Steven J. Triezenberg	2021(2)

C. Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees

Region	Member	Term Expires
Region 4	Mr. Keith Oosthoek	2021(2)
Region 5	Pastor Sergio Castillo	2021(2)
Region 6	Rev. Scott Elgersma	2021(2)
Region 7	Ms. Teresa Rottschäfer	2021(1)
Region 8	Rev. Robert D. Drenten	2021(1)
Region 9	Mr. Paul Boersma	2021(1)
Region 10	Rev. Marc Nelesen	2021(1)
Regional at-large		
Region 8	Dr. Charles Veenstra	2021(1)
Region 11	Mr. David Morren	2021(1)

D. World Renew Board

Classis	Member	Term Expires
Alberta South/Saskatchewan	Mr. George Lubberts	2021(2)
Central Plains	Ms. Carol Van Klompenburg	2021(1)
Eastern Canada	Mr. Richard Smit	2021(2)
Hamilton	Mr. A. Raymond Anema	2021(1)
Ko-Am	Rev. Edward Yoon	2021(1)
Lake Superior (Canada)	Mr. Daniel Mack	2021(1)
Lake Superior (U.S.)	Ms. Linda Marcus	2021(2)

Minnkota	Mr. Richard Vander Ziel	2021(2)
Northern Illinois	Ms. Angela Buikema	2021(1)
Rocky Mountain	Ms. Shirley Van Heukelem*	2021(2)
At-large Canada	Mr. Jason DeBoer*	2021(2)
	Mr. Andrew Geisterfer*	2021(1)
	Mr. Thomas Gnanayudam	2021(2)
	Ms. Jacoba (Ko) Spyksma	2021(2)
	Mrs. Julie Vanden Heuvel*	2021(1)
	Mrs. Margaret VanOord*	2021(1)
At-large U.S.	Mr. Gregg Alan Robbert	2021(2)
Young Adult at-large: Canada	Mr. David Schuurman (Redeemer University College)	2021(2)

* 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. Mark W. Hilbelink (2019/1), Dr. LaVerne Jordan (2019/2), Rev. Fernando Valencia (2019/2), Rev. Andrew G. Vander Leek (2019/1), Rev. Ashley Bonnes (2020/1), Rev. Chang Guk (Joseph) Byun (2020/2), Mr. James Jones (2021/2), Rev. Susan LaClear (2021/2), Rev. Henry Jonker (2021/1), 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 (2019/2), Mr. Kenneth J. Stienstra (2019/2), Mr. Brad Bruinsma (2020/1), Mr. Jack Meyer (2020/1), Mr. James Brewer (2021/2), Mr. Howard Van Den Heuvel (2021/1), Mr. David E. Veen (*ex officio* member).

C. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee

Rev. Anthony Elenbaas (2019/2), Rev. Emmett Harrison (2019/2), Ms. Lenore Maine (2019/1), Rev. Andrew E. Beunk (2020/2), Rev. InSoon Hoagland (2020/1), Ms. Ruth Palma (2020/1), Mr. James Joosse (2021/1), Dr. William T. Koopmans (2021/1), Rev. Kathleen Smith (2021/2), Rev. John Tenyen-huis (2021/2), Dr. Steven R. Timmermans (*ex officio* member), Dr. Darren C. Roorda (*ex officio* member).

D. Historical Committee

Rev. Paul Bremer (2019/2), Dr. Kristin Kobes DuMez (2019/2), Dr. John Bolt (2020/1), Dr. James A. De Jong (2021/1), Dr. Denice Fett, secretary (*ex officio*).

E. Judicial Code Committee

Dr. Duane Bajema (2019/1), Rev. Henry Jonker (2019/1), Ms. Rita Buitendorp (2019/2), Mr. John Koot (2020/1), Mr. Doug Vande Griend (2020/1), Mr. Orlan Gulker (2021/2), Rev. Aldon L. Kuiper (2021/2), Mr. Calvin Rozenboom (2021/2), Ms. Roberta Vriesema (2021/2), Rev. Henry Wildeboer (2021/2), Mr. Edward Bosveld (2021/1), Rev. Cindy de Jong (2021/1), Dr. Steven R. Timmermans (adviser).

F. Ministers' Pension Funds committees

Canadian Pension Trustees

Ms. Kathy Wassink (2019/1), Mr. Keith Oosthoek (2019/3), Rev. Michael VanderKwaak (2021/1), Mr. Henry Eygenraam (2021/3), Ms. MaryAnn Kokan-Nyhof (2021/3).

U.S. Board of Pensions

Rev. Joel J. Sheeres (2019/2), Mr. Howard Van Mersbergen (2019/3), Mr. Lloyd Bierma (2020/1), Mr. Thomas Dykhous (2021/3), Mr. Darrel Raih (2021/1).

V. Synodical study committees and task forces

A. Synod Review Task Force (scheduled to report in 2019)

Rev. Ronald Chu, Ms. Nelly Eyk, Rev. Sheila Holmes, Ms. Karen Knip, Dr. William Koopmans, Rev. Thea Leunk, Ms. Dee Recker, Ms. Jeanette Romkema, Rev. Kathy Smith, Mr. José Tagle, Mr. Kraig Van Houten, and Dr. Steve Timmermans (*ex officio*).

B. Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality (scheduled to report in 2021)

Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma, Pastor Charles Kim, Rev. Jose Rayas, Rev. Paula Seales, Dr. Matthew Tuininga, Dr. Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen (*promotor fidei*), Dr. Mary VandenBerg, Dr. William VanderWoerd, Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Weima, and Dr. Albert Wolters.

VI. Recommendation

That synod ratify the changes to the list of synodical deputies, boards, and committees.

—Adopted

ARTICLE 64

The vice president of synod welcomes the candidates to Synod 2018. Rev. David R. Koll, director of Candidacy, presents the 2018 candidates for ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. (Names in **bold print** indicate those present at Synod 2018.)

CANDIDATES

Steven Berkenpas
Calvin D. Chen
Daniel Crapo
Jason E. Dahlman
Abigail S. DeZeeuw
Steven T. Dykstra
Benjamin L. Gandy
Benjamin Gresik
Elias Groenendyk
Chadd M. Huizenga
Steve M. Hull
Albert Kae
Timothy Keep
Darren C. Kornelis
Debra J. Koster
Noah J.K. Kruis
Marcel R.J. Kuiper
Todd Kuperus

Benjamin P. Landegent
Christopher S. Lee
Derrick A. Lee
James J. Lee
Anthony Matias
Courtney N. Mooney Saldivar
Scott M. Muilenburg
Jonathan S. Owens
Benjamin J. Petroelje
Hayden W. Regeling
Jason S. Ruis
Brian P. Schouten
Minbo Paul Shim
Matthew M. Slack
Eric P. Snyder
Gale Tien
Rebecca L. Tjapkes
Norman D. Underland

Robert C. Van Zanen
Jenna M.N. Veenbaas
Benjamin C. Verkerk
Christopher A. Walker

Michael Yang
Josiah Youngquist
James Zwier

Rev. Koll acknowledges guests and delegates who are related to the candidates.

Delegates and candidates sing “Now Thank We All Our God.” Pastor James Jones leads in a responsive litany of celebration and dedication. Delegates, guests, and candidates sing “Give Me Jesus,” with candidate James Zwier singing the solo part.

Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary, addresses delegates and candidates, stating, “This is a doorway moment, and as you go through, we pray for you as you move out from study at the seminary to service in the church more fully.” He continues by reflecting that candidates received a call of obedience to go to seminary and submitted themselves to follow in that obedience all the way to this time of being declared as candidates for the ministry of the Word of God. We desire and pray that they will thrive in ministry.

The vice president of synod offers prayer for the candidates. Delegates, guests, and candidates close this prayer together by singing “God Be with You Till We Meet Again.”

ARTICLE 65

The vice president of synod introduces delegate Ms. Lynette van de Hoef who announces news that Redeemer University College has appointed Dr. Robert J. Graham as its new president. Ms. van de Hoef offers a prayer of thanksgiving for this appointment, asking God that his will may continue to be done on Redeemer’s campus as it serves its students and as they in turn go out to serve in the world in various capacities.

ARTICLE 66

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

Advisory Committee 4, Congregational Services I, Rev. Shawn R. Brix reporting, presents the following:

I. Response to Overture 2: Address Patterns of Abuse of Power that Violate the Sacred Trust Given to Leaders and Recognize How These Hinder Due Process and Healing

Recommendations (continued)

7. That synod instruct the Council of Delegates, in consultation with the executive director, to appoint a small team to bring recommendations through the Council of Delegates to Synod 2019 regarding how the CRCNA can best address patterns of abuse of power at all levels of the denomination.

Grounds:

1. It is necessary for us to continue to examine and update how best to protect all people against abuse, including the abuse of power, especially at the local level.
2. Requiring the appointed team to report in 2019 does not delay action unnecessarily long.
3. The appointed team should find new measures that will extend the actions of previous synods in protecting persons who are vulnerable.
4. Overture 2, along with the work now begun by Pacific Northwest and other classes, should be able to provide the appointed team a helpful start for their consideration (i.e., requiring training of all pastors in the area of awareness of abuse of power).
5. We are not equipped as an advisory committee, nor as delegates on the floor of synod, to discern the best way forward regarding Church Order or steps that might be possible or effective.

—*Adopted*

8. That this be synod's response to Overture 2 and to the recommendation in the Council of Delegates Supplement, section I, E.

—*Adopted*

Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma, first clerk of synod, reads Psalm 147 and prays with thanks for this decision.

II. Response to Overtures 12-14 and Communication 2

A. Materials

1. Overture 12: Foster Discussion and Education Focused on the Biblical Principles of Public Discipleship; Instruct the Executive Director to Monitor Progress and Report to Synod 2019, pp. 317-19
2. Overture 13: Instruct Agencies to Refrain from Political Advocacy, pp. 319-23
3. Overture 14: Instruct CRC Agencies and Ministries to Stop Political Lobbying on Behalf of the Christian Reformed Denomination, pp. 323-30
4. Communication 2

B. Observations

In our calling to be prophetic, we acknowledge that there will not be unanimity and single-mindedness on all political issues and that differences of opinions will arise. We are called to gospel-centered relationships that hold unity as a high value. We are called to the preservation and restoration of unity as the body of Christ. We trust that when differences arise, our means of addressing them will give testimony to our unity in Christ.

C. Recommendations

1. That synod remind our diverse binational church that we need to continue engaging in the social/political/economic layers of public life.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod urge our churches to continue to pray for our nations for justice and mercy to prevail.

—Adopted

3. That synod call us to continue to pray for the CRCNA as we speak the gospel to the nations.

—Adopted

4. That synod encourage us to continue to pray for growth in wisdom as we speak prophetically and pursue mercy and justice.

—Adopted

5. That synod note that, in the significant majority of cases, it has been synod itself that has provided the initial instruction behind CRCNA social justice activity. See the following Addendum for examples.

—Adopted

Addendum: Examples of Synodical Directives

Abortion

“That synod direct the BOT to instruct the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action (OSJ) to boldly advocate for the church’s position against abortion, and to help equip churches to promote the sanctity of human life” (*Acts of Synod 2010*, p. 883).

Note: In providing this instruction, synod did not identify the target of advocacy (a wide range of efforts to shape public policy on issues); one could presume it was advocacy in the governmental realm.

Climate Change

“That synod call upon the churches, their members, and appropriate denominational agencies and institutions to respond with generosity and compassion to people and places negatively affected by climate change, as well as to make efforts to mitigate it. This includes advocating with our governments to take the necessary actions in an effective global framework to assist populations that are bearing the brunt of the negative effects of climate change while being the least able to cope” (*Acts of Synod 2012*, p. 805).

Note: In providing this instruction to advocate in the governmental sphere, synod seemed to be speaking both to members and to the offices of the denomination.

Hunger and Poverty

“That synod endorse the Micah Call and encourage strong CRC participation in the Micah Challenge” (*Acts of Synod 2004*, p. 555).

Note: That the Micah Call includes this statement:

“We call on international and national decision-makers of both rich and poor nations to fulfill their public promise to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and so halve absolute global poverty by 2015” (*Acts of Synod 2004*, p. 490).

Note: In making its endorsement, synod did not differentiate between the actions of members and those of the denomination. Further, it seems synod, acting in the role of church as institute, was seeking direct action toward “international and national decision-makers.”

Immigration

"That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to encourage the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action, and the Canadian Committee for Contact with the Government, in collaboration with their denominational and non-denominational partners, to engage in, as a priority, policy development and advocacy strategies that will lead to immigration reform and the enactment of fair, just, and equitable laws regarding those without status in Canada and the United States" (*Acts of Synod 2010*, p. 878).

Note: In providing this instruction, synod did not seem to restrict this activity to members but, rather, seemed to ask the ministries of the CRC (OSJ; CCG) denomination to provide direct engagement.

Medical Assistance in Dying

"That with respect to public policy, churches

- 1) Encourage the allocation of health-care funding for adequate palliative services, home care, and medical support services for all people.
- 2) Encourage government initiatives that will allow medical treatment aimed at pain relief even if that treatment may unintentionally shorten life.
- 3) Encourage government initiatives that will promote life-affirming legislation and oppose legislation that endorses assisted suicide or mercy killing" (*Acts of Synod 2000*, p. 708).

Note: In providing these instructions about advocating for just public policy, synod seemed to be speaking to individuals, congregations, and to the offices of the denomination.

War and Peace

"That synod urge the Christian Reformed Church, through assemblies, congregations, and agencies to affirm the gospel's call to Christians to be agents of shalom in a broken world and to encourage members to take specific and intentional steps to fulfill this call, including . . . that synod urge our church members and assemblies to participate actively in building cultures of peace at all levels of society where we individually and collectively have influence; for example, participating in government and the political process, supporting nonviolent conflict resolution, strengthening respect for human rights, and opposing increasing militarization and other tendencies when they threaten peace and justice" (*Acts of Synod 2006*, pp. 671-72).

Note: These instructions ask people to act individually and collectively through CRC assemblies, and this also includes instruction for CRC agencies.

Other Social Justice Aspects

"That synod . . . instruct the executive director to pursue other possible priorities as well as to plan and implement the program described in recommendation I,C,3,a,4 adopted by synod [which includes the following ground, among others: This proposal reaffirms that an effective response to poverty and hunger must include holding our governments and international bodies accountable so that they devote sufficient resources to ending violence, preventing famine, trading fairly, reducing the causes of climate change, improving refugee and immigration policy, and paying attention to racism and discrimination endemic to our societies]" (*Acts of Synod 2017*, pp. 696-97; see also p. 634).

(The report of Committee 4 is continued in Article 70.)

ARTICLE 67

The morning session adjourns at 11:40 a.m. Rev. Petr Kornilov (Hackensack) leads in closing prayer.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, June 13, 2018

Twelfth Session

ARTICLE 68

The afternoon session convenes at 1:50 p.m.

The president of synod resumes the chair and calls the session to order.

Dr. Steve Timmermans announces that Rev. Morris Greidanus is hospitalized—it seems he is very near the end of life on earth. Mr. Gary W. Duthler (Alberta North) offers prayers for Rev. Greidanus and his family.

Ms. Carol Bremer-Bennett and Dr. Zachary King share about a serious situation occurring in Nicaragua. Rev. King offers prayer for the people and staff in Nicaragua.

ARTICLE 69

Dr. Darren Roorda and Mr. Mike Hogeterp share information on the Committee for Contact with the Government/Center for Public Dialogue in Canada. The Committee for Contact with the Government is over fifty years old and has had significant time to learn and develop some experience in relating to the government of Canada in its context, so it may be able to share with the U.S. side of the CRCNA in thinking about advocacy in the U.S. context. Diversity, which includes a multiplicity of opinions, means first and foremost listening to people who are on the margins regarding justice issues. Delegates hear about the composition and nomination process of the Committee for Contact, as well as the significant trust that is built among members working together and working with other justice and advocacy groups. Guidance and support through the COD are also essential for the committee's ongoing work regarding reconciliation issues.

ARTICLE 70

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued from Article 66.)

Advisory Committee 4, Congregational Services I, Rev. Shawn R. Brix reporting, presents the following:

Response to Overtures 12-14 and Communication 2

Recommendations (continued)

6. That synod instruct the Council of Delegates to create a U.S. committee to provide guidance and support to the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action.

Grounds:

- a. This committee would have a representative model similar to that of the Canadian-based Committee for Contact with the Government that has functioned well in the Canadian context.
- b. This committee could help the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action address issues like those raised in Overtures 12, 13, and 14.
- c. This committee could promote restoration between the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action and those who have concerns about the nature of their work.

—Adopted

7. That synod instruct the executive director to ensure that our justice and mercy ministries foster discussion and education focused on biblical principles for public discipleship.

—Adopted

8. That synod instruct the executive director to ensure that our justice and mercy ministries provide rationale that is biblical, theologically Reformed, and grounded in our denominational positions whenever issuing calls to action.

—Adopted

9. That synod declare this to be its response to Overtures 12, 13, and 14, and Communication 2.

—Adopted

Rev. Brian D. Kuyper shares the importance of the “oneness” of synod and offers prayer for the discussion of this important topic.

ARTICLE 71

Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, representing the staff, board, and faculty, addresses synod and shares that Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) has, as of yesterday, received the affirming news of being accredited for the next ten years through the Association of Theological Schools. He thanks delegates for their prayers, encouragement, support, and financial support. Thirty-eight percent of CTS students come from outside the United States and Canada; for twenty-five years CTS has had a Ph.D. program; students at the seminary come from twenty-nine different countries. CTS is making an impact in many countries. A mentor program has been instituted for students to help them be better informed and prepared for ministry. A video presents stories of the success of the mentorship program.

Rev. Geoffrey A. Vandermolten, director of vocational formation at CTS, shares enthusiastically about the education at the seminary. It meshes context with classroom—and the CTS mentorship program helps in doing that. CTS is placing students in various locations for two years through this program.

Rev. Scott Hoezee, director of the Center for Excellence in Preaching at CTS, reports that the center has received a matching sustainability grant to continue the work of strengthening preaching. The grant is being used for peer groups meeting throughout North America to help the seminary identify ways to better equip students for preaching in the twenty-first century.

Rev. Medenblik adds that the seminary offers distance learning for people who are looking for a change in vocation. A video shares a story about learning through this program.

ARTICLE 72

Mr. Shaio Chong, editor-in-chief of *The Banner*, shares about the work of *The Banner* and about a discussion he had with synod's young adult representatives. Young people want to be engaged with *The Banner*. Some younger readers prefer reading on their screens and do not like hard copy. *The Banner* has launched an app so that young readers can access the magazine more easily. *The Banner's* design has been revamped and offers engaging content for young readers. The magazine is also recruiting younger writers to be able to speak "peer to peer" with *Banner* readers.

ARTICLE 73

A delegate presents the following motion:

That synod instruct the executive director and the Council of Delegates to explore how to improve the gender and ethnic diversity of the Judicial Code Committee (JCC).

Grounds:

1. The imbalance of gender and ethnicity on the JCC can seriously hamper the work of the committee.
2. Synod has repeatedly urged that the membership of the denomination's boards and committees reflect the diversity of the denomination.

—*Adopted*

ARTICLE 74

The afternoon session adjourns at 5:55 p.m. Ms. Diane Plug (Chatham) leads in closing prayer. Synod will reconvene on Thursday morning at 8:30 a.m.

THURSDAY MORNING, June 14, 2018 **Thirteenth Session**

ARTICLE 75

Synod resumes at 8:30 a.m. and Rev. Darrell L. Delaney (Grand Rapids East) leads in opening prayer, thanking God for guidance in the work of synod, for new mercies each morning, for life and strength, and for comfort for those who mourn, noting that Rev. Morris Greidanus has passed away.

Roll call indicates that the following delegates are absent: Gregory A. Fluit (Chatham), John W. Byl (Minnkota), Adam M. Barton (Northern Michigan), and Willie Bennally (Red Mesa).

ARTICLE 76

The president of synod, Rev. R. Scott Greenway, expresses thanks to his fellow officers of synod: Rev. Elizabeth A. Vander Haagen (vice president), Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma (first clerk), and Rev. Calvin Hoogendoorn (second clerk). The president thanks the Calvin College staff for their hospitality and thanks the convening church of synod (Pillar Church, Holland, Mich.) for their planning and participation, including the provision of prayer room volunteers.

The president of synod expresses gratitude to the synod office staff for all the “behind the scenes” work that takes place for the smooth running of synod, including the operations of projection, voting, and minute-taking on the synod floor. He also thanks the transportation coordinator and the many volunteers who helped in providing transportation throughout the week. He expresses thanks as well to the IT helpdesk staff, news office staff, and *Banner* staff.

The president offers thanks and appreciation to the Korean and Spanish interpreters and recognizes the members of the synodical Worship Planning Committee, Minutes Review Committee, Testimonial Banquet Committee, and Hospitality Committee, as well as the Sergeant at Arms. He also expresses appreciation for the faculty advisers, young adult representatives, ecumenical delegates and guests, the provost of Calvin College, the president of Calvin Theological Seminary, the Council of Delegates chair and vice chair, and staff consultants to synod.

President Greenway expresses gratitude and special thanks to the delegates for taking time out of their busy schedules to be of service to the church. He also expresses thanks to the executive director, Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, and to the director of synodical services, Ms. Dee Recker.

The vice president expresses appreciation and thanks to the president on behalf of synod.

The executive director expresses the gratitude of synod to the four officers and presents them with gifts.

ARTICLE 77

Synod 2018 concludes its business and spends time in closing worship. The worship team leads in singing “We Are Listening” and “For the Sake of the World.” Rev. Elizabeth A. Vander Haagen offers the call to worship and the greeting. Delegates respond with singing “Sing to the Lord, Sing His Praise” from Psalm 96. Ms. Kristy Bootsma reads from Isaiah 55:10-13 and Mark 4:26-32. Rev. Greenway speaks on the topic “Sent by the Gospel to be Sowers of Seed,” sharing that as we leave synod, we are humbled just to see what God has been up to. We are called to bring the good news of Jesus to the lost. We are commanded to go and make disciples, preach the gospel, and sow the seed of the Word. This charge for us never changes, even in the midst of a rapidly changing world and church. The gospel is like the mustard seed. The church must bring that message to the lost world. Do not be discouraged, the gospel might just be a small seed on Sunday morning, but it will grow and sprout for others to hear. Have confidence in the gospel that the harvest time is coming. Rev. Greenway closes in prayer.

Delegates sing “We Labor Unto Glory” and respond with a Litany of Commitment led by Rev. Vander Haagen. Delegates spend time in prayer, lamenting the abuse of power present in our communities and denomination, for victims of sexual abuse and harassment—that through the work of the Spirit’s healing and reconciliation they will not remain voiceless and powerless. At the conclusion of the prayer, the worship team sings “O Lord, Hear My Prayer.” Rev. Vander Haagen gives the blessing, and delegates sing “I Will Follow.”

ARTICLE 78

Synod 2018 is adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES AND RECOMMENDED AGENCIES FOR 2019

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES AND RECOMMENDED AGENCIES FOR 2019

I. Denominational Ministry Shares for 2019

AGENCY	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8
Base amount per member	314.56	314.56	314.56	314.56	314.56	314.56	314.56	314.56
Calvin College*	93.20	60.70	25.30	4.90	51.70	15.70	3.70	1.80
Total ministry shares per member	407.76	375.26	339.86	319.46	366.26	330.26	318.26	316.36

*Areas which benefit from a ministry shares reduction should employ the following monies saved to finance their area colleges:
Per professing member

-	12.57	47.97	68.37	21.57	57.57	69.57	71.47
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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

	2018 ministry shares allocation eff. 1/01/2018	2019 ministry shares allocation eff. 1/01/2019
BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL	\$ 44.41	\$ 44.41
CALVIN COLLEGE*	31.92	31.92
CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY	36.27	36.27
RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION	108.52	108.52
WORLD RENEW	-	-
SYNODICAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES: General Administration Synodical Services Council of Delegates	39.19	39.19
CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES MINISTRIES: Aboriginal Ministries (Canada) <i>The Banner</i> Centre for Public Dialogue Chaplaincy and Care Ministry Disability Concerns Faith Formation Ministries Pastor Church Resources Race Relations Safe Church Ministry Office of Social Justice Worship Ministries	75.44	82.44
SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND	3.73	3.73
	<u>\$ 339.48</u>	<u>\$ 346.48</u>

*Represents the composite rate. Actual rate varies by area.

II. Agencies recommended for financial support in 2019

A. Denominational agencies and ministries 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)
4. Congregational Services Ministries—above-ministry-share needs
 - a. Aboriginal Ministries (Canada) 856901285 RR0002
 - b. *The Banner* 856901285 RR0002
 - c. Centre for Public Dialogue 856901285 RR0002
 - d. Chaplaincy and Care Ministry 856901285 RR0002
 - e. Disability Concerns 856901285 RR0002
 - f. Faith Formation Ministries 856901285 RR0002
 - g. Pastor Church Resources 856901285 RR0002
 - h. Race Relations 856901285 RR0002
 - i. Safe Church Ministry 856901285 RR0002
 - j. Social Justice and Hunger Action 856901285 RR0002
 - k. Worship Ministries 856901285 RR0002
5. Resonate Global Mission—two offerings per year 856901285 RR0002
6. Timothy Leadership Training Institute/
Combined Training Unit 856901285 RR0002
7. World Renew—four offerings per year 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

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. Hope Haven
- 3. The Luke Society
- 4. Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services
- 5. Quiet Waters Ministries

B. Educational agencies

- 1. Ascending Leaders
- 2. Christian Learning Center (CLC)
- 3. Christian Schools International
- 4. Christian Schools International Foundation
- 5. Dordt College
- 6. Elim Christian Services
- 7. Friends of ICS (U.S. Foundation of Institute for Christian Studies)
- 8. ITEM (International Theological Education Ministries, Inc.)
- 9. Kids Hope USA
- 10. The King’s University (through the U.S. Foundation)
- 11. Kuyper College
- 12. Langham Partnership
- 13. Redeemer University College (through the U.S. Foundation)
- 14. Rehoboth Christian School
- 15. Tent Schools International (formerly Worldwide Christian Schools)
- 16. Trinity Christian College
- 17. 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. Crossroads Prison Ministries (formerly Crossroad Bible Institute)
- 7. InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
- 8. Mission India
- 9. Mississippi Christian Family Services
- 10. Talking Bibles
- 11. The Tract League
- 12. World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)
- 13. Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc.

Canadian agencies

A. Benevolent agencies

Canadian Business Number

- 1. Beginnings Family Services 11880 2388 RR0001
- 2. Indwell (formerly Homestead Christian Care) 13129 5198 RR0001

B. Educational agencies

- 1. Dordt College (per Schedule VIII)
- 2. EduDeo 88945 9970 RR0001
- 3. Institute for Christian Studies..... 10750 8434 RR0001
- 4. The King’s University 10808 5911 RR0001
- 5. Kuyper College (per Schedule VIII)
- 6. Redeemer University College..... 12331 3660 RR0001
- 7. 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. Dunamis Fellowship Canada.	85540 0966 RR0001
7. Evangelical Fellowship of Canada	10735 3922 RR0001
8. Gideons International – Canada	10808 2991 RR0001
9. InterVarsity Christian Fellowship of Canada	10751 3160 RR0001
10. OneBook	81317 5957 RR0001
11. Shalem Mental Health Network	13056 6011 RR0001
12. World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC).	13056 6011 RR0001
13. Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada, Inc.	10822 3371 RR0001

(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 2018*

ABCD – Asset-Based Community Development

ABCD(E2) – Asset-Based Community Development, Economic Development, and Equity

ARNOVA – Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action

BOT – Board of Trustees

BTGMI – Back to God Ministries International

CAMC – Canadian Aboriginal Ministry Committee

CCG – Committee for Contact with the Government

CDN – Canadian

CFA – Communities First Association

CFGB – Canadian Foodgrains Bank

CJM – Congregation Justice Mobilization

CMD – Canadian Ministries Director

CMLT – Classical Ministerial Leadership Team

COD – Council of Delegates

CPE – Clinical Pastoral Education

CRC – Christian Reformed Church

CRCNA – Christian Reformed Church in North America

CRG – Classis Renewal Group

CRMT – Classis Renewal Ministry Team

CRWM – Christian Reformed World Missions

CRWRC – Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (now World Renew)

CTS – Calvin Theological Seminary

DC – Disability Concerns

DCM – Director of Communications and Marketing

DFO – Director of Finance and Operations

DMA – Director of Ministries and Administration

DMC – Diaconal Ministries Canada

DORR – Dance of Racial Reconciliation

DRS – Disaster Response Services

DSS – Director of Synodical Services

ED – Executive Director

EDFT – Ethnic Diversity Functional Team

EFC – Evangelical Fellowship of Canada

EIRC – Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee

ELIM – Ethnic Leaders Institute in Ministry

EPCE – Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Egypt
 EPMC – Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy
 FFM – Faith Formation Ministries
 FTE – Full-time employee
 GEMS – Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior
 HR – Human Resources
 IVP – InterVarsity Press
 JCC – Judicial Code Committee
 JMC – Joint Ministry Council
 MLC – Ministries Leadership Council
 MSS – Ministry Support Services
 MTS – Master of Theological Studies
 NAE – National Association of Evangelicals
 OSJ – Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action
 PCR – Pastor Church Resources
 RBA – Reformed Benefits Association
 RCA – Reformed Church in America
 RW – Reformed Worship (magazine)
 SCE – Sustaining Congregational Excellence
 SPACT – Strategic Planning and Adaptive Change Team
 SPE – Sustaining Pastoral Excellence
 SRTF – Synod Review Task Force
 STM – Specialized Transitional Minister
 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

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